

# IFA COMPETITION RULES (IFCR)

Valid as for 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2025

## 1. Scope of Validity

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

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

## 2. Official Competitions

IFA has the exclusive right to prepare and organize international championships and cup events.

The IFA has delegated the preparation and organization of continental competitions to the relevant governing body of its regional associations or a member federation.

The following competitions are organized by IFA:

- The World Games
- IFA Fistball World Championships
- IFA Fistball World Cups
- IFA Fistball World Tour

IFA may organize competitions for the following age groups:

- Men/Women (open class)
- Masters: Men 35+/45+/55+/60+/65+ and Women 30+/40+
- U21 Men/Women (until the age of 21)
- U18 Male/Female (until the age of 18)
- U16 Male/Female (until the age of 16)
- U14 Male/Female (until the age of 14)
- U12 Male/Female (until the age of 12)

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

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

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



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## **2.2 International Matches**

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

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

2.2.3 After the match the organizing member federation shall

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

2.2.3.2 pay a fee to the Regional Association within four weeks of the match taking place, if the Regional Association has foreseen a fee.

## **3. Organizer**

Potential hosts for the competitions could be:

- a national IFA member association or
- a club or
- a city in cooperation with a club or
- the International Fistball Association (IFA) itself.

The decision about the host is made by the IFA Board of Directors.

## **4. Organization**

The IFA Board of Directors is responsible for the overall organization of the competitions and will appoint a Competition Manager (CM) for each event.

The host is responsible and cost bearer of the preparation, organisation and running of the event according.

The host will be supported in the preparation and running of the event by the IFA Competition Manager.

The IFA Sports Commission is responsible for the overall technical organization of the competition. The Sports Commission shall decide on the interpretation of these IFCR as well as alterations and necessary amendments which cannot await a regular decision by the IFA Board of Directors.

The tournament is managed by the IFA Technical Delegate.

## **5. Basics**

All competitions shall next to the IFA Statutes and codes especially be governed by the at the time of the competition current Fistball - Rules of the Game.

## **6. Eligibility to Compete**

### **6.1. Nationality**

All players entered by national associations must be citizens of the country they represent. As an exception: A Fistball player who has previously not represented another country in the same adult category may have his/her permanent residence and center of life of the player for the last three consecutive years in the country he/she wants to represent. The stay has to be proven by the authorities of the country to represent. This document must be send to IFA as a motion before the final day of the long list.

A player who has already carried out an international match of A-level (an "A" international match is defined as a women's/men's match (not junior level incl. U19) in an official competition of a continental championship or international championship [World Cup, World Games]) is no longer eligible to play for any other nation. The player is only allowed to play for another national team after a 3-year waiting period between his/her last A-level international match for the former national team and the first match for the new national team.

Only for participation up to the U18 or U19 level, the waiting period for a change of national team is one year.

In case a player's nationality cannot be determined, a decision shall be made by the Board of Directors.

## **6.2. Membership in a National Association**

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

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

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

The release must be issued within 2 months after the player's request. The release can be issued by mail or letter.

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

Pre-condition for a new playing entitlement is the presentation of the release of the former federation by letter or mail and a confirmation from the international federation as of when the earliest possible right to play exists. Exception: The release will be carried out immediately after 3 months if the release is not issued. The continental federation of the former federation and the international federation shall check whether the player is available to play in an A international match and shall then issue a written match permit including the earliest possible date of eligibility to the new federation.

The basis for this playing entitlement is the national regulation of the new federation.

The IFA Board of Directors finally decides on disputes and objections. This is why the IFA Secretary General shall be included in the entire correspondence from the beginning.

## **6.3. Team Membership**

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

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

## **7. Anti-Doping Rules**

The respective valid "IFA Anti-Doping Rules" apply.

IFA Anti-Doping Rules, WADA Prohibited List, the IFA Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Application Form and further anti-doping documents can be found under the Anti-Doping section of the official IFA homepage.

