



**INTERNATIONAL  
FISTBALL  
ASSOCIATION**

**ON-HOLD – ON-GOING - ONLINE**  
**2020 Annual Report by the IFA President**

**FISTBALL ALL OVER THE WORLD**

**IFA 2020 AWARD  
WINNERS**



**MEDIA POTENTIAL**  
**WOMEN GLOBAL GROWTH**  
**WORLD CLASS EVENTS**  
**TEAMING UP**

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IFA PRESIDENT

# ON-HOLD - ON-GOING - ONLINE

### Introduction

2020 was a challenging year. At the beginning of the year we hoped to strengthen our position within the sports family by:

- World Class Events
- Global Growth
- Women in Sports
- Teaming up
- Showing our great media potential

But it looked different to what we had hoped: Lockdown. Training bans. Sanitation everywhere. No spectators in the venue. Canceled championships. Broken dreams. Season resumptions. Season cancellations. The COVID-19 year 2020 has confronted Fistball - at the top as well as sports for all - with unprecedented challenges.

The world has stood still as rarely before, and yet it is in turmoil. The effects of the pandemic were and are catastrophic. The economic slump is enormous, unemployment has risen sharply, and many are on short-time work.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died from the disease worldwide and we can only speculate about the long-term effects on health that will result from the disease and the loss of sporting activities.

And it is far from over. It is clear that the consequences of the pandemic will accompany us for years to come. But it is also clear that there will be a time after COVID-19.

### It has been the biggest challenge in decades

The COVID-19 crisis poses an enormous challenge to humanity, probably the greatest in decades.

It has forced us to rethink what we usually take for granted and routines in our professional and personal lives.

John F. Kennedy often pointed out in his speeches that the Chinese character for crisis contains two syllables that, read individually, mean the words danger and opportunity. While this might not be one hundred percent correct linguistically, there is something to it in terms of content, including the COVID-19 crisis.



facebook.com/IFA.Fistball  
instagram.com/ifafistball  
www.fistball.tv

President: Jörn Verleger | Secretary General: Christoph Oberlehner  
Vice Presidents: Giana Hexsel, Vikki Buston, Steve Schmutzler  
Treasurer: Franz Peter Iten | Chair of the Sports Commission: Winfried Kronsteiner  
ZVR 071465855/Bank Account IBAN: AT41 2032 0321 0039 5106 | BIC/SWIFT: ASPKAT2LXXX  
Institut Name: Sparkasse Oberösterreich, Promenade 11-13, 4020 Linz, Austria



Despite the long standstill in sport, the postponement or cancellation of almost all major sporting events, the continued uncertainty and all the restrictions, 2020 was also a sporting year with many hopeful signs, of friendship, solidarity and new initiatives e.g.

- IFA expanded its portfolio as service provider for its member federations and event organizers,
- IFA updated its Sustainability Policy and committed itself as an association to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases caused by IFA by 4.5 percent annually over the next 10 years as part of the "Race to Zero" initiative,
- IFA approved the new IFA Safe Sport Policy to provide athletes of all ages with appropriate safety and protection,
- IFA adopted a new Anti-Doping Code based on the new WADA World Anti-Doping Code 2021
- IFA was accepted as partner of the project "International and European Sport Organisations Activate Citizens" selected by the European Commission and co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European union in 2021 - 2022.

This report briefly describes the key developments and outcomes achieved in 2020 with regard to the International Fistball Association (IFA) Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023, which was approved by the IFA Congress and Governing Board in August 2019.

The IFA decided at the end of 2020, as part of the annual evaluation, to adjust the Strategic Plan due to the global COVID pandemic, in particular to better reflect the threat of a pandemic to the global sport.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the IFA bodies and the member federations for their work and passion in further developing "Fistball all over the world".

Best regards,



Jörn Verleger  
President



Despite the long standstill in sports, the postponement or cancellation of almost all major sporting events and all the restrictions, 2020 was also a sports year with new initiatives characterized by the topics of event professionalization and digitization almost along the lines of the motto:

ON-HOLD – ON-GOING - ONLINE

## **I. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S WORK**

### **Strategic plan 2019 - 2023 evaluated**

IFA's strategic goals for the coming years were adopted in 2019:

1. IFA events of high quality
2. Association management structures in accordance with the principles of good association management
3. The IFA serves its member associations as a service-oriented organization that provides real value to its fellow members (stakeholders)
4. The use of international platforms and participation in international multisport events serve as a form of presentation for Fistball
5. Increasing the attractiveness of Fistball for the youth

Our vision for the year 2023:

- IFA is an international federation recognized by the IOC.
- Success at the 2021 IWGA World Games will secure IFA's place as a program sport with a men's and women's event at the 2025 IWGA World Games Chengdu.
- The IFA is a member of the International Masters Games Association and is applying for a place on the European Masters Games program.
- 30 teams will take part in the qualifying competitions for the IFA Men's Fistball World Championship 2023.
- IFA has 5 continental associations that organize continental championships.
- 60 countries participate in the continental championships.
- The development in the youth sector of the IFA has led to the participation of 14 teams in the 2020 World Championships in Austria and the 2022 World Championships in New Zealand.
- Developments in the media sector have led to an international television contract.
- The marketing division has concluded an international sponsorship agreement.
- The IFA has 70 member associations.

- IFA has sold 12,000 tickets for the final day of the IFA Fistball Men World Cup 2023 in Germany.
- The IFA is recognized by the IPC.
- The IFA is part of the World Urban Games 2023.
- IFA has developed a second discipline.
- Fistball is an official sport at the CSIT World Sport Games.
- The IFA has developed the Fistball Academy into an established format for promoting Fistball.

At year-end 2020, as part of its annual evaluation, the IFA decided to adjust the Strategic Plan due to the global COVID 19 pandemic, specifically to better reflect the threat posed to global sports by a pandemic.

### **Committees extended**

The IFA Youth Commission was newly appointed in 2020 and will in future be composed of the Chairman Uwe Schneider (GER), Cory Dahn (USA), Verena Hieslmair (AUT) and a U18 representative who will be elected by the participants of the next IFA Fistball U18 World Championships.

The IFA Ethics Committee was also newly appointed and will in future be composed of Petra Huber (Secretary General of the Austrian NPC), Thomas Weikert (President of the International Table Tennis Federation ITTF) and Julia Govinden (CEO of United through Sports) as Chairwoman.





The Executive Committee set up a Sustainability Working Group as a new committee. In order to be able to work on this topic area even better in the IFA, the Sustainability Working Group has been formed. Its initial full members are Jennifer Loos, Steve Schmutzler and Christian Frenzel.



Previous Harassment Officers Vikki Buston (NZL) and Theresa Eidenhammer (AUT) were confirmed as IFA Integrity Officers.



The proportion of female commissioners and appointees is now 43%.

In total, the Governing Board held five virtual meetings.



**Contacts maintained - thanks for the support**

Together with the leadership of the Austrian Football Federation, the IFA leadership was the guest of Austria's Vice Chancellor and Minister of Sport Werner Kogler on October 23, 2020 for the "inaugural visit".

