

Press release 25 April 2026

World Games confirm fistball for Karlsruhe 2029

Fistball has been confirmed as part of the sports program for the World Games 2029. The event will take place in Karlsruhe (Germany) for the second time – 40 years after its first edition.

Fistball remains part of the World Games: the sport will once again be included in the official program at the 2029 edition. The multi-sport event will be held from July 19 to 29, 2029, in Karlsruhe – returning to a historic location. The city in Baden already hosted the World Games in 1989, also featuring fistball in the program.

The decision was announced by the International World Games Association (IWGA) during its Annual General Meeting on April 25 in Lausanne. This ensures that fistball will continue to be part of the most important international event for non-Olympic sports.

For Karlsruhe and the International Fistball Association, this marks a special connection. Fistball was already included in the 1989 World Games, where six men's national teams competed for the title. West Germany won gold ahead of Brazil and Austria. The Brazilian team at the time included Gastão Englert, who is now President of the International Fistball Association.

“I still remember the World Games 1989 in Karlsruhe very well. It was a fantastic event that left a lasting impression on all of us as players,” said Gastão Englert. “I am convinced that 40 years later – in 2029 – we will experience even more spectacular and impressive World Games. For our sport, the World Games are extremely important because they provide an international multi-sport stage. They give fistball global visibility and are a key driver for our development.”

Fistball has been part of the World Games program since the second edition in London in 1985. Initially, only a men's tournament was held, but since the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, women have also been included. At the most recent edition in Chengdu in 2025, fistball reached a new level of participation, with eight men's and eight women's teams competing. Brazil claimed both gold medals. The IWGA will announce which specific fistball medal events will take place in 2029 in the course of 2026.

For the International Fistball Association, the confirmation for 2029 is an important signal. “The World Games 2025 were a fantastic event for our athletes and officials alike,” said Christoph Oberlehner, IFA Secretary General. “We are extremely proud to remain part of the World Games in the future. In Germany, the birthplace of fistball, we want to play a significant role.”

Oberlehner sees great opportunities for the sport in Karlsruhe: “The World Games 2029 offer us the chance to present fistball in a country with a strong tradition in front of a large audience. We want to inspire new fans, attract young people to our sport, and show that fistball is modern, dynamic, and appealing on an international level.”



facebook.com/IFA.Fistball
instagram.com/ifafistball
www.fistball.tv

President: Gastão Englert | Secretary General: Christoph Oberlehner

Vice Presidents: Roger Willen, Giana Hexsel

Treasurer: Gerhard Bieringer | Chair of the Sports Commission: Lina Hasenjäger

ZVR 071465855/Bank Account IBAN: AT41 2032 0321 0039 5106 | BIC/SWIFT: ASPKAT2LXXX

Institut Name: Sparkasse Oberösterreich, Promenade 11-13, 4020 Linz, Austria





INTERNATIONAL FISTBALL ASSOCIATION
Hölderlinstraße 26, 4040 Linz, Austria
office@fistball.sport | www.ifa.fistball.sport

Information about 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 68 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 Internationaler Faustball Verband) was founded in Frankfurt/Main on 30 January 1960. The IFA is headed by a 16-member executive committee with the Brazilian Gastao Englert as president, the secretary general is 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 program but are nevertheless widely distributed worldwide. The next World Games take place in July 2029 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Contact:

Sönke Spille, IFA Head of Events, s.spille@fistball.sport, +49 162 431 62 09

<http://www.ifa.fistball.sport/> | <https://www.facebook.com/IFA.Fistball/> | #wearefistball



[facebook.com/IFA.Fistball](https://www.facebook.com/IFA.Fistball)
[instagram.com/ifafistball](https://www.instagram.com/ifafistball)
www.fistball.tv

President: Gastão Englert | Secretary General: Christoph Oberlehner

Vice Presidents: Roger Willen, Giana Hexsel

Treasurer: Gerhard Bieringer | Chair of the Sports Commission: Lina Hasenjäger

ZVR 071465855/Bank Account IBAN: AT41 2032 0321 0039 5106 | BIC/SWIFT: ASPKAT2LXXX

Institut Name: Sparkasse Oberösterreich, Promenade 11-13, 4020 Linz, Austria

