

Competition Rules (IFCR)

Valid as for 11 November 2011

1 Scope of Validity

1.1 The Competition Rules of the International Fistball Association (IFCR) shall apply to all fistball competitions (indoors and outdoors) prepared, organized and hosted by the International Fistball Association (IFA), for international matches and international qualifying events.

1.2 The wording, interpretation and publication of IFCR, once ratified by the Congress, shall be the Committee's responsibility.

1.3 The general terms player, referee etc. refer to both male and female persons.

2 Official Competitions

2.1 International Championships and Cup Events

2.1.1 IFA has the exclusive right to prepare and organize international championships and cup events and to appoint individual member federations to host these tournaments.

The IFA Committee may delegate the preparation and organization of continental competitions to the relevant governing body or a member federation.

2.1.2 The following competitions are organized by IFA:

2.1.2.1 World Games

2.1.2.2 Continental Championships

2.1.2.3 Continental Cup Games for national associations

2.1.2.4 Continental Cup Games for federations

2.1.2.5 World Cup Games for federations

Cup games are held subject to a minimum participation of three member federations (with the exception of the World Games).

2.1.3 The cost of staging events shall be borne by the organizing member federations. An organization fee is payable IFA within four weeks of the individual competitions taking place according to the relevant regulations.

2.1.4 During international championships involving competitions among national associations of member federations, both the IFA flag and the flags of the participating countries shall be flown.

2.1.5 At the opening ceremony the national anthem of the participating member federations may be played. At the closing ceremony both the national anthems of the winner and the organizing member federation can be played.

2.2 International Matches

2.2.1 International matches are competitions between teams of all age levels, for men and women, pertaining to member federations of IFA, who are free to agree them.

2.2.2 Once a match has been agreed, the organizing member federation shall notify the IFA general secretariat of its time and venue.

2.2.3 After the match the organizing member federation shall

2.2.3.1 forward the original competition reports to the responsible member of the Committee and communicate the names of the referees without delay,

2.2.3.2 pay a fee according to Art. 8, par. 1.2 below to IFA within four weeks of the match taking place.

2.3 International Qualifying Matches

2.3.1 International qualifying matches (representative matches) between regional representative teams pertaining to national associations affiliated to IFA may be agreed by consent of the latter.

2.3.2 The responsible member of the Committee shall be notified of these matches as described under international matches (Art. 2, par. 2.3.1).

2.4 International Team Championships

2.4.1 International team championships are competitions between teams pertaining to various member federations.

2.4.2 These competitions may be prepared and organized:

2.4.2.1 by IFA itself in compliance with the provisions of IFCR

2.4.2.2 by the teams pertaining to member federations either as friendly matches or as tournaments at the discretion of the participants in accordance with the regulations laid down by their national associations.

3 Eligibility to Compete

3.1 Nationality

3.1.1 All players entered by national associations must be citizens of the country they represent.

3.1.2 A player who has already carried out an international match of A-level is not entitled to compete for another nation. A protection of vested rights is applied.

3.1.3 In case a player's nationality cannot be determined, a decision shall be made by the Committee.

3.2 Membership in a National Association

3.2.1 In case a player leaves his national federation in order to play for a team in another member federation, this is only possible if he/she can present the official release of the former federation.

A national federation shall be deemed to be the last federation the player was entitled to play for.

3.2.2 If a player intends to leave his member federation, he has to communicate this to the federation. This request can be made by mail or letter 2 months prior to his/her last game at the earliest. It can only be applied to a point in time after the last game in the federation he/she plays for at the moment of request.

The release must be issued within 2 months after the player's request, if there are no reasons for turning down the request according to IFSO. The release can be issued by mail or letter.

In case this release is not issued, the player is regarded as automatically released after another month.

The release is to be published on the IFA-homepage.

3.2.3 Pre-condition for a new playing entitlement is the presentation of the release of the former federation by letter or mail. Exception: The release will be carried out immediately after 3 months if the release is not issued.

