



CANDIDATE FILE



2024 IFAF EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS



IFAF Executive Board Elections

At the 2024 IFAF Congress, scheduled to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on December 7, 2024, IFAF will hold elections for the following roles on the IFAF Executive Board.

IFAF President (1 candidate)

IFAF Vice President (1 candidate)

IFAF Director of Finance (1 candidate)

IFAF Director of Competitions (2 candidates)

IFAF Director of Development (2 candidates)

IFAF General Secretary (1 candidate)

This document contains details of each of the candidates along with their personal statements.

Where a role is contested the candidates will appear in alphabetical order based upon their surname.

Nominations were submitted to the IFAF Nominations Committee whose membership is comprised of:

Jason Robinson: Sport Law (Canada)

Marie Jamet: Earvin and Lew Avocats (France)

Neal Lachmany: Earvin and Lew Avocats (France)

Voting will take place at the IFAF Congress and will be independently managed by the Nominations Committee.

All text herein is copied from the candidate's application. Please note that for some, English is a second language.

Andy Fuller

IFAF Managing Director





TROCHET, PIERRE
NOMINATED BY FRANCE
SECONDED BY ITALY

Candidate Biography

Pierre Trochet has served as President of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) since 2021, leading the global expansion of American football and flag football. Under his leadership, IFAF has achieved historic milestones, including the inclusion of flag football in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, a testament to the federation's efforts to position American football on the world's biggest stage. With 74 member nations and over 20 million players across 100 countries, IFAF continues to grow, thanks to his leadership and collaboration with key partners, particularly the NFL.

A former international tackle football player, Pierre brings to his role a deep personal connection to the sport and a lifelong passion for its development. His experience as an athlete, combined with his entrepreneurial mindset, has fuelled his commitment to growing both flag and tackle football on a global scale. His leadership is marked by a clear vision: to build on the success of LA28 and ensure American football's lasting presence in the Olympic movement for years to come. As he often states, "LA28 is not a one-and-done. We aim to secure our place in the Olympic landscape for the long term."

His tenure has been defined by an unwavering focus on collaboration, innovation, and the empowerment of IFAF's member federations. With a strong partnership with the NFL, Trochet and his team, have been instrumental in strengthening relationships with key international bodies, modernizing IFAF's governance structure, and expanding opportunities for athletes, coaches, and officials worldwide. He has prioritized building closer ties with IFAF's members, recognizing their concerns and working to streamline internal processes to ensure more efficient support and resources for all federations. Trochet's educational background includes a Master's degree in Sport Management, and he serves as a lecturer and mentor to students pursuing their own paths in the sports industry. His role as an educator has further honed his leadership skills, enabling him to guide IFAF with a strategic vision that combines entrepreneur "let's do it" attitude with practical experience. His relationship with the NFL's leadership has also been pivotal in driving forward IFAF's global objectives and securing its place as a central player in the international sports landscape.



TROCHET, PIERRE
NOMINATED BY FRANCE
SECONDED BY ITALY

Candidate Biography continued

Looking ahead to the next four years, his focus is on three key pillars: strengthening global development, accelerating economic transformation, and innovating for a sustainable future. His goal is to expand IFAF's membership to 100 federations by 2028, reduce competition costs, maintaining Olympic status of flag football, modernize tackle football and to make the sports more accessible and attractive to athletes and fans alike. At the heart of his mission is a commitment to delivering world-class events and competitions, while simultaneously building commercial success through strategic partnerships and new revenue streams.

Pierre Trochet's leadership continues to inspire confidence and drive the growth of American football globally. With his sights set on ensuring the long-term success of the sport within the Olympic movement and beyond, Pierre remains dedicated to building a modern, sustainable, and forward-looking federation that can meet the demands of international sport for years to come.

Candidate Competency Statement

Dear Members of the IFAF Family,

Reflecting on the past few years, I am proud of what we've accomplished together. From securing flag football's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics to expanding American football's global footprint, we have achieved historic milestones. These successes wouldn't have been possible without your trust and support since my election in December 2021.

However, our work is far from over. LA28 is not a one-time achievement. We now stand at a critical juncture that will determine the future of our sport, and IFAF has the potential to reach even greater heights.



