IFSC SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES 2020
HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the current situation (April 2020) related to Covid-19, the IFSC advises you to strictly follow the recommendations of your national and local public health authority. Please stay aware of the latest information available on your national and local media and on the WHO (World Health Organization) website: https://www.who.int.
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PREAMBLE

With issues such as climate change, economic inequality and social injustice impacting communities across the globe, sustainability is a major challenge not only for the general public, but also for the sporting world. Sport has the power to both motivate and inspire large numbers of people and so, we believe that the IFSC has an opportunity and also a duty to actively contribute to global sustainability.

In line with our strategic vision, we pledge: ‘To make the world a better place through sport’. To do this, the IFSC has produced a set of Sustainability Guidelines which aim to provide simple, practical and essential information for Member Federations and Event Organisers to develop effective sustainability programmes, therefore maximising the positive impact of Sport Climbing in environmental, social and economic matters. As these areas overlap, they should be addressed with a single, integrated approach.

The Guidelines also outline the ways in which the IFSC intends to be more sustainable within the office, as well as during events.
The IFSC Sustainability Guidelines and goals for 2020-2022 follow the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) five focus areas:

- Infrastructure and Natural Sites
- Sourcing and Resource Management
- Mobility
- Workforce
- Climate

The first four are applicable to things that the sports industry does, such as building/operating venues, acquiring goods/services and managing resources, moving people/goods, as well as managing people. Climate, the fifth focus area, requires special attention as a recurring theme.

To be committed to sustainability means to take the time to consider new and improved ways of thinking and behaving, challenging and learning from old ways of doing things so as to change for the better. As new issues surrounding sustainability are constantly arising, we invite our stakeholders to offer feedback and suggestions to ensure that the IFSC Sustainability Guidelines are as up-to-date and accurate as possible.
SECTION 1: CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

Infrastructure and natural sites

Sport takes place across a vast range of settings, from indoor arenas and urban playing fields to open oceans, mountains and even deserts. Wherever sporting events are held, there will be some interaction with the natural environment, and often also with local communities.

This will be further discussed in section 2, which is dedicated to IFSC events and venues.

Sourcing and resource management

The purchasing of materials and equipment, their operational use and eventual disposal when no longer needed are usually treated as separate processes. This is the traditional linear model of buy, use and dispose. Sustainability is about connecting these three aspects to enhance lifetime value and minimise waste.

In fact, optimising the lifecycle of materials and reducing waste and the management of supply chain issues can be one of the most effective ways of addressing sustainability in any organisation. The starting point is to determine how you assess value, rather than purely base decisions on price alone.

Key elements of sustainable sourcing

In essence, there are five key questions when sourcing goods and materials:

1. Where does it come from?

This is about prioritising locally produced goods and supporting small businesses. How are the products transported and from how far away?
2. Who made it?

The issue here is to ensure that goods have not been manufactured under exploitative conditions. What are the working conditions in the factories where the product was made? Labour standards are a hugely important issue these days, and high-profile entities like sports bodies can be under considerable scrutiny from campaign groups and the media.

3. What is it made of?

This is about ensuring that products have minimal impact on human health and the environment. It is good to give preference to products containing recycled materials and which are recyclable. Those containing or using toxic or polluting substances should be avoided. Equipment should be efficient in use, notably with regard to energy, water and consumables (e.g. paper, ink, lubricants, etc.), and low noise and vibration.

4. What is it wrapped in?

Packaging is a major issue in terms of waste management and resource use. Aim to minimise packaging wherever possible and emphasise the need for recycled and recyclable materials to be used in any packaging required. Suppliers should take responsibility for taking back and reusing or recycling their own packaging, but this does not happen automatically and should be specified in the contract.

5. What will happen to it afterwards?

The responsible disposal of goods and materials after their initial use is a key concern. If this is not considered at the beginning (i.e. when specifying requirements in tender documents), there can be a lot of unexpected costs in storage and disposal. Can goods be returned, donated, reused, recycled or
otherwise reprocessed into something useful? By extending the useful life of goods and materials beyond their initial use you would be contributing to the “circular economy”, a rapidly growing discipline within the world of sustainability.

