



Fistball as
ONE

Together We Rise

IFA Strategic Vision 2025-2029

Fistball as ONE – Together We Rise

A Deep Dive into IFA's Strategic Framework for 2025 and Beyond

The International Fistball Association (IFA) has launched its forward-looking roadmap under the inspiring banner: **“Fistball as ONE – Together We Rise.”** This guiding principle sets the tone for the organization's vision, strategic goals, and planning processes, uniting the global Fistball community in pursuit of excellence, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

Introduction & Background

This Strategic Plan functions both as a roadmap for the leadership and as a practical guide for the administrative and operational activities carried out by IFA's dedicated staff and volunteers. It defines the shared strategic goals of the IFA Board of Directors and serves as a management tool for aligning the organization's policies with modern standards of international sport governance.

In line with the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020+5, the Basic Principles of Good Governance, and the Olympic Charter, this plan reflects IFA's ongoing commitment to implementing best practices in governance. As an International Federation, IFA embraces these principles to strengthen its

structures and to move toward the objective of official recognition by the International Olympic Committee within the timeframe of this plan.

The Strategic Plan also provides a framework for continuous evaluation and improvement of IFA's governance.

With a growing membership—68 national federations and more than 80,000 players as of April 2025—IFA stands poised to further expand the sport of Fistball. This plan sets the foundation for sustainable development and improved organizational capacity, always keeping the core focus on enhancing opportunities and well-being for athletes worldwide.

The International Fistball Association (IFA) is the global authority for all Fistball disciplines, overseeing the sport's promotion, regulation, and development worldwide. It is responsible for approving rules, sanctioning World Championships, World Cups, and other official events.

IFA aligns its governance with the **Olympic Charter**, **Olympic Agenda 2020+5**, and the **IOC's Basic Principles of Good Governance**, contributing actively to their implementation. It upholds democratic values and is firmly against violence, discrimination, illegal betting, and match-fixing.

IFA promotes **social and environmental sustainability**, striving to create lasting positive impacts through its events and to fulfill its responsibility to society.

The federation strictly follows the **WADA Anti-Doping Code**, maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward doping, and supports global anti-doping efforts.

As a **service-oriented federation**, IFA prioritizes the needs of its member federations and fosters global dialogue on Fistball-related issues. It is committed to being modern, efficient, and athlete-focused.

IFA works to:

- Ensure high-quality, athlete-centered events.
- Grow Fistball worldwide, especially among youth.
- Offer education to enhance the skills of players, coaches, referees, and officials.
- Communicate transparently and professionally.
- Raise Fistball's profile in society through strategic partnerships.
- Expand international collaboration with key organizations like the IOC, IWGA, IPC, WADA, and others.
- Promote **gender equity, diversity, safety, and Fair Play**.
- Embrace Fistball as an inclusive **Sport for All**, accessible to every age group.

Fistball as a Driver of Social Transformation

In line with its commitment to sustainability, equity, and global inclusion, the International Fistball Association (IFA) has introduced a bold initiative titled: "**Fistball as Social Transformation.**" This concept captures the **main value the IFA delivers to its members, partners, and broader society**—the idea that sport is not just a game but a powerful tool for positive social impact.



Sport Beyond the Field

Fistball as Social Transformation is rooted in the belief that sport can:

- **Promote gender equity**, challenging stereotypes and encouraging equal access to sport for women and girls.
- **Foster dialogue and peace**, particularly in regions affected by social or political unrest.
- **Encourage healthy lifestyles and education**, especially among youth in underserved areas.

Through this initiative, Fistball is positioned not only as a recreational activity but as a **catalyst for community development** and **agent of societal change**.

Delivering Real Value

By embedding social transformation into its strategy, the IFA delivers tangible value to its stakeholders:

- **For athletes:** Access to inclusive, safe, and fair environments.
- **For communities:** Programs that address social issues through sport.
- **For sponsors and partners:** Alignment with ethical, socially responsible branding.
- **For federations:** A framework that connects local sport development to global impact.