TROCHET, PIERRE
NOMINATED BY FRANCE
SECONDED BY ITALY

Candidate Competency Statement continued

Over the past term, we've built pathways for athletes to compete at the highest levels while strengthening relationships with key international bodies. But challenges remain. I've heard your concerns about internal processes and economic sustainability. In the next four years, we will streamline operations to better support you, reduce competition costs, and create new revenue streams.

My vision is built on three updated pillars going forward:

Strengthening Global Development: Providing improved direct support to our member federations and maintaining our status within the Olympic movement.

Accelerating Economic Transformation: Building a commercial foundation through partnerships and new properties.

Innovating for a Sustainable Future: Modernizing our federation and making competitions more accessible.

As we move into this next phase, I am more determined than ever to continue the work we've started. But I cannot do it alone. The future of IFAF depends on the strength of our collective vision and the trust we place in each other.

Me and my team are now seeking your support to continue serving as your president for the next four years. Together, we can build on our successes, address the challenges we face, and create a future where American football, in all its forms, thrives on the global stage.

Thank you for your commitment to IFAF and for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving you and working toward our shared goals.

Declared conflicts of interest

French and Austrian Clubs within the last 5 years:
Danube Dragons; Villach Eagles, Amien Spartiates



MULLIN, JAMES
NOMINATED BY CANADA
SECONDED BY PANAMA

Candidate Biography

Jim Mullin is a prominent figure in Canadian football, known for his leadership roles at Football Canada and IFAF as General Secretary. Elected as President of Football Canada in 2019, Mullin has played a vital role in advancing football at national and international levels.

Leadership at Football Canada

Football Canada has emphasized grassroots development and inclusivity during his presidency while professionalizing operations. Mullin has driven initiatives to make football more accessible to youth nationwide, mainly through flag football programs. His focus on adapting football to diverse communities has helped increase participation and inspire a new generation of players.

A significant priority for Mullin has been improving player safety and coaching education. He has championed the implementation of enhanced safety protocols, including concussion management, and supported adopting more rigorous coaching certification standards. His work in this area reflects a broader strategy to address the risks of contact sports, promoting long-term sustainability for football in Canada.

Advancements in Women's Football

Mullin has also strongly advocated women's football, promoting the growth of tackle and flag programs. Notable achievements include the introduction of a National College Flag Championship, providing increased opportunities for female athletes to compete at higher levels, both nationally and internationally.

Work with Indigenous Football and Truth and Reconciliation

In alignment with Canada's Truth and Reconciliation efforts, Mullin has prioritized initiatives to include Indigenous communities in the football landscape. By working with Indigenous leaders and organizations, he has supported programs that reduce barriers to participation and empower Indigenous athletes, ensuring football fosters inclusivity and respect for Indigenous cultures.



MULLIN, JAMES
NOMINATED BY CANADA
SECONDED BY PANAMA

Candidate Biography continued

International Engagement through IFAF

Mullin played a pivotal role in the triumphant return of tackle football to international competition at the IFAF World Junior Championships in Edmonton. His leadership as IFAF General Secretary helped coordinate national and international stakeholders, ensuring the event was a global success. The tournament revitalized junior tackle football and showcased Canada's ability to lead and host at the highest level, drawing significant media attention and over 125 million social media impressions.

A major initiative for Mullin in this next term is leading efforts to advance global tackle football by developing continental competitions and establishing a sustainable path for regular world championships. His focus is on creating a competitive structure that ensures the long-term growth and stability of the sport on an international scale.

Media and Advocacy

With a background in sports media, Mullin has enhanced football's visibility across Canada. His experience as a host and producer of football programming has helped engage fans nationwide and communicated the sport's values, fostering broader support and involvement.

Impact and Legacy

Jim Mullin's leadership has had a profound impact on Canadian football. His holistic approach, focusing on accessibility, safety, inclusivity, and international collaboration, has positioned Canada as a leader in global football. Mullin has created a more inclusive and dynamic football culture through his work, leaving a legacy that will influence the sport for years.



MULLIN, JAMES
NOMINATED BY CANADA
SECONDED BY PANAMA

Candidate Competency Statement

Jim Mullin brings a wealth of experience from his roles at Football Canada, his broadcasting career, and his tenure at IFAF, all of which he would apply to the Vice-President position he is pursuing. As President of Football Canada, Mullin demonstrated strong leadership by overseeing national programs and initiatives that promoted and developed the sport across the country and making challenging decisions to professionalize its' staff and operations. His experience with IFAF has provided him with valuable insights into international sports governance, enabling him to navigate complex organizational structures and collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders.

