

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016 BY THE IFA PRESIDENT

### Introduction:

This report briefly outlines the major developments and improvements made in 2016 with regard to the IFA Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 of the International Fistball Association (IFA), which was approved in January 2016 by the IFA Board of Directors.

As foreseen the IFA Board of Directors met three times in 2016.

### IFA Athletes' Commission

The IFA Congress on 18 November 2015 in Cordoba (ARG) has decided to establish an IFA Athletes' Commission. The Chair of the Athletes' Commission is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors including full voting rights.

The male athletes of the Commission have been elected by the participants of the IFA 2015 Fistball Men's World Championship Argentina. The female athletes have been elected by the participants of the IFA 2016 Fistball Women's World Championship Brazil, fully meeting the IOC guidelines on the creation of an IF Athletes' Commission as the members were elected by their peers. The IFA Board of Directors during their meeting in Linz on 25 February 2017 has opened the process for two members from Africa and Asia to the Commission as to make sure that all continents are represented.

Current members of IFA Athletes' Commission are:

- Ines Mayer (AUT), Chairwomen
- Eric Kindler (USA), Deputy
- Klemens Kronsteiner (AUT)
- Katharina Lackinger (AUT)
- Fabian Marthy (SUI)
- Rolf Petersen (AUS)
- Hinrike Seitz (GER)
- Celina Traxler (SUI)
- Nick Trinemeier (GER)

### Administration

IFA continues to have the administrative tasks be carried out by a member of the Board (Secretary General) on a voluntary basis. To guarantee an effective and efficient but also a productive management the Board of Directors hired Mr. Alwin Oberkersch as a part-time employee as service spot and IFA Development Director for the IFA Member Federations in 2015. Until the end of the year 2016 this was the only paid staff of IFA.

At the end of the year 2016 the State of Austria provided financial subsidies to finance a full time IFA Administrative Director. In November 2016 the Board of Directors hired Mr. Christoph Oberlehner who started to work for IFA at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

In 2016 the legal seat of the International Fistball Association was moved to Linz (Austria).



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President: Karl Weiss | Secretary General: Jörn Verleger | Vice President: Carlos Hexsel  
Treasurer: Franz Peter Iten | Chair of Sports Commission: Winfried Kronsteiner

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sportaccord



IFA is now registered in Austria under ZVR 071465855 and was granted a status as not-for-profit organization. The respective form is annexed to this report.

## **Finance**

Next to the ball manufacturers Sportastic and Ludwig, IFA contracted in 2016 the ball manufacturer Drohnn as an official IFA sponsor.

## **Competitions and Event calendar**

In view of the standardization of the economic conditions for the IFA competitions the IFA Executive Board reviewed all IFA 2016 event contracts and guidelines leading up to the preparation of the upcoming World Championships and World Cups under the supervision of the IFA Board of Directors. A system of official Bulletins for the communication with the member federations was established.

According to its Strategic Plan IFA presented in 2016 the IFA 2016 Fistball U18 World Championships Germany in a youthful way and with a great success in terms of spectatorship and TV/streaming audience. Based on this success it is foreseen to hold the Under 18 World Championships bi-annually adding up to the event calendar of youth events.

A major task and challenge was the preparation of the IFA 2016 Fistball Women´s World Championship Brazil. Due to financial reasons of the contracted host city in Pomerode the event had to be transferred to Curitiba, which caused some organizational problems. The tournament was finally played at the well-known sports and Fistball club "Clube Duque de Caxias" which already hosted the Fistball Women´s World Championship 2002.

Also in 2016 IFA saw the first IFA Fistball World Cup, carried out in South Africa.

But the highlight of the competition year were the very successful IFA 2016 Fistball Men´s European Championships in Grieskirchen (Austria) including a TV coverage of more than 7,5 hours.

## **SportAccord / The IWGA World Games**

One strategic goal was to secure the place of IFA on the programme of the World Games. After applying for IOC Recognition in 2016 IFA received verbal confirmation that Fistball would be facing no threat to be dropped out of the IWGA.

IFA President Karl Weiss, elected as AIMS Director in 2015, played an active role within the framework of the AIMS. AIMS were recognized by the IOC as recognized organization in 2016.

IFA delegates represented Fistball at the SportAccord Convention 2016 in Lausanne (SUI) and the IF Forum 2016 in Lausanne (SUI).

## **Game Rules**

The IFA Sports Commission tested in 2016 successfully 4 modifications of the IFA Rules of Fistball. The modification concern the substitutions, the time out and the service. All modifications will become part of the IFA Rules of Fistball in 2017.

## **Anti-Doping**

Following the principles of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) IFA tried to make its testing program more efficient and intelligent.

The IFA Test Distribution Plan (TDP) 2016 was approved by the Board of Directors and a Testing Pool (TP) of 9 athletes based on the team results of the prior IFA World Championships was established.

IFA conducted out-of-competition testing in 2016 as well as in-competition tests.

## **Development**

The number of IFA Member Federations has increased to 56 at the end of 2016 with the acceptance of the associations of Belgium and New Zealand in 2016.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the Board of Directors appointed Mr. Alwin Oberkersch as IFA Development Director to develop a concept for the education of coaches, referees and administrators.

New relevant documentation (e.g. videos, etc.) has been produced.

## **Regional Associations**

Within the framework of the IFA 2016 Fistball Southamerica Championship and Cup in Chile the Panamerican Fistball Associations was founded after the European Fistball Association (EFA) was founded in 2015.

## **Youth activities / IFA Youth Congress 2016**

Over 35 representatives participated in the inaugural IFA Youth Congress in June 2016 in Nuremberg, organized by the IFA Youth Commission which was created in 2015, and discussed possible concepts and ways how to increase the appeal of fistball for the youth and how to develop fistball by sustainable promotion.

A new Youth Concept for age categories Under8 to Under12 was presented including a scientifically developed concept that proposes to play only with three players in each team with a fix rotation to increase the basic skills education of all players. This makes it possible to develop fistball also in rural areas with fewer young children.

Next to the planned cooperation of IFA with the International School Sports Association (ISF) and financial subsidies the participants discussed also possible changes of technical rules, as the reduction of the ball weight for Under12 to Under18.

## **Media coverage**

All matches of the successful IFA 2016 Fistball U18 World Championships in Nuremberg (GER) were streamed online on e.g. sportdeutschland.tv. A TV coverage of 14:30 minutes including an 8:38 minutes TV live coverage on German Television (BR – Bayerischer Rundfunk – Bavarian public broadcaster) was achieved.

The media coverage of the very successful IFA 2016 Fistball Men´s European Championship in Grieskirchen (AUT) had a TV coverage of 7:30 hours on ORF (Austrian public broadcaster) with a media equivalent value of 112.889 € and an additional print media reach of around 30 Million people with a media equivalent value of 436.123 €.

A video from the IFA 2016 Fistball Men´s European Championship in Grieskirchen (AUT) reached on Social Media more than 1,98 Million clicks shared by "Calciatori brutti" in ITA, but not only in Italy. In South America the video was viewed by 2,67 Mio. people shared by "Esporte Interativo" from BRA and 240.000 clicks shared by „VoleiRO's".

The video of the final of the EURO 2016 was viewed on our facebook-site 35.000 times.

## **Summary**

IFA has fulfilled their Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 in many fields of action. I would like to thank all members of the IFA bodies and Member Federations for their work and passion to develop "Fistball all over the world".

  
Karl Weiss  
President