IF Sustainability Project
WORLD TAEKWONDO
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY
The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world. As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the IOC Sustainability Strategy.

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation 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.”

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
In May 2019, World Taekwondo (WT) launched its first Sustainability Strategy. Containing 17 recommendations designed to ensure WT, its continental unions and member national associations are operating sustainably, the strategy is directly aligned with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sustainability Strategy. It was presented by the WT Sustainability Committee at the World Taekwondo Conference, and was subsequently approved by both the WT Council and General Assembly.

Also in May 2019, WT followed the IOC’s lead by signing the United Nations (UN) Sports for Climate Action Framework. The announcement was made at the Manchester 2019 World Taekwondo Championships, the sport’s largest event in participation terms and one at which WT aimed to reduce its negative impact on the environment as far as possible.

The 17 recommendations, which will be implemented over two years, focus on four areas:

- Methods of work to improve collaboration and organisation according to the values of the sport.
- Strategies and policies to implement guidelines for the organisation in a clear and transparent governance framework.
- Processes that have the technical capacity to take on sustainability challenges.
- Global targets and projects based on sustainability focus areas.

Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC’s sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A NEW SET OF 17 RECOMMENDATIONS IS GUIDING WORLD TAEKWONDO’S SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

OBJECTIVES
World Taekwondo created a Sustainability Strategy in order to:
- Implement clear sustainability-oriented guidelines within a transparent governance framework.
- Launch concrete sustainability measures, such as those taken at the Manchester 2019 World Taekwondo Championships.
- Raise awareness across the taekwondo community and encourage them to take action towards sustainability at all levels of the sport.
The recommendations provide a roadmap for WT to implement its sustainability policy and promote sustainability at a worldwide scale. One of the Sustainability Strategy’s key ambitions is to improve sustainability at events. As evidence of WT’s commitment to sustainability, the Manchester 2019 World Taekwondo Championships was organised to minimise its environmental footprint, and featured a variety of initiatives designed to improve the sustainability of the event. For example, the 14 hotels housing the 3,000 athletes were all within walking distance of the venue, and the mattresses used for the sports competitions have since been reused by the British Taekwondo Federation.

“WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT SUSTAINABILITY IS ENSHRINED IN EVERYTHING WE DO, FROM MINIMISING OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE POLICIES IN THE WAY OUR IF IS GOVERNED AND OPERATES.”

CHUNGWON CHOUE, WORLD TAEKWONDO PRESIDENT

EVALUATION

The WT Sustainability Committee is working hand-in-hand with the Secretariat to implement all 17 recommendations in the WT Sustainability Strategy. The recommendations have already had a direct impact on practices at the WT headquarters in Seoul and at its offices in Lausanne. For example, going forwards, all new committees will have an equal number of male and female members, and will be chosen for their expertise only. The Strategy is now inspiring the worldwide taekwondo community, including continental unions, national associations, clubs and athletes.

BENEFITS

• Creating a detailed plan with specific timeframes can help an IF to implement sustainability measures.
• Establishing a sustainability plan is an efficient way to improve collaboration and maintain transparency within the organisation.
• By launching a Sustainability Strategy, an IF can be a source of inspiration for the entire sports community.
• Increasing accountability, monitoring and evaluation can enable an IF to implement a results-based management programme.

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