

Helsinki, Finland 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

## IFF Central Board meeting 2/2023 21.05.2023 as a physical meeting in Malmö, in Sweden

Place: Quality Hotel View, Hyllie Stationstorg 29, 215 32 Malmö, Sweden  
<https://quality-hotel-view-malmo.hotel-ds.com/en/>

<b>Participants:</b> Tomas Eriksson	<b>President</b>
Filip Suman	<b>Vice President</b>
Monica Birdal	<b>Treasurer</b>
Jörg Beer	
Tamuz Hidir	
Steen Houman	<b>(remote participation)</b>
Calle Karlsson	<b>(remote participation)</b>
Stephen King	<b>(remote participation)</b>
Martin Klabere	<b>(remote participation)</b>
Pakkamol Siriwat	<b>(remote participation)</b>
Kaarina Vuori	
Veli Halonen	<b>Operations Manager</b>
Stefan Kratz	<b>Competition Manager (remote participation)</b>
John Liljelund	<b>Secretary General</b>
<b>Excused:</b> Agata Plechan	<b>ATC Chair</b>
Carlos Lopez	

## Agenda

### § 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson welcomed all members to the second CB meeting of the year 2023 in Malmö and thanked the participants for an excellent workshop on Saturday. Mr. Eriksson opened the meeting at 09:00.

### § 2. Approval of the agenda

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there are the following updated or new appendix for the meeting.

Appendix 12	-	Euro Floorball Championships 2026 interest (new)
Appendix 14	-	Champions Cup 2024 Streaming guidelines (updated)
Appendix 18	-	Member Service Knowledge Sharing
Appendix 21	-	Fit4Future Project report (new)
Appendix 23ac	-	IOC Development support applications 2023 (new)
Appendix 27	-	IFF App financial report 2/2023 (updated)

**CB decided:** To approve the report, the new and updated appendixes and the agenda for the meeting

§ 3 **Minutes from the CB meetings: 01/2023 Prague, Czech Republic (26.02.2023)**

The minutes from the last CB meeting 01/2023 were scrutinized, approved and put ad acta. (**Appendix 1**)

**CB decided:** To approve the minutes of the IFF CB meeting 01/2023

§ 4. **Financial questions**

a) **Financial report 2023 by 15.05.2023**

Mrs. Birdal presented the financial report and balance sheet by the 15.05.2023 (**Appendix 2**).

The outcome per 15<sup>th</sup> of May is CHF 162.066, which is some CHF 112.383 (2022: CHF 274,449) lower than last year basically due to the IFF events (U19 & WFC 2023 qualifications and the U19 WFC 2023 final round) having been played during this period which was not the case last year.

The forecast currently points at a negative outcome of CHF 39.286 taking height for the higher-than-expected cost for the SEA Games 2023, higher than budgeted cost for the WFC 2023 TV production and uncertainty on marketing income for the Champions Cup home and away edition starting in August.

The liquidity per 15<sup>th</sup> May is CHF 468.076, some CHF 124.074 lower than the same time last year (2022: CHF 592,150) which is due the IFF events played during this period.

The finances are continued to be monitored on a daily basis, and possible saves will be considered if and when we see signs of possible less income than now budgeted.

Mr. King asked if there are any implications on the financial situation with the WFC 2023 in Singapore and Ms. Vuori expressed that it is very good that the IFF Office has found a cheaper solution for the TV production taking the crew and equipment from Europe.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

b) **Information on IFF claims – License system and WFC 2023 – status May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mrs. Birdal presented the claims situation by the 15.05.2023 for Associations participating in the WFCs 2023 and separately for those not participating in any of the IFF Events. (**Appendix 3 and 4**).

Since last CB meeting no payments have been done in accordance with the pay-off plans for Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Russia and Ukraine whilst Slovenia has paid according to their plan (**Appendix 5**).

Mr. Kratz reported that it continues to be a lot of financial struggling after Covid and difficulties to live up to the license system. In some countries the system for state funding has been halted alternatively lowered which causes huge problems for these Associations to pay their invoices, not only to the IFF. There have been some new situations with how the member federations can receive governmental support, which can cause new problems.

Ms. Birdal stressed that the Office needs to follow this up. Mr. Eriksson gave the example of the discussion held with the Malaysian federation during the SEA Games.

Mr. Kratz further reported that he has reminded the Associations having not paid the fees for the WFC's in 2024. All of the associations having debts are still paying but lagging behind. Mr. Suman asked if we should not set a final date when the debts have to be paid and maybe even later remove the possibility to register if you have a payment plan.

Ms. Vuori asked what the situation is for the events for 2024. The following teams have not paid the registration fees for the U19 WFC and WFC. U19 WFC; Canada, Hungary, Latvia, Latvia & USA and for the WFC; France, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, Philippines and Slovakia.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and to continue to follow up on the pay-off plans for Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Russia and Slovenia, to continue to follow up on the debts of the non-participating Associations and, taking into account the reported financial difficulties, to confirm the registrations for the WFCs 2024 with the addition that the registration fees have to be paid by the 30<sup>th</sup> of August and to follow up on the payments for these.

#### c) **European Core Country meeting 19<sup>th</sup> of May**

Mr. Eriksson informed that IFF had invited for the CC13 meeting in Malmö, Sweden on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, after a decision was made not to hold the meeting in Frederikshavn, due to the difficult travel to the city. There have been 13 member associations invited for the meeting and 10 member associations present. (**Appendix 6a**)

IFF prepared an Agenda for the meeting (**Appendix 6b**) to which a total of 11 member associations participated. The main topic for the meeting was a general discussion of the Future of Floorball, how to cooperate between the member federations and the future of the international competition calendar. In addition, IFF provided some additional information on present topics for the member federations.

Mr. Eriksson and the other CB members having participated in the meeting reported on the outcome and feedback from the meeting. The right people participated from 11 countries, mainly presidents and secretary generals, and it was a good discussion that everybody participated in the discussions with an open mind and good spirit, even if Estonia, Latvia and Poland missing. "

The objective of the meeting was to set a common ground with the European Core Countries, so that now everybody agrees where we want to go with the Future of Floorball process. The opinions will then differ on how to reach the goals that will be set. This will need an investment of time to go forward and running the process. We presently have a good product for the players, Coaches and Referees. And we need to be able to convince the Floorball community to make changes that will help to make the sport more entertaining/attractive and more equal. The participants all agreed that the main target groups for the changes are the Spectators, Media and Sponsors.

The CB workshop concluded that process forward is that the IFF CB will in its next CB meeting concentrate on the analysis of the data collected through the IFF questionnaire, the input from the Core Countries CB's and further surveys to be made (Spectator, Sponsors and Media) The CB workshop in September will build a first draft of the proposal for the IFF Association Meeting in December in Singapore, with three levels. The first are the changes to be taken in 2024, the second are the ones that still need more testing or discussions within the community and in the third level the ideas which can only be changed in the future, as more analysis is needed. This first draft will then be sent to the IFF committees and the National Associations for a remiss during September. The IFF CB will then based on the feedback in October further develop the

proposal.. This first proposal will then be discussed in the European, Asia-Oceanian and North American Core Country meetings in November, based on which the IFF CB will in November finalise the presentation for the IFF Association meeting.

The CB workshop also concluded that IFF needs, with the help of the National Associations, to prepare the following additional surveys for the analysis.

- A Sponsor and Media survey for the IFF and the National Association sponsors and Media partners (June/August)
- A Spectator survey for how they feel about Floorball as a spectator sport (September/October)
- A survey for younger spectators

The next Core Country Meeting Europe will be held in Berlin, Germany on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The IFF will discuss with the Asia-Oceania and Americas federations to organize similar meetings before November.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 5. World Championships

### a) Women's WFC 2023, Singapore

Mr. Kratz reported on the preparations of the WFC 2023 to be played in Singapore on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. The ballot was held in beginning of April, with a really good production and output made by KIN Productions, the SFA LOC Events partner. The first version of the Match schedule has been prepared (**Appendix 7**) but the publishing has been delayed due to the question of venues. The IFF has informed that due to delays of other sports, mainly FIS-Ski's calendar planning, there will be two occasions when the match schedule can be changed due to TV takers needs, as for example both the Czech and Swiss TV's don't know what times they have for floorball. The first date is in end of June and the second in October, to avoid too many changes of the match program.