**Implementation:**

- IFSC staff, officials and Executive Board members shall reuse uniforms wherever possible. Unneeded/unused items shall be donated to charity rather than disposed of.
- Trophies and medals are locally sourced/produced to limit environmental impact, and are then transported to each event by IFSC staff/officials as opposed to being shipped.
- Printing at the office is limited so as to reduce paper/ink usage.
- Documents for corporate distribution (i.e. the IFSC Annual Report) shall be digital only as opposed to being printed.
- Plastic usage shall be limited within the office, with alternative materials such as glass preferred.
- The IFSC will commit to recycling materials such as plastic, paper/card, cans and glass used in the office.
- Local suppliers should be used wherever possible for office supplies.

**Mobility**

The sporting world is continually on the move. Whether for training, competition, meetings or other purposes, most people connected with sport do a lot of travelling. This has much value in bringing people together, and is one of the great social appeals of sport itself.
At the same time, travel-related carbon emissions represent one of the main environmental impacts associated with sport. Whilst travel will always remain a vital part of the world of sport, there are several measures that could be put in place to limit these impacts.

- Increase sharing of vehicles to reduce number of vehicle journeys.
- Seek opportunities for virtual meetings rather than meeting physically.
- Increase use of public transport rather than personal vehicles.
- Use fuel-efficient, low/zero-emission vehicles.
- For international travel, seek to optimise journey plans (e.g. some officials attend multiple meetings/events, which might be better combined into a single trip, rather than separate out-and-back trips).
- For long-distance trips, other measures may include:
  - Preferring direct flights
  - Informing travelers about the carbon footprint of their trips, as an awareness-raising measure
- Where practical, use high-speed trains rather than flights.

**Implementation:**

- Teleconferences shall be used where possible as opposed to travelling for physical meetings.
- Trains should be used if possible, instead of planes or cars.
- Flights Compensation - donating money to reduce CO₂ emissions elsewhere as compensation for flying.
- The new IFSC office is close to all main stations/public transport, meaning that staff and visitors must walk, cycle or use public transport to reach the office.
- Limit the use of cars only unless strictly needed, or car share.
Sport organisations are above all about people and the physical, mental and societal health and wellbeing developed through participating and engaging in sport. The benefits of sport to public health and social cohesion are incalculable.

In particular, we believe it is important for all Olympic Movement organisations to ensure decent working conditions and to respect human rights both for their direct workforce and for those working across the value chains upon which we all depend.

By the term “decent work”, we agree with the definition of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income; security in the workplace and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all.

Possible measures to implement:

- Establish a working culture that is non-discriminatory; provides equal opportunities for women and men; and reflects the diversity of the community where you are based.
- Provide access to guidance and training for staff on gender equality, disability awareness, healthy living, etc.
- Be vigilant about health and safety standards for all those working on your behalf - your staff and also those in your supply chain, especially working in construction and hospitality.
- Provide incentives for staff/volunteers to travel to work by public transport, bike or on foot, carpooling or ride-share schemes.
- When providing food, ensure there are healthy menu options, and increase the proportion of non-meat dishes.
- Encourage staff and volunteers to exercise regularly and participate in sport or other forms of active living.
• Consider how work experience in your organisation or event could help develop skills and education levels, especially for young professionals.
• Integrate sustainability into the performance objectives of directors and senior managers.

Climate

There is no more pressing issue in the world today than climate change. Many low-lying countries and small island states face existential threats from rising sea levels and major flooding. In contrast, other countries are suffering from increasing desertification and prolonged droughts, leading to acute shortages of food and water for crop irrigation and drinking. In turn these impacts exacerbate poverty, hunger and inequalities among peoples, which can lead to displacement, migration of refugees and even conflicts.

Although in physical terms it is an environmental phenomenon, climate change has massive socio-economic consequences, and is therefore clearly a major sustainability theme.

There is global scientific consensus that these modern temperature rises derive in large part from human activities, notably the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas), which emit so-called "greenhouse gases" (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide in particular), as well as the destruction of rainforests and other natural vegetation that serve as carbon reservoirs, or “sinks”.

To pay attention to the climate, is to have responsible actions as evoked in the preceding points and in particular:

• Reducing the carbon impact of sport
• Energy consumption: heating, cooling and power used at sports venues and in sports organisations’ offices
• Materials
• Food and beverages
• Waste

Implementation: see examples in the sections here above.
SECTION 2: SUSTAINABILITY OF IFSC EVENTS

Mobility

The sporting world is continually on the move. The main impact on the environment is usually represented by the arrival and departure of the participants as well as the additional impact of on-site travels. However, the greatest savings potential lies here.

