

### Helsinki, Finland, 30th of March 2022

## **IFF Central Board meeting 3/2022** 27.03.2022 as a Physical meeting in Zürich, Switzerland

Place: Meeting held as a physical meeting at the office of Fleurop in Zürich, Switzerland,

with the possibility for participation via Teams

Participants: Tomas Eriksson President

Filip Suman Vice President (via Teams) **Monica Birdal Treasurer** §§ 1. – 9d)

Jörg Beer Tamuz Hidir Steen Houman Martin Klabere

(via Teams)

**Carlos Lopez Agata Plechan** 

**Pakkamol Siriwat** Kaarina Vuori

**ATC Chair** 

Veli Halonen Stefan Kratz Jurg Kihm

**Operations Manager Competition Manager** 

**IFF Media** 

John Liljelund **Secretary General** 

**Excused:** Stephen King

Calle Karlsson

# **Agenda**

#### § 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson welcomed the CB members, both in Zurich and on-line, to the third, but first physical CB meeting of the year 2022. Mr. Eriksson opened the meeting at 09:30.

#### Ş 2. Approval of the agenda

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

8 - WFC 2020 Quantum Evaluation report (draft) Appendix Appendix 10 - WFC 2021 Quantum Evaluation report (draft)

Appendix 26 - Future of Floorball SWOT Analysis from Association Meeting

Appendix 30 - CB proposal for the IFF OTT concept

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



# § 3 Minutes from the CB meetings: 09/2021 Helsinki (9.12.2021), 01/2022 Teams (16.01.2022), 02/2022 Per Capsulam (28.02.2022)

The minutes from the last CB meetings 9/2021, 01/2022 and 02/2022 are to be scrutinized, approved and put ad acta. (**Appendix 1a-c**)

CB decided: To approve the minutes of the IFF CB meetings 09/2021, 01/2022 and 02/2022

#### § 4. Financial questions

#### a) Financial report 2021 by 31.12.2021 - draft

Mrs. Birdal presented the draft of the financial report and balance sheet by the 31.12.2021 (**Appendix 2**).

The preliminary outcome per 31<sup>st</sup> of December is CHF 68.933, which is some CHF 61.082 (2020: CHF 7.851) better than last year. The double WFC's and the participation, organisers fees, marketing and an increased TV and marketing income connected to these, the second instalment of the IOC Covid-19 support have led to a significant increased income. Having been able to keep the TV production cost increase as low as possible and the saves on the cost side also turned out significantly better than forecasted which together with the income led to a better than forecasted financial year. Mrs. Birdal is very pleased with the result for 2021. Mr. Eriksson feels that the IFF Office has been able to monitor the result over the expectations when it comes to the cost control. It is very good that we have had a good outcome on the commercial and TV sales.

Mr. Klabere feels that the financial outcome was very good but asked what the outcome was for the two championships. Mr. Suman felt that the result has been really good, especially when there has been so much uncertainty in finances. Mr. Kratz answered that the financial outcome for the Men's WFC was a surplus of 90 thousand and for the Women's WFC a deficit of -20 thousand. Mr. Liljelund informed that there has not been any information from the IOC concerning any financial support for Covid-19 in the 2020. The expectation is that the Material income will grow for 2022, but most likely not rise to the same level as it was before the pandemic.

Since the financial year turned out better than forecasted the proposal is that the claims for 2013-2018 shall be stricken and taken as a loss during 2021, included in the preliminary outcome, which is in line with what the Auditor earlier has recommended to the IFF CB. This would positively affect mainly the non-participating member Associations which hopefully will make it easier for them to start participating in the IFF events.

The liquidity 31<sup>st</sup> of December is CHF 321.816, which is some CHF 168.838 higher compared with last year (CHF 152.978). The liquidity situation is such that currently we are not considering to take up the secured loan of 100.000 EUR from the Finnish Floorball Federation.

The situation with Covid-19 negatively affected the income from material this year, a situation which most likely will continue also during 2022, and then might affect our liquidity, so we must continue to be very careful and only invest in the most needed areas such as the World Games, our Events app and other IT related tools where we also have set aside funds from 2020 and 2021.

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.

**<u>CB decided</u>**: To approve the reports and to book a loss on claims according to the proposal.



#### b) Information on IFF claims – License system and WFC 2022 – status March 15th,

Mrs. Birdal presented the claims situation by the 15.03.2022 for Associations participating in the WFCs 2022 and separately for those not participating in any of the IFF Events. (**Appendix 3 and 4**).

For the WFC's 2022 some action might still be needed, partly due to the uncertainty regarding when the events (Women's U19 WFC 2022) would be played and therefore all invoices have not yet been sent to the participating countries.

Since last CB meeting payments have been done in accordance with the pay-off plans for Cote d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Canada has paid the part noted for the Association (FC) but the part for Premier Floorball (PF) is not paid (**Appendix 5**). Mrs. Birdal feels it is good that most of the countries are paying in accordance with their present plans. Mr. Klabere asked how it comes that the Canadian Floorball has only made one installment. Mr. Kratz explained that the CB has made two postponements of the payments of the Canadian federations and the next payment will be made in end of June.

Mr. Kratz reported that having communicated with Canada about the situation they have proposed a new payoff plan where Floorball Canada continues according to agreed payoff plan, but the Premier Floorball part is postponed and new pay-off sums to be decided when business will return to normal (**Appendix 5b**). Mr. Eriksson feels that in this situation is now under control by the Canadian Floorball.

<u>CB decided:</u> To approve the reports, approve the new Floorball Canada payoff plan and to continue to follow up on the pay-off plans for Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Russia, Malaysia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

#### c) IFF Extraordinary General Assembly 2021

Mr. Eriksson informed that the minutes from the IFF Extraordinary General Assembly 2021, signed by the scrutineers, was published 15th December 2021 (**Appendix 6**).

As there has not been any written comments handed in to the IFF Office by the 15th of January 2022, the minutes of the IFF Extraordinary General Assembly are in accordance with the IFF Statutes now approved, which will have to be confirmed by the IFF General Assembly 2022 in Zurich, Switzerland.

<u>CB decided:</u> To approve the report and conclude that the IFF Extraordinary General Assembly 2021 minutes are approved by the membership.

#### § 5. World Championships

### a) Men's WFC 2020, Helsinki Finland – played in December 2021

Mrs. Vuori gave a final report from the WFC 2020 in Helsinki, Finland (**Appendix 7**). The LOC has prepared a final report, which will be published after the Finnish Floorball Federation Council in April.

The biggest problem was the quality of the B-arena in the Ice Hall, which also received a lot of criticism from teams and the IFF. Due to the uncertain financial situation (not knowing if there will be spectators or not) the LOC wanted to cut all costs. However, after the event it was clear that the SSBL would not use such a venue like the B-arena in the future.



After the successful late sales of tickets, extra support from city and ministry of sport, and a lot of budget savings, the financial result was some 400.000 EUR. Despite this, the Finnish federation made a minus of some 200.000 for the year 2021. The LOC was totally separated from the normal activities of the Finnish federation. This caused some problems, even if it made some additional work for the LOC.