Regarding strategic planning and organizational management, Mullin has successfully designed and implemented long-term sustainable growth and development plans. He has efficiently managed resources and budgets, ensuring they are allocated to maximize impact. His background as a sports broadcaster has endowed him with exceptional communication skills, allowing him to articulate visions clearly, engage broad audiences, and handle media relations adeptly to promote positive images of the organizations he represents.

Mullin's expertise in marketing and promotion includes raising the profile of football in Canada through strategic campaigns and event promotion, which have enhanced participation and attendance. His role at IFAF has expanded his international network, fostering global partnerships and improving his ability to navigate and respect cultural differences—skills crucial for international relations and networking.

A strong advocate for grassroots development, he has championed youth programs and advocated for policies that support athlete development, safety, and access to resources. His event management experience includes organizing national championships and international events, ensuring that events run smoothly and comply with necessary regulations.



MULLIN, JAMES
NOMINATED BY CANADA
SECONDED BY PANAMA

Candidate Competency Statement continued

Furthermore, Mullin has a proven ability to secure strategic partnerships and sponsorships, engaging effectively with sponsors and stakeholders to support organizational objectives. His deep understanding of regulatory environments ensures compliance with national and international standards, and he promotes ethical practices, transparency and accountability within organizations. His problem-solving skills and adaptability have equipped him to handle challenges proactively, introducing innovative solutions to advance the sport and address emerging issues.

By leveraging these competencies, Mullin is well-prepared to effectively fulfil the responsibilities of the Vice-President role, contributing significantly to the organization's mission and objectives through his blend of leadership, strategic insight, and communication expertise.

Declared conflicts of interest

Governance and Operations Consultant to Football Canada until December 31, 2024.



ASLAN, URAS
NOMINATED BY TURKIYE
SECONDED BY AUSTRIA

Candidate Biography

Uras M. Aslan is a highly accomplished finance leader with a strong track record in strategic financial management and business development across multiple industries and geographies. He is currently the Founder and CFO of Lyonel Group, a conglomerate of health tech companies based in Vienna, Austria, which he established in 2021 during the pandemic.

Within the first 24 months, the group achieved a remarkable revenue of €28.5 million. Uras serves as a strategic pivot for all startups within the holding, overseeing the creation and hiring of key support functions, including finance, sales, customer care, and supply chain management for a 220-headcount organization.

Prior to founding Lyonel Group, Uras held several key finance leadership roles at ATOS IT Solutions, a global technology leader. As Group Finance & Credit Manager, he managed the global credit risk portfolio and led a team of 12 credit controllers across diverse regions, ensuring compliance with financial regulations and reducing overdue ratios despite the challenging economic environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, as CFO for the GCC Region, he successfully spearheaded the complete overhaul of finance processes for operations in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Lebanon. His initiatives in treasury management and budgeting resulted in a reduction of the overdue ratio from 64% to 22% within a year, significantly improving the financial health of the region.

Uras's expertise in financial planning and analysis (FP&A) is underpinned by his experience as Head of FP&A for Central and Eastern Europe at ATOS, where he led the financial planning and consolidation for 16 countries and 42 entities for a €1.1 billion business unit. In parallel to his professional career, Uras has made significant contributions to the sports community.



ASLAN, URAS
NOMINATED BY TURKIYE
SECONDED BY AUSTRIA

Candidate Biography continued

As President of the Danube Dragons American Football Team, he has led the team to National Championships in 2022, 2023 followed by the CEFL Championship in 2024, and as Vice-President for the Austrian Federation of American Football, he is responsible for the financial and operational affairs of the National Team. His dual roles in the business and sports sectors demonstrate his versatility and capability to lead complex organizations.

With expertise in US GAAP, IFRS, and international finance, along with proven success in financial restructuring, operational excellence, and strategic planning, Uras M. Aslan is a versatile finance executive poised to deliver value in board-level roles, particularly those requiring strong governance, financial stewardship, and cross-functional leadership.

