



**INTERNATIONAL
FISTBALL
ASSOCIATION**

**“passion – performance – partnership”
Annual Report 2017 by the IFA President**

FISTBALL ALL OVER THE WORLD



**EMOTIONS
DYNAMICS TEAM SPIRIT
FAIR-PLAY DEFINES OUR GAME
COMMITMENT**

“PASSION – PERFORMANCE – PARTNERSHIP” ANNUAL REPORT 2017 BY THE IFA PRESIDENT

Introduction:

“Fistball is a growing and dynamic sport that appeals to the youth”, stated IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell at the end of 2017.

This report briefly outlines the major developments and improvements made in 2017 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 2017. The meetings took place as Skype calls.

The World Games 2017

The World Games 2017 have been very successful for Fistball, the International Fistball Association and its member federations.

The thrilling fistball final between Germany and Switzerland not only captivated the spectators in the stadium. The transmission of the final reached almost 300,000 spectators on the German TV Channel SPORT1. The market share of SPORT1 was at a strong 3.0% in the SPORT1 core target group of men from 14 to 49 years (M14-49).

This is the best figure during all days of the SPORT1 TV coverage of The World Games 2017.

Olympic Channel

Following the celebration of its one-year anniversary, the Olympic Channel announced in December 2017 an cooperation agreements with the International Fistball Association (IFA) to promote fistball and athletes within the Olympic Movement, and help to distribute content and grow the fistball audiences worldwide.

The Olympic Channel is a multi-platform destination where fans can experience the power of sport and the excitement of the Olympic Games all year round in 11 languages, and is available worldwide via mobile apps for Android and iOS devices and at olympicchannel.com.

The International Fistball Association is very glad to be the first partner of the Olympic Channel of the non-recognised federations. It is very important for us to cooperate with the Olympic Channel to reach our goals, improve ourselves permanently and enlarge our fistball community.

The cooperation is characterized by high quality awareness as well in streaming as in production to present our sport in the program of the Olympic Channel perfectly. IFA is looking forward to broadcast some 2018 Fistball highlight events on the Olympic Channel.



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Treasurer: Franz Peter Iten | Chair of Sports Commission: Winfried Kronsteiner

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GAISF



IFA-OTT-Video-Platform www.ifa-fistball.tv

The International Fistball Association (IFA) is increasingly fostering new technologies and has entered a long-term partnership with Sportradar, the parent company of LAOLA1.tv. As a first step, the collaboration includes usage of Sportradar OTT – an innovative Over-the-top (OTT) video platform. The platform ifa-fistball.tv went live on the occasion of The World Games Fistball Tournament.

Sportradar OTT is the new video platform product of Sportradar AG, which offers holders of sports rights the opportunity to stream their contents directly live as well as video-on-demand to their fans via online channels.

With the new “Over-the-top” video platform the International Fistball Association is exploring new avenues and opening to new technologies. The new video platform brings value added for all fistball fans, clubs and associations. The aim is to develop IFA-Fistball.tv to a central platform where all fistball events will be shown. This adds transparency for all spectators who will not have to check various websites anymore to find the fistball event they would like to watch. The platform will be available free of charge to spectators, as well as to clubs and associations who will have the opportunity to disseminate their own streams.

Part of the partnership is also the marketing of advertisement and sponsoring on the digital platform. The partnership with Sportradar is deliberately long-term. IFA is glad to have a strong partner on our side, and that we jointly want to continuously develop. The innovative OTT approach fits perfectly with our expectations. The platform presents itself in IFA “look and feel”, and is being customized to our requirements.

Fistball on German Free-TV

Fistball has a real chance to be presented on German Free-TV in the future. In 2018 we have top events in the German-speaking countries with the inaugural IFA World Tour Finals in Vaihingen (Germany) in April, the IFA 2018 Fistball Women’s World Championships in Linz (Austria) in July and the Men’s European Championship 2018 in Adelmansfelden (Germany).

