

# 1999 World Footbag Championships

Chicago, Illinois

## Press Kit

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Prelims: July 12-16, 1999

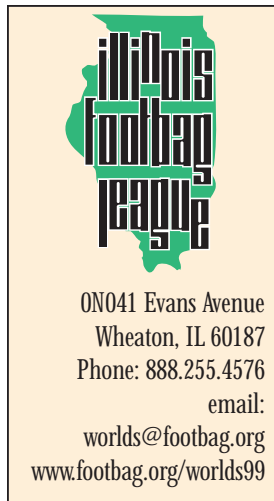
Site not yet determined

Net Finals: July 17-18 9am to 5pm  
Montrose Harbor • Chicago, IL

In conjunction with the  
Mayors Cup Soccer Tournament

Freestyle Finals: July 17 4pm to 9pm  
Navy Pier at the Family Pavilion





## Press Release

Release Date: Chicago, June 8, 1999

In collaboration with The Mayors Cup Soccer Tournament and the Mayors Office of Special Events, the IFL (Illinois Footbag League) is proud to present the 20th edition of the World Footbag Championships, from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

The sport of Footbag, more commonly referred to as Hacky Sack™, is without a doubt, part of a new sports generation. The athletic ability necessary to compete in this sport has drawn athletes from around the world to challenge each other for the world titles in singles and doubles versions of footbag freestyle and footbag net. The ever-increasing numbers of athletes and fans around the world prove that footbag is here to stay.

**Footbag Net:** This event can be thought of as a grueling match of high flying, intensive action, foot volleyball! It is played on a court with the same dimensions as a badminton court with a 5-foot net, either singles or doubles. Players serve, set, spike and dig the footbag with their feet the way they would with their hands in volleyball. It is the only sport in the world that is played exclusively with the feet.

**Footbag Freestyle:** This is the artistic side of the sport. Singles and doubles routines are judged in a similar way to figure skating or gymnastics routines. Players complete unbelievable sequences of tricks, including spins, stalls (where the footbag is stopped on a different parts of the body), legs circling the footbag and jumps—all choreographed to music. The freestyle shred circles that happen along the sidelines are also spectacles to be seen!

Both disciplines lend themselves to making great video clips for TV, and unique still shots for the print media.

We expect approximately 250 footbag competitors from around the globe to compete for a prize purse of over \$15,000. The players will be competing in 9 events, held in three categories over the week long span of the event.

You are invited to come and see the semi-finals as well as the finals for both Net and Freestyle. The best days to see Footbag Net are July 14th, July 17th and 18th (the last two days of the net finals take place at Montrose Harbor, in conjunction with the Mayors Cup Soccer Tournament). The best day to view Footbag Freestyle is at the finals on Navy Pier on July 17th and the “shred” demonstrations on July 18th at the Mayors Cup.

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

For more information, please contact Scott Davidson, Director of Public Relations using the information listed above. Scott's direct email is: [enlightener@footbag.org](mailto:enlightener@footbag.org).

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## 1999 World Footbag Championships, A Little History

Oregon, 1978. The first footbag tournament was organized by John Stalberger, inventor of the footbag six years earlier, and a few other fanatics. We actually had to wait until 1980 for the first Nationals to be held. At the time, the only players were Americans. That tournament would eventually come to be known as the Worlds.

In 1984 the Nationals moved to Colorado, where they remained for ten years. Golden, Colorado became the yearly gathering point for all footbaggers. During this time the sport began to grow more quickly and the tournaments became more structured. Soon Canadians, Danes, Norwegians, Britons, Italians, Austrians, Germans, and Japanese would also participate. Hence the name change in 1986 to the "World Footbag Championships".

The different styles of play and rivalries brought about rapid improvements in the caliber of play. Today's game is a fast acrobatic and exciting sport that attracts top athletes and fascinates spectators.