Candidate Competency Statement

In applying for the role of Director of Finance on the board of the International Federation of American Football, I bring a strong track record in financial leadership across diverse industries and geographies. With extensive experience as a CFO and Group Finance Manager, I have successfully led complex financial operations in global settings, such as managing credit risks, financial planning, and P&L management for entities in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. My role as Founder & CFO at Lyonel Group, where I managed financial operations and built a sustainable multi-company structure specialising in healthcare during the pandemic, showcases my ability to drive organisational growth and achieve substantial revenue targets.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated key competencies crucial for a board-level role, including strategic business planning, financial restructuring, and change management. As CFO of a multi-national business cluster, I managed finance functions in countries including UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, improving cash flow and optimising financial performance through a comprehensive overhaul of financial processes. My expertise in US GAAP, IFRS, and international treasury management ensures compliance and excellence in financial oversight.



ASLAN, URAS
NOMINATED BY TURKIYE
SECONDED BY AUSTRIA

Candidate Competency Statement continued

Additionally, as President of the Danube Dragons and Vice-President for the Austrian Federation of American Football, I have acquired leadership skills tailored to the sports industry, managing financial and operational aspects while working with governing bodies.

This combination of financial acumen and direct involvement in American Football governance uniquely positions me to contribute meaningfully to the International Federation of American Football's strategic and financial objectives.

Declared conflicts of interest

Vice President of the Austrian Federation.

President of the Danube Dragons



BROTHERS, BRITTNEY
NOMINATED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECONDED BY FINLAND

Candidate Biography

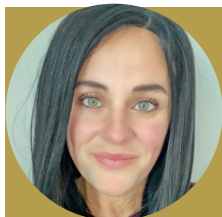
Brittney Brothers is a seasoned business professional and dynamic leader, currently serving as the Director of Events & Programs at USA Football. With a strong passion for strategic development and execution, Brittney has successfully led innovative event initiatives that align with and advance organizational goals. Her extensive experience in high-pressure environments has enabled her to collaborate effectively with prestigious organizations and influential individuals, consistently delivering results within tight deadlines.

At USA Football, Brittney oversees a diverse portfolio of events, from grassroots initiatives to international engagements, enhancing stakeholder impact in the marketplace. As a vital member of the leadership team, she empowers and inspires her internal team of event professionals, fostering a culture of excellence and innovation. Brittney's collaborative approach allows her to identify and implement creative solutions that address organizational challenges, while her strong relationship-building skills have led to successful partnerships with National Football League, NFL Clubs, College Conferences, Universities, and other key stakeholders.

Prior to her current position, Brittney served as Director of NFL FLAG for twelve years, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the program, which experienced a remarkable 500% growth in participation during her tenure. She was also instrumental in executing events and tournaments, including the debut of youth flag on high-profile TV platforms such as ESPN and NFL Network.

Brittney's expertise encompasses event management, stakeholder management, business development, budgeting, and complex problem-solving. She is detail-oriented, highly organized, and excels in multitasking and time management.

Active in her community, Brittney is a member of the Big 10 Football Championship Local Organizing Committee. With a commitment to excellence and a visionary mindset, Brittney Brothers continues to elevate the standard of event experiences in the sports industry.



BROTHERS, BRITTNEY
NOMINATED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECONDED BY FINLAND

Candidate Competency Statement

As the Director of Competitions for the IFAF Flag Football Committee, I bring a strategic and innovative approach to overseeing all aspects of flag football competitions globally. My extensive experience in event management and stakeholder engagement allows me to effectively design, implement, and enhance competitive frameworks that promote the growth and development of flag football.

I possess strong leadership skills, empowering teams to excel in delivering high-quality competitions that meet the diverse needs of participants and stakeholders. My ability to collaborate cross-departmentally ensures seamless communication and coordination, facilitating successful event execution from grassroots to international levels.

I am adept at analyzing competition structures and identifying areas for improvement, leveraging data-driven insights to enhance participant experience and uphold the highest standards of integrity and sportsmanship. My commitment to fostering positive relationships with national federations, sponsors, and partners further strengthens the global flag football community.

With a focus on continuous improvement and innovation, I strive to elevate the profile of IFAF flag football competitions, ensuring they are engaging, competitive, and reflective of the values of our sport.

