

**Helsinki, Finland 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2019**

## **IFF Central Board meeting 4/2019 06. – 08.09.2019**

**Place:** Eerikkilä Sports & Outdoor Resort, Urheilupuistontie 138, 31370 Eerikkilä  
[www.eerikkila.fi](http://www.eerikkila.fi)

<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Tomas Eriksson</b>	<b>President</b>
	<b>Jörg Beer</b>	
	<b>Monica Birdal</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Steen Houman</b>	
	<b>Stephen King</b>	
	<b>Martin Klabere</b>	
	<b>Carlos Lopez</b>	
	<b>Lidwien Reehuis</b>	<b>ATC Chair</b>
	<b>Kaarina Salomaa</b>	
	<b>Filip Suman</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
	<b>Veli Halonen</b>	<b>Operations Manager</b>
	<b>John Liljelund</b>	<b>Secretary General</b>
<b>Excused:</b>	<b>Ron Spence</b>	
	<b>Stefan Kratz</b>	<b>Competition Manager</b>

## **Minutes**

### **§ 1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson opened the meeting and welcome the members to the CB workshop and the fourth CB meeting of the year.

Mr. Eriksson further welcomed Ms. Kaarina Salomaa as the new CB member, to replace Mr. Kimmo Nurminen as decided by the IFF CB in the last meeting. Ms. Salomaa informed that the SSBL Central Board has granted Ms. Salomaa the right to participate in their meetings, securing the contact to the Finnish CB.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

### **§ 2. Approval of the agenda**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there are the following updated appendixes for the meeting.

- Appendix 29 – TWG 2021 Bulletin 2
- Appendix 30 – IFF Licence system Tier Group proposal
- Appendix 31 – Stakeholders comments about Champions Cup proposal (to be delivered to the meeting)
- Appendix 32ab – IOC Sustainability Case Study proposal

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and added the appendixes

**§ 3 Minutes from the CB meeting:  
03/2019 over Skype, 10.06.2019 (Appendix 1)**

The minutes from the last meeting are to be scrutinized, approved and put ad acta.

**§ 4. Economy**

**a) Financial report by 31.08. 2019**

Mrs. Birdal presented the financial report and the balance sheet by the 31.08.2019 (**Appendix 2**).

The outcome per 31st of August is CHF 145.129, which is some CHF 152.795 (2018: CHF 297.924) less compared with the same period last year, mainly due to that the organisers fee and marketing income from WFC 2018 was already paid and much higher than for the WFC 2019. In addition, neither the CC nor the EFC was played 2018 with a negative result effect of about 35000 CHF for the year 2019 compared to 2018.

The liquidity is some CHF 61.000 lower compared with last year (CHF 114.760) partly due to the U19 WFC 2019, which also has affected the outcome.

The forecast for the remaining part of the year points, in worst case, at a loss for the full year of CHF 53.000. The estimated forecast is presented in the Financial Report and the predicted loss for 2019 is mainly due to the following factors; IFF has not had any success in the sales of sponsorships, a significantly smaller income from the Material Approval system, not succeeded to sell the floorings and rinks as planned and there has been the expected amount of income for the organisers and participation fees. At the same time, we have compared to budget already saved a total of over CHF 230.000 in costs.

All in all - this means that we need liquidity of about 170000 CHF during this year which we should make with our expected cashflow from registrations to the WFC and the debts that shall be paid off. The Office has prepared a list of actions to make savings for the end of the year.

The CB discussed the financial topics in the CB work session

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**b) Information on IFF claims – status August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

Mrs. Birdal presented the claims situation by the 31.08.2019 for Associations in WFC 2020 and those not participating (**Appendix 3 and 4**).

Efforts have continued with the aim to get all teams registered for the WFCs 2020 to be in line with the License system. Latvia has got back into the pay-off plan and had paid the required amount by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July to still be able to participate in the WFC 2019. The payment, to fulfil the financial requirements to participate in the WFC 2020, was paid before the end of August according to the payment plan. Also Russia came back on track in July as they had stated that they would. Slovenia has their next payment by the end of October to clear the old part of the debts. These Associations are still to be closely monitored where for Slovenia an updated plan shall be made after October for the newer debts since the old one with paying off the newer debts is considered to be too slow. For Russia the last part shall be paid before the end of the year. The Latvian plan has a checkpoint every month until the total debt is paid by 31.12.2019.

Slovakia has paid off all the earlier debts, related to the WFC 2017. The CB took cognisance that the Slovak Association has been able to sort out the debts

For the non-participating countries have mostly issues with membership issues, which shall be discussed. Mr. Suman asked how to deal with the debts of the Chinese, Cote d'Ivoire, Korea and Malaysia. Mr. Liljelund answered that they need to start to pay the debts and have a payment plan in order to be able to play in the WFCQ 2020. Mr. Suman pointed out that in the appendix the payment plan of Russia is missing and should be updated. It is imperative that the countries without a payment plan at some point of time need to be excluded from the events and IFF can't allow them to participate. Mr. Lopez asked why the Ukraine debt has increased from March. Mr. Liljelund answered that he needs to ask Mr. Kratz.