Concerning free TV coverage of Fistball we are in contract negotiations with the German based free TV channel SPORT1. A guaranteed 11:15 hours of TV broadcast in the period between April and August 2018 is offering more than 14,96 million contacts.

However, this development must be accompanied by further commercialization of sponsoring. Without additional partners, IFA could not make that step.

IFA Fistball World Tour

With the “IFA Fistball World Tour“, the International Fistball Association (IFA) launches a new tournament series in 2017 that replaced the IFA Fistball World Cup. This initiative allows up to eight club teams from across the world to secure wild cards for the tournament’s final round – the IFA Fistball World Tour Finals – where they will compete for the title against the continental champions. Furthermore, the introduction of the World Tour means an upgrade for the big club tournaments.

A World Tour event may be organized by any club, in any of the Tour’s four categories (IFA Majors, IFA 750, IFA 250, and IFA 100). By the end of the year, the highest ranked teams will be participating at the IFA Fistball World Tour Finals together with the continental champions from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia/Oceania.

More than 100 registered club teams and 20 hosts from 5 continents prove that the IFA 2017 Fistball World Tour was a success story that surpassed all our expectations.

Sustainability

IFA is committed to Sustainability at all its events. In addition to the adoption of an IFA Policy of Sustainability by the IFA Board of Directors, cooperation with external partners has been agreed.

The International Fistball Association has appointed Ines Mayer from Austria and Patrick Thomas from Germany as the first ever IFA Sustainability Ambassadors.

The appointment of Ines Mayer and Patrick Thomas as our first ever Sustainability Ambassadors marks another important step in fulfilling our commitment to stage sustainable world events.

Ines, who chairs also the IFA Athletes' Commission, holds a master degree in Sport Science and will also be member of the Organizing Committee responsible for Sustainability of the IFA 2018 Fistball Women's World Championships in Austria.

Patrick is becoming an engineer for construction and real estate management focused on environmental issues. Both players are members of their respective national teams and participated in several Fistball European and World Championships as well as The World Games.

IFA is now be better equipped to communicate our sustainability efforts.

The appointment of Sustainability Ambassadors is a visible sign of taking responsibility for our future generations.

Cooperation within the Olympic Movement - GAISF / AIMS / The IWGA World Games / WFDF

IFA President Karl Weiss, elected as AIMS Director in 2015, and IFA Secretary General Jörn Verleger played an active role within the framework of the AIMS. IFA suggested a first draft for an AIMS Ethic Code and an AIMS Strategic Plan to be discussed in the upcoming future.

IFA delegates represented Fistball at the SportAccord Convention 2017 in Aarhus (DEN) and the IF Forum 2017 in Lausanne (SUI).

After the success of The World Games 2017 Fistball Tournament IFA applied with a men's and women's event to be part of The World Games 2021 in Birmingham (Alabama).

The World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) and the International Fistball Association (IFA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainability on the occasion of the 2017 Sport Accord IF Forum in Lausanne (SUI), promoting the topic of Sustainability in the Olympic Movement.

A joint sustainability strategy was unveiled in the collaboration between the two partners, who presented their case study developed with the IOC during the International Federations Forum 2017 where sustainability was the central theme.

WFDF and IFA will collaborate under three principal initiatives. These are: "committing to sustainability as part of their governance", "providing resources for the development and implementation of a sustainability strategy" and "conducting sustainability at all events".

WFDF and IFA are pleased to have their cooperation on many fields as are Anti-Doping, Ethics and governance or Para-Sport activities, manifested by this Memorandum. It is about teaming up for this important matter on which both federations care.

The key factor is that we realized that the challenges for both federations are materially the same: both team sports are mainly played outdoors; both growing and with a great youth appeal; both developing well and on the move for the next step in the Olympic Movement; both considering corporate responsibility and Sustainability as the elemental focus of all events.