Declared conflicts of interest

Full time employee of USA Football

Event and Program Consultant to the National Football League



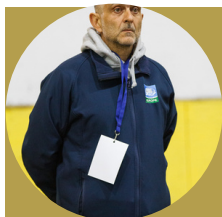
TORTOSA, FABIO
NOMINATED BY ITALY
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Biography

Fabio Tortosa has been a prominent figure in the Italian American football community, with a long history of contributions to both National and International events. Since 2009, he has served as a Federal Councilor for the Italian Federation of American Football (FIDAF), playing a key role in the Federation's governance and strategic development. His leadership within FIDAF has been instrumental in advancing the sport in Italy and ensuring its proper regulation and promotion, FIDAF has been recognized as an FSN (The highest recognition awarded by the Italian National Olympic Committee CONI) last September.

One of Mr Tortosa's most significant roles is President of FIDAF Competitions and Championships Commission, in this capacity, he oversees the organization and management of national tournaments and championships, ensuring that they are conducted in accordance with the federation's standards. His responsibilities include coordinating the logistics, scheduling, and administration of these events, as well as maintaining fair competition and compliance with FIDAF's rules and regulations. His contributions have significantly enhanced the quality and professionalism of American football championships in Italy.

In addition to his role within the Competitions Commission, Mr Tortosa serves as the Director of National Teams for FIDAF. He is responsible for overseeing the development and management of Italy's national American football teams, ensuring that they are prepared to compete at the highest levels in international tournaments. This role requires exceptional organizational and leadership skills, as it involves managing athletes, coaches, and support staff, while also coordinating the national team's participation in international events. Mr Tortosa's leadership has helped elevate the performance and recognition of Italian teams on the world stage.



TORTOSA, FABIO
NOMINATED BY ITALY
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Biography continued

Furthermore, Mr Tortosa has also served as a Commissioner for various FIDAF's National Championships. In this role, he ensures that these championships run smoothly, handling any issues that arise and making sure that the competition meets FIDAF's expectations for quality and fairness. His experience and knowledge of the sport make him a trusted figure in this capacity.

On an international level, Mr Tortosa's involvement extends to the International Federation of American Football (IFAF), where he has taken on the role of Tournament Director and LOC for IFAF events. In summary, Mr Tortosa's significant roles within FIDAF and IFAF, including his leadership in national championships, his directorship of the national teams, and his responsibilities as Tournament Director for international events, have made him a pivotal figure in the growth and development of American football in Italy and beyond. His dedication to the sport and his expertise in organizing competitions have earned him respect and recognition at both national and international levels.

Candidate Competency Statement

As the President of the Competitions and Championships Commission for FIDAF since 2013, I have overseen the planning and execution of numerous national championships, demonstrating a keen understanding of tournament logistics, compliance, and regulatory frameworks. My role requires not only strong organizational skills but also the ability to coordinate multiple stakeholders, including teams, officials, and sponsors, ensuring that competitions run smoothly and adhere to the highest standards of fairness and professionalism.

Additionally, my experience as Director of National Teams for FIDAF has further honed my capabilities in managing complex, multi-level teams, ensuring their readiness to compete at the highest levels internationally. This role has provided me with deep insights into the operational needs and challenges that arise when managing large-scale competitions, which is directly applicable to the IFAF Board role.



TORTOSA, FABIO
NOMINATED BY ITALY
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Competency Statement continued

Moreover, I have served as Commissioner for various national leagues, where I was responsible for ensuring that the integrity and quality of the sport were upheld. These positions required a balance of strategic oversight and hands-on management, skills that are essential for the IFAF Director of Competitions role. At the international level, I was honored to serve as Tournament Director and LOC for various IFAF events starting from 2014, where I was responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the competition—from venue selection to team logistics, were executed flawlessly. This role has given me valuable experience in working with diverse international teams and navigating the complexities of international sports governance. My career has been built on a foundation of collaboration, attention to detail, and a passion for the growth of American football.

These qualities, combined with my extensive experience in organizing and managing competitions at all levels, make me a strong candidate for the position of Director of Competitions on the IFAF Board.

I am confident that I can contribute to the continued success and expansion of the sport globally.

Declared conflicts of interest

Federal Councillor for FIDAF



KOSHI, MAKOTO
NOMINATED BY JAPAN
SECONDED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Candidate Biography

Mak KOSHI had worked for JAJFA, Japan American Football Association since 1998 as a member of International Affairs Group, supporting “Japan Euro Bowl” (Japan National Team vs. Finland National Team, then European Champion).

