

SUMMARY

The year of 2018 must surely be remembered as one of the most dramatic in CONIFA history and arguably the organization's most successful yet. It was a year that saw CONIFA enjoy unprecedented visibility and growth and which has set the foundation stones in place for a prosperous and secure future.

The main focus of 2018 was on the World Football Cup hosted in London by the Barawa Football Association and sponsored by Paddy Power. Holding an event of this size in a city of the magnitude of London provided a wealth of challenges for such small, volunteer-run organizations as CONIFA and Barawa FA but the result was a tournament that grabbed the attention of the football world, generated worldwide headlines and celebrated the spirit of CONIFA in a manner which will never be forgotten by anyone who was involved.

As well as bringing CONIFA to the attention of millions around the world with journalists from over 400 media outlets attending the tournament and more than 6 million Twitter impressions during the event, the tournament left a positive legacy as we increased the strength of the CONIFA family with new faces in the organization.

Mostly notably, Jason Heaton worked tirelessly in setting up the World Football Cup and takes on the role of Business Director while the sensational volunteer media team, assembled by Kieran Pender, who made the WFC such a success have remained involved and will continue to take CONIFA's media output to new heights in 2019 under the stewardship of Cassie Whittell while Kieran moves into a new legal role.

We also welcome Ben Schultz, CONIFA's first Oceania President, meaning that CONIFA now has five continental leaders.

As CONIFA's profile continues to grow, it is almost inevitable that its membership will follow suit and 2018 saw the addition of eight new members as geographically diverse as Kernow (Cornwall) and First Nations Australia.

Finally, 2018 ended on a high as CONIFA agreed a sponsorship deal with Coingaming for 2019-20. This partnership will allow the organization to continue to expand the scope of its work from a stable financial position as we head into what promises to be a very exciting 2019 with the No Limits tournament in Monaco, the European Championship in Nagorno-Karabakh and the possibility of Asian and African Cups and a first Women's World Football Cup.

The Executive Committee elected and which has been operational in 2018:

President:	Mr. Per-Anders Blind (Sapmi / Sweden)
1st Vice President:	Mr Kristóf Wenczel (Hungary)
2nd Vice President	Mr Dimitri Pagava (Abkhazia / Russia / Sweden)
General Secretary:	Mr. Sascha Düerkop (Germany)
Media Director:	Mr Kieran Pender (Australia)
Commercial Director:	Mr Paul Watson (United Kingdom)
Business Director:	Mr. Jason Heaton (Cornwall / United Kingdom)
African President:	Mr. Justin Walley (United Kingdom)
Asian President:	Mr. Jens Jockel (Germany)

European President:

Mr. Alberto Rischio (Padania / Italy)

Director North America & Caribbean:

Mr. Noah Wheelock (Cascadia / Canada)

Executive Committee Member:

Mr. Orcun Kamali (Northern Cyprus)

Out of the six continents, three continents have created Continental Committees:

The European Committee operational in 2018:

President:

Mr. Alberto Rischio (Padania / Italy)

General Secretary:

Mr. Riccardo Polacco (United Kingdom)

Disabled Football Manager:

Mr. Claudio Girardi (Padania / Italy)

Youth Football Manager:

Mr. Alexander Harrison (Isle of Man)

Sponsor Development Manager:

Mr. Matteo Poretti (Switzerland)

Tournament Manager:

Mr. Hiratch Yagan (Western Armenia / Switzerland)

Media Manager:

Mr. Federico Borello (Italy)

The Asian Committee operational in 2018:

President:

Mr. Jens Jockel (Germany)

General Secretary:

Mr. Oscar A. Mussons (Australia)

Sponsoring & Business Manager:

Mr. Kim Lange (Singapore)

Media Manager:

Mr. Gusimran Hans (United Kingdom)

Business Development Manager:

Mr. Oscar Mussons (Vietnam)

Financial Manager:

Mr. Mehmet Mimoglu (Northern Cyprus)

Regional Manager Central Asia:

Mr. Medet Mukanov (Kyrgyzstan)

Regional Manager East Asia:

Mrs. Motoko Jitsukawa (Japan)

Regional Manager South-East Asia:

Mr. Silambarasan Devraj (India / Latvia)

In addition, two official photographers supported the operational work of CONIFA:

Official Photographers:

Mrs. Lavinia Parlamenti (Italy)

Mr. Manfredi Pantanella (Padania / Italy)

This is an impressive number of very active people who worked day in, day out for the future of CONIFA and football outside football. Never before has CONIFA had such a not only huge, but also very active and strong team.

The Executive Committee conducted 13 meetings in 2018, 12 via Skype and 1 in person during the World Football Cup 2018 in London.

MEMBERS – NEW MEMBERS 2018

At the end of 2017, CONIFA had 46 members. In 2018, 8 (Australian First Nations, Chameria, Cornwall, Jersey, Karen People, Laz People, Sardinia, Yorkshire) members joined CONIFA, while 1 (Manx IFA) was expelled. Thus, CONIFA today has 53 members from 5 out of 6 continents.

