



# UNITED STATES FLOORBALL ASSOCIATION

*A Member of the International Floorball Federation*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Brian Radichel

Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Men's Under 19 Team

**Phone:** 770-855-7263

**Email:** [brian.radichel@usfba.org](mailto:brian.radichel@usfba.org)

## **USA Floorball Announces Men's U19 Roster for World Floorball Championships**

*Tournament to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on May 8-12*

**[Incline Village, NV, Friday, April 19, 2019]** – USA Floorball is proud to announce the roster for the upcoming Men's Under-19 World Floorball Championships (WFC). The WFC will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada next month, from May 8-12. Information regarding the tournament can be found at the official site of the championships, <https://floorball2019.com>.

Floorball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world today, with nearly 70 countries participating in the International Floorball Federation (IFF). The home page for the IFF can be found at <https://floorball.sport>. While similar games have been played for years in different parts of the world, modern floorball rules and administration were first established in Sweden in 1979. Today, over 3 million players play floorball recreationally.

The United States Floorball Association was founded in 1994 and has been devoted to growing the game in the US. Today, active leagues and clubs can be found in all parts of the country, and their numbers are growing. As part of their mission, USA Floorball operates four national teams, in both adult and U19 for both men and women. Each year, two WFC events are held, one for U19, and one for adults. This year's WFC events feature the Men's U19 Championship in Halifax in May, and Women's Championship in Switzerland this December.

All players are US citizens and represent Americans from all over the world. The official roster is as follows and is located on the IFF website at <https://floorball.sport/team/1413879841/>.



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Number	Name	Position	Hometown	Current Club
3	Schwindt, Nicholas	Forward	Laramie, WY	Laramie Outlaws
5	Walker, Jonah	Forward	American Fork, UT	Utah Floorball
7	Dieckelman, Eric	Forward	Östersund, Sweden	Sundsvall FBC U
8	Jacques, Ethan	Forward	Falun, Sweden	Hälsinggårdens AIK
9	Radichel, Tyler	Forward	Flower Mound, TX	NTFA Knights
11	Eriksson, Carl	Center	Orsa, Sweden	KAIS Mora UIF
12	Terhonen, Thomas	Defense	Espoo, Finland	Erä Viikingit
14	Williamsson, Liam	Goalkeeper	Oviedo, FL	Orlando Vikings
16	Hansen, David	Center	Eskilstuna, Sweden	Torshälla IBK
17	Hallikainen, Samuel	Defense	Nurmijarvi, Finland	SB Pro
21	Dugan, Eli	Forward	Des Moines, WA	Seattle
24	Huttunen, Aleksi	Defense	Helsinki, Finland	Esport Oilers
27	Weber, Kevin	Forward	Niederwil SO, Switzerland	TSV Unihockey Deitingen
40	Lehtinen, Rikhard	Forward	Petäjävesi, Finland	O2-Jyväskylä
60	Hausman, Nate	Defense	Tomah, WI	Tomah Floorball Club
64	Connor, Case	Forward	Cedar Park, TX	Austin Floorball Club
72	Alongi, Lukas	Forward	Helsinki, Finland	EräViikingit
88	Velasquez, Seth	Defense	Orem, UT	Utah Floorball
90	Mooney, Jonathan	Goalkeeper	Lidingö, Sweden	IBF offensiv Lidingö

Despite the distance between the players, this year's roster has had more opportunities to play together than any team from the United States in the past. Members of the roster played together at the premier floorball tournaments in the US over the past 9 months, including the US National Championships last August; the Golden Gate Cup in San Jose, CA in November; and the Texas Open in March of this year. Additionally, members of the team competed in Uppsala, Sweden, at the Storstvreta Cup over Christmas break as part of a development team.

Excitement is high for the team, and so are expectations. Six players return from the 2017 WFC team, where the US placed 15<sup>th</sup>. Head Coach Joel Olofsson returns for his 3<sup>rd</sup> MU19 WFC and has the young men ready for the tournament. Olofsson also coaches the US Men's National Team and is excited about the prospects of developing further American talent through the U19



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team. Olofsson says of his team: "Scouting and selecting this roster has been a pleasure as the passion for floorball in the U.S. continues to grow and the skill level of the players continues to improve. Now, we, as a coaching staff, look forward to helping this team come together and perform their best in Halifax against some of the best up and coming competition in the world."

Team USA is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the world and is placed in the B Division of the tournament. They have drawn a starting pool which includes Poland (8), Japan (16) and Russia (29). The top two teams from each pool advance to the division playoffs, and the winner of the B Division playoffs will be promoted to the A Division for the 2021 WFC. Rounding out the B Division is Germany (11), Canada (14), Slovenia (17), and New Zealand (21). The US will play an international friendly against New Zealand on Monday, May 6, at the Dalplex in Halifax.

The General Manager of the team is Kenton Walker, from American Fork, Utah. "The U.S. Men's Under 19 Floorball Team is very excited to announce this roster of talented American players selected by our coaching staff," said Walker. "Most of the roster has been selected from our Developmental Team Program, which was established in 2018 to develop and scout U.S. players from around the world. The World Floorball Championships in Halifax will be a great opportunity for our team to reach new heights on the world stage and to further develop a pipeline of experienced players for the U.S. Men's National Team in the future."

This year's tournament will be broadcast on the IFF YouTube channels 1 and 2, and the schedule can be found on the tournament site at [floorball2019.com](http://floorball2019.com). In the US, floorball has been featured on ESPN's Top 10 plays on SportsCenter, and most recently the US Women's National Team qualifying matches against Canada were broadcast on ESPN3. USA Floorball has also established a relationship with the State Games of America ([www.stategamesofamerica.com](http://www.stategamesofamerica.com)) and will be hosting the 2019 US Championships in conjunction with the State Games this August in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Like many sports in the US, the team is self-funded and relies on donations to help offset the cost of the travel, lodging, and entry fees. Interested companies can contact Kenton Walker,



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General Manager, at [kenton.walker@usfba.org](mailto:kenton.walker@usfba.org). Alternatively, the team has set up a fundraising site at RallyMe.com. Those who would like to help out can donate directly to USA Floorball for the team at <https://usafloorball.rallyme.com/rallies/15832/mu19halifax>. Since USA Floorball is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible.

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If you would like more information about this announcement, please contact Brian Radichel at 770-855-7263 or email at [brian.radichel@usfba.org](mailto:brian.radichel@usfba.org).