

FITEQ NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2019

Edition 3

Welcome to your monthly newsletter from the International Teqball Federation.

This month's edition reflects another busy period for teqball. From the launch of our new and interactive app called SQILLER at Web Summit in Lisbon through the admission of our membership to the Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA) to the Teqball World Championships 2019. FITEQ continues to drive its aims and ambitions through innovation, partnerships and athletic opportunities.

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BUDAPEST HOSTS BIGGEST-EVER TEQBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The FITEQ Teqball World Championships 2019 ended last weekend with 158 athletes representing 58 countries competing in total. The third edition of the event was held in the hometown of the sport in Budapest, Hungary and ran from 6-8 December.

In the Singles event, Ádám Blázsovics of Hungary took gold on home soil, with Polish runner-up Adrian Duszak and Romanian bronze medalist Apor Györgydeák.

In Mixed Doubles, the Brazilian duo, Natalia Guitler and Marcos Viera secured the gold medal with a stellar performance against home favourites Csaba Bányik and Zsanett Janicsek. The bronze medal went to Nikola Mitro and his partner Maja Umićević from Montenegro.

In the Doubles event, Ádám Blázsovics and Csaba Bányik earned Hungary's second gold medal of the Teqball World Championships beating Montenegrin duo Nikola Mitro and Bogdan Marojević in the final. In the bronze match, Zsolt Lázár and Szabolcs Ilyés of Romania beat France earning another podium spot for the country.

The event included a lively Opening Ceremony before the matches while football legends such as Ronaldinho of Brazil, Carles Puyol of Spain and William Gallas of France participated in an all-star game during the break. The World Championships was broadcast on Eurosport.



MAJOR TEQBALL EVENTS TO CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL 2019

After a hugely successful year of events, FITEQ will conclude 2019 strongly with a number of major events over the next few weeks headlined by the Teqball World Championships 2019 (see separate section below).

The Teqball Asia-Pacific Beach Cup, a doubles Grand Prix tournament, was held in Sanya, China on 28-29 November 2019 and featured nine nations from the Asia-Pacific Region.

Akinori Wase and Daishuke Yajima of Japan claimed the Grand Prix title overcoming Malaysia's Muhammad Eizlan Rakhil Bin Abd Rahman and Shahul Hameed Al Barilan in the final. The bronze-medal game was won by Aser Xuma and Etienne Cau Poanou of New Caledonia.

The competition was part of the Chinese Corporative Beach Games, a domestic multi-sport event organised to celebrate 1 year to go until the VI Asian Beach Games. Teqball is set to make its debut on the sports programme at Sanya 2020. The event, jointly organised by the Chinese Enterprise Sports Association and the Sanya Municipal People's Government, featured other sports, including beach football, beach basketball, beach balloon volleyball, beach athletics, beach pool ball, swimming, tug of war, line dancing, as well aquatic-based challenges.

From 17-19 December, FITEQ will host the Teqball Masters in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), where eight singles and eight doubles team will compete drawn from the world ranking. Global superstar Ronaldinho will also be in attendance.



FITEQ PROVIDES FIRST OLYMPAFRICA TABLE DONATION

FITEQ provided its first Olympafrica centre table donation in Tanzania on 14 November. The first centre to receive a Teqball table and the official balls was the Filbert Bayi Sports Centre at Mkuza, Kibaha.

Olympafrica, which was initiated by the IOC, aims to further social development through sport and promote the creation of small-scale sports and socio-educational centres in African countries, in collaboration with National Olympic Committees and local communities, in order to encourage and assist the development of talented young people through local training programmes.

FITEQ's Education Team also held a two-day training course for the teachers, volunteers and students, who will now be responsible for holding regular training at the centre.

FITEQ Head of International Relations Marius Vizer Jr presented the table to Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) Secretary General Filbert Bayi. TOC Vice-President Henry Tandau expressed his gratitude to FITEQ for introducing teqball in Tanzania and stated his intention to form a national association in the near future.

The second Olympafrica centre to receive the teqball table was in Zanzibar at the Dole Centre, on 19 November. Marius Vizer Jr officially donated a table to Musa Jaribu, Director of Dole Centre, and immediately gave the opportunity to every student to play teqball with the players from FITEQ. Vizer Jr noted how impressed he was with their skills and enthusiasm.

During the visit to Tanzania, Marius Vizer Jr also participated in the 36th Seminar for Secretaries General of African NOCs in Zanzibar. During the seminar, he presented a teqball table to the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) President Mustapha Berraf, to TOC President Gulam Abdulla Rashid, to CEO of The Olympafrica Foundation Alesane Thierno Diack and to Hon. Minister Mahmoud Kombo, Minister Information, Tourism and Heritage, Zanzibar. They all assured FITEQ of their full support and agreed on future cooperation to spread teqball throughout the whole continent.



