FOREWORDS

FITEQ EXECUTIVE BOARD

When we started the teqball journey just under a decade ago, sports organisations were beginning to place greater emphasis on contributing to a more sustainable future. Recognising the critical importance of this, from the outset the FITEQ Executive looked to embrace sustainability principles and instil an environmentally conscious culture in all of our day-to-day operations.

As the leader of the teqball family, we understand our responsibility to engage and assist all stakeholders with the integration of sustainability within their own organisations. Accordingly, we have developed this Sustainable Development Handbook, which will act as a guide and a tool to drive us forward in our efforts to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all areas of our sport.

We trust you share our determination for teqball to have a wider social impact and this starts with all of us holding ourselves accountable. Thank you for your cooperation and belief in our vision that teqball can contribute to a brighter and better world.

GERGELEY MURÁNYI, HEAD OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND CSR

In recent years, the world has gained a better understanding of the urgent need to act on climate change. A significant part of this important shift in mindset can be attributed to young people. It is their future, and their children’s future, that we have a duty to protect. But to do so effectively, we have no time to waste and we must act now.

As a sports organisation with a global reach, FITEQ has an obligation to use its platform to build awareness of climate change and communicate clear and simple steps that can make a real difference. It is an honour for me to lead FITEQ’s global sustainability drive and ensure our sport finds innovative ways to educate the next generation.

We have channelled our thoughts into the FITEQ Sustainable Development Handbook, outlining how the experience we have gained can help you contribute to a more sustainable future. To be successful in this endeavour, we must be environmentally aware in everything we do. It has to be at the forefront of our minds every day and not a simple afterthought.

As you will see in the Handbook, we are not expecting wholesale change or major investment from you. However, we are expecting you to show a long-term commitment to being more sustainable as an organisation. Start small, or start big – it’s entirely up to you. But make sure that you start somewhere. It can be as simple as reducing waste or recycling more efficiently. This alone will make a considerable difference.

In our collective journey towards a more sustainable future, FITEQ will be with you every step of the way. We hope you appreciate the need to take responsible action now, based on the understanding that what we do today can have implications on the lives of people and the planet in the future. Thank you for your collaboration and I look forward to seeing your innovative efforts in the months ahead.
**INTRODUCTION**

**TEQBALL**

Teqball is a football (soccer)-based sport, played on a specially-curved table (the Teq table), which is attracting a new generation of athletes and amateur enthusiasts (Teqers), whose ambition is to develop their technical skills, concentration and stamina.

The sport, which was created in Hungary in 2012, is a truly gender-equitable game, as the rules define that teqball shall be played between two (singles) or four players (doubles), irrespective of gender. Led by the International Teqball Federation (FITEQ), the sport has enjoyed rapid growth over the past four years, as a result of increasing athlete participation, a growing fanbase and the development of strategic partnerships.

One of the world’s fastest-growing sports, teqball is now played in over 100 countries, across all five continents, under the governance of 97 National Federations (NFs).

World Championships were held in 2017, 2018 and 2019. A 2021 edition is planned for the final quarter of the year.

**TEQBALL HISTORY**

**2017**
- **MARCH**
  - Teqball World Championships 2017
  - Budapest, Hungary
- **JUNE**
  - Teqball World Championships 2017
  - Budapest, Hungary
- **SEPTEMBER**
  - 1st Teqball World Championships
  - Budapest, Hungary

**2018**
- **MARCH**
  - Teqball World Championships 2018
  - Reims, France
- **JUNE**
  - Teqball World Championships 2018
  - Reims, France

**2019**
- **MARCH**
  - Teqball World Championships 2019
  - Reims, France
- **JUNE**
  - Teqball World Championships 2019
  - Reims, France

**2020**
- **JANUARY**
  - FITEQ was granted Observer Status by the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF)
  - Lausanne, Switzerland
- **SEPTEMBER**
  - FITEQ approved by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as an official Signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code
  - FITEQ joined the UNFCCC’s Sports for Climate Action initiative

**FITEQ**

Established in March 2017, FITEQ is the governing body presiding over the sport of teqball and para teqball.

