Package ‘fastRhockey’
December 10, 2021

Title  Functions to Access Premier Hockey Federation and National Hockey League Play by Play Data

Version  0.1.0

Description  A utility to scrape and load play-by-play data
and statistics from the Premier Hockey Federation (PHF)<https://www.premierhockeyfederation.com/>, formerly known as the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL). Additionally, allows access to the National Hockey League's stats API <https://www.nhl.com/>.

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URL  https://benhowell71.github.io/fastRhockey/,
     https://github.com/benhowell71/fastRhockey

BugReports  https://github.com/benhowell71/fastRhockey/issues

Depends  R (>= 4.0.0)

Imports  cli (>= 3.0.0), data.table, dplyr, glue, httr, janitor, jsonlite, lubridate, magrittr, progressr (>= 0.6.0), purrr (>= 0.3.0), Rcpp, RcppParallel, rlang, rvest (>= 1.0.0), stringr (>= 1.3.0), tibble (>= 3.0), tidyr (>= 1.0.0)

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R topics documented:

csv_from_url .................................................. 3
data .......................................................... 3
load_nhl_pbp .................................................. 4
load_nhl_player_box ......................................... 5
load_nhl_schedule ............................................. 5
load_nhl_team_box ............................................ 6
load_phf_pbp .................................................. 7
load_phf_player_box ......................................... 8
load_phf_schedule ............................................. 9
load_phf_team_box ............................................ 9
most_recent_nhl_season ...................................... 10
most_recent_nhl_season_api_param ......................... 11
most_recent_phf_season ...................................... 11
nhl_conferences .............................................. 11
nhl_conferences_info ........................................ 12
nhl_divisions .................................................. 13
nhl_divisions_info ........................................... 13
nhl_draft ....................................................... 14
nhl_draft_prospects ......................................... 15
nhl_draft_prospects_info ................................... 15
nhl_draft_year ................................................ 16
nhl_game_boxscore ........................................... 17
nhl_game_content ............................................. 17
nhl_game_feed ................................................ 18
nhl_game_shifts ............................................... 18
nhl_player_info ............................................... 19
nhl_player_stats ............................................. 19
nhl_schedule ................................................... 20
nhl_teams ....................................................... 21
nhl_teams_info ................................................ 21
nhl_teams_roster ............................................. 22
nhl_teams_stats ............................................... 22
phf_game_all .................................................. 23
phf_game_details ............................................. 23
phf_game_raw ................................................ 24
phf_game_summary ........................................... 24
phf_leaders .................................................... 25
phf_league_info .............................................. 26
phf_pbp ........................................................ 26
phf_player_box ............................................... 27
phf_player_stats ............................................. 27
phf_schedule .................................................. 28
phf_standings ................................................ 29
phf_team_box .................................................. 29
phf_team_roster .............................................. 30
phf_team_stats .............................................. 30
Description

This is a thin wrapper on data.table::fread.

Usage

csv_from_url(...)

Arguments

... passed to data.table::fread

Value

A dataframe as created by data.table::fread()

data

Data in the package for reference

Description

A dataset containing the full team names, abbreviations, colors & logos for all 32 NHL teams.

Usage

nhl_team_logos

Format

A data frame with 32 rows and 11 variables:

full_team_name  full team name
team_abbr  NHL.com team abbreviation
team_nick  lowercase, no spaces team nickname
division  current NHL division
conference  current NHL conference
load_nhl_pbp

Description

helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using some forwarded arguments in the dots

Usage

load_nhl_pbp(
  seasons = most_recent_nhl_season(),
  ...,  
  dbConnection = NULL, 
  tablename = NULL

)

Arguments

seasons  A vector of 4-digit years associated with given NHL seasons. (Min: 2011)
... Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season data into a database (used by update_nhl_db()).
dbConnection  A DBIConnection object, as returned by DBI::dbConnect()
tablename  The name of the play by play data table within the database

Value

A dataframe

Examples

load_nhl_pbp(2021)
load_nhl_player_box

Load fastRockey NHL player box scores

Description

helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using some forwarded arguments in the dots

Usage

load_nhl_player_box(
  seasons = most_recent_nhl_season(),
  ..., 
  dbConnection = NULL, 
  tablename = NULL
)

Arguments

seasons A vector of 4-digit years associated with given NHL seasons. (Min: 2011)

... Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season data into a database (used by update_nhl_db()).

dbConnection A DBIConnection object, as returned by DBI::dbConnect()

tablename The name of the player box data table within the database

Value

Returns a tibble

Examples

load_nhl_player_box(2021)

load_nhl_schedule

Load fastRockey NHL schedules

Description

helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using some forwarded arguments in the dots
Usage

load_nhl_schedule(
  seasons = most_recent_nhl_season(),
  ..., 
  dbConnection = NULL,
  tablename = NULL
)

Arguments

seasons  A vector of 4-digit years associated with given NHL seasons. (Min: 2011)
...
  Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season
data into a database (used by update_nhl_db()).
dbConnection  A DBIConnection object, as returned by DBI::dbConnect()
tablename  The name of the schedule data table within the database

Value

Returns a tibble

Examples

load_nhl_schedule(2021)

load_nhl_team_box  Load fastRockey NHL team box scores

Description

helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using
some forwarded arguments in the dots

Usage

load_nhl_team_box(
  seasons = most_recent_nhl_season(),
  ..., 
  dbConnection = NULL,
  tablename = NULL
)
load_phf_pbp

Arguments
seasons A vector of 4-digit years associated with given NHL seasons. (Min: 2011)
... Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season
data into a database (used by update_nhl_db()).
dbConnection A DBIConnection object, as returned by DBI::dbConnect()
tablename The name of the team box data table within the database

Value
Returns a tibble

Examples
load_nhl_team_box(2021)

Description
helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using
some forwarded arguments in the dots

Usage
load_phf_pbp(
  seasons = most_recent_phf_season(),
  ...
  dbConnection = NULL,
  tablename = NULL
)

Arguments
seasons A vector of 4-digit years associated with given PHF seasons. (Min: 2011)
... Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season
data into a database (used by update_phf_db()).
dbConnection A DBIConnection object, as returned by DBI::dbConnect()
tablename The name of the play by play data table within the database

Value
A dataframe
Examples

load_phf_pbp(2021)

---

**load_phf_player_box**  
**Load fastRhockey PHF player box scores**

Description

Helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using some forwarded arguments in the dots

Usage

```r
load_phf_player_box(
  seasons = most_recent_phf_season(),
  ...,  
  dbConnection = NULL,
  tablename = NULL
)
```

Arguments

- **seasons**  
  A vector of 4-digit years associated with given PHF seasons. (Min: 2011)
- **...**  
  Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season data into a database (used by `update_phf_db()`).
- **dbConnection**  
  A DBIConnection object, as returned by `DBI::dbConnect()`
- **tablename**  
  The name of the player box data table within the database

Value

Returns a tibble

Examples

```r
load_phf_player_box(2021)
```
### load_phf_schedule

**Load fastRockey PHF schedules**

**Description**

helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using some forwarded arguments in the dots

**Usage**

```r
load_phf_schedule(
  seasons = most_recent_phf_season(),
  ..., 
  dbConnection = NULL,
  tablename = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

- `seasons` A vector of 4-digit years associated with given PHF seasons. (Min: 2011)
- `...` Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season data into a database (used by update_phf_db()).
- `dbConnection` A DBIConnection object, as returned by `DBI::dbConnect()`.
- `tablename` The name of the schedule data table within the database

**Value**

Returns a tibble

**Examples**

```r
load_phf_schedule(2021)
```

## load_phf_team_box

**Load fastRockey PHF team box scores**

**Description**

helper that loads multiple seasons from the data repo either into memory or writes it into a db using some forwarded arguments in the dots
Usage

```r
load_phf_team_box(
  seasons = most_recent_phf_season(),
  ..., dbConnection = NULL,
  tablename = NULL
)
```

Arguments

- `seasons` A vector of 4-digit years associated with given PHF seasons. (Min: 2011)
- `...` Additional arguments passed to an underlying function that writes the season data into a database (used by `update_phf_db()`).
- `dbConnection` A `DBIConnection` object, as returned by `DBI::dbConnect()`.
- `tablename` The name of the team box data table within the database.

Value

Returns a tibble.

Examples

```r
load_phf_team_box(2021)
```

---

**most_recent_nhl_season**

**Most Recent NHL Season**

Description

**Most Recent NHL Season**

Usage

```r
most_recent_nhl_season()
```

Value

Value for most recent NHL season
### Most Recent NHL Season for NHL API

**Description**

Most Recent NHL Season for NHL API

**Usage**