The basis for this playing entitlement is the national regulation of the new federation. National blocking periods might be executed.

3.2.4 The IFA board finally decides on disputes and objections. This is why the secretary general IFA shall be included in the entire correspondence from the beginning.

3.3 Team Membership

3.3.1 All players must be part of a team of a member federation and prove their membership by producing a valid player pass or a written confirmation of their team.

3.3.2 The regulations laid down by the member federations regarding the eligibility of their players shall be complied with, unless otherwise stipulated for competitions hosted by IFA.

3.4 Doping Rules

3.4.1 The Anti-Doping Code by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) is valid for all Member federations. Each Member Federation has to announce an Anti-Doping Commissioner to IFA.

3.4.2 The actual updated regulations published by WADA have to be adopted by each Member Federation.

3.4.3 In all the efforts against Doping the Member Federations are responsible to WADA directly themselves.

3.5 Advertising on Sports Kit

3.5.1 Advertising on sports kit (shirts and shorts) is permitted on the conditions listed below.

3.5.2 Advertising is permitted on any garments during all official competitions organized by IFA. National competitions shall be governed by the regulations of the respective national member federations.

The manner of advertising shall be declared on entry into the competition.

3.5.3 Advertising shall be restricted to companies and goods. The texts used may not be offensive. Letters, numbers, badges or designs must not cause confusion of any kind.

No slogans of a political, religious, ideological or moral nature are permitted. Goods of an offensive kind may not be advertised.

3.5.4 All texts and badges shall be considered as advertising on sports kit, with the following exceptions:

- the official name of the country and/or association and the corresponding emblem as well as the proper name of the individual player,
- small logos and trademarks of the manufacturers of the outfits worn.

3.5.5 Advertising features must be easily distinguished from the player's number.

Country and/or association emblems on players' outfits must be well separated from advertising features and shall clearly contrast with them.

4 Initiation of Competitions, Entry and Withdrawal of Associations, Organization of Competitions

4.1 Initiation of Competitions, Entry and Withdrawal

4.1.1 Invitations for the World Cup and World Games must be sent out by IFA at least eighteen months prior to the event taking place. For all other competitions, the invitations shall be posted at least nine months before.

4.1.2 The registration period for the World Cup and World Games shall terminate nine months prior to the event taking place. For all other competitions, the registration deadline shall be stipulated in the invitation.

4.1.2.1 Entries shall be made in writing no later than the official deadline. National associations shall be entered through their member federations. Teams shall be registered by their member federations.

4.1.2.2 Once the registration has been received, participation in the competition shall be compulsory.

4.1.2.3 Associations that withdraw or fail to take part in the competition after their registration are liable to a fine and shall be excluded from the next event of its kind.

4.1.2.4 Exceptions may be made solely by the Committee.

4.1.3 IFA may organize competitions for the following age groups:

- Men/Women (open class)
- U21 Men/Women (until the age of 21)
- U18 Male/Female (until the age of 18)
- U16 Male/Female (until the age of 16)
- U14 Male/Female (until the age of 14)
- U12 Male/Female (until the age of 12)

The relevant age limits stipulated in these regulations may be reached in the year the competitions concerned are held.

In terms of competitions, the year shall be defined as follows

- identical with the calendar year for outdoor fistball,
- the period between 1st January in one year and 30th April in the following year for indoor fistball.

4.2 Organization

4.2.1 All matches as defined by the IFCR shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by IFA.

4.2.2 Matches shall be played in rounds or play-offs.

4.2.2.1 During rounds all teams play against each other.

4.2.3 If several teams pertaining to the same member federation compete in matches subject to the IFCR regulations and several groups are formed, these teams shall be di-vided between the groups.

Within the groups the teams pertaining to the same member federation shall initially compete with each other.

If there is only one group or if there is only one group left following the preliminary round, teams from the same member federation shall first play against each other.

4.2.4 Teams may not play more than two consecutive matches. The maximum number of matches may not exceed four matches per day.

