

Abstract

The aim of this study is to outline spreading of floorball in the world in comparison with spreading of other sports and to find determinants that explain changes in floorball's representation. The popularity of floorball was compared with the popularity of other selected sports within different European countries. These countries were selected according to their consideration of being floorball superpowers: the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden and Finland. It was confirmed that floorball prospers where ice hockey is well-developed. A hypothesis was tested on these countries whether floorball is a university sport. The statistical analysis confirmed a correlation between the number of universities and number of floorball clubs. The survey results also demonstrated that professional floorball's success is directly related to quality of university sports background.

Key words: floorball, spatial diffusion, determinants, geography, pattern change