IFA President Jörn Verleger, IFA Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner and the Chairwoman of the IFA Athletes' Commission Katharina Lackinger as well as ÖFBB President Gerhard Zeller, ÖFBB Vice President Peter Oberlehner and ÖFBB Secretary General Hannes Dinböck were able to exchange views with the Austrian Sports Minister on relevant Fistball topics.



In an introduction, Vice Chancellor Kogler was presented an overview of the current worldwide and Austria-wide development of Fistball, as well as the school sport activities in Austria and the current status of Fistball within the IOC recognition process.

Subsequently, the support of the Ministry of Sport for the IFA office in 2021 was discussed as well as the future financing of the ÖFBB performance center in Linz, which is an indispensable building block for Austria's international successes.

IFA President Jörn Verleger expressly thanked the Republic of Austria for its support of the IFA Association Headquarters in Linz, which has made a quantum leap possible for the sport of Fistball since 2017.



Katharina Lackinger, Chairwoman of the IFA Athletes' Commission, presented an original jersey of the Austrian national Fistball team. In addition, Kogler, who himself played Fistball in Gleisdorf until 1976, was invited by IFA Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner to the U18 World Championships in Grieskirchen (Austria) next year.

**New member associations**

IFA had 66 member associations at the end of 2020. In 2020 were recognized:

- Malta
- Bolivia
- Uganda
- Portugal

The IFA is confident that with the proactive work of our Development Director and Governing Board member Roger Willen and the IFA Ambassador Program launched in 2018, we will reach our goal of more than 70 member associations in 2021.

**New association guidelines**

The Governing Board adopted the new IFA Safe Sport Policy at its meeting on December 12, 2020, which replaces the IFA Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures that have been in place since 2016.

The IFA was one of the first international sports federations to have a separate set of rules to provide appropriate safety and protection to athletes of all ages while participating in IFA activities, and to allow staff and volunteers to provide informed and trustworthy responses to specific safety and athlete/child protection issues.

**Cooperation within the Olympic family - IOC / GAISF / AIMS / IWGA / CSIT / WFDF**

The SportAccord Convention in Beijing planned for 2020 had to be cancelled. All general meetings therefore took place virtually as part of the also virtual IF Forum in November 2020.



**IF Forum 2020**

At the 2020 International Sports Federations Forum, the focus was on "How sport and society can emerge stronger from a global crisis."

IFA President Jörn Verleger was invited to participate in a panel discussion.





With regard to cooperation with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA), the International School Sport Federation (ISF) and the International Confederation of Workers' Sports (CSIT), the IFA continued to receive support and strategic advice from an international advisory body in 2020.

IFA Honorary President Karl Weiss has also been a member of this as Senior Advisor since 2019. This is a support for the further development and networking of the sport of Fistball that should not be underestimated.

### IOC recognition

Regarding the revision of the IOC recognition process, the IFA is eagerly awaiting the innovations announced for 2021.



### Sustainability

The IFA is committed to sustainability in all its events. In addition to the adoption of an IFA guideline for sustainability by the IFA Executive Committee, cooperation with external partners has been agreed.

Since 2017, the work has been publicly supported by the two sustainability ambassadors Ines Mayer and Patrick Thomas.

The IFA has been involved with the issue of sustainability in sport from an early stage. This fits in ideally with current discussions and the efforts of other organizations in sport and beyond.

At the moment, the focus is on 3 goals:

- Identification of topics during event preparation
- Establishment of sustainability as a field of action in event preparation (for example, in the local organizing committees)
- Exchange of information and best practices among IFA member associations.



These goals were already the subject of the IFA Sustainability Strategy (2017) and will be followed up in the current report (Sustainability Report 2019, published in March 2020).

For us Fistball players, it is a matter of taking responsibility and taking advantage of the opportunities, but also the obligation, to actively engage in the global sustainability debate. In this way, we reach further target groups and can draw attention to our sport as a modern sport.



There are already very good examples of the sustainable organization of events. We are thinking of 2018 with the Women's World Championship in Linz and the Men's European Championship in Adelmansfelden, as well as 2019 with the Men's World Championship in Winterthur. Just one piece of the mosaic: if reusable plastic cups are issued in return for a deposit, not only will plastic waste be avoided. The cups can be fan articles and if there is the possibility to "donate" the deposit instead of returning it, the organizer can generate revenue, e.g. for young Fistball players.

This is just one small example, but one that needs to be informed about so that we can achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. The aim is to create awareness, to make participants think, and to inform and educate them about the individual areas in which sustainability is at stake.

In order to be able to do this even better in the IFA, the Sustainability Working Group has been formed. It initially includes Jennifer Loos, Steve Schmutzler and Christian Frenzel as full members. The plan is to include a representative from Errea in the working group. This is because the sportswear and sports equipment sector is also an example of sustainability that should not be underestimated. The working group will be accompanied by the two sustainability ambassadors Ines Mayer and Patrick Thomas and supported by IFA President Jörn Verleger and Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner. Further comrades-in-arms from the member associations are always welcome.



As a highly visible sign, the IFA committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on February 2, 2020, and signed the Sports for Climate Action Framework. The IFA is thus in good company with the IOC, NBA, FIS and numerous other sports federations, as well as the respective organizing committees of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With Steve Schmutzler and Christian Frenzel, two IFA representatives also wanted to attend the Sport Positive Summit in London, where the signatories of the "Sports for Climate Action Framework" were to meet with many other stakeholders. The congress planned for March 2020 had to be postponed for well-known reasons and is scheduled to take place in March 2021. We expect important impulses, new ideas and further contacts from this event. As a bridging measure,

a first exchange of experiences took place online at the beginning of October 2020.



The IFA Governing Board also voted on October 10, 2020 to participate in the "Race to Zero" in support of the United Nations Climate Change Initiative (<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>).

IFA's successes around environmental protection were also recognized at the GAISF Members Meeting on November 10, 2020, when the newly established Sustainability Award was presented.



In addition, IFA became a formal member of Sport and Sustainability International (SandSI) in 2020. SandSI is an international organization sponsored by the IOC to support its members through three primary program and activity areas: an on-demand resource hub, a member support desk, and through joint events and campaigns. Since 2017, IFA has already participated in several SandSI activities.



**Sport and  
Sustainability**  
INTERNATIONAL

We are all aware that we do not have to reinvent the wheel. But there are many areas in which we can make a sustainable contribution to making our world a better place to live. The fun of Fistball and the joy of movement are a natural part of this.

### **Development of a second discipline: 2x2 Fistball**

What most players play in training or in their free time with friends simply for fun should be the focus of the International German Gymnastics Festival 2021 in Leipzig.



Then, for the first time, not only the traditional teams with five players each should be on the Fistball court. A variant with only two male or female players promises just as much excitement - if not more. Small-field Fistball - probably every male and female player has already competed in a 2-against-2 duel in training.