```python
most_recent_nhl_season_api_param()
```

**Value**

Value for most recent NHL season in the format of the NHL API

---

### Most Recent PHF Season

**Description**

Most Recent PHF Season

**Usage**

```python
most_recent_phf_season()
```

**Value**

Value for most recent NHL season

---

### NHL Conferences

**Description**

Returns a table of current NHL conferences

**Usage**

```python
nhl_conferences()
```
Value

Returns a data frame

- conference_id - conference ID
- name - conference name
- link - link to conference information
- abbreviation - conference abbreviation
- short_name - conference short name
- active - active conference flag

Examples

```
nhl_conferences()
```

---

**nhl_conferences_info**  
**NHL Conference Info**

Description

Returns information on a conference by conference ID

Usage

```
nhl_conferences_info(conference_id)
```

Arguments

- conference_id  Conference ID

Value

Returns a data frame

- conference_id - conference ID
- name - conference name
- link - link to conference information
- abbreviation - conference abbreviation
- short_name - conference short name
- active - active conference flag

Examples

```
nhl_conferences_info(conference_id = 7)
```
nhl_divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nhl_divisions</th>
<th>NHL Divisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Description**

Returns information on divisions

**Usage**

`nhl_divisions()`

**Value**

Returns a data frame

- division_id
- name
- name_short
- link
- abbreviation
- active
- conference_id
- conference_name
- conference_link

**Examples**

`nhl_divisions()`

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nhl_divisions_info</th>
<th>NHL Divisions Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Description**

Returns information on a division by division ID

**Usage**

`nhl_divisions_info(division_id)`

**Arguments**

- division_id Division ID
**Value**

Returns a data frame

- division_id -
- name -
- name_short -
- link -
- abbreviation -
- active -
- conference_id -
- conference_name -
- conference_link -

**Examples**

```r
nenhl_divisions_info(division_id=17)
```

**Description**

Returns information on draft

**Usage**

```r
nhl_draft()
```

**Value**

Returns a data frame: * year - * round - * pick_overall - * pick_in_round - * team_id - * team_name - * team_link - * prospect_id - * prospect_full_name - * prospect_link -

**Examples**

```r
nhl_draft()
```
**nhl_draft_prospects**  
**NHL Draft Prospects**

**Description**
Returns information on draft prospects

**Usage**

```
nhl_draft_prospects()
```

**Value**
Returns a data frame:
- prospect_id
- full_name
- link
- first_name
- last_name
- birth_date
- birth_city
- birth_state_province
- birth_country
- height
- weight
- shoots_catches
- nhl_player_id
- draft_status
- nationality
- primary_position_code
- primary_position_name
- primary_position_type
- primary_position_abbreviation
- prospect_category_id
- prospect_category_short_name
- prospect_category_name
- amateur_team_name
- amateur_team_link
- amateur_league_name
- amateur_league_link
- ranks_final_rank
- ranks_draft_year

**Examples**

```
nhl_draft_prospects()
```

---

**nhl_draft_prospects_info**  
**NHL Draft Prospects Info**

**Description**
Returns information on draft prospect for a given prospect id

**Usage**

```
nhl_draft_prospects_info(prospect_id)
```

**Arguments**

- `prospect_id`  
  Prospect unique ID
nhl_draft_year

Value


Examples

nhl_draft_prospects_info(prospect_id=65242)

nhl_draft_year

NHL Draft by Year

Description

Returns information on draft for a given year

Usage

nhl_draft_year(year)

Arguments

year Draft year (XXXX)

Value

Returns a data frame: * year - * round - * pick_overall - * pick_in_round - * team_id - * team_name - * team_link - * prospect_id - * prospect_full_name - * prospect_link -

Examples

nhl_draft_year(year=2020)
**nhl_game_boxscore**  NHL Game Boxscore

---

**Description**

Returns information on game boxscore for a given game id

**Usage**

`nhl_game_boxscore(game_id)`

**Arguments**

- `game_id`  Game unique ID

**Value**

Returns a named list of data frames: `team_box`, `player_box`, `skaters`, `goalies`, `on_ice`, `on_ice_plus`, `penalty_box`, `scratches`, `team_coaches`

**Examples**

