

Sustainability: Strategy and Action Plan

Background

As an international sport federation with one hundred and seventeen (117) Members and growing, the World Flying Disc Federation has acknowledged sustainability as a crucial part of the organization’s strategic priorities.

To formalize its commitment and align with the international sports community to ensure the holistic impact that the sport has on creating a more sustainable world, WFDF:

- Was a founding member of Sport and Sustainability International in 2017
- Appointed its first-ever Sustainability Officer in 2017
- Jointly developed and implemented its first Sustainability Strategy with the International Fistball Association (IFA) in 2017
- Joined the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2020
- Signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - Sport for Climate Action Framework and Race To Zero in 2020
- Signed the Sport for Nature Framework in 2024

This document represents an update to the 2017 Strategy.

United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and Sports

In 2015, one hundred and ninety-three (193) countries, all of the members of the United Nations, agreed to adopt the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals.



The Sustainable Development Goals are a framework of goals, targets and indicators that map out precisely what the world needs to do to address its most pressing issues by the year 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals can be seen as a shared blueprint, incorporating three (3) core overlapping principles on which sustainability is built and sustainable development achieved:

- **Planet:** Protecting the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.
- **People:** Ending poverty and hunger, in all its forms, and ensuring that all human beings can fulfill their potential, with dignity and equality, and in a healthy environment.
- **Prosperity:** Ensuring that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Sports were specifically highlighted to play an important role in the achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals: “Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

The Olympic Movement and Sustainability

In 2014, the International Olympic Committee published the “Olympic Agenda 2020”, which set the organization’s strategic roadmap. Sustainability was identified as one (1) of core three (3) pillars and touches many of the forty (40) recommendations, in addition to being specifically highlighted in two (2):

- Recommendation 4: Include sustainability in aspects of the Olympic Games
- Recommendation 5: Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations

Following this, sustainability was further embedded in the International Olympic Committee’s mission, management and decision-making.

In 2017, the International Olympic Committee published its Sustainability Strategy, formally identifying focus areas, key objectives and policies.



Furthermore in 2021, the “Olympic Agenda 2020+5” was adopted, building on the previous progress. The set of fifteen (15) new recommendations was inspired by contemporary trends, one (1) of which was sustainable development, highlighting its growing importance and impact.

Purpose

WFDF recognizes that it must embrace sustainability to protect the sport in the future and maximize its positive impact and influence it has as a force for good across several areas, and continues to highlight itself as an ethical, responsible and innovative federation.

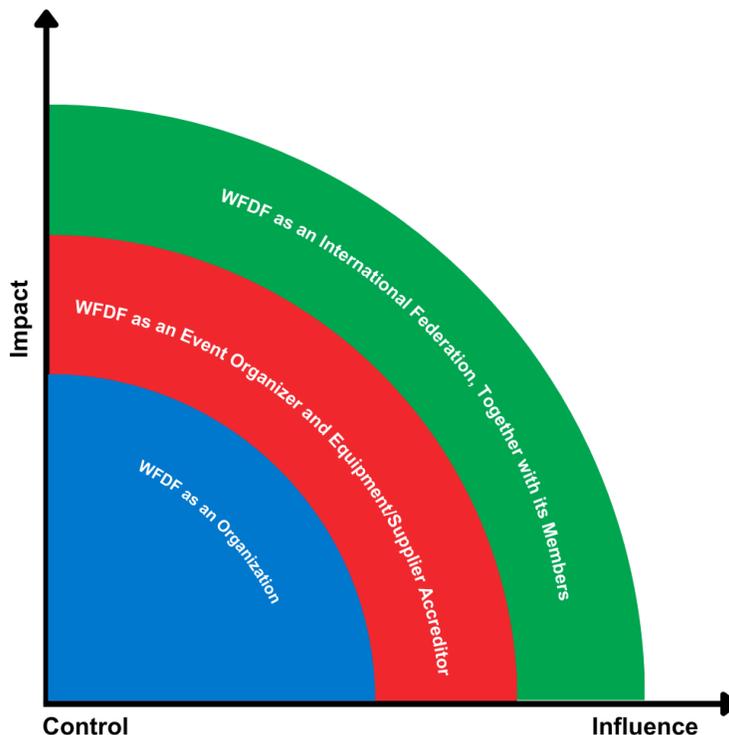
The Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan outlines WFDF's ambitions and targets for progressing this across various areas in the organization, its Members, communities and the sport globally.