The preparation for the ticket launch has been delayed to the end of May, due to the uncertainty of the playing venues. The LOC has again had second thoughts about playing the later part of the WFC, the semi-finals and medal matches, in the larger Singapore Indoor Stadium, due to very high costs for the venue and the instalment costs for the infrastructure and build-up of a Field of Play. The LOC has due to financial reasons requested that the complete event shall be played in the OCBC (**Appendix 8**).

The IFF Event manager Ms. Sarah Mitchell and the IFF secretary general has discussed this issue in detail and finds, that even if it may cause a number of other issues in the field of ticket sales and promotion of the event, it is extremely difficult to force the LOC to take a deficit of over 1 million SGD for the use of the larger Singapore Indoor Stadium.

During the SEA Games in Cambodia, the IFF secretary general approached the SFA committee members and asked about the situation and it was agreed that a meeting should be held with the SportSg CEO Mr. Alan Goh. In the meeting on Monday 15.5. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Liljelund conveyed the issues IFF had with the KIN Production, namely the ticket sales issues and how to secure that all international guests have the possibility to get tickets for the event, the fact that it would not be good for the sport to play a WFC in Singapore in a smaller venue than in 2005, when the last game of Singapore had over 4.000 spectators and the fact that with limited tickets to be sold, it will affect the marketing of the event negatively. In the meeting Mr. Alan Goh expressed that SportSg feels that having the finals in the Singapore Indoor Stadium is very important. IFF received the information from KIN Production later on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, in which KIN

Production confirms that will retract their Letter of Appeal pertaining to withdrawing Singapore Indoor Stadium for the Final Weekend. They will continue to work with the initial arrangement of having OCBC Arena Hall 1 & 2 for the Group Stage, Play Offs and Quarters, and Singapore Indoor Stadium for the Semis & Final.

Due to the uncertainty of where to play the final weekend the publishing of the schedule and the ticket release have been postponed to 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Mr. Suman felt that it is really important the IFF has been very firm in this question, as playing only in the OCBC would have been the totally wrong signal and not good for the Singapore Floorball.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the TV situation. It has been a little of a negative surprise that the prices of TV production in Singapore is extremely much higher than in Europe. IFF has made inquiries with the help of KIN Productions in Singapore for the production of the Event and found that the prices are 2,5 times higher than with contracting Spring Media/PolarHD and having them transporting all material from Europe. IFF is finalising the negotiations with Spring Media, but unfortunately the price for the TV production will be much higher than in previous events. IFF has already secured the broadcast in the following countries, even if all agreements are not signed: Czech Republic/CTV, Finland/YLE, Norway/TV2 Slovakia/ArenaTV, Sweden/SVT and Switzerland/SRF. The discussions with Protocol Sports will start still in May.

Mr. Liljelund further reported that through the IWGA contacts with the International Sports Broadcaster company ISB, IFF is investigating different possibilities for the signal transfer over IP from the Singapore to the different takers with the Singaporean based company Caton Technology Ltd. This would seriously reduce the cost for the signal transfer, if this will work out and the TV's will approve this approach (**Appendix 9**)

**CB decided:** to approve the reports.

## **b) U19 WFC 2023, Frederikshavn, Denmark**

Mr. Houman reported from Men's U19 WFC 2023 played in Frederikshavn, Denmark. The event can be considered a huge success for the organiser with a new total spectator's record for U19 events with 18,316 spectators and a ticket sale clearly exceeding the planned budget. (**Appendix 10**).

For Danish Floorball it is a remarkable achievement that the event was so successful, taking into account all the issues the federation has faced during the last year and even during the final preparations of the event. Floorball Denmark is really proud of having been able to create this good atmosphere together with the teams, and Arena Nord where the tournament was hosted is an almost perfect arena for WFC at U19 level, with both arenas under same roof and other arenas for training. It has been a very busy start for the new Floorball Denmark secretary general Troels Jensen.

The city of Frederikshavn is the real capital of Floorball in Denmark, where floorball really is seen in the daily life of Frederikshavn, and the mayor was really happy to host the U19 WFC. Floorball Denmark would like to send a huge thank you to the IFF staff and volunteers who were at the tournament, as always IFF is there to support the local organiser. We had some issues during the tournament, but overall Floorball Denmark is very pleased with the U19 WFC.

The budget for U19 WFC was 217.600 euro, and in order to get break even, there had to be sold tickets for 66.000 euro, though there was a deficit guarantee of 20.000 euro.

In total ticket sales ended at 670.000 DKK which is almost 90.000 EUR, so though the finances is not finalized, Floorball Denmark feels that it looks good, and though there was some extra costs, it looks like it will balance and Floorball Denmark will not lose any money. With the challenges Floorball Denmark has been through the last six month, it's a relief with such a positive U19 WFC

Mr. Liljelund reported on the TV, where in the end the Danish LOC was not able to have a local channel streaming the event in the end, when the Danish Floorball channel, did not agree to the terms provided by the IFF. The IFF sold the signal to the Czech TV/Tipsport for the Czech semi-final and the Czech medal match. The Slovak Arena TV also broadcasted the last match of the Slovak team in the 5<sup>th</sup> placed match.

The IFF could now for the first time actually test the strength of the Sportswik IFF App and could reach a total sales of just over 56.900 CHF, which after the Stripe payment service costs had been reduced shows a net sales of just under 54,000 CHF.

After U19 WFC 2023 we have 43'132 registered users for the IFF App and sold a total of 1850 Event passes and sold some 3000 single game passes for the U19 WFC.

	Registered users		Event passes U19 WFC	
	431312	TOTAL	1850	TOTAL
1	9063	SWE	381	SWE
2	9063	SUI	301	DUI
3	5181	CZE	184	FIN
4	3681	FIN	135	DEN
5	1723	NOR	128	CZE
6	1454	GER	114	NOR
7	1431	SPG	88	LAT
8	1304	DEN	81	SPG
9	1183	LAT	79	GER
10	1134	SVK	71	AUS

Mr. Eriksson felt that the sales of the streams and single game passes was really good.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports.

**c) SEA Games 2023**

Mr. Liljelund gave a brief report on behalf of the IFF Event Manager MS. Sarah Mitchell on the SEA Games played in Cambodia 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Indonesia withdrew their men's team from participation in the event quite late in the process and it turned out that the women's team had actually never even registered, so the event was played with 5 teams for each gender. During the SEA Games it become clear that Floorball will be on the program of the next three SEA Games in Thailand 2025, Malaysia 2027 and Singapore 2029.

As the Cambodian Floorball Federation is in its infancy, the local organisers required a lot of assistance from other associations in the region. In particular, Floorball Thailand and the Singapore Floorball Association provided expert support for the event. This support was for both

the event delivery and the team preparations for participating in the event. The IFF wants to convey special thanks to TaiShan Sports for providing the flooring.

Mr. Eriksson wanted to convey the IFF gratitude for the support provided by Thailand and Singapore in helping the Cambodian federation and the organiser to conduct a very good event. The growth of the sport in the Asian region is very important for the whole Floorball community, as both the SEA Games and the Asian Indoor Martial Arts Games (AIMAG), which are run by the NOC's and the AIMAG by the Olympic Committee of Asia.

The tournament provided some of the highest quality matches that we have seen in the Asian region and showed that Floorball continues to develop well in the AOFC countries. Considering that most of the Cambodian players had only begun playing Floorball a number of weeks prior to the event, the level of play that they started at was very high, partly due to coming from field or indoor hockey backgrounds. The IFF will work to ensure that this good start is built upon in the coming years, including securing them as an IFF Member Association.

Thailand won the Men's event and Singapore won the Women's event.

Mr. Houman asked if Floorball can have more teams in the future events and Ms. Pakkamol informed that this will be possible.

Mr. Eriksson reported on the meetings held by IFF during the SEA Games.

**Steve Hontiveros, Chairman Philippines Olympic Committee**

Mr. Hontiveros was very pleased with the Floorball development in the Philippines and the national teams. He stressed the necessity to promote Floorball in more Asian countries and would assist in facilitating this with his vast experience.

**Tran Van Manh, Vietnamese Olympic Council secretary general and Hockey Federation President**

Mr. Tran was thankful to Floorball being promoted in Hanoi by IFF in conjunction with the Swedish Embassy at the Europe Festival and informed that he with TaiShan Sports are having fruitful discussions on development in Vietnam, and they need coaching assistance and support with equipment. He informed that they are looking to put Floorball together in one NSA having all recent new sports in one NSA in Vietnam.

**Saw Lu Lu Htaw, Myanmar Hockey Federation President and EXCO Myanmar NOC**

Mr. Lu Lu informed that he knows that IFF has facilitated Floorball equipment to Myanmar in conjunction with the 2013 SEA GAMES. He is together with Mr Chaiyapak looking on possible Hockey/Floorball cooperation.

**Zuraimi Abdul Sani, secretary general Brunei Olympic Council**

Mr. Zuraimi introduced HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, and informed that Brunei is promoting sports. Since it is surrounded on Borneo by Malaysia's states Sabah and Sarawak their might be a potential in cooperation with Malaysia Floorball Association.

**Dato' M. Rajasekaran, SEA GAMES federation mediator and legal counsel, from Malaysia**

Mr. Raja introduced HRH the Crown Princess of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail showing a huge interest in Floorball, visiting the Malaysia – Cambodia women's game. The Crown Prince is genuinely interested in sports. Mr Raja is a legal counsel to the SEAGAMES Federation, and is a good contact point in his network to Malaysia and the SEA Games countries in general.

**Mr. Vath Chamroeun, SEA Games 2023 CEO, Minister of state, and NOC secretary general, and Hockey Cambodia President**

Mr. Vath informed that Floorball has now entered Cambodia, IFF thanked Mr. Vath for excellent SEA Games and for having both men and women teams having performed well in Floorball despite recently born in Cambodia. Cambodia will be registering to 2023 AIMAG in Thailand.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports

**d) Upcoming Events**

**U19 WFC 2024, WFC 2024, WFC 2026 and WFC 2027**

Mr. Liljelund reported on the WFC 2024 contract discussions and a meeting held in Frederikshavn to conclude the discussions and settle the open matters. The aim is to have the WFC 2024 agreement still in May.

Mr. Kratz further concluded that 32 teams have registered for the WFC 2024. Discussions are ongoing with three organisers for EUR (Latvia, Poland and Slovenia), one for Americas (Canada) and one for AOFC (Philippines).

The IFF CB has on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May received an application from the Colombian Floorball Federation to join the WFC 2024 (**Appendix 11**). The IFF Competition department will check with the Canadian and US federation about the possibility to include Colombia into the WFC 2024 qualifications and then to inform the Colombian federation of the requirements to participate. If all parties are favourable, then the IFF Competition department will propose to include Colombia in the Americas qualification. The USA was positive to include Colombia, but Canada was not very positive as it would bring more costs for the organiser and some concerns concerning the competitiveness of the Colombian team.

Mr. Suman felt that we need to find a long-term solution to include these new countries to the existing WFC's qualifications. The organisation of some more matches will not cost too much, but there needs to be guarantees for them actually participating.

Mr. King asked if there could be an idea to include Colombia in the AOFC qualifications. Mr. Kratz answered that this would not be feasible from an organisational perspective.

Ms. Vuori asked if the inclusion of Colombia would change the quota for the Americas in the WFC and Mr. Kratz informed that this would not be the case.

Mr. Kratz concluded that 18 teams have registered to the U19 WFC 2024 and that only one qualification is needed to play for two EUR spots. The qualification will be played with 4 teams as a single round event (Denmark, France, Hungary and Italy) in Besancon, France 25-27.08 2023.

Mr. Halonen reported that the bidding processes for the WFCs 2025, 2026 and 2027 have been carried out and the bids have been evaluated. The IFF office launched three separate bids in March and the deadline to answer the bids was set to be the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. The evaluations made by the IFF CB, RACC and staff members were due on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. The bids were for the WFC 2025, WFC 2026 and WFC 2027. There was one bidder for each event. Czech Floorball bid for the Women's WFC 2025, Finnish Floorball Federation for both WFC 2026 and WFC 2027.

The plan for the WFC 2025 is to split it between two cities, Brno and Ostrava. The group stage to be played in Brno and the Play Off games in Ostrava. The concept is the same as it was for the WFC 2013 and the finals to be played in Ostrava arena and the competition days to be 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Spectator capacities in Brno 2900 and in Ostrava 10 000 +. Mr. Suman explained that the Czech Floorball will try to build the same set-up for the WFC as in 2013. As there is a collision of the dates with the South-East Asian Games (SEA Game 2025), the LOC will be looking into the possibility to have the dates changed. This will need to be coordinated between the IFF and the Czech Floorball.

The WFC 2026 is planned to be played in Tampere in Finland from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2026 and there will be three arenas. From the start the Hakametsä Ice Hall will be the A-arena and Kauppi sports hall the B-arena. From the play off stage the new Nokia Arena will become the A-arena and Hakametsä stays as the B-arena. Capacities; Kauppi 1300, Hakametsä 7000 and

Nokia Arena 13 000. The City of Tampere is building the Hakametsä Campus venue for approximately 2500 spectators.

Ms. Vuori felt that it would be ideal if the Hakametsä Campus would be ready as there would be two venues close to each other.

The WFC 2027 is planned to be played in Turku in Finland. The main venue being the Gatorade Arena, which is the same venue which was used in the MU19 WFC 2009 and the B-arena being the Kupittaa Sports hall. The planned playing days 3rd to 12th of December 2027. Spectator Capacities Kupittaa 2850 and Gatorade 11 800.

The office proposes to the CB to grant the WFC 2025 to Czech Floorball and the WFC 2026 and WFC 2027 to the Finnish Floorball Federation.

Mr. Liljelund explained that IFF needs to look over the way to have more income from the WFC, from the Ticket sales, larger share of TV product costs carried by the LOC and a cooperation on the sales of sponsorship for the Event. Mr. Suman and Ms. Vuori felt that this could be a positive way to move forward.

Mr. Kratz further reported that there as of now is no letter of interest for the organisation of the Euro Floorball Championships 2025 Men, Slovakia has informed that they can earliest in September inform if they will bid for the event. The IFF CB will need to make the decision of the Euro Floorball Championships 2025 latest in the CB meeting in December 2023.

For the 2026 Women, where Sweden has shown interest, the formal bidding process was intended to start before this CB meeting but Sweden has informed that more time is needed to prepare their bid (**Appendix 12**)

Mr. Suman expressed that as we are in The World Games with both genders, it might be a challenge to start with the Euro Floorball Championships in 2025 from the resources. Mr. Beer asked if the decision could be made earlier than in December, as the National Associations need to make plans. Mr. Liljelund expressed that as the IFF has asked for bids for the Euro Floorball Championships and need to wait for the decision of the Slovak federation if they can make the bid or not, to which Mr. Suman answered that the Slovak federation need to wait for the result of the elections in the autumn, as they will only then know if they can get some governmental support.

Mr. Vuori asked when the system for the qualification for the WFC 2025 will be decided. Mr. Suman answered that it needs to be discussed in depth and Mr. Liljelund answered that it will be the task for the RACC to prepare this for the next CB meeting.

The Swiss federation has proposed that IFF would open up for a prospect list for coming organisers, so that member federations could better plan for what Events to apply for. The IFF Office is positive to this proposal. Mr. Suman felt that it is important that the system is built in a way so that it doesn't scare off potential organisers.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports and appoint Czech Republic as organiser of the WFC 2025 and Finland as organisers of the WFCs 2026 and 2027. Further the IFF CB is to decide to create a prospect list for coming organisers on the web page. The CB did not approve the Colombian application but hoped that they will register for the upcoming IFF Events in 2025.

#### e) **Covid-19 and other Event Status Update**

Mr. Kratz reported the WHO has decided that Covid-19 is no longer a global threat and due to this no travel or local restrictions affecting our events are expected.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

§ 6. **Club competitions**

a) **Champions Cup**

Mr. Kratz reported that the invitation to the Champions Cup 2023-2024 has been sent with deadline 31<sup>st</sup> of May to register and that the detailed planning regarding match schedules and related matters will start thereafter.

Mr. Kratz further reported that the Champions Cup Steering Group, the CC stakeholder countries competition departments, the RACC and the competition office have prepared a final proposal of the Champions Cup Home & Away Regulations (**Appendix 13**).

Mr. Liljelund reported that the draft Streaming Guidelines for the Champions Cup has been prepared and the proposal has been updated after some feedback from the stakeholders (**Appendix 14**)

The IFF office & RACC are still to create the guidelines for the Technical Delegates that will be appointed for each home and away match. This will include details on how disciplinary matters will be dealt with during the event.

Mr. Klabere informed that the IFF has asked for the nominations for the Technical Delegates for the National Associations.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and approve the CC Home & Away Regulations 2023

b) **Euro Floorball Cup**

Mr. Kratz reported that Germany and Slovakia have shown interest to organise the EFC 2023. A general problem to get organiser in an earlier stage is that the Associations are fully dependent on their Champions to organise and the Championships in several Associations ends late May.

Mr. Kratz further reported that the EuroFloorball Challenge for Men is planned to be played 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> of August in Besancon, France in conjunction with the U19 WFC 2024 EUR qualification and that contract discussions are ongoing.

Ms. Vuori asked if we can contact the champions directly and Mr. Kratz answered that we have to go through the member federations.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

§ 7. **ExCo, Strategy Implementation and Ad Hoc group reports**

a) **ExCo reports**

Mr. Eriksson reported on the activities of the ExCo since the last meeting. The ExCo has mainly worked on two separate topics, namely the preparation of the Future of Floorball questionnaire and then the preparations for the Core Country meeting, which was held on the 19th of May.

Mr. Halonen reported that the IFF launched the Future of Floorball questionnaire in April and by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> of April has received a total of some 1000 answers. The questionnaire was published in the following languages: Czech, English, Finnish, French, German and Swedish. (**Appendix 15**).

We received replies from 28 member associations and there were total of 1024 replies and approximately 75 % of the respondents were male. The survey in German language received the biggest amount of replies, 350 in total. About half of the respondents were players on some level and the age groups which were mostly represented were the age groups 18-29 and 30-39. The office will start deeper analysis after defining what information is needed and how to cross tabulate the replies. The outcome and actions needed will be presented to the IFF Associations Meeting in December 2023 in Singapore.

Mr. Eriksson reported that in the CB workshop the CB discussed the further process for the Future of Floorball project.

The IFF Ethics Commission has held its spring meeting over Teams, discussing the IFF Code of Ethics, which regulations and guidelines needs updating, how to deal with betting in IFF Events among other things. (**Appendix 16**)

The IFF ETC has made a proposal to enlarge the scope of the IFF Ethics Code, to include also the elected officials and the employees of the national associations. The need for this change comes from the recent cases the IFF Ethics Commission has dealt with. As the Code of Ethics is decided by the IFF General Assembly, the IFF CB has to approve the proposal and put it forward to the IFF General Assembly 2024. (**Appendix 17**)

Mr. Suman asked to add a comment to the Art 2.2., that this doesn't include any remuneration or commission of the National Association.

Mr. Kratz reported that due to the change of the time for providing information about organising Friendly Internationals from 90 to 60 days in advance, there needs to be made the same kind of changes in IFF Juridical Regulations article 73.2 sanctions for late submission of Information Form.

16. Late or incomplete submission of Information form for International Matches and Request of Referees	59-30 days prior to event: 300 CHF
	29-15 days prior to event: 500 CHF
	Less than 15 days prior to event: 1000 CHF

In addition there needs to be made the following two changes as well; there are references in the Juridical Regulations to Match Penalty 3, which we no longer have, so these need to be updated to match the Rules of the Game 2022. Furthermore gender is not included as a category of discrimination, which should be corrected.

Quantum Analytics have finalised the WFC 2022 Evaluation Report, even though there are some parts missing from the sustainability part, due to the difficulties my.climate has had to provide results for the Swiss organiser. (**Appendix 19**)

Mr. Suman wanted to highlight the need to look through the Quantum Consultancy Strategy analysis in a coming CB workshop.

**CB decided:** To approve the report, the IFF ETC proposal for the updated IFF Code of Ethics with the small change proposed, and the proposal for an update to the IFF Juridical Regulations

## b) Strategy Implementation

Mr. King reported on the work of the IFF Strategy Implementation, where the IFF Committees and the Office is working with the Suggestion Actions table and updating that ongoingly. The link to the Strategy Implementation table:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hRw\\_iAWuPDdTGsAaiPXZ6YSn3QJl\\_Z4?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hRw_iAWuPDdTGsAaiPXZ6YSn3QJl_Z4?usp=sharing)

The Strategy Working Group has not convened as planned in March-April due to a number of reasons. A meeting is planned for June to discuss the present progress and if some other actions need to be taken.

As a part of the Quantum Consultancy evaluation report, they have also made an analytical report of how we are meeting the Strategic goals with our major events. The IFF Strategy Working Group will analyse the QA Implementation report and take the needed actions (**Appendix 20**)

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### c) **CB Member responsibilities**

Mr. Houman reported about the Six Nations cooperation and that the six nations are very close to send out the first info letter to the six nations tournament for 2023. At the time for the IFF CB meeting, all six nations will have received it. Slovakia is the host for this tournament, which are for women and will be held in the IFF international weekend in October.

Together with the tournament, there will be arranged a seminar for the role of being an observer for referees. This will be together with IFF referees committee. there will also be held a seminar for coaches, which will be open for other nations as well, where the Czech Floorball will do the seminar on how they work with talent development. Invitations will be sent out, and the seminar itself is free, those who will participate need to cover travel and accommodation.

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Lopez reported on the situation in Latin America. The Future of Floorball questionnaire has been translated into Spanish and sent to the countries. In Brazil the planned schedule for educational programs has been followed and the federation is asking for some kind of seminar lead by IFF in September.

In Colombia a lot is going on, some good work in reorganizing the staff and promotional activities. The federation are reaching schools and universities with educational seminars. An exhibition match with the board of directors of the Colombian Floorball Association is planned, where government entities and the media will be invited. They would recreate a World Floorball Championships match with players that we have been training, to show the growth and progress of Floorball.

They also want to see the possibility that the IFF could hold an American or Latin American "light championship", in which the region could join forces, get to know each other, bring their teams, creating an impact in each country, with high-level awards and logistics.

They, finally, would like to be able to receive a formal invitation in time, addressed to the Colombian Floorball Association to attend the next IFF general assembly, in order to request financial support in Colombia for travel costs on that date.

In Mexico, which has been really active latterly, the focus is on the execution of the development program. In the last cooperation meeting with the Mexican CB three main topics were discussed: how to speed up the help from IFF with equipment, how to proceed with education and the presentation of a project of Culture and Peace linked to Floorball. This is a project that they are finishing (will be probably presented to me in a coming meeting in June) and is about mediation,

prevention of conflicts. The President and another member of the CB are part of CAS and also members of the Ibero American Organization of Mediation.

At a national level they have had meetings with: Universities, Mexican Olympic Committee, and also with some Business organizations for the implementation of floorball within their activities. Very good advances in promotion with presence in more than six states of the Republic.

The persons that keep the official representation in the Argentinian federation are simply lost. Mr. Lopez have recovered the contact from some "old enthusiast" but they are not in the board nor in contact with any of them.

Mr. Lopez further reported on start of the cooperation of the EuroPower country group, The EuroPower Country group has finally got with five members: Belgium and France (starting in 2024) and Italy, Spain and Ukraine.

The schedule of the first two years period has been set as follows:

	MEN´S	WOMEN´S	MU19	WU19
June 2023				
Sep 2023	Spain (Madrid)			QUAL
Oct 2023		Spain (Madrid)		
Nov 2023	Italy (Lignano)			
Feb 2024	QUAL		Spain (Madrid)	Event1
April 2024		Event 2	Belgium	
Sep 2024	Event 3		QUAL	
Oct 2024				
Nov 2024		Italy		Event2
Feb 2025	Belgium	QUAL	Event 3	
April 2025				Event3

The first event will take place in Guadarrama (North of Madrid very close to El Escorial) with the participation of Belgium, Italy, Spain and Ukraine men´s teams.

Still to decide if we start with education seminars on this first event or plan it to start in October (due to the difficulties being in early September).

Mr. Suman reported on the progress of the Czech Erasmus+ project Floorball - Fit for Future (**Appendix 21**), which had a very good project workshop meeting in Madrid in May. The main tool, the Maturity Matrix is now ready for use and Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Spain have started to use the tool. The

Mr. Hidir reported on the situation in East-Europe and in the Middle East. In Kazakhstan there has been some good development, with a 3vs3-tournament with 6 teams participating, There has been a number of webinars organised. In Moldova there has been a national championship played in three categories U10, U13 and Adults, with three teams in each category.

In Ukraine there has been the adults championships played this year and the youth championships have been played for the U14 and U16 categories. There will be a tournament played with Great-Britain, Iceland, the Netherlands and Ukraine in Västerås, Sweden in end of May. The government has informed that Ukraine should not participate in any competition in any Belarus or Russian would participate.

The IFF had a meeting with Floorball4All and Floorball4All have now provided a proposal for cooperation between the organisation. Mr. Liljelund answered that the IFF Office will look into proposal and get back to Floorball4All to see in which ways we could cooperate.

Ms. Vuori reported on the plans for the Membership Service function, and an idea for a Knowledge sharing system between the IFF Member Associations., based on the working group

consisting of Ms. Vuori, Mr. Halonen, Mr. Kihm and Mr. Varecka. (**Appendix 18**) The objective of the project is to increase the communication and the interaction between the members federations and increase the knowledge sharing. As IFF presently has only very few meeting points for the member federations, the General Assemblies/Association Meetings, the regional Core Country meetings and the Core Country Marketing Network Group, the aim is to create new forums for interaction on specific.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 8. International Sports

### International Olympic Committee/IOC

Mr. Eriksson reported that the IFF has received a letter of confirmation from the IOC President Mr. Thomas Bach that IFF is obliged to apply for the IOC Development support for the ARISF federations. (**Appendix 22**).

The IFF Office has handed in the proposals for the applications to the IOC Sport department for the three different projects we are running this year; Future of Floorball, Floorball 3vs3 and the GoGirls. The deadline for the applications is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. (**Appendix 23a-c**)

The IOC Executive Board has in March given a recommendation for how to treat Belarusian and Russian individual athletes (**Appendix 24**). The IOC EB recommendation does however not change the situation for the team sports, which still are under suspension. For IFF this new recommendation means that IFF needs to find a solution to allow individual Russian or Belarusian players living abroad to make transfers to a club in this country. The IFF Office is preparing a proposal for an updated transfer regulation to deal with these athletes.

Based on the updated IOC recommendations, the suspension of the Russian & Belarus associations should continue. We still cannot accept teams from Russia or Belarus in international competition. Support personnel can participate as neutral individuals with no reference to the Russian federation, meaning that any coaches, team managers etc who are with other national teams are allowed to participate. Referees or other technical officials from Russia could participate in events (as long as they meet other neutrality criteria) but would be under the IFF flag and/or listed as Athlètes Individuel Neutres (AIN). This however needs further evaluation before decided by IFF, as Mr. Eriksson feels that there are still no possibilities to include any Belarus or Russian teams in IFF competitions.

### General Association of International Sport Associations/GAISF & SportAccord

Mr. Eriksson reported that there has not been too much development of the dissolution of GAISF, the SportAccord council is preparing the first draft of the SportAccord new statutes, which are to be sent to the umbrella organisations later in May. As Mr. Liljelund has the task to prepare the updated statutes for ARISF, based on the new SportAccord statutes, he has been following the process.

There is apparently not going to be held any SportAccord Convention in 2023, as SportAccord has not invited for any. SportAccord is instead organising the IF Forum on the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of November in Lausanne.

### Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations/ARISF

Mr. Eriksson reported that ARISF has slowly started the strategy process based on the changed situation due to the dissolution of GAISF. The process is led by Mr. Tom Hollowell/IOF and Ms. Clare Briegal/INF and Mr. Liljelund are part of the process. A first proposal will be brought to the next ARISF Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June.

As GAISF has terminated the employment contract of Mr. Rohit Ramesh, who was supporting ARISF in the GAISF Office in April, the ARISF secretary general Mr. Riccardo Fraccari has kindly appointed an employee in the Baseball-Softball federation to support the ARISF council for the time being. The ARISF council is to discuss how to move forward in this new situation, even if things seem to develop quite slowly under the leadership of Mr. Chiulli.

### **International World Games Association/IWGA**

Mr. Eriksson reported about the IWGA AGM held in Madrid, Spain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. The International World Games Association held its Annual General Meeting in Madrid and made a decision of the ratification of the Sports Programme for the next World Games to be held in Chengdu, China in 2025. There will be a total of 30 sports on the program and Floorball has now been given a quota for both Women and Men with eight teams each with 14 athletes and one coach, and 21 Technical Officials (which will be comprised of referees and IFF staff). In the two previous World Games Floorball has just had the quota for the Men's tournament, in Wroclaw six teams and in Birmingham eight teams.

The fact that Floorball was given the quota for both Women and Men, and for the full 8 teams which we applied for, is a great achievement for Floorball and clearly shows that the IWGA is highly appreciating what IFF has brought the games. This achievement brings us forward to a new level and is the result of the work done by the IFF and our member federations in promoting the World Games

The IFF Office proposes that due to the inclusion of the female competition with 8 teams in the Chengdu World Games 2025, we need to change the present qualification system for the female side as the teams had already qualified for the WFC, before we got the information. The proposal is that only the top 3 teams from WFC 2023 are directly qualified and we will play separate TWG qualifications in Europe (with 4-6 teams) with the two best teams qualifying. In Asia-Oceania, the winner of AOFC Cup 2024 would qualify, and a separate American qualification with the winner qualifying.

The qualification event on the male side will be the WFC 2024, Here the top 5 teams, the best Asia-Oceanian team and the best American team will qualify.

The Chinese teams will be directly qualified, as long as they participate in the male WFCQ 2024 and the female in the AOFC Cup 2024.

Mr. Houman asked if there will be a risk for Floorball if China would not participate in the set tournaments, Mr. Liljelund answered that this is not really a risk.

Mr. Suman feels that the logic works for the Asia-Oceania and the Americas qualifications but finds the extra tournament for the European teams is not financially ideal. Mr. King felt that we need to clearly clarify what happens if there would be some issues to not be possible to play the qualifications, to avoid misunderstandings. Ms. Vuori and Mr. Beer feels that there is no idea to play an additional tournament and it would be better to just qualify the best 5 teams from the WFC. The main reasons for this is that there is no tournament organised in 2024 for the female category. Mr. Liljelund expressed that it would from a sporting perspective have been better to play the separate qualifications, but the CB is free to decide accordingly.

Mr. Eriksson was extremely pleased to be able to report that Mr. Liljelund has been elected to the IWGA Executive Committee for the period 2023-2026, which proves that the support IFF provides to the IWGA has been successful and that we have been able to provide added value to the TWG.

During the IWGA AGM the election of the President, vice-president, treasurer and four Executive members. The IWGA President Mr. Jose Perurena was re-elected, Mr. Tome Dielen (World Archery) was elected as the vice-president and Mr. Lukas Hinder (Dance Sport) re-elected as the treasurer. For the election for the Executive Committee members there were seven candidates for four positions. The result of the election was:

Anna Arzhanova, World Underwater Federation – CMAS president 25 votes  
Volker Bernardi, World Flying Disc Federation – WFDF secretary general 23 votes.  
Jan Fransoo, International Korfball Federation – IKF president 19 votes  
John Liljelund, International Floorball Federation – IFF secretary general 18 votes

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Joachim Thumfart, Ju-Jitsu International Federation – JJIF Director general 17 votes  
Pablo Serena, World Squash Federation – WSF secretary general 8 votes  
José Antonio Pere Priego, International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation president 6 votes

IFF has communicated with the Chinese Floorball Union concerning help for Chinese social media posts to prepare for the Chengdu 2025 World Games. As the Chengdu organising committee will only start the preparations after the FISU Universiade in August, IFF will revert to the topic then.

### **International Master Games Association/IMGA**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the European Master Games LOC (EMG 2023) has sent out the invitation for Floorball tournament, which the IFF have forwarded to the member association media contacts with the kind request to publish this in their national news channels.

The problem seems to be that the Masters Floorball teams feels that the price of 1300 EUR for the participation in the tournament is far too expensive compared to the other tournaments where these teams can participate. There are still some teams registered for the EMG in Tampere, so the Floorball tournament will be played.

### **University Sport/FISU**

Mr. Lopez reported that IFF has had a meeting with the FISU Sports Director Mr. Juan Carlos Holgado and Mr. Alejandro Guerra - FISU Sports Manager. FISU has also invited the EUSA Sports manager Mr. Miha Zvan. The meeting was held to discuss the situation caused by the FISU decision to remove Floorball from the World University Championship program.

IFF informed that there has been some interest shown from China for the WUC 2026 (also the one sent before from Korea for 2024). IFF informed that the IFF CB had disappointing feelings since “FISU has opted with us” in the decisions that have been taken. There is really no major interest in IFF member countries to organise own university championships. FISU fully understands the situation and how we feel. They keep the requirement on having teams from 3 to 4 continents to come back into the program

IFF will not be able to convince our member federations, if we just keep the status as it is. (Not national teams, etc...). Top 8 countries have already started to work with their U23 squads and that was something that was good to work within FISU but now they have managed to do it outside FISU. So they do not see the need to join FISU or support teams to participate.

EUSA would be in favor of having Floorball as a sport in a very similar way that FISU (just Europeans) the main difference is the eligibility of the players that goes up to 30 years old.

IFF could offer a “new concept” connected with the 3vs3 + goalie format. What if we celebrate our World Championships 3vs3 and we include as a side Championship the “FISU Championships” so the teams can have more matches and make like a joint competition. Combine both events. This would be acceptable for FISU.

## **Multi-Sport Games**

### **Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2023, Bangkok, Thailand**

Ms. Siriwat reported on the preparations of the 2023 AIMAG in Thailand, which is running as planned with Floorball on the program. The event will be organized between the 13<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of November. The 2025 edition in Saudi Arabia is decided and here it is vital for Floorball to appear that there is a need of a build-up of a NSA of Floorball in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Eriksson reported that for the IFF there might be a channel into the Saudi Sports ministry, through a Finnish Ex-patriot working with the Ministry of Social Health in Saudi Arabia.

IFF has provided its feedback to the Floorball Handbook for the AIMAG 2023.

### **SEA Games 2023**

Ms. Siriwat reported on the execution of the Southeast Asian Games (SEA GAMES) 2023 in Cambodia, where Floorball is on the program, which was played in May 11<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Phnom Penh Cambodia with five teams for Men and Women.

The four next hosts are decided by the SEAGF Council, that means 2023 in Cambodia, 2025 in Thailand, 2027 in Malaysia, 2029 in Singapore. The implication of this is that Floorball will after the Cambodia Games be in category 2 and will automatically be on the future program. Thailand facilitated the Cambodian Team with a training camp in Thailand prior to the event and also assisted together with Singapore with goals and a rink sent to Phnom Penh for the 2023 SEA Games. President Chaiyapak Siriwat is CEO of the SEAGF.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and the qualification system for The World Games 2025, so that the five best ranked teams are directly qualified and there will be separate qualifications be organized as proposed in Asia-Oceania and Americas.

## **§ 9. Committees and Commissions**

### **a) Rules and Competition Committee (RACC)**

Mr. Klabe reported that no formal meeting has been held with the RACC since the last CB meeting but that various matters have been communicated via e-mail.

Mr. Kratz reported that to clarify and streamline the handling of the different ages, and also minimize the applications for exceptions, some administrative additions/clarifications in 3.8 and 3.9 of the Competition Regulations Friendly International Matches have been made:

**3.8.** All players must be aged as follows to be eligible to participate in each age category:

- a) U17: players shall be aged at least 14 years old at the start of the event and turn 17 years no earlier than the 1st of January in the same year as the event
- b) U19: players shall be aged at least 15 years old at the start of the event and turn 19 years no earlier than the 1st of January in the same year as the event (see 3.9 for exceptions)
- c) U23: players shall be aged at least 15 years old at the start of the event and turn 23 no earlier than the 1st of January in the same year as the event
- d) Adults: players shall be aged at least 15 years old at the start of the event (see 3.9 for exceptions)

**3.9.** For events involving teams that are preparing for an upcoming WFC or U19 WFC, the ages of the players in the respective adult or U19 team can be the same as the official age eligibility for the final round event. This only applies for Friendly International matches held after the WFC or U19 WFC qualifications and before the WFC or U19 WFC final rounds.

The Organiser challenges of IFF qualifications and Club events are still on the agenda and a proposal is not yet completed. Some of the cost reduction points are however already implemented in the contract proposals for the qualifications to the WFCs 2024.

The work with rules for 3vs3 is ongoing and the IFF rules experts are discussing these based on one version with adaptations from current game rules and one lighter multisport-game version based on the IFF proposal,

**CB decided:** To approve the report and to confirm the updates of the Competition Regulations for Friendly International Matches.

#### **b) Referee Committee (RC)**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Lopez that the Physical Play working group had a live meeting in Prague from the 15th to 16th of April 2023. In the meeting the physical play documents were updated for the educations of the upcoming season 2023-2024. The working group has also evaluated the outcome of the referee work from the MU19 WFC 2023. Basically, the working group is satisfied to see that the referees are adopting the new interpretations as planned even though there are still work to be done. During the meeting the working group discussed the updating of the educational materials, the definition of offences in different levels more specifically the production of a educational material for the IFF Silver referees. As the project as such is over now the working group is a basic function of the IFF.

The six nations have asked for a referee seminar from the IFF RC during the International weekend in October in Slovakia. The nominations to different events have been handled accordingly.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **c) Medical committee**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Varecka that Ms. Anna Jacobson is working on the WADA Code Compliance Questionnaire and that the new WADA Code requires some new Anti-Doping Policies to be adopted. The IFF CB needs to approve the following IFF Anti-Doping Policies: Sample retention policy and Sample gathering policy (**Appendix 25ab**). The WADA Code Compliance questionnaire has to be returned by 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

Mr. Halonen further reported on behalf of Ms. Sarah Mitchell that the IFF medical committee has together with the IFF Office prepared a proposal for a Transgender policy. The IFF currently has no policy regarding the participation of transgender athletes, but the need for such a policy has been highlighted by a request from a transgender athlete for approval to participate in a national team for the Men's WFC Qualifications. The new policy is designed to act as a guideline for athletes and National Associations to enable them to understand what may or may not be allowed, and the process that needs to be followed to request approval to participate. This policy only relates to participation in IFF international events. Different guidelines and assessment criteria will apply for female-to-male and male-to-female athletes.

The policy has been developed in consultation with the IFF Medical Committee. It should be made clear that these are NOT regulations but rather a policy that will guide the decision process for applications. Each case must be assessed individually, and some may need to be referred to a specialist committee.

Each IFF Member Association should be encouraged to develop their own transgender policies for floorball in their own countries. It is hoped that all Member Associations will find some level of Floorball where the participation of transgender athletes can be allowed, without restrictions, to ensure inclusion in our sport. The IFF Transgender Policy should be used by Member Associations when setting the rules for their own national team pathways to ensure that only those athletes who are eligible to participate at international level are included in pathway programs. (**Appendix 26**).

Mr. Klabere feels that it is amazing that Ms. Mitchell has been able to put this together.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the policies

**d) Athletes commission**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of the Ms. Plechan ATC Chair Ms. Agata Plechan participated in an online course 'The Athletes Voice For Athletes Commissions' conducted by the IOC. The ATC further aims to have an on-line meeting still before the summer.

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

**e) Development Committee (DevC)**

Mr. Houman informed that there is nothing to report from the Development Committee.

Mr. Halonen reported that the 3rd edition of Africa Cup is planned to be played in Cote d'Ivoire from the 15th to 16th of September 2023. Eight African nations have shown interest to participate to the Cup, but so far, the IFF office has not received any information regarding the participating nations. The nations agreed that each participating country would deposit the sum of 500 USD to a joint account in order to secure their participation. The office is regularly in contact with the organisers.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**f) Entourage Commission (ENC)**

Mr. Hidir reported on the work in relation to the IFF Entourage Commission and the ideas that has been prepared. Mr. Hidir has held a meeting with the IFF Athletes Commission member Mr.

Junoh Lee and proposed to have a meeting with the IOC Entourage department. Mr. Eriksson asked for a written report concerning the Entourage.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 10. Functions

### a) Communication & Media function

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Kihm that IFF Media department was fully represented in Denmark for the U19 WFC, as Mr. Kihm acted as a second lead commentator. The media department was very happy to have all three-office staff at the event. Due to understaffing from the LOC there were several tasks where our media persons helped the LOC a lot. Mainly, IFF media was taking all the post-match interviews for the LOC. There were 8 games per day and 6 of the games per day were provided English commentary. The main commentators were Olly Hogben, Juerg Kihm, James Varecka and we had a pool of experts (Monika Kraus, John Liljelund, Tero Kalsta, Ryan Alexandrakis, Pascal Leu, Juerg Kihm). We believe that providing the commentary was also a part of being successful with our IFF app during the U19 WFC.

To clarify the situation when a Local organiser can stream on a local OTT or another streaming platform the IFF media department in cooperation with IFF Marketing and IFF Office is suggesting the following proposal with immediate effects:

Currently the local organisers have the TV/streaming rights for the domestic market and can use the video signal for selling those rights to a (linear) TV station, if they sell it here, the TV station may also in addition stream the signal on their own OTT. If the LOC is not able to sell signal to a TV station, they can for the qualification events sell them to a streaming platform, which is geo-blocked for only the organising country. This as they are paying for the production cost for the event, which is different for the major events.

Over the last few events it was shown that many of the organisers struggle to find a buyer for those TV rights. In the current process then the streaming rights then go over to IFF – followers from within the organising country must purchase the game/event pass from the IFF app if they want to watch the live stream.

For the future the proposal is that, if the local organiser can't sell or find a TV station which is keen to purchase/broadcast the event within the organising country - the local organiser can also sell/market this live web streaming (via IFF app) to potential sponsors and the access for viewers will be free for the qualification events. This will be only for viewers with the mobile pre-fix from the organising country of the qualification event. If the local organiser isn't able to find a sponsor for this stream – then they still can offer the stream free within their country (the restriction management is still done via the mobile phone pre-fix from the respective country). This is only applicable to organisers for Men's WFCQ, Women's WFCQ, Men's u19 WFCQ, Women's u19 WFCQ.

The overall sales of the IFF app for 2023 is currently 91.052 CHF, which means that IFF has now covered the first 60.000 CHF for this year that Sportswik will take directly. The net income for IFF after the Amazon, storage and video delivery costs have been deducted is presently 12.672 CHF. In order to be able to fully cover all the Sportswik related costs in 2023, we would need to sell still for a gross value of 56.000 CHF in the rest of the year. (**Appendix 27**)

Ms. Vuori asked for how long the agreement is in force and Mr. Liljelund answered that agreement is valid for the years 2023 and 2024. Mr. Suman asked if it is correct that we need to sell a total of around 110.000 CHF, before we can have any real revenue for IFF. In the future we

can make the income larger, and this can be a major income for the IFF. We need to force the federations to promote the tool. Ms. Vuori felt that the U19 is the event we can have a good sales, as there is not TV available and agrees that we need to promote it more.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the proposal for how to handle LOC streaming rights

## **b) Marketing function**

Mr. Beer, reported about the current sales and marketing situation. (**Appendix 32**)

To replace the withdrawal of our sales agency (RCBA pulling out) the IFF has been more active in discussing cooperation with national federations. The fruitful work with the Swedish Federation has continued and there are also plans to create a joint offering to several potential customers together with the Finnish Federation. This model will be investigated further.

As part of sales work, we are continuously in contact with companies that have been sponsors for past events (just in a specific event). Once there is information about future event host countries these efforts can also be accelerated. Contact has been kept up with FROMM, Dachser, Duscholux and Fisherman's Friend (local representatives in each respective country). As of late the IFF has also been able to submit couple of new offers (Nordic Minds, Active O2 water).

Protocol Sports will be pushing to find more takers for the WFC 2023 signal, especially in the AsiaOceania region. Several employees of the company attended the Women's WFCQ match in Toronto and received first-hand experience from a live floorball match.

The IFF has finalised all agreement negotiations with UNIHOC, Swerink and Gerflor. The agreement with Gerflor is still on comment-round as they roughly a month back submitted a new agreement template. The agreement with PUMA was finalised in April and the transition to equip all referees with their garments is on-going. The logistics and printing has been a fairly time-consuming process. The first championship event since the agreement was signed (U19 WFC 2023) was a success and the partner is satisfied. The goal to create additional sales in form of leads has also been fruitful (volunteer clothing, national teams). On the 6th of July the IFF will, with the assistance of Floorball Deutschland, organise a floorball try-out day at PUMA headquarters in Herzogenaurach. PUMA employees can test playing floorball on a rink which will be set up by the German Federation on the outdoor basketball court (fix installation of the Gerflor Powergame+ surface).

The negotiations to find sponsors for the new Champions Cup concept are on-going. The IFF office has organised branded promotion and marketing templates for the CC 2024 which will be distributed to national federations and participating clubs along other information most likely early summer once the registration phase has closed.

The next CCMNG meeting will take place on the 31st of May in Malmö (Arena). Positively, we have eight countries registered for the meeting, so the discussion is expected to be lively and fruitful. The main topics on the agenda are results and experiences of the new IFF media platform (Sportswik), the new Champions Cup format and sharing success cases from national federations. Also to be discussed, the first streams for the Czech and Swiss Superfinals on the IFF platform.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## **c) Material function**

Mr. Liljelund reported that IFF has held the yearly meeting with RISE discussing the present topics concerning the cooperations. The cooperation with Mr. Lars-Åke Henriksson is working very well, but as Mr. Henriksson will go in pension in a few years discussions has started of how this will be handled in the future. **(Appendix 28)**

Even if the sales of materials shows a significant upswing compared to 2022, the market has not fully recovered from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Development of pre-sold markings:

The amount of pre-sold marking stickers for total year 2022:

From the start of the year 2022:

Balls	1.843.902 pcs	(1.361.083 pcs)	35,5 %
Sticks	468.998 pcs	(341.743 pcs)	36,6 %
Goals	1.570 pcs	(1.590 pcs)	- 1,3 %
Rinks	389 pcs	(322 pcs)	20,8 %
Face masks	300 pcs	(500 pcs)	-40,0 %

The Floorball manufacturers are quite displeased with the services of the RISE Certification, in regard to the goalkeeper face masks and protective eyewear (googles), which needs a CE certification, which is not owned by IFF. Both IFF and Mr. Henriksson has pointed this out to the RISE Certification department, but for various reasons nothing has happened.

IFF and RISE has updated the Material Regulation and IFF has changed this on the IFF web-site Material Equipment page in January 2023.

Mr. King asked what the level of materials sales was in the pre-covid period. Mr. Liljelund answered that we are some 15 percent from the level for sticks and balls. For goals and rinks the level is closer to the pre Covid-levels.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **d) Equality function**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Ms. Sarah Mitchell on the international launch of the Fifty-Fifty program, that the Swedish federation has created. Fifty/Fifty is a digital education package developed in Sweden by the Värmland's Floorball Association and RF SISU Värmland to inspire and spread knowledge about gender equality in sports. In six digital lessons inspiration, facts, discussion, and reflection are mixed. The goal is to increase knowledge and achieve greater gender equality in floorball. The IFF was first introduced to the tool in 2019 and saw the potential of it for a wider international Floorball audience. We are very grateful for the work done by the Swedish Floorball Federation to now be able to fully launch this tool in English. It is a great example of the knowledge sharing that we expect to see from the top Floorball nations. The IFF hopes that National Associations, and clubs, throughout the world will take advantage of this great tool in developing their own equality work. <https://www.fifty-fifty.nu/en/>

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **e) Parafloorball function**

Mr. Houman reported that during the U19 WFC in Denmark, there was arranged demo matches with teams from Special Olympics in Denmark and also Powerchair floorball teams, which was much appreciated from Para Sport Denmark, where Special Olympics is organized.

There have been some Floorball seminars organised in the USA, where the interest is gaining in order to start floorball. Latest a seminar was conducted in California.

The allocation for World Winter Games in Torino 2025 is soon to be announced, and floorball will receive a record number of spots for the games. The final number is not official yet, but from 41 teams last World Winter Games and 10-15 more teams, and demand for several more spots. Floorball will be the sports with most participants for the World Winter Games in Torino. Contacts with Floorball Italy has been established, and when Special Olympics Summer World Games in 2023 has been completed, the work for 2025 starts.

The Covid19 pandemic really hit the athlete at Special Olympics, so the total numbers of athletes in all sports at Special Olympics decreased, but the numbers are on the rise again. In total 59 programs (nations) offers Floorball at Special Olympics, and within a few year this would hopefully be 100, and the total number of athletes should hopefully within a few years be 100.000.

Those programs who are offering floorball and not member of IFF is: Guadeloupe, Ghana, Namibia, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Azerbaijan, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Tajikistan and Lebanon.

There are more programs offering floorball, but they have not submitted data to Special Olympics especially in Latin America, South America and Africa

Ms Yui Takahashi, who is a member of the IFF Athletes Commission, is due to return to live in Japan in the second half of this year and will take up a job with Special Olympics Japan.

Mr. Liljelund reported that IFF has held meetings with a group of ParaFloorball organisations and groups, coordinated by the Swedish ParaFloorball, which is a part of the Swedish Floorball federation. In these discussions have been Special Olympics, Manual wheelchair floorball, Powerchair hockey and Volt Hockey. The aim is for the group to decide upon whether they will join IFF as one entity or as single organisations. The discussions are continuing in 2023.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **f) Sustainability function**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Kalsta that IFF has begun the next reporting cycle for 2021/2022 regarding the UN Sports for Climate Network (S4CA). This concerns the carbon footprint of the IFF office.

The IFF has official joined the Sports For Nature Framework. Signatories pledge to adhere to four key principles that will safeguard nature and contribute to the new global goals for biodiversity, which governments agreed to at the Convention on Biological Diversity 15th Conference of the Parties meeting (COP15) in Montreal. Communication plans to publish this are being prepared and will probably go out early summer.

FairFloorball was strongly promoted at the U19 WFC 2023 as an integral part of IFF communications. In Denmark the LOC distributed the last green, promotional "Say NO! To Doping" floorball balls into the spectator stands during intermissions. The LOC had also organised intermission exhibition matches for Special Olympics athletes and wheelchair floorball teams. The IFF has also applied for funding from the IOC to further develop the FairFloorball initiative.

PUMA sponsored a new award at the Men's U19 WFC – the FairFloorball Player award. This award was given to one player from each team who best showed the qualities of FairFloorball – respect, sportsmanship, teamwork. The team management nominated the player from their own team to receive the award, which was a PUMA backpack. IFF would like this to be a permanent award for future WFC events if possible.

The LOC and IFF are still waiting for the final report of myclimate regarding the Green Goal initiative of the WFC 2022. It is quite apparent that myclimate have lack of personnel resources as the report has been pending for a very long time. This said, this is an important document delivering facts on how the goals were achieved and will also act as corner stone for a sustainability guideline for IFF event organisers. Swiss Unihockey received special sustainability prize for the Green Goal initiative (category Responsibility) by Sponsoring Switzerland during the annual Sponsoring Excellence Night end of March.

The LOC WFC 2024 is working on a sustainability project and they cooperate with consultation company called Greentime (specialised in sustainability concepts and measurement). The IFF has strived to provide any useful info to support the concept and especially facts about the commuter traffic usage by event visitors during WFC 2022 has been very helpful. The Swedish Federation has finalised the English Fifty/Fifty equality education material and it is now available for the whole floorball community and was also promoted by the IFF when it was launched on the 3rd of May.

As the IFF partner UNIHOC has not, at least yet seized the first-mover opportunity to join the carbon fibre recycling pilot (Carbon Fibre Circular Alliance (CFCA)) the idea is to distribute the information to all floorball equipment manufacturers (the membership fee is proving to be a hurdle (£5000 p.a.). Eventually it is in everyone's interest that this would become standard or would at least be evaluated more closely.

The IOC has published new sustainability cases on the IOC website and the IFF is among them (IF Sustainability Project: Floorball's Development Towards Sustainability).

As part of the EU Erasmus+ project (Green Approaches in Management for Enhancing Sports / Improve Good Governance in sport) the IFF is working together with the Swedish Floorball Federation to define the goals / outcomes it wishes to have from the project. The latest status calls was in late April and the next meeting will take place in June. The project lead (Sant'Anna) made an environmental event evaluation at WFC 2022 as part of the GAMES project (**Appendix 33**).

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 11. IFF Office

Nothing reported

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 12. Members

### Membership questions

Mr. Halonen reported that there are some major issues in Burkina Faso ongoing at the time. Several clubs resigned from the original IFF member association and created a new association. The reason they informed was that the official association did not offer the possibilities to play

any tournaments nor any other kind of support. The clubs have now been running their own events under the wings of the new association.

Neither of the association has recognition from the sports authorities in Burkina Faso. In Burkina Faso new sports are recognized only every four years and the next option is next year, in 2024. The ministry of sports has, however, started the mediation between the two existing associations and the IFF office has been in touch with both parties and urged them to find a solution, which will secure the wellbeing of Floorball in the country. The latest messages are somewhat promising that they would eventually find a solution.

Mr. Halonen is further reported that the IFF CB has received a letter from the National Pierre de Coubertin Committee in Cameroon (**Appendix 30**), where one of the parties in the struggle for the ownership of the sport of Floorball Mrs. Elise Kana, which is not representing the IFF member organisation is claiming the right to represent Floorball in Cameroon. This dispute has been ongoing for a longer period of time. Mr. Halonen has answered the letter and explained the situation.

The problem in Cameroon has been ongoing for several years already and the IFF has been trying to find the solution in order to secure the wellbeing of Floorball and Floorball players in Cameroon. This is the standard policy of the IFF if disputes like this occur. The outcome has unfortunately been that Floorball in Cameroon has not developed the way it could have and Cameroon, being one of the oldest African members within the IFF, has not been able to participate to any IFF events, nor Africa Cups due to the lack of co-operation.

The organization of Ms. Manong is a member of the IFF, and they have applied for the membership within the IFF and the IFF Central Board has granted the membership in 2013. The organization of Ms. Kana has never applied for the membership within the IFF. According to the statutes of the IFF, Floorball can only have one official member association per country.

The IFF has urged the two parties to find a solution where they can all work for Floorball no matter who leads the organization and the IFF has had meetings with them as well. If they could join their forces that would be the best option for Floorball and the IFF is really looking forward to that solution. The fact being that the more they unite, the more they gain.

Mr. Hidir asked what weight the IFF recognition plays in the African countries. Mr. Halonen answered that the importance is the recognition of the NOC and the Ministry of Sports.

Mr. Halonen informed that the IFF Office will monitor the situation for these countries.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### **Members under suspension**

Nothing reported

### **New Member applications**

The IFF office has received the membership application from the Solomon Islands and the application included all the required documents and according to the sports authorities of the Solomon Islands, the Floorball Federation Solomon Islands will be eligible to receive the official recognition after the IFF grants the provisional membership. In their system the association needs to be a member of an international organ before receiving the recognition. (**Appendix 31a-c**)

The proposal is to approve the report and approve Floorball Federation Solomon Island as the IFF member number 79.

Mr. King informed that the Solomon Islands have already discussed participation in Australian tournaments.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and to approve the Solomon Islands as the IFF provisional members number 79.

### § 13. **Next meeting**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the next planned ordinary CB meeting (M3), has been planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> of September in Helsinki, Finland.

The plan for the CB meetings in 2023 looks like the following

M4 11.-12.11. Berlin, Germany

M5 07.-10.12. CB meeting 7.12. and Association meeting 8.-9.12., WFC final 10.12.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### § 14. **Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting at 12:40 CET

**John Liljelund  
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson  
President**