The U19 WFC 2019 organiser approached the IFF after the last meeting informing that they will not be able to follow the signed agreement of re-paying the loan but wanted a slower pay-off plan. When their proposal was presented the proposed pay-off plan was extended to almost 3 years (11 quarters) with a payment of 11000 CHF (15000 CAD) quarterly until the total debt 121654.52 CHF is cleared. IFF has proposed a payment plan agreement, which Floorball Canada and the U19 WFC organiser Premier Floorball has not yet approved (**Appendix 5**). Mr. Suman asked how to deal with the potential situation if the first down payment would not have been paid. The CB concluded that this issue shall be discussed in the December meeting.

Mr. Liljelund proposed that IFF would take a loan of a total sum of 75.000 CHF from one or more IFF members for a seven-year period, to secure the cash-flow issue caused by the financial issues during the U19 WFC 2019. IFF would start repaying the loan in 2022, with 15.000 CHF per year in 2022 – 2026. Discussions have been held with Czech Republic, Sweden and Switzerland and a concrete solution will be made in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Liljelund, with the aim to recover from the overall financial and liquidity problems facing IFF, to present a proposal on raising the participation fees and transfer fees. (**Appendix 6**) The proposal is to change the payment schedule of the organiser's fees, marketing right fees and the shared referee costs, to increase the participation fees, shared referee costs to equal the real costs and transfer fees.

In addition, Mr. Liljelund also concluded that as a solution and a payment plan has been reached with Floorball Canada, so there is no need for the CB to have to call for an Extra Ordinary General Assembly, in accordance with the Art. 26 of the IFF Statutes. The CB should in the spring meeting 2020 during the CB workshop look for a proposal of a revision of the membership fee structure for the IFF General Assembly 2020, from 2021 forward, as discussed in the CB workshop

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports and to confirm the Latvian participation in the WFC 2019 and to continue to follow up on Latvia, Russia and Canada regarding their participation in the U19 WFC 2020 and the WFC 2020. Further to decide to raise the Participation and transfer fees according to the proposal. The CB agreed to take the loan of 75.000 CHF.

## § 5. World Championships

### a) WFC 2019 Neuchatel, Switzerland

Mr. Beer gave status report on the WFC 2019 preparations. (**Appendix 7**) The ticket sales has now reached over 2.000 sold tickets (15 % of the budgeted) and a lot of tickets are reserved, so the LOC are not concerned of reaching the target. SUHV will invite a lot of school pupils from the

Canton of Neuchâtel and arrange and pay for their transportation to the matches during the week. The sponsorship income has reached CHF 116.500, with the target of CHF 170.00 gross and CHF 150.000 net. The sales is done by a sales agency.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> information letter has been sent to the teams, all teams apart from Estonia and Japan have booked their accommodation. There are six teams accommodated some 30 minutes away from Neuchâtel. The set-up for the arenas is fixed and only some smaller details needs to be defined. The LOC have covered about 60 per cent of all tasks. It is very positive that the LOC have received some CHF 100.000 from Swiss Olympics, value in kind support from the City of Neuchâtel and some support from the Federal Department of Sports. The aim is still not to have a bigger loss than CHF 140.000.

The City Reception is planned for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> at 14:00.

The LOC communicate their slogan #floorbalized for the WFC on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, which will be activated in the information campaign. The LOC is building a Fanzone in the parking area outside the venues. The LOC is very optimistic and convinced to be able to provide a successful event.

Mr. Suman asked what the plans are to activate Floorball in the French parts of the country. Mr. Beer answered that the campaign will be run during the autumn. The CB wished Good Luck with the organisation.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the TV arrangements and that the offer for a SNG from the Swiss TV to provide it, unfortunately this offer is not available anymore. IFF and the LOC is looking for other solutions together with the production company PolarHD. The aim is to have a solution in the coming week.

IFF has held discussions with the main takers of the TV signal, either directly or through the member associations and based on this we today have TV in the following countries: Czech Republic, Finland, Latvia, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. Discussions are ongoing with Denmark, Germany, Norway, Singapore and Thailand. Further discussions are to be started and we have interest from Brazil to stream and make Portuguese commentary.

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports

**b) U19 WFC 2019, Halifax, Canada**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the CB has already discussed the financial issues related to the organization to the U19 WFC 2019 and approved the payment plan for the event, as it has been approved by Floorball Canada and the U19 WFC 2019 organiser and the Premier Floorball.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and the proposal.

**c) Next Events**

**WFC 2020, Helsinki Finland**

On behalf of Mr. Kratz, Mr. Halonen is to report that the preparations of the WFC 2020 qualifications are ongoing and that the first draft of schedules are prepared. (**Appendix 8**) The qualifications will be played in Frederikshavn - Denmark, Liepaja – Latvia and Poprad, Slovakia. Further the AOFC qualification will be played in the beginning, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of March in Bangkok, Thailand.

The LOC preparations for the WFC 2020 are proceeding well and the cooperation with the IFF are well on track. The WFC is planning to launch the first wave of the ticket sales in October 2019 and related to this the playing times of the Finnish team and the semi-finals and medal matches has been agreed with the Host Broadcaster YLE. (**Appendix 9**)

Mr. Suman asked how the possible loss of teams will affect the system and Mr. Klabere answered that the RACC will discuss this in their upcoming meeting.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **d) Upcoming Events**

##### **U19 WFC 2020, Uppsala, Sweden**

On behalf of Mr. Kratz, Mr. Halonen reported that the U19 WFC 2020 qualifications will be played during September 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, with 5 teams; Russia, Hungary, Austria, Netherlands and Italy.