This initiative also enhances IFA's relevance in global policy dialogues on sport, such as those surrounding the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, positioning Fistball as a model for socially responsible sport.

Management summary: More Than a Game

The "Fistball as Social Transformation" initiative underscores the IFA's dedication to making a difference beyond the scoreboard. By using the sport to drive awareness, inclusion, and empowerment, the IFA delivers on its promise to be not only a governing body—but a force for good.

Who We Serve: The Heart of Fistball's Mission

In any strategic plan, understanding “for whom we do the work” is essential. For the International Fistball Association (IFA), this clarity is embodied in its defined **Target Customer: Players, Families, and the Community.**

This group forms the beating heart of Fistball and represents the core audience that benefits from every initiative, policy, and competition the IFA undertakes.



Players and Athletes: The Central Figures

First and foremost, **players and athletes** are the sport's lifeblood. Every match, development program, and safety standard is designed to support their growth, performance, and well-being. Whether professional or amateur, youth or veteran, the IFA is committed to creating an environment where athletes thrive.

Families: The Silent Supporters

Families are more than spectators—they are supporters, mentors, and the first champions of players' journeys. The IFA recognizes the vital role families play in fostering sporting values, encouraging youth participation, and building communities around clubs and competitions.

Community: The Broader Social Fabric

Community encompasses schools, neighborhoods, fans, and volunteers. These groups give Fistball its identity and cultural richness. The IFA's community-centered approach encourages inclusion, diversity, and accessibility—ensuring the sport touches lives far beyond the court.

Who Else Benefits from IFA's Work?

While the main effort is focused on the players, families, and the community, the strategic plan also identifies key organizational stakeholders:

- **Continental Associations**
- **National Federations**
- **Fistball Clubs**
- **Schools**
- **Partners** (e.g., sponsors, media, NGOs)

These entities are essential in delivering Fistball programs, organizing events, and expanding the sport's reach. They are both beneficiaries and collaborators in the IFA's global mission.

Management summary: A People-Centered Sport

By placing **players, families, and communities** at the center of its strategy, the IFA reinforces its identity as a **people-centered, inclusive sport movement**. Every effort—from governance to grassroots outreach—is directed at creating a vibrant, connected, and empowered Fistball ecosystem.

Global Reach, Local Impact: IFA's Commitment to Worldwide Fistball

Fistball is not just a sport confined to a single region—it is a global passion. The **International Fistball Association (IFA)** has made a clear and intentional **commitment to worldwide Fistball**, ensuring that the sport grows, thrives, and inspires people across continents and cultures.



This commitment is not just a statement—it's a structured strategy that guides where the IFA focuses its energy, investments, and partnerships.

Where Our Efforts Are Focused

To achieve its global vision, the IFA centers its efforts on key international platforms and development initiatives:

- **The World Games** Fistball's presence in this prestigious multi-sport event highlights its growing international recognition and elite-level competition.
- **World Championships** Bringing together the best athletes from around the globe, these tournaments showcase skill, unity, and the sport's evolving standards.
- **Club World Cup** A celebration of club-level excellence, connecting local champions with the global Fistball community.
- **U18 World Championships** Investing in the **next generation** is essential. This youth competition fosters early international experience and cross-cultural engagement.
- **Fistball Development** Efforts to expand the sport into **new regions and communities**, providing support for emerging federations and local organizers.
- **Fistball Education** Training coaches, referees, and volunteers ensures the sport's growth is sustainable and grounded in best practices.
- **Fistball in Schools** Introducing Fistball at the grassroots level builds a strong pipeline of future players and fans.

Management summary: A Truly Global Game

IFA's commitment to worldwide Fistball is a promise to both current and future generations of athletes and fans. By focusing on high-level events, educational outreach, and grassroots development, the IFA is not only expanding the game—it is building a truly global community united by the values of sport, inclusion, and excellence.

Promoting Fistball with Purpose: The IFA's Mission

At the heart of the International Fistball Association's (IFA) operations lies a mission that is both bold and profoundly ethical. It serves as the **reason for the organization's existence** and provides the moral and strategic compass guiding every initiative.

