



2021 IFAF ANNUAL CONGRESS
MINUTES

11 DECEMBER, 2021



**INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION**
OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Introductory Note

The 2021 IFAF Congress was held virtually due to travel restrictions relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Congress Date

Date: December 11, 2021

Participating Nations

Argentina	Korea
Australia	Luxembourg
Austria	Malaysia
Brazil	Mexico
Canada	New Zealand
Chile	Norway
Colombia	Panama
Czechia	Poland
Denmark	Russia
Egypt	Serbia
Finland	Slovakia
France	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Great Britain	Uganda
Guatemala	Ukraine
Hungary	Uruguay
India	United States of America
Ireland	
Israel	
Italy	
Japan	
Kenya	

IFAF Leadership Present

Richard MacLean: President
Scott Hallenbeck: Vice President
Mac Kaneuji: Director of Development
Marie Solhaug: Director of Finance
Dr Gregor Murth: Continental Director
Dr KK Park: Continental Director
Michael Ryan: Continental Director
Jaime Carrizo: Continental Director
George Alwanga: Continental Director
Kasper Linden: Director of Competitions
Andy Fuller: Managing Director

Agenda

Registration.

Roll call of attendees and declaration of calling of Congress.

The names of delegates registered to represent their respective nations were called out.

The nations represented at the 2021 IFAF Congress are listed in Participating Nations.

Opening Speech from the President of IFAF

IFAF President Richard MacLean welcomed all representatives of participating nations.

The President thanked all nations for their continued efforts to develop football despite the challenges faced by the pandemic. He thanked the IFAF Executive Board and personnel for their continued efforts in delivering against the IFAF agenda and he paid tribute to those involved in the delivery of the 2021 IFAF Flag Football World Championships – staged amidst the most challenging of circumstances.

The President concluded by laying out the Agenda of Congress.

1. Appointment of two scrutineers.

The President requested the nomination of two scrutineers to oversee the electoral votes and the votes on any Motions or matters arising.

Two candidates offered to act as Scrutineers:

Javier L'Episcopo (Argentina)
Aiden Maguire (Ireland)

Both candidates were proposed by Brazil and seconded by Chile.

Both candidates were accepted by Congress.

2. Appointment of three delegates to whom the Minutes must be submitted to for review.

The President requested nominations for three delegates to whom the Minutes must be submitted for review.

Three candidates offered to act as delegates.

Ryan Horning (United States)
Richard Vogt (Norway)
Gregor Murth (IFAF Executive Board)

The candidates were proposed by Ireland and seconded by Sweden.

All three candidates were accepted by Congress.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the 2020 Congress.

The President asked whether all members had reviewed the Minutes from the 2020 Congress and whether there were any matters arising.

No matters were raised.

The President called for members to propose that the Minutes to be accepted.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the 2020 Congress was proposed by Eric Mayes (United States). This was seconded by Javier L'Episcopo (Argentina).

The Minutes were accepted unanimously.

4. Report of the Executive Board covering the period of the last year.

President Richard MacLean started by thanking all those Executive Board members who were stepping down from their roles at the conclusion of Congress. He praised their commitment to the sport, to the membership and to the Federation. It was, he said, part of their legacy that the Federation was now in a stable position both financially and politically and had made great strides in its governance.

The President's report focused upon three primary areas:

Progress – in which the focus was on capacity-building IFAF, the final resolution of outstanding legal matters, and the impact which IFAF had made in delivering against its strategy. The President touched upon the financial stability of the Federation but highlighted that this would be dealt with in greater detail in the financial report.

Current Focus – in which the President outlined the work being undertaken by independent experts on discipline and ethics; the launch of the equality and diversity programme; the need to ensure greater sovereignty in its work – creating a clearer divide between the Federation's governance and that of its members; and the relaunch of competition following COVID uncertainty.

Priorities – in which the President spoke of the need to strengthen athlete representation; explore ways in which revenue could be generated beyond the traditional model, and the ways in which education can be further embedded in IFAF's work – from coach and officials to sustainability, disability and clean sport.

The President's report concluded by highlighting the progress made in securing full IOC recognition. The key areas which IFAF needed to address were outlined.

A copy of the Report would be circulated post Congress.

5. Presentation of the latest financial statement.

President Richard MacLean thanked Marie Solhaug for her work on managing IFAF's finances.

The Financial Statement for the previous year was circulated in advance of the meeting.

President Richard MacLean asked for any questions on the Financial Report to be raised.

One question was raised relating to the value of IFAF loan / debt to member nations. Andy Fuller presented the relevant section of the Statement highlighting the amount as it stood. It was highlighted that the figures would be reduced through 2021 following repayments.

President Richard MacLean asked for Congress to approve the Financial Statement.

Argentina proposed the Financial Statement be accepted. This was seconded by Australia.

Congress approved the acceptance of the Financial Statement.