Respect for the game, diversity, players, opponents, officials and supporters underpins the essence of FITEQ.

On 10 November 2020, FITEQ became a full member of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

It is also recognised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOC) and the Organisation of Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO), and is a member of The Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA).

As a partner of the International Testing Agency (ITA) and a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code, FITEQ is fully committed to the international fight against doping in sport.

**WATCH IT**

![Teqball scene with players and equipment](Image)
SUSTAINABILITY AND US

We aspire to minimise our impact on the environment and maximise the effective use of sustainable resources. We strive to achieve this by increasing communication and awareness of our efforts in accordance with this policy.

We also aspire to encourage our athletes, trainers, staff, volunteers, and sports enthusiasts to adopt healthy, sustainable habits.

We demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development through our organisational governance, policies, events, philanthropic projects and donations, just like our cooperation with the government sector, NGOs and diplomatic partners.

We aim to focus our sustainability efforts in the areas that connect to our higher purpose of building a brighter and better world. We will always take steps to understand and define how the sport of teqball and FITEQ are having a positive impact.

SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sport for development is an approach based on the belief that play or sport is not just an end in itself, but also an effective way to help achieve larger development goals.

Global evidence reveals that sport-based programs which are explicitly designed to address the needs of particular sections of the population have the potential to prevent disease, increase school attendance, improve learning levels, foster gender equity, enhance inclusion of people with disabilities, and build skills that promote employment and economic development.

The growing importance of sustainability has re-written the relationships of the international sports federations with their various stakeholders, including athletes, staff members, supply chain partners, governments, event partners, fans, and communities.

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE IOC

The International Olympic Committee is among the sporting authorities to have recognised that sport and its governing bodies have an important role to play in helping to achieve sustainability, citing UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 37:

‘SPORT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ENABLER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. WE RECOGNIZE THE GROWING CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT TO THE REALIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN ITS PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND RESPECT AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS IT MAKES TO THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OBJECTIVES.’

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIPS

FITEQ is the proud partner or supporter of the following recognised bodies and/or their initiatives, which are active in the field of sustainability across the world.

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

In 2020, FITEQ joined the UN’s Global Climate Action. Across the international world of sports, this collaboration aims to find practical solutions for the sports industry to tackle climate change. During 2020, basic sustainability-related documents and policies were maintained, and from 2021 became easily accessible. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of governance and ethics, and fully adhere to the key principles of sustainable development. In addition to complying with the relevant legal requirements, we will strive to continue to improve our sustainability performance.

LIVE TOGETHER PROGRAMME, ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP, JORDAN

FITEQ entered into partnership with Peace and Sport in 2018. Our cooperation with Peace and Sport and the support of its Live Together programme is the federation’s longest-running programme of its kind.

The programme takes a ‘train-the-trainer’ approach to sustainability, aiming to implement field programmes and ensure their sustainability, maximising the use of sport for development and peace and leading social transformation in every area of the world affected by poverty or social instability.

This programme is committed to aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, promoting improved international coherence and collaboration in placing sport at the service of humanity, as a powerful enabler of sustainable development. Peace and Sport, (L’Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport), is a neutral and independent organisation based in the Principality of Monaco and under the patronage of Prince Albert II of Monaco. Peace and Sport works in areas across the world where communities have become estranged from one another and where traditional policies have failed to establish dialogue, with the goal of restoring peaceful relations.
SUSTAINABILITY AND OUR NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

This Sustainability Handbook aims to integrate a philosophy of sustainable development into all FITEQ activities, through our National Federations, events and competitions, and to establish and promote sound environmental practice in our operations.

FITEQ already offers NF programmes that promote sport and educational activities with accessible community education, leisure, and sports facilities. These programmes, involving 100-500 participants at every location, give us the opportunity to strengthen awareness of federations and their activities.