Mr. Klabere reported that from the jury point-of-view, provided by the jury chairs, they felt that the IFF staff made a great job handling two simultaneous events. Mr. Klabere wanted to sincerely thank the IFF Office for handling the two events simultaneously. The main issues from an organisational point of view were that the B-arena in the Helsinki Ice Hall wasn't up to the expected standards for an WFC. The last matches played in the B-arena should have been played somewhere else (A-arena or Hartwall).

One Jury case proved very difficult when the accused party wasn't given a possibility to defend themselves before Jury took the decision, even though the IFF rules don't require it. This caused a lot of extra work for the IFF Jury and the IFF Office. Based on this a new guideline for how such cases shall be handled is being prepared.

The Goal review process needs to be looked over to get a streamlined use of this. Need to try and aim for a standard level of software and hardware to make it easier for the jury & referees and to ensure better results. Need to schedule time prior to the event for the jury, referee management and referees to familiarise themselves with the system and agree on procedures.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the Quantum report from WFC 2020 (**Appendix 8**) The report is presently being on a commentary round with the IFF Office and the LOC.

Mr. Suman felt that under these circumstances it is a very positive that the WFC 2020 made a positive financial result. For the IFF this is a great signal in the future. The Quantum report clearly shows how unsatisfied the athletes were with the Event, so we need to take the learnings from the report. Ms. Vuori felt that in this situation it is clear that there were some criticisms, especially due to the level of the B-arena in the Ice Hall. Mr. Klabere felt that the Quantum report gives really good data on the spectators and the way the event was organised. We cannot put ourselves in this kind of situation in the future.

Mr. Eriksson felt that some of the member associations might still react strongly to the level of the B-arena. The IFF CB needs to discuss these topics in the future. The CB is however very pleased that the Finnish LOC was able to organise the event in these extremely difficult circumstances.

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

### WFC 2021, Uppsala, Sweden

Mr. Klabere to give a final report from the WFC 2021 in Uppsala, Sweden. The financial outcome was some -180.000 EUR, which is bigger than budgeted.

Mr. Klabere further reported that from the jury point-of-view the event was very well organised. The arena was a bit too small for a normal WFC but worked in Covid times, apart for maybe the final were there was a higher demand for tickets. An obstacle was the Swedish Covid-19 rules, which was changed during the event, with a Covid pass needing two vaccinations and no acceptance of those who had recovered from Covid and only had one vaccination.

One disciplinary action came from this event, regarding non-compliance with the Covid-19 regulations.



Mr. Liljelund reported on the Quantum report from WFC 2021 (Appendix 10) The report is presently being on a commentary round with the IFF Office and the LOC.

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

#### b) **Next Events**

#### WFC 2022, Zurich, Switzerland

Mr. Beer reported on the preparations of the WFC 2022 (Appendix 11).

After some construction problems with the roof of Swiss Life Arena, now solved, the building company has assured that the arena will be ready in time for the WFC. Due to the slight delay following from this the WFC will be the first major event organised in the arena. The Swiss Life arena had an issue with some screws in the roof construction. The WFC 2022 will open the Event. The preparations are going really well, with the team lead by Mr. Daniel Kasser. The LOC team is very experienced. There is a steering committee consisting of SUHV CB members

From the marketing point-of-view 110% of the budgeted 1 million CHF marketing revenue is reached and there are still discussions with further partners, which is very positive for the Swiss Floorball.

Due to the moved WFCQs the ticket pre-sale was postponed but still almost 40% of the budgeted total ticket turnover has been reached. The delaying of the ballot for the delaying of the qualifications, has caused quite some issues for the preparation of the match schedule and therefore the contacts to the TV companies. The TV companies will in beginning of April be asked for their preferred TV times for the group stage, quarter finals, in order to be able to start the planning of the match schedule.

The LOC has already secured a total of 80 % of the key volunteer positions, also by the local organising clubs Grasshoppers and HCR Winterthur. In October there will be two training days for the volunteers.

The LOC is aiming presented the WFC 2022 mascot during the Swiss Superfinal 23rd of April.

Mr. Suman asked how the project to sell tickets to the clubs are going to which Mr. Beer answered that the clubs have been contacted, but there are not specific numbers available yet.

Mr. Lilielund reported that a meeting has been held with the Swiss TV concerning the planned broadcasts of SRF. The SRF is planning to broadcast all Swiss games and a game on Monday of the top teams of the other A or B group. Also the cooperation on the technical signal distribution was discussed.

Mr. Liljelund reported that he together with Ms. Sarah Mitchell will carry out a venue inspection on 28th March in both venues.

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

#### WFC 2022 qualifications

Mr. Kratz reported on the WFC 2022 qualifications.



#### AMERICAS 29-30.04.2022 in Fort Worth, Texas

The preparations are ongoing and the match schedule is published.

The event will be used as a showcase for the NCAA about the possibilities to have Floorball is some way connected with the US university sports system.

#### EUR 1 25-28.05.2022 in Valmiera, Latvia

The preparations are ongoing and the match schedule is published. Should Ukraine not be able to participate there is a readiness for an updated schedule.

The Go/NoGo dates are 7th of April for the teams and 14th of April for the LOC

#### EUR 2 25-28.05.2022 in Koceni, Latvia

EUR 2 should originally have been played in Poland. After discussions with the Latvian Floorball Union an agreement was reached to also have EUR 2 organised in Latvia. The original plan is to organise in Koceni but could possibly be played in a new indoor athletics arena in Valmiera. The preparations are ongoing and the match schedule is published. An alternative schedule without the suspended team Russia is prepared but not yet published.

The Go/NoGo dates are 7th of April for the teams and 14th of April for the LOC

#### EUR 3, 24-27.05.2022 in Celano, Italy

EUR 3 should originally have been played in Lignano Sabbiadoro but it was not possible to move the event in time. The Italian LOC had prepared for the event to be played in Celano 24-27.05.2022 which now have been confirmed by the local authorities.

The Go/NoGo dates are 7th of April for the teams and 14th of April for the LOC

#### AOFC, 31.05-04.06.2022 in Singapore

The preparations are ongoing, but the match schedule is still to be published due to that China has now informed that they due to Covid-19 restrictions will not be able to participate. Discussions on a possible replacer is ongoing with the LOC and several options of schedule are prepared. The fact that the Chinese team has withdrawn is a bit problematic, in regard to the preparation of the upcoming World Games in Chengdu, China in 2025.

The Go/NoGo dates are 7th of April for the teams and 14th of April for the LOC

Mr. Klabere informed that the distance between the Valmiera and Koceni is just some 3 km. Mr. Lopez feels that there is less than 2 months' time to prepare for the qualifications, it would have been fair that the teams would have been informed before. Mr. Liljelund informed that IFF has communicated that we are looking for an organiser and negotiating with different organisers for May. The IFF Office needs to clarify the way we inform of the process.

Mr. Hidir informed that Ukraine would want to participate in the WFCQ, but the issue is if the Ministry of Sport will accept that the players can leave Ukraine, as they are in the army. The aim is to participate. Mr. Eriksson wished the Ukraine team the best of luck.