Mr. Klabere reported on the preparations of the SIBF for the U19 WFC 2020. There is a project manager employed and the ticket sales will start as soon as the match schedule is prepared in October, after the qualifications.

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports

##### **U19 WFC 2021**

Mr. Liljelund proposed that the U19 WFC 2021 final round shall be played in Czech Republic.

**The CB decided:** The CB to decide to appoint Czech Floorball as organizer of the U19 WFC 2021 final round.

##### **U19 WFC 2022**

Mr. Halonen informed on the bidding process, the questions and concerns Floorball New Zealand has raised and the outcome of it. Originally three IFF member associations informed that they are interested to bid; Finland, New Zealand and USA. Based on the request of the Floorball New Zealand, the bidding time was prolonged until the end of June 2019, so that they could get all the facts secured. Before the deadline of the bidding both the Finnish Floorball Federation and Floorball USA withdrew from the bidding and the bid of the Floorball New Zealand remained as the only bidding.

The evaluation of the bid was made by the IFF and the outcome is that Floorball New Zealand has the needed financial support from the authorities and the city to run the event. Both venues can be in the same venue in Wellington, the budget seems to be very realistic and New Zealand Floorball has been promised some support from the state and province. The recommendation based on the evaluation is to appoint Floorball New Zealand as the organizer of the Women's U19 WFC 2022. The average point in the evaluation was somewhere around 550 points, which is a quite high for a Women's U19 WFC.

Mr. Halonen further informed that at the same time with the event coincides with the International Women's in Sport Conference, which is held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr. Liljelund proposed that the U19 WFC 2022 final round shall be played in Wellington, New Zealand.

**The CB decided:** to approve the report and to decide to appoint Floorball New Zealand as organizer of the U19 WFC 2022 final round in Wellington.

§ 6. **EuroFloorball Cup**

a) **EuroFloorball Cup 2019**

On behalf of Mr. Kratz, Mr. Halonen reported that the EFC 2019, is to be played in Malacky, Slovakia 9-13.10.2019 and that the schedule has been published. There will be six teams for men and women in the tournament, played in groups of three.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report.

b) **EuroFloorball Challenge 2019**

On behalf of Mr. Kratz, Mr. Halonen reported that the EFCh 2019 was played in Besancon, France, during August 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> with 5 Men's and 3 Women's teams participating. This was the first IFF event to be organised in France and it has been reported that the teams and IFF were very happy with the organisation of the EFCh.

The event was played according to the future floorball concept with 3x15 minutes game time and with 17 players and 5 officials in the teams. The format appeared to work for the teams but feedback on the system is still to be collected. The Office will provide a feedback report to the RACC concerning the evaluation and outcome of the test.

CUF Leganes (Spain) won the Men's and SZPK Komarom (Hungary) won the Women's EFCh and both teams qualified to the EuroFloorball Cup 2020.

Mr. Suman felt it was very important that we have had a tournament in France.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report.

c) **Champions Cup 2019**

Mr. Suman reported on the preparations of the Champions Cup 2020 to be played in Ostrava, Czech Republic 11-12.01.2020. The Czech Floorball has included the Club Vitkovice which has both teams in the tournament. In the region there is the U20 IIHF 2020 World Championships, in played just before the Champions Cup, which will affect the preparations. The tournament will be played in the same arena as the 2006 EuroFloorball Cup. The Czech Floorball is foreseeing to have a small financial minus for the tournament.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the situation with the CC Home&Away concept from 2023 forward. The stakeholders of the Champions Cup have been asked to hand in their comments to the IFF secretary general until the end of August, after it has been discussed in their respective central boards. **(Appendix 31)** The associations have been positive, with one addition proposed by the Finnish association to clarify the responsibilities of the associations. The Swedish association will only be able to discuss the topic in their October CB meeting.

The IFF CB already approved the concept in our last CB meeting. (**Appendix 10**)

The CB further discussed who will take the lead of the Champions Cup Steering Group after Mr. Nurminen. Mr. Eriksson proposed that the IFF secretary general will summon the Champions Cup Steering Group in the future.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and took the needed actions..

## § 7. Committees and Ad Hoc group reports

### a) ExCo reports

Mr. Eriksson reported on the ExCo activities after the previous CB meeting, which have mainly concentrated upon trying to solve the financial issues related to the U19 WFC 2019 crisis and to prepare proposals to solve the issues it has created for the IFF finance and especially the IFF liquidity. It has been hard to get all in place and to get clear answers from the parties, and it is the obligation for Floorball Canada and the local organizer and the responsible heads, to get an updated financial payoff plan in to place, which now is on the CB table finally.

The IFF President and IFF Secretary General have mutually had talks with the top 4 EFT Countries in order to seek a long-term solution with IFF cashflow by preferably a long-term loan and the proposal for the increase of the different fees, which has already been discussed.

Mr. Liljelund presented that the Initial Screening Questionnaire has been sent to some 40 plus persons from over 10 countries, representing ATC members, clubs, event organisers, federation representatives, floorball manufacturers, international sport persons, media, tv personalities and some other persons. The respondents have been asked to answer the questionnaire until the end of August, but it might take somewhat longer to receive the responses.

The CB will during its workshop discuss and give its view to the questionnaire, with the objective to prepare for the member associations discussions during the IFF Association Meeting concerning the common view of the direction of IFF's future.