The IFA's mission is not only about growing a sport—it's about doing so with integrity, inclusiveness, and global responsibility.

A Global Commitment

The IFA is committed to **promoting and developing Fistball around the world**, making it accessible and enjoyable to all communities, regardless of geography or economic status. But this mission goes beyond simply expanding the sport's footprint—it is deeply rooted in broader social values.

MISSION

Promote and develop Fistball around the world with a strong commitment to social and environmental sustainability, upholding the principles of good governance, safe sport and clean athletes' protection, democratizing the sport without gender distinction, and protecting it from all forms of violence, discrimination, and illegal practices in sports

Reason for the organization's existence. Reason why we gathered to do something that we can't do it alone

Sustainability at the Core

The mission reflects a **strong commitment to social and environmental sustainability**, aligning the sport with global efforts to address climate change, social equity, and community well-being. Whether through eco-friendly event planning or educational outreach, Fistball is positioned as a vehicle for positive change.

Governance and Integrity

IFA's mission emphasizes **upholding good governance**, including transparent leadership, ethical decision-making, and stakeholder engagement. This ensures the sport remains fair, credible, and respected internationally.

Athlete Protection and Clean Sport

Protecting athletes is paramount. The IFA upholds **safe sport practices and clean competition**, actively working to prevent abuse, exploitation, and doping. The organization ensures that athletes perform in an environment that prioritizes their health, dignity, and rights.

Equality and Inclusion

A key pillar of the mission is **gender equality and non-discrimination**. Fistball is promoted as a sport where all individuals—regardless of gender, race, religion, or background—can participate and succeed on equal terms.

Zero Tolerance for Misconduct

The IFA takes a firm stance against **violence, discrimination, and illegal practices in sports**, promoting a culture of respect and accountability at every level—from grassroots play to world championships.

Management summary: A Mission That Matters

In essence, the IFA's mission defines why the organization exists—to do something that cannot be done alone. It is a call to the global Fistball community to rise together in building a sport that is not only competitive and fun but also ethical, inclusive, and sustainable.

VISION: Uniting Purpose with Passion

At the core of IFA’s strategy lies a clear and motivating vision: to elevate Fistball into a globally respected, inclusive, and thriving sport. This vision reflects not only the aspirations of the federation but also the passion of its athletes, member associations, and fans worldwide.

The IFA provides:

- **A truly international sport** with participation across continents and cultures.
- **An athlete-centered ecosystem** that fosters well-being, safety, and personal development.
- **A respected presence** on the world stage, including steps toward Olympic recognition.
- **A sport that champions values** such as unity, transparency, and sustainability.



The phrase “Fistball as ONE” encapsulates the idea that only through collective effort can these ambitions be realized. Unity is not just a theme—it is a necessity.

Guiding Principles: The Core Values of the IFA

In every action, partnership, and game, the International Fistball Association (IFA) is guided by a set of foundational **values** that define its culture and shape its decisions. These values are more than slogans—they are **creeds shared across borders**, carried into every field of play, meeting room, and community project.



1. Friendship

At the heart of Fistball lies **Friendship**. The IFA believes that sport has the unique power to **build bridges, foster international understanding, and create lasting personal connections**. This value drives inclusive engagement—between countries, teams, athletes, and fans—making Fistball a platform for global unity.

2. Excellence

The pursuit of **Excellence** is a commitment to the highest standards in everything the IFA does. From the organization of world-class competitions to educational programs and governance, excellence means:

- Promoting fair play and integrity.
- Ensuring quality in execution.
- Constantly improving in all areas of the sport.

Excellence is not limited to the playing field—it defines how the IFA represents the sport globally.

3. Athlete-Centric

Being **Athlete-Centric** means placing the well-being, development, and voices of players at the core of every decision. The IFA ensures:

- Safe and inclusive environments.
- Transparent rules and pathways for growth.
- Support systems that nurture athletes' careers both on and off the field.