```
nhl_game_boxscore(game_id=2021020182)
```

---

**nhl_game_content**  NHL Game Content

---

**Description**

Returns game content for a given game ID

**Usage**

`nhl_game_content(game_id)`

**Arguments**

- `game_id`  Game unique ID

**Value**

Returns a tibble
nhl_game_shifts

Examples

nhl_game_content(game_id=2021020182)

nhl_game_feed

NHL Game Feed

Description

Returns information on game feed for a given game id

Usage

nhl_game_feed(game_id)

Arguments

game_id Game unique ID

Value

Returns a named list of data frames: all_plays, scoring_plays, penalty_plays, plays_by_period, current_play, linescore, decisions, team_box, player_box, skaters, goalies, on_ice, on_ice_plus, penalty_box, scratches, team_coaches

Examples

nhl_game_feed(game_id=2018020561)

nhl_game_shifts

NHL Game Shifts

Description

Returns information on game shifts for a given game id

Usage

nhl_game_shifts(game_id)

Arguments

game_id Game unique ID
### nhl_player_info

**Value**

Returns a tibble

**Examples**

```r
nhl_game_shifts(game_id=2021020182)
```

---

### nhl_player_info

**NHL Player Info**

**Description**

Returns player information for a given player ID

**Usage**

```r
nhl_player_info(player_id)
```

**Arguments**

- `player_id`  
  Player unique ID

**Value**

Returns a tibble

**Examples**

```r
nhl_player_info(player_id=8476899)
```

---

### nhl_player_stats

**NHL Player Stats**

**Description**

Returns player stats for a given player ID

**Usage**

```r
nhl_player_stats(player_id)
```
Arguments

player_id  Player unique ID

Value

Returns a tibble

Examples

nhl_player_stats(player_id=8476899)

---

nhl_schedule  NHL Schedule

Description

Returns NHL Schedule data

Usage

nhl_schedule(season = NULL, day = as.Date(Sys.Date(), "%Y-%m-%d"))

Arguments

season  NHL Season
day  Date

Value

Returns a tibble

Examples

nhl_schedule(season = 2021)
### nhl_teams

**NHL Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
<th>Returns NHL Teams information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Usage</strong></td>
<td><code>nhl_teams()</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong></td>
<td>Returns a tibble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
<td><code>nhl_teams()</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### nhl_teams_info

**NHL Teams Info**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
<th>Returns NHL Teams information for a given team ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Usage</strong></td>
<td><code>nhl_teams_info(team_id)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arguments</strong></td>
<td><strong>team_id</strong> A unique team ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong></td>
<td>Returns a tibble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
<td><code>nhl_teams_info(team_id = 14)</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
nhl_teams_roster  NHL Teams Roster

Description
Returns NHL Teams roster information for a given team ID

Usage
```r
nhl_teams_roster(team_id, season = most_recent_nhl_season_api_param())
```

Arguments
- `team_id` A unique team ID
- `season` season in format XXXXYYYY

Value
Returns a tibble

Examples
```r
nhl_teams_roster(team_id = 14, season = 20202021)
```

nhl_teams_stats  NHL Teams Stats

Description
Returns NHL Teams stats information for a given team ID

Usage
```r
nhl_teams_stats(team_id, season = most_recent_nhl_season_api_param())
```

Arguments
- `team_id` A unique team ID
- `season` season in format XXXXYYYY

Value
Returns a tibble
**phf_game_all**

**Examples**

```r
nhl_teams_stats(team_id = 14)
```

**Description**

`phf_game_all`: pull in the raw data for a game_id from the PHF/NWHL API

**Usage**

```r
phf_game_all(game_id = 368719)
```

**Arguments**

- `game_id` The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for

**Value**

A named list of data frames: plays, team_box, skaters, goalies, game_details, scoring_summary, shootout_summary, penalty_summary, officials, team_staff, timeouts

**Examples**

```r
phf_game_all(game_id = 268127)
```

**phf_game_details**

**Description**

`phf_game_details`: pull in the raw data for a game_id from the PHF/NWHL API

**Usage**

```r
phf_game_details(game_id = 268078)
```

**Arguments**

- `game_id` The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for
Value
A data frame with game team details

Examples

```r
phf_game_details(game_id = 268078)
```

Description
phf_game_raw: pull in the raw data for a game_id from the PHF/NWHL API

Usage
```
phf_game_raw(game_id = 268078)
```

Arguments

```r
game_id
```
The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for

Value
A list of data frames

Examples