## **8. Advertising on Sports Kit**

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

- 8.1. Advertising is permitted on any garments during all official competitions organized by IFA. National competitions shall be governed by the regulations of the respective national member federations.
- 8.2. Advertising shall be restricted to companies and goods. The texts used may not be offensive. Letters, numbers, badges or designs must not cause confusion of any kind.
- 8.3. No slogans of a political, religious, ideological or moral nature are permitted. Goods of an offensive kind may not be advertised.

- 8.4. All texts and badges shall be considered as advertising on sports kit, with the following exceptions:
- the official name of the country and/or association and the corresponding emblem as well as the proper name of the individual player,
  - small logos and trademarks of the manufacturers of the outfits worn.
- 8.5. Advertising features must be easily distinguished from the player's number.
- 8.6. Country and/or association emblems on players' outfits must be well separated from advertising features and shall clearly contrast with them.
- 8.7. Different conditions may apply for the World Games.

## **9. Initiation of Competitions, Entry and Withdrawal**

- 9.1. Invitations for the IFA Fistball Men's World Championships, the IFA Fistball Women's World Championships and the World Games must be sent out by IFA at least one year prior to the event taking place. For all other IFA competitions, the invitations shall be posted at least nine months before.
- 9.2. The registration period for the IFA Fistball World Championships and the World Games shall terminate nine months prior to the event taking place. For all other competitions, the registration deadline shall be stipulated in the invitation.
- 9.3. Entries shall be made in writing no later than the official deadline. National associations shall be entered through their member federations.
- 9.4. Once the registration has been received, participation in the competition shall be compulsory.
- 9.5. Associations that withdraw or fail to take part in the competition after their registration are liable to a fine and shall be excluded from the next event of its kind. Exceptions may be made solely by the Board of Directors.
- 9.6. After registration the competition communication will be done in official Bulletins also published on the IFA website.

## **10. Organization**

- 10.1. All matches as defined by the IFCR shall be played in accordance with the Fistball – Rules of the Games laid down by IFA.
- 10.2. Matches shall be played in rounds or play-offs.
- 10.3. During rounds all teams play against each other.
- 10.4. If several teams pertaining to the same member federation compete in matches subject to the IFCR regulations and several groups are formed, these teams shall be divided between the groups.
- 10.5. Within the groups the teams pertaining to the same member federation shall initially compete with each other.
- 10.6. Teams may not play more than two consecutive matches. The maximum number of matches may not exceed four matches per day.
- 10.7. If four matches are played on one day, the second match shall be followed by a break lasting two hours.
- 10.8. During a half-day not more than three matches per team may be played.
- 10.9. Matches which have been abandoned and cannot be resumed on the same day must be re-started.
- 10.10. During the competition a player can only take part in one category and represent only one team.
- 10.11. A maximum of 10 players shall make up a team.

- 10.12. Teams who fail to show up for a match or are unable to play or fall short of the required number of five players or cause the match to be abandoned, shall be excluded from the rest of the tournament.
- 10.13. Teams shall not be excluded if their failure to show up, their delay or lack of players is force majeure.
- 10.14. Traffic accidents, unforeseen obstructions to traffic and breakdowns confirmed by the police, a local constabulary or authority shall be deemed as cases of force majeure. Delays to public transport shall not be considered as force majeure.
- 10.15. If players are banned from playing for their national or regional associations, they may not compete in international matches during the ban.
- 10.16. Players shall wear numbers on their shirts; the numbers being constituted of various Arabic numerals between 1 and 20 within a team. These numbers shall be at least 15 cm in height on the back of the shirt and not more than 10 cm in height on the front of the shirt at chest level.
- 10.17. The numbers of all players within a team must be identical in size, color and position.
- 10.18. Numbers not more than 10 cm in height may be affixed to the front of either leg of the shorts instead of the shirt
- 10.19. All players shall wear the numbers allotted to them throughout the competition.
- 10.20. Players who are sent off the pitch shall be automatically excluded from the participation in the next match of the tournament.
- 10.21. The IFA reserves the right to additional disciplinary measures.