The size of the playing field is 10×3 meters. The Fistball players have a three-meter run-out on each side and four meters behind the field. The two halves of the game are separated by a 1.80-meter-high line, which is attached to stands located one meter from each of the sidelines.

As on the large field, three touches of the ball are allowed - always alternately by the two players standing on the field. The team that has scored the last point has the first touch. The ball is touched with the forearm, behind the field, and the ball must be hit below the shoulder level. It is forbidden to enter the court during the serve. After the reception and the serve, the ball may come up outside the playing field - in the run-out - and must only be played when hitting into the 5×3 meter field half of the opponent duo. Block attempts on the line are not allowed.



Especially for the 2x2 Fistball World Championships, the manufacturer Errea has launched an official match ball. The Errea Fistball "Dream" weighs 230 grams and is therefore much lighter than the usual Fistballs.

Any Fistball attacker playing in the second national league or higher would be able to bounce the normal Fistball over 15 meters in such a way that it becomes unreachable for the defending team. In order to get there with the run-out, however, the decision had been made to have an extra ball produced for the event.

With this ball, you need more skill and don't manage to bounce it permanently so that it's out of reach. Instead of force, it's more a matter of understanding the game, playing ability and playfulness. All other positions, especially the defensive actions, are emphasized more.



# DIGITAL INITIATIVES



[WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM](http://WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM)

**SPORTASTIC**



KONICA MINOLTA

**DACHSER**  
Intelligent Logistics



errea

EURO  TEAMSPORT  
Zitzlsperger • Vilshofen

AUTHORISED RESELLER



## II. DIGITAL INITIATIVES

“Online” was the keyword of the year for work within the Fistball family as well. The IFA was fortunate that numerous processes (accounting/bookkeeping, event preparation, meetings, video platform, training, advertising, etc.) had already been digitalized to the greatest possible extent for many years.

### Mateus Kuntzler in the Top10 at "IWGA Athlete of the year

The International World Games Association IWGA organizes the annual "IWGA Athlete of the year" voting. The IFA nominated Brazilian national team player Mateus Kuntzler for the election held in January 2020. Mateus received more than 28,000 votes and finished in an excellent 7th place. In total, 25 different sports participated in this election with their nominees.



Mateus Kuntzler started playing Fistball when he was 10 years old. Sports have always been very important in his life, but it was surprising that he became an outstanding Fistball player, because he was born with a deformity of the left arm, which is not fully developed: he has practically no left forearm.

Mateus has always wanted to prove that he can be a very good player in "normal" sports and not in para sports. Winning the bronze medal with Team Brazil at the IFA 2019 Fistball Men's World Championship was the biggest success for him so far. He was also voted MVP of the 2019 Fistball World Tour Finals, where he finished second with his club Novo Hamburgo.

### "Fistball Inside" Podcast

"Fistball Inside" is the new IFA podcast magazine produced for the first time at the end of July 2020.



President Jörn Verleger and SG Christoph Oberlehner analyze the latest news from the world of Fistball every week. All editions are available on Spotify and other podcast channels.



In addition, there is another podcast, also new, from the Australian association.



## Fistball at the United Through Sports Virtual Youth Festival

Alongside more than 60 other sports organizations, IFA President Jörn Verleger and Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner attended the preparatory seminar for the virtual United Through Sports Festival. Next week, the IFA ambassadors for the festival will be presented. Young people under 18 will measure their sporting and creative skills across all sports. We are excited about this initiative by The Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport under the auspices of the IOC, IPC and Special Olympics.

The COVID-19 pandemic has breathed life into the United Through Sports (UTS) Virtual Youth Festival 2020, which goes far beyond a temporary solution to the cancellation of sporting events. It is a positive opportunity to move forward and bring us all back together. The unique virtual youth festival will be held and broadcast online, bringing together Olympic and non-Olympic sports. Fistball is also part of the extensive program of the virtual youth festival.



"This pandemic has affected everyone, including the world of sports. We all understand the difficult circumstances and unique challenges we face. Now, more than ever, we must stand in solidarity and unity among the Olympic, Paralympic and Special Olympics movements to promote and support Olympic, Paralympic and Special Olympics values. Now is the time to turn crisis into nurturing opportunity and promote health and safety with a shared mission for the world's youth. We must cultivate our communities to continue to be active, inspired and included," the joint statement reads.

In 2017, the United through Sports initiative was launched to create and contribute to a better world with and for our youth.

The 2021 Festival was held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, Special Olympics, SportAccord and the Global Association of International Sports Federations. Many international federations, global NGOs and sport-affiliated organizations are joining forces to showcase, demonstrate and promote inclusion, equality, non-discrimination and peace-building.

The festival was attended not only by young people from the International Associations, but also by young people with different mental and physical abilities, young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, young people from the indigenous community, and young people from socially vulnerable backgrounds who are often marginalized by society. Together we created opportunities and gave these youth independence and hope.

Qualifying events were held on a digital platform from August to the end of October. The final was held as a hybrid event as well as in Thailand and broadcast around the world to celebrate the United Nations World Children's Day on November 20-22.



The festival included virtual medal ceremonies, inspiring opening and closing ceremonies, and provided a major educational platform with webinars, an opening conference, panel discussions, and workshops.



Key topics include: Peace through Sport, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination, Role and Responsibility of Athletes, Protection and Child Protection, among others.



The activities were accompanied by specially appointed youth ambassadors. For the sport of Fistball, these were Helena Schuh from Austria and Mateus Jung from Brazil.



### Training platform "United by Fistball"

The initiative "Fistball at Home", which was launched by Swiss Fistball, has shown how groundbreaking and creative instructional videos with tips and hints for Fistball training can be.

With the training platform "United by Fistball" this initiative finds its continuation in the context of the further development of the Fistball academy, on which in the future most diverse instructional videos and training ideas of experienced

coaches and players from all over the world for all - from the beginner to the professional - are made available.

With this we can give suggestions and help for a varied training in the Fistball core countries, but also show the new Fistball nations new possibilities for clubs and coaches. On our IFA homepage you can already find some examples.

Structuring the videos into both different categories and difficulty levels makes it easy to find new ideas for your workout.

This part of the Fistball Academy is already supported by an internationally experienced education and coaching team. Rahel Schreiber (head of education at Swiss Fistball), Martin Weiss (education officer and federation coach at Faustball Austria) and Christian Sondern (school sports officer at the German Fistball League) coordinate the various tasks around the platform and are your contact persons.

We will continuously expand the platform with training videos in all areas and for all.

### First IFA Virtual Youth Congress

The IFA Youth Congress was held as a virtual event for the first time in IFA's history. More than 50 participants from all over the world made the congress a great success for Fistball.



The main part of the congress was the presentation of the first training module published by the Fistball Academy.



The aim is to support smaller federations, but also schools and clubs with training material in theory and practice.



IFA President Jörn Verleger opened the online congress with an update on the importance and necessity of working with umbrella organizations such as AIMS and GAISF or multi-sport events such as the World Games. He also informed the participants about the current status of the IFA recognition process by the IOC. Recognition by the International Olympic Committee is important for our sport and all its member federations, because in many regions this recognition is a prerequisite for promotion at the national level.

