

# Back to the Hoops – Pilot Program

An initiative of the IQA Membership and Gameplay Department – Expansion Division

## Introduction

*Back to the Hoops* is a pilot program created by the International Quadball Association (IQA) to help National Governing Bodies (NGBs) rebuild, reactivate, and grow sustainably after periods of stagnation or decline.

This initiative will start in one NGB as the first pilot, led by the IQA Expansion Division, and will later be refined and shared with other NGBs worldwide.

The program's main idea is simple: a healthy NGB grows from its community, not only from its national team.

When all energy is focused on high-level competition, the foundation weakens.

*Back to the Hoops* aims to restore balance by strengthening both sides, the Competitive Division and the Community Division, and giving them clear, coordinated roles.

## Why this program exists

Many NGBs experience the same pattern:

- The national team becomes the center of attention
- Resources, volunteers, and visibility go mostly to international competition
- Local clubs, casual players, and development efforts fade away

Without an active base, the sport stops growing, recruitment declines, and eventually even the national team loses strength.

This program exists to break that cycle, to rebuild quadball from the ground up, reconnect with local communities, and make the sport visible, accessible, and fun again.

## Core Concept: The two divisions

To create sustainable growth, every NGB should maintain two coordinated but distinct structures:

### Competitive Division

**Focus:** High performance and official competitions.

Responsibilities:

- Manage leagues, official and international tournaments, and national selections
- Support training for competitive teams and referees
- Coordinate with IQA and other NGBs on international events

### Community Division

**Focus:** Development, outreach, and participation.

Responsibilities:

- Promote quadball in schools, universities, and local communities
- Support the creation of non-competitive or recreational teams
- Organize open practices, fantasy tournaments, workshops, and community events
- Offer beginner referee and coaching sessions
- Provide access to shared NGB materials for training and learning
- Create fun, inclusive spaces for all genders, ages, and abilities

Both divisions must collaborate closely.

Success in one strengthens the other: more community players mean a stronger talent pool; better competitive visibility motivates new participants.

## Program objectives

By the end of the *Back to the Hoops* pilot, participating NGBs should be able to:

1. Re-establish a functioning **Community Division**
2. Develop and maintain at least **3 active non-competitive teams or training groups**
3. Organize a **minimum of 2 open recreational events** (school demos, fantasy tournaments, or community days)
4. Recruit and train **new referees or volunteers** through beginner sessions
5. Increase **youth, gender diverse, and newcomer participation**
6. Build a basic structure for **self-sustained growth**

## Implementation framework

The pilot program follows three practical phases.

Each phase includes clear actions that can be completed with volunteer effort and minimal resources.

### Phase 1 – Preparation (Month 1)

**Goal:** Understand the current situation and set up the structure

Actions:

- Appoint at least **two officers**:
  - a **Competition Officer** (for leagues, international events and national team matters)
  - a **Community Development Officer** (for local engagement and events)
- Hold an internal planning session with key volunteers
- Map current and potential teams or individuals interested in quadball
- Review available materials, equipment, and locations for practices
- Define a 3 month local action plan

## Phase 2 – Activation (Months 2–4)

**Goal:** Get people playing and visible again

Actions:

- Launch Open Practices, sessions where anyone can join for free
- Create mixed training sessions combining competitive and new players.
- Use NGB equipment for community use days
- Visit schools, universities, and local events to showcase the sport
- Host introductory clinics for players, coaches, and referees
- Organize at least one fun or fantasy tournament open to everyone after all of the above

Outputs:

- Active recreational groups
- New contacts, mailing lists, and volunteers
- Renewed visibility for the sport in the region

## Phase 3 – Consolidation (Months 5–6)

**Goal:** Strengthen structure and independence

Actions:

- If there are any community teams defined, help them on their basic organization (captain, training plan, etc)
- Create communication channels (social media groups, calendars)
- Encourage experienced players to mentor new groups if needed
- Review achievements and challenges from the first 6 months
- Plan next steps: regional leagues, school partnerships, regular open events

Outputs:

- Stable community network

- Clear annual calendar
- Evidence of growth (teams, players, activities)

## Practical guidelines for the Community Division

To ensure low-cost and high-impact growth, NGBs should follow these practical principles:

Area	Recommended Action
Equipment	NGBs can lend hoops, balls, and brooms to new groups during community sessions
Memberships	Allow free or temporary participation for new teams during their learning stage
Visibility	Use social media, local media, and community events to show quadball's inclusivity and fun
Training	Provide basic referee and coaching workshops led by volunteers
Diversity	Prioritize mixed and youth-friendly events; invite families and schools
Events	Alternate between sport-focused activities (trainings, scrimmages) and community ones (fantasy tournaments, fun days, "learn to play" days)

## Coordination between divisions

Although they have different focuses, both divisions must work together strategically:

- **Joint sessions:** competitive players attend community practices as mentors
- **Shared promotion:** highlight both competitive success and local participation in communications

- **Volunteer crossover:** some volunteers may help both divisions (for example, referee training)
- **Unified calendar:** avoid overlapping events to maintain participation

The goal is not to create two separate worlds, but two complementary engines driving the same NGB forward.

## Measuring success

To evaluate progress, the following key indicators will be tracked during and after the pilot:

Indicator	Target for Pilot
Active non-competitive teams	≥ 3
Recreational / school events organized	≥ 2
New referees / volunteers trained	≥ 5
Woman / youth participation increase	+20% from baseline
Community engagement (social media, outreach)	measurable improvement
Sustainability	NGB maintains both divisions functioning independently

Qualitative feedback (satisfaction, motivation, community spirit) will also be collected.

## Resources and support

The IQA Expansion Division will provide the following tools and guidance to ensure an organized and sustainable pilot process:

### Provided by IQA Expansion Division

- **Planning and tracking templates**

Editable sheets to organize goals and activities:

*Example:* 3–6 month action plan, event log (date, type, participants, short notes), and a simple bi-monthly progress report.

- **Visual materials and translation packs**

Ready-to-use designs and adaptable content:

*Example:* flyers for schools and universities, social media post templates, and bilingual info sheets to introduce the sport.

- **Guidance and mentorship**

The Expansion Manager will serve as the main contact for the NGB, offering:

*Monthly 30-minute check-ins* to review progress, solve challenges, and celebrate successes.

The goal is to support, not control —helping NGBs become confident and self-sustaining.

- **Additional optional tools**

*Example:* short virtual workshops for referees, coaches, or community leaders, depending on available resources and needs.

NGBs are encouraged to:

- Reuse or adapt IQA materials creatively to fit their local context
- Collaborate locally with schools, universities, councils, or community groups
- Focus on low-cost, volunteer-based sustainability, making sure every initiative can continue without large financial support

## Next steps

1. Pilot program launch in **Peru (Month 1)**
2. Midterm review at **3 months** with IQA Expansion feedback
3. Final evaluation after **6 months**, measuring indicators and collecting insights
4. Adjustments and preparation of **IQA Global Model** for implementation in other NGBs



*Back to the Hoops* is more than a recovery plan, it's a mindset shift. By reconnecting with communities, empowering volunteers, and celebrating the joy of playing, we ensure that quadball remains vibrant, inclusive, and alive in every region.

***“Strong roots, strong teams, strong future.”***

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