The aim is to reduce traffic-induced environmental pollution as much as possible.

Implementation:

- Increase the use of public transport rather than personal vehicles.
- Increase the sharing of vehicles to reduce the number of vehicle journeys.
- Use fuel-efficient, low/zero-emission vehicles.
- Where practical, use high-speed trains rather than flights.
- When providing information to participants:
  - Send participant list for the formation of car pools;
  - Suggest accommodation options that are easily accessible by public transport or located near the venue;
  - Provision or information on the use of bicycles on site (e.g. call a bike, regional providers, e-bikes, etc.);
  - Make public transport timetable information visible.

When selecting venues for an event series, try to optimise travel times of teams/athletes, officials and fans. This may include:

- Allowing spectators and workforce to travel to an event only by public transport (possibly with price of transport included in event ticketing);
- Encouraging “soft-mode” travel (cycling and walking):
• Adjusting the timing of the event to avoid peak travel times.

Transport planning for events must therefore consider such impacts, and organisers must work with public transport departments and local authorities to seek effective solutions for minimising impact.

In selecting venues for particular events, access by public transport should be a major criterion in the selection process.

**Accommodation**

The accommodation of participants is another major factor in the CO₂ balance of a sporting event. Therefore, the goal here should be to either avoid or greatly reduce the number of overnight stays.

**Implementation:**

- Planning the schedule of the event in order to avoid overnight numbers of stays;
- Easily accessible by public transport and venue nearby accommodations;
- Recommend eco-friendly accommodation (for example, Plus Energie Hotels, climate-neutral accommodation, environmental management certified hotels, etc.);
- Send the document “Arrival data” (see Club internals) for later calculation of the CO₂ emissions of accommodation to participants.
Venue

The first key principle for sport venue development should always be to ensure they have a viable long-term use. This can usually mean looking beyond the requirements of a single sport or sporting event and considering a range of potential activities (including non-sporting uses) over the venue’s lifespan.

In many venues there is a close connection with nature, either as a backdrop or as part of the field of play.

Indeed, there are many sustainability aspects to consider when designing a venue – especially new and temporary venues – and the related infrastructure. Venue design should specify the following guiding principles:

- Conservation of the natural environment and positive impact on biodiversity;
- New sports venues should not be developed within or immediately next to protected nature areas and cultural heritage sites;
- Preference should be given to development on degraded or previously developed sites – so-called “brownfield” land;
- Conservation of water resources;
- Minimisation of energy use and of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Minimisation of adverse impacts on land, water, noise and air quality;
• Minimisation of waste and maximising the reuse and recycling of materials;
• Creation of opportunities to leave a positive legacy for local businesses and communities.

Management of Venues

There is much that can be done to improve the sustainability of existing sites and venues.

Energy, electricity, water and waste management could be managed in simple efficiency measures in order to preserve the local environment and offer substantial savings.

Energy and electricity

A CO₂-relevant energy and electricity consumption (heating/cooling, lighting/technology of the venue), choice of the venue (transport connection) and the selection of accommodation options (ecological and building biology aspects). Practical examples of how to save energy include:

• Do not heat above 20°C and do not cool below 6°C outside temperature;
• Use energy efficient appliances;
• Use energy-saving building technology (such as energy or water-saving fittings);
• Eco-energy supplies (such as green electricity, etc.) and economical energy consumption.

Water

In water consumption, the focus is on protecting the drinking water resources (consumption and pollution), reducing the number of plastic bottles used and implementing the use of tap water dispensers when possible. The goal is to reduce the use of energy in water treatment by:

- Using water-saving building equipment;
- Use water sparingly (e.g. when preparing meals).

Waste management

Furthermore, good waste management should contribute to waste prevention and reduction. Good practice in waste management is to follow a basic hierarchy, starting with the most preferable:

- Seek opportunities to reuse items that are no longer needed;
- Recycle what cannot be reused;
- Use reusable materials wherever possible;
- Use paperless registrations and documentation;
- Use biodegradable cleaning agents;
- Send non-recyclable waste to energy recovery if available;
- Never allow illegal dumping and littering;
- Dispose of residual waste in licensed landfill.