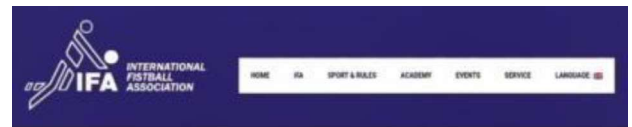


One of the highlights of the congress was the presentation by Julia Govinden, CEO of United Through Sport (UTS). Julia Govinden reported on the current activities of UTS.

Uwe Schneider, Chairman of the IFA Youth Commission, presented not only the work and new members of his commission, but also the current developments of the Fistball Academy.

The three main pillars of the Academy are

- sharing knowledge and information
- supporting education and training
- improving communication.



## UNITED BY FISTBALL

IFA • UNITED BY FISTBALL



The Academy's website has a new layout according to these three columns.

Its presentation represents a milestone in the history of Fistball, as the first training module of the Fistball Academy was published during the Youth Congress.

By developing training modules, the IFA aims to support smaller associations, as well as schools and club teams.

Each module contains a document with a detailed description in text and pictures and a presentation with the most important contents. A new feature is the addition of video sequences and contributions, which ensure easier and better communication of the described content. The training modules can be accessed both online and offline. In addition, they are currently available in German and English. Further modules are already in preparation.



In addition, IFA Development Director Roger Wilken presented the IFA's development program to sustainably support new nations and continuously promote existing nations. The aim is to ensure the further development of the federations in coordination with the continental federations and especially with the Fistball Academy.

Associations such as Hong Kong, Samoa, Fiji, Cook Island, Uganda, Bolivia, Haiti and North Macedonia have become members of the IFA in the recent past, and the IFA is in contact with various countries that have applied for membership.

In order to expand existing federations and develop new ones, it is necessary to have dedicated Fistball players who actively participate in the development program - the "Fistball Ambassadors". The ambassador should be the main contact person for the board members in the national federation, with the aim to lead the new federation to become a full member of the IFA as soon as possible.

### IFA Awards 2020

In 2019, the IFA Awards were established in several categories. The first award ceremony was held in Winterthur, Switzerland, during the 2019 IFA Men's Fistball World Championship. The 2020 awards ceremony was held virtually.

The IFA 2020 WOMEN IN SPORT AWARD was presented to Dr. Giana Hexsel on behalf of all female members of the medical and nursing staff.



For her and many other female athletes involved in the medical and healthcare field around the world, this is a sign of appreciation to all employees who are currently working so hard for our health.

The IFA 2020 ACTIVITY AWARD goes to Rahel Schreiber and Swiss Fistball for the initiative "Fistball at Home".



The other nominees were:

- Faustball Austria for Advent Calendar
- TV Rendel e.V. from Germany for the Fistball Advent Calendar

The IFA 2020 SPORT FOR GOOD AWARD went to President Stephan Fox and CEO Julia Govinden on behalf of the United Through Sports World Virtual Youth Festival.

The IFA 2020 MEDIA AWARD was awarded to the Fistball Federation of Australia for "The Fist, The Whole Fist And Nothing But The Fist, So Help Me Pod - The Official Fistball Australia Podcast".



Since August 2020, Fistball Australia has produced 10 editions of "The Fist, The Whole Fist And Nothing But The Fist, So Help Me Pod" totaling more than 15 hours of content.

The other nominees were:

- DFBL & XinCAST for the TV series Faustball GOLD
- Faustball Austria & evenMo for the TV production of the Final3 in Austria

The IFA 2020 LIFETIME AWARD was presented to 88-year-old Art Jesswein of the Wisconsin Fistball Association (USA).

Art first got involved with Fistball in 1956/57 when he was an American soldier in Bamberg, Germany, attending the Bavarian Youth Fistball Championships and fell in love with the game. Shortly after he returned to Milwaukee and re-joined the city's German Athletic Club, some of the older members mentioned that the sport was played there in the 1920s and '30s.

In 1963, Art and his friends began practicing regularly on Sunday mornings, a tradition that continues today. In 1965, Art founded a league in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Fistball Association was formed.

In 1999, the newly formed U.S. National Team participated in the World Championships in Switzerland for the first time with Art as the delegation leader. Today, Art can still be seen on the sidelines in the summer and is happy to support the young Fistballers with his experience.

**Media in numbers**

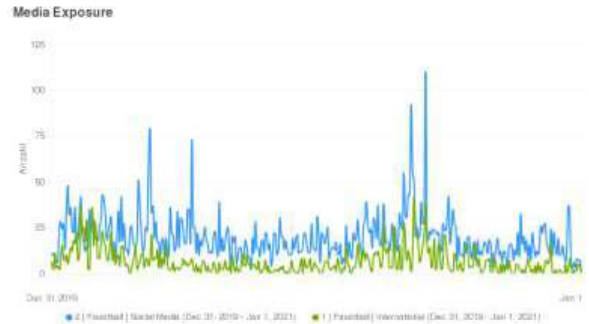
Since 2018, the IFA has greatly expanded its activities in (social) media. 2020 was a year like no other for sports associations. Despite numerous setbacks with cancellations and postponements of sporting events around the world, the year was revolutionary for the entire sports industry. With championship games and tournaments not taking place, sports fans had to look for other channels and they found social media in Fistball as well.

**QUANTITY**

<b>WEBSITE UNIQUE VISITORS</b>	<b>689.354</b>
<b>WEBSITE VISITS</b>	<b>2.060.472</b>
<b>FACEBOOK</b>	<b>162.312</b>
<b>INSTAGRAM</b>	<b>31.442</b>
<b>TWITTER</b>	<b>13.067</b>
<b>YOUTUBE (WATCHTIME/AVERAGE)</b>	<b>5.4 K h / 6:24 min1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Since 2017, IFA has been operating its own OTT platform www.ifa-fistball.tv together with Sportradar and has therefore only updated the IFA YouTube channel with limited content.

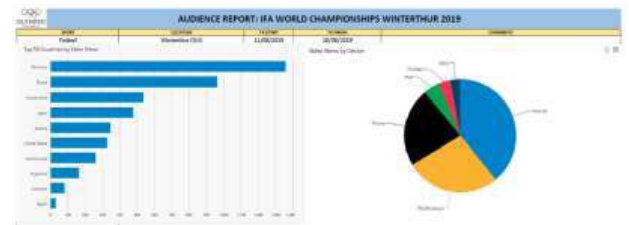
According to media figures compiled by the Meltwater agency, IFA in 2020 achieved a total reach of 3,501 articles in print, and 8,203 in social media.



The advertising equivalent value in print is equivalent to € 44.2 million. The top countries were Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Chile, Brazil and Denmark.

**Olympic Channel**

In 2017, IFA signed a cooperation agreement with the Olympic Channel. The cooperation is characterized by high quality in both streaming and production to perfectly present our sport in the Olympic Channel program.