6. 2022 budgeting and activity - 2022 Membership Fee confirmation

Andy Fuller presented the proposed budget for 2022.

Prior to presenting the figures, a presentation was made on the budgeting principles for 2022. The three core areas were:

Principles of budgeting – which covered global activity, continental activity, and investing in specific projects. This included a focus upon ensuring that IFAF invested in leading consultancies and people to deliver expert support for and on behalf of IFAF;

Revenue and Investment – which covered membership, international transfers, events and competition, and projects and,

Diversifying and building revenue – which covered understanding and leveraging assets, the IFAF Foundation, and grants.

The budget followed the same formula as presented in 2020.

The budget projection showed a slight deficit – principally based around the higher costs associated with ensuring Congress was delivered at The World Games 2022 and there being only one global championship with a limited number of nations competing. This was not a concern in regard to the bottom line of IFAF's operating cash flow but it did speak to the need to generate more income from a more diverse range of sources.

The principle area of expenditure that required a focus was upon clean sport. IFAF remained committed to continuing to work with the CCES and consultants to deliver on its anti-doping commitments. Where possible there would be an incremental rise in the amount invested in

this work – from education to testing. It was also noted that as IFAF increases testing, there is a greater chance of adverse findings. Extra costs would therefore be incurred.

Costs around legal action were now reduced given the resolution of matters in Germany.

A question was raised regarding the international transfers and the value placed being relatively small. Andy Fuller highlighted that this was evidence-based and built upon transfers reviewed in the previous year. It may end up being higher but that was not guaranteed – hence the conservative estimate.

The discussion concluded with Andy Fuller highlighting that it is likely that in order to invest, the IFAF Membership Fee should be reviewed. That however, should be considered in advance of the 2022 Congress so nations have time to prepare for 2023. At this point in time it is proposed that the membership fees remain the same.

President Richard MacLean asked for Congress to approve the Proposed Budget.

Australia proposed the Financial Statement be accepted. This was seconded by Great Britain.

Congress approved the acceptance of the Financial Statement.

7. Membership of Nations - confirmation of status

Andy Fuller noted that no nation had formally requested to become an Associate Member prior to Congress but it was recognised that a small number of nations that are existing Allied Members may do so in early 2022 following discussions with their National Olympic Committees / National Sporting Agencies.

As such, Andy Fuller proposed that the Executive Board be in a position to review requests from Allied Members to become Associate Members in early 2022 and decide accordingly.

The proposal was seconded by Serbia.

The proposal was accepted by Congress.

8. Consideration of any Motion sent according to the Statutes and proposals by the Executive Board.

The Motion proposed was by the Executive Board.

The General Assembly mandates the Council to create a non-profit organisation with its registered office in England, under the name "International Federation of American Football - IFAF" during the year 2022, in order to succeed the French Association "International Federation of American Football - IFAF" with effect from 1st January 2023.

The General Assembly gives full powers to the President for the registration of this organisation in the United Kingdom

Andy Fuller gave a presentation on the rationale for the move. This related to acceptance of a move of the Legal Seat by a previous Congress. The Board wished to be transparent in the process so sought to update Congress prior to any transfer.

Member nations discussed the merits of a move. A number highlighted that there could also be financial benefits from locating to certain countries.

Canada proposed that the Motion be stayed until such time it can be further reviewed.

The Motion was seconded by Austria.

Congress approved the Motion to Stay.

The legal seat will remain in France through 2022 and until such time Congress approves a transfer.

9. Election of Board Members for the period 2021 to 2024.

IFAF President Richard MacLean listed the positions available for election and the candidates which stood for each of the positions. It was noted that only one position was contested.

The President invited each candidate to make a short speech prior to each position being elected.

Andy Fuller explained the voting system which had been circulated prior to Congress. Two nations raised concerns about their understanding of the process. Following a discussion, it was agreed that members would register their vote via email directly to the two scrutineers.

Candidates:

President: Pierre Trochet – elected by Congress

Vice President: Scott Hallenbeck – elected by Congress

Director of Finance: Michael Eschlbock – elected by Congress

Director of Development: contested between Makoto Koshi and Felipe Pereira. Makoto Koshi elected by majority of Congress.

General Secretary: Jim Mullin – elected by Congress.

Director of Competitions: Roope Noronen – elected by Congress.

Scott Hallenbeck was elected for a second term for this role. All other candidates were elected to the role for their first term.

10. Any Other Business.

A presentation was made by the organisers of the Aer Lingus College Football Classic in Ireland.

10. Congress 2022 – Alabama, United States of America

IFAF President Richard MacLean confirmed that the 2022 Congress would be held to coincide with The World Games 2022 and booking details had been circulated.

11. Closure of Congress

IFAF President Richard MacLean wished the new Executive Board well and closed the 2021 IFAF Congress.

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Ends

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