The Strategy Process shall be led by a Task Force consisting of IFF CB members, Member Associations representatives, other stakeholders and the IFF Office, which shall be elected in September. The IFF ExCo will act as a Steering Group for the process keeping it on track. The Task Force will make two preliminary submissions to the Floorball Community, with the first version in April and the second in August in 2020, which both will be scrutinised by the following entities: the member associations, IFF Committees, Outside stakeholder groups (Elite teams, Leagues, Athletes, Fans, Media, Sponsors, Coaches and referees). The objective is to build a broad-based picture in which direction the Sport World is moving towards, what future scenarios and trends will affect and challenge our future. The CB elaborated on the issues concerning the Strategy work during the CB workshop.

The CB discussed the composition of the Strategy Task Force. The CB has earlier discussed that the Task Force could consist of 8-9 persons. The proposal is to have Mr. Stephen King as the chair, Ms. Kaarina Salomaa, Mr. Filip Suman, Mr. Michael Zoss, Mr. Junoh-Lee (Athletes Commission), Ms. Merita Bruun, a representative from Sweden to be added later and the secretary general of the IFF Mr. John Liljelund

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports and appoint the Strategy Task Force as proposed.

**b) CB members responsibilities**

Mr. Houman reported on the Six Nation Men floorball challenge, will be arranged in Nowy Targ, with the Polish Floorball Federation as host in the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October 2019. The six nations Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia has decided to use the tournament as a test and the playing time will be 3x15min. In conjunction with the tournament, there will be a coach seminar conducted by the Czech Floorball Federation. Each of the six nations can have at least two participants.

Mr. Eriksson asked what the main benefits of the Six Nation cooperation are. Ms. Birdal answered that the biggest benefit is to have established a good way of communication between the countries and have the discussions. The associations can also make plans for a much longer period. Mr. Houman feels that the cooperation helps to share experiences, which should help to close the gap.

IFF has prepared a proposal for the Road to HEL-project to close the gap on the top level with the EFT countries. The program consists of three education sessions in Eerikkilä Sports Institute and is directed to the National Team Coaches, the federations coach educators and the top club coaches. So far there are interest from Denmark, Germany, Norway and Latvia. Poland has informed that they will not participate, and Slovakia has not answered. IFF will try to finalise the project by mid of September. **(Appendix 11)** Spain has also shown interest towards the project.

Mr Lopez reported about the on the development in Central and Latin America and the plans for the future. There has been a contact with one Finnish former league player who is going to Brazil and has offered himself to help and (this is remarkable) has asked for guidelines to follow. This is very good because personally I think that in some places we are not growing “officially” due to some helps coming from outside the countries with other interests or just for fun. The second point to remark is the “mute” from Mexico. It has been now some months with no replies from Teijo Vienola, there is a concern that he has quit from floorball. From the other countries (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela) I can see actions mainly coming from “these visitors” and specially connected with Floorball4all but they do not report anything to us in any official way. There is an idea to have a video conference during the Association meeting with the Latin America countries to discuss a possible regional competition.

Mr. King reported on the on the present status of the AOFC activities. **(Appendix 13)** The AOFC now has a total of 15 members, when Kiribati and Kuwait have been invited as provisional members. There has been a referee seminar organised in Singapore for all AOFC members with 26 participants and eight teams (India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) participated in the AOFC Cup in Manila, the Philippines. The tournament was refereed by four referee pairs from the region (Indonesia, Korea, Philippines and Singapore). The referee development is running very well in the region.

There are a number of local development projects in Australia with school pupils, Iran with Floorball included in the Sport Talents Olympiad for 13-16-year olds, Korea with 1<sup>st</sup> Floorball leagues, Indonesia with multiple tournaments and New Zealand with junior and school development.

The AOFC has opened a new Facebook page, which should be included in all IFF files.

The AOFC had its yearly meeting in connection to the AOFC Cup in Manila **(Appendix 14)**.

During the AOFC meeting it was in principle decided that the following countries will organise the following events: WFCQ Men 2020 – Thailand, WFCQ U19 Men – Singapore and WFCQ Women 2021- Japan. Malaysia have offered to host AOFC Cup 2020 Women’s edition, but this has to be confirmed.

Mr. Spence has not been in position to provide a short report on the present issues in Northern America, so there is no Appendix 15.

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports

### c) **Contacts to International Sports Organisations**

Mr. Eriksson shortly reported on the development in the International field, mainly on the activities he has carried out. The IFF President took part, as earlier reported, at the ENGSO AGM in Frankfurt, Germany at the DOSB Hq, on June 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> as a voting delegate representing the Swedish Sports Confederation. At the AGM Mr. Stefan Bergh was elected President of the ENGSO with Ms. Kaisa Larjomaa as acting secretary general, with placement in Brussels at the EOC HQ. The annual ENGSO Sports Platform will be arranged as planned in Rome, Italy on October 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, where the IFF President plans to take part. The challenge for ENGSO is mainly its financial base, and the fact that it lacks around 20 countries within Europe not having joined yet as members of ENGSO, but are at still members of the EOC.

Mr. Eriksson further informed that he has met and had talks with other Swedish top international delegate officials, within a fairly newly built up network. As members in this network are persons who have just joined or still are in office in their respective International Federations Executive bodies as vice presidents/EXCO members, hence meet with Mrs. Petra Sörling, Table tennis, Mrs. Ria Damgren, Triathlon, Mrs. Anna Rapp, Handball, Mrs. Lena Wallin Kantzy, Basketball, in order to promote Floorball, and learn from other Olympic Federations.