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

#### U19 WFC 2022,

Mr. Kratz reported that when the event was moved to be played in September 2022 a new contact was taken with Slovakia but even though they made a new attempt they could not get the needed support to organise the event. The search for an alternative organiser is ongoing and currently we have an ongoing discussion with Poland. The Russian invasion of Ukraine of course



affects any event to be held in the neighbourhood. The plan is to play in Katowice, which is mostly depended whether Poland will receive the Men's World Volleyball Championships. The IFF Competition department feels that the decision to play in September, has to be made latest by end of April. If there are no possibilities to play in September, the event could then still be played in December.

Mr. Klabere asked if the IFF has asked Latvia, if they could organise. Mr. Kratz informed that the issue is that Italy in next in line and Latvia had originally not registered. Mr. Kratz has informally asked if Latvia can organise.

In connection to this event we have received an e-mail from the team management of Canada WU19 where they propose an inclusion of Ukrainian players in their team to support them in this situation.

<u>CB decided:</u> to approve the reports and feels that is admirable but a bit difficult to accept and in fact execute the Canadian proposal.

#### d) Upcoming Events

#### U19 WFC 2023, WFC 2023 and WFC 2024

Mr. Liljelund reported that the contract with Singapore Floorball Association, organiser of the WFC 2023, has been signed. Mr. Suman asked how many teams had registered for the WFC 2023. Mr. Kratz answered that there has been a total number of 29 registered countries (21 Europe, 6 AOFC and 2 Americas) for the WFC 2023, which is 3 more than for the WFC 2021.

The contract discussions with Floorball Denmark regarding the U19 WFC 2023 are in the final stages and the contract is expected to be signed in a near future.

The discussions with the Swedish Floorball Federation regarding the WFC 2024 contract will start now when the WFC 2023 contract is signed.

Mr. Kratz reported that IFF has asked for interested Associations to organise the U19 WFC and WFC 2023 qualifications among the teams having registered. There has been answers from Latvia and Slovenia.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports

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

Mr. Kratz reported on the current status regarding the Covid-19 and other restrictions.

**EUR** countries have lifted most of their restrictions so there should be no issues at present for teams to participate to upcoming IFF Events except from what is caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

**AOFC** may still be a little problematic with some countries still facing restrictions on entering Singapore. Those who are vaccinated and use designated Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) flights can enter without quarantine or testing which concerns Australia, New Zealand, India, Philippines, Korea and Thailand.

From China they must apply for an Air Travel Pass and must be vaccinated, have pre-departure PCR as well as arrival PCR and must isolate until result of arrival test is received.



From Japan no entry is currently available. This might be possible with some government agency support which is looked into by the LOC in Singapore.

**AMERICAS** entry is open to everyone with ESTA or visa but must be vaccinated and must do pre-departure test (PCR or antigen).

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

#### § 6. Club competitions

#### a) Champions Cup

Mr. Eriksson concluded that as the Champions Cup 2022 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. the next and last edition of the present Champions Cup competition should be held in Finland in January 2023.

Mrs. Vuori reported on the preparations of the Champions Cup 2023 to be played in Finland, preliminary 7th – 8th January 2023 and that the host city in Finland will be decided after their league finals are played in May. The idea is to play in the city of either of the champions.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Champions Cup Steering group would need to reconvene during the spring of 2022 to discuss the preparations for the new Home & Away format for the Champions Cup starting on the autumn of 2023.

Mr. Klabere asked about the IFF input for the CC finances, to which Mr. Liljelund that the IFF CB has decided in 2021 to provide the guarantee sum of 40.000 EUR.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### b) Euro Floorball Cup 2021

Mr. Kratz reported that he is still discussing with potential organisers of the EFC and the EFCh 2022 with the aim to play last weekend of August.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

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

### a) ExCo reports

Mr. Eriksson reported on the ExCo activities after the previous ordinary CB meeting, which has mainly focused on the actions taken in regard to the Russian attack on Ukraine and the preparations and planning for this CB workshop and meeting.

After the Russian attack on Ukraine on the 24th of February the IFF strongly condemned the act of war committed by the Russian Federation on Ukraine, with the approval of the IFF president, on the IFF website. During the following weekend the international sports community and most of the International Sport Federations started to withdraw the organisation of their events in Russia and prohibit the participation of Russian and Belarus athletes in their competitions. Based on the discussions in the IFF Office, the preparations for a decision to suspend the Russian (NFFR) and Belarus (BFF) member associations from all IFF activities started and a proposal to the CB was

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sent out on Monday the 28th of February and was based on the recommendation made by the IOC.

The CB unanimously decided: to suspend Russia and Belarus which was communicated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. During the suspension no representatives of the Russian and Belarus floorball federations may not participate in any IFF competitions, events or meetings. The NFFR has through its president Mr. Chernov informed that the NFFR is planning to complain against the IFF decision to CAS, which seems to have been the generic response of the Russian sport federations. On Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March CAS informed that it had turned down the Russian Football federation appeal for participation in UEFA competitions and on March 18<sup>th</sup> CAS turned down the Russian appeal for the FIFA World Cup 2022 qualification participation.

Mr. Eriksson asked how the Ukraine Floorball community reacted to the reaction of IFF. Mr. Hidir explained that the Ukraine Sports and Floorball community had positively noticed the quick reaction of IFF to first condemn the attack and then suspend the Russian Federation and Belarus. Mr. Hidir has used the example of IFF in Ukraine and the small decisions of sport organisations can help to affect the situation.

The President has had several meetings with the secretary general to look over the present financial situation and the closing of the books for the financial year 2021 and the needed actions taken here like the writing off some of the old debts and some reservations for mostly media related projects.

Mr. Eriksson further reported that the initial plan was to hold the next meeting with the Presidents and secretary generals of the Euro Floorball Tour countries in January 2022. This meeting was for obvious reasons not held due to the COVID-19 situation. In order to move forward a meeting should be held in beginning of May, in order to be able to have the Top 15 countries meeting hopefully in connection to the Women's U19 WFC 2022, if we can have it played in beginning of September.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF Consultative meeting concerning the Euro Floorball Championships was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, in connection to the WFC 2020 in Helsinki to discuss the proposal for how the Euro Floorball Championships shall be played, which was approved by the CB. The meeting was attended by the following IFF member associations: Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine.

The meeting discussed broadly the CB proposal and concluded that it is very important to convince the third level countries that the new competition will also benefit them. The countries agreed to support the CB proposal to start the competition with 8 countries, but carefully evaluate the possibility to enlarge the competition to 12 teams after 2-4 years. The competition is to be played in the beginning of September

The IFF RACC is to look over what different ways there could be to in the future include more teams and look how the other IF's have solved their competitions. The meeting further agreed that IFF needs to look over the whole WFC qualifications process.