After being held two years in San Francisco, for the 1994 and 1995 editions, the Worlds had to move East, and it was decided that Montreal would host the event in 1996 (the first World Footbag Championships ever held outside the U.S.).

In 1997, the tournament went back to the birthplace of the sport, Portland, Oregon, for the 25th anniversary of Footbag. By 1997, Finland, New Zealand and Australia had joined the ranks of countries represented at this event. In 1998, the event returned to Montreal with excellent participation and spectatorship.

It is with great pride that the Midwest Footbag Association presents the 20th edition of the tournament that has always brought together the creme de la creme of footbag players. The best players in the world will challenge one another in what will be, without a doubt, one of the most amazing events sports enthusiasts have ever seen.

The World Footbag Championships are sanctioned by the World Footbag Association (WFA) under the authority of the International Footbag Advisory Board (IFAB). The WFA is the single largest players association and footbag organization in the world. The Association boasts over 45,000 active members.



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## What is the Illinois Footbag League?

The Illinois Footbag League is a conglomeration of all the clubs and footbag- oriented associations in the state. The biggest clubs include The Hack Club at Eastern Illinois University, CHAOS at Southern Illinois University, and the Illini Club at Champaign/Urbana. Other non-college clubs include Alpha Schwa Omega and Ground Phlor Digs, both located in the suburbs of Chicago. Members of each of these clubs are volunteering their time and efforts into running the World Championships.

The Midwest Footbag Association, Illinois' oldest footbag organization, is an umbrella organization that unites the clubs in Illinois and her neighboring states. For the last 15 years, the MFA has held the Midwest Regional Footbag Championships, the area's largest tournament. They also help run other tournaments, assist any club that needs their help, they do promotional work for the sport of footbag, and they perform footbag demonstrations all over the midwest.

Schwa Footbag Publishing, founded in 1996, is the publisher of the Kickers Quarterly Footbagazine and the host of the National Freestyle and Net Championships.

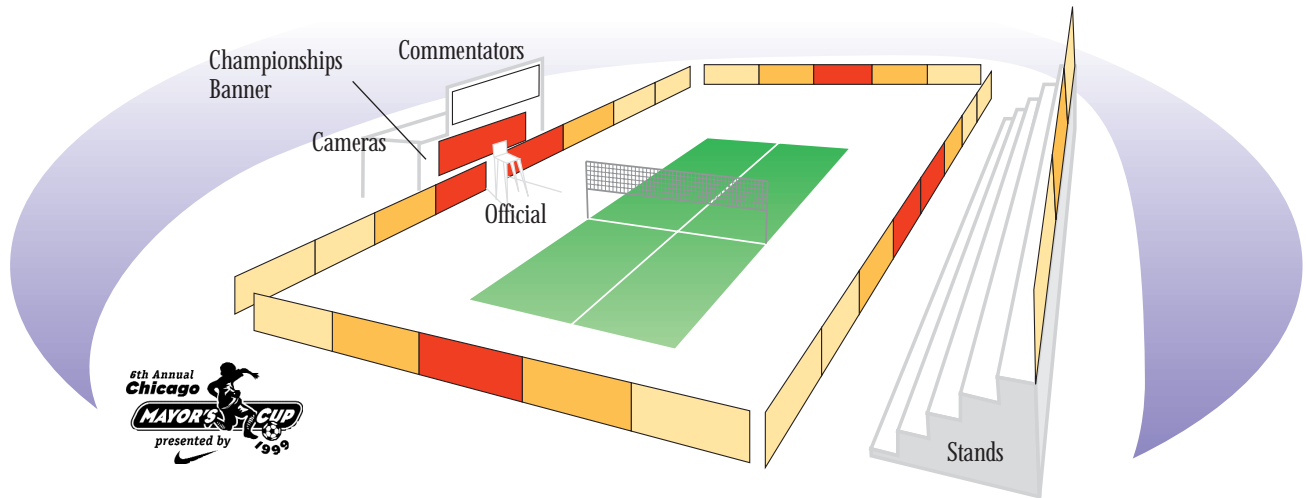
The KQ Footbagazine is the only periodical dedicated entirely to the sport of footbag, it is printed quarterly, and is the only footbag magazine that circulates outside the area it's published in. Their subscribers hail from such far away lands as Finland and Australia.



