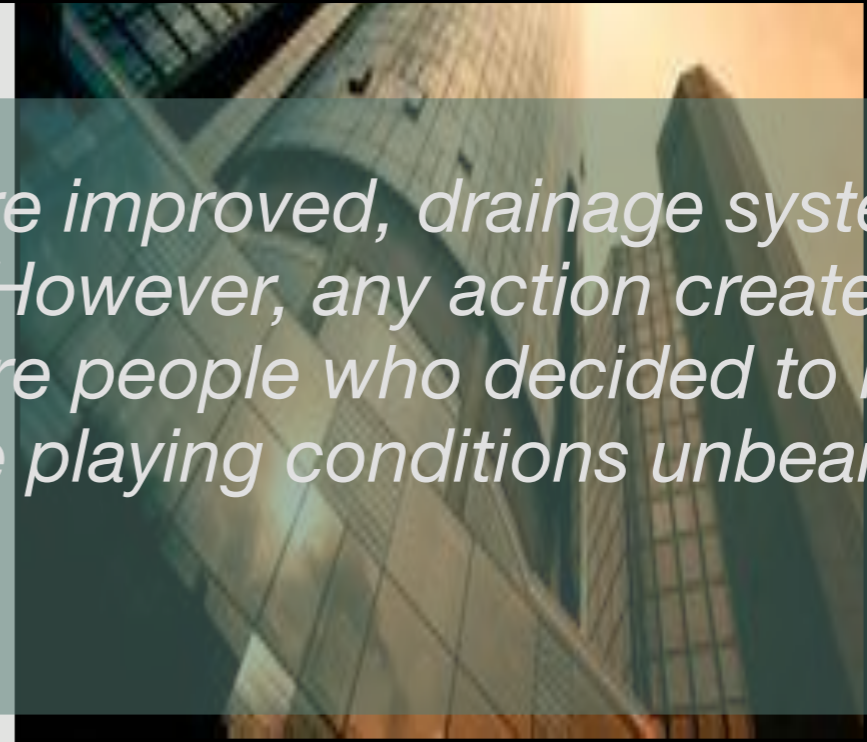


Swamp football

The whole history of the development of football – from the British pioneer of the game Charles Alcock to, say, Sepp Blatter – was aimed at improving the conditions for matches.



Football fields were leveled, lawns were improved, drainage system and lighting were actively worked on. However, any action creates a reaction – and at some point there were people who decided to move in the opposite direction and make the playing conditions unbearable. That's how swamp football appeared.



How the game is played

- The match consists of two halves of 13 minutes, each team has five field players and a goalkeeper*
- The size of the field does not exceed 60x35 meters, which is about half the size of the usual football standard*
- As in the case of artificial lawns in big football, swamp fields are also fake – in this case, the turf is removed from the surface, the soil is plowed and abundantly flooded with water*
- Usually during the game, the players go into the ankle-deep swamp, but it can be worse. In the canonical photo from one of the first world championships in swamp football, the striker scored a goal with his head, being almost waist-deep in mud, the depth of which reached more than a meter*

- An additional complexity to the game is given by the ban on changing boots, which are clogged with mud during the match, swell from water and after the final whistle often turn out to be completely unsuitable for further use*



Championships

The first swamp Football World Cup was held in 2000 in the Finnish Hyuryunsalmi and was organized by the efforts of the same Yurka Vyayanyanen, who received the nickname Swamp Baron for his labors. Parallel activity developed in Scotland and Ireland, where the first European Championship was held five years later.



Swamp football

And the most unexpected success of the game was in Russia, where in the early 2000s several good teams appeared at once - for example, in Penza and, of course, in the Leningrad region, the most swampy region of the country. The Penza Center club took bronze medals in 2002 and 2003, and a year later celebrated its first victory. A year later, the Russian final took place: Penza Center again won against the team from St. Petersburg.

In general, it is not too surprising that swamp football has been so successful in Russia – after all, the local natural conditions are the best fit for this sport. There have traditionally been problems with the fields here: the swamp is quite a natural surface for local football. In addition, they like to overcome difficulties here, so dirt, wet uniforms and fairly complicated playing conditions only benefit teams from Russia. And finally, swamp football is fun. And they always knew how to win with fun here.

Swamp
football
all in
Russia