AFRICA: Barawa, Barotseland, Chagos Islands, Darfur, Kabylie, Matabeleland, Somaliland, Western Sahara, Zanzibar (9)

ASIA : Arameans Suryoye, Karen People, Kurdistan, Laz People, Lezgians, Panjab, Rohingya, Ryukyu, Tamil Eelam, Tibet, United Koreans in Japan, Uyghurs (12)

EUROPE: Abkhazia, Chameria, Cornwall, County of Nice, Delvidek, Donetsk, Felvidek, Franconia, Greenland, Jersey, Karpatalya, Luhansk, Monaco, Nagorno Karabakh, Northern Cyprus, Occitania, Padania, Raetia, Romani People, Sapmi, Sardinia, Skaneland, Szekely Land, South Ossetia, Transnistria, Western Armenia, Yorkshire (27)

NORTH AM: Cascadia, Quebec (2)

OCEANIA: Australian First Nations, Kiribati, Tuvalu (3)

CONIFA has grown in Asia, Europe and Oceania in 2018.

AFRICA: 0% (+/-0)

ASIA: +20% (+2)

EUROPE: +17% (+4)

NORTH AM: 0% (+/- 0)

OCEANIA: +50% (+1)

Through our members, we do now today represent roughly **370 million people on 5 continents.**

New members 2018:



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The 5th CONIFA Annual General Meeting was held in Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus, on January 5-7, 2018. The meeting was held in the Conference Centre of the Hotel Apulco. CONIFA wants to express its gratitude to TourPlus and the Northern Cyprus FA for organizing the whole event in an absolutely perfect manner.


WORLD FOOTBALL CUP 2018

The 3rd edition of the CONIFA World Football Cup was held across Greater London, United Kingdom, in 10 venues Sutton United, Bromley FC, Enfield Town FC, Haringey Borough, Carshalton Athletic, St Paul's Ground (Millwall Community Trust), Bedfont Sports, Aveley FC, Bracknell Town and Slough Town from the 31st of May to the 9th of June.

16 teams from five continents competed in the tournament and played a total of 41 matches. The groups were drawn on January 6, 2018 in the Hotel Acapulco in Kyrenia in a draw ceremony, which was broadcast live by the Northern Cypriot TV channel BRTK in Turkish and English (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQVqvCvqDyM>).

The four groups of four were¹:

Group A		Group B	
	Barawa		Karpatalya
	Cascadia		Northern Cyprus
	Ellan Vannin		Abkhazia
	Tamil Eelam		Tibet
Group C		Group D	
	Padania		Western Armenia
	Szekely Land		Panjab
	Matabeleland		United Koreans in Japan
	Tuvalu		Kabylia

¹ Group positions reflect the outcome of the group stage

A busy opening day of action concluded with the Opening Ceremony at Bromley FC where a crowd of over 1,000 enjoyed the flag parade and a traditional Tibetan circle dance before Barawa played against Tamil Eelam.

With four venues in use each day and eight games to be played, the match days were hectic and action-packed. Crowds exceeded expectations and as well as the competing teams' communities, the local non-league supporters and ground-hoppers turned out in force.

Group A proved to be fiercely competitive with Cascadia pulling off a remarkable 6-0 win over Tamil Eelam to qualify alongside Barawa. Ellan Vannin, sadly, chose to withdraw from the competition after seeing an appeal against the eligibility of a Barawa player fail. Chagos Islands replaced Ellan Vannin at short notice and gave a great account of themselves against Matabeleland and Tuvalu.

Group B was seen as a 'Group of Death' and proved fiercely competitive. Late entrants Karpatalya showed their strength by winning it while Northern Cyprus, backed by a large, passionate following in London edged out holders Abkhazia. Tibet enjoyed massive support and gave a very creditable account of themselves, even managing to score against Northern Cyprus in a 3-1 defeat.

Padania powered to Group C while Székely Land, who were cheered on by a large group of Ultras, booked their place in the next round by coming second. History was made as referee Raymond Mashamba showed the first ever green card during Padania v Matabeleland. Matabeleland became neutrals' favourites in London with their entertaining football on the field and dancing off it.

Group D proved extremely tight, with Panjab needing a 77th minute penalty in their final game to overcome the United Koreans in Japan and take second place behind Western Armenia, who went through the first phase without conceding a goal.

Northern Cyprus eased past Barawa, Padania beat Panjab, Karpatalya saw off Cascadia and Székely Land hit four against Western Armenia to set up two very competitive semi-finals. Northern Cyprus triumphed over Padania in a five-goal thriller while Karpatalya won a thrilling match 4-2 against Székely Land on a pulsating semi-final double header day at Carshalton

Karpatalya won the final on penalties against Northern Cyprus at Enfield Town FC in front of a crowd in excess of 3,000. In a celebratory atmosphere all teams were presented medals before Karpatalya lifted the final trophy.

Congratulations once again to the World Football Cup champions 2018 – Karpatalya!

