

# 2024 IFAF ANNUAL CONGRESS MINUTES

Lausanne, Switzerland  
December 7, 2024



# Introductory Note

The 2024 IFAF Annual Congress was held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland

## IFAF Representatives and Meeting Administrators

### IFAF Board Members

- Pierre Trochet, IFAF President
- Scott Hallenbeck, IFAF Vice President
- Makoto Koshi, IFAF Director of Development
- Michael Eschlbock, IFAF Financial Director
- Roope Noronen, IFAF Director of Competitions
- Diana Flores, IFAF Athlete Representative
- Javier L'Episcopo, IFAF Continental Director, Americas
- Daryll Nathaniel, IFAF Continental Director, Asia
- Russell McConnochie, IFAF Continental Director, Oceania
- Awasum E.M. Jr., IFAF Continental Director, Africa
- Gregor Murth, IFAF Continental Director, Europe

### Guest

- Brett Gosper, NFL

### IFAF Staff

- Andy Fuller, IFAF Managing Director
- Nicole Grohar, Business & Finance Executive Assistant
- Tristan Genet, IFAF TV

### Key Personnel

- Jason E. Robinson, CP, (IFAF Parliamentarian)
- Marie Jamet (Earvin and Lew)
- Neal Lachmany (Earvin and Lew)
- Minute Taker: Michael Preston, IFAF

## Pre-Congress Addresses

### Opening Remarks

IFAF President Pierre Trochet

- Welcomed participants to Lausanne, Switzerland

Claudio Spescha, President of host federation Schweizerische American Football Verband (SAFV)

- Welcomed delegates to Lausanne, Switzerland

Pierre Trochet gave approval for Jim Mullin to open Congress as Chair at 10.07am

Jim Mullin highlighted the Rules of the Meeting

Roll Call / Declaration of Quorum

### Participating Nations

Full Members x3 votes	Associate Members x1 vote	Allied Members
Austria	Cameroon	Gambia
Australia	Chile	Ghana
Canada	Georgia	Hong Kong, China
Czechia	India	Jordan
Denmark	Ireland	Kenya
Finland	Korea	Luxembourg
France	Kuwait	Malaysia
Germany	New Zealand	Nicaragua
Great Britain	Netherlands	Nigeria
Israel	Poland	Samoa, American
Italy	Slovakia	South Africa
Japan	Türkiye	Zimbabwe
Mexico		
Norway		
Panama		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
United States		

There were 51 full member votes present plus 10 associate member votes for a total of 61 votes.

IFAF Congress Called to Order: 10:22 CET

- Meeting was called to order by IFAF President Pierre Trochet
- Jim Mullin was nominated to chair the meeting and there were no objections

Member Nations had been invited to send delegates to attend in person  
Member nations eligible to vote were able to do so at the Congress venue

## Voting

Voting was managed by an independent third party: Sport Law.

- 27 voting delegates representing 61 votes were confirmed by Managing Director Andy Fuller
- IFAF General Secretary Jim Mullin declared a quorum – meeting is duly called

IFAF President Pierre Trochet delivered his opening speech, reviewing the successful flag football and tackle events played in Finland and Canada and thanking the hosting nations.

President Trochet detailed an increasing interest in hosting IFAF events from multiple and that Africa has now been included in international competition and that the continent has shown growth.

The passion and commitment of IFAF members was recognised and it was noted that with growth comes the challenge of managing finances and that IFAF has adapted and learned to face those challenges.

President Trochet thanked member delegates for making 2024 memorable and assured them that IFAF and its members have the power to take our sport to greater heights with new and old federations part of a global movement that is changing lives.

## Appointment of Scrutineer

Jason E. Robinson, Neal Lachmany and Marie Jamet were appointed as meeting scrutineers by Jim Mullin with no objections.

## Appointment of Minutes Reviewers

Jim Mullin invited nominations for delegates who will read these Congress minutes for review:

Dagh Schwartz-Kristensen, Denmark  
Eric Mayes, USA  
Luis Navas, Panama

## Approval of 2023 Congress Minutes

The Minutes from the 2023 Congress were approved

## 2023 Financial Report

Delivered by Michael Eschlbock, IFAF Financial Director

- IFAF is grateful to the NFL for their support, which has enabled many initiatives.
- Notable that in the past 25 years, many federations who started with nothing now have healthy budgets.
- The Olympic recognition now opens opportunities for members to generate funding that was not previously available.
- IFAF income is rising.
- Having Flag Football as an Olympic sport creates an opportunity for every federation and strengthens the IFAF relationship with the NFL.
- The 2025 budget is to be approved by the board following elections.

Confirmation of auditor Julien Legrand

Andy Fuller proposed that IFAF continues with membership of Accord Sport for the next fiscal year.

No objections

Approved

## Report of the Executive Board

Report of the Executive Board covering the period of the last year by IFAF Managing Director Andy Fuller.

- Congratulated Canada for winning gold on home soil at the 2024 IFAF U20 World Junior Championships in Edmonton and for their junior development, which continues to be outstanding.
- USA again provided world class entertainment, athletes and coaching to defend their FFWC titles, living up to their moniker of the 'gold standard' as usual.
- There was much to celebrate off the field as following on from securing IOC recognition, IFAF received full membership of The World Games association.
- The World Games is a fantastic partner and IFAF is honoured and privileged to be a part of that relationship.
- Equally fantastic in terms of competitions was the IFAF Flag Football World Championship held in Finland. Andy Fuller thanked the Finnish federation, the Pajulahti Olympic Centre, athletes, coaches, and officials, who made it the biggest and most successful tournament held by IFAF.
- A snapshot of the milestones reached in 2024: International Society for the Advancement of Kinanthropometry (ISAK) study of athletes, ITO study of officials, Headcheck Health, Syzmik Research, Integrity Commission.
- IFAF conducted a record number of anti-doping tests in 2024.
- IFAF saw significant growth of its digital footprint: web, social, IFAF TV, particularly during tournaments.
- Sustainability was prioritised within IFAF activities.
- Developing IFAF's commercial portfolio to enable reducing costs to members and creating new partnerships.

- Thanked multiple IFAF staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to ensure IFAF's success.

## Presentations

IFAF welcomed support and presentations from the following contributors and partners:

Janie Soubliere, Sports Law

- Outlined role and the independence and impartiality of the Health and Integrity Unit

Tim Enger, Executive Director, Football Alberta

- Provided a summary of the 2024 IFAF U20 World Junior Championships

Tristan Genet, IFAF

- Presented a summary of the 2024 success of IFAF TV

Michael Preston, IFAF

- Provided a summary of digital and media activities

Steve Arzoni, Syzmik

- Presented the popularity of Syzmik head gear among flag football athletes

—Congress Break at 11:57 CET—

Kit McConnell, Sport Director of the IOC addressed the Congress

—Congress resumed at 13:39 CET—

## Presentations

Diana Flores, IFAF Athlete Representative presented

- Connecting IFAF decisions and activities to athletes
- IOC initiative 365
- Details of the election Athletes Representatives in 2025

## 2025 Activity Plan

Presented by IFAF Managing Director Andy Fuller

- 2025 Competitions: Continental Championships, The World Games
- Governance
- Membership
- Competition
- Themed Work
- Commercial
- IFAF will maintain membership fees for federations in 2025

## Presentations

IFAF welcomed support and presentations from the following contributors and partners:

Mohammad Amer, Jordan American Football Association

- Global sports management scholarship opportunities

Jeremy Blondin, Playground

- European Continental Flag Football Championships

Ali Rafeek, President, Egypt Federation of American Football

- African Continental Flag Football Championships

Luis Navas, AFFP, Panama

- 2025 Americas Continental Flag Football Championships

Kevin Fuchs, AFBO, Austria

- 2025 European Youth Flag Football Championships

Andy Fuller, IFAF

- 2025 Asia / Oceania Flag Football Championships

Afia Law NFL Flag Football International

- Accessibility and current state of NFL Flag internationally
- 2.3m youth participants in 15 markets
- NFL Flag international tournaments
- US college scholarship opportunities

Matt Lesser, Wilson

- Developing the ultimate ball for flag football

Babajide Akeredolu, Nigeria

- Nigeria Case Study

Gee Griffiths, British American Football Association

- The growth of Wheelchair Football in the UK
- Showcasing the sport at the Invictus Games in 2027
- Invited all federations to start wheelchair basketball programs

—Congress Break at 15:04 CET—

—Congress resumed at 15:20 CET—

## Membership of Nations

Managing Director Andy Fuller provided an update.

- IFAF received requests from four Allied members for Associate membership for 2024:
  - Kenya: Associate Member
  - Indonesia: Associate Member
  - Jordan: Associate Member
  - Malaysia: Associate Member

- Andy Fuller endorsed their membership
- IFAF received a request from one new member for Associate membership for 2024:
  - China: Associate Member
- Andy Fuller endorsed their membership
- Kuwait proposed
- Australia seconded
- Vote: Unanimous
- Motion carried
- Kenya, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia and China approved as an IFAF Associate members

Jim Mullin relinquished chair to IFAF Parliamentarian Jason Robinson to chair the Congress to conduct the Electoral Process

## Election of Board Members for period of 2024-2028

Sports Law committee reviewed and approved the voting process.

The electoral process was explained

Candidates for six positions:

President Pierre Trochet, France  
 Vice President Jim Mullin, Canada  
 General Secretary Eric Mayes, USA  
 Director of Sport Development Makoto Koshi, Japan  
 Director of Sport Development Russell McConnochie, New Zealand  
 Director of Competitions Fabio Tortosa, Italy  
 Director of Finance Uras Aslan, Turkiye

Pierre Trochet presented

- The candidate fielded questions
- Pierre Trochet was elected as President

Jim Mullin presented

- Jim Mullin was elected as Vice President

Eric Mayes presented

- Eric Mayes was elected as General Secretary

Makoto Koshi presented

- The candidate fielded questions

Russell McConnochie presented

- The candidate fielded questions
- Russell McConnochie was elected as Director of Sport Development
- Russell McConnochie resigned as IFAF Continental Director, Oceania

Fabio Tortosa presented

- The candidate fielded a question
- Fabio Tortosa was elected as Director of Competitions

Uras Aslan presented

- Uras Aslan was elected as Director of Finance

Jim Mullin resumed chair of the Congress to conduct the Electoral Process

Jim Mullin thanked the outgoing board members for their service

## Any Other Business

Andy Fuller confirmed IFAF is in discussions to return to Lausanne for Congress in 2025

## Final Remarks

IFAF President Pierre Trochet noted this was the most diverse Congress in IFAF history, thanked members for their commitment, and thanked the City of Lausanne for their partnership.

## Adjournment – Closure of Congress

Closure of Congress by Pierre Trochet at 17:37 CET

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