

FOOTGOLF

Footgolf is a precision sport, in which players kick a soccer ball into a cup in as few shots as possible.

Rules

The game is played similarly to golf, with the exception that players use a soccer ball instead of a golf ball, and the ball is kicked rather than struck with a club, working toward a 21-inch "cup" in place of the usual golf hole. The player who finishes the course with the fewest shots wins.

The game is played with a regulation No. 5 soccer ball. Because soccer balls travel less distance than golf balls, Footgolf is played on holes shorter than those used in golf. Pars are typically 5

Origin

The origins of Footgolf are uncertain. Swiss players has been practicing a variation of the game since late 1980s and the Scandinavian countries starting playing the game under different names and rules in the 1990s. A game similar to Footgolf was introduced in Spain in 2008 by Juan Manuel Asensi, an ex-footballer who had played with F.C Barcelona.

Michael Jansen, organizer of a tournament in the Netherlands in 2008, learned of the sport from Dutch footballer Willem Korsten, who recalled playing a similar game during his time with British club Tottenham Hotspur between 1999 and 2001, who would end training sessions by kicking the ball from the pitch back to the changing rooms in as short a time as possible.

Organized play

In 2008 the first Footgolf tournament was organized in the Netherlands by Michael Jansen,¹ and played by a mix of Dutch and Belgian professional Footballe. After this, many countries began to organize matches, events, tournaments, even national leagues, and associations around this game.

The American FootGolf League was founded in 2011. The game was internationally publicized, and countries worldwide started collaborating on the development of the game. By October 2014, the game was offered at more than 240 courses in the United States, ***INCLUDING Milton-Freewater, Oregon.***

The game's emergence coincided with the decline of the popularity of golf among young people, with 643 courses closing between 2006 and 2014 in the United States. The sport has financially saved many struggling golf courses.