



Media Release

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Congress 2016

The International Federation of American Football (IFAF) held its Annual Congress in New York, United States, on September 17 - just one week after the World Flag Football Championships were staged in Miami.

The IFAF invited representatives from all its Member countries to attend to discuss and help plan the future of football – This year, representatives from nations spanning the continents of Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania, attended.

IFAF President, **Roope NORONEN** welcomed Congress and spoke of the highlights, achievements and challenges faced during the past year.

The highlights included the staging of the u19 World Championship in China and the Flag Football Championships in the United States and Mexico's contribution to the FISU World Championship.

He praised the innovative grassroots schemes taking place around the world and the continued hard work of volunteers the world over.

Noronen addressed the challenges which have affected the sport since 2015 and reinforced the desire to see these resolved at the Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS).

Noronen also confirmed that he would not stand for re-election to the Executive Board due to commitments to the Finnish Federation. He praised the work of the Executive Board and others during his time in office.

Guest speaker was **Mark WALLER** Executive Vice President: NFL International, who addressed the IFAF Congress on the work of the NFL in broadening access to the game and the importance of ensuring that a unified federation developed the sport worldwide.

Presentations were also made by a delegation from Panama on the hosting of international events.

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Key points from Congress:

Nations committed to supporting the resolution of international governance issues at CAS.

An independent organisation will lead a review of the IFAF Statutes, policies and procedures.

Delegates and attendees hailed from: American Samoa; Argentina; Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Denmark; Finland; Great Britain; Israel; Italy; Japan; Kenya; Korea; Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Panama and the United States.

Board Elections:

Mr. **Richard MACLEAN** (Canada) was elected to serve as President.

Mr. **Makato KANEUJI** (Japan) was re-elected to serve as Senior Vice President.

Mr. **Scott HALLENBECK** (United States) was elected to serve as Vice President.

Ms. **Marie SOLHAUG** (Norway) was elected to serve as Treasurer.

Mr. **Chris JOSEY** (Australia) was elected to serve as Secretary.

All terms of office are four years.