In preparation for the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, IFA participated for the fourth consecutive year in the IWGA / Olympic Channel workshop, this time held virtually.

It is very important to us to work with Olympic Channel to achieve our goals, continuously improve our performance and grow our Fistball online community.

The broadcast of further Fistball highlights on the Olympic Channel is also planned for 2021.





# IFA AS SERVICE PROVIDER

[WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM](http://WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM)



AUTHORISED RESELLER

### **III. IFA AS SERVICE PROVIDER**

Since 2017, the IFA office in Linz (Austria) has been acting as a service provider for national member organizations and event organizers, supporting them in the topics:

- Ticketing,
- TV production,
- the OTT platform,
- Sports presentation,
- Branding,
- technical equipment,
- Fistball Academy and
- Media relations at events.

#### **IFA positions itself as service provider for members and organizers**

In recent years, the IFA has developed from a pure sports association into a service provider for its member associations and event organizers.

The service providers the IFA works with are experts in their field and coupled with the experience the IFA has gained over the years, the associations and clubs get a great offer at a low cost.



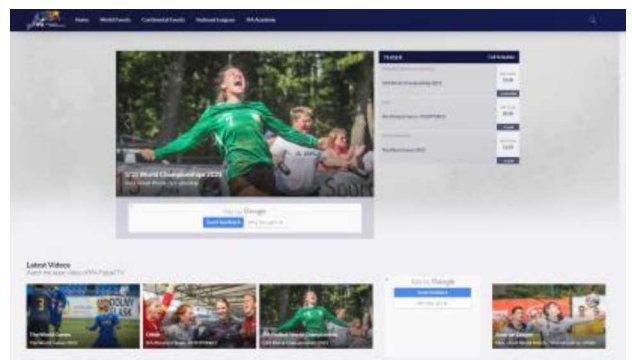
In the area of ticketing and TV production, IFA works with external service providers. Here, the association takes over the entire coordination with the service providers, from detailed planning to the preparation of offers and contracts to on-site coordination and billing. This ensures that consistent quality is delivered at all events worldwide.



The IFA Headquarters, together with the Sports and Media Commission, used the COVID-19-related break in Fistball events to take a close look at how events are run. Processes were improved and templates were created to help future organizers run an event. As a concrete aid for event organizers, so-called event boxes were created, e.g. for press conferences or award ceremonies, which contain sample schedules and checklists in addition to the necessary equipment. Checklists were also created for the handling of matches and equipment (nets, referee equipment, etc.) was purchased.

#### **Relaunch of the IFA OTT video platform [www.ifa-fistball.tv](http://www.ifa-fistball.tv)**

IFA is increasingly using new technologies and entered into a long-term partnership with Sportradar in 2017. In a first step, a use of the innovative Sportradar over-the-top video platform (OTT) was agreed. The ifa-fistball.tv platform went online on the occasion of the Fistball competitions at the 2017 World Games. In 2020, a complete relaunch of the platform took place. The website is now much more user-friendly, immediately after live events the videos are also available as on-demand and there is a new design of the platform as well as a new search function. The platform presents itself in the "look and feel" of the IFA and has been adapted to our requirements.





With the OTT video platform, IFA is breaking new ground and opening up to new technologies. All important Fistball events will be shown on the platform. The platform is available free of charge to viewers, as well as clubs and associations that have the option of distributing their own streams.

The marketing of advertising and sponsorship on the digital platform is also part of the partnership. The partnership with Sportradar has been concluded for the long term.

IFA is happy to have a strong partner at its side. The innovative OTT approach perfectly meets our expectations.

### Fistball academy to be integrated into OTT platform

The IFA created the Fistball Academy to give sports enthusiasts around the world the opportunity to teach and train Fistball. Since the re-launch, the Academy has also been part of the OTT platform as a separate section. The website provides access to the Fistball Academy and United by Fistball.



There are numerous training ideas and training videos that the national associations and clubs can use in their daily work. The subdivision and structuring of the videos into different categories such as technique or fitness and into levels of difficulty make it easier to find new ideas for your own training.

### Quality assurance in event organization

High-class international Fistball events are essential for the further development of Fistball. Therefore, the IFA puts a main focus on the early exchange with the organizers already in the application phase. Through knowledge transfer (Transfer of Knowledge) and prime examples (Best Practice Models), the IFA supports the applicants from the very beginning.

Immediately after the event is awarded to the local organizer, regular online meetings start for close coordination between IFA and the local organizing committee.

In most cases, these meetings take place on a weekly basis. The IFA is always part of the local organizing committees for current events and takes the lead in certain areas such as sports technical management, TV production or media relations. Concrete checklists and schedules support quality assurance.

A central database in which players, coaches and referees are recorded for the individual events facilitates coordination and data collection at events. This creates a one-stop solution for the associations and teams. The IFA, as the operator of the database, utilizes the necessary information to create accreditations, TV graphics, program booklets, website, match reports, etc., in compliance with data protection regulations.

In order to further improve quality, the continental associations should also be able to use the database as a central contact point for their events.

After the event, the event documentation is an important building block for knowledge transfer to the next organizer. In addition, IFA offers an online exchange between the event organizers together with IFA to directly discuss and pass on the most important key points and learnings. Especially in the COVID-19-related event interruption, these processes were set up in a new and better way, so that the sport of Fistball will benefit from an even better exchange between the organizers in the future.



# IFA EVENTS

[WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM](http://WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM)



AUTHORISED RESELLER



#### IV. IFA EVENTS

Scheduled	Competition		NEW Date	Status
<del>02-04 Jul 2020</del>	EFA Men's EURO		24-26 Jun 2021	postponed Kallern (ITA)
<del>17-19 Jul 2020</del>	IFA World Tour Finals		tbd	postponed Host tbd
<del>23-26 Jul 2020</del>	IFA U18 World Championships		29 Jul - 01 Aug 2021	postponed Grieskirchen (AUT)
<del>29-26 Jul 2020</del>	EFA Men's U21 EURO		-	2020: cancelled 2021: Switzerland
08-11 Oct 2020	PAFA Pan-American Championships			pending - decision latest until 6 June
03-07 Nov 2020	IFA Women's World Championship			pending - decision latest until 6 June
<del>15-25 Jul 2021</del>	The World Games		07-17 Jul 2022	postponed Birmingham (USA)

IFA Fistball World Tour 2020 - Season cancelled

#WeAreFistball | More on: [www.IFA-Fistball.com](http://www.IFA-Fistball.com)

The year 2020 should have been a year full of Fistball highlights. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic prevented the implementation of the international schedule and led to the postponement of the events.

The health of everyone involved - players, coaches, officials, fans, staff and volunteers - is a top priority, and it must also be possible to ensure safe travel to and from the event for all teams. Under this premise, the IFA, together with all the partners involved, has examined a number of options as to whether the planned international events can be held in 2020.