Spheres of Influence

To define a long-term strategic approach regarding sustainability, define WFDF’s role and activities in different spheres and the relative degrees of control and influence it can bear.

WFDF’s spheres of influence related to sustainability are as follows:

- **WFDF as an Organization:** Leading by example.
- **WFDF as an Event Organizer and Equipment/Supplier Accreditor:** Supporting and empowering WFDF events, equipment manufacturers and suppliers.
- **WFDF as an International Federation, Together with its Members:** As an influencer and global community of Members, players, fans, coaches and others.



Action Plan

The Action Plan defines the steps that WFDF will be taking ahead:

Sphere of Influence	Goals and Actions
WFDF as an Organization	<p>Define the scope and action of sustainability efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish Sustainability and Legacy Commission • Update and implement the Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan • Establish baseline data, indicators and goals, monitor and report on ongoing progress annually <p>Act as a personal leader in sustainability action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement policies and processes to source ongoing organizational needs (i.e., flights, accommodations, meals, administrative supplies, etc.), optimize resources and design a more circular economy • Progress positively in minimizing/offsetting organizational impact • Create, manage and engage with partnerships and opportunities to advance sustainability in the sport and wider movement
WFDF as an Event Organizer and Equipment/Supplier Accreditor	<p>Host sustainable events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimize events to minimize the negative impact on sustainability (e.g., calendar, bulletin/deadline publications, etc.) • Develop and implement standards and guidelines on event sustainability • Integrate such standards and guidelines in the bidding, planning, operations and evaluation of events • Progress in minimizing/offsetting event negative impacts

Sphere of Influence	Goals and Actions
	<p>Ensure equipment and other suppliers are conscious of sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and promote standards, guidelines and best practices on equipment and other suppliers' production and general sustainability
<p>WFDF as an International Federation</p>	<p>Create a conscious and sustainability-focused Flying Disc community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the Sustainability Strategy and Action plan clearly and publicly Share milestones, achievements, good practices and participate in/create campaigns Promote sustainability through impactful initiatives (e.g., International Spirit of the Game Day, etc.) and encourage participation and engagement Review and adjust communications strategy to promote the sport with a lens of sustainability, specifically diversity, equity and inclusion, eliminating stereotypes and bias <p>Ensure sustainability action is accessible to all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and promote guidelines/handbooks/toolkits/policies/education on various sustainability focus areas (e.g., gender equality, climate action, economic growth, etc.) for Members and stakeholders in general Develop, implement and support programs and activities on various sustainability focus areas (e.g., female matching coaching courses, disc donation program, development funding program, Wheelchair Ultimate, advancing leadership with diversity, equity and inclusion, Spirit of the Game for peace and justice, etc.) for Members and stakeholders in general Develop and implement event, activity and/or program certification process/label and/or recognition awards Develop, implement and expand learning opportunities through WFDF Academy to educate more athletes, coaches and other stakeholders at scale Identify and highlight good practices within the community through Sustainability Hub and social media Consult and collaborate with academia and practitioners about research linked to the sport and its impact on sustainability Review and evaluate the allocation of development program funding to target specific, high-need, impactful and sustainable projects Support Members in implementing, monitoring and reporting on sustainability Evaluate and adjust rules, policies and procedures to reduce inequalities and promote opportunities for diversity, equality and inclusion, and ensure the health, safety and well-being of all stakeholders

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Inspired by the International Olympic Committee, WFDF will follow a management systems approach to deliver the Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

This management system will rely on the following elements:

- A Strategy and Action Plan, approved by the Board of Directors, formalizing commitment to sustainability principles and continuous improvement
- Defined roles and responsibilities regarding sustainability in the organization, Strategy and Action Plan
- Dedicated financial, human and technical resources to implement and monitor the Strategy and Action Plan
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to ensure an appropriate level of knowledge and competency
- Processes, tools and indicators to monitor and measure progress
- Transparent communication on reporting progress, challenges and lessons learned
- Ongoing dialogue with stakeholders



Diagram via International Olympic Committee

WFDF's website, social media and events will be important channels for communicating Flying Disc sports' sustainability journey.

WFDF will work with Members and event hosts to support and reinforce the communication of their sustainability initiatives.

WFDF will formally report on the Sustainability and Action Plan annually via the Sustainability and Legacy Commission to Congress, and investigate its capacity to conform with internationally recognized reporting standards.

References

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Version History

Version	Date	Approval	Notes
1.0	2017-10-01	Board	Initial document creation with IFA.
2.0	2025-05-18	Board	Updated to reflect best practices.