We are convinced that it is more effective if smaller Federations work together to achieve these common goals. The signing of the MoU underlines our long-term cooperation with WFDF. We are sure that particularly for AIMS and ARISF member Federations such a cooperation can be quite helpful in fulfilling our commitment to stage sustainable world events.

Competitions and Event calendar

We are looking forward to a great Fistball year 2018 with several international highlights beginning in April with the first IFA Fistball World Tour Finals in history.

In July the first Fistball World Championship will take place in the USA: Roxbury hosts the IFA 2018 U18 Men's and Women's World Championships. From 20-22 July the IFA Fistball Masters World Cup takes place in Vöcklabruck, Austria and just 2 days later starts the IFA 2018 Fistball Women's World Championship in Linz, Austria.

Improvement of event organization

To increase the standard of event organisation and to use the professional resources established with the financial support of the State of Austria in January 2017 at the IFA Headquarters in Linz (AUT) in the best way IFA decided to organize and run the IFA 2018 Fistball Women's World Championships in Linz as an in-house event.

Finance

The records of 2017 are closed. IFA finished the year with a positive result - as foreseen - of 511,56 Euro.

Anti-Doping

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

The IFA Test Distribution Plan (TDP) 2017 was approved by the Board of Directors and a Testing Pool (TP) of 5 athletes concentrating on the main target event The World Games 2017 was established.

IFA conducted out-of-competition testing in 2017 as well as in-competition tests.

Youth activities / IFA Fistball Academy

IFA found a presenting partner for the 2017 established IFA Fistball Academy which will start educational activity in 2018 within the framework of the IFA 2018 Fistball U18 World Championships in the USA.

Development

The number of IFA Member Federations stayed at 56 at the end of 2017.

2017 IFA concentrated in the quality of the cooperation with the recently established new members which will lead to a participation of a new records of teams participating in the IFA 2018 Fistball Women's World Championships reaching the maximum quota of 16 teams and an increase of the participation in the IFA 2018 Fistball U18 World Championships to 10 nations (2016: 6 nations).

Furthermore, the development in several nations was very positive. E.g. the inauguration of the 1st Senior State State Fistball Championship in India was held at Sholinganallur, Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu after the 3rd edition of the Junior National Fistball Championships in Telengana end of December 2017.

Regional Associations

2017 Regional Championship for e.g. juniors, women, men for national and club teams have been conducted in Europe and South America.

At the beginning of 2018 the first Trans-Tasman Fistball Championship were held in Christchurch (NZL) to be followed by the inaugural 2018 Asia-Pacific Fistball Championships in late November 2018.

IPC / Parafistball

IFA Secretary General Jörn Verleger participated as observer at the 2017 IPC General Assembly and Conference in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

Social Media coverage

The current numbers of the IFA social media channels are

	NUMBER OF SUB- SCRIBERS	2016
FACEBOOK	7.817	5.431
INSTAGRAM	1.441	318
TWITTER	185	90
YOUTUBE	648	359

In digital news media the most discussed sport during The World Games 2017 were karate and fistball.

IWGA Athlete of the Month November 2017 and of the Year 2017

Brazilian Fistball player Rejane Sinhori is The World Games Athlete of the Month in November 2017. The defensive player Sinhori produced an exceptional performance at the IFA 2017 Fistball Women's World Cup in Curitiba (Brazil), where the home country topped the podium. The 32-year-old has been performing at a very high level for many years. Amongst many other successes, she is World Cup winner from 2016 and 2017, was Pan-American Champion in 2015 and was World Champion in 2010.

As IWGA Athlete of the Year 2017 IFA nominated Fabian Sagstetter as. At The World Games 2017, Fabian Sagstetter was the captain of the German team that successfully defended the title from 2013 as they defeated Switzerland in an epic 4:3 fight to claim the gold medal. He is the defensive "brain" of the German team and one of the most versatile Fistball athletes in the world. Fabian reached the TOP10 out of 21 nominated athletes.

Summary

IFA has with passion 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