

# WHAT THE HECK IS SUBBUTEO?

Subbuteo is a game of miniature soccer. It is played on a miniature pitch with miniature plastic men mounted on a rounded base. These figures are "flicked" around the field with one's index finger to pass or shoot the ball, and to put the figures into position. The game was first invented



and popularized in England in the early to mid 1900's. It has since spread in popularity throughout Europe and the rest of the world, although still relatively unknown in the U.S. The name itself comes from a bird of prey, the Hobby, whose scientific name is Falco Subbuteo.

The game of Subbuteo originated in post-war England in the late 1940's. Invented by Peter Adolph, the game saw a peak in the 1970's, but has seen a large resurgence as of late with many players rediscovering a game from their youth. Subbuteo has seen many changes from its original incarnation to today's game.

The first sets came with cardboard figures on half-circle plastic bases, plastic goals, and a piece of chalk to draw lines on an army surplus blanket (not included). Eventually, in the early 1960's, the playing figure was a mass produced three dimensional figure. The late 1970's saw the addition of non-playing accessories like grandstand seating, fence surround and a working scoreboard.

The early 1980's saw the playing figure and the plastic base undergo changes. No longer was the figure lifeless; he now was a more lifelike looking player set in a lightweight base.

In 1996, Hasbro bought production rights and reduced the number of teams produced, cut out the accessories, but introduced a new one piece base that was an improvement over the lightweight base of the 80's. Hasbro ceased production of Subbuteo products in 1999.

By 2000, Subbuteo players and bases were not being produced by one company, but were being produced by numerous companies around the world. Now, today's players use high quality playing surfaces, metal goals, highly-detailed molded figures, and precision machined bases that glide across the entire field!

*Subbuteo was introduced in the United States when Jokari became the first mass distributor of the game in 1981.*

*Many players remember an early introduction to*

*Subbuteo through Jokari sponsoring the PBS program "Soccer Made In Germany."*

*Jokari started the American Subbuteo Association in 1982.*

*Tournaments were organized and newsletters produced, and the ASA held the first ever National*

*Championship in the summer of 1982.*

*Today the ASA has over 15 clubs*

*nation wide and an active*

*tournament circuit. In the*

*last few years we have*

*seen our growth explode*

*by over 400%. The mission of*

*the American Subbuteo*

*Association is to promote Subbuteo*

*style Tabletop Soccer in the United*

*States. By developing clubs and*

*tournaments throughout the country*

*the ASA provides opportunities for*

*individual growth and ensures*

*Sportsmanship above all.*

Unlike soccer's World Cup that is held every four years, Subbuteo's

version of the World Cup is held

every year. Players from

countries around the

world compete every

summer in the world's

largest table soccer

tournament. A game that once

thought reached it's peak in

popularity in the late 70's is making

a comeback.



## WANT TO PLAY?

### HELPFUL LINKS:

[www.americansubbuteo.com](http://www.americansubbuteo.com)

[www.flick2kick.typepad.com](http://www.flick2kick.typepad.com)

[www.peter-upton.co.uk/sub1.htm](http://www.peter-upton.co.uk/sub1.htm)

### EQUIPMENT LINKS:

[www.tablesoccerusa.com](http://www.tablesoccerusa.com)

[www.stefancorda.co.uk](http://www.stefancorda.co.uk)

[www.subbuteoworld.co.uk](http://www.subbuteoworld.co.uk)

[www.worldtablesoccer.com](http://www.worldtablesoccer.com)

