

30 March, 2023

To all IFAF National Federations

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am delighted to inform you that American football has been proposed for full International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognition by the IOC Executive Board.

The IOC Session must now vote to approve the proposal when it meets in Mumbai later this autumn and we are optimistic that a successful vote will be secured.

This is an important milestone for every International Sports Federation and, while it would be premature to celebrate, it is an endorsement of IFAF's significant and sustained development as a federation over recent years. This began under former IFAF President Richard Maclean and is being driven forward with energy and vision by the current team.

In particular, I would like to thank IFAF Managing Director Andy Fuller for his professionalism and tireless commitment throughout the recognition process, in which he has led our engagement with IOC staff. And I would like to pay tribute to all those, at all levels of the global American football family, especially our national federations, who have played their part in the evolution of IFAF over the last 25 years.

The IOC Executive Board's proposal is a clear indication that IFAF's strengthened statutes and operations meet the highest international standards, in alignment with the Olympic Charter. This should not be overlooked as we had to go through a rigorous evaluation process led by the IOC Sports Department. You can read more about the requirements on the IOC [website](#).

While we wait for the IOC Session's approval, we should use this moment to take stock and recognise all that we have achieved – together. It would not have been possible without the unity of purpose that has underpinned all our progress as a sport in recent times.

One thing is certain: we will not stop here. Today, American football is one of the world's fastest-growing sports. As IFAF, we are focused on building robust, sustainable and scalable structures.

This week's news is particularly timely as we seek to strengthen the presence of football throughout the international sports movement, including in multi-sport Games, building on the fantastic success of flag football at The World Games last year.

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Full IOC recognition will bring tangible benefits for all IFAF members. These advantages include being integrated with national and continental Olympic structures and for elite athletes to access dedicated programmes as part of the IOC's Athlete365 platform.

It also means American football will be eligible to be put forward for inclusion in the Olympic Games. As you will already be aware, flag football has been provisionally shortlisted for the Games in Los Angeles 2028, so this is an important step for that ambition to be fulfilled.

I am proud of everything we have built together as a united IFAF family and I am excited about what the future holds for us all.

Let's huddle up! It's game time!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre Trochet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pierre Trochet

President

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