# 1999 World Footbag Championships

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Net Court  
at Mayors Cup Soccer Tournament, Montrose Harbor  
Semi-finals and finals, July 17 and 18, 1999



*Footbag Net: This event can be thought of as foot volleyball. It is played on a badminton court with a 5-foot net, either singles or doubles. Players serve, set, spike and dig the footbag with their feet the way they would with their hands in volleyball. It is the only sport in the world that is played exclusively with the feet.*

The Taste of Chicago™ is the worlds largest free festival, with over 4 million people passing through during its 11 day span. World Footbag Championships will take place at the south end of the event, near the intersection of Columbus and Balbo streets. Families will delight in watching this unique sport, and participating in our free clinics and demonstrations daily.

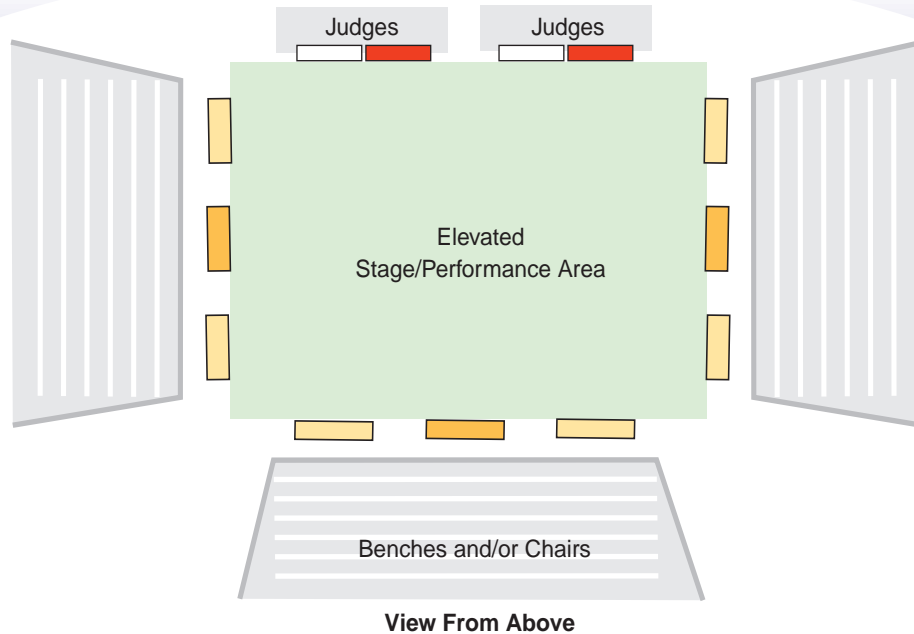


# 1999 World Footbag Championships

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Footbag Freestyle Finals  
at Navy Pier  
July 17, 1999  
Evening



*Footbag Freestyle: This is the artistic side of the sport. Singles and doubles routines are judged in the same way as figure skating or gymnastics routines. Players complete unbelievable sequences, including jumps, spins, stalls (where the footbag is "held" by a certain part of the body); all choreographed to music. It is truly difficult to imagine without having seen it.*



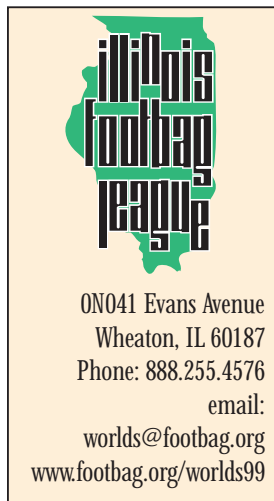
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## Events Calendar