Together in coordination with the continental federations, various scenarios were designed and decisions were brought about in video conferences. The decision to postpone the Fistball events was not taken lightly. It was a decision made in the spirit of health for the entire Fistball family. The cooperation with the organizing committees, the local authorities but especially with the European Fistball Association EFA and the Pan-American Federation PAFA was characterized by solutions and cooperation. Each party always acted in the spirit of the sport and had to do its part to reach a common result.

#### IFA Fistball Women World Championship

The IFA Fistball Women's World Championship was planned for November 2020 in Llanquihue, Chile. The preparations were already very advanced to prepare a perfect stage for the participating teams. A total of 12 teams had registered for the World Championship in Chile. For a Women's World Championship this means a record

number of participants and also shows the worldwide development of the sport of Fistball.

Until the end of May, the IFA was in close contact with the Pan American Fistball Federation (PAFA), the Chilean Fistball Federation and the local organizers in Llanquihue regarding a postponement, cancellation or other solutions. On June 6, the IFA Presidium decided to cancel the World Championship in Chile and at the same time re-advertised it. The organizers in Chile announced that they could no longer host the event due to the Corona pandemic and the resulting loss of funding.

Since the Women's World Championships are a qualifying event for the 2022 World Games, it is necessary to hold the event in 2021. Since Chile had to withdraw as a venue for the IFA Women's World Championship 2021, the IFA started talks with Swiss Faustball and TSV Jona as alternative venues for this major event. On November 20, the IFA was able to present Rapperswil-Jona as the replacement location for the women's major event.

### IFA 2021 Fistball



The organizers IFA, Swiss Faustball and TSV Jona announce the upcoming event as "World Championship of Solidarity", especially now in challenging times, it is important to show a strong cohesion.

The organization of the Women's World Cup already started last summer. During the men's international Fistball match between Switzerland and Austria at the beginning of August, a first on-site visit took place, where the possible sports fa-

cilities and necessary infrastructure were inspected by the IFA. Later, negotiations began with local and regional authorities, the stadium owner and potential sponsors. In addition, a first plan for the event itself was developed. Fifteen nations have signed up for the Women's World Cup and will compete for the world title in Switzerland from July 13-17, 2021. This will make the IFA Women's World Championship in Switzerland the largest World Championship in women's Fistball history.

### **IFA Fistball U18 World Championship**

In the summer of 2020, the IFA U18 Men's and Women's World Championship was planned to be held. In a press conference on March 12, the local organizing team together with IFA Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner announced a record field of participants with 22 national teams from 11 nations.

On April 4, the IFA Executive Committee, together with the local organizing team in Grieskirchen and the relevant authorities, decided to postpone the U18 World Championships until 2021. The new date is July 29 to August 1, 2021, and Austria will remain the venue for the U18 World Championships with Grieskirchen as the host city. The U21 European Championship will also take place in Grieskirchen as planned.



The cut-off date for eligible players will not be changed. Players who would be eligible to play in 2020 will also have the opportunity to participate in the World Championship in 2021. A total of 25 national teams from 12 different countries from 4 continents have registered for the 2021 U18 World Cup and U21 European Championship.

The IFA Youth Congress, scheduled for July 23, 2020, was held for the first time as a virtual congress.

### **The World Games Birmingham, USA**

The postponement of the Olympic Games to 2021 has an impact on IFA and EFA events in 2021, as the date of the World Games in Birmingham (Alabama/USA) has been postponed to 2022. Only with the postponement of the World Games, the postponement of the Women's World Championships became possible.

IFA Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner was still on site in February 2020 to discuss the IFA World Tour Finals and the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. On April 2, the IWGA Executive Committee, together with the local organizing committee, decided to postpone the World Games until 2022.



The new date of the World Games is July 7-17, 2022. For the first time, there will also be a women's Fistball competition at the World Games in Birmingham. During SportAccord 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, the International World Games Association (IWGA) informed the International Fistball Federation (IFA) of the decision to include a women's competition with six teams and to increase the men's competition from six to eight nations at the next World Games in 2021 in Birmingham, USA.

### **International German Gymnastics Festival 2021**

With the International German Gymnastics Festival 2021 in Leipzig, it was planned to hold a large Fistball festival in all age and playing classes.



Due to the development of the pandemic, after an intensive exchange between the DTB, the city of Leipzig, the Free State of Saxony and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, for Construction and Home Affairs, the staging of the world's largest



popular and top sporting event in Leipzig on October 21, 2020, planned from May 12 to 16, 2021, was canceled. The IFA very much regrets this cancellation, as a 2x2 Fistball world championship should have been held for the first time as part of the gymnastics festival.



In addition, several age categories were planned within the framework of the large Fistball tournament. In the junior area, the implementation was planned accordingly analogous to the other championships (U12, U14, U16, U18). In addition, the senior classes of women 30, men 35, 45, 55 and men 60. And also open classes of men and women, as well as recreational tournaments and a mixed tournament should be held as part of the Fistball competitions. Since many top teams will participate in the gymnastics festival, the Fistball tournament was announced as an IFA Major World Tour event.

### **2x2 Fistball World Championship within the framework of the International German Gymnastics Festival**

And the IFA had also planned a Fistball world premiere together with the Turnfest-OK: the IFA 2x2 World Championship. 2x2 Fistball is played in teams of two without substitutes on a field measuring 10 x 3 meters. After the reception and the pass, the ball may come up in the out, block attempts are not allowed. The final matches would have taken place in the city center of Leipzig.



## **Continental and selected national Fistball events**

### **EFA Fistball Men European Championship**

The Men's European Championship in Caldaro, Italy, has been postponed from June 2020 to June 24-26, 2021 by the European Fistball Association EFA in coordination with the IFA. In close coordination and after several video conferences between EFA and IFA officials, the European Fistball Presidium decided on April 3 to postpone the Men's European Championship to 2021 due to the Corona pandemic. This decision was also only made possible by the postponement of the World Games to 2022, as a Euro and the World Games cannot be held in the same year.



In parallel, EFA postponed the regular EFA Congress in Italy until June 2021. The Women's Champions Cup in Jona (Switzerland) and the Men's Champions Cup in Linz (Austria) were also postponed in June until August 2021. A new match format will be developed to allow already qualified teams to participate in 2021.

### **PAFA Pan American Championships 2020**

Also the Pan-American Continental Association PAFA postponed the Pan-American Championship planned for October 2020 in Novo Hamburgo (BRA) by one year to November 2021. The Pan-American Championship is just like the European Championship a qualification event for the World Games 2022 in Birmingham and therefore very important for the American continent. An exact date for the 2021 event has not yet been set. The championship will still take place in Novo Hamburgo, Brazil.



The planned U16 South American Championships in Chile also had to be moved to 2021.

### National Junior Championship in India

The 10th National Junior Fistball Championship in India was held at GEMS International School in Guntur. In the boys' final, Tamilnadu beat Pudhuchery by the score of 11-8;11-6 and became the champion. In the girls final, Tamilnadu beat Kerala by the score - 3-11;12-10;11-9 and became champions.