The IFF secretary general has initiated a meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, with the secretary generals of the EFT countries to discuss and seek political support for the implementation of the IFF Physical Play project. During the meeting the IFF Physical Play project was introduced by Mr. Veli Halonen and based on the discussions the participants agreed to discuss the matter with their respective bodies and promised to promote the project. IFF will organise an evaluation meeting after the WFCQ's have been played in May and June.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF Disciplinary Committee has dealt with the case concerning the Team Italy physiotherapist (a Swiss citizen) leaving the WFC 2021 in Uppsala after having received a positive Covid-19 test. The IFF DC made a decision to sanction the physiotherapist



with a suspension from all Floorball activities with two months. As the person is active in floorball in Switzerland, the SUHV has been assisting in executing the IFF DC decision, as the team personnel are not licensed in the lower series in Switzerland. (**Appendix 12**)

Mr. Liljelund to inform that the IFF Ethics Commission (ETC) has held a short meeting over Teams during the Men's WFC 2020 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. The meeting discussed among other topics the anonymous complaint directed to the IFF ETC about an alleged Hitler salute in the SSL by a player. The ETC concluded that the goal celebration was not a Hitler salute and therefore doesn't lead to any actions. The ETC discussed to have a physical meeting in April or May, based on the CB decided: by the chair Mr. Harri Syväsalmi. (**Appendix 13**)

The ETC has also dealt with, totally independently from the IFF Office, with a whistle-blower complaint directed against Ms. Wendy Kuan, general manager of Singapore FA, concerning an alleged breach of the rules in regard to the handling of the election of the Singaporean Floorball Federation Board in 2021. The IFF ETC has decided in the matter and moved the case forward to the IFF Disciplinary Committee (IFF DC), which is presently dealing with the matter. For the time being Ms. Kuan is for obvious reasons not participating in the work of the IFF Ethics Commission.

<u>CB decided:</u> to approve the report and ask the RACC to prepare for the introduction of the Euro Floorball Championships for the IFF General Assembly 2022.

### b) Strategy Implementation

Mr. Liljelund reported in the absence of Mr. King on the work of the IFF Strategy Implementation working group (SWG). The four Strategy subgroups have made a CB decided: for a Priority Task list of the suggested actions, with additional actions proposed, within the original time line approved by the IFF CB. The CB is to discuss the proposed Priority Task lists in the CB workshop on Saturday.

Due to the leave of absence of Mr. King, for personal reasons, there has not been an evaluation made of the Strategy workshop during the IFF Association meeting by the Strategy Working Group (SWG). The evaluation will be made still before the end of June. The Role of the Subgroups will change more into a consultative role and comment upon plans. Need to keep the stakeholders in the process. There could be a quarterly meeting for each of the Subgroups, starting in May. The idea is to have a joint meeting for the Subgroup members in September-October to discuss the process and report to the IFF GA.

The Strategy Working Group will work to include the outcome from the CB Strategy workshop held during the C-B meeting.

As a part of the Implementation process the Subgroup 3 has prepared a questionnaire for the participating athletes of the Men's WFCQ 2022 (**Appendix 14**)

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### c) CB Member responsibilities

Mr. Houman reported about the Six Nations associations steering group activities and that all six nations, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia have agreed to sign a new agreement in order to continue the cooperation.



There are some minor changes, but the cooperation will continue more or less on the same. Germany is the host for next tournament, which will be arranged at the international weekend 30<sup>th</sup> of September – 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. The tournament will end the agreement between the federations, and a new will begin for the next period 2023-2025 where it will be negotiated between the federations, in order to sign a new agreement for 2026-2028.

Mr. Eriksson asked what the situation in Germany is after the change of the President of Floorball Germany. Mr. Houman answered that the new president Mr. Remo Hubacher has given all the right answers, but now it is time for actions.

Mr. Lopez reported on the situation in Latin America and concluded that after a few months without any contact from the Latin America countries, there has now been more communication coming from the region. All the countries have suffered heavily from Covid-19 pandemic and are still suffering. (**Appendix 15**)

In Brazil the federation has continued with their activities, maybe in a smaller scale than before. Working with updating their web pages and developing a webstore for floorball materials. In Colombia all activities have stopped and have asked for a document from IFF to prove they are a member of IFF.

In Peru the federation is reorganising the regional representations, after the issues caused by Covid-19. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of February they organised the 5<sup>th</sup> Men's National Championships and 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's National Championships in El Callao. The National responsible person is Mr. Christiam G.N. Parreno Porras and they have decided to start the process for registration. In Chile the practises have continued in Quito, as all other have stopped during the hardest period of Covid. Almost all of Floorball activities have disappeared in Venezuela during Covid, but there are still some activities with three teams in Barquismeto and are planning to start new projects from April.

Mr. Suman reported on the progress of the Czech Erasmus+ project Floorball - Fit for Future, where a face-to-face workshop meeting was held in February. (**Appendix 32**) The three-day workshop held in Copenhagen was really fruitful. The project is in the most challenging phase, when the metrics of the pillars are being defined. Explaining the different implications of the project would need to have the Fit for Future on the agenda of the IFF CB workshop.

Mr. Hidir reported on the situation in East-Europe and in the Middle-East. Due to the present situation, there have been more important actions to work with. There are no Floorball played in Ukraine at the moment and all contacts have been broken with Russia. There are some new contacts in Iraq.

Ms. Siriwat reported on the situation in Asia. The Covid-19 situation is improving and in Thailand the trainings have re-started. There will be two international events played, with 4 teams for the Women's AOFC Cup and then the Men's WFCQ 2022 in Singapore in May.

Ms. Vuori reported that the plans for the Membership Service function and the activities to be taken has not been advanced during the first quarter of the year. More discussion with the office needs to be held.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### § 8. International Sports

International Olympic Committee/IOC

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Mr. Eriksson reported that the IOC Executive Board has on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February reiterated the IOC's strong condemnation of the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government and the government of Belarus through its support in this. The IOC EB urges all International Sports Federations to relocate or cancel their sports events currently planned in Russia or Belarus. They should take the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian and Belarussian governments into account and give the safety and security of the athletes absolute priority. The IOC itself has no events planned in Russia or Belarus.

In addition, the IOC EB urges that no Russian or Belarussian national flag be displayed and no Russian or Belarussian anthem be played in international sports events which are not already part of the respective World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) sanctions for Russia.

The IOC President Mr. Tomas Bach has sent out a message Give Peace a Chance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of march to the International Sports community. (**Appendix 17**)

The IOC Recognised IF Senior Manager Mr. Andrew Hofer has contacted the IF's and informed that the IOC Sports Department, will now after the execution of the Olympic Games in both Tokyo and Beijing, set-up meetings with the Recognised IF's to discuss the implications of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5 road map in the coming months.

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

Mr. Eriksson reported that the SportAccord Executive Committee has in their meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February unanimously decided to cancel the SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit, 15-20 May 2022 in Ekaterinburg, Russia. There are no plans to have the SportAccord somewhere else but have some of the planned events during the IF Forum in the Autumn, which hopefully doesn't collide with the WFC 2022 in Zurich. (**Appendix16**)

The process concerning the dissolution of GAISF has not really continued due to the preparations first of the Beijing Winter Olympics and then the war in Ukraine. As the SportAccord has now been cancelled, which also means that the GAISF AGM will be moved and most likely for the IF Forum. There has not been any official information provided from GAISF yet of the new time for the GAISF AGM. Mr. Suman had discussed about the GAISF situation during the Beijing Olympics and the general feeling that the ASOIF and AIOWF sees no added value of having a GAISF.