However, we want the Sustainability Handbook to go further than this, serving as a guide for NFs to learn best practice and implement their own programmes. These can often make a significant difference without the need for major investment from NFs.

FITEQ began implementing sustainability initiatives in 2017 and, while we still have a long journey ahead of us, we know that as we grow, our impact will grow with us. Sustainability and CSR objectives are already an integral part of ‘The Upward Curve’, FITEQ’s NF Evaluation Tool, with points being awarded for a range of activities, including:

- VIP Teq table donations submitted;
- Further education or seminar attendance;
- Number of CSR events;
- Number of sustainability activities;
- Self-organised seminars or workshops.

Together with our NF partners, we will continue to focus our sustainability efforts in the areas that connect to our higher purpose of building a brighter and better world.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The 17 SDGs for 2030 provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and to tackle the key global sustainability challenges. These SDGs include ending poverty, combating climate change, fighting injustice and inequality, and many other aspirations for a better, more sustainable world.

"WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR HELPING TO REACH THESE AMBITIOUS TARGETS. CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FROM ALL OF TEQBALL’S STAKEHOLDERS TO ACHIEVE THEM!"

FITEQ’s core missions, including social development through sport, are already closely aligned with several of the SDGs, notably in the fields of health and well-being (SDG #3), gender equality (SDG #5), reduced inequalities (SDG #10), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG #16) and partnerships for sustainability (SDG #17).

By further embedding sustainability in our activities, we believe we could reinforce teqball’s contribution to these SDGs while contributing to several other SDGs, as illustrated below.

OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As an organisation dedicated to making the world a better place through sport, FITEQ knows that it has the responsibility to play its part in society, and this of course is true when it comes to sustainability.

FITEQ as an organisation:
- To embrace sustainability principles and to include sustainability in its day-to-day operations.

FITEQ as owner of the Teqball World Championships:
- To take a proactive and leadership role on sustainability and ensure that it is included in all aspects of the planning and staging of the World Championships.

FITEQ as leader of the teqball family:
- To engage and assist teqball family members in integrating sustainability within their own organisations and operations.
These commitments strongly align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which can be found [here](#).

In time, our sport could play its part in helping to achieve all of these goals, but in the shorter term we want to focus on those where we can make a difference now.
And remember: any idea, big or small, can make a difference!
HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

‘The world is off-track to achieve the health-related SDGs. Progress has been uneven, both between and within countries. There’s a 31-year gap between the countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. And while some countries have made impressive gains, national averages hide that many are being left behind. Multisectoral, rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches are essential to address inequalities and to build good health for all.’ – United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

‘Obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, with at least 2.8 million people dying each year as a result of being overweight or obese,’ according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO adds: ‘Once associated with high-income countries, obesity is now also prevalent in low- and middle-income countries. ‘Governments, international partners, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector all have vital roles to play in contributing to obesity prevention’.

OUR GOAL

SDG 3 promotes healthy lifestyles, with sport activities making an important contribution. We want to help to motivate everyone to live a more healthy and active life, enabling greater levels of physical activity and the consequent health benefits.

‘ENSURE SPORTING OPPORTUNITY AND PROMOTE ACTIVE LIFESTYLE FOR ALL, AT ALL AGES”

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Organise sport days with local schools and develop programs for kids
- Organise public events where people can try teqball for free
- Donate your blood. Safe blood saves lives!
- Help rural or emergency areas gain equal access to sport activities
- Target communities in which the culture of sport is less established
SDG GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

‘It is vital to give women equal rights to land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.’ - United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

Empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development. Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it also has a multiplier effect across all other development areas. An integrated approach is critical for progress across the multiple goals.

OUR GOAL

As a global sport organisation, we want all staff members, athletes, and the whole teqball community to reflect the broader values of the society in which we live. We believe that achieving greater gender parity will strengthen our federation and our sport significantly through understanding the needs of the women, men, families and athletes who are part of our movement.