When IFAF launched the 1st Senior World Championship (Italy) in 1999, he was communication representative for JAJFA while he was coordinating in organizing Team Japan under Head Coach. He had been in the same role in the 2nd SWC (Germany) in 2003 and the 3rd SWC (Japan) in 2007. He had been one of the Executive Board of JAJFA for 2005-2006, and since 2013, in charge of both Development / Strengthening and Flag Football. Since May, 2020, his role had been focused in flag football. He retired as a Board of JAJFA in June, 2023 and has been assigned as Executive Advisor for the organization.

He started playing tackle football at high school in 1975, then had played through his college as running back and defensive back. He also served as official for two years 1983 and 1984 after graduation of college. He entered Fujitsu Limited in 1983 as mechanical engineer for laser printers and has worked there for 36 years, including General Manager at PR/IR Office and a Board for Human Resource Development Company, called Fujitsu University Limited.

When Fujitsu established a Tackle Football team in 1985 he joined the Fujitsu Frontiers (X League, Japan top league, non-professional) as player until 1988. Soon after retirement as a player, he started coaching at the Frontiers and was named headcoach / GM in 1990. His tenure was 8 years. The Fujitsu Frontiers has had eight-time Japan national championships in 2014, 2016-2019, 2021-2023.

As a family club, the Frontiers launched Flag Football Club in 1999 and he started coaching kids there while he has been President of Fujitsu Frontiers Flag Football Club (FFFC) which has teams in four categories such as senior male, senior female, U15 co-ed, and U12 co-ed, total 90 athletes.



KOSHI, MAKOTO
NOMINATED BY JAPAN
SECONDED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Candidate Biography continued

He had been a committee chair of flag football in JAJFA to promote both domestic and international activities for long.

He has been a color commentator for American football programs for long years, in collegiate, X League and NFL games including 5 times commentary at Super Bowl.

He has a daughter and a son. Both are married.

Candidate Competency Statement

Mak KOSHI has wide range of experience in Tackle Football as a player in high school, college and club team, as well as a coach in club team for 8 years. He also has wide range of experience in Flag Football as a player (present), a coach for kids, management of the club and coordination of the Team Japan.

He has contributed especially to international affairs in late 1990's and early 2000's working between IFAF management and JAJFA management. Later he had contributed to developing Tackle Football as well as management of Team Japan.

Recently he had contributed to flag football for Team Japan in coordination and for domestic competition (U12, U15, Adult Female, Adult Male) as a chair of the committee. He believes what he has experienced and learned in his activity with JAJFA (International Affairs, Team Japan, Flag Football Team Japan) and his personal life (coaching and managing Tackle and Flag Football) will be useful to carry out the role of the Director of Development in IFAF.

He has been working for Development of Tackle Football and Flag Football in IFAF since 2020 and especially, Flag Football appearance in The World Games Birmingham, Alabama in 2021 showed a typical example of development and expansion globally of the Flag Football.



KOSHI, MAKOTO
NOMINATED BY JAPAN
SECONDED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Candidate Competency Statement continued

He is currently working hard toward the World Games, Chengdu, China in 2025 and Summer Olympic Games, Los Angeles, USA in 2028 to promote the Flag Football as gender-free, wide-generation, developing sports in global with full strategy as well as to expand more nations to play.

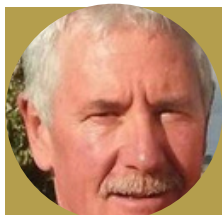
He believes in the Flag Football as a great tool to develop football as well as to promote Tackle Football in non-tier-1 nations.

He is so excited to work for IFAF as a Director of Development for coming years to boost the number of member nations in wider Asia and Africa as well as south America and to upgrade the membership status of those nations by collaborating with continental directors of Asia, Africa, Oceania and Americas as well as Europe.

Declared conflicts of interest

Executive Advisor to the Japan American Football Association

Advisor to the Fujitsu Frontiers



MCCONNOCHIE, RUSSELL
NOMINATED BY NEW ZEALAND
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Biography

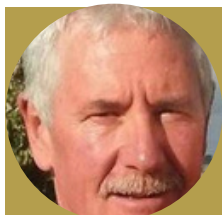
Russell McConnochie has been involved in sport, participating, coaching and serving on committees and in various club management roles, in New Zealand since 1975.