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

Mr. Eriksson reported that the ARISF AGM has been postponed, since the SportAccord Convention in Ekaterinburg, in Russia has been cancelled, due to the war in Ukraine. (**Appendix 18**) The ARISF Council has discussed the matter and due to the fact that the process concerning the future of GAISF has not moved forward in the last months. The ARISF Councill will now monitor the situation and keep its member associations informed of the development with GAISF. The discussion of a consultation process with the members.

The ARISF Council had an extra ordinary meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March where the Council condemned the war in Ukraine and were in support of the recommendations of the International Olympic Committee and recommends ARISF's members the International Federations to relocate or cancel their upcoming international sport events in Russia and Belarus, and to prevent the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes and officials in international competitions. ARISF also expressed its full solidarity with the Ukrainian sport community, and the Ukrainian people at large and commended on the humanitarian initiatives taken by ARISF member International Federations. ARISF calls for an effective dialogue between the parties

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involved in this harsh conflict, in the interest of the many innocents who irrespective from their nationality are suffering the consequences of the war.

The ARISF AGM 2021 was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December as a virtual meeting. During the meeting president Chiulli spoke on the effects of the pandemic and what ARISF has done for its members. He further congratulated the ARISF sports on the program on Tokyo, Paris, Los Angeles, and the winter Olympics. The GAISF president Mr. Ivo Ferrani stated in his address to the AGM, that the GAISF Council had already decided to dissolve GAISF before the election of Ferrani, which was news to the ARISF membership. Mr. Ferrani promised that we are to find the solutions in the near future and that Ferrani's intent is not to create problems but find solutions for everyone. It was said that the GAISF Task Force will work on the solutions and keep in touch to the members.

Mr. Raffaele Chiulli was voted unanimously as new president, Ms. Anna Arzhanova as vice president and Mr. Riccardo Fraccari as the secretary general. The election for three ARISF Council members gave the following result, with 32 IF's voting out of the 35-member IF's in position to vote. To be elected the candidate needs to receive a minimum of 50 % of the votes, which here was 16 out of 32 given votes.

Claire Briegal, World Netball	25 votes, 78,13%
John Liljelund, Floorball	18 votes, 56,25 %
Tom Hollowell, Orienteering	18 votes, 56,25 %
Claude Azema, Boules	12 votes, 37,50 %
Espen Lund, Kickboxing	12 votes, 37,50 %
Jose Antonio Perez Priego, Waterski	11 votes, 34,38 %

Mr. Suman feels that it was great that Mr. Liljelund was re-elected, especially as he has been trying to find ways to activate ARISF in supporting their members.

#### International World Games Association/IWGA

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Ms. Mitchell that the preparations for the Birmingham World Games 2022 are going smoothly although there is still a lot of details to be confirmed by the local organisers, especially to do with the venue, VIP ticketing, and extra officials' confirmation.

Teams must submit their long list (30 players + 10 officials) by 31st March and then their final list (14 players + 4 officials) by 31st May. IFF have requested the possibility of one additional extra official for the teams who would have the role of Team Manager – which have been confirmed by TWG. The information on how the IFF / National Association VIPs will be handled is still not confirmed which makes planning for these groups very difficult. The latest information is that these persons can be accredited, but exactly how is still a bit unclear. (**Appendix 19-20**)

IFF has finalised the match schedule for the tournament.

IFF held a Team Manager's meeting on  $7^{th}$  of March via Teams and will have another one in mid-April. Mr. John Liljelund and Ms. Sarah Mitchell will visit Birmingham from  $30^{th}-31^{st}$  of March to meet with the local organisers, visit the venue & athlete's village. Mr. Calle Karlsson from USFbA will join for some of the visit and IFF will also meet with representatives from the broadcast company that are planned to be used for the Streaming production.

Contacts has been made with the TWG marketing department to discuss promotional opportunities within the city prior to TWG. Regular meetings are held between IFF & TWG and will also be started between IFF and USFbA.

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The IFF Media team has together with the USFbA Media Mr. Adam Troy prepared a set of player interviews on the Road to Birmingham with players from all eight teams. These will be published during the coming months. The IFF Media team has also made the following promotion plan to support the preparations. (**Appendix 21**)

As the BOC/IWGA through its Broadcasting partner IBS is covering the production of the two final days of the World Games, the IFF Office has made a tender with IBS, PolarHD and the US based company Go Live Sport Cast/Soundque. Based on the tender we have chosen Go Live Sport Cast. IFF will produce the signal from all matches during the three preliminary days and stream it on the IFF channel. The production will include 3+2 cameras, replays and high-lights and the streaming. IFF will also organise the commentary for the Event and has agreed with ISB to provide our commentator to the ISB for the two final days.

IFF has updated our plans for the Demo sport during the event at the World Games Plaza and the USFbA and IFF has published the TWG volunteers application invitation for the TWG on the organisations channels. USFbA has started the discussion with the BOC about the needed volunteers. Mr. Suman feels that we need to combine the match times to interest the audience, but at the same be played at a time interesting for the participating countries.

IFF has also invited the Special Olympics to make a Special Olympics day during the Floorball tournament. The preparations are ongoing and meetings with the concerned US Special Olympics programs have been agreed. The Special Olympics demo games will be played in the intermissions and between the games.

As it is still a bit unclear how the accreditation and what the price for it will be, the CB decided: is that the IFF CB members can participate in the World Games for three nights on the cost of IFF. The members are to cover their flights for themselves and IFF covers the cost in the USA. The suggestion is that the IFF CB members would arrive on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, as the Finals are played on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mr. Liljelund to inform that due to the cancellation of the SportAccord Convention in Ekaterinburg, Russia, the IWGA Executive Committee has decided to hold the IWGA AGM in Madrid, Spain on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

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

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF has had a meeting with the LOC of the European Master Games 2023 in Tampere, Finland discussing their plans for the execution of the Floorball tournament. It was discussed that based on the number of participating teams the number of ages groups will be built. The idea is to have age groups from 35 years up with five-year intervals and play the IFF World Championships in each group. The LOC will prepare a CB decided: for promotion of the Event in 2022.

#### **University Sport/FISU**

Mr. Lopez reported that there have been held a few meetings with FISU and the LOC, in order to try to get more universities to participate and also updating conditions that comes from the LOC. In addition there has been some additional input sent from Mr. Lopez to FISU. Due to this dates and also some conditions for the participants have been changed.

The tournament will be played from the 20.-24.6.2022 in Liberec, Czech Republic. The Official game time in the tournament will be 3x15 minutes. This will allow teams to attend



tournament with less players. The recommendation for the tournament is to have at least 12 players and 2 goalies in the team. The new conditions for participation of universities at UWC Floorball 2022 is that the teams can be composed of students from different universities. The Czech University Sport Association and FISU have set a deadline for participation for the 30<sup>th</sup> of March and there needs to be a minimum of 8 participating teams. Presently there are some 6 teams registered (Czech Republic 2, Slovakia 2, Slovenia 1, Sweden 1) and there is still a possibility to one Danish and Swiss University participating. The participation from Poland is still unclear, as they have already bid for the next edition of the UWG. (**Appendix 22**) Mr. Suman informed the University organisation and the Czech Floorball has been chasing the Universities during the Erasmus meeting. Hopefully the tournament will still be organised with 7 teams.

#### **Multi-Sport Games**

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

Ms. Siriwat reported that the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2023, which will be played from 17<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 in Thailand and in Bangkok/Chon Buri.

As the next edition of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2024 will be played in Saudi Arabia, there is a need to support the formation of a Saudi Floorball federation in Saudi Arabia, to facilitate Floorball on the next edition of the AIMAG in Saudi Arabia in 2024. It would be important to cooperate also with UEA and Dubai.

#### SEA Games 2021

Ms. Siriwat reported on the preparations with regards to the upcoming Southeast Asian Games (SEA GAMES).

The next edition of the SEA Games will be played on May 5<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Phnom Penh Cambodia, and Floorball will appear on the program. There is a need to assist with coaching seminars, setting up the national team of Cambodia, and materials of sticks, balls, and a rink.

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

#### § 9. Committees and Commissions

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

Mr. Klabere reported from the RACC meeting 09.03.2022 (Appendix 23).

The meeting was mainly an informative meeting to update the RACC members of the status with the IFF events and decisions taken by the IFF CB. The RACC has put in some smaller groups for some special tasks.

It was discussed, based on experiences from the last WFCs, that the approval process for the venues needs to be reviewed. The approval time has already been moved to be several months earlier than it used to be but should perhaps also be part of the bidding process so that possible venues are defined much earlier and can be inspected in good time. If it is left too late in the process, then there is no possibility to change venues if they are not acceptable.

The Rules of the Game Edition 2022 has been published (**Appendix 24**). The rules are valid in international matches from 1<sup>st</sup> February for all from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The rules book has now been



made in a professional way, making it easier to read. Mr. Lopez felt that the new rule book is really professional, even if the translations of the new version will be more difficult than before, due to the new type of layout. Mr. Kratz informed that there is available a word version of the Rule book.

Based on a survey, included in the Strategy work, regarding different competition age categories in the member Associations the RACC decided to propose to the IFF CB to update the Competition Regulations with changing the Under 16 to be Under 17 with the age eligibility for this category to be at least 14 years and no older than 17 years.

A Sporting Nationality application form has been worked out (**Appendix 25**) and the CB decided: is that an administrative fee of 50 EUR shall apply.

The CB discussed the outcome of the Future of Floorball SWOT from the IFF Association Meeting, which is prepared by Mr. Klabere (**Appendix 30**). The CB discussed the different aspects of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the Future of Floorball proposal. The CB workshop concluded based on the evaluation to build a FAQ for the Future of Floorball proposal to answer all the potential questions. This will be discussed further in upcoming CB meetings.

The CB workshop had a brainstorming session on the format of the WFC playing system and what potential problems and opportunities there are with the present system. The CB discussed the potential way forward to find solutions in the future. Based on the outcome from the workshop CB decides to give the task to evaluate the current system for Adult WFC to the RACC, especially regarding different number of matches and quarter final system.

<u>CB decided:</u> To approve the reports, to update the competition regulations accordingly and to install an administrative fee for the Sporting Nationality application according to the proposal. Further the CB decided to give the task to the RACC evaluate the current system for Adult WFC

#### b) Referee Committee (RC)

Mr. Lopez reported that the physical Play working group has finalized its work and the material is now ready to be educated to the referees. the implementation work of the Physical Play project has continued after the WFCs, and the RC has received the reports from both the women's and men's Head of Referees regarding the implementation in those events. The RC and the Physical working group are analysing these reports. The plan is to use the new educational material in the Men's WFC 2022 qualifications along with the new rules of the game.

There was a virtual seminar for all the IFF observers in mid-January where the new Rules of the Game and also the Physical Play Project were presented. So that the first steps can also be taken in the IFF member associations broadly to start the implementation of the rules.

The IFF office called for a meeting on the 1st of February 2022 with the secretary generals of the EFT countries, based on the initiative of the IFF secretary general. The mutual understanding in the meeting was that they all supported the new definitions and interpretation in order to slightly adjust the level of the physical play. The meeting also concluded that the countries will follow the situation and a feedback meeting will be held in June 2022 after the first experiences from the qualifications have been handled.

The RC has made the referee nominations for the Men's WFC Qualification 2022 tournaments (also moved after postponed) and the nomination for The World Games.



Mr. Lopez is further to inform that after the WFC 2020 in Helsinki the IFF RC made a counter proposal for a positive solution in the case with the former international referees Mr. Mikko Alakare and Mr. Vesa Vilkki. The referees have though their legal representative turned down the IFF proposal and informed that they will seek a solution by other means and asked for a number of documents related to their referee activities, which the IFF Office has delivered.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### c) Medical committee

Mr. Kihm reported that the Anti-Doping work has mostly concentrated on the normal tasks, but there are some cases open due to abnormal values in some national series.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### d) Athletes commission

Ms. Plechan reported that the ATC has held an online meeting on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of March, discussed and provided ideas and feedback to questions asked by IFF Strategy subgroup 4 about ATC involvement and visibility. The results will be reported by the Strategy Implementation Working Group. The ATC also decided that the members will record individual videos with the members answering the question: Why is floorball important For the World Games? The ATC is eagerly waiting for decision about if and when the Women's U19 WFC will be played this year and are planning a physical meeting during that event or during Men's WFC in Zurich.

Mr. Halonen reported that the IFF and the LOC received a lot of feedback of the colour of the flooring in the beginning of the Men's WFC 2020 in Helsinki. Even though the problems were mainly the light system in the Helsinki Ice Hall based on the fact that the lights have the tendency to be too yellow and that affects to the colours on TV broadcasting and the inability of the TV production company to adjust the TV cameras colour coding during the broadcasts, due to technical reasons. The Finnish broadcasting company has had similar problems previously in the same venue with for example volleyball.

The IFF ran a survey among the athletes during both women's WFC in Uppsala and men's WFC in Helsinki about the colour of the flooring and the result of the survey was quite clear. There were four options to be voted and the winner was the dark blue colour, which was also used in Hartwall arena in Helsinki for the last two days and the dark blue colour received half of the given 150 votes. The IFF office is now planning to use the dark blue flooring with white balls in the future to secure the best possible visibility also on TV and on the stream.

Mr. Eriksson asked how the work has started for the new members of the ATC. Ms. Plechan explained that it will be easier when the ATC can have their physical meeting.

Mr. Liljelund to inform that based on the Strategy work the IFF Strategy Working Group (SWG) a questionnaire directed to the participants of the Men's WFC 2022 in May – June to get a better understanding of how the players can be interested to participate in the work of the national and international federations. The proposed questionnaire has been discussed with the ATC chair Ms. Plechan.

Mr. Eriksson felt that IFF has an active Athletes commission, but it is missing in a number of even our bigger federations. Ms. Plechan had investigated that there are a number of the World Games sports, that has not Athletes Commissions.



**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **Development Committee (DevC)** e)

Mr. Houman reported that the Development Committee was a newly built committee, which was formed after IFF General Assembly 2020 and the work started in 2021. Since it's a new committee, the role for the Committee may change during the period. As the chair for the committee and after talks with a number of persons Mr. Houman would like to propose that the Development Committee would primarily act as an advisory panel for the IFF, in order to give feedback on different topics, which IFF would like to have discussed. Mr. Houman I would like the IFF CB to have an open discussion upon this.

Mr. Eriksson asked if there have been any discussions with the IFF Office and Mr. Liljelund answered that there needs to be a general discussion of the role of the Development Committee, and this should be prepared by Mr. Houman and the IFF Office on the other hand for a general discussion in the IFF CB workshop in the Madrid meeting.

Mr. Halonen to inform that IFF has registered as an active partner to Tafisa's Interact 2 project, which they are carrying out with number of IFs globally to enhance and develop Sport for All activities. The main focus at the time is in Europe due to the fact that the project is partly funded by EU. The IFF is seeking more examples of grass root level actions especially how to activate sports in schools.

The Erasmus project Fit For Future had meeting in Copenhagen in the end of February and the work, even though being quite vast, is ongoing in a very positive way.

Mr. Halonen reported that the plans to start to run the live development seminars during the first half of the year 2022 has been postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. There is a great need for coaching education in several member associations especially in the AOFC area and there are few virtual seminars planned and scheduled for example for Indonesia and for New Zealand, which will be ran by the AOFC educators.

The new rules of the game will also create the need for further educations for the educators in order to secure that the change will be as smooth as possible.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and gave the task to Mr. Houman and the IFF Office to prepare the topic for the IFF CB workshop in Madrid.

#### f) **Entourage Commission (ENC)**

Mr. Hidir reported on the work in relation to the IFF Entourage Commission are working towards having the first meeting of the Committee. Mr. Eriksson felt that it takes time to find the role of the committee and what to start working with.

CB decided: To approve the report

#### 10. **Functions** §

#### Communication function a)



Mr. Kihm reported that the IFF Media function has conducted three questionnaires within the office concerning the IFF Homepage, the IFF social media and the promoting TWG via the IFF media channels. The results can be described as follows:

#### IFF Homepage outcome summary:

- Main purpose of the homepage is to inform about the Floorball Events and inform about Floorball in general (history, rules, what's happening worldwide)
- Fans / Floorball friends and the National Associations are the two main target audiences
- The key info on the homepage should be: All news around IFF events and results (current and past)
- Mainly missing are structured statistics
- Main thing which is needed: being able to create own content and stories

#### IFF Social Media outcome summary:

- Main purpose of the SoMe is to engage / interact with fans and create/share stories/news
- Floorball fans (between 14-35) and everyone within the sports community are the two main target audiences
- The key content should be videos, event results, funny content, votes & competition (interaction)
- Mainly missing / lacking are strategy for content on IFF channels, graphical skills, human resources, video recording material, more stories about people, more competition including prices to win
- Main thing which is needed: more own content, promote our players/teams, more videos from IFF events, regular voting, regular competitions with prices

The result from the TWG questionnaire can be found in the TWG2022\_Promotion.pdf plan (**Appendix 21**)

The IFF Office has been evaluating the existing IFF event app and a new possible app from the provider Choicely. The Choicely app would be a paradigm change: from an event app to a permanent standing app with news, events and mainly a lot of interaction with the community and fan engagement. Furthermore, it would be possible to add, change and create own content from the IFF office without going back to the developers. However, the initial and annual cost are currently too high. At the moment ongoing discussion with the current app provider OK System how to continue.

The IFF Office has been evaluating a provider (StayLive) for an OTT platform. The idea would also be a paradigm change. Moving away from streaming free-to-air (YouTube) to a pay-per-view (PPV) and/or a subscription model. The evaluation-, decision- and approval process should be completed by the end of March 2022. (**Appendix 30**) Mr. Liljelund explained that we are now to choose between a free-to-air with a lot of spectators or a monetizable channel which we can manage ourselves.

Mr. Beer informed that the SUHV is also planning to move into a Pay Per View-model and Ms. Plechan asked what the price model will be. Mr. Liljelund answered that the IFF Office will come back with a proposal for a pricing model in a later stage when we have a finalised model. Mr. Suman asked if we are now making a decision of moving away from YouTube and moving into an own OTT and what is the estimation of loss in spectators and potential financial impact. Mr. Liljelund answered that the estimation is to recover some 25-20 per cent of the YouTube subscribers and in the two first year aim to cover the costs. Mr. Liljelund asked the CB to give green light to go forward and start the use of the channel for the WFC 2022

In summary, all those topics and projects show case that there is a very strong need for a digital (media) strategy paper. This process has been started. The plan is to have a first draft by end of March 2022.



<u>CB decided:</u> To approve the report and to give the Green light for the creation of the IFF OTT from the WFC 2022. The CB is to discuss the content, commercial model, subscription prices and technical details in the CB workshop in Madrid.

#### b) Marketing function

Mr. Beer, reported about the current sales and marketing situation. (Appendix 31)

The cooperation with the Finnish sales agency RCBA is showing first signs of success. They have been working on an approved prospect list and have a handful of active conversations.

The IFF is in direct discussions with TIER (micro-mobility provider), Kauko (provider of seamless digital solutions (devices/software/services)) and their partner Panasonic, Swappie (second-hand iPhones) and FROMM (that bought visibility at the WFC 2020/2021).

Since the meeting with PUMA at the WFC 2021 things have not progressed despite several follow up attempts. Mr. Beer therefore feels that Puma is therefore out. However, Craft has approached the WFC 2022 LOC and expressed their interest in a cooperation. With the recent successful partnership at the WFC 2020 and the bespoke referee shirts the IFF is attempting to spark a discussion with Craft HQ for an IFF level partnership instead of just one WFC.

The custom-made Fisherman's Friend referee shirts from the WFC 2020 participated in the Finnish Sponsorship Awards in the Sports Sponsorship category and received an honourable mention from the jury (creative concept and fresh idea).

PSM has been reporting back the last missing data from the WFC 2020/2021 broadcasters that we can finalise the Quantum Consultancy survey. Even though we will not know all participating nations for the WFC 2022 until June we are pushing PSM to start selling the event well in advance to facilitate the set-up phase for interested broadcasters.

The IFF Hall of Fame was successfully launched during the WFC2020 and WFC 2021 finals. The Selection Committee will be summoned for a meeting during the first half of 2022 to further discuss potential inductions for this year from the good list of candidates from the previous decades. On a general level the next inductions are planned to take place in five years.

Discussion for extending the agreements with the existing IFF sponsors have been initiated. The feedback for an extension of the agreements has been positive and negotiations will be continued.

In preparation for the World Games discussions are also being led with IFF sponsors how they could support show-casing floorball (material support in the exhibition area) and in the form of Best Player prizes (confirmed by UNIHOC).

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### c) Material function

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF is planning to hold the yearly meeting with our test-institute RISE in April, in order to be able to have the yearly meeting of the Material Board still in May.

The new IFF Material Regulation 2022, which was approved by the IFF CB in 2021, will take full effect on the 1st of July 2022.



CB decided: To approve the report

#### d) Equality function

Nothing reported

CB decided: To approve the report

#### e) Parafloorball function

Mr. Houman reported that due to the war in Ukraine, Special Olympics International have decided to cancel the upcoming games for 2023 at Kazan Russia, where 1.800 athletes from around 100 countries should have participated, with around 50+ floorball teams with 400-450 players. There will most probably be held a seminar in Japan, if not hindered the Covid-19 pandemic.

Special Olympics Europe Eurasia have been in contact with IFF, in order to see if it is possible to arrange a floorball tournament, for mostly teams in Europe, now that the Winter World Games have been cancelled.

At the World Games in Birmingham Alabama, where IFF is part of the competition, IFF and Special Olympic are in talks in order to arrange some demo matches during one of the competition days and some seminar for coaches from some of the US programs.

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mrs. Birdal about the electric wheelchair floorball played in mainly Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The Volt Hockey Board consisting of representatives from Denmark, Sweden and Norway are now trying to finalise the new statutes, including calling the activity "Volt Floorball".

In Norway and Sweden, the sport has already adopted "Innebandy" or "Floorball" for the activity.

- Activity is also growing in Canada and recently a few places in the US and Germany.
- Rules of the game will be translated to English after last revision.
- We are preparing an application to the IFF CB to be accepted as an official committee.

The Volt Floorball doesn't consider their activity in conflict with the PowerHockey, that IFF has been cooperating with for several years. The Volt Floorball will make sure to start a dialogue with them soon. The expectation is that the two we could cooperate and learn from each other more than competing for players, as we probably meet many of the same challenges.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### f) Sustainability function

Mr. Halonen is reported on behalf of Mr. Kalsta that the IFF has received the CO2 footprint report from myclimate (office and staff). This will now act as benchmark for future reports for UN Sports for Climate Network (S4CA) reporting. The WFC 2022 is leading the way for event sustainability in meeting S4CA goals by providing concrete numbers about CO2-emissions from Prague 2018, setting reduction goals and how that will be done during the 2022 edition of the event.

Based on the proposal to and approval by the CB the IFF has signed the Letter of Commitment to join the Race to Zero network and this has been confirmed by the organisation.



The new responsibility campaign FairFloorball was successfully launched during the championships at the end of 2021. New footage to endorse the campaign was collected during the tournaments. The first draft of the event study (WFC 2021) indicated that the concept was better known among athletes than spectators showing evidence that it needs to be strongly communicated further to increase the awareness of FairFloorball. This said, the results were ok considering it was just launched at the previous events.

The WFC 2022 has continued to publish material and concepts around their Green Goal concept. Most recently the released the tailormade CO2 calculator for floorball clubs to assist them on their path to fighting climate change. Further, they launched the "Green Goal Award" for Swiss teams. The best concept on sustainability will receive a prize of CFH 5'000 to fund the concept. They also published two partnerships which support their sustainability goals: Swiss Railways (fan transport) and the Accor hotel chain (accommodation). The WFC 2022 will be featured in a podcast (Sustainability Report) with representatives from the IFF, LOC and myclimate.

The recycling initiative "Stick with it!" was ran in both adult WFCs Uppsala and Helsinki. In future events there is more active communication required to make the audience more aware of the collection. In Helsinki collection boxes were also placed in floorball training facilities couple of months before and after the tournament. and this was by far the most successful way to collect material and should be taken away as a learning. The IFF intern has made a preliminary inventory of the material and a decision to be made where it will be donated. The WFC 2022 also have plans for collecting floorball waste plastic which will be utilized to produce recycled prizes.

The IOC is planning to organise the next IOC Carbon Action Award. The IFF had a consultative meeting with the IOC Sustainability Manager Julie Duffus. The renewed concept will be launched during 2022.

The IFF applied for the EU Erasmus+ project (Green Approaches in Management for Enhancing Sports / Improve Good Governance in sport) and it has now been selected for funding. The consortium (six different organisations) is now going through the paperwork and preparation for the project which will kick-off 2023.

**CB decided**: To approve the report

#### § 11. IFF Office

Mr. Halonen reported that There were 571 transfers made during the transfer period of 2021-2022, which is about 20 transfers less than during the previous season. The uncertainty of playing was still visible with the transfer numbers, since the last time the number has been on this level, was in 2015. The number of express transfers was also slightly lower than in the previous season, but there were certain transfers according to the temporary rules, which were made for the pandemic.

The IFF just launched a new transfer type, which is called the refugee transfer. Further Mr. Halonen is to inform that a refugee clause is in force since 7<sup>th</sup> March and will be added to the transfer regulations under § 2 Special transfers. The reason behind that is the war in Ukraine and the intention is to secure the players who have been playing in Ukraine to be able to smoothly transfer to other European leagues and continue Floorball. The transfer can be made out the transfer period and is free of charge.

#### 2.5 Refugee transfer

A refugee transfer can be granted to all players who live and play in a country where the reason of war, natural disaster or equivalent prevents a player from participation in Floorball actions organised by the National Floorball Association in the affected country.



The player may transfer, with no fee, to other countries for playing. This transfer can be done at any time, including outside of the official transfer period. The player shall return to their original (giving) club when the situation so allows, and the return transfer is also without any fee. The transfer form needs to be filled in. If the situation is such that the giving Club and/or national Association is not able to sign the transfer, the IFF will review the application and may approve the transfers without these signatures.

Mr. Halonen informed that the IFF has contracted Mr. James Varecka as an IFF Intern for the IFF Office for the time 20.02.-30.08. Mr. Varecka is a Sports management BA graduate from the University of Gloucestershire living in Finland. In addition to this, the IFF Office has also contracted Mr. Zacharias Signell as a trainee for the period of the 25.04.-01.07.2022. Mr. Signell is a second year student of Sport management at the University of den Hague and he will be working mostly with Media and sustainability questions.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the Refugee transfer clause

#### § 12. Members

Membership questions

Nothing reported

**CB decided:** To approve the report

Members under suspension

Nothing reported

#### **New Member applications**

Mr. Halonen reported that in the last two years, during the pandemic time, it seems that most of the membership applications have been more or less on hold from the applicants' side, but the IFF office has now finally received three applications to become members of the IFF.

All applications come from Asia. Number 76 comes from Kazakhstan (Appendix 27), number 77 from Chinese Macau (Appendix 28) and number 78 from Chinese Taipei (Appendix 29)

All applications include the required documents and the IFF office proposed to the IFF CB to approve the three candidates as IFF provisional members number 76, 77 and 78. The IFF Office has discussed the application of the Chinese Taipei Floorball Federation with the Chinese Floorball Union, which has asked to postpone the approval of the Chinese Taipei Floorball Federation until later in the year to make some clarifications.

<u>CB decided</u>: To approve the report and accept the Kazakhstan Floorball Federation as provisional member nr 76, Chinese Macau provisional member number 77 and postpone the approval of the Chinese Taipei Floorball Federation until later in the year.

#### § 13. Next meeting

Mr. Eriksson to conclude that the next planned ordinary CB meeting (M4), has been planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June in Madrid, Spain





<u>CB decided:</u> To approve the report and have the next CB meeting on the 4.-5.6. in Madrid, Spain.

### § 14. Closing of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting.at 14:09, thanking all participants for their active participation.

John Liljelund Secretary General Tomas Eriksson President

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