



The World Cup of FootGolf Lands in Orlando

The US hosts FootGolf's Fourth World Cup this May

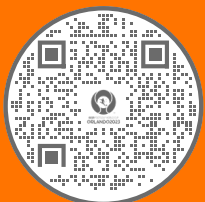
The Federation for International FootGolf (FIFG) proudly announces the 2023 FootGolf World Cup in Orlando, FL, from May 27 to June 6. As many as 1,000 athletes from 40 countries will compete for FootGolf's biggest title in team and individual events on FootGolf courses at Walt Disney World® Golf and the new Evermore Orlando Resort, opening in late 2023.

"FootGolf is the ultimate hybrid sport combining the skills of football (soccer) with the elegance of golf," says FIFG president Laura Balestrini. "The FootGolf World Cup will showcase the world's best footgolfers, including No. 1 2022 FIFG World Tour ranked Cedric Bonnot of France, who will compete on some of FootGolf's most naturally beautiful and challenging courses."

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Laura Balestrini, FIFG President

"The FIFG 2023 World Cup will be a festive, colorful, and competitively intense ten days," says FIFG co-founder Roberto Balestrini. "There has never been anything quite like it in the US, and we look forward to welcoming the world of FootGolf to Lake Buena Vista's Walt Disney World® Resort and Evermore Orlando Resort."





The World Cup Pavilion will be the exciting center of activities located at Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace Resort, an official Walt Disney World® hotel just steps from Disney Springs®. Other event venues include House of Blues and Planet Hollywood at Disney Springs®, and EPCOT® at Walt Disney World® Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL. In addition, course venues at Walt Disney World® Golf and Evermore Orlando Resort are being prepared and will be featured soon.

39
COUNTRIES

971
ATHLETES



FootGolf has grown internationally since the first World Cup in Hungary in 2012, with 79 athletes representing eight countries. Argentina hosted 227 athletes from 26 countries in 2016, followed by Morocco in 2018, with 503 athletes from 33 countries. Now, the United States team will compete against nearly 1,000 athletes from 40 countries, accompanied by their family and friends, team support personnel, and press in Orlando, Florida, come May.

Competitions include men's, women's, and senior men's in individual and team events. Many players from the 40 countries have played on national and professional soccer teams. They continue to compete using their soccer skills under rules and etiquette similar to golf and on hundreds of FootGolf courses worldwide. However, many have never traveled to the US. In fact, some have never traveled outside of their own countries. As a result, the FIG, along with the individual national FootGolf organizations, are working hand-in-hand to secure visas and travel arrangements for those qualified to compete.



“Mankind's evolution is visible in many ways and the first decade of the new millennium brought us "The Best Game Ever Invented". A game that upgraded the world of sports to a new dimension, combining the power, elegance and precision of the number one elite sport in the world: GOLF, with the passion, energy and fun of the most popular sport in the world: SOCCER, in a marvelous sport full of life: FOOTGOLF, THE SPORT YOU ARE GOING TO PLAY!”

Laura Balestrini, FIGF President



FIFG

The Federation for International FootGolf is the world's governing body for the sport of FootGolf. Its primary function is to promote worldwide recognition of the sport of FootGolf. In addition, it oversees international development and growth to ensure equitable play for all players. To reach a goal of fair play for all, the FIGF established the international rules of play and the constitution of FootGolf, which all members agree to abide by.

Rules

The game is played similarly to golf, with the exception that players use a regulation 5 soccer ball instead of a golf ball, and the ball is kicked rather than struck with a club, working towards a 21 "FootGolf cup" usually located on the fairways or around the golf greens. The player who finished the course with the fewest shots wins. FootGolf is usually played on golf courses, though it may also be played on specially built courses. The first shot has to be played from a tee box, and bunkers, trees, water and hills must be crossed or avoided in order to reach the FootGolf Hole. Compared to golf, FootGolf is quicker to play, more accessible, and does not require expensive equipment. The official rules were established by the Federation for International FootGolf (FIGF) in 2013.

Origins

The concept of the game - kicking a ball into a hole - has been around for a long time. People play it on the beach, farms, parks, mountains, and the streets. A game with similar rules, "codeball", attained brief popularity in the United States during the late 1920s and 1930s. The sport of FootGolf as we know it today (including attire, etiquette and general rules) was created in the Netherlands by Bas Korsten and Michael Jansen in 2008. Loosely basing it on a post-training game played by Korsten's brother - pro-footballer Willem Korsten - during his time at the British soccer club Tottenham Hotspur (1999-2001). Players would end training sessions by kicking the soccer

from the training pitch back to the changing rooms in as few kicks as possible. To officially launch this new sport - where playing on a regulation golf course is fundamental - Korsten, Jansen and a team of colleagues set up a national and international bond and organised the first tournament (Nederlandse Kampioenschap FootGolf) at prestigious Golfbaan Het Rijk van Nijmegen on 6 September 2009. This tournament, later televised on RTL7, was played by Dutch professional and ex-professional footballers and won by Theo Janssen.

Governance

Federation for International FootGolf (FIFG) is the world's governing body for the sport of FootGolf. Established in 2012, the FIFG sets the rules for the sport, organizes FootGolf World Cups, World Tours and regulates the sports FootGolf associations around the world. On October 3, 2017, the Global Association of International Sports Federations announced the federation as one of the first international federations to achieve Observer status.

AMERICAN FOOTGOLF FEDERATION

AFGF is the governing body and exclusive member in the United States of the Federation for International FootGolf.

American FootGolf Federation is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 organization that promotes and governs the sport of FootGolf across the country. Focused on Youth, Amateur and National FootGolf Teams the AFGF also provides golf course owners and operators with advice on FootGolf course design and equipment necessary to introduce the sport of FootGolf as a new activity in their facilities.

AMERICAN FOOTGOLF LEAGUE

The AFGL is the organizer of the main FootGolf Tours played in the United States.

The AFGL Tour is the Major League of the sport of FootGolf and the U.S. Tour is the Amateur League of the sport. Both tours are organized and managed by American FootGolf League. They also co-organize Battle Of The Border along with Campeonato Mexicano de FootGolf. Other major tournaments are the United States FootGolf Open, the United States FootGolf National Championship and the FootGolf Club Championship.

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