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
1	 Kárpátalja	6	4	2	0	15	5	+10
2	 Northern Cyprus	6	3	3	0	17	6	+11
3	 Padania	6	4	1	1	21	5	+16
4	 Székely Land	6	3	1	2	16	7	+9
5	 Panjab	6	2	2	2	17	7	+10
6	 Cascadia	6	3	1	2	17	11	+6
7	 Western Armenia	6	3	1	2	12	8	+4
8	 Barawa	6	2	0	4	7	22	-15
9	 Abkhazia	6	4	1	1	15	4	+11
10	 Kabylia	6	1	1	4	8	15	-7
11	 United Koreans in Japan	6	1	4	1	7	4	+3
12	 Tibet	5	0	1	4	4	20	-16
13	 Matabeleland	5	2	1	2	5	12	-7
14	 Tamil Eelam	6	1	0	5	4	22	-18
15	 Tuvalu	5	0	0	5	4	24	-20
16	 Ellan Vannin ¹	3	2	0	1	6	3	+3



TRAVELS – PRESENCE ON THE GROUND**16-20 Feb Member Visit to South Ossetia (Sascha Düerkop)**

From 16th to 20th of February 2018, CONIFA General Secretary, as the first CONIFA official, visit the Republic of South Ossetia. During the 4-day visit, Sascha Düerkop was accommodated in the National Football School in the capital Tskhinval and hosted by the Chair of the Committee for Culture, Youth, Sports and Tourism, Mr. Sergey Zassejev, who is also the President of the Football Association. During the stay, Sascha Düerkop visited the National Stadium, the sports complex “Olymp”, inspected all hotels of the country, met the President of South Ossetia, Mr. Anatoly Bibilov and gave a press conference, together with Mr. Sergey Zassejev, in the offices of Sputnik Ossetia. South Ossetia currently not has the capacity to host a major tournament, but invites CONIFA to host their AGM 2020 in Tskhinval.



(left) Sergey Zassejev, President Anatoly Bibilov, Interpreter
(right) CONIFA General Secretary Sascha Düerkop
Presidential Office in Tskhinval, South Ossetia

Mar. Visit to Nakhchivan & Azerbaijan (Jens Jockel)

An official field-visit with discussions about the hosting of an Asia Cup in Nakhchivan in year 2019 took place in March 2018. Jens visited Nakhchivan and Azerbaijan and had discussions with the minister of Sports and Youth, as well as other important politicians in Nakhchivan.

Football-wise: Coaching programs were discussed as well with the coaching staff of Araz Nakhchivan, the only club from Nakhchivan that ever played in the Azerbaijan top flight(2014).

After some discussions with the Sports Ministry and other ambassadors of other political resorts about “members within CONIFA”, it was made “official” that Nakhchivan becomes a member of CONIFA and makes an offer to host a CONIFA Asia Cup in 2019 with 6-8 teams in Nakhchivan. As well the membership details have been signed.

Later on, CONIFA received forward messages that Nakhchivan needed to withdraw their membership because of the pressure from Baku (Nakhchivan relies a lot on funding from Azerbaijan).



Apr. **“Tackling Match Fixing” - Conference in Brussels in April 2018 (Jens Jockel)**

Discussions and presentations were held according to this topic with decision-makers from FIFA, UEFA, Europol, Interpol, ex-professionals and several player federations.

In summary, Europol and the player federations felt quite helpless, about the lack of attention FIFA give to the topic, as they remain quite neutral and only stick to their “script” as speakers. Potentially fruitful discussions were killed very soon, by FIFA and UEFA preferring not to answer “dangerous questions”.

This visit showed the urgency to care about that topic as well in CONIFA, leading to Jens Jockel forming a “Task force” in this regard for the WFC 2018 in London.

17-21 Apr. **World Football Cup Preparational Visit to London, UK (Sascha Düerkop, Jason Heaton, Paul Watson)**

General Secretary Sascha Düerkop traveled to London to meet stakeholders and partners of and for the World Football Cup. On the 18th and 19th of April, Sascha Düerkop met with the Head of the Office of Tibet in the UK, Mr. Chonpel Tsering, the CONIFA Key Account Manager of our Sponsoring Agency Dark Horses, Mr. Dean Madders, the management of the team accommodation during the World Football Cup 2018, Stay Club, the booking company managing our booking, London Nest Ltd., the President of the Charity “embargoed!”, Mr. Fahri Zihni, the management of the World Football Cup 2018 host club Haringey Borough FC, and several journalists. On the 20th, Sascha Düerkop first met the owners of the World Football Cup hosting club Aveley FC, before meeting CONIFA Business Director Jason Heaton to visit the World Football Cup hosting clubs Slough Town together. Finally, CONIFA Commercial Director joined the two and all three visited Bromley FC, another hosting club, together. On the 21st, Jason Heaton and Sascha Düerkop finally visited the host of the World Football Cup 2018 final, Enfield Town FC, together, before heading home.



Tenzin Kunga (Tibet Office UK), CONIFA General Secretary Sascha Düerkop and Chonpel Tsering

May

Visit of VivaConAgua in May 2018 in Hamburg (Jens Jockel)

VivaConAgua is potentially the biggest charity in regard to Sports and Music in Germany, and are very much liked for their positive approach not to “beg for donations”, and to involve people instead in “happy activities” ,such as: Concerts,Sports tournaments etc. and raise in this way money for their water programs all over the world.

I have had great discussions about further co-operations in future, as well as exchanging a lot of ideas in regard to the AGM 2019 (back then it was planned for Addis Abeba (close to there VivaConAgua has as well a water programme).

Following an invitation of VivaConAgua I **took part in a charity game between “VivaConAgua-Allstars” and “Tus Haltern-Allstars”in June 2018 playing for VivaConAgua** aside with some ex-Germany-Internationals(David Odonkor,Tobias Rau), actors,musicians etc.

