

## SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS OFFICIALS WORLDWIDE



### International federation for referees and judges established in The Hague



On 8 March, the Peace Palace in The Hague held the founding meeting of the International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO). This new sports federation will be established in The Hague and is committed to raise worldwide awareness for referees and judges and to promote the development of arbitration in sports.

This has been achieved thanks to direct support from the municipality of The Hague and the Dutch Olympic Committee NOC\*NSF, in collaboration with AFCAM (the French association of 246,000 referees and judges). The initiative was supported and locally coordinated by SportVibes, a sports marketing agency based in The Netherlands.

The new International Federation IFSO becomes the meeting place for all governing bodies in sport (international sports federation, national Olympic committees, multi-sports international federation, national referee federations) dealing with issues surrounding referees and jury members. IFSO is not a union and does not interfere with issues of individual members.

Patrick Vajda, the first President of IFSO: "Without the direct support of the city of The Hague and NOC\*NSF, the creation would not have been realised yet. I am therefore

particularly grateful for their efforts, as well as the 21 (inter)national governing bodies in sports that have been able to cooperate from the outset. I am also very proud to have at my side a board of 6 women and 5 men who are all representatives from various governing bodies in sport. Our goal is to share best practice cases, to dwell on developments such as technology and media and to discuss new ideas and legislation with the aim to improve the professional life of referees and judges. This is in the interest of the entire sports world and not of a single sports federation or union. It should be made clear that **without referees there is no sport**".

Richard De Mos, alderman for sports in The Hague: "The city of The Hague has been profiling for decades as the international city of peace and justice. In addition, we are conducting a very proactive sports policy and in the year 2022 we are chosen as the European Capital of Sport. With the arrival of IFSO to The Hague, these matters come together. Therefore, we are particularly proud to facilitate this important international federation in our city in the coming years".

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### WHAT'S NEW...



#### SOC WEBSITE REVAMPED

We have updated our Sports Officials Consultancy website – it looks bright, fresh and professional. It is packed full of reviews from people and companies we have worked with. To check it out for yourself please visit it at [www.sportsofficialsconsultancy.co.uk](http://www.sportsofficialsconsultancy.co.uk)

#### SOC Online Shop

This issue's feature product is our tutor resource for the Play on Ref course. It is a complete set of full colour, laminated A5 resource cards presented together in a high quality ring binder. This has proven popular with various premier league and championship clubs who run this programme. Each folder costs £14.99 and can be bought from [www.sportsofficialsconsultancy.co.uk](http://www.sportsofficialsconsultancy.co.uk)



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# Towards a Competency Framework for Sports Officials in Europe



The 4<sup>th</sup> full partner meeting of the ONSIDE project took place in Bucharest, Romania on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The meeting was hosted by the Romanian Football Federation and delegates learned about the role and activity of the federation in developing referees.

Patrick Vajda updated the group on the formation of the International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO) which has been established in The City of The Hague in the Netherlands. Three partners of the ONSIDE project are founding members of the federation: AFCAM, SOUK and NOC\*NSF. Recruitment of new members is now a priority for the federation and the ONSIDE partners agreed to support this task through promotion to their networks. There will be a close link between IFSO and the ONSIDE project including joint events and promotion of project outputs.

The focus of day 1 of the meeting was to validate the Occupational Map and Occupational Descriptor for sports officiating in Europe. These documents describe the landscape of sport officiating and the key structures and organisations within it. They also describe the role of the sport official and key issues related to recruitment and retention.

At the close of Day 1 delegates visited a Romanian restaurant in the old town of Bucharest and enjoyed traditional food and dancing.

Day 2 saw the first steps towards developing a competence framework for sport officiating in Europe. The group drafted a “Key Purpose”, or working definition of sport officiating:

*Enable participants to compete through the impartial application of rules / laws within the spirit of the sport*

This was the first task in the development of occupational standards defining the generic skills and knowledge related to all sports officials in Europe. Further group work saw delegates develop key areas of competence including application of rules and regulations, health and safety, administration and working with others.

The production of a new competency framework will be a valuable output for the whole area of sport officiating in Europe. The partners now look forward to the next meeting in Malta in September 2019.

Janie Frampton, CEO of SOUK said “it is amazing what can be achieved when we look beyond the confines of our specific sports and work together to develop sport officiating as a whole – the ONSIDE project is a perfect example of that”.

Ivan Slavchev, Associate Professor at National Sports Academy “Vassil Levski” (Bulgaria) said “The 7 step model provides a clear structure for the project and we are making great progress towards valuable resources for the sector”.

The ONSIDE project aims to research and define the area of sport officiating in Europe, develop occupational standards to define generic skills and performance requirements, and finally to develop innovative education products both face to face and online.

# IFSO’s founding meeting

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Gerard Dielessen Directeur NOC\*NSF: “In the Netherlands the various sports federations of all kinds of sports have been cooperating intensively for years in the development of arbitration. This is paying off. We are pleased that with the creation of IFSO we are now also getting a worldwide platform. After all, sports can learn a lot from each other. Therefore, NOC\*NSF wholeheartedly supports IFSO”.