### National Championships in Germany, Austria and Switzerland

The 2020 national field championships in Germany, Austria and Switzerland could take place despite COVID-19. Although all three national federations had to develop a new playing mode, they were able to hold their national leagues and in many cases the underlying championships between May and September. In all federations, a shortened championship was played in compliance with the regionally applicable protective measures.

The final events also presented themselves differently from what one was used to in the past. While Switzerland and Germany continued to rely on centralized championship decisions with limited spectator capacities, Austria implemented a decentralized championship decision.

In Germany, TSV Pfungstadt won the men's championship again after a thrilling final against TV Unterhaugstett. In the women's competition, Alhorney SV beat defending champion TSV Denbach 3-2 to take the crown.

In Switzerland, hosts Widnau beat SVD Diepoldsau-Schmitter 4-1 to claim the Swiss championship title in front of their own crowd.

The women of SVD Diepoldsau prevailed in their hard-fought final with 3:2 against serial champion TSV Jona. For the Rheininsler women it is the first Swiss championship title on the field.

In the Austrian final, the favorites prevailed. The women of Union Nussbach won the final against ASKÖ Laakirchen clearly and highly deserved with 4:1.

In the men's competition, Tigers Vöcklabruck took revenge for their loss in the 2019 final against ASKÖ FBC Linz-Urfahr, coming back from a 2-0 set deficit to win 4-2.

### IFA Fistball World Tour 2020

124 teams from all continents had registered for the fourth season of the worldwide IFA Club Series. In 27 tournaments, they were to fight for points in three tournament categories worldwide. After a successful tour start in February, the tournament series was initially interrupted for five weeks on March 14 - the beginning of the worldwide pandemic. All tournaments during this period were canceled.

Finally, on April 4, the cancellation of the entire 2020 World Tour season followed. Due to many existing national requirements regarding the staging of events and numerous travel restrictions, the 2020 IFA Fistball World Tour season was cancelled and not scored. No World Tour points were awarded for any of the scheduled events in 2020. This did not affect the eligibility of the tournament for the 2021 World Tour event list for the organizers.

In total, six out of 27 tournaments would be scheduled in 2020 in the highest category, the Major category, where the winner in both the men's and women's events will receive 1000 points.





**WORLD TOUR CALENDAR 2020**

DATE	VENUE	WOMEN	MEN	DATE	VENUE	WOMEN	MEN
1./2 Feb	Llanquihue (CHI)	250	250	22-24 May	Chennai (IND)	250	250
7./8 Mar	Curtiba / Mercedes (BRA)	500	500	29 May-1 Jun	Dennach (GER)	500	500
21./22 Mar	Curtiba / Duque (BRA)	500	500	11 Jun	Walldorf (GER)	500	500
27-29 Mar	Novo Hamburgo (BRA)	MAJOR	MAJOR	11./12 Jul	Roxbury (USA)	250	250
3-5 Apr	Perito Alegre (BRA)	MAJOR	MAJOR	25./26 Jul	Hohenklingen (GER)	500	500
4./5 Apr	Karlendorf (GER)	500	500	25./26 Jul	Pomerode (BRA)	500	500
4 Apr	Gecklong (AUS)	250	250	31 Jul-2 Aug	Jona (SUI)	MAJOR	MAJOR
10./11 Apr	Rosario (ARG)	500	500	1 Aug	Hirschbach (AUT)	500	500
18./19 Apr	Stuttgart (GER)	MAJOR	MAJOR	7-9 Aug	Widnau (SUI)	MAJOR	MAJOR
18./19 Apr	Elgg (SUI)	MAJOR	MAJOR	1ba	Rohrbach (AUT)	500	500
25./26 Apr	Vöhringen (GER)	500	500	Mid Sep	Bolzano (ITA)	250	
25 Apr	Münzbach (AUT)	500	500	3./4 Oct	Leipzig (GER)	500	500
2 May	Wünschensbach (GER)		250	29 Oct./1 Nov	Santiago (CHI)	500	500
2 May	Rosdel (GER)		250				

At least the top two men's and women's teams in the World Tour Rankings presented by CINT Technical Advisors will receive a wild card to participate in the following World Tour Finals, the former World Cup.

The World Tour is a worldwide series of Fistball tournaments in four different categories through which teams can secure wildcard to the World Tour Finals. In 2019, a total of eleven teams from the Tour received a wildcard to compete in the final event in Salzburg from September 13-15. The World Tour also increases the value of Fistball tournaments worldwide for club teams.

**Competition and event calendar 2021**

We are looking forward to being allowed back on the Fistball court in 2021 and having our international events again. The year 2021 is peppered with many highlights, such as the Women's World Championship in Jona (Switzerland) from July 13-17, 2021, the U18 Men's and Women's World Championship from July 29 to August 1 in Grieskirchen, Austria or the IFA Fistball World Tour Finals from October 14-17 in South America.

The IFA Fistball Women's World Championship had to be moved at short notice from Chile

In addition, together with our partners TAFISA and CSIT, we also offer attractive amateur sport competitions in Fistball. From June 1-6, at the CSIT World Sport Games in Cervio, the title "Fistball Amateur World Champion" will be contested in the men's age groups 16+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 60+, 65+ and in the women's age groups 30+, 40+, 50+. For this purpose, for the first time ever, a Fistball 2x2 world championship will be held within the framework of the CSIT WSG.

Just two weeks later, the TAFISA World Sport for All Games will take place in Lisbon, Portugal.

Here, Fistball will be represented as a demonstration sport to promote our sport. In addition, a championship in 2 vs. 2 Fistball will take place.



The success story of the IFA Fistball World Tour is to be continued again in 2021 after the COVID-related break in 2020. For the new season, the IFA has again decided on some small changes to the World Tour. The tournament series will thus already start its fourth season. Due to the worldwide Corona pandemic the start of the upcoming tour is postponed to probably April 1, 2021. The registration process for tournament organizers and clubs was started in January 2021.



# OTHER AREAS

[WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM](http://WWW.IFA-FISTBALL.COM)





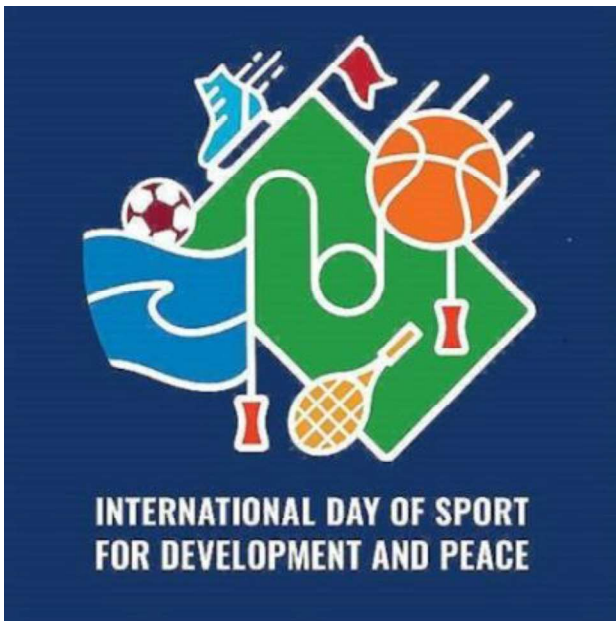
## V. OTHER AREAS

International days are a good opportunity to get attention and support projects and causes. The IFA has therefore used the following days in 2020 for statements and actions of the Fistball family.