In 2009 Russell changed from a 25-year career in Corporate IT & T services to a Sport Management role with Water Polo New Zealand. In 2017 Russell was employed by the Zealand American Football Federation (NZAFF) as General Manager with the goal of having the Federation professionally managed and to grow the sport and drive it forward. A second full time employee was engaged in 2023.

Significant achievements:

Growth

- New Zealand Football in 2017 had approximately 750 players mostly playing tackle football and mostly male.
- This past season that has grown to over 1,500 registered players with 20% being female.
- In addition, the deliveries into schools and communities have added approximately a further 5,000 participants.
- We had a target of 10,000 players by 2028. Given our growth rates we will exceed that target in the next two years.
- Flag Football is growing – an indication is our Flag Nationals:
 - In 2018 there were men's 5 teams.
 - Last Nationals there were 40 teams:
 - 21 men's teams,
 - 8 women's teams,
 - 8 youth teams,
 - 4 Masters teams.
- In 2017 there were 12 clubs nationwide. Currently there are 21 affiliated Clubs.



MCCONNOCHIE, RUSSELL
NOMINATED BY NEW ZEALAND
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Biography continued

Increasing Football Delivery

- In 2019 Russell implemented a project to encourage delivery of our sport into schools and communities across NZ.
- Club members and sports development groups are paid for their time in delivering Football (mainly Flag) removing the need for NZAFF to retain dedicated delivery people.
- Resulting in a greater level of activity across the country at grassroots level which in return has grown the numbers involved in the sport.

Governance

- Restructuring of the Constitution to move to a Governance Board.
 - Making it easier for new clubs to affiliate.
 - Inclusion independent Directors on the Board to bring a wider set of experiences to the Board Table.
- Creation of the first strategic plan for NZAFF.
- Implementing standard business practices with budgeting and monthly reports including full financials.
- Implementing a full set of policies and procedures.

Player Safety

- Implemented an injury reporting system for competitions in NZ to record statistics and to be able to follow up on any serious injuries.
- Implemented a concussion course requirement to increase awareness of traumatic brain injuries. Over half of our players have completed the course with 100% pass rates.
- Both of the above are linked to the Club Grant Program.



MCCONNOCHIE, RUSSELL
NOMINATED BY NEW ZEALAND
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Biography continued

Club Grant Program

- In 2020 Russell implemented a Club Grant program that financially rewarded clubs that completed objectives to the required level.
- Objectives have included:
 - Players Safety Reporting – over 600 reports last season with 145 injuries.
 - Concussion Refresher training
 - Coach Safe Tackle Certification
 - Having Junior teams in competition
 - Having Women's teams in competition.
 - Hosting specialist training events.
 - Hosting tournaments (flag).

IFAF Board Member

- In 2022 Russell was elected as the Director Oceania.

Candidate Competency Statement

Russell McConnochie brings a wide range of competencies gained through years of working in corporate environments and a lifetime of involvement in sport.

When first entering the corporate world Russell applied the attitude and skills learnt competing in high performance sport to have a successful career in the business world. On becoming a full-time sport administrator in 2009, Russell brought with him the knowledge, disciplines and practices that made him successful in the corporate world.

One of the key benefits of Russell having the role of Director of Development is the goal of being included in the Brisbane Olympics in 2032. There is a significant amount of work to be done in the Oceania region in order to demonstrate that Flag Football deserves inclusion. Russell is well placed with existing strong relationships with American Football Australia and with the NFL General Manager - Australia and New Zealand, Charlotte Offord.



MCCONNOCHIE, RUSSELL
NOMINATED BY NEW ZEALAND
SECONDED BY FRANCE

Candidate Competency Statement continued

These relationships will be critical in maximising the exposure of the sport in the region and will require significant focussed effort.

Russell has demonstrated his ability to drive initiatives that grow Football. When he started at NZAFF in 2017 the player population was ageing and slowly diminishing. There were no initiatives to grow the sport and the other “oval” ball sports and Basketball were dominating the player recruitment with offerings at the younger age groups. Football needed an offering that captured the imagination of young boys and girls before they committed to other sports. Flag Football provided the opportunity to do that. By capturing the young there will be a funnel of players coming into the sport which is essential for the future health of the sport. Russell drove the creation of a robust Strategy, recognising the realities of the environment, backed up by practical initiatives aimed at Football being delivered into our communities.