By prioritizing athletes, the IFA remains true to the spirit of sport—empowering individuals and celebrating their potential.

Management summary: Values in Action

These values—Friendship, Excellence, and Athlete-Centricity—are not situational. They are constants, guiding the IFA’s actions regardless of where or how it operates. They reflect a culture of respect, ambition, and humanity that defines not only the organization, but the global Fistball community it serves.

Strategic Plan: Expanding Our Global Impact Through Fistball

Introduction

At the heart of our mission is a simple but powerful goal: **contributing to a better world through Fistball**. As the International Fistball Association (IFA), we are committed to fostering global unity, promoting health and teamwork, and expanding the reach of our sport across the world. This strategic plan outlines the current scope of our environment and the foundational steps we will build upon to achieve lasting, sustainable growth.



Our Global Footprint

Our environment reflects an extensive and growing community:

- **80,000 Players:** Engaged athletes participating at various levels, from grassroots to elite international competition.
- **700 Clubs:** Local organizations driving development, training, and participation.
- **68 Countries:** A diverse representation across cultures and languages, reflecting the universal appeal of Fistball.
- **5 Continents:** A truly global presence, spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Oceania.

This international structure provides both a strong foundation and a compelling opportunity for strategic growth and impact.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure we stay on course, the IFA will:

- Set **annual benchmarks** for growth and engagement.
- Conduct **biannual reviews** of progress toward strategic goals.
- Publish a **public impact report** highlighting achievements and areas for improvement.
- Maintain a **flexible and adaptive approach** in response to global changes and opportunities.

Management summary

The International Fistball Association is more than an organization—it is a movement. With 80,000 players, 700 clubs, and representation in 68 countries on five continents, we are in a unique position to harness sport for global good. Our strategic plan is not just about numbers; it’s about building community, spreading joy, and contributing to a better world—one game at a time.

STRATEGIC GOALS: Turning Vision into Action

In its ongoing effort to strengthen its global role and enhance the growth of the sport, the International Fistball Association (IFA) has restructured its strategic plan around eight clearly defined Strategic Goals. These goals serve as the major drivers to achieve the mission, while aligning with IFA's values, principles, and long-term vision.

This reconstructed framework provides a solid foundation for action, guiding IFA's strategic efforts in governance, development, communication, and international recognition.



IFA Strategic Goals

1. IOC RECOGNITION

Achieving formal recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a key objective. It symbolizes international legitimacy and opens the door to broader opportunities, including inclusion in multi-sport events and access to new resources.

2. ATHLETE-CENTRIC APPROACH

Athletes are at the heart of all IFA activities. This goal emphasizes policies, programs, and decisions that prioritize athlete well-being, development, fair play, and competitive opportunities.

3. STRENGTHEN SPORT GOOD GOVERNANCE

IFA's commitment to Strengthen Sport Good Governance ensures transparent, ethical, and accountable leadership. This approach is fully aligned with the IOC's Agenda 2020+5 and the governance principles of the Olympic Charter, reinforcing credibility and long-term sustainability in the sport of fistball.

4. FOCUS ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT

The future of fistball depends on youth engagement. This goal focuses on developing programs for schools and young players, fostering a love for the sport from an early age and building the next generation of athletes and fans.

5. INTEGRATE GOVERNANCE WITH MEMBERSHIP

Strengthening the connection between governance structures and member federations ensures more inclusive, responsive, and unified decision-making. It promotes a cooperative environment where all voices are heard.

6. STRATEGICAL COMMUNICATION

Effective communication supports all strategic goals. IFA aims to enhance its internal and external communication strategies to better connect with stakeholders, media, sponsors, and the global sports community.

7. HIGH QUALITY FISTBALL EVENTS

Delivering professional, engaging, and well-organized events is essential to the sport's visibility and appeal. This goal seeks to raise standards across all IFA competitions and tournaments.

8. SUSTAINABLE FISTBALL GROWTH

Long-term success depends on sustainability. IFA focuses on expanding the sport in a responsible and balanced way, ensuring that growth benefits all regions and levels of the fistball community.

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