



Media Release

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EIGHT NATIONS TO CONTEND THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eight nations will compete in the IFAF European Youth Flag Football Championships organized by the FIDAF in Grosseto from September 8 to 11: Austria, Czechia, France, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Italy will battle it out for the boys' and girls' European U15 and U17 titles against the spectacular backdrop of Fattoria La Principina.

Eight nations, four categories, eighteen teams: these are the numbers for the upcoming **European Youth Flag Football Championships** organized by the Italian Federation of American Football (FIDAF) backed by the **IFAF** from **September 8 to 11** in the stunning Tuscan setting of **Fattoria La Principina** in **Grosseto**.

Austria, Czechia, France, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and **Italy** are competing for the boy's and girls' **U15** and **U17** titles in a championship that hasn't played out in Europe since 2016. The big, and welcome, news is that girls' teams are also represented which is a first for the European Youth Flag Football Championships and a just reward for the hard work all the countries have invested in developing the sport.

*"It was with great pleasure that the IFAF Executive Board awarded Italy hosting rights for the 2021 IFAF European u17 and u15 Flag Football Championships – said **Richard MacLean**, IFAF President. "FIDAF has proven to be world class hosts of IFAF tournaments and we have no doubt that they will deliver an event which is a fabulous showcase for the sport.*





After an absence of IFAF's international events on the calendar over the past year, the hosting of this tournament is fantastic news for the sport and for all the young players who are excited to represent their country. On behalf of IFAF, I wish everyone an enjoyable time this summer.

*"Our federation is immensely proud to be hosting a European event in our country again after the fantastic U19 European Championships in Bologna in 2019," said FIDAF President **Prof. Leoluca Orlando**, "Especially when you consider the enormous difficulties worldwide for almost two years. It will be an absolute pleasure to welcome so many young athletes and their families to our wonderful country and we are doing everything we can to ensure this is an unforgettable event for everyone taking part. We would like to thank the IFAF for once again honoring us with the organization of such a prestigious competition and all the nations that have chosen to share our enthusiasm for this fresh start, which goes beyond sport."*

The tournament, IFAF's first in Europe since the pandemic, sees record entries. There are seven boys' teams and three girls' teams in the U15 category, while the U17 has six boys' teams and two girls' teams. The tournament is organized over three days of competitions with the teams arriving on September 8 and leaving on September 12.

U15 M: Austria, France, Italy, Czechia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

U15 F: Austria, Italy, Slovenia

U17 M: Austria, France, Italy, Czechia, Slovakia, Ukraine

U17 F: Austria, Italy

The Championships format is using different formulas with the girls' U17 teams for Italy and Austria in a best-of-five playoff. Teams in the other categories are playing home or away games with wild-card games, semis and finals (please see attached regulations).





The FIDAF is working with **Grosseto City Council** to involve the local area as much as possible by capitalizing on the incredible resources and immense wealth of culture, art, nature and food and wine for which Tuscany, and the Maremma region in particular, are famous. The teams and their companions will be transported on a journey that is guaranteed to be a party for all five senses!

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