



Minutes of the Congress of the International Federation of American Football  
November 2 2019  
London, England

Federations present:

<b>National Federations of</b>	<b>Name of Lead Delegate</b>	<b>Status</b>
Norway	Richard Vogt	Full
Israel	Steve Leibowitz	Full
Sweden	Minette Rogner	Full
Canada	Jim Mullin	Full
Finland	Roope Noronen	Full
Australia	Darrin Mitchell	Full
Great Britain	David Parsons	Full
Italy	Marco Quercio	Full
Austria	Michael Eschlboeck	Full
Spain	Javier Carrasco	Full
United States	Michael Hollowell	Full
France	Pierre Trochet	Full
Japan	Makoto Koshi	Full
Denmark	Lars Carlsen	Full
Brazil	Felipe Pereira	Associate
Serbia	Branko Vučinić	Associate
Ireland	Ross Neville	Associate
Czechia	Michal Rosival	Associate
Belgium	Christophe Olenaed	Associate
India	Namdev Shirgaonkar	Associate
Egypt	Ali Rafeek	Allied
Kenya	Moses Ondeng	Allied
DR Congo	Plante Mbuka	Allied
Zimbabwe	Gamuchirai Chigumbura	Allied

Organizations present:

**Will Bryce –NFL London**  
**Damani Leech – NFL COO International**  
**Andrew Hofer - IOC Representative**  
**Billy Gannon – CCES**  
**Ken Li - AFU**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Richard MacLean, IFAF President, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with welcoming address to the Congress.

**Presentation One– NFL – Damani Leech**

Slide presentation provided by NFL on their strategy to grow the sport internationally.

**Presentation Two– CCES – Billy Gannon**

Slide presentation provided on relationship between the CCES and IFAF in terms of anti-doping.



### 1. Appointment of Scrutineers

Delegates from the following nations were identified as Scrutineers for voting during the proceedings.

<b><u>Scrutineer 1:</u></b>	Denmark
<b><u>Scrutineer 2:</u></b>	Egypt
<b><u>Scrutineer 3:</u></b>	India
<b><u>Appointments proposed by:</u></b>	Nominated and accepted from the floor
<b><u>Appointments seconded by:</u></b>	No Objections
<b><i>Discussions:</i></b>	No discussions entered
<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	All in Favour

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### 2. Appointment of three delegates to confirm the Congress Minutes.

<b><u>Delegate 1:</u></b>	Belgium
<b><u>Delegate 2:</u></b>	France
<b><u>Delegate 3:</u></b>	Norway
<b><u>Appointments proposed by:</u></b>	Nominated and accepted from the floor
<b><u>Appointments seconded by:</u></b>	No Objections
<b><i>Discussions:</i></b>	No discussions entered

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### 3. Approval of the Minutes from the Preceding Congress: 2018 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2018 Congress in Panama City, Panama as distributed by the Executive Board

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b>	Australia
<b><u>Second:</u></b>	Canada
<b><i>Discussion:</i></b>	Addition of Austria as being Present and having voting rights
<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	All in Favour

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#### 4. Report of the Executive Board

Motion to approve report of Executive Board.

**Discussion:**

The review opened with a reflection that over the course of the last 12 months we have been fortunate to have delivered three continental championships in Europe that have been delivered to a particularly high standard. Israel hosted the European Flag Football Championships delivering an outstanding tournament; Italy hosted the U19 Championship, and Great Britain hosted the Women's European Championship.

The Executive Board were extremely impressed with how each nation interacted with IFAF and our members and delivered a tournament that was extremely well done.

IFAF continues its development work, largely funded through a generous Recognised Federation grant. A strategy has been created to assist with the development of nations across the African continent and in other parts of the world in line with funding requirements. This is a current and ongoing program focusing on anti-doping, coaching, governance, player development, and officiating,

The Managing Director then provided a governance update, outlining the conclusions drawn from the recent GAISF / ITrustSport review of IFAF's policies and procedures. The presentation clarified the governance structure of IFAF and outlined the steps IFAF would take to further capacity-build against the structures documented in the Statutes, in particular in regard to a renewed Athlete Commission.

Mr Richard Maclean in conclusion thanked the Managing Director for his efforts and commitment to IFAF over the last 12 months.