If four matches are played on one day, the second match shall be followed by a break lasting two hours.

During a half-day not more than three matches per team may be played.

4.2.5 Matches which have been abandoned and cannot be resumed on the same day must be re-started.

4.2.6 During the competition a player can only take part in one category and represent only one team.

4.2.7 A maximum of 10 players shall make up a team.

4.2.8 Teams who fail to show up for a match or are unable to play or fall short of the required number of five players or cause the match to be abandoned, shall be excluded from the rest of the tournament.

4.2.8.1 Teams shall not be excluded if their failure to show up, their delay or lack of players is force majeure.

4.2.8.2 Traffic accidents, unforeseen obstructions to traffic and breakdowns confirmed by the police, a local constabulary or authority shall be deemed as cases of force majeure. Delays to public transport shall not be considered as force majeure.

4.2.9 If players are banned from playing for their national or regional associations, they may not compete in international matches during the ban.

4.2.9.1 Players shall wear numbers on their shirts, the numbers being constituted of various arabic numerals between 1 and 20 within a team. These numbers shall be at least 15 cm in height on the back of the shirt and not more than 10 cm in height on the front of the shirt at chest level.

The numbers of all players within a team must be identical in size, color and position.

Numbers not more than 10 cm in height may be affixed to the front of either leg of the shorts instead of the shirt

All players shall wear the numbers allotted to them throughout the competition.

4.2.9.2 Players who are sent off the pitch shall be automatically excluded from the participation in the next match of the tournament.

The IFA reserves the right to additional disciplinary measures.

4.3 Ranking

4.3.1 During rounds, two points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and none for a defeat.

4.3.2 If two or more teams are equal at the end of a round on the basis of the above criterion and the matches have been played in sets, their ranking shall be determined as follows:

1. greater set difference (difference) resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned
2. greater number of sets (quotient) obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned
3. greater goal difference (difference) resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned
4. greater set difference (difference) resulting from all the group matches of the round concerned
5. greater number of sets (quotient) obtained in all the group matches of the round concerned
6. greater goal difference (difference) resulting from all the group matches of the round concerned
7. drawing lots

4.3.2.1 If two or more teams are equal at the end of a round on the basis of the above criterion and the matches have been played over *periods of time*, their ranking shall be determined as follows:

1. greater goal difference (difference) resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned
2. greater number of goals (quotient) obtained in the group matches between the teams concerned
3. greater goal difference (difference) resulting from all the group matches of the round concerned
4. greater number of goals (quotient) obtained in all the group matches of the round concerned
5. drawing lots

4.3.3 If an ineligible player is fielded or the match is abandoned willfully, the relevant team shall be considered as having lost. The match and points will be awarded to its opponents as follows:

- if two sets must be won with a score of 2 : 0 points, 2 : 0 sets and a goal difference of 22 : 5
- if three sets must be won with a score of 2 : 0 points, 3 : 0 sets and a goal difference of 33 : 10
- if four sets must be won with a score of 2 : 0 points, 4 : 0 sets and a goal difference of 44 : 15
- if five sets must be won with a score of 2 : 0 points, 5 : 0 sets and a goal difference of 55 : 20
- if a match is played over a period of time with a score of 2 : 0 points and a goal difference of 30 : 10

4.3.4 If teams withdraw in the course of the competition or are excluded from playing in the competition, their matches shall not count.

4.4 Special Provisions applicable to IFA Competitions

Special provisions for individual competitions are stipulated in the respective regulations.

The latter are laid down and enforced by the Committee in compliance with the Statutes and the regulations. Once the invitations for a competition have been sent out (Art. 4, par. 1.1), changes may not be made.

5 Protests

5.1 Protests against the initiation of a competition shall be submitted in writing to the responsible member of the Committee within three weeks of receipt of the invitation with an explanation.

5.2 Protests against pitch and equipment shall be made to the referee by the team captain or the coach prior to the start of the match.

5.3 Protests against incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee immediately after the disputed incident. The protests shall be confirmed in writing within half an hour of the match.

