



Federation International Sports Table Football
Maison des Association d'Amiens-Metropole,
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Dateiname: Email_FISTF_2025_04_02 Appointment of Director of Inclusivity and Participation to FISTF Board
Date: 2 April 2025

For the attention of:
FISTF Member Nations
(cc Provisional Members)

Subject: Appointment of Director of Inclusivity and Participation to FISTF Board

***Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Chères Mesdames et Messieurs,
Members and Provisional Members, Membres et membres provisoires inclus***

The FISTF Board of Directors has decided that to fulfill the requirement of the Statutes, we are moving to fill the two remaining vacant roles on the Board.

Towards that end, we have decided to formally co-opt Andrew Fitzpatrick (IRL0011) onto the FISTF Board as the new Director of Inclusivity and Participation (formerly the "Special Sports Director" position).

The position of Marketing is still vacant.

Andy has drafted the following statement:

I'm truly honoured to accept the invitation to become a co-opted member of the FISTF Board. Table football has been a lifelong passion of mine—not just as a game, but as a platform for connection, inclusion, and joy. I'm ready to bring that passion to the boardroom and help push our sport forward into a more inclusive future.

My mission is to make sports table football more accessible to everyone. That begins with a fresh lens on how we use language in our official communications, ensuring every player sees themselves reflected and respected. I'd also like to lead research into adaptive rule sets and accessible formats that make it easier for people of all abilities and backgrounds to engage—while still preserving the high-performance side of our sport.

As part of this, I plan to actively connect with players who have participated in table football while navigating a range of physical and intellectual challenges. Their lived experience is essential in shaping authentic, practical, and meaningful change. Inclusion isn't just policy—it's listening, understanding, and co-creating a better sporting environment together.

Subbuteo, as Peter Adolph envisioned it, wasn't just a game—it was a hobby built for everyone. That spirit still matters. In Ireland, we have community hubs like Men's Sheds, where older men gather to connect, create, and unwind. I see enormous potential in bringing table football into these spaces, as well as into retirement villages—offering social connection, tactile fun, and a sense of purpose.

Federation International Sports Table Football
President: Stephen Dettre, Australia
Association Register No./Nr.: W941004017
Founded : 1992

And for the next generation? Let's create inter-school competitions. Table football is affordable, strategic, and thrilling—everything a school sport should be. If we build structures now, we'll have a thriving youth pipeline tomorrow.

*As part of this new role, I propose we update the title to **Director of Inclusivity and Participation**. It better reflects the role's scope and the direction I hope to lead: fostering belonging, broadening participation, and building a sport that leaves no one on the sidelines.*

Looking forward to collaborating with the Board on this exciting journey.

Andy”

The Board has agreed to update the title of the position formerly known as “Special Sports Director” to “Director of Inclusivity and Participation”. This will be reflected in changes to the FISTF Statutes and Official Handbook.

FISTF President has also had discussions with Jonathan D Smith of the USA (USA0210), former ASA President, and Massimo Bolognino (ITA0111), formerly on the FISTF Board. Both Jonathan and Massimo have kindly agreed to be part of the supporting committee for Andy.

We are sure that you will join the Board in warmly welcoming Andy to this important position and will work with him, Jonathan and Massimo to achieve the important goals outlined above.

With kindest regards
FISTF Board