

# IFC Soccer Club

## A Brief History

The Club's roots goes back to 1991 when a few Investment Officers in IFC's old Africa and LAC Investment Departments wanted to play soccer after work as a means of exercise and recreation. The idea originated when Mark Webber suggested to Oscar Chemerinski and Timothy Ryan over lunch that it would be good to play soccer after work to get exercise and stay fit. While heading back to work, they discussed the idea of getting others in IFC involved. The first games started on a cool autumn evening at an indoor gym that Oscar arranged at a Jewish synagogue and community center in Silver Spring. About ten staff played indoor soccer until late that evening. Some of these early supporters are listed as *Founding Members (FM)* in the Membership annex attached to these Guidelines. The rest is history.

Since then, the membership in the IFC soccer group has grown steadily. In spring '92, the group moved to 17th Street and Constitution Avenue to play scrimmage two days a week on the Mall; next, they started playing soccer on Sundays on a regular field in Crystal City. As time moved on, it became evident that a more formal structure was needed to meet the needs of the players.

In the summer of 1994, Anthony Shields, FM, organized the group as the "IFC Staff Soccer Club." Membership increased by 230% to 79 players. The Club obtained funding from the World Bank through a subsidy that is made available to Bank related community organizations. In September, 1994 the Club joined the **Washington International Soccer League (WISL)** to compete against the top soccer Clubs in the greater Washington metropolitan area. The Bank's funding is used mostly to support the official IFC team, while membership contributions support scrimmage games and Club activities. In January, 1995, the Club obtained a permit to use a regular soccer field on the Mall to play scrimmage, and obtained permission from the Bretton Woods Soccer Committee to use the fields at Bretton Woods to play official league matches sponsored by WISL.

*While the Club is very informal*, the attached Guidelines were prepared to convey some basic ideas on how the Club operates. Please use these Guidelines as a reference point to answer questions that you may have. A summary of the basic laws of soccer under FIFA rules are also provided for your information. The Club encourages supporters to become members and to actively participate in meetings and activities. Comments on the Guidelines are always welcome.

The objectives of the Club are to:

- represent the Club at soccer matches played in leagues or against other competitors;
- play soccer to promote physical fitness and well-being;
- play soccer as a means of recreation;
- accommodate the busy schedules of staff by allowing them to play soccer at their convenience;
- cater to the needs of Staff members who want to play soccer in a competitive and highly disciplined manner; and
- share information on soccer games played in local, national and international events.

The Club seeks to enhance cooperation, unity and teamwork among staff through participation in Club activities.

To join the Club, complete the application attached to these Guidelines and send it with a check with your contribution or fee to:

Mr. Mandeep Singh, Treasurer  
IFC Staff Soccer Club  
1818 H Street, N.W., Rm. D-3095  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
(202) 458-1640

Membership is good for the current season year and is effective upon receipt.

Only talented soccer players are encouraged to join the official IFC team. To join the team, you must first be a member of the Club.

IFC Soccer Club offers something for every staff member who is interested in playing soccer, the most popular sport in the world. The Club offers informal, come-as-you-are, come-when-you-can recreational soccer, as well as the more serious, highly disciplined and competitive league games.

*1996 Soccer Season:* The Soccer Seasons starts in the week when Day Light Saving Time begins. The 1995 season will start on Saturday, April 1, 1995 when the first WISL match is scheduled. The first scrimmage game is scheduled on Tuesday, April 4, 1995. The 1995 Soccer Season ends when the last league match is played in November 1995. Here is what the games are about:

**Scrimmage Soccer:** Scrimmage soccer is by far the most popular game offered by the Club. Members play for fun, recreation and exercise. Refreshments are sometimes provided. Scrimmage Soccer is played at a spot on the Mall near 17th Street & Constitution Avenue directly in front of DAR Constitution Hall and the OAS buildings. The environment is friendly and informal. There are no skill requirements for playing in the scrimmage games. Rules are made up on the spot by the Group and are carried over to the next games. No special colors or gears are required to play scrimmage. Nevertheless, it is recommended that scrimmage players wear a proper studded soccer shoes to avoid injury from slipping on the grass. It is also a good idea to wear shin guards to protect your legs. The scrimmage teams usually play skins against shirts or colored t-shirts against white t-shirts. Scrimmage games are cancelled only if it is raining at the scheduled start time. They are never usually cancelled for overcast weather or light drizzle. Attendance throughout spring and summer '94 ranged from a minimum of 15 players to a maximum of 32 players (during the World Cup season). When a large number of players show up to play scrimmage, the group is usually broken into two sets with a set of two teams playing on separate fields. There is always a space for a "Drop-in" or late comer.

Not everyone who plays scrimmage soccer during the week wants to commit to play competitive matches on week-ends, and vice versa. For this reason, members who want to play on the official ISC team must contact the Coach and inform him of their desire to play on the official team. Players will be placed on a waiting list if the Roster is full.

*Schedule:* The scrimmage soccer season starts in the spring on the first Tuesday when Day-Light Savings Time begins. The first game is scheduled for April 4, 1995. The Scrimmage Soccer season ends when it gets dark on the last Thursday before Day Light Savings Time ends, which is October 26, 1995. Starting time for the Scrimmage Soccer games are 6:00 pm in early spring and late fall, and 6:30 pm during the late spring and throughout the summer, unless otherwise announced.

IFC Soccer Club is a member of the Washington International Soccer League (WISL). WISL is often called "whistle" (Wis-L). WISL is one of the most competitive league in the Washington metropolitan area. WISL matches are played in the spring and fall seasons for a league trophy. The league has four divisions: 1) Emerald Division, 2) Ruby Division, 3) Sapphire Division and 4) Diamond Division. There are ten teams in each division. IFC will compete in the Emerald Division in the spring of 1995. IFC matches are played on Saturdays at Bretton Woods. The IMF and World Bank Soccer Clubs plays in the Diamond Division on Sundays at Bretton Woods. ISC will play nine games in the Emerald Division. The top four teams from a division will go to the play-offs.

*Soccer Rules:* WISL follows Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules. Some simplified FIFA rules are attached to these Guidelines for your information. FIFA rules can be obtained from the local library or a soccer specialty store.

**Newspaper Publicity:** The score of the IFC team are reported every Monday in the sports section of the Washington Post.

The color for the team jersey is blue and white striped. Black shorts are worn with black socks. The jerseys shall only be worn by players on the Official Team Roster at competitive events. The team jerseys cannot be worn at scrimmage games.

All Club expenditures shall be based on a pre-established Budget. The President shall present a Budget to the membership for approval within 90 days of the start of the Soccer Season. The Budget will be developed by the Administrative Committee based on the expenditures of the prior year and projected expenses for the budget year.

The Club is funded by membership dues, a subsidy from the World Bank and monies raised from special fund-raising activities. The Club shall endeavor to use all the funds it collects in a financial year for that financial year. Only the funds that are needed to start-up operations in the next calendar year should be carried over to the next soccer season.

#### Organization

The Club is organized into three basic functions. They are administration, treasury and games management. The President and Vice Presidents are responsible for administration. The Treasurer is responsible for finance and accounting, and the Coach and Team Captains are responsible for games management. Appropriate segregation of duties shall be maintained among the President/Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Coach. Any two of the President and Vice Presidents can approve Club expenditures over \$100. All disbursements must have the approval of the Treasurer. Approvals are not required to be in writing.

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