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#### 5. Vote on the approval of the Executive Board Report

Motion to approve the Annual Executive Board Report

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b>	USA
<b><u>Second:</u></b>	Finland
<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	Passed - All in Favour – Motion Carried

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#### 6. Presentation of the Annual Financial Report by the Director

**for Finance**

***Discussion:***

The historic situation of IFAF's finances post 2015 was outlined. IFAF finds itself in a position whereby monies in the French-based IFAF account prior to the account being frozen have been lost; In addition, money was removed from the account whilst the account was frozen. IFAF is in the process of working on recovering the latter and continues to seek to establish a full picture of what left the account from 2015 onwards and where it went.

The Director for Finance handed over to the Managing Director who presented the full spreadsheet framework used to manage income and expenditure. This showed the income statement, balance sheet, cash activity, receivables, loans payable, NET Assets, revenues and expenses.

The Executive Board confirmed that IFAF has significant loans from a small amount of nations that funded the cases which were brought to resolve the governance issues and defend IFAF where required.



IFAF is committed to work to continue running the sport as well as repaying debts owed to these members so they are not disadvantaged for an extended period. These are managed through multi-year repayment plans

A payment plan is in place with Gridiron Australia to reimburse them for initial costs associated with the 2019 World Championship which was postponed due to a lack of nations confirming attendance.

The Executive Board confirmed that in order to meet core obligations revenue had been centralized and as such, IFAF is not in a position to be able to fund all activities that members request.

The Executive Board confirmed that certain parts of the report show 'development' work on different budget lines. This is to differentiate between restricted and unrestricted funds.

IFAF has been working towards a balanced budget with a small surplus given the limited income and requirement to meet various obligations. As IFAF are a not-for-profit organisation the idea is to only create a buffer amount for one-off activities and to ensure that the organisation can respond to challenges appropriately.

Following the financial report the Director of Finance presented the proposed budget for 2020

The Director presented the 2020 budget as per the attached document, detailing activity on a line-by-line basis.

The figures presented in this document are based on the following:

No change to the Membership fee size for Full, Associate and Allied Members (€3,000, €1,000 and €50 respectively)

The IFAF fee for the 2020 U19 World Championship being €2,500 per entry.

The IFAF fee for the 2020 World Flag Football Championships being €1,500 per entry.

All the figures contained in the budget pertained to core IFAF revenues. The Executive Board highlighted that continents could look to consider their budgets once the relevant committees were in place and the full Management Group was active.

It was detailed that any revenue would have to be generated by the continent over and above IFAF revenue outlined in the budget.

A line on the budget was left for International Player Transfer (ITC) revenue. Federations were notified that a new online system had been secured and IFAF would return to charging a fee for a transfer – a fee set to be in the range of €50 - €100 Euros. The premise of the system is that both the federation where the player was to exit and enter would have to agree to the transfer. They would also have the flexibility to set their own fees for transfers which would be independent of the ITC fee.

A line on the budget also was there for revenue generated for the Athlete Commission. All athletes who appear on international rosters will have to register on the system and pay a small fee – circa, €5. All revenue would support the Athlete Commission.

The technology provider is to be an exclusive provider for IFAF globally.

Points raised:

In terms of ITCs various fee levels and suggestions as to who would receive fees were raised.

Action – it was agreed that the matter would be discussed in Any Other Business.

France has asked for the budget to be released to the members prior to the Congress meeting.



Action - The Executive Board agreed and responded that it will be in a position to be able to achieve this for next year.

**Proposed by:** Australia  
**Second:** Norway  
**Vote:** Majority in Favour – Motion Carried  
**Abstentions:** 1 abstention

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#### 7. Vote on the approval of the Financial Report

Motion to approve the Annual Financial Report

**Proposed by:** Australia  
**Second:** Sweden  
**Vote:** Majority in Favour – Motion Carried  
**Abstentions:** 1 Abstention

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#### 8. Submission of the Budget and Plan of Action

Motion to approve the Strategic plan as presented to nations prior to Congress both in online and in a formal strategy review session prior to Congress.

**Proposed by:** Canada  
**Seconded by:** Finland  
**Vote:** All in Favour – Motion Carried  
**Abstentions:** None

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## 9. Membership of Nations

### ***Discussion:***

The Executive Board outlined consideration for one nation to have its membership status review and confirmed.