‘ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS’

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Invite more female teqball players to join the global movement and NFs and clubs
- Involve women on the boards and in positions of responsibility and decision-making in NFs and clubs
- Organise events where genders are equally represented
- Educate the younger generation over gender equality
- Develop female role models within NFs and clubs
SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

‘Income inequality has increased nearly everywhere in recent decades, but at different speeds. It’s lowest in Europe and highest in the Middle East. These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity.’ United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

“Income disparities and a lack of opportunities are creating a vicious cycle of inequality, frustration and discontent across generations.” – António Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

‘Inequality is growing for more than 70 per cent of the global population, exacerbating the risks of divisions and hampering economic and social development. But the rise is far from inevitable and can be tackled at a national and international level,’ according to The World Social Report 2020, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in January 2021.

OUR GOAL

We believe that sport has the power to have a positive social impact. As an effective sustainability medium, sport can build values that any socially responsible communities strive for. These include qualities like teamwork, fair play, involving staff members and athletes as well as building good relationships with fans and followers, and also motivating and educating them. But these opportunities must be inclusive, and must be made freely available to all.

‘PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, REGARDLESS OF NATIONAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC STATUS’

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Reach out to all local communities, including migrant, refugees and other disadvantaged sectors
- Organise events in disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- Educate the younger generation over equal opportunities
- Encourage people from disadvantaged backgrounds to become volunteers, coaches, officials and board members of NFs and clubs
- Recognise and develop policies to counter our own (sometimes unconscious) prejudice and discrimination
SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

‘More than half of us live in cities. By 2050, two-thirds of all humanity – 6.5 billion people – will be urban. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.’ – United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

The IOC identifies ‘infrastructure and natural sites’ as one of its five sustainability focus areas in its Sustainability Strategy. It targets the sustainable ‘development and operation of indoor and outdoor sites (e.g. existing and new permanent construction, temporary and overlay structures) wherever sports activities take place, including support and administrative infrastructure such as non-competition venues (e.g. the Olympic Village, media centres, logistics depots and accommodation).’

OUR GOAL

As organisers of sporting events, FITEQ and its NFs have the opportunity and the responsibility to integrate sustainability into all preparations, operations, activities, facilities and venues relating to those events. We aim to optimise the environmental performance of venues (e.g. impacts on air, water, soil, biodiversity, climate and raw materials availability) and to implement responsible sourcing practices for goods and services, including those from national sponsors and licensees.

‘Optimise sustainable practices in preparing for and hosting teqball events’

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Ensure that teqball sites have a net positive impact on local communities
- Ensure that sites respect protected natural areas, and that urban green spaces are promoted
- Ensure that sites respect protected cultural areas
- Ensure that sites conserve water resources and protect water quality
- Ensure that infrastructure is viable and has a minimal environmental footprint
SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

‘Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act. It is still possible, with strong political will, increased investment, and using existing technology, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, aiming at 1.5°C, but this requires urgent and ambitious collective action.’ - United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

Our planet’s environment is under severe stress from uncontrolled human activity, threatening the survival of our society. UN Climate Action says: ‘The stakes could not be higher: the science shows temperatures are in record-breaking territory, greenhouse gas levels are mounting, sea level is rising, and natural disasters are getting much worse. As the world confronts the [COVID-19] pandemic and embarks on recovery, there is growing recognition that the recovery must be a pathway to a green and sustainable economy that produces jobs and prosperity, reduces emissions, and builds resilience.’

OUR GOAL

We have all contributed to the climate crisis, and we must all contribute to the solution. This means ensuring that effective carbon reduction strategies are in place for operations and events, and that all of our activities are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR ALL OPERATIONS AND EVENTS

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Ensure that the sustainability policies set out in FITEQ’s Event Organisation Guides (EOGs) are implemented at all events
- Ensure that adaptation to the consequences of climate change is taken into account in the planning of teqball facilities and events
- Teqball event organisers and host cities should aim to minimise their events’ carbon emissions
- Event organisers should compensate their ‘direct’/’owned’ emissions
- Event organisers and host cities should promote low carbon solutions for and through teqball events in the host country
- Candidate cities, event organisers and host cities should take into account potential consequences of climate change when selecting teqball event locations
'We cannot hope for sustainable development without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law. Yet our world is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is not inevitable and must be addressed.' – United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

“Sport has the power to change the world, to inspire and unite people, in a way that little else does.” – Nelson Mandela

‘Peace through sport doesn’t depend on a handful of people. Sharing the sport values - respect, fairness, equity, excellence and friendship - to build a more inclusive and united world needs as many people as possible to join in.’ – Peace and Sport’s Champions For Peace Manifesto.