The Tus-Haltern-Team was filled with ex-Germany-Internationals (such as Christoph Metzelder,who was playing for the likes of Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund) as well as Benedikt Höwedes, and some other Bundesliga players and athletes,topped up by some first squad players (semi-pro) and ex-players of Tus Haltern. End result was 7-5 in favor of Haltern who mainly consisted of athletes.

The game was followed by a party with a lot of networking. All money raised in this game went to the water programmes all over the world for VivaConAgua.



23 May

Visiting Sorbia Delegation in Bautzen, Germany (Sascha Dürkop)

General Secretary Sascha Dürkop traveled to Bautzen in Saxony to meet a Delegation the organizing “Domowina”, a Cultural Organization for the Sorbian People, one of only three recognized three minorities in Germany. The organization is long active in football and did host the Europeada in 2012. The Sorbian delegation consisted of the coach of the Sorbia national team and the Head of the Cultural Organization Domowina. On the whole trip, Sascha Dürkop was followed by a TV documentary crew of German national team. Unfortunately, the filmed pictures were removed from the final documentary and the meeting itself did result in a deeper mutual understanding, but no concrete collaboration, yet. As part of the trip, Sascha Dürkop also met the President and another founder of the organization “Confederation of Football (COF)”, Mr. Rene Jacobi and Mr. Wilhelm Gürtler, who later provided referees to the World Football Cup in London.



July

Visit of Transnistria & Ukraine, July 2018 (Jens Jockel)

In July 2018 I was visiting Transnistria and Ukraine for CONIFA.

I have had talks with the Sports Ministry and other politicians in regard to their CONIFA membership and upcoming hostings of European Championships in Transnistria.

Transnistria remained very interested in hosting further European Championships, and told me, that a lot of restructuring is going on at the moment, but they followed the WFC'18 with a lot of interest.

Back then two decent stadiums (the ones of the defunct FC Tiraspol and the newer one of Dynamo Bendery) have been in renovation phase.

I also made a field visit at Sheriff Tiraspol, the only club in Transnistria&Moldova, which is capable of playing at European Level, and talked with players and staff .

Everybody liked the idea of CONIFA tournaments and CONIFA in general, but both sides (politicians and players) are afraid that Sheriff Tiraspol could not “dare to host” because of their relations to Moldova and UEFA, as Sheriff Tiraspol is playing currently in the Moldovan top-league.

Back in Ukraine, I met with an official of Chernomorets Odessa and evaluated if it might be possible to host at some time games of CONIFA in the region (for example friendly games with a Transnistrian team) and how the mood and the feelings in regard to CONIFA are developing in the region.

He told me that the region around Odessa, has not really hard feelings in regard to CONIFA. But elsewhere in Ukraine this would be much different, which I later witnessed during my Kiev visit by myself.



09 Aug

Meeting with the Secretary for Sports of the King of the Ashanti in Kumasi, Ghana (Sascha Düerkop)

During a CONIFA-unrelated business trip to Ghana, General Secretary Sascha Düerkop paid a visit to the Palace of the King of the Ashanti People in its capital Kumasi, Ghana. The King of the Ashanti, the Asantehene, is the owner of all land in Central Ghana and stands above the President of Ghana in the local hierarchy. While the Asantehene, unfortunately, attended a funeral and could thus not meet General



Secretary Sascha Düerkop, his Secretary, Mr. Kwame Aboagye-Mensah, took the time to meet him. Mr. Kwame Aboagye-Mensah is responsible for all sports activities managed by the Manhiya Palace under the auspices of the King and does, among other things, manage one of the best clubs in Western Africa – Asante Kotoko. Mr. Aboagye-Mensah had a huge interest in providing Ashanti an additional form of international football and wanted to coordinate with the King when they would be able to apply for CONIFA membership officially.



Manhiya Palace, Home of the Asantehene (pictures inside were forbidden)

18 Oct

Peace & Sports Regional Forum in Rhodes, Greece (Sascha Düerkop)

On invitation from the organization “Peace and Sports”, which is owned by the Prince of Monaco, General Secretary Sascha Düerkop attended the Regional Forum for the Mediterranean in Rhodes, Greece. Sascha Düerkop had the great opportunity to speak in the oldest still active stadium of the world during a 5-minute “Agora pitch”. In attendance where several Olympic Champions, Nobel Peace Price Laureates, Football World Champions and hundreds of NGOs, Sport Ministers and Sport Governing Bodies from around the world. During the conference, Sascha Düerkop made valuable contacts with the organization “All Blacks FC” in Hongkong and with the Kosovo-based branch of the NGO “PLAY International”.