```r
phf_game_raw(game_id = 268078)
```

Description
phf_game_summary: pull in the raw data for a game_id from the PHF/NWHL API

Usage
```
phf_game_summary(game_id = 268127)
```
Arguments

```
game_id
```

The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for

Value

A named list of data frames: scoring_summary, shootout_summary, penalty_summary, officials, team_staff, timeouts

Examples

```
phf_game_summary(game_id = 268078)
```

Description

PHF Player Leaderboards

Usage

```
phf_leaders(player_type, season = 2021, season_type = "Regular Season")
```

Arguments

```
player_type
season
season_type
```

Player type: skaters, goalies
Season (YYYY) to pull the team stats from, the concluding year in XXXX-YY format
Season type: Regular Season or Playoffs

Value

A data frame of stat leaders

Examples

```
phf_leaders(player_type = "skaters", season = 2022, season_type="Regular Season")
phf_leaders(player_type = "goalies", season = 2022, season_type="Regular Season")
```
**phf_league_info**

**Description**
PHF League Information per year

**Usage**

```r
phf_league_info(season = 2022)
```

**Arguments**

- `season` Season (YYYY) to pull the league info and IDs for. Season is the concluding year in XXXX-YY format

**Value**
A named list of data frames: seasons, divisions, teams, league, officials, brackets

**Examples**

```r
phf_league_info(season = 2021)
```

---

**phf_pbp**

**Description**

phf_pbp: pull in the raw data for a game_id from the PHF/NWHL API

**Usage**

```r
phf_pbp(game_id = 368719)
```

**Arguments**

- `game_id` The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for

**Value**
A data frame of play by play information
**phf_player_box**

**Examples**

```r
cmp_f_pbp(game_id = 268127)
```

**Description**

`phf_player_box`: loads the player boxscore

**Usage**

```r
phf_player_box(game_id = 420339)
```

**Arguments**

- `game_id` The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for

**Value**

A named list of data frames: skaters, goalies

**Examples**

```r
phf_player_box(game_id = 420339)
```

**phf_player_stats**

**Description**

`phf_player_stats`: loads the player stats

**Usage**

```r
phf_player_stats(player_id = 431615)
```

**Arguments**

- `player_id` The unique ID code for the player that you are interested in viewing the data for
Value

A named list of data frames: career, game_log

Examples

phf_player_stats(player_id = 431615)
phf_player_stats(player_id = 431611)

Description

PHF Schedule lookup

Usage

phf_schedule(season = 2021)

Arguments

season  Season (YYYY) to pull the schedule from, the concluding year in XXXX-YY format

Value

A data frame with schedule data

Examples

phf_schedule(season=2022)
**phf_standings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phf_standings</td>
<td>pull in the standings data for a game_id from the PHF/NWHL API</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Usage**

```r
phf_standings(season = most_recent_phf_season())
```

**Arguments**

- `season` 
  - Season (YYYY) to pull the standings from, the concluding year in XXXX-YY format

**Value**

A data frame of standings data

**Examples**

```r
phf_standings(season = most_recent_phf_season())
```

---

**phf_team_box**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phf_team_box</td>
<td>loads the team boxscore and shot/score data for a game into one data frame through just one function</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Usage**

```r
phf_team_box(game_id = 268078)
```

**Arguments**

- `game_id` 
  - The unique ID code for the game that you are interested in viewing the data for

**Value**

A dataframe of team-level box score information
Examples

```r
phf_team_box(game_id = 420339)
```

---

**Description**

PHF Team Roster lookup

**Usage**

```r
phf_team_roster(team, season = 2022)
```

**Arguments**

- **team**
  Team name with nickname (e.g. Boston Pride, Buffalo Beauts)
- **season**
  Season (YYYY) to pull the team stats from, the concluding year in XXXX-YY format

**Value**

A named list of data frames: roster, team_staff

**Examples**

```r
phf_team_roster(team = "Boston Pride", season = 2022)
```

---

**Description**

PHF Team Stats lookup

**Usage**

```r
phf_team_stats(team, season = 2022)
```
**Arguments**

- **team**: Team name with nickname (e.g. Boston Pride, Buffalo Beauts)
- **season**: Season (YYYY) to pull the team stats from, the concluding year in XXXX-YY format

**Value**

A named list of data frames: skaters, goalies

**Examples**

```r
phf_team_stats(team = "Boston Pride", season = 2022)
```

---

**Description**

This function helps add progress-reporting to any function - given function `f()` and progressor `p()`, it will return a new function that calls `f()` and then (on-exiting) will call `p()` after every iteration.

**Usage**

```r
progressively(f, p = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- **f**: a function to add progressr functionality to.
- **p**: a progressor function as created by `progressr::progressor()`

**Details**

This is inspired by purrr’s safely, quietly, and possibly function decorators.