Founding members IFSO:

- National Olympic Committees - Belgium, Djibouti, Hungary, Netherland, Vanuatu.
- Olympic Sports - Bobsleigh and Skeleton (IBSF), Cycling (UCI), Field Hockey (EHF)
- Non Olympic Sports – Savate (FISay), Squash (WS), Kick Boxing Africa and Asia, Sambo (Fias), Wushu (IWUF), Sports de Boules (CMSB), Rafting (IRF)
- Multisports International Federations - (FISU, ISF)
- National Multisports Referee Associations – ADCAM, SOUK
- Associate Member – Paint Ball



## SOUK proud to gain membership of global officiating body

Sports Officials UK are delighted to confirm that it has been accepted as a member of the newly-established International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO).

Speaking on receipt of membership confirmation Janie Frampton SOUK Director and Vice President of IFSO highlighted the vital role of officials in the sport: ‘Officiating is a core strand of development for IFAF’.

“We recognise the important work which officials do and the unique role which they play. We are committed to ensuring that we support our members in the work they undertake in their recruitment, development and deployment of officials. Moreover, we are committed to raising the profile of the official and education the global football community as to their valuable role”.

Frampton continued ‘membership of IFSO provides us with a tremendous platform to learn from and share best practice’.



## Ref Support have had a busy start to 2019

The Ref Support team have had a busy few months, their membership has gone from strength to strength; their facebook page has over 1000 likes and one post reached over 800,000 people. They continue to be advocates for individual referee cases; Mark Ives has put a good discipline process in place but there are still many county FA’s who aren’t following this procedure yet.

Ref Support are coming to the end of a major project to develop a body cam app to support referees – this will be made available in a few months.



Home Office

## Home Office & West Ham Project

We have been working with hard to reach communities, especially with Muslim women – we offer the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports over a 6-week programme so that they can identify a sport to take part in moving forward. This helps physical and mental health ad well being – by doing so improves confidence, courage and self-esteem to give them a stronger voice in their families and communities.

Our next project with the Home Office and West Ham will be focussing on helping young people who are in gangs or are on the fringes of gangs to escape a life of violence and crime.



# IAAF Global Project

We are delighted to work on a global gender leadership programme; the online work is completed. The first stage will be delivered in Madrid in August to representatives from every continent.

- The programme delivers a fun introduction to refereeing as the first step of the development pathway
- This course is designed to be delivered practically by PE teachers, coaches, parents and referee tutors
- The advantage of this module is that it has a strong leaning to the development of positive behaviours
- Delivery through a range of target audiences, such as playground activities, curriculum time sessions, after school clubs, school-clubs links and tournaments.

We can tailor each course to suit your needs. This course has a simple strategy for growth and development as a franchise but can also be a one-off course. Get in contact to begin your training at [info@playonref.co.uk](mailto:info@playonref.co.uk)

For more information go to [www.playonref.co.uk](http://www.playonref.co.uk)



## Women’s Engagement Projects

Janie has been working on projects that focus on women’s empowerment with Rolls Royce and Chelsea FC, this consists of an on-going programme aimed at the development of girls’ and women in sport.

We have been working with new Scotland Yard at a women’s diversity event.

## E-Learning Update

Our brand new E-Learning platform is completed and will be rolled out within days of this publication. Working alongside an industry expert in America we have been able to relaunch with a sleek and current new look and feel. Modules including Conflict Management, Focus and Concentration and Emotional Intelligence will take a few hours to complete but you are able to dip in and out of them as it suits you. We also offer a selection of mini modules for quick bursts of information. If there are any other officiating subjects that you would like to see as a module please get into contact with us with your suggestions at [ki@sportofficialsconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:ki@sportofficialsconsultancy.co.uk)



## Fitness Trends Spring 2019



Here at SOC Towers, we like to keep our ear to the ground when it comes to fitness trends. Here is the top three trends for this season.

- Morning Routine – All of us have some sort of routine that we do every morning – or at least every weekday morning. The trend here is the idea that how we start the day plays a vital role in how the rest of our day progresses. If you can squeeze some movement or exercise into your morning routine then it will have a positive impact on your day – it will give you a sense of achievement from the very start of the day, it’ll help your fitness and the endorphins will help lift your mood. If your mornings are already busy then you could try waking up a few minutes earlier to stretch, to do a few push ups or run a few miles.
- Group Fitness – Group fitness is back on trend this spring. Working out with a friend is a strong way to push yourself further and to stick to your fitness plan. Accountability plays a large part too – you are more likely to turn up to a class if you’ve already paid for it or meet your friend for a run so you don’t let them down. Grab your fitness friends this Spring!
- Resistance Band Workouts – These bands are cheap and easy to pick up, they are small and easy to store and can be thrown into a gym bag or a suitcase for portability. Pinterest searches on exercises with resistance bands is up 2000% this season. They are brilliant tools to help you tone, to work your flexibility and to strengthen your muscles.

## Leisure Leagues

Our work with leisure leagues continues to help support referees from their initial training through their continued development. This creates a uniformed approach to the officiating in small sided football across the whole country.

The CEO of Ref Support, Martin Cassidy has been working closely with Leisure Leagues to find potential sponsors to further promote small sided football in the UK.

Janie is busy flying all over the world to engage other countries to become members of ISF to compete in the Champions League and World Cup later this year.



**Quote Corner**  
“Winners never quit and quitters never win”