## 11. Ranking

- 11.1. During rounds, two points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and none for a defeat.
- 11.2. If two or more teams are equal at the end of a round based on the above criteria, and the matches have been played *in sets*, their ranking shall be determined as follows:
- Greater set difference (difference between sets won and lost) in the group matches between the teams concerned.
  - Greater set quotient (ratio of sets won to sets lost) in the group matches between the teams concerned.
  - Greater point difference (difference between points scored and conceded) in the group matches between the teams concerned.
  - Greater set difference in all group matches of the round concerned.
  - Greater set quotient in all group matches of the round concerned.
  - Greater point difference in all group matches of the round concerned.
  - Drawing of lots.
- 11.3. If two or more teams are equal at the end of a round based on the above criteria, and the matches have been played over periods of time, their ranking shall be determined as follows:
- Greater point difference (difference between points scored and conceded) in the group matches between the teams concerned.
  - Greater point quotient (ratio of points scored to points conceded) in the group matches between the teams concerned.
  - Greater point difference in all group matches of the round concerned.
  - Greater point quotient in all group matches of the round concerned.
  - Drawing of lots.

- 11.4.** If an ineligible player is fielded or the match is abandoned willfully, the relevant team shall be considered as having lost. The match and points will be awarded to its opponents as follows:
- if two sets must be won with a score of 2:0 points, 2:0 sets and a goal difference of 22:5
  - if three sets must be won with a score of 2:0 points, 3:0 sets and a goal difference of 33:10
  - if four sets must be won with a score of 2:0 points, 4:0 sets and a goal difference of 44:15
  - if five sets must be won with a score of 2:0 points, 5:0 sets and a goal difference of 55:20
  - if a match is played over a period of time with a score of 2:0 points and a goal difference of 30:10
- 11.5.** If teams withdraw in the course of the competition or are excluded from playing in the competition, their matches shall not count.

## **12. Special**

Special provisions for individual competitions are stipulated in the respective regulations or in the official Bulletin of the IFA event.

## **13. Protests**

- 13.1.** For each competition IFA establishes a Jury. The composition of the Jury and the proceedings of a Jury case follow the IFA Juridical Regulations.
- 13.2.** Protests against the invitation of a competition shall be submitted in writing to the IFA Secretary General within three weeks of receipt of the invitation with an explanation.
- 13.3.** Protests against pitch and equipment shall be made to the referee by the team captain or the coach prior to the start of the match.
- 13.4.** Protests against incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee immediately after the disputed incident. The protests shall be confirmed in writing within half an hour of the match to the Jury.
- 13.5.** Protests against eligibility shall be made prior to the start of the match. Ineligibility must be reported as soon as it is known. Protests shall be lodged no later than two weeks after the match in question.
- 13.6.** Protests against the scoring of a match shall be made once the manner of scoring has given rise to concern. Please refer to the deadline for appeals stated in 10.4.
- 13.7.** The match schedule and the selection of referees are beyond dispute.

## **14. Referees**

- 14.1.** During international competitions internationally approved referees shall be chosen.
- 14.2.** They shall be appointed in compliance with the individual regulations and/or appointed by the responsible IFA Commission.
- 14.3.** The selected referees shall not be considered as part of the official delegation of a member association or federation.

## **15. Violations**

Violations against the Fistball - Rules of the Game, these Competition Rules or the Regulations of the referring competitions shall be sanctioned or fined according to the IFA Juridical Regulations.

## **16. Financial Provisions**

- 16.1.** The fees for the IFA competitions are according to the hosting information of the event.
- 16.2.** The cost of staging events shall be borne by the organizers.

**Validity**

This valid revision of these rules shall become effective on 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2025.

Approved by the IFA Board of Directors meeting on 21 June 2025.