The strategy started to be delivered in 2018 and included making sure that equipment was “seeded” at schools and in communities recognising that in order to play the ball needed to be available. In addition, funding was made available for members and contractors to deliver activities across the country. For tackle Football the initiative included providing an equipment subsidy to clubs and individuals to reduce the costs of essential equipment. To help the clubs with their finances the Club Grant initiative was created rewarding clubs for achieving set goals.

Brief results:

- Participation in the sport has grown from 750 in 2017 to over 6,500 last season.
- Affiliated clubs have grown from 12 to 21 with more interest as regional NZ gets the Football “bug”.
- Community and regional tournaments are being driven by our clubs not the national body.

Declared conflicts of interest

Employee of the NZAFF **Should he be elected to the position of Director Development, Russell will immediately resign from his role as Director for Oceania.*

**MAYES, ERIC**NOMINATED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECONDED BY JAPAN

Candidate Biography

Eric Mayes joined USA Football, the sport's governing body in the United States and a recognized sports organization of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), in February 2019. In his current role as the Managing Director of High Performance and National Teams, Mayes oversees all aspects USA Football's U.S. National Team Program in both the tackle and flag disciplines of the sport. This includes the development, maintenance, and execution of USA Football's first-ever High-Performance Plan and program operations leading into the 2028 Olympic Games.

Additionally, Mayes is responsible for USA Football's internal compliance procedures and infrastructure to adhere to International Federation of American Football (IFAF), USOPC and U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) requirements as USA Football prepares to lead the U.S. National Teams to the 2028 Summer Olympics.

The U.S. National Team has experienced many successes since Mayes joined USA Football. The Men's and Women's Flag National Teams both won gold at the 2021 IFAF World Championship, 2024 IFAF World Championship and the first-ever IFAF Americas Flag Continental Championship in 2023. The men's team won gold when flag football debuted at The World Games 2022, and the women's team won silver.

In 2022, Mayes helped assemble a star-studded coaching staff led by Callie Brownson of the Cleveland Browns to coach the U.S. Women's Tackle National Team to a gold medal finish in the 2022 IFAF Women's Tackle World Championship.

Also in 2022, USA Football launched the Junior International Cup, a flag football tournament between national teams at the 15U and 17U levels for boys and girls meant to foster global competition while expanding the National Team's athlete pipeline. The 15U and 17U Boys' and Girls' National Teams have claimed 11 out of 12 possible gold medals during the event's three editions.



MAYES, ERIC
NOMINATED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECONDED BY JAPAN

Candidate Biography continued

After graduating from Trinity International University, where he played football as an offensive lineman, and earning a Master of Professional Studies in Sports Industry Management from the prestigious Georgetown University, Mayes worked at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) from 2012 to 2019.

During his time with the NCAA, Mayes provided rules analysis and interpretations to NCAA Division I member institutions, conferences and internal departments in the areas of coaching personnel, recruiting and playing/practice seasons legislation. He also served as a liaison to several NCAA governance committees, including the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee and NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee.

Mayes is married to his wife Sequitta and together, they have two sons: Jonathan and Micah. Mayes and his family live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Candidate Competency Statement

Dear Members of the International Federation of American Football,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as General Secretary to the IFAF Board of Directors. With a deep passion for the sport of American football and extensive experience in sports leadership, I believe I am well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to the mission of IFAF.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated strong competencies in leadership and governance within sports organizations, notably through my work with USA Football and committee roles at the National Collegiate Athletic Association. My tenure at USA Football involved strategic oversight of initiatives aimed at the development and growth of the sport across all levels, while my experience with the NCAA allowed me to refine my expertise in policy development and organizational governance. These roles have given me a broad understanding of the global football landscape, governance frameworks, and stakeholder management—key aspects required to excel as General Secretary.



MAYES, ERIC
NOMINATED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SECONDED BY JAPAN

Candidate Competency Statement continued

I am committed to leveraging my experience in strategic decision-making, performance monitoring, and governance to help drive the goals of IFAF. I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside other passionate members of the Board in supporting the growth of American football internationally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Eric Mayes

Declared conflicts of interest

Employee of USA Football

FINAL PAGE

CANDIDATE FILE



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