**Value**

a function that does the same as `f` but it calls `p()` after iteration.
rds_from_url  Load .rds file from a remote connection

Description

Load .rds file from a remote connection

Usage

rds_from_url(url)

Arguments

url  a character url

Value

a dataframe as created by readRDS()

update_nhl_db  Update or create a fastRockey NHL play-by-play database

Description

update_nhl_db() updates or creates a database with fastRockey play by play data of all completed and available games since 2011.

Usage

update_nhl_db(
  dbdir = ".",
  dbname = "fastRockey_db",
  tblname = "fastRockey_nhl_pbp",
  force_rebuild = FALSE,
  db_connection = NULL
)

Arguments

dbdir  Directory in which the database is or shall be located
dbname  File name of an existing or desired SQLite database within dbdir
tblname  The name of the play by play data table within the database
force_rebuild  Hybrid parameter (logical or numeric) to rebuild parts of or the complete play by play data table within the database (please see details for further information)
db_connection  A DBIConnection object, as returned by DBI::dbConnect() (please see details for further information)
Details

This function creates and updates a data table with the name tblname within a SQLite database (other drivers via db_connection) located in dbdir and named dbname. The data table combines all play by play data for every available game back to the 2010 season and adds the most recent completed games as soon as they are available for fastRhockey.

The argument force_rebuild is of hybrid type. It can rebuild the play by play data table either for the whole fastRhockey era (with force_rebuild = TRUE) or just for specified seasons (e.g. force_rebuild = c(2019,2020)). Please note the following behavior:

- force_rebuild = TRUE: The data table with the name tblname will be removed completely and rebuilt from scratch. This is helpful when new columns are added during the Off-Season.
- force_rebuild = c(2019,2020): The data table with the name tblname will be preserved and only rows from the 2019 and 2020 seasons will be deleted and re-added. This is intended to be used for ongoing seasons because ESPN's data provider can make changes to the underlying data during the week.

The parameter db_connection is intended for advanced users who want to use other DBI drivers, such as MariaDB, Postgres or odbc. Please note that the arguments dbdir and dbname are dropped in case a db_connection is provided but the argument tblname will still be used to write the data table into the database.

Value

Logical TRUE/FALSE

Description

update_phf_db() updates or creates a database with fastRhockey play by play data of all completed and available games since 2011.

Usage

```r
update_phf_db(
  dbdir = "./",
  dbname = "fastRhockey_db",
  tblname = "fastRhockey_phf_pbp",
  force_rebuild = FALSE,
  db_connection = NULL
)
```
Arguments

- **dbdir**: Directory in which the database is or shall be located.
- **dbname**: File name of an existing or desired SQLite database within dbdir.
- **tblname**: The name of the play by play data table within the database.
- **force_rebuild**: Hybrid parameter (logical or numeric) to rebuild parts of or the complete play by play data table within the database (please see details for further information).
- **db_connection**: A DBIConnection object, as returned by `DBI::dbConnect()` (please see details for further information).

Details

This function creates and updates a data table with the name `tblname` within a SQLite database (other drivers via `db_connection`) located in `dbdir` and named `dbname`. The data table combines all play by play data for every available game back to the 2016 season and adds the most recent completed games as soon as they are available for `fastRhockey`.

The argument `force_rebuild` is of hybrid type. It can rebuild the play by play data table either for the whole `fastRhockey` era (with `force_rebuild = TRUE`) or just for specified seasons (e.g. `force_rebuild = c(2019,2020)`). Please note the following behavior:

- **force_rebuild = TRUE**: The data table with the name `tblname` will be removed completely and rebuilt from scratch. This is helpful when new columns are added during the Off-Season.
- **force_rebuild = c(2019,2020)**: The data table with the name `tblname` will be preserved and only rows from the 2019 and 2020 seasons will be deleted and re-added. This is intended to be used for ongoing seasons because ESPN’s data provider can make changes to the underlying data during the week.

