

## The World Championships in 3-cushion - Juniors

At the beginning of the 21st century, the increasing popularity of the three cushion discipline also led to an increase in tournaments for juniors and growing interest in a world championship for juniors in three cushion. The Spanish association in particular was very committed to this.

The southern Europeans made a first attempt to launch this new competition back in the 1990s, but failed due to the negative attitude of the other nations. Even the second attempt in 2001 did not lead to a world championship, but for the time being there was only a "World Challenge Cup Juniors" as a kind of preliminary tournament for later world title fights.

It was held twice, each time with 19 of the 20 planned junior players. The winner was determined in group matches followed by finals with games over 40 points.

The success of this event finally led to the desired three cushion world championship for juniors in 2003. Instead of adopting the tried-and-tested organization mode, the number of participants was reduced to 16 and the best-of-three set system was introduced. In 2007, there was an upgrade to best of five, at least for the finals. From 2012 onwards, the matches were again played over fixed distances of 25 or 35 points.

Filipos Kasidokostas from Greece was initially the outstanding player at the World Challenge Cups and the World Championships. He set all the records in his three title wins. The general average of 1,581 and the best game of 3,076 as well as the highest series of 15 were unsurpassed for a long time. It was not until 2018 that Cho Myung-woo (KR) clearly surpassed these records with 2,022 and 5,000.