

Press release – 31 July 2020

Women's Fistball World Championship 2021 in Europe - Final talks with organizer of the World Tour Finals 2021

The IFA Board of Directors decided at its latest meeting in June to postpone the Women's World Championship until 2021. Two potential hosts, with whom IFA was already in advanced negotiations, unfortunately withdraw the hosting of the event. Further talks are currently ongoing with possible hosts of the Women's World Championship. It is planned to run the event in Europe in July 2021.

Since Birmingham (USA) is no longer available as host in 2021, the IFA has also been looking for a venue for the World Tour Final. Final details are currently being discussed with a South American host. The World Tour Final is scheduled for October 2021.

Immediately after Chile's withdrawal as host of the IFA Women's World Championship in 2021, discussions with alternative locations for this major event began. "We were already negotiating the last details. Unfortunately, both replacement locations we were in talks with had to cancel in the end. In one case, the main sponsor withdrew during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore it is no longer possible to finance a Women's World Championship," IFA President Jörn Verleger describes the situation. "We are currently in further talks with other locations. We are working flat out to find a solution, but it will still take a few weeks before we can announce the final organizer."

It is certain that the World Championship will take place in Europe in the summer of 2021. The event is scheduled to take place in the middle or latest at the end of July. "The Women's World Championship should definitely take place in 2021, after all it is also a qualifying tournament for the World Games in Birmingham 2022. At the moment we have to plan for the World Championship in several scenarios, which certainly doesn't make the search for an organizer any easier. Scenarios with or without spectators and entry permissions for teams are only two of the central topics. But for an organizer, these are elementary issues in terms of financing the World Championship," says IFA General Secretary Christoph Oberlehner.

IFA World Tour Final to be held in South America in October

However, there is more good news regarding the IFA World Tour Final. The event should have taken place in Birmingham (USA) in 2020. The host of the World Games for 2021 is no longer available, which is why the IFA was looking for a replacement venue. The World Tour Finals should take place in South America in October 2021. At the moment the final details are discussed with the organizer. "Of course, it is still very difficult to make a forecast for the coming year, but the basic information about the World Tour Finals will be published in the next weeks. We continue to monitor the development of the Corona pandemic very closely. The health of everyone involved will always be our top priority," says IFA President Jörn Verleger.



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Information on the International Fistball Association - IFA

The International Fistball Association (IFA) is the world association for the sport of fistball. It is made up of the 66 national federations recognized in the respective countries, which in their countries supervise the game of fistball (outdoor and indoor fistball) as well as the related games played by the International Fistball Association. The IFA (former International Fistball Union) was founded in Frankfurt/Main on 30 January 1960.

The IFA is headed by a 19-member Board headed by the German Jörn Verleger, and Secretary General being the Austrian Christoph Oberlehner. The world federation is led by a 6-member executive board.

The International Fistball Association is the main organizing body of the Fistball World Championships for women and men as well as for under18-men and under18-women. IFA organizes the IFA Fistball World Tour for clubs of women and men including the World Tour Finals, the previous World Cup, as well as Fistball Masters for women and men over 35 years. Fistball is also an essential part of the World Games, an international competition in sports that are not part of the Olympic Games' competition programme but are nevertheless widely distributed worldwide. In July 2022 the next World Games will take place in Birmingham, Alabama (USA).

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