Sascha Düerkop during his "pitch talk"

SOCIAL MEDIA

CONIFA is present in the following Social Media platforms:

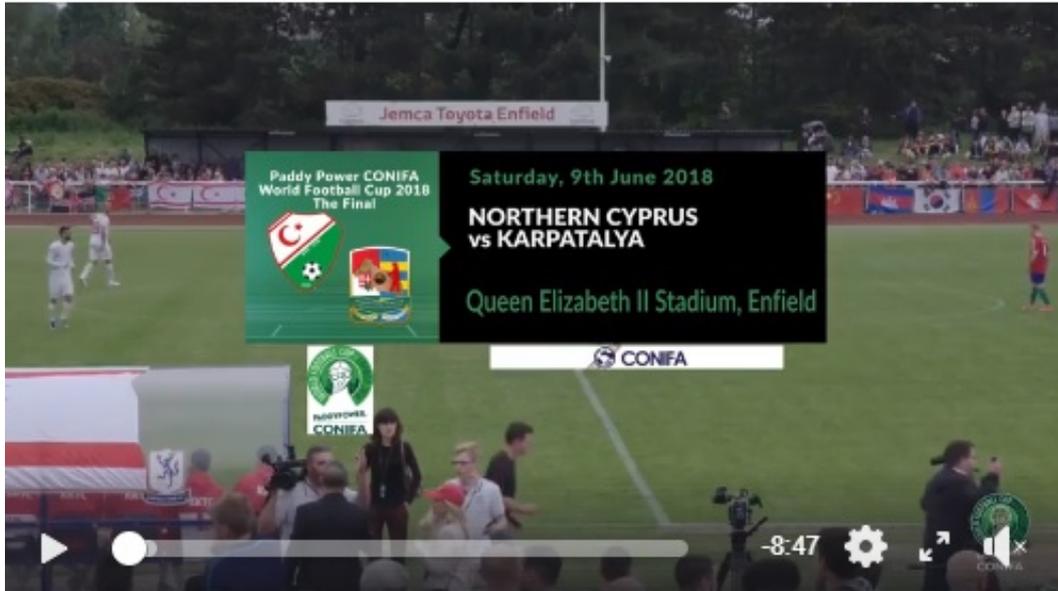
**Facebook:**

The most successful post on Facebook in 2018 was a post with the video highlights of the final of the World Football Cup 2018, posted on 10.06.2018. This post reached over 40,000 people and over 3,500 people engaged with the post. The second most successful post was the open letter to the Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, protesting the sanctions against the Karpatalya team (29,000 people reach, 500 engaged users), while the third most successful one summarized the results of the draw of the group stages of the World Football Cup 2018 in London (28,000 people reached, 2900 engaged users).

**Confederation of Independent Football Associations** ✓

June 10 · 🌐

HIGHLIGHTS | Relive Karpatalya's dramatic 2018 Paddy Power World Football Cup final victory over Northern Cyprus thanks to Fcvideo.

**31,584**

People Reached

6,115

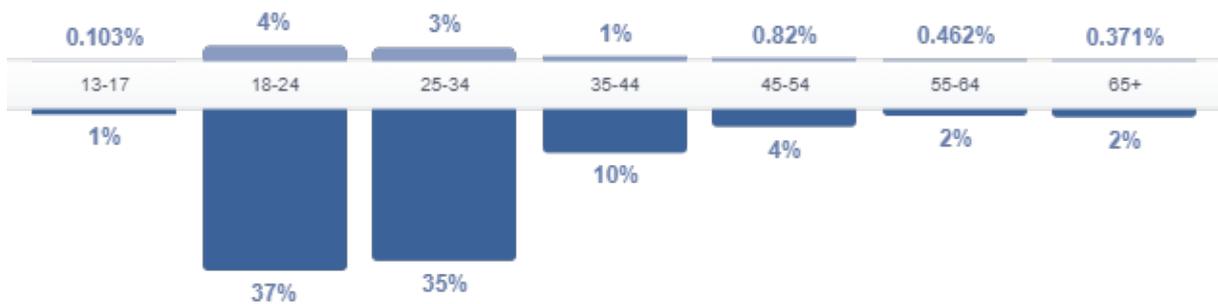
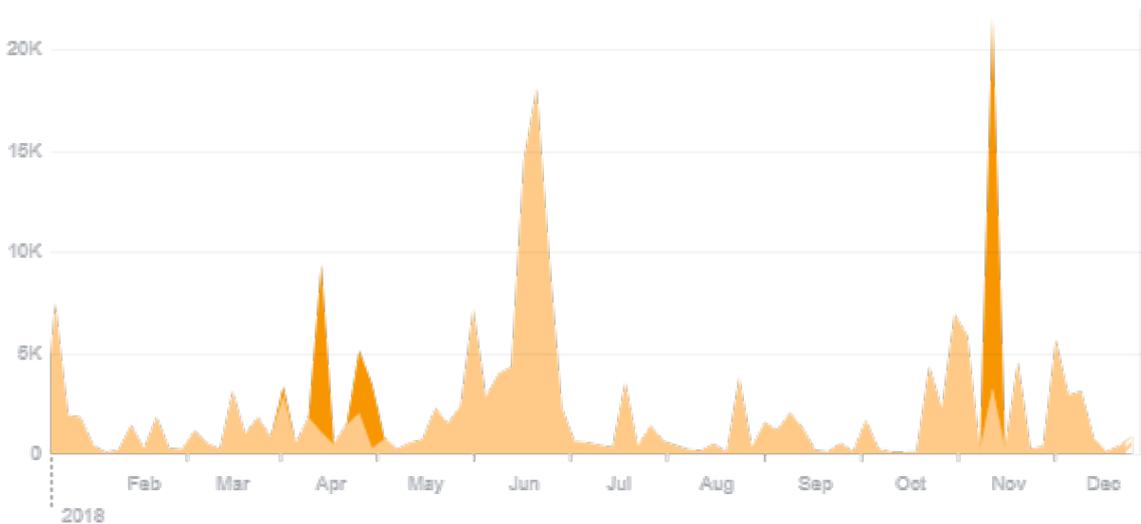
Engagements

[Boost Post](#) 125

7 Comments 29 Shares 12K Views

 Like Comment Share

Overall, the Facebook page now has 24,179 likes (as of 13.12.2018), which is a plus of 24% compared to the 19,511 likes at the end of 2017. The graph below shows the reach of the Facebook page, showing clear peaks during the World Football Cup 2018 (June), the draw of the World Football Cup 2018 (January) and in October/November, where CONIFA released the Open Letter to the President of Ukraine and Cornwall and the Australian First Nations joined CONIFA.