The pre-existing member from Belarus has not been active within IFAF for some time. The proposal is for the existing member for Belarus to be removed, and for the new member to be recognised subject to meeting IFAF member guidelines and requirements.

Motion 1 – Remove existing member for Belarus based on inactivity

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b><u>Seconded by:</u></b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	Majority in Favor – Motion Carried
<b><u>Abstentions:</u></b>	1 Abstention

Motion 2 - Recognition of new member for Belarus as an Associate Member in 2020 subject to IFAF membership guidelines and regulations being met.

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b>	<b>Israel</b>
<b><u>Seconded by:</u></b>	<b>Finland</b>
<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	Majority in Favour – Motion Carried
<b><u>Abstentions:</u></b>	2 Abstentions

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## 10. Proposals from the Membership

### **Motion One:**

**Austria** - The Motion is outlined in the circulated proposal

Austria outlined its proposal to Congress. Nations debated different aspects of the proposal which led to an amendment as outlined below:

Amended Motion – Consideration be given to the content of the original Motion from Austria through an in-depth review by the end of 2019 with recommendations made for consideration by members in 2020.

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b>	<b>Finland</b>
<b><u>Seconded by:</u></b>	<b>Austria</b>
<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	All in Favor – Motion Carried
<b><u>Abstentions:</u></b>	0 Abstentions



**Motion Two:**

**Israel – The Motion is outlined in the circulated proposal**

Israel outlined its proposal to Congress. Nations debated different aspects of the proposal, including specifics on dates, insurance, and health and safety which led to an amendment as outlined below:

**Israel** - The age and limit for Flag Football Roster to be set at a minimum age of 16 years in the Calendar year.

**Proposed by:** Finland

**Seconded by:** Israel

**Vote:** Majority in Favor – Motion Carried

**Opposed:** 1

**Abstentions:** 3 Abstentions

**Motion Three:**

**Israel** - Up to 5 x Game Day Rostered members on Senior tackle team may be allowed to be a minimum of 16 Years or older.

**Proposed by:** Israel

**Seconded by:** Finland

**Vote:** Voted Down

**Opposed:** 14

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Other Business

ITC - Nations discussed the potential of whether multiple fees to different bodies could be split from the fee an athlete pays; what level the fee(s) should be set at, whether there would be fees for a returning player, and what the obligations for all parties are. Feedback will be provided for consideration by the Executive Board.

Game Rules - Gridiron Australia noted concern regarding the increasing gap between IFAF and the NCAA 11-a-side tackle football rules without clarification. This was supported by Finland. The Board to meet to discuss how rules will be consulted on in the future. The Board did highlight that the Chair of the Rules Committee was effective in seeking feedback for consultation however.

Events - In 2024 the IFAF U20 World Championship are to be staged in Canada. Football Canada announced that the World Championship will be held in Edmonton Alberta. Dates are to be advised



IFAF Anti-Doping Regulations - Austria tabled a recommendation that IFAF adjust its Anti-doping Regulations. Following a clarification by Mr Gannon of the CCES and subsequent discussion it was considered appropriate that the proposal addressed a specific regulation (10.1). It was proposed that 10.1 remain in line with the WADA Code but be amended to a more sympathetic interpretation.

**Proposed by:** Austria

**Seconded by:** Finland

**Vote:** All in Favor – Motion Carried

**Abstentions:** 0 Abstentions

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#### **11. Congress 2020 Announcement**

The 2020 IFAF Congress will be held in conjunction with U19 World Championships in Canton Ohio, July 2020

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#### **Closure of Congress:**

Motion to close Congress

Proposed by: Canada

Second: Australia

Vote: All in Favour – Motion Carried



I confirm that these Minutes are true and accurate.

Je confirme que ces process-verbaux sont vrais et exacts

Nom: Christophe Olenaed

Signature:



I confirm that these Minutes are true and accurate

Je confirme que ces process-verbaux sont vrais et exacts

Nom: Pierre Trochet

Signature:



I confirm that these Minutes are true and accurate

Je confirme que ces process-verbaux sont vrais et exacts

Nom: Richard Vogt

Signature:



I confirm that these Minutes are true and accurate

Je confirme que ces process-verbaux sont vrais et exacts

General Secretary: Christopher Josey

Signature:



I confirm that these Minutes are true and accurate

Je confirme que ces process-verbaux sont vrais et exacts

President:                   Richard MacLean

Signature: