

IF Sustainability Case Study  
**TEAMING UP FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY**



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## IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC

conducted the International Federations (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016. This allowed the IOC to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identify

common topics, good practices and mutual challenges; and share information. One of the Project’s outcomes was a series of case studies, illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting, it was agreed that the identification and

sharing of IF sustainability case studies should be continued. These case studies form part of the enhanced support system provided to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. The studies are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’

(UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement since in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that

sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The UN’s 17 SDGs provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. The IF case studies attest to the fact that the Olympic Movement contributes to the achievement of many of these.



*“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”*

*Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Each IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



## THE WFDF AND THE IFA HAVE JOINED FORCES TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOR THEIR EVENTS

The International Fistball Association (IFA) and the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) aim to place sustainable development at the core of their organisations to create positive economic, social and environmental impacts through their operations and events.

The limited resources of both International Federations (IFs) encouraged them to collaborate, sharing information and resources on different topics including sustainability. As a result, they have been able to provide a higher level of support to their National Federations (NFs) and Local Organising Committees (LOCs).

The WFDF and the IFA began their sustainability collaboration in 2017 with three main initiatives:

### 1. Committing to sustainability as part of their governance

The IFs have included content related to sustainability in their documents and reports, and have added sustainability-related criteria to the bidding processes for their events.

### 2. Providing resources for the development and implementation of a sustainability strategy

The WFDF appointed a Sustainability Officer to create and elaborate the necessary documents and sustainability tools for both IFs.

### 3. Conducting sustainability evaluations at events

The IFs developed a sustainability assessment template to evaluate various aspects of their events, including crowd circulation and transport, energy and water, waste, site selection and construction, noise, food, and other ethical and social questions. The template was tested at the WFDF 2017 World Championships of Beach Ultimate (WCBU) in Royan, France, where the key assessments included those shown below.

- **Avoiding waste**  
To avoid single-use plastic bottles, the LOC provided athletes with free access



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**“SUSTAINABILITY IS AT THE HEART OF OUR SPORTS. THROUGH OUR COLLABORATION, WE REACH MORE PEOPLE, RAISE AWARENESS WITH OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGE THEM IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.”**

**JOHANNA VON TOGGENBURG,  
WFDF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER**

### OBJECTIVES

The IFA and WFDF have teamed up to work on creating a sustainability strategy in order to:

- Integrate sustainability in all aspects of their activities and events.
- Provide LOCs with clear directives to help them stage sustainable events.
- Demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.



### LESSONS LEARNED

- Collaborating with another IF, or another partner with a similar vision and objectives, may allow you to share resources and reduce costs.
- It is vital for your IF to make an early connection with LOCs planning an event.
- Hiring a sustainability expert and establishing a sustainability commission may help you evaluate your current position and develop a sustainability strategy.



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to potable tap water, plus a reusable eco-cup, plate and cutlery. Each athlete had to pay a deposit for these items, a scheme designed to ensure their reuse and eventual return. As a result, the LOC reduced the amount of single-use plastic by approximately 50 per cent. The LOC provided food in large reusable boxes instead of small single packages, and any leftover food was donated to a local farm.

#### • Transportation

The LOC provided bicycles to athletes and volunteers.

#### • Community involvement

The LOC's interaction with the local community through educational activities was key for social development, and will help to create a positive impact after the event.

#### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The WCBU evaluation has created a baseline for the IFA and the WFDF, establishing key areas, weaknesses and opportunities to monitor at future events, aiming to demonstrate commitment to sustainability to their stakeholders.