#### **SportAccord**

Mr. Eriksson reported that IFF has asked the US Floorball to nominate a person taking part in the Regional SportAccord in Miami, USA during the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of December. SportAccord will cover the hotel and participation for one IF delegate. US Floorball has nominated Mr. Williamson and IFF has confirmed his participation.

The SportAccord has sent out a letter to the IF's after the summer informing generally about the World Urban Games, the World Combat Games and the activities the newly elected GAISF President has conducted (**Appendix 16**) IFF needs to prepare for the organisation of a Urban Floorball World Championships next summer.

IFF will for financial reasons only participate with one representative to the IF Forum in Lausanne, in end of October

#### **ARISF**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the ARISF Council is working on the follow-up of the approved strategy and the results will be presented after the Council meeting in October in Lausanne. In addition to this Mr. Hollowell is building a proposal for an ARISF project in connection to the International Testing Authority (ITA), in order to have more federations cooperating with the ITA. Mr. Liljelund has been discussing the possibility to include ARISF in a series of extensive case studies which are being conducted by the IOC and an outside company.

#### **IOC**

Mr. Liljelund reported that IFF has upon an invitation proposed by the IOC Sports Department to make a Case Study of the planned Old Floorball Material recycling project for the WFC 2020 to the IOC Sustainability department. IFF has handed in our proposal for the Case Study and now waiting for a response. (**Appendix 32ab**)

#### **IWGA/TWG**

Mr. Liljelund informed that IFF has participated in the IWGA Marketing and Sponsor survey, in which IWGA is looking for opportunities to increase the visibility of the TWG at the participating IF's Events. (**Appendix 17**)

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The World Games 2021 organiser committee has approached the participating IF's and informed of the possible forms of demonstration for the sports in Birmingham during the TWG 2021. There will be three different fields of activity the sport might be able to run the following (**Appendix 18**):

1. DEDICATED SPACE in the Sports Garden within The World Games Plaza at Railroad Park, one of the main hubs of activity throughout each day of The World Games. Participants are expected to program their space to operate all day, every day;
2. SHARED SPACE / SHORT SESSIONS on stage of The World Games Plaza. Participants will be scheduled to appear on the main stage at The World Games Plaza one or more times during operation of The World Games Plaza;
3. FIELD OF PLAY – During competition breaks at various competition venues.

IFF will discuss this with the USFbA to secure that we have enough resources to run the programs. The USFbA is running a first seminar in the coming months to a number of schools in Birmingham.

The TWG BOC has given out a second Bulletin, which IFF has started taking actions upon. (**Appendix 29**). IFF will apply for all possible fields until the dead-line.

#### IMGA

Mr. Eriksson reported that Floorball in the end was on the program of the IMGA European Master Games 2019 in Torino, Italy for the first time. The event was run by the Italian federation. During the introduction year a lot of effort was made by the Italian federation (FIUF) and the IFF to create awareness and drive registrations. It was however very difficult to get teams to participate in the event, despite a vast number of social media posts and the cooperation with the organisers of Prague Masters (the biggest veteran tournament). In the end five teams took part in the three-day event, with five Men 35+ tournament and 3 teams in the Men 45+ tournament in a combined tournament. The IMGA is still positive to have Floorball on the program and as Tampere has been awarded the organisation for 2023. The president of FIUF also met with the Tampere EMG 2023 delegation and explained the floorball side of the event encouraging to them to boost floorball as the event will take place in "floorball country". As a conclusion it can be stated that IFF needs to secure a broader participation in that Event. The Italian Federation made a huge effort to pull through the event.

Mr. Eriksson felt it was good that IFF took part and had been part of the European Mater Games. There was a vast promotion of the event by the IFF, the national associations and especially the Italian Federation. Mr. Suman expressed that the Czech Floorball tried to promote the event but got the feedback that it was quite expensive.

#### SEA Games

Mr. Eriksson reported that the preparations of the 30<sup>th</sup> South-East Asian Games to be organised in November-December 2019, are well underway. The IFF President has had continuous talks with Mr. Chaiyapak, AOFC President, on the SEA Games 2019 in the Philippines, and there has since last meeting been developments with the Philippines NOC President stepping down, and after extraordinary elections NOC President, returning, is Mr. Abraham Tolentino, by 4 vote victory, as new returning secretary general, is Mr. Steve Hontiveros. All looking prosperous for Floorball inclusion. The organiser of the SEA Games has a very limited financial budget and the Technical delegates meeting was moved to beginning of September. Apparently, this will also affect the playing of the Floorball tournament in some ways.

Mr. Eriksson further reported on behalf of Mr. Kratz, who is presently participating in the SEA Games 2019 Technical delegates meeting in Manila. There will be a total of 56 sports, with a total of 530 events and a total of 10.959 athletes, leaders and delegates. Floorball will be played in the Manila cluster and the matches will be played in a shopping centre. Mr. Eriksson informed that there has been both financial and political hurdles in the preparations.

Mr. Eriksson to report that the AOFC President has called and informed that Thailand has been awarded the Asia Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2021 and that Floorball is on the program.

Mr. Eriksson informed that the FISU has decided to change the dates for the World University Championship 2020 in Koper, Slovenia based upon the LOC request to the 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2020. (**Appendix 19**). Further Mr. Eriksson is to inform that the FISU Executive Committee has decided to change the format of the Floorball WUC, together with American Football, Handball, Cheerleading and 3x3 Basketball, where the new competition is called University World Cups (UWC) and only Universities can participate. (**Appendix 20**) FISU is now inviting for an organiser for the 2022 and 2024 UWC's.

Mr. Suman asked if this is a test, as this is quite important for the Czech Floorball, as the cooperation gave a possibility to give future players some international exposure. This will be lost now with the new system.

Mr. Klabere asked if the basic system for the organisation will be the same. Mr. Liljelund answered that this is still a bit unclear and we think that this will be discussed when one knows where the UWC will be organised. Mr. Lopez expressed that this gives an opportunity to have new countries to participate in the Event. Mr. King thinks this is a real opportunity, as floorball in Asia is usually organised in universities.

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports

#### d) **RACC**

Mr. Klabere reported on the RACC activities and the upcoming RACC meeting to be held September 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> in Prague, Czech Republic. (**Appendix 21**) The RACC is to discuss a number of issues during the meeting, like the questions of the different parts in the project Future of Floorball, overview of how to handle qualifications to the WFC's in connection to EuroFloorball Championships, IFF test tournaments, national federation tests (number of players/leaders and game time), organisers for our events, uneven results in some WFC qualification matches involving the top 4 ranked teams, Champions Cup new format, video review, rule book update and more practical issues as the Jury tasks.

Mr. Klabere presented the plans of how to form the IFF Rules Group based on the discussions held in the IFF CB previously. Last time the rule book edition 2018 was updated there were several proposals, which would have changed the game in more than ways than with minor improvements and technical changes. This led to that the floorball community got surprised over some of the changes and didn't feel informed enough how the rule appeared in the rule book. Today the Rule Group has been a group with responsible person from the RACC, Stefan Kratz from the office and rule experts from Finland, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Sweden. In this new system the rule experts should be used in a later stage when the actual rule texts should be produced. Therefore, the new Rule Group should be a small group with 1-2 rule writing experts together with Stefan Kratz from the office together with responsible person from RACC.

To avoid issues with new rules, the proposal is that there will be a period from March until September 2020 where the Member Associations, IFF RC, RACC and Athletes Commission can provide feedback together with the office on the changes in the book that the Reference Group propose. Something that will avoid surprises and will give IFF time to take the feedback from the different stake holders into account before moving on.

A formed Reference group shall be formed to evaluate which rules that should be applied. The group could look as follows: Responsible person from the RACC, Stefan Kratz, John Liljelund, Veli Halonen from the office, delegate from ATC and 2 national team coaches (1 female/1 male). The IFF CB is to approve the new Game Rules 2022, in the September 2021 meeting.

Mr. Klabere further informed about the preparations made by the IFF Competition department to make it more attractive to organise the WFC qualifications (**Appendix 33**). It has earlier been discussed that raising the organisers fee for the WFCQ's and the U19 WFCQ's could be one way forward. In the current system the WFCQ organisers pay a net sum of 2000-4000 CHF in organisers fee and the U19 WFCQ organisers pay a net sum of 0 CHF, which with the new proposed fees will instead be a net income of 0-2000 CHF for the WFCQ organisers and 1000-2000 CHF for the U19 WFCQ organisers. Mr. Suman asked when this is going to take effect and would have been good to have had a document. Mr. Liljelund answered that it would take the effect for the season 2020-2021. Mr. Beer felt that we miss the information of the full financial impact, but we should still approve it. Mr. King felt that it is important to evaluate in 12 months' time if we can achieve the objective and get more organisers. Mr. Klabere felt that these sums are in the right direction and could have been done earlier.

The proposal is to give the organiser an additional support of 500 CHF per participating team for the organisers of the WFCQ's and CHF 250 for the U19 WFCQ's organisers.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and to decide to raise the organisers support with 500 CHF per participating team for the WFCQ and 250 CHF for the U19 WFCQ starting from the season 2020-2021. Further decided how to build the IFF Rules Group and the Reference group. The Competition department is to bring a financial effect calculation to the next meeting

**e) RC**

Mr. Lopez reported, that during the summer 2019 the IFF Referee Committee has been educating development group referees in three different tournaments. The Ukraine Open in June, Czech Open and Slovak Open in August. Altogether 10 pairs have participated to the educational tournaments.

The RC will have its next meeting in the beginning of October and will discuss the IFF Good Governance documents.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**f) Medical committee**

Mr. Halonen, in the absence of Ms. Bruun, reported that the IFF Anti-Doping Manager Ms. Bruun has participated in a Testing and Investigations seminar in Oslo organised by the Nordic Athlete Passport Management Unit (NAPMU). NAPMU is the IFF service providers in managing Athlete Biological Passport programme. The meeting was very interesting and valuable for IFF in the future to build the testing plans.

The IFF Medical Committee will have a meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Zurich during which new medical guideline documents will be finalised.

The World Conference on Doping in Sport will take place November 5th-7th in Katowice, Poland and the IFF will, due to the tough financial situation, only be represented by the IFF Anti-Doping Manager. The Conference will focus on the conclusions of the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards review process which started late in 2017. The Code and Standards will then be approved by the WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Board on the final day of the Conference (7 November 2019). They will take effect on 1 January 2021.