FITEQ LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE SQILLER APP AT WEB SUMMIT

Brazilian football legend Ronaldinho helped launch FITEQ's interactive mobile application SQILLER at the Web Summit in Lisbon on 6 November. The Web Summit is described by Forbes as "the best technology conference on the planet" and brings together more than 70,000 people from over 160 countries including 11,000 CEOs and 2,000+ journalists.

SQILLER allows players to develop their skills using a smart device and a football. Ronaldinho, who is also a teqball ambassador, joined FITEQ Vice-President Viktor Huszar for presentations in front of more than 15,000 people on the Web Summit main and sports stages. On stage, Ronaldinho performed a live demo, competing against himself to showcase the skills needed to excel on the app.

Speaking at the launch, Ronaldinho said: "I am happy to be a part of SQILLER. I played football all my life and it is an opportunity for everyone nowadays who has a mobile phone to unite technology with sport."

On the app, benchmarks are set by Teqball Ambassadors, such as Ronaldinho and his former team mate Cafu, who are filmed performing a variety of skills at different difficulty levels. Players then have to record themselves accurately recreating these skills.

FITEQ Vice-President Huszar said: "SQILLER uses modern technologies in a way that has never been done before. It is an app which challenges what we mean by esports and will become the esports discipline of teqball. It allows players to develop real skills which they can put to use on the teqball table."

The SQILLER mobile application will be available from early 2020 on iOS, an iPhone 8 and higher.



FITEQ OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY TAFISA

FITEQ has reinforced its commitment to equal opportunity as it signed the Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration on Women and Sport and was officially recognised and admitted as a member of The Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA).

FITEQ President and Inventor Gábor Borsányi, signed the Brighton Declaration during a signing ceremony in Tokyo. The Declaration was developed and established by the International Working Group (IWG) on Women in Sport and provides a roadmap to support a fairer and more inclusive system of sport for women and girls. In signing the Declaration, FITEQ has committed to upholding the 10 principles that enable women and girls to freely and safely participate, compete and build careers in sport.

FITEQ's commitment to inclusivity was further reinforced when TAFISA announced the federation as a member during its General Assembly in Tokyo. TAFISA has more than 320 members from more than 170 countries, comprising of non-governmental and governmental organisations. It aims to use sport as a vehicle for change and create a better world through Sport for All by 2030.

Gábor Borsányi said: "Teqball was created as a sport for all. It has always been our mission to ensure that teqball can be played by anyone, no matter their gender, age, nationality or ability. That is why it is so important to us that we do everything possible to make sure teqball is inclusive and accessible."



FITEQ TEAMS UP WITH PEACE AND SPORT AT ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP

FITEQ teamed up with Peace and Sport for a joint project at the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan, demonstrating FITEQ's ongoing commitment to using sport for development. FITEQ Head of CSR Gergely Muranyi led the FITEQ delegation to Jordan's fourth biggest city.

In April 2018, FITEQ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Peace and Sport, at the Zaatari Refugee Camp, with both organisations confirming their intention to join forces in promoting teqball as a tool for social development and equality. On this occasion, two teqball tables were donated.

During the most recent visit, FITEQ donated a further Teqball ONE table to support refugees' engagement with teqball and sport in general.

FITEQ is planning for two refugees from the camp to travel to the Teqball World Championships in Budapest in December to compete in the event. These two refugees are also the teqball coaches in the camp, after they were taught the technical aspects by FITEQ's sport animators.

During the visit, FITEQ also provided additional sports equipment and sports clothing to refugee children to ensure that the sport is accessible to all.



FITEQ CONTINUES TO TARGET CHINA GROWTH AT 2ND CHINA INTERNATIONAL IMPORT EXPO

FITEQ Head of Diplomatic Relations Gergely Murányi represented the international federation at the 2nd China International Import Expo in Shanghai. The Expo is the world's first import-themed national-level event in China.

FITEQ was invited to present Teqball at the Hungarian Pavilion during the Expo, which was held at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Following the Expo, FITEQ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, donated one Teqball ONE table to the Puto District Elementary School. Hungarian Consul General Szilárd Bolla joined Gergely Murányi for the visit to the school.

The visit to Shanghai is the latest activity in FITEQ's effort to grow the sport in China.



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEQBALL ESTABLISHED IN DJIBOUTI

Following a three day teqball training seminar for youth, FITEQ confirmed the launch of the Djibouti Teqball Federation, one of the first official National Federations of the sport in Africa.

The launch of the National Federation was attended by the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport Hassan Mohamed Kamil, the President of the National Olympic Committee of Djibouti Aïcha Garad Ali and the Director of Sport Mr Abchir Ali Hassan.

FITEQ Head of International Relations Marius Vizer Jr attended the launch and addressed delegates at the closing ceremony of the teqball training seminar.

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