Analyzing our target group on Facebook, we observe that our core audience is male and between 18 and 34. Combined, 71,6% of our Likes on Facebook are coming from that audience group.

An analysis by geographic location of our followers shows that especially people from Somalia, Algeria, Iraq, Nepal and the UK liked our Facebook page (in that order). Combined, 46,81% of our audience are coming from those five countries. Trying to associate such likes with members can only be an educated guess because much easier this year, as Facebook now also provides us with the city all followers are located in. Thus, we can see that out of 3,102 followers from Somalia, 1,149 are located in the capital of Somaliland, Hargeysa, and not in Somalia, while a further 1,076 followers are located in the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu. Likewise, we can observe that significant portions of our likes from Algeria come from the region Kabylia and likes from Iraq from the Kurdistan Region. Followers from the UK were usually followers or observers of the World Football Cup, as nearly of all UK-based likes are from Greater London. The many followers from Nepal, as mentioned in the Activity Report 2017 are most likely originating from bots.

Country	Your Followers	City	Your Followers
Somalia	3,102	Hargeysa, Woqooyi Ga...	1,149
Algeria	2,993	Mogadishu, Banaadir, ...	1,076
Iraq	2,010	Kathmandu, Bagmati Z...	990
Nepal	1,911	Algiers, Algiers Provinc...	917

Following the analysis, we call all members, except for Kurdistan, Somaliland, Barawa and Kabylie to intensify their Facebook promotion and direct visitors to our Facebook page. Furthermore, we call our members to better promote content, which appeals to male users above the age of 34 and/or to women.

Twitter:

On Twitter, our most successful post of the year, surprisingly, was a comment on the FIFA World Cup and FIFAs position towards political neutrality, posted on 22 July 2018 and getting 289,125 impressions and 21,027 Engagements:



The second most successful post was about a wall chart for the World Football Cup 2018 (177,041 impressions, 7,890 engagements) and the third most successful post was about a friendly match between Barawa and the London-based club Hashtag United (175,153 impressions, 1,650 engagements).

While Twitter Analytics did remove age analysis, we can still evaluate the gender of our followers, 91% of which are currently male. Interestingly, the geographical location of our followers is very different to our followership on Facebook, with nearly half of all our Twitter followers coming from the UK, followed by 8% being from the United States.

Country

Country name	% of audience
United Kingdom	47%
United States	8%
Brazil	4%
France	3%
Argentina	2%
Spain	2%
Egypt	2%
Australia	2%
Italy	2%
Netherlands	2%

Remarkably is, that our engagement rate throughout the year averaged between 1,4% and 2%, which is extraordinary. In comparison, the Social Media Analysis experts of the company “Social Bakers” evaluated the top 25 brands of the world, who only achieve an average engagement rate of approximately 0.07%.

Our overall followership on Twitter totals 13,500. Unfortunately, no comparison can be drawn to 2017, due to the absence of data.

Instagram:

Since April 2016, CONIFA is also on Instagram, and is getting increasingly successful on this platform. While 2017, only around 7,764 could be accumulated, content posted in 2018 (before the 13. Dec) accumulated 34,487 likes, which means that the number of likes increased by 344%.

The peaks in attention on Instagram were achieved during March, where the social media team launched a huge pre-World Football Cup campaign and slowly released the host stadiums, and during the World Football Cup itself in June.

Total likes received during time



The top posts on Instagram (by likes and by comments) can be seen below. Unsurprisingly, posts during the World Football Cup, mostly featuring team Tibet, and the logo launch for the upcoming European Football Cup 2019, received most attention:

Best 3 posts by total likes received

2 Jun, 2018 - 19:22



312 likes **8** comments

Tibetan fans in full voice during match day 2 of the @paddyofficial #WFC2018 World Football Cup

9 Jun, 2018 - 22:27



300 likes **6** comments

WINNERS! Karpatalya lift the winners' trophy! 2018 Champions - Karpatalya #WFC2018

7 Jun, 2018 - 18:59



295 likes **6** comments

Dat hair! @chronis71

Best 3 posts by total comments received

20 Mar, 2018 - 20:43



190 likes **13** comments

Will you support #Tibet at Conifa WFC2018 ? #conifa #conifa2018 #world #football #cup #london #london2018 #wfc2018 #paddyofficial #instagram #pictureoftheday

6 Jun, 2017 - 16:15



61 likes **11** comments

Who will WIN the group A? #CONIFA #euro2017 #ncyprus2017 #football #win #northcyprus #tournament #cup #championship #winners #top #best

7 Oct, 2018 - 10:45



251 likes **11** comments

NEWS! CONIFA, in association with the Ministry of Sport in Artsakh, are pleased to launch the official logo for the 2019 CONIFA European Football Cup! #conifa

Media Director: Kieran Pender

CONIFA's media team had a significant year, contributing to the delivery of the most successful CONIFA event yet. Ahead of the 2018 Paddy Power World Football Cup in London, the media director and deputy media director assembled a team of 20+ volunteer media managers, content producers and photographers to assist with coverage of the tournament.

