

IFA Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

I. Introduction & Background

The International Fistball Association (IFA) Board of Directors for the period 2015-2019 was elected at the General Assembly in Cordoba, Argentina, on 18 November 2015.

This Strategic Plan serves not only as manifesto of the new IFA leadership for the upcoming period of four years but as a guideline for the administrative work and day-to-day business management of the IFA executed by its volunteers and staff members.

The plan outlines the common aims of the IFA Board of Directors members.

It adjusts IFA policies reflecting and acknowledging the changes of international principles of sport governance as set out by the Olympic Agenda 2020 and the Basic Principles of Good Governance as well as the Olympic Charter, the key framework established by the International Olympic Committee. IFA is continuously committed to executing the key principles of this framework in its governance structures as an International Sport Federation (IF) and its day-to-day management. This approach taken by IFA is to contribute to the fulfilment of requirements for the recognition of IFA by the IOC as recognised IF.

The Strategic Plan is the tool for the IFA future allowing a permanent evaluation of the IFA governance.

The IFA membership has continuously grown in the last years to 54 member federations and a total number of over 50.000 players registered by these federations as of January 2016. This Strategic plan sets lays the foundation for a further growth of the sport and enhancement of its sport structures for the future, always aiming to the highest good for which we are working: the welfare and sporting opportunities of our athletes around the globe.

II. Mission Statement & Values

The International Fistball Association (IFA) is the world governing body for all Fistball sports being responsible for the Promotion and Development of Fistball around the world.

The IFA is responsible for the approval of all sporting regulations in Fistball and the sanctioning of any kind of World Championships and World Cups.

The IFA acknowledges the principles of the Olympic Charter, the Olympic Agenda 2020 and the Basic Principles of Good Governance as established by the IOC and contributes actively to their execution.

The IFA admits the principles of a free democratic basic order and safeguards the sport of Fistball against all forms of violence, discrimination and illegal betting and match fixing.

The IFA is committed to the social and environmental sustainability of its events and aims to achieve a positive legacy wherever these have been held acknowledging its social responsibility towards the society.

The IFA fully admits the WADA World Anti-Doping Code and the related International Standards in its current version and supports the measures of WADA with regard to the fight against Doping and takes a strict non-tolerance stance against all forms of Doping and drug abuse.

The IFA is a service-oriented Federation in particular with regard to its member federations. The IFA serves as worldwide discussion forum on all questions related to Fistball. The IFA is a dynamic, modern and efficient federation and in cooperation with its member federations supports and admits the following values:

We establish all preconditions for a high quality and optimal organisation and execution of our events always putting the well-being of the athletes in the focus of our activities.

We are accommodating the promotion and development of Fistball globally using a targeted and wide range of activities always focusing on the progression of the appeal for children and youth.

We provide education programmes for a sustainable development of the skills of players, coaches, referees and administrators.

We live a transparent, open and professional communication internally and externally.

We improve the perception of the Sport of Fistball in the society through suitable measures in cooperation with Sport, Politics, Economy and the Media.

We develop the international presence of the Sport of Fistball cooperating closely with the international organisations and institutions like the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the continental Olympic Committees, the International World Games Association (IWGA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Fédération International du Sports Universitaire (FISU), the International Masters Games Association (IMGA), the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), the Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport (AIMS) and other International Federations.

We promote the principle of equal opportunities and gender equality on all levels. We care for the security of the athletes and the spectators. We require and promote Fair-Play on all levels.

We consider Fistball as a Sport which can be practised by people of all age categories – the perfect Sport for All.

III. SWOT-Analysis

Internal evaluation of IFA – Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
Fistball is family	Fistball is family
Strong spectator response in central Europe (GER, AUT, SUI)	Weak spectator response in regions outside of central Europe
High participation (12 teams from Asia) at Punjab Games (including PAK, IND, NEP, JPN)	Low participation in Africa (2 countries)
Fistball can be practised by people of all age categories	Limited financial resources
Easy accessible sport for everybody with low costs	No return of investment through sport equipment manufacturers
Low-cost infrastructure requirements (Grass field or indoor venue)	Organisational weakness
Compact team strength	Financial weaknesses of countries and teams
Dynamic sport	Sport presentation potential not exploited
No-contact sport / no injuries caused by opponent / parallel sport	Gender imbalance (80% Men and 20% Women)
Teambuilding / Team sport / social competence	High international performance differences of teams
Attractive events re format and presentation / small field / spectators close to field / length of event	Activities focused on national level, IFA projects not taken seriously by members, IFA mission statement not executed on national level
Separate men`s and women`s events as alone-standing world championships	IFA not possessing a perception as service-oriented organisation
Programme sport of the World Games – Member of IWGA	

Member of AIMS	
Sporting strength in Europe	
Organisational structures existing globally	
Strong event portfolio and quality in Europe	Weak event portfolio in other regions
Easy playing regulations, easy basic rules	
TV presence at World Championships in Austria: 18 hrs; Live Broadcast at the Finals (120.000 Viewers) on Broadcasters ORF Sport with 2,5 hrs Highlights on ORF Sport of the World Championship 2015	No TV Broadcast in 2015, only Internet Broadcast
New IFA structure, leadership and commissions	Sport administration skills not fully exploited, limited knowledge on modern administration, no permanent and paid staff existing