### IFA Olympic Day and International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) Aktivitäten

In 2018, IFA appointed Gastao Englert (BRA) as IFA Director of Olympic Education to support Olympic Day on June 23 and International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) on April 6.

Sport has the power to change the world; it is a fundamental right, a powerful tool to strengthen social bonds and promote sustainable development and peace, solidarity and respect. Through our unique individual abilities and our united efforts, we can come together and find creative ways to improve our health through sport and physical activity.



This day is celebrated each year around the world by international, regional and national sports and development organizations to recognize the role of sport in society, whether by promoting healthier lifestyles, spreading the word about sport, or using sport as a tool for development in areas vulnerable to conflict, poverty and inequality. Since 2014, the Peace and Sport Foundation has developed the #WhiteCard campaign as a sign of your commitment to peace efforts worldwide. The IFA has supported this campaign for many years.



The first Olympic Day was celebrated on June 23, 1948 to commemorate the founding of the IOC on June 23, 1894 in Paris when Pierre de Coubertin achieved the revival of the Olympic Games.

Over the past 20 years, Olympic Day has been associated with Olympic runs around the world. Now, Olympic Day is evolving into much more than just a run or a sporting event. Based on the three pillars of "move," "learn," and "discover," the National Olympic Committees and the International Federations of Sports use sporting, cultural, and educational activities that appeal to everyone - regardless of age, gender, social background, or athletic ability.

Some countries have integrated the event into the school curriculum, and in recent years many NOCs have expanded the celebrations to include concerts and exhibitions. Recent NOC activities include meetings for children and youth with top athletes and the development of new websites that direct people to programs near them. This makes it easier for everyone to become part of Olympic Day.

The IFA celebrates this day to recognize the role of sport in society, whether by promoting healthier lifestyles, re-learning sport, or using sport as a development tool in areas vulnerable to conflict, poverty and inequality.

### International Women's Day on March 8



Collective action and shared responsibility for gender parity is what makes International Women's Day such a success.

The history of women's struggle for equality belongs neither to a single feminist nor to a single organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights

### Play True Day on April 10

Every April since 2014, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the anti-doping community worldwide have celebrated Play True Day - a day dedicated to clean sport that aims to raise awareness among athletes, the sporting public and others about the importance of protecting clean sport.

### TAFISA Family Day on May 1



### World Environment Day on June 5



World Environment Day is the best-known day for environmental action. Celebrated every year on June 5 since 1974, it calls on governments, businesses and citizens to focus their efforts on an urgent environmental issue.

### International Youth Day on August 12



International Youth Day is celebrated every year on August 12. The UN selects a theme for this day. The program encourages young people around the world to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country.

### World Fair Play Day on September 7

World Fair Play Day is a sports initiative to promote fair play and ethical values in sport. Everyone in sport on and off the field is invited to draw attention to fair play initiatives, projects and achievements on this date each year.





### World Children's Day on September 20 and November 20

World Children's Day is intended to draw attention to the rights and needs of children. The official date of World Children's Day in Germany and Austria is September 20.

World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children.



Protecting children means:

- Ensure that all children learn, including by closing the digital divide.
- Ensure access to health systems and nutrition, and ensure that vaccines are affordable and available for every child.
- Promote and protect the mental health of children and youth and end childhood abuse, gender-based violence, and neglect.
- Improve access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene and combat environmental degradation and climate change.
- Tackle the rise in child poverty and ensure inclusive recovery for all.
- Redouble efforts to protect and assist children and support your families affected by conflict, disaster and displacement.

### World Teachers' Day on October 5

On World Teachers' Day, which has been celebrated annually since 1994, we would like to say thank you to all physical education teachers who also teach/try out Fistball in physical education classes.



### International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, new data and reports from grassroots organizations show that all types of violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence, have increased.

# #ORANGE THE WORLD



This is the shadow pandemic that is spreading in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. We need a global concerted effort to stop it. As COVID-19 cases continue to strain health services, essential services such as domestic violence shelters and counseling centers have reached capacity. More needs to be done to prioritize addressing violence against women in COVID-19 response and recovery.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3



The inclusion of persons with disabilities is essential to upholding human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security. It is also central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's promise to leave

no one behind. Committing to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities is not just a matter of justice; it is an investment in a shared future.

According to the WHO report, 15 percent of the world's population, or more than 1 billion people, live with a disability. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was established in 1992.

**International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development on December 5**



International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed on December 5 each year on behalf of the UN General Assembly. It is seen as a unique opportunity for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, share their values and promote their work.

Thank you to all volunteers in Fistball or other fields!

**Anti-Doping**

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

The IFA Test Distribution Plan (TDP) 2020 was approved by the Governing Board and a Test Pool (TP) was established.

The IFA conducted training and competition controls in 2020. All tests were negative and yielded no AAFs, with all tested athletes cooperating more fully.



In 2019, the IFA represented by Anti-Doping Officer Theresa Eidenhammer, Secretary General Christoph Oberlehner and President Jörn Verleger participated in various online training and virtual education sessions on anti-doping in pandemic times.

A working group chaired by IFA Anti-Doping Administrator Teresa Eidenhammer has drafted the new IFA Anti-Doping Rules based on the WADA Code 2021, which were approved by the IFA Governing Board on October 10, 2020.



These Anti-Doping Rules apply specifically to athletes participating in any of the following IFA International Competitions: World Games, IFA Fistball World Championships, IFA Fistball World Cup, IFA Fistball World Tour and Continental Championships and shall enter into force with the 2021 Prohibited List on January 1, 2021.

**Illegal betting and match fixing**

Can the post-COVID environment also be a catalyst for all of us to create a better, healthier, integrity-driven sports ecosystem?

In 2020, the IFA participated for the first time by invitation in the virtual conference SIGA Sport Integrity Week.



**IPC / ParaFistball**

IFA recognition by the IPC is a strategic goal adopted through the 2019 - 2023 Strategic Plan.

Unfortunately, due to the Corona pandemic, the announced recognition process was put on hold by the IPC for the time being.



The expression of interest submitted to IPC President Andrew Parson in November 2019 for official recognition by the IPC therefore remained unprocessed in 2020.



## Finance

Although the 2020 accounts have not yet been finalized, IFA will close the year with a negative result after five positive annual accounts in a row. The reason for the negative financial statements is the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of all international events. As a result, budgeted competition fees could not be collected as planned and planned sponsorship income also did not materialize due to the postponements. In addition, some member associations struggled financially, which was reflected in the payment of IFA membership fees.



## Mascot

The Hong Kong Fistball Association has developed a mascot in 2020 also to attract younger target groups to the sport.

