

ISF Shines in GISST Competitions: Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball

November was an exhilarating month for ISF sports teams as our athletes competed with passion and determination in the GISST tournaments for Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball. Their performances across multiple categories demonstrated both talent and growth, solidifying ISF's reputation as a competitive force.

Cross Country Success

ISF's Cross Country team delivered exceptional results at the Bavarian International School, securing an overall **2nd place finish**.

- **Varsity Girls:** With a strong team performance, ISF claimed **2nd place overall**. Anvika Dinesh (6th, 25:13) and Jieun Han (11th, 26:05) stood out with their remarkable times.
- **Varsity Boys:** Despite competing against older and more experienced athletes, the boys secured **4th place overall**. Yudai Harada (8th, 18:48) and Taishi Hattori (11th, 19:22), both Grade 9 students, showed exceptional promise.
- **U14 Girls:** The team claimed **2nd place overall**, led by stellar performances from Michelle Schaffei (4th, 15:57) and Momoka Terada (5th, 16:07). Younger athletes, such as 9-year-old Vera Rey Mazzolari (21st, 18:09), also impressed.
- **U14 Boys:** Finishing **4th overall**, the team demonstrated resilience. Notable efforts included Sarp Kemal Saracoglu (15th, 15:05) and Yumma Haut (17th, 15:20).
- **Mixed Relays:** ISF closed the day with another **2nd place finish**, highlighted by a gritty final leg from Saracoglu.

ISF's performance was particularly impressive given the young age of many team members, proving that the future of ISF Cross Country is exceptionally bright.

Football Highlights

Football teams faced tough challenges but showed resilience and skill across all categories.

- **U14 Girls:** Competing in Leipzig, the girls' team started strong, winning their pool with victories of 2-0 and 1-1 draws, securing a semifinal spot. Despite injuries that hampered their lineup, they fought hard, finishing **4th overall**. The team's season was a success, highlighted by 1st place in the RMAC tournament and three out of four friendly game victories.
- **U14 Boys:** Competing in Berlin, the boys played with determination. Day 1 featured two victories and a hard-fought loss to BERIS. Day 2 brought tough results, including a loss to Bavarian International School that placed the team **8th overall**. Outstanding performances came from captain Kushal Panta and MVP Junho Kong, who demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship.
- **Varsity Boys:** Hosting the GISST at ISF, the Varsity Boys braved freezing conditions to finish in **3rd place**. The team's resilience shone through, particularly in a dominant 6-1 victory against St. George to secure their podium spot. Special recognition was given to Grade 12 seniors, including captain Ismail Hassan, for their leadership and dedication. The team also received the prestigious FAIR PLAY Award, reflecting their sportsmanship on and off the pitch.

Volleyball Triumphs

ISF's Varsity Volleyball teams delivered memorable performances, with the Boys team achieving a historic back-to-back championship victory.

- **Varsity Boys:** Dominating the competition in Duisburg, the team secured their **second consecutive GISST title**. They remained undefeated in the group stage and triumphed in the final with a commanding 25-18, 25-20 victory over St. George. Standout players included captain Thomas Tillman, setter Ryo Tsukamoto, and middle blockers Ian Campbell and Tim Pachtner. The team's depth, leadership, and unity were key to their success.
- **Varsity Girls:** Competing in Berlin, the girls displayed grit and determination. After securing two wins in the group stage, they battled hard on Day 2, finishing **7th overall** with a decisive final match victory. The tournament marked the farewell of senior players, including captain Emmeline Hannon, whose leadership was celebrated alongside contributions from Yume Tsuji and Karlotta Steinmetz.