5.4 Protests against eligibility shall be made prior to the start of the match. Ineligibility must be reported as soon as it is known. Protests shall be lodged no later than two weeks after the match in question.

5.5 Protests against the scoring of a match shall be made once the manner of scoring has given rise to concern. Please refer to the deadline for appeals stated in Art. 5, par. 4.

5.6 The match schedule and the selection of referees are beyond dispute.

5.7.1 Protests are subject to a fee payable at the time they are lodged in accordance with Art. 8, par. 3.1 of these Competition Rules.

5.8 Protests may be withdrawn prior to the beginning of the hearing.

5.9 If a team succeeds with their protest or dispute, and they lost, or the game was drawn, then the match shall be played again as soon as possible.

The new match shall be organized by the official IFA representative(s).

5.10 The appeal fee shall be settled in accordance with Art. 8, par. 3.2 and 3.3 of these Competition Rules.

6 Arbitration proceedings

6.1 Disputes shall be settled promptly by negotiation by an arbitration tribunal after a hearing of the parties and witnesses involved.

6.2 Each arbitration tribunal shall consist of three persons and be headed by the responsible Committee member, who appoints the other member of the arbitration tribunal and a representative in case he/she is absent.

Whenever possible, Committee members who are present shall be appointed as arbitrators.

6.3 The arbitration tribunal shall be an independent legal entity and must be neutral.

Abstentions shall be deemed invalid whilst a verdict is reached.

The resulting judgment shall remain secret.

6.4 Protests against the organization of matches and other disputes that cannot be settled promptly by way of arbitration shall be resolved by the IFA Committee.

6.5 If the appeal must be dealt with in writing, no judgement may be made prior to the exchange of statements among the Committee members.

6.6 The decision of the arbitration tribunals and the Committee are final.

6.7 Fees and expenses shall be regulated in accordance with Art. 8, par. 3 of these Competition Rules.

7 Referees

7.1 During international competitions internationally approved referees shall be chosen.

They shall be appointed in compliance with the individual regulations and/or appointed by the responsible Committee member.

7.2 The selected referees shall not be considered as part of the official delegation of a member association or federation.

8 Financial Provisions

8.1 Competition Fees

8.1.1 The fees for international competitions are stipulated in the governing regulations.

8.1.2 The hosting member federation of friendly international matches shall compensate IFA with a fee of 50 Euros.

8.2 Violations

8.2.1 Violations against the provisions of regulations, guidelines or Laws of the Game shall be sanctioned or fined by IFA.

For details, please refer to the juridical regulations.

8.3 Appeal Fees and Costs of Arbitration Proceedings

8.3.1 Appeals shall be accompanied by a fee of 20 Euros.

8.3.2 The appeal fee shall be refunded if the appeal is successful or withdrawn prior to the start of the hearing.

8.3.3 If the appeal is withdrawn, the costs incurred shall be borne by the appealing party.

8.3.4 The costs of arbitration proceedings shall be borne

8.3.4.1 in case the appeal is turned down, by the appealing party

8.3.4.2 in case the appeal is successful, by the organizer

8.4 Allocation of costs for IFA Competitions

8.4.1 The financial provisions in the corresponding regulations shall be applicable to IFA competitions.

Validity

The Competition Rules of the International Fistball Association (IFCR) were adopted by the Congress on 12th November 1960 in Frankfurt (Germany). The original version was altered and supplemented at the Congress on 27th November 1964 in Schaffhausen (SUI), on 21st June 1969 in Pfungstadt (GER), on 19th and 20th September 1990 in Kirchdorf (AUT), on 25th November 1992 in Llanquihue (CHI), on 27th August 1995 in Windhoek (NAM), on 24th August 1999 in Olten (SUI), on 20th November 2003 in Porto Alegre (BRA), on 6th August 2007 in Oldenburg (GER) and on 11th August 2011 in Linz (AUT). The revised version of these Competition Rules came into force on 11th November 2011.