From a media management perspective, 420 media from around the world were accredited to cover the tournament. Some of the significant outlets to cover the tournament included *Sky Sports, BBC, CNN, Reuters, The Guardian, Vice, El Pais, Le Monde, New York Times, The Independent, Metro, Evening Standard, City AM, NBC, New Yorker, Time Out, Al Jazeera, South China Morning Post, Deutsche Welle, Yahoo, AFP, AP* and *PA*. Some of this coverage received significant traction - *VICE's* documentary from the tournament has been viewed 340,000 times on YouTube, while Sky Sport's clip of the first ever green card issued was viewed 400,000 times.

From a content output perspective, CONIFA produced a match report and photo gallery from every game of the tournament, and live-streamed every game except placement games. CONIFA had 6 million Twitter impressions during the tournament and over half a million website home page views. Over 375,000 viewers watched the live streams via mycujoo.

Following from the tournament, the media team have restructured to make use of the expanded pool of interested volunteers and improve effectiveness. The team has recently been working with CONIFA Europe on the promotion of the No Limits tournament and beginning preparation for the 2019 European Football Cup.

Commercial Director: Paul Watson

The first half of 2018 was dedicated to organizing the World Football Cup and leading the dedicated team who worked daily on the London tournament.

After the WFC, I began to focus more on a new role, which was approved by the ExCo, in member development. My goal is to be a liaison between CONIFA's ExCo and the members and to assist them with the challenges they are facing in their development.

I set up a partnership with UK charity Boots2Africa who will provide boots and other football equipment for our members who are in need of it. A shipment of boots has been sent to Zanzibar and more boots will follow to Western Sahara and Rohingya. I sourced training equipment for Somaliland and the Barawa community in Oman.

I have been in frequent dialogue with Rohingya FC in Malaysia and also the Rohingya football clubs in Bangladesh, assisting them with their FA structure and creating a sustainable model for development.

I introduced Giordano / Stingz to Darfur United to make a kit for the women's team and Leyburn Sports to create a kit for Rohingya FC.

Additionally, working with Kieran Pender, I helped draft CONIFA's first anti-discrimination policy and gender equality statement and I also recruited a Women's Football Director.

Africa President: Justin Walley

My main activity in 2018 was preparing, coaching and raising the finances to get Matabeleland to the

CONIFA World Football Cup in London. Due to the 24/7 requirement of this role, this dominated my activities with CONIFA Africa. \$25,000 was raised and the huge profile of Matabeleland globally helped promote CONIFA to a global audience.

On the media front, I brought in CNN to make a documentary about the three African teams playing at the CONIFA WFC. They subsequently filmed Barawa, Matabeleland and Kabylia. I also attracted media coverage of CONIFA from the BBC and numerous other TV networks, radio programmes and print publications. Matabeleland appeared in documentaries for VICE and Paddy Power.

Attempts to organise a CONIFA Africa Cup in Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Ghana were investigated but it proved impossible to take these ideas forward.

Towards the end of 2018 I began to create an African committee. Prior to this it was problematic to find the correct kinds of people. New roles include Development Manager, Head of Women's Football, Player Analysis. I have a group of around a dozen people who want to take the organisation forward in Africa. An African assistant director was appointed.

CONIFA Africa has a dedicated Facebook page but I also have a great deal of success promoting CONIFA through my own Twitter account. Meanwhile, I have been encouraging all members to be more active with their own social media such as Western Sahara and Zanzibar.

There were discussions with South Cameroon and a Zulu team about potentially joining CONIFA Africa. 7 new potential members have been identified for discussions in 2019.

Away from CONIFA Africa, I believe my book about my experiences with Matabeleland will increase awareness of the organisation.

European President: Alberto Rischio

The focus of 2018 was preparing the ground for the European Championship in 2018 which included a trip to Nagorno-Karabakh and a site inspection.

Building a working team for Euro 2019 and also preparing for the No Limits tournament in Monaco in January 2019 took up much of my time as well as leading the European Committee in their activities and meetings.

Asian President: Jens Jockel

1. Participation in the following CONIFA-Events:
 1. Annual General Meeting 2018 in Northern Cyprus
 2. CONIFA World Football Cup in London
2. Work as CONIFA ExCo-member & President
 1. Attended as member of the CONIFA Executive Committee several meetings throughout the year and fulfilled general and specific tasks within our responsibilities
 2. Worked as head of a Continental Committee for Asia with several managers working hand in hand on big tasks, such as the Asia Cup or active help for struggling members
 3. Took care of my responsibility as member of the CONIFA Executive Committee as well as as an ambassador towards federations within and outside of CONIFA and visited dozens of professional and semi-professional football clubs in different countries and CONIFA-relevant-regions , such as :
 - 3.i. Germany

- 3.ii. Belgium
- 3.iii. Estonia
- 3.iv. Latvia
- 3.v. Luxembourg
- 3.vi. Spain
- 3.vii. Poland
- 3.viii. Azerbaijan
- 3.ix. Nakhchivan
- 3.x. Georgia
- 3.xi. Transnistria
- 3.xii. Ukraine
- 3.xiii. Netherlands
- 3.xiv. Turkey
- 3.xv. Morocco
- 3.xvi. England
- 3.xvii. Northern Cyprus
- 3.xviii. Cyprus

4. And met spokespersons and deciders of the following football federations/top clubs :

- 4.i. Nakhchivan
- 4.ii. Transnistria
- 4.iii. Estonia
- 4.iv. Azerbaijan
- 4.v. Belgium
- 4.vi. Luxembourg
- 4.vii. Ukraine

5. Been a member of the Business Development group, taking part in all group calls and helping to generate and develop business ideas for the future of CONIFA.

