

Taking More Responsibility

Already in an article from 2019, I called for a rethinking in the development of German goaltenders. The situation was really concerning back then, and during the U17 Trophy scouting, there wasn't any competition for spots in the U17/U19 national team. At the beginning of the "Brno" World Championship campaign, I subjectively identified three potential goalkeepers for four spots on my list. Today we have another situation, and the quality and quantity of goalkeepers in Germany have taken a significant step forward. In the "Frederikshavn" campaign in 2021, there were already six qualified goalkeepers, and in the current "Switzerland" World Championship campaign, there are already eight. Noteworthy here is the regional distribution of talents. The goalkeepers on my list come from four out of the five regional U17 state selections heading to the U19 national team. At this point, I want to extend a big thank you to the goalkeeper coaches of the state selections and clubs. Without their work, this massive developmental process would have been inconceivable.

However, unfortunately, I also see a qualitative stagnation that massively endangers our position among the followers of the top four nations. We still need to build up technical, physical, and tactical fundamentals in the U17 and U19 national teams. Although the work of the state selection goalkeeper coaches notably supports us, it's not sufficient when the "Golden Years," mentioned in the 2019 article, roughly between the ages of 9 and 12, are still not effectively utilized in an athlete's development. I want to emphasize again that these "Golden Years" are critical and vary significantly in each individual career of an athlete. For me, the period before potential inclusion in the U17 state selection is crucial. The responsibility clearly lies with the clubs. Generally speaking, clubs still do not invest enough in goalkeeper training. For comparison, I want to mention Floorball Köniz as an L-UPL club in Switzerland. They offer weekly goalkeeper training with multiple goalkeeper coaches as part of their own goalkeeper school. This goalkeeper training is even attended by goalkeepers from other nearby clubs. Such a structure not only significantly impacts the club internally but also on an international level. Particularly notable is Patrick Eder, who was active for a long time for the L-UPL team and the Swiss national team. Currently, the current L-UPL goalkeeper, Janis Schwarz, is in the squad for the U23 national team, and Alessio Mura, a goalkeeper from Floorball Köniz was also part of the Swiss U19 squad at the 2023 U19 World Championship.

In preparation for this article, I sent a survey to the clubs in the Women's and Men's FBL, as well as the clubs in the Women's and Men's 2.FBL. Out of a total of 32 clubs contacted, 20 participated in this survey. Since this only represents 62.5% of FBL clubs, it is hard to talk about representative results. Nevertheless, I would like to present the results of this survey at this point. Why were only FBL clubs contacted? Our FBL clubs are developers, designers, and representatives of competitive sports in Floorball Germany. From this role arises a very high qualitative demand for the training of floorball players. Furthermore, FBL clubs tend to have the necessary structures and personnel to implement certain projects. Naturally, the article and the proposed steps do not exclusively target Bundesliga clubs but generally address all floorball clubs in Germany.

So which actions can the FBL clubs do concrete ?

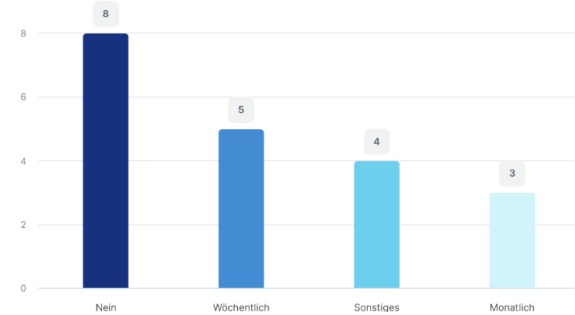
First, the education of coaches is decisive. The "DOSB Trainer C Leistungssport, Sportart: Floorball" license offers a good opportunity. The basics of goalkeeper training are an integral part of the license and are taught by the goalkeeper coaches of the national or regional selections. According to the survey results, 9 out of 20 Bundesliga clubs do not have a coach with a C license in the club. This is naturally a concerning situation, not only from the perspective of goalkeeper training. Since C coaches are financially supported by the state sports associations, there is also a certain financial argument for the clubs.

1. Wie viele Trainer*innen mit der Lizenz "DOSB-Trainer C Leistungssport; Sportart: Floorball" hat euer Verein?

ANTWORT	ANTWORTEN	VERHÄLTNIS
0	9	45%
1-3	8	40%
4 oder mehr	3	15%

Another important step would be regular, ideally weekly, development training for young players. Currently, 8 out of 20 FBL clubs do not offer any goalkeeper training. This number is also quite problematic. This development training can be aimed at both goalkeepers and outfield players. Goalkeepers must have the opportunity to work on themselves outside of team training. Depending on where the focus is on team training, there can often be team training sessions where goalkeepers hardly get any shots on goal. Having dedicated training time with frequent shots or enough space and time to train goalkeeper-specific fundamental exercises is extremely beneficial for development. This development training doesn't necessarily need to be led by a designated goalkeeper coach. The key is to provide goalkeepers with time and space to work on their own development.

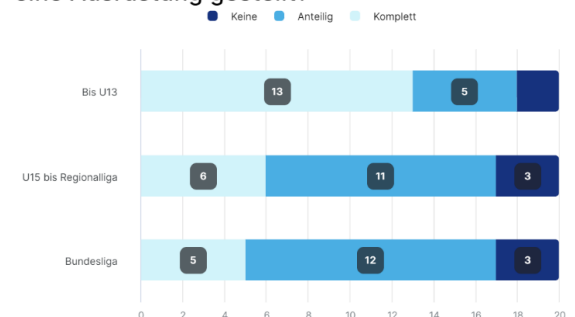
3. Gibt es ein regelmäßiges Torhütertraining bei euch im Verein ?