A Latvian female player has been tested positive for meldonium in a test authorised by the Latvian NADO and received a four-year sanction. The process is however not yet closed.

The IFF has received information from Mr. Emiliano Simonelli, WADA Chief Compliance Manager that to date, a total of 37 IF's have successfully addressed all non-conformities following the assessment of their respective Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ). There are still 32 IF's that have less than 10 Corrective Actions (CAs) to implement and 13 IF's still have to address more than 20 CAs. IFF has following the review of our Corrective Action Report (CAR) related to the CCQ and our subsequent submission to address the relevant elements, WADA has concluded that all non-conformities have been addressed appropriately by IFF.

Mr. Eriksson felt that we are good on track and there has a lot of good work done by the Office.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**g) Athletes Commission**

Ms. Reehuis informed on the present activities of the ATC.

Ms. Reehuis further informed that the ATC member the Ms. Yui Takahashi has been in contact with SO Japan and is helping them to establish competitions and education there. They are one of those countries that since Floor Hockey has gone, which are now very interested in developing Floorball.

Mr. Klabere expressed that it is very good to have the ATC representatives in the RACC.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**h) Marketing function**

Mr. Beer reported about the current sales and marketing situation. (**Appendix 29**)

Discussions with Hummel and Puma have been kept ongoing. Additionally, we have been able to open discussion with SELECT (they extended sponsoring for the first time from football and handball to floorball with a deal with Floorball Denmark) and Joma has been reinitiated after a contact person change. A few Main Sponsor offers are out which are being actively followed up.

The sales efforts have been directed mainly towards international Scandinavian brands and/or international brands that have partnered with LOCs in WFCs. During spring and summer about 15 new discussions in Nordics with new companies have been initiated.

To create new opportunities in sales we have started negotiations with a marketing agency called Protocol Sports Marketing. There is a need to have access to a more extensive network (they have an own sales team) as well as larger exposure for marketing (which is included in the negotiation). Their success cases were presented during the CB work session. They are offering a full-service package to aid us selling the rights of IFF. This includes media, sponsorship and merchandising rights. This necessitates the adaption of the WFC agreements in the future (merchandising rights).

In developing our portfolio in terms of attractivity towards the fans and potential sponsors there are active negotiations with a company which produces digital brand activation services (e.g. live voting (venue/stream/app), social media wall, decibel meter, etc.). An offer for Nokia phones also included an element for audience voting for best players of the WFC. The similar concept will also be in talks with UNIHOC during this autumn (with target to be utilized in WFC 2020).

There is a possibility to apply for a sponsored Google ad program (for non-profit organisations) to receive a major monthly budget (10 000\$) for ad words. A company is offering to assist us with the whole process and also run the majority of the hands-on work which would keep the IFF work to a minimum (for a reasonable price). A closer evaluation will be made during the IFF office summit in autumn to understand and maximize the benefits from all perspectives (promoting the sport, events, ticket sales, etc.)

Two years after the launch of the new IFF brand image a survey project has been started to evaluate how well the new brand has been established and how it is perceived. The study will be made by the Glion Institute of Higher Education students.

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports and continue with the process with the Protocol Sports.

**i) Development & Equality Ad Hoc group**

Mr. Halonen reported that the Africa Cup 2019, the 2nd edition of the tournament will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of September in Nairobi, Kenya. There are three women's teams: Burkina Faso, Kenya and Uganda participating to the Cup and seven men's teams: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, Togo and Uganda.

The playing format is 3 vs 3 and goalkeepers and the play time is 2 x 15 minutes, indoor in a sports hall.

The IFF is also carrying a one-day presentation seminar in three categories; coaching, refereeing and good governance. There is a number of participants signing-up for the seminar. As a result of the Africa Cup from last year has brought in all countries which were not members of IFF, apart from Mali, which has not happened.

Ms. Birdal stressed that we have come a long way with the development in Africa. Mr. Eriksson expressed that we are way before a lot of sports. Mr. Suman felt that it is very important to promote that we are playing the Africa Cup.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**j) International Lobbying Ad Hoc group**

Mr. King gave a short report on the ongoing activity. The main action is now the preparation of the Lobby document, which shall be prepared by the end of the year.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 8. IFF Office**

Mr. Liljelund informed that Ms. Monika Kraus, from Gdansk, Poland who previously worked for the Polish member association, has started working for the IFF and taken away a part of the tasks from Ms. Mitchell, as well as being responsible for the international transfers.

The CB discussed on the topics and agenda of the Association Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The meeting will be held in the football stadium next to the main WFC venue, from 8:30 – 14:15 on Saturday and 8:30 – 12:00 on Sunday. The CB proposed to raise the following topics Implementation of Licence System and the Development Plans, Strategy session, Keynote

speaker, How to activate Women in Floorball, Building Coach & Referee educational systems, Status of Future of Floorball, information on TWG2021, regional development and Q/A-session.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**a) Development operations**

Mr. Halonen informed that the IFF carried out a survey among the IFF members based on the criteria of the IFF License System 2.0. A total of 42 IFF member associations replied to the survey and based on the answers the IFF office has defined the tier groups for the IFF member associations based on the criteria's, which the IFF Central Board has earlier defined in 2016. Based on the survey the biggest challenges the IFF member associations have are related to different policies, marketing and finances.