OUR GOAL

We believe that sustainable peace can be significantly advanced through the powerful catalyst of sport. Together with Peace and Sport and the UN Alliance of Civilizations – One Humanity Campaign we aim to stand up against racial discrimination, xenophobia and cultural-based conflicts and to highlight the values of mutual respect and collaboration amongst different cultures.

‘HELP BUILD PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE POWER OF SPORT AND THEREBY CREATE A SAFER, MORE EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE WORLD’

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Help promote sport for peace in a pragmatic manner, involving best practices and actions to attain the SDGs
- Devise teqball events and activities that offer real and tangible answers to tackling discrimination, racism, social inequalities and poverty
- Celebrate April 6 each year - the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- Organise teqball events and sport legacy programs under the Peace and Sport banner
- Support existing sports diplomacy initiatives and facilitate sports-based exchanges through athlete envoys and diplomatic representation
SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

‘The world is more interconnected than ever. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed, is vital for sustainable growth and development.’ – United Nations Development Programme.

BACKGROUND

Under the heading ‘Multi-stakeholder partnerships’, SDG 17 sets the following global target: ‘Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.’

OUR GOAL

The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation. As a global sport, teqball is well placed to develop these partnerships. Our aim is to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. FITEQ aims to engage and assist teqball stakeholders in integrating sustainability within their own organisations and operations.

‘FORM PARTNERSHIPS AND WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AND THROUGH SPORT’

IMPLEMENTING THIS GOAL IN FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS

- Exchange information and best practices with other teqball stakeholders
- Engage with relevant expert organisations to develop guidelines and innovative solutions
- Set up an ambassador programme including athletes, in order to raise awareness on sustainability in sport
- Carry out an audit to assess the extent to which organisations encourage collaboration
- Develop and disseminate a clear strategic imperative for partnering, setting out the key forms of collaboration that will help achieve the SDGs
OUR SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

FITEQ is committed to minimising its impact on the environment by:

- Providing a safe and healthy workplace for all staff
- Promoting a culture of environmental sustainability where responsibility is assigned and understood
- Being an environmentally responsible International Sports Federation
- Preserving natural resources by reusing and recycling
- Reducing the need to travel by hosting workshops, webinars and training sessions online
- Ensuring the responsible use of energy throughout all events and competitions
- Actively participating in efforts to improve environmental protection and understanding
- Taking regular steps to continually improve environmental performance
- Conducting audits, evaluations, and self-assessments of the implementation of the FITEQ Sustainability Handbook
- Collaborating with our partners across the International Sports Federation and National Federations to implement sustainable solutions
- Partnering with suppliers who promote environmental practices
- Encouraging our athletes, trainers, staff, volunteers, and sports enthusiasts at all levels to adopt healthy, sustainable lifestyles
- We invite all teqball stakeholders to adopt these commitments and to help us ensure that all members of the teqball family work together to achieve the sustainable development goals

NEXT STEPS

As a governing body, we believe we have a responsibility both to ensure the long-term sustainability of our sport, and to ensure that our sport contributes to the long-term sustainability of the wider world.

As a starting point for our journey together, we encourage all NFs to focus on two of the SDGs outlined in this handbook. FITEQ will be on hand to support you throughout the process of launching your programmes, which will make a real difference to communities all around the world. We propose setting up channels for regular dialogue between FITEQ and its NFs so we can assess our joint progress in this critical area.