External evaluation of IFA – Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities	Threats
New IOC recognition procedure 2016	Concurrency of other IFs re IOC recognition
New IFA Treasurer with suitable background	Care for all IFA member federations needed
New member federations and other federations moving towards membership using development projects	No education materials in other languages than German existing
High development potential in all directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing - Global presence - Sports presentation 	Outcome of Women`s World Championships 2016 in BRA
Higher potential re personal resources with new commissions and support of volunteers	Excessive demands on human and financial resources
Improved international representation and position through AIMS and AIMS council seat	
Next Men`s Team World Championships 2019 in SUI and Women`s Team World Championships in AUT in key markets	
U18 World Championships 2016 in GER in key market – Junior development	
World Games programme sport at TWG 2017 (POL)	Returning at TWG 2021 will require a success of TWG 2017 re spectators attendance figures
Marketing potential	
IFA changed attitude and works towards exploiting global opportunities	
Broadcast opportunities on IWGA World Games Channel / IOC Olympic Channel	
Establish Fistball as School Sport (example AUT with 400 school teams participating at events)	

IV. Vision Statement in the year 2019

The IFA in the year 2019:

- IFA is an International Federation recognised by the IOC
- A success at the IWGA World Games 2017 has secured the participation of IFA as a sport on the programme of the World Games 2021
- IFA is a member of the International Masters Games Association and applies for a place on the programme of the European Masters Games
- Fistball has participated in the Sports Lab at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires
- Fistball is seriously considered as an additional Sport for the programme of the 2024 Olympic Summer Games
- Fistball is a sport on the programme of the EOC European Games 2019

- 20 teams participate at the Men`s World Championships 2019
- IFA has 4 Continental Associations organising Championships
- 53 countries participating in Continental Championships
- A success of the Men`s and Women`s World Championships 2018 and 2019 secures at least 3 bidders for the 2022 and 2023 events
- IFA Youth development has led to a participation of 8 teams at the 2016 World Championships and 12 at the 2018 World Championships
- Media development has secured an international TV-Broadcast contract
- Marketing development has secured an international Sponsorship contract
- IFA counts 65 Member Federations

V. Strategic Aims

1. High quality IFA events
2. Governance structures according to good governance principles
3. IFA serves as service-oriented organisation for its member federations providing real stakeholder value
4. Use of international platforms and participation in international Multisport events serves as showcase for Fistball
5. Increase youth appeal of Fistball

VI. Action plan re strategic aims

1. High quality IFA events

- Improve call for bids and bidding procedures
- Establish event contracts for all IFA sanctioned events
- The Board of Directors to search for host cities actively
- Publish call for bids on the IFA website
- Question the awarding procedure with decisions taken by Congress
- Evaluate event circles and portfolio
- Global Extension of referee education outside of Europe and South America
- Evaluate event organisation re athlete focus
- Involve Athlete`s Commission in host selection process
- Support bidders during bid phase with TOK (Transfer of Knowledge) and best practise models
- Establish reporting duty with written event reports and budgets and event de-briefing
- Establish evaluation framework for event quality
- Support Organising Committees during event phase (provide Competition Manager)
- Establish clear event responsibilities and contacts for all areas of event management

2. Governance structures according to good governance principles

- Increase female representation in governance structures
- Evaluation of all structures re Basic Principles of Good Governance
- Finalise composition of all Commissions
- Organise meetings and activities of all Commissions
- Provide suitable financial framework
- Apply SSET Tool Kit at the IFA 2016 Fistball U18 World Championships (Nuremberg)
- Find international Sponsor securing funding of 30.000 € annually
- Establish CSR-Programme
- Establish paid IFA staff structure

3. IFA serves as service-oriented organisation for its member federations providing real stakeholder value

- Obtain IOC Recognition
- Support Member Federations actively to obtain NOC recognition
- Establish IFA Development Programme for members
- Active support for Member Federations re Federation structure development
- Appoint an IFA Development Directors as contact for all members
- Prepare an Equipment Support Programme
- Support members re WADA Anti-Doping Code compliance
- Set up partnership programme / mentorship programme for new Member Federations

4. Use of international platforms and participation in international Multisport events serves as showcase for Fistball

- Secure place of IFA on the programme of the World Games 2021
- Apply for IMGA membership and for inclusion of Fistball in the WMG and EMG
- Place Fistball in the Sports Lab of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games
- Apply for Fistball to be included in the EOC European Games 2019
- Establish working relations with FISU re WUC (World University Championships)
- Establish working relation with IPC re Fistball for the disabled
- Develop new Fistball formats as suitable addition for other Multisport Games events
- A close cooperation with AIMS

5. Increase youth appeal of Fistball

- Task Youth Commission to develop new youth formats
- Establish IFA Youth Camp introducing to new game formats
- Hold Under 18 World Championships bi-annually
- Approach cooperation with ISF (International School Sports Federation)
- Present IFA events in a youthful way
- Promote 3x3 youth rule
- Positioning of the Fistball image USP and re-think definition re youth appeal
 - Team Spirit
 - Fistball is your game
 - Dynamics
 - Fistball Festival
 - Emotions
 - Fighting Spirit
 - Raffinesse
 - Commitment
 - Precision
 - Fair-Play defines our Game

VII. Procedures and evaluation

- The IFA Board of Directors to approve of the Strategic Plan
- Publish the Strategic Plan on the IFA website
- Evaluate Strategic plan annually at the first meeting of the Board of Directors

Approved by IFA Board of Directors at the meeting dated 15 January 2016.