

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ORGANISATIONS GO GRASSROOTS

Ms. Wiebke Scheffler

International Table Tennis Federation Foundation, Germany

Sport for All and Elite Sport are very often depicted as two sides of the same coin, two ends of the same rope connecting widespread participation with the top of the pyramid represented by high-level competition. Apparently, there are clearly defined roles for Grassroots sports in charge of local stakeholders, regional and national organizations structure the development of their sport at all levels while international organizations govern the rules, structure, development, and competitions on an international level. Are the roles as clear? What is the link between these three groups?

The number of inactive citizens increases as well as informal sports practices do. People struggling to find opportunities to practice go hand in hand with clubs struggling to find members. International Sports Organisations (ISO) play a key role in determining the future of the sports movement and its place in society.

As the governing bodies of their respective sports, ISOs are in the position to raise awareness among their national and local members of the importance of Sport for All and of diversifying their approach and sports to offer to various target groups, to build their capacity in operating this change, and to influence decision-making at all levels.

A change of paradigm is needed to create a better world through Sport for All. And this can only be achieved through new perceptions and new procedures.