Now, the question arises as to where these indoor times should be taken from. I would like to draw particular attention to the base point system of the state sports associations. Additionally, I would like to mention that my information refers to the state sports associations of Saxony and Sachsen-Anhalt. There may be differences for other state sports associations. Floorball State associations that are members of the state sports association can nominate talent base points for men and women. This nomination can be changed annually and includes several advantages: financial support for base point trainers, training material, possible travel costs for players from outside, etc. Another advantage is the priority processing of requested hall times. This talent base point system can be an important key not only for the development of goalkeepers in Germany but also for the development of our floorball players in general, provided that the clubs and floorball state associations assume this responsibility quantitatively and qualitatively.

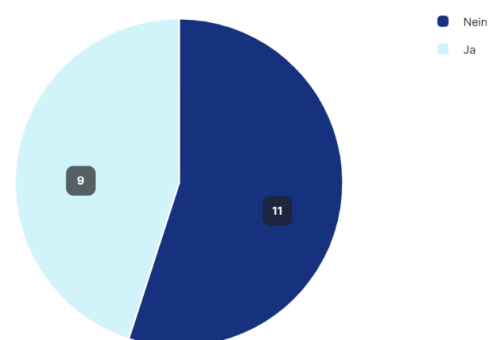
On a quantitative and qualitative level, the equipment question actually plays an important role as well. Especially in the youngest teams, there shouldn't be any skimping. The first experiences with the goalkeeper position shouldn't be characterized by old and worn-out goalkeeper equipment. Additionally, the financial factor should not be an exclusion criterion along the slogan "only who can afford a €500 equipment can become a goaltender". At this level, FBL clubs are actually very well-equipped. 18 out of 20 clubs provide complete or partial goalkeeper equipment to goalkeepers up to the U13 age group.

6. Kriegen die Torhüter*innen bei euch im Verein eine Ausrüstung gestellt?



For the implementation of these suggestions, a designated person could be responsible (on an organizational and training level). Also, in that case, there is strong potential for development in FBL clubs. 11 out of 20 clubs do not have a designated person responsible for goalkeepers in the club. A designated person responsible for goalkeeping shows internally and externally that this strongly individual and specific position is taken seriously. Additionally, this person reduces the organizational and content-related effort for the team coaches. A responsible person for goalkeeping doesn't necessarily need to have expertise in goalkeeper training but might first help on an organizational level to provide time, space, and material that goalkeepers can use. It is even helpful if somebody keeps an eye on the goalkeepers in the training and just talks reflectively with them about the situation. Furthermore, this step from a club could contribute to intensifying the

2. Hat euer Verein eine Person, welche für Torhüterausbildung im Verein zuständig ist?



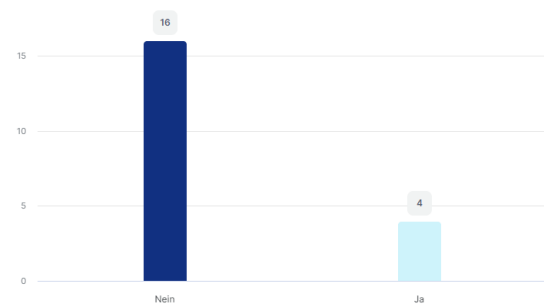
content-related engagement of the responsible person for goalkeeping and could increase the number of goalkeeper coaches.

At this point, I would like to call on the Bundesliga clubs of the 1st FBL and 2nd FBL in particular to invest more in goalkeeper training. These clubs often have the necessary structures, resources, and personnel to realize, for example, a weekly goalkeeper training. However, it is not only the clubs that have a responsibility to do more in this respect, but also Floorball Germany as the federal association. The situation in the women's national teams is particularly worrying, as there are currently no goalkeeper coaches employed at all.

In the survey, I also asked about the collaboration of clubs with the goalkeeper trainers of the state selections. The results here are also very disappointing, as the two graphs for questions 9 and 10 show. A whopping 16 out of 20 clubs have never worked in any form with the goalkeeper trainers of the state selections. We will try to initiate common projects (for example observations). Nevertheless, both sides share responsibility here as well. Clubs have the opportunity to request the state selection goalkeeper trainers for visits and observations in their own training (or further education, etc.). However, the state selection goalkeeper trainers also need to offer opportunities and invite clubs and coaches to the camps or even proactively offer to visit a training session.

Furthermore, as a federal association and as goalkeeper trainers of the national teams, we must continue to go for the creation of a DOSB Trainer B license in floorball and specifically for the creation of a goalkeeper coach license. From conversations with colleagues from the Finnish and Swiss federations, I know that even in these countries the clubs are not investing so much in goalkeeper development. That's why I see the potential to bring us closer to the top four nations since they are not so far ahead of us in the development of the field players in our sport.

9. Hat euer Verein schon mal mit dem bzw. der Landesauswahl-Goalietrainer*in (oder Nationalauswahl-Goalietrainer*in) in irgendeiner Form zusammengearbeitet?



10. Wie bewertet ihr die Zusammenarbeit eures Vereins mit den Goalietrainer*innen der Landesauswahlen/Nationalauswahlen im Torhüterbereich?