3.) Actual tasks and projects for CONIFA

Main aspect of my work right now, besides maintaining the contact and information flow within the Asian Continent is the work on the Asia Cup with my team and help struggling members.

A travel to Hongkong and Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, of me and the Asia Gen. Sec Oscar Mussons is scheduled for February 2019 .

The aim of this is, the realization of the Asia Cup in Hongkong, active membership help for RohingyaFC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and much more.

Rohingya FC will be provided football kits, shoes, and similar.

Mostly thanks to Paul Watson and Oscar Mussons.

Other possible candidates for an Asia Cup are: Shizuoka (Japan) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).

4.) Private:

I am currently working on my diploma in Game Analysis and Scouting in Germany and have had workshops with top-notch-personal in this branch (DFB etc.).

If any federation within CONIFA is struggling in this branch I would be happy to help you with my knowledge.

5.) Restructuring of the Asia Committee:

Gursimran Hans(UK) came on board as Media Manager Asia, Mehmet Mimoglu (Northern Cyprus) came on board as financial manager, Motoko Jitsukawa (Japan) came on board as Manager East Asia and Tomoki Okayama (Japan) came on board as Event Manager East Asia. Meanwhile the following member of the committee left because of inactivity: Leonardo Sierro (Argentina).

6.) Last but not least

If you have any (constructive) ideas towards CONIFA Asia in general, the upcoming Asia Cup or you just need help with an issue, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail: asia@conifa.org. Me and my team will try to help you as good as we can.

North American Director: Noah Wheelock

During this year, North America has had contact from Hawaii, as well as two indigenous groups - one from Canada and one from the United States - about creating new F.A's. While the Hawaiian team opted not to pursue this at the current time, contact with the two indigenous groups is ongoing. As well, CONIFA is currently likely to have their first ever match in North America in early 2019, as talks are underway for Cascadia to play Darfur United in Arizona in March.

As Director of Communications, this has been a busy year. As we have expanded our work for new business opportunities, this has meant numerous new presentations and graphics to be created. Presentations have also been created for a potential African Football Championship and work on the No Limits tournament. The website has also been updated very frequently to show all the new work and competitions CONIFA has had in the past year.

I have also been a member of the Business Development group, aiding with talks with our potential new partnership with MyCujoo, as well as viewing other potential online video options for our tournaments and events. I have also spoken with Skignz, Konami and other companies with an eye on potential new partnerships.

I help to bring in one of our newest members, Karen FA, who are officially an Asian member, but have used me as a chief point of contact for their membership, as they are located in the U.S.

Referee Manager: Roger Lundbäck

It's an absolute pleasure and a big challenge to be a referee in one of CONIFA's tournaments. They are really different from other tournaments and I think much better both as an referee and on a personal level because we work together with the teams. We stay in the same place and eat in the same restaurants. Outside the pitch it's very friendly but when the game is on we're all really serious in our roles and then we focus on making as few mistakes as possible. We will help the teams with the rules of the game and hopefully we have great respect for each other.

CONIFA's referees have great passion for being referees because they don't get paid for the games – they only get accommodation and food paid for.

It's a big challenge to find these refs because the standard of the teams is really high so the skills of the refs need to be of the same level or higher, so that's the biggest challenge for us to find.

In the beginning we took out referees and mixed them up so we got more experience because working with new refs is good. But it's not fair to the teams so now all ref teams come from same district so they know each other before and they already had games together.

Every team has a fourth referee and it's a challenge because the teams are really passionate and have different cultures and English is not a language all managers can speak, so sometimes it's harder to be the fourth than the head ref.

Sometimes we also have teams that can't speak English so we can't tell them what they did or should not do, so we need to talk with our whistle, body language and our cards. This is often a new thing for the refs because they are used to speaking with the players back home but now it's not possible.

The World Football Cup saw the introduction of a green card and we loved it. Instead of giving a player a yellow card for diving or for bad behavior, it was a green card, which is effectively a red card for that player but allows the team to substitute the player as long as they have substitutes left. We saw much better sportsmanship in London as a result.

I hope that CONIFA finds itself in a good financial position so that refs don't need to pay anything from their own pockets to get to our tournaments.

We are the third team in every game and it's not fun if the two other teams are much better and the third team comes in and "destroys" the party. We have avoided that so far and keep working hard at every tournament we have but as the teams get stronger so must the refs.

We have already begun work on the Euro Cup 2019. We have six ref teams who will be the third team in every game and are working hard to be as good as they can be.

I'm really proud to be the referee manager for CONIFA and it's a real pleasure to go to every tournament and meet new and old friends from the whole world.