The parameter `db_connection` is intended for advanced users who want to use other DBI drivers, such as MariaDB, Postgres or odbc. Please note that the arguments `dbdir` and `dbname` are dropped in case a `db_connection` is provided but the argument `tblname` will still be used to write the data table into the database.

Value

Logical TRUE/FALSE
Index

* Boxscore
  nhl_game_boxscore, 17
* Conferences
  nhl_conferences, 11
  nhl_conferences_info, 12
* Content
  nhl_game_content, 17
* Divisions
  nhl_divisions, 13
* Division
  nhl_divisions_info, 13
* Draft
  nhl_draft, 14
  nhl_draft_prospects, 15
  nhl_draft_prospects_info, 15
  nhl_draft_year, 16
* Feed
  nhl_game_feed, 18
* Game
  nhl_game_boxscore, 17
  nhl_game_content, 17
  nhl_game_feed, 18
  nhl_game_shifts, 18
* Info
  nhl_conferences_info, 12
  nhl_divisions_info, 13
  nhl_draft_prospects_info, 15
  nhl_teams_info, 21
* Internal
  csv_from_url, 3
  progressively, 31
  rds_from_url, 32
* NHL
  nhl_conferences, 11
  nhl_conferences_info, 12
  nhl_divisions, 13
  nhl_divisions_info, 13
  nhl_draft, 14
  nhl_draft_prospects, 15
  nhl_draft_prospects_info, 15
  nhl_draft_year, 16
  nhl_game_boxscore, 17
  nhl_game_content, 17
  nhl_game_feed, 18
  nhl_game_shifts, 18
  nhl_player_info, 19
  nhl_player_stats, 19
  nhl_schedule, 20
  nhl_teams, 21
  nhl_teams_info, 21
  nhl_teams_roster, 22
  nhl_teams_stats, 22
* Player
  nhl_player_info, 19
  nhl_player_stats, 19
* Prospects
  nhl_draft_prospects, 15
* Prospect
  nhl_draft_prospects_info, 15
* Roster
  nhl_teams_roster, 22
* Schedule
  nhl_schedule, 20
* Shifts
  nhl_game_shifts, 18
* Stats
  nhl_teams_stats, 22
* Teams
  nhl_teams, 21
  nhl_teams_info, 21
  nhl_teams_roster, 22
  nhl_teams_stats, 22
* Year
  nhl_draft_year, 16
* data
  data, 3
* info
  nhl_player_info, 19
* stats
  nhl_player_stats, 19

 csv_from_url, 3

 data, 3
data.table::fread(), 3
DBI::dbConnect(), 4–10, 32, 34

load_nhl_pbp, 4
load_nhl_player_box, 5
load_nhl_schedule, 5
load_nhl_team_box, 6
load_phf_pbp, 7
load_phf_player_box, 8
load_phf_schedule, 9
load_phf_team_box, 9

most_recent_nhl_season, 10
most_recent_nhl_season_api_param, 11
most_recent_phf_season, 11

nhl (update_nhl_db), 32
nhl_conferences, 11
nhl_conferences_info, 12
nhl_db (update_nhl_db), 32
nhl_divisions, 13
nhl_divisions_info, 13
nhl_draft, 14
nhl_draft_prospects, 15
nhl_draft_prospects_info, 15
nhl_draft_year, 16
nhl_game_boxscore, 17
nhl_game_content, 17
nhl_game_feed, 18
nhl_game_shifts, 18
nhl_pbp_db (update_nhl_db), 32
nhl_player_info, 19
nhl_player_stats, 19
nhl_schedule, 20
nhl_team_logos (data), 3
nhl_teams, 21
nhl_teams_info, 21
nhl_teams_roster, 22
nhl_teams_stats, 22

phf (update_phf_db), 33
phf_db (update_phf_db), 33
phf_game_all, 23
phf_game_details, 23

phf_game_raw, 24
phf_game_summary, 24
phf_leaders, 25
phf_league_info, 26
phf_pbp, 26
phf_pbp_db (update_phf_db), 33
phf_player_box, 27
phf_player_stats, 27
phf_schedule, 28
phf_standings, 29
phf_team_box, 29
phf_team_roster, 30
phf_team_stats, 30
progressively, 31

rds_from_url, 32
readRDS(), 32
update_nhl_db, 32
update_phf_db, 33