The proposal is to approve the distribution of the IFF member association to the tier groups based on the created list, which will be discussed during the CB workshop (**Appendix 30**) Based on the discussions during the workshop the CB proposes to make an update of the Tier Group list in accordance with the expected level of Tier Group of every member Association, with the addition of what parts are still needed to be updated to fulfil all requirements. IFF will use the WFC 2021 registration as a test, before the Tier system takes full effect in 2023.

The topic will be presented at the IFF Association meeting 2019, in conjunction with the SportAccord Good Governance survey of ARISF and AIMS members, to explain the need for the implementation and creation of the said policies and documents. The IFF Office is further to update the topics related to the Tier list during each CB meeting.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and the placement of IFF members in Tier groups.

**b) Communications operations**

Mr. Halonen reported, in the absence of Ms. Merita Bruun that the IFF has produced the IFF WFC 2019 GoGirls! Ambassador presentations and one player per team has been presented on the IFF and WFC channels. The aim is that these players will be further utilised for WFC event communication & marketing.

There have been some issues with Skylab who have been slow in responding, but now the major event websites for 2020 are up and running (CC 2020, WU19 2020, WFC 2020).

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**c) Material operations**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF Material Board has held a second meeting in August, after two of the members had raised complaints concerning the decision made about the new clause concerning the marking of Grips for floorball sticks and the requirement to have the same branded grips as the stick (**Appendix 23ab**). IFF has also been approach by a letter from the lawyers of the Reichen Sport, in which they require IFF to withdraw the decision, due to alleged violations of competition laws. (**Appendix 24**)

The Material Board, which re-named itself as the Material Advisory board to avoid misunderstandings, discussed the situation and came to the unanimous conclusion that the decision to remove the proposal was made, after a thorough analysis, based on the harsh reaction from the players and the market in general. Based on this feedback from within the

floorball community, it is now clear that the interest of the sport demanded to withdraw the proposal. Based on this conclusion Mr. Liljelund proposes to the IFF CB to remove the clause concerning the Marking of the Grip and all the related rules from the Material Regulation 2020. (**Appendix 25**). So there will be no rules related to grips in the Material Regulation 2020.

Mr. Klabere asked if there is a possibility to have all grips marked and IFF approved, to which Mr. Liljelund answered that in this situation it is not possible.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and remove the clause concerning the Marking of the grip and all related rules from the Material Regulation 2020.

**i) ParaFloorball information**

Mr. Houman reported that two Special Olympics seminars are coming up, based on the Train The Trainer principle. It means that Special Olympic Programs will send 1-2 coaches, and the legacy of the seminar is, that the programme will arrange a floorball seminar for coaches back home, after participating in the SOI seminar.

In Singapore there will be participants from Bangladesh, Bharat, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Serendib and Singapore. The seminar in Egypt will be for programs in the Middle East and North Africa. Special Olympics have 172 programs in total. The World Winter Games will be organised in 2021 in Östersund in Sweden, and floorball will be part as an official sport. There will be around 50-60 teams participating from all continents. There will not be any floor hockey on the World Winter Games 2021 in Sweden.

IFF has also received the information from Special Olympics, that due to different restrains, during the Winter World Games there will be no Floor Hockey and therefore there are now many new countries wanting to include floorball on their programme and the Special Olympics have asked for the IFF support.

Mr. Suman informed that there has been some positive development in the Manual Wheelchair Floorball, with a tournament in Prague, Czech Republic. The organisation wants to activate their international work. They are willing to work closely with the IFF. A contact is to be built between the organisation and IFF.

Ms. Birdal informed that the Norwegian association will during this autumn include the Electric wheelchair players to their player licence system.

**The CB decided:** To approve the reports

**e) Equality operations**

Nothing to report

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 9. Member Federations**

**a) Membership questions**

Mr. Liljelund reported that after a long process the Chinese sport authority – the General Administration of Sport in China have granted the China Floorball Union, organised under the

Chinese Hockey Association the right to apply for the replacement as the Chinese IFF member. **(Appendix 26a)**.

The IFF office has now received all the required documents and the development plans for the membership application and the IFF Office proposes to approve China Floorball Union to replace the present Chinese member, the China Floorball Federation, as it has taken over all its activities and have the support of the national sport authorities. **(Appendix 27)**

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and replace the China Floorball Federation as the Chinese IFF member with the new China Floorball union as the new provisional member.

**b) Members under suspension**

No members under suspension

**The CB decided:** To approve the report.

**c) New Member Applications**

Mr. Halonen informed that IFF has received a membership application from Togo. Togo participated to the first Africa Cup in 2018 and they had already started the membership application process within the IFF after that. The Association Club les Pionniers de floorball de Lome has registered with the Togo Sports Authorities and based on that recognition is representing all Floorball activities in Togo before the official recognition as a national Floorball Association will be given to them. This process is ongoing.

The IFF office has now received all the required documents and the development plans for the membership application and the IFF Office proposes to approve Association Club Les Pionniers du Floorball du Togo to become the IFF provisional member number 74.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report and approve the Association Club Les Pionniers du Floorball du Togo (AFT) as IFF provisional member Nr. 74.

**§ 10. Next CB meeting**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the next CB meeting, will be held as earlier informed at the in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in conjunction with the WFC 2019 on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, preliminary followed by the City Reception. The Association meeting will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

**The CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 11. Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson thanked and closed the meeting at 11:03.

**John Liljelund  
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson  
President**