June 28 to July 4, 1999 - Taste of Chicago

Monday, June 28		Montrose Harbor, Near Cricket Hill
8:00-11:00	Late registration and player check-in	
12:00-1:00	Opening ceremonies-Players' Meeting	
1:00-2:00	5-minute timed footbag consecutives	
2:00-3:00	Doubles timed 10-minute consecutives	
4:00-8:00	Footbag golf (first round)	
Tuesday, June 29		Montrose Harbor, Near Cricket Hill
8:30-11:30	Footbag golf (final round)	
1:00-7:30	Open singles footbag net	
1:00-5:30	Int. and int. women's singles footbag net	
2:00-5:30	Women's open singles footbag net	
5:30-6:30	Intermediate women's singles footbag net (semi-finals)	
6:30-7:30	Intermediate singles footbag net (semi-finals)	
8:30-10:00	Mandatory footbag freestyle judging clinic - TBA	
Wednesday, June 30		Montrose Harbor, Near Cricket Hill
8:30-1:00	Open singles footbag net	
8:30-1:00	Women's open singles footbag net	
8:30-1:00	Int. and int. women's singles footbag net	
1:00-7:00	Open doubles footbag net	
8:30-11:00	Group dinner - TBA	
Thursday, July 1		Montrose Harbor, Near Cricket Hill
7:30-2:00	Open and intermediate doubles footbag net	
8:30-2:00	Women's open doubles footbag net	
2:00-3:00	Intermediate doubles footbag net (finals)	
1:30-2:00	Footbag freestyle check-in (NW Corner of Columbus & Balbo)	
2:00-9:00	Footbag freestyle first round	
Friday, July 2		Montrose Harbor, Near Cricket Hill
8:00-2:00	Open and intermediate doubles footbag net	
8:00-2:00	Women's open doubles footbag net	
2:00-2:30	Footbag freestyle - check-in (NW Corner of Columbus & Balbo)	
2:30-7:00	Footbag freestyle (second round)	
Saturday, July 3		Montrose Harbor
8:00-9:00	Women's open singles footbag net (semi-finals 1)	
9:00-10:00	Open singles footbag net (semi-finals 1)	
10:00-11:00	Women's open singles footbag net (semi-finals 2)	
11:00-12:00	Open singles footbag net (semi-finals 2)	
12:00-1:00	Women's open doubles footbag net (semi-finals 1)	
1:00-2:00	Open doubles footbag net (semi-finals 1)	
2:00-3:00	Women's open doubles footbag net (semi-finals 2)	
3:00-4:00	Open doubles footbag net (semi-finals 2)	
4:30-7:00	Footbag freestyle (final round)	
Sunday, July 4		Montrose Harbor
10:30-11:30	Women's open doubles footbag net (playoffs for 3rd place)	
11:30-12:30	Open doubles footbag net (playoffs for 3rd place)	
12:30-1:30	Women's open singles footbag net (playoffs for 3rd place)	
1:30-2:30	Open singles footbag net (playoffs for 3rd place)	
2:30-3:30	Women's open singles footbag net (finals)	
3:30-4:30	Mixed doubles footbag net (finals)	
4:30-5:30	Open singles footbag net (finals)	
5:30-6:30	Women's open doubles footbag net (finals)	
6:30-7:30	Open doubles footbag net (finals)	
7:30-10:00	Closing awards ceremony and player party	



## Summary of Important Information

Dates July 12th through 18th, 1999

### Multiple Locations

Net Finals Montrose Harbor, July 17-18, 1999 – All day, both days  
Freestyle Finals Navy Pier, July 17, 1999 – 4pm to 9pm  
Prelims TBA

### In Conjunction With

Mayors Cup Soccer Tournament  
*Drawing over 4,000 players and  
10,000 spectators over the weekend  
of the 17th and 18th.*

Expected Number  
of Footbag Competitors: 250

Expected Number of Spectators 100,000

Countries Represented United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Australia,  
New Zealand, and many more!

