



**INNS'
BRUCK**



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ICEART – IceSportArena Telfs History!

In 1976 Winterolympic games took place in Innsbruck. In 1981 Innsbruck was host city of the European championships in figure skating. In 1908 figureskating as the first Winter Olympic sports was part of summer Olympic Games. In 1920 due to figure skating ladies where allowed to compete in Olympic Games. In 1976 during Olympic Games in Innsbruck Icedance became an Olympic discipline. During Youth Olympic Games the Team-Events where tested as a further Olympic discipline in figure skating. Until now Austria is still ranked 3rd in the list of Olympic Champions in figure skating (7 gold, 9 silver, 4 bronze = 20) directly after USA and Russia.

During 1987 and 2015 Tyrol forgot about the historical traditions of one of the most historical winter Olympic Sports – figure skating. Between 1987 and 2015 the figure skating possibilities where reduced to very rare (about 18 hours a week only) seasonal skating possibilities only between August and March. Due to these rare possibilities during the years Tyrolean Skating lost contact to international skating level. Because of these bad possibilities the founder Georg Ganner located the strong need for competitive figure skating practice possibilities to save the future of figure skating in the meanwhile three Times Olympic state of Tyrol as well as carried by the passion to reconnect Tyrolean and Austrian figure skating again to international skating, beside keeping the costs for the needed infrastructure in tolerable level.

Therefore Dr. Georg Ganner, a former national figure skater in single & pairskating, president of the Tyrolean skating association (figure skating and speedskating) and carrier of the order of merit for sports to the state of Tyrol and ISU international Judge for single & pairskating developed the project ICEART -a full year figure skating ice rink - in cooperation with the Tyrolean government, the government of Innsbruck and the council of the tourist board of Innsbruck and its holiday villages, to serve sustainable affordable practice possibilities and reduce running costs for the Tyrolean and Innsbruck city government.

In 2006 as well as in 2007 Mr Ganner organized spring-figureskating in an outdoor rink nearby Innsbruck. After a huge number of participants at this figure skating events, several analyses and tests he started planning the ice rink. In 2010 the project was presented the Tyrolean government as well as the tourist board of Innsbruck asked for a project for the region around „Obsteig“ a village approx. 45 Minutes west of Innsbruck.

After several appointments, the mayor and vizemayor of the city of Telfs, 15 Minutes west of the three times Olympic town of Innsbruck, the tourist board and the Government of Telfs asked Mr Ganner to reorganize the project and focus on building the full-year Indoor Arena instead of an outdated outdoor icerink in deficit (-70 TEUR p.A.).

After a couple of months of analyses and reorganizing the location in Telfs was determined by the Tyrolean government as well as the tourist board of Innsbruck.

In 2012 the planning was completed. The construction of the arena building was planned by the famous **architect DI Peter Huter** and the famous company **Huter & Söhne**, well known for **fantastic wooden roof constructions**. Due to the passion for skating the company Huter & Söhne granted an easing of approximately 170 TEUR to make the project happen.

The cooling technology, the permafrost heating as well as the ventilation-, heating and lightning system was planned by the specialized company for Ice arenas **ARENAHALLS**, founded by **DI Dietmar Gruber**. All planned and used technologies are based on advanced renewable energy technology, so that a saving of 25% of common energy costs were made possible. The cooling system and the ice-resurface machine were installed by the famous Tyrolean Company **A.S.T.**

During 2013 and 2014 the finances had to be reorganized due to refinancing reasons, the tyrolean government together with the city of Innsbruck and the tourist board of Innsbruck ensured the building-costs as well as the running costs for figureskating and ice hockey until 2030. Mr Ganner donated approximately 350 TEUR to ensure figure-skating possibilities daily from 8am until 6pm 7 days a week until 2030 and handed over the building to I.C.E. Sport Arena Betriebs GmbH, as the operating company.

Since May 2015 a team of professional **master ice keepers, Mr. Alexander Spieler and Mr Michael Maringer** of the operating company are running the rink. ICEART is in charge of consultation and optimizing figure skating practice schedules together with the Tyrolean skating association in cooperation with the operating company.

Within **the first year more than 20.000 figure skating sessions** where used by figure skaters from all over the world and all levels of skating.

Many coaches and figureskating clubs from all over the world are using Iceart in IceSportArena for spring and summer camps.

I.C.E Sport Arena Telfs is as well the homebase for many regional figure skating clubs and skaters like Natalie Klotz, ISU Junior Worlds Competitor 2016 and Anita Kapferer, Vize-National Champion 2015 and many more.

The Team Olympic Champion of Winter Olympic Games in Sotschi Yulia Lipnitzkaya as well practiced in Iceart in IceSportArena Telfs in 2016 as the famous pairs couple Tae Ok Ryom/Ju Sik Kim from the Corea. The whole Tyrolean figure skating team is practicing in IceSportArena Telfs since the rink opened in 2015.

But not only figure skating is using I.C.E. Sport Arna Telfs, also Ice hockey is using the new facility every day during 6pm and 11pm and during weekends.

Thankful to all responsible organizations and persons

Tyrolean Skating Association