Much will depend on where the venue is situated. Places differ considerably in terms of what items can be recycled locally and the different disposal options...
available. Therefore, check what local market there is for different types of recycling.

Catering

Catering at sports events places particular emphasis on the products used. In addition to the production of food and beverages, their transport also has a significant impact on the CO₂ balance.

In addition, waste and recycling has also an impact. By an environmentally conscious product selection and good organisation, the amount of accumulated waste material can be greatly reduced.

The aim should be to offer regional, ecological products and to avoid residues.

*Implementation:*

- Offer mainly seasonal and regional products (short transport routes);
- Offer organic products;
- Fish only with the seasonal offer;
- Offer vegetarian, vegan alternatives, as the production of meat generates significantly more CO₂ than meatless meals;
- Use fair trade international products (coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar, etc.);
- Provide participant information on the origin of each product;
- Drinks should be provided in large glasses/returnable bottles;
- Tap water in carafes;
- Select regional direct suppliers (for juice, milk, sugar, etc.);
- If the use of disposable products is unavoidable, use recyclable products with a high percentage of recycled materials;
• Choice of the caterer with consideration of ecological and local aspects;
• Donate leftover food to non-profit organisations.

Procurement of products

In addition to environmental aspects, the use of environmentally friendly products and services at an event can trigger a signal and multiplier effect. The aim is to consider the environmental aspect of all products related to the event.

Implementation:

• In general, pay attention to the "ecological footprint" of the products:
  - Environmentally and socially responsible production;
  - Use environmentally friendly materials (such as jute bags instead of plastic bags, FSC-certified wood, etc.);
  - Pay attention to short transport routes of the suppliers;

• Favours/Giveaways:
  - No compulsory distribution of gifts;
  - Regional products or specialties as a gift;
  - Give-aways, if any, environmentally friendly (e.g. made of recycled material)

• Paper:
  - Use of recycled paper (workshop materials such as signs, name badges, printouts, etc.)
  - Documentation of the conference by photo and video for digital conference results;
• Formulate marketing materials (posters, signs, banners, etc.) as widely as possible to increase reusability at other events;
• Keep decoration low or from sustainable/organic production.

Communication

The climate-neutral orientation of the event aims to raise awareness of climate protection among participants.

The goal should be to act as an organiser of the role model function and to showcase possibilities for imitation.

Implementation:

• Communicate overall ecological orientation of the event early:
  - In the invitations/handbooks;
  - At the welcome meeting (with references to the implementation);
  - In the questionnaire for the arrival and overnight stay of the participants;
  - Information material/information table;
• Information on the product origin in catering;
• Presentation of the document “Climate Neutral Event”;
• Highlight (climate-friendly) peculiarities of the accommodation/venue;
• Apply for regional peculiarities;
• Give the participants feedback (e.g. after the event, by guestbook, online, etc.);
• Publish carbon footprint (including CO² compensation) after the event.
CO₂ compensation policy for IFSC travels.

Compensation means to offset the level of CO₂ emissions created as a result of an IFSC Climbing event. Carbon offsetting is simply a way for individuals or organizations, in our case IFSC Executive Board Members, IFSC Official and IFSC Staff involved in travels, to “neutralize” their proportion of an aircraft’s carbon emissions on a particular journey by investing in carbon reduction projects.

IFSC is committed to allocate a part of 2020 budget to put in place these measures using one of the CO₂ offsetting programs.

Balancing the number of people involved in IFSC Climbing events to the numbers of the events during the season, CO₂ emissions can then be compensated with the help of these platforms.

FROM 2021: IFSC SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The first IFSC Sustainability Awards shall reward organisers who have incorporated sustainable considerations throughout all levels of their event strategy.
PRINTING

This document is available only as a digital pdf file via the IFSC website. Should you need to print a copy, please set your printer to double-sided printing on recycled paper. Ideally, please also avoid colour printing and copying.

SOURCES

- IOC Sustainable Essentials - A series of practical guides for the Olympic Movement - Detailed information on:
  https://www.olympic.org/sustainability-essentials
- DAV Klimaneutrale Veranstaltung, DAV 2019 - Detailed information on:
  https://www.dropbox.com/s/332x27mfxoc3iva/Klimaneutrale%20Veranstaltung_final.pdf?dl=0
- World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030 - A bold ambition for sailing’s contribution to global sustainability - published in 2017. Detailed information on: