

Helsinki, Finland, 11th of September 2024

IFF Central Board meeting 3/2024 08.09.2024 as a physical meeting in Winterthur, Switzerland

Place: *Plaza Hotel Winterthur, Technikumstrasse 12 | 8400 Winterthur , Switzerland*

Participants:	Tomas Eriksson	President
	Filip Suman	Vice President
	Jörg Beer	
	Tamuz Hidir	
	Steen Houman	
	Stephen King	§§ 1 – 9c (remote participation)
	Martin Klabere	
	Carlos Lopez	
	Agata Plechan	ATC chair
	Pakkamol Siriwat	
	Kaarina Vuori	
	Veli Halonen	Operations Manager
	Stefan Kratz	Competition Manager (remote participation)
	John Liljelund	Secretary General
Excused:	Monica Birdal	Treasurer
	Calle Carlsson	
	Sarah Mitchell	Event Manager

Minutes

§ 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson welcomed all members to the third CB meeting of the year 2024 and thanked the CB for a very good CB workshop during the two previous days.

Mr. Eriksson further informed that Mrs. Bakke and Mr. Karlsson was not able to participate for personal reasons and that Mr. King was participating remotely.

§ 2. Approval of the agenda

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

Appendix	10	-	WFC 2024 LOC Report (new)
Appendix	17	-	Future of Floorball Tasks and Targets (updated)
Appendix	20	-	Strategy report September (updated)
Appendix	22	-	License system 2025 proposal (updated)
Appendix	45	-	Player of the Year proposal (updated)
Appendix	48	-	SUHV position paper on the Rule changes (new)

The Appendixes 17, 20, 22 and 45 are updated based on the discussions in the CB workshop.

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

§ 3 **Minutes from the CB meetings: 02/2024 in Solna, Sweden (28.04.2024)**

The minutes from the last CB meeting 02/2024 were scrutinized, approved and put ad acta.
(**Appendix 1**)

CB decided: To approve the minutes of the IFF CB meeting 02/2024

§ 4. **Financial questions**

a) **Financial report 2024 by 31.08.2024**

Mr. Kratz to present on behalf of Mrs. Birdal the financial report and balance sheet as of the 31.08.2024 (**Appendix 2**) and the forecast for the remaining of the financial year.

The outcome per 31st of August is CHF 347.966 which is CHF 50.209 (2023: CHF 297,757) better than last year, mainly due to the cost for the WFC and U19 WFC is to come a bit later this year.

The liquidity per 31st of August is CHF 629.095, which is CHF 81.592 better than the same time last year (2023: CHF 547,503).

The forecast points towards a balanced result for the year with additional funds (CHF 25.000) set aside for The World Games 2025 included

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

CB decided: To approve the report.

b) **Information on IFF claims – License system and WFC 2024 – status August 31st**

Mr. Kratz reported on behalf of Mrs. Birdal that the claims situation by 31.08.2024 for Associations participating in the WFCs in 2024 and separately for those not participating in any of the IFF Events. (**Appendix 3 and 4**).

The Philippines is following the plan made after the last meeting, even being a little ahead of their present plan and a new plan is built with Latvia (**Appendix 5**). Discussions have been held with Great Britain to solve their annual fee 2022 debt and the message from their President is that they will pay but have no cash-flow during the off-season. Mr. Kratz has urged the UKFF to re-build their financial rules to have the money already before the start of the new season.

The status for registrations to the WFCs 2025 is to be presented (**Appendix 6**). All registered countries, except the Philippines, had paid their registration fee in time before the end of May.

The Philippines payment arrived later than 31.5 due to problems with the bank to pay to a Swiss account where Mr. Kratz was even contacted when they were still at the bank. Therefore Mr. Kratz proposes to approve all registration for the 2025 WFC's.

Mr. Liljelund explained that the membership fees for the present year becomes a debt in the end of year. They are booked as claim in the later part of the year, which makes an issue when they are registration for the WFC's in the end of the year.

Mr. King felt that we would build some rules on how the payment plans can be changed. Mr. Suman asked some questions about how the systems work for the membership fees. Mr. Kratz clarified the system.

CB decided: To approve the reports, to continue to follow up on the pay-off plans for Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, Latvia, Malaysia, Philippines and Russia, to continue to follow up on the debts of the non-participating Associations and to approve the teams registered for the WFCs 2025.

c) **IFF General Assembly 2024, 14.12.2024**

Mr. Eriksson informed that the announcement for the 18th IFF General Assembly 2024 has been planned to be sent out on the 12th of September, after the approval of the IFF CB (**Appendix 7**). The IFF statutes state that the first announcement needs to be sent out 90 full days prior to the meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday the 14th of December 2024 in the Malmö Arena Hotel starting at 8:30am.

The nominations and motions from the IFF member associations need to be handed in to the IFF latest 60 full days prior to the meeting and that date is the 14th of October 2024. The IFF needs to send out the Final announcement and the IFF reports, budget, and other documents to the member associations latest by 14th of November 2024, the full 30 days prior to the IFF GA. The registration for the General Assembly will be open until the 22nd of November 2024.

Mr. Liljelund informed that the topics the IFF CB needs to prepare are the Annual report 2023-2024, Plan of Action 2025-2026, Financial report 2022 and 2023 and related auditors reports, Budget 2025-2026, Strategy Implementation process report, CB reports and motions, and possible Statutes updates, based on the Good Governance review the IFF Office will make before November and the confirmation of the update of the IFF Code of Ethics. The Nomination document for the IFF President, IFF CB, the IFF Appeal Committee, IFF Disciplinary committee and the IFF Ethics Commission. The CB will further inform about the updated License system.

The CB discussed the preparation of these documents in its CB workshop on Friday and Saturday. The IFF Office will produce the drafts of the IFF Annual Report 2023-2024 and the Plan of Action 2025-2026 for the CB no later than the 21.10.

CB decided: To approve the report and the IFF General Assembly 2024 Announcement

§ 5. **World Championships**

a) **U19 WFC 2024, Finland**

Ms. Vuori reported on the outcome and evaluation of the U19 WFC in Lahti Finland. (**Appendix 8a**) The venue proven to be ideal for this type of event, where you could run different type of activations, both inside and outside.

The event had in the end a total of 15.941 spectators, which is a new spectator record for a Women's U19 WFC championship. A total of 3.681 tickets were sold, including 300 tournament

tickets, so in total there were a total of 4.881 daily tickets sold. This corresponded to 88 % of the initial ticket sales target. But due to the higher number of Tournament ticket sales, the ticketing budget reached and even went over.

The event budget was created for 2 years (2023-2024). The total budgeted result for the event was -126 000€. The support from the Ministry which turned out to be 50 000€ less than on budget for year 2024 and that is why the budget was fixed early 2024. Also the 3v3 WFC was included in the same budget early 2024. The saving on budget was mostly done in 2024 when LOC saved around 30 000 € in costs. The major issue was caused by much lower sponsorship sales than budgeted. Ms. Vuori expressed that even if the event was a huge success, it has been difficult to gain more girl players.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the streaming broadcasts. The Finnish matches were shown on the Finnish National Broadcasting company YLE's OTT platform YLE Areena and had a total of 77.000 stream starts. IFF had sold the rights for Denmark and then final matches for Czech Floorball TV. The stream was also provided to the German Floorball Final4 event in Berlin during the final weekend. The TV production was done by PolarHD.

The sales for streaming for the IFF App was 29.700 CHF (gross sales last year was 55.900 CHF), giving a year to date sales of 64.000 CHF, compared to 91.000 CHF last year. The number of the registered users is now 64.834, compared to the situation before the U19 WFC and 3v3 WFC 58.687, which is an increase of 6.147 users. It is hard to say why the numbers for the IFF App were significantly less than for the Men's U19 WFC in Denmark in 2023, but one reason is that the Finnish Salibandy TV showed the Finnish games and the semi-finals and medal matches were broadcasted on the YLE OTT channel (YLE Areena). **(Appendix 8b)** YLE showed the Finnish matches on the YLE Areena

The IFF Referee Management reported an incident for review by the Event Disciplinary Function (EDF), involving Mia Osterbo Nilsen, #21 from Team Norway in the match Germany-Norway, which was not penalised by the referees. The EDF found that the infringement was of the level that the case would have to be handled by the IFF Disciplinary Committee (DC) after the Event. The DC dealt with the case and found that the player Mia Osterbo Nielsen was guilty of a violent attack on the German goalkeeper with a suspension of participation in three International Matches, which will be served in the three first Women's National Team Matches. **(Appendix 8c)**

CB decided: To approve the report

b) 3v3 WFC 2024 Feedback Report & Proposal

Mr. Kratz presented the 3v3 feedback report in the absence of Ms. Mitchell. An online feedback survey has been completed as part of the review of the first 3v3 WFC 2024. A total of 161 responses were received with the average experience rating for the event being 7.9 out of 10.

There was feedback collected on the number of players & officials, playing format, field size, and special features like the goalkeeper ball bag. Respondents were asked for their suggestions on changes for future events and the number one answer was that the event should be held over more days. The full report **(Appendix 9a)** and an executive summary **(Appendix 9b)** was presented.

The Majority of the respondents were men (69%), which correlates with the number of male players (68%), and there were respondents from 23 countries. A total of 72% were happy with the playing time and the main dissatisfaction was that it was too short. The respondents would prefer to have 9+2 players (50%), compared to the present 8+2 players (33%), and have two officials for all games (60%). The preferred field size was the used 20x10 (39%), even if a little

bigger field got a number of supports; 22x11 m (29%) and 24x12 m (28%). The majority of respondents (68%) were happy with the placement of the ball bag on top of the goal. Most of the dissatisfaction was due to the difficulty of getting the balls from the bag due to it becoming empty or not being tall enough to reach into it.

The most popular features in the feedback to the playing format of the 3v3 WFC gave the following:

- Possibility for smaller nations to participate
- Speed and intensity of the games
- Possibility to play against lots of different countries
- Teams getting a 'second chance' with B-finals
- The atmosphere with multiple courts under one roof
- Penalty shot
- Goalkeepers being more involved in the game

The following features received negative feedback:

- Not playing a bronze game
- Countries being able to have multiple teams
- Games not spread over two/more days
- Games being played with just one referee
- Penalty shot

Based on the open answers, the respondents wanted to play the tournament over more days and have extra time before the penalties, national anthems before the games, two referees in the games, being able to replace the goalkeeper with a field player and a larger goalkeeper area.

The feedback will be used to make changes to the playing format and regulations proposal for 3v3 WFC 2025, however only minor changes will be possible to implement for the next edition as some elements (such as the number of days) have already been set with the organisers. After the 2025 event a more comprehensive review will be carried out, and bigger changes may be proposed, based on the feedback from both events.

Mr. Klabere felt that the players have had the same ideas that we have had before. Ms. Plechan expressed that this was a perfect event for the ATC members to speak to so many players and work on the ATC visibility. It would be important to have ATC present in the 3v3 events. Mr. Suman felt that if the 3v3 should also be the option for multi-sport events, it is important to build on the approach to minimise the number of the players in the team, as for example Olympic basketball 3v3 which has only 4 players in the team.

Mr. Hidir felt that there should be a package for the 3v3 players to be allowed to participate as spectators for the U19. Mr. Beer informed that discussions are ongoing of the possibility to allow the 3v3 players entrance for the U19.

CB decided: to approve the reports

WFC 2024 Sweden

Mr. Klabere reported on the preparations of the WFC 2024 and the LOC report. (**Appendix 10**)

LOC report. With 100 days to go on August 29, LOC announced that 4,000 final weekend packages remained for sale in Malmö Arena. The LOC also only has 10 boxes left to sell on the final day. Close to 5,000 tickets have currently been ordered by floorball clubs for group stage matches. The ticket purchases at Ticketmaster have been made from the following countries:

Sweden 54% Switzerland 18.5% Denmark 6.5%, Finland 5% Czechia 4.5% Germany 3.5% Norway 3% Rest of the World 5%.

The school project "Little WFC" started locally in Skåne/Malmö in September 2023, and will continue in the fall of 2024 until the championships. So far, over 8,600 pupils up to the age of 9 in 67 schools have been visited by a floorball instructor in a physical education lesson and have been invited to a training session at a local floorball club afterwards. As part of the project, the possibility for schools in the southern part of Sweden to order free WC tickets was opened at the beginning of September. During the first day, 500 tickets were ordered. The project is financed by Visit Skåne and the City of Malmö, with the support of friends such as Gerflor and OBOS.

The championships is now close to get a sustainability certification. The GAMES project will hold its sixth steering group meeting and "Final Conference" (a public seminar) on December 9-10th during the championship in Malmö.

On 27 June, a TV site visit was carried out with the production company PolarHD, SVT, YLE and with representatives from IFF, LOC and the two arenas. Currently, agreements have been signed with partners corresponding almost 70% of the target in the budget. The Swedish LOC is working constantly to monitor the budget, to have a positive

Ms Mitchell reported that after the AOFC qualifications in the Philippines all the teams have now been confirmed and the final groups are as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Norway	Sweden	Estonia	Slovenia
Czechia	Slovakia	Australia	Poland
Germany	Latvia	Canada	Thailand
Switzerland	Finland	Philippines	Denmark

The Philippines Floorball Association should be commended for hosting an excellent AOFC qualification event in Manila in May. This was the first IFF international event that PFA have hosted, and it was managed very professionally.

An updated match schedule (**Appendix 11**) has been published but further changes are still expected based on Swedish TV requests, in regard to the Swedish quarterfinal starting time.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the TV meeting held with the main takers of the TV signal (CTV/CZE, YLE/FIN, SVT/SWE and SRF/SUI) in the end of June. After some adjustment there was a solution found for the Match Schedule. Based on the earlier discussions, concerning the fairness for the teams playing in the quarterfinals, Mr. Liljelund proposes that the IFF CB approves the a system for the playing of the play-off matches so that the host can choose when they play and the other top ranked teams that had to play on the second quarterfinal day would not have to do it in the next WFC, if it can be avoided. If not the place will in the end be balloted, if a solution can't be found. The same system would also be used for the Women's WFC.

The TV discussions with potential TV takers have already started and discussions are held with Germany and Poland. The other countries will be contacted in beginning of September and the offer for the bi-lateral services will be sent out during September.

Mr. Suman felt that it is clear that we need a solution for the quarterfinal days and it would be good to crate a regulation concerning this.

CB decided: To approve the report and to create a regulation for the way the quarter finals will be played.

d) Upcoming Events"

U19 WFC 2025 (Switzerland)

Mr. Beer reported on the preparations of the U19 WFC 2025 to be played in Zürich, Switzerland. The advancement of the preparations are described in the LOC report (**Appendix 12**). The LOC staff will be complete from the start of October. Grasshoppers Zurich will be responsible for 90 per cent of the event volunteers and the build-up of the arenas will be supported by the civil defence. The team bookings will be handle by Gast Reisen SA.

The main concern for the LOC was if the Eurovision Song Contest would have been held in Zurich in May, as then all hotels would have been blocked. Now the Eurovision will be held in Basel and two weeks later, which will make it easier.

The budget of the event is 1,5 million CHF and the goal is to have a zero result, taking into account an investment of Floorball development activities of around CHF 350.000. Most of the public funding (approx. 900.000) is now secured. Some first sponsorships have been sold (Mobiliar and Gast Reisen) and discussions are ongoing with a number of others. The group ballot is scheduled for 19th October in Swiss Life Arena in conjunction with an ice hockey game. Ticket pre-sales are planned for October and the event web page is live on www.u19wfc2025.ch.

The Legacy projects related to the event are the continued promotion of Street Floorball, a number of Inclusion projects in the preparation and in the venues of the event. There will be a Women in Floorball workshop during the event and SUHV will be working with persons with different physical and intellectual disabilities, creating different forms of Floorball for them to play. Schools will be invited for the matches, like in the WFC 2022.

The 3v3 WFC will be played on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd, with a training day on Thursday. The tournament will be played in the AXA Areena and the Tennis-Areena in Winterthur.

Mr. Eriksson felt that the SUHV should be very pleased with having received the substantial support. Mr. Suman reminded that we need to communicate that this is an extraordinary event and not what we demand from coming U19 events. Further Mr. Suman asked the SUHV what the plan is to cover extra costs the participants for one day longer event, as it was agreed during the approval to make the event one day longer. Mr. Beer responded that discussions are ongoing in how this will be made. The LOC will look of making a short report of the objectives the SUHV is looking for to achieve.

Mr. Kratz reported in absence of Ms Mitchell that the communication between the LOC and teams will begin shortly with the Welcome / 1st Information Letter. The LOC had asked about the team transport during the event all being done by public transport, and while the IFF was open to the idea from a sustainability perspective, there was concern about player safety (especially with an U19 event) and the risk of having the transport out of the control of the LOC. The IFF officials can certainly all use public transport, like it was done during WFC 2022, but team transport will remain as normal, being provided by bus transportation.

In the original proposal from the LOC, the 3v3 WFC was to use the same venues as the U19 WFC, however this was not possible when taking into consideration the set-up time needed for the 3v3 as well as providing training times for the teams on the day prior to the event. The LOC has now proposed a completely alternative venue – AXA Arena + the adjoining indoor tennis

centre. The LOC also requested a change to the U19 WFC match schedule with only two games to be played at Swiss Life on Saturday. The match schedule is in the final stages of discussion between the IFF & LOC.

QUALIFICATIONS

The AMER qualification event took place in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada from 2nd – 4th August, with Canada defeating the USA in all three games and qualifying to the final round.

The AOFC qualification will be played from 20th – 22nd September in Honiara, Solomon Islands. In connection with this event there will be coaching & referee clinics and first-time international friendly matches for Solomon Islands against and both New Zealand and Singapore.

The EUR1 qualification will be played in Pruszcz, Poland from 4th – 8th September, with Estonia and Spain qualified. A host for the EUR2 qualification is not yet confirmed, however one National Association is in discussions about hosting the event in Jan/Feb but is awaiting confirmation of a venue, which they will not know about until during September. The Ukraine Floorball Federation did offer to host the EUR2 qualification, however it was decided that due to the ongoing war in Ukraine it was not possible for the IFF to hold an international event there.

Ms. Vuori asked what happens if no association will be able to organise. Mr. Kratz answered that we have a Plan B and in the worst case will have to organise it ourself in Finland.

WFC 2025 (Czech Republic)

This event has now been setup in the IFF Event Management system – Eventello, and the LOC already have several staff for the event who have been assigned responsibility for tasks and communication with the IFF. The official website for the event is in the process of being built and will hopefully be ready for release during September / October.

The IFF and LOC have begun discussions about the match schedule for the event. As the event will be held in two different cities the move from one to the other mid-way through requires the need for a slightly different match schedule than for past events. There are currently multiple versions being considered.

Mr. Suman stressed that this will be the one of the main priorities for the Czech federation. It is interested that most of the important International Sport events in Czechia will be played in Brno in 2025.

QUALIFICATIONS

The qualification groups for WFC 2025 have been confirmed with some hosts and event dates still to be confirmed. **(Appendix 13)**

The European qualifications will be held in two locations. EUR1 with 10 teams will be played in Valmiera, Latvia from 28th January – 1st February 2025. EUR2 with 8 teams will be played in Lignano Sabbiadoro from 29th January – 1st February 2025.

Discussions are in progress with Singapore Floorball Association to host the AOFC qualifications with 8 teams from 18th – 22nd March 2025. This was to be confirmed by end of August, but the SFA is still working on this.

The AMER qualifications will be hosted by USA. Original plans for it to be played in Fort Worth, TX have had to be changed as the planned venue is not available. Dates and city are to be confirmed.

CB decided: to approve the reports.

European Championships 2026

Mr. Kratz reported on behalf of Ms Mitchell reported that creation of the European Floorball Championships Competition Regulations & Organiser Regulations will start during the later part of this year. The CB decided in its last meeting that the competition regulations shall be closer to the U19 regulations than the adult WFC regulations.

CB decided: to approve the reports

§ 6. Club competitions

a) Champions Cup

Mr Liljelund reported on the preparations of the Champions Cup 2024-2025, which has been handled by the IFF Office with a technical meeting being held on the 15th of August for the Northern Conference and then the Northern conference streaming meeting on the 20th of August. IFF has prepared the CC-graphics for the streaming through PolarHD. The initial feedback from the first round in the Northern conference has been quite positive. The Southern conference technical meeting will be held on 10th September.

The streaming has worked quite well, with some minor issues with geo-blocking of the Innebandy TV in Sweden and problems with the start of the stream in Finland for Kepit. In addition there were some minor issues with commentary on the stream and graphics. The sales on the IFF App has been a little better in the first weekend than last year, even with the cost free streaming on Innebandy TV in Sweden and the pay per view on the Finnish Salibandy TV. The sales was CHF 2.966 for the first weekend compared to 2.612 CHF last year. The sales figures after the second weekend doesn't look as good, with a sales of CHF 1.424 (2023: CHF 2.088). So for the Northern Conference the overall outcome for the quarterfinals was CHF 4.390 (2023: CHF 4.700). The difference was that this year the matches were free to view in Sweden over Innebandy.TV. This was also one of the reasons for IFF to ask for a fee from the National Associations for the streaming.

Mr. Klabere reported that the two Pixbo matches had terrible spectator numbers and no junior players in the venue is really disappointing, when there is played world class floorball. Ms. Vuori asked how the streaming rights are divided. Mr. Liljelund explained that IFF has all rights and the countries have their teams home matches and can buy their teams away matches, which has been the case for Finland and Sweden.

Mr. Suman asked about the communication of the matches in the Northern Conference. Both Ms. Vuori and Mr. Klabere answered that there has been much more visibility for the event. The issue has been the term when the games has been played, so early in the season. Mr. Klabere felt that as long we can't player the season longer in the year the federations will push for the early matches in the Northern Conference.

Mr. Kratz reported in the absence of Ms. Mitchell that the Northern Conference quarterfinals were played between 23rd – 31st August and the Southern Conference quarterfinals to be played between 20th – 29th September. **(Appendix 14)**

From the Northern Conference Pixbo IBK (SWE) & Nokia KRP (FIN) have qualified to the Men's semi-finals, while Pixbo IBK (SWE) & Thorengruppen IBK (SWE) will play the women's semi-finals. The Southern Conference quarterfinals will be played in the end of September.

b) EuroFloorball Cup & EuroFloorball Challenge

The decision has been taken, by the IFF Office, to not play either of these events in 2024 due to the lack of organisers. There were several teams interested in playing but none of them were able to act as organiser.

Mr. Lopez explained as the seasons in these countries are played very late until the beginning of the summer, it is too little time to play the Event and the other issue is that there are not enough resources. Mr. Liljelund asked we could have the possibility to look whether we could play the event in the New year period, going back to the old version. Ms. Vuori asked if the issue is the money or the workload, to which Mr. Kratz answered that it is more a question of resources to organise and the timing, than money. Mr. Hidir felt that there is a very great value for the clubs to play the EFC or the challenge. Mr. Houman felt that the clubs are now looking to spend the money on the development of the club and the youth. Mr. Suman asked when we are asking for the interest for the organiser and participation. Mr. Kratz answered that we are asking for the organisers from the federation. Mr. Suman felt that we should not cancel the event now, as Ms. Vuori proposed. It is important to change the system for asking for the organisers and contact the top clubs directly from the IFF. Ms. Plechan also felt that it is very important to continue the playing and trying to find and organiser.

The IFF Competition department has recommended that all the IFF club competitions undergo a full review after the conclusion of CC 2025, and they request that the EuroFloorball Cup & EuroFloorball Challenge events already to be removed from the 2025 calendar until the review is completed. The CB was not after the discussions in agreement with the proposal.

AOFC Club Championships

Mr. Kratz reported in the absence of Ms Mitchell that the 2nd Asia-Oceania Floorball Club "Hohhot Cup" was held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia from 9th – 15th July with women's teams from Thailand, Singapore & China, and Mixed U18 teams from Hong Kong, Macau, China, Kazakhstan & Philippines. **(Appendix 15)**. The event had over 81 million hits on Douying (Chinese TikTok) as well as other new media (only Chinese).

According to the report of the event organisers, the aims were:

1. Youth Floorball Development in China and Asia Oceania Region
2. Identify existing media tools for targeted community especially new to floorball
3. Identify problematic issues for better improvement and readiness in future events
4. Increase awareness for floorball to new communities
5. Provide and support channels of participation targeting amateur team and players who doesn't have event or league in their respective region
6. Increase and improve the referee community in the region with more exposure and support
7. Identify funding and sponsorship issues for future events.

While the aims of the event are well-guided and the media numbers are very impressive the international reach of the event was very limited, and there was no involvement of the IFF in the planning. The IFF has, again, expressed to the AOFC the importance of involving the IFF in the organisation and delivery of such events as we see great benefit for the development in the region and can provide expertise and guidance to event organisers, as well as making sure that news of the event reaches an international audience.

Ms. Siriwat stated that the information was not shared within the AOFC either in due time.

CB decided: To approve the reports but not approve the cancellation of EuroFloorball Cup and EuroFloorball Challenge for 2025. The IFF Office is to come with a proposal for the next CB meeting.

§ 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 held two meetings during the summer, the first on the 14th of June (**Appendix 16a**) in order to discuss among other things, the approval of the Agreement for the IFF Office in Helsinki and the Secretary general with the Finnish Floorball Federation, the IWGA Women's Leadership Course nomination, the renewal of the TV Right Sales agreement with Protocol Sports Marketing, and the agreement with FICS for the WFC 2024 for chiropractic services to the participants.

The ExCo approved the proposed agreement to be signed with the Finnish federation for the IFF Office in Finland for the period 2025-2028, which the Finnish Federation has approved. IFF nominated Ms. Agata Plechan and Ms. Zuzana Svobodová for the IWGA Women's Leadership Course. The IWGA confirmed the participation of one IFF representative, which is Ms. Agata Plechan. The ExCo decided that discussions should continue with Protocol Sports Marketing, but also discussions with other companies should be started, as Protocol Sport has not been very active. The agreement with FICS for the Chiropractic service in Malmö was also approved. Ms. Plechan thanked for the opportunity to join in the IWGA Women's Leadership Course.

The second meeting was held on the 27th of August (**Appendix 16b**), to discuss the changes of the Competition Regulations regarding the Freeing of Players, addition of sanctions for breach of Freeing of Players in the Juridical regulation, preparation of the CB workshop 3/2024 in Winterthur, and the employment contract of the IFF secretary general.

The ExCo discussed the proposal prepared by the IFF Office for the Freeing of Players and decided to propose the IFF CB to confirm the proposal and take effect from the 8th of September. The ExCo also approved the proposed addition of the IFF Juridical Regulations to include a new clause art 25.5. for the sanctions of breach of the Competition regulation for the freeing of players, with a small change concerning the sanction fee for the first infraction. The ExCo further approved the plan for the CB workshop in Winterthur and to give the IFF president the task to sign an employment agreement with the IFF secretary general for the period 2025-2029.

The IFF CB discussed the progress of the next steps of the Future of Floorball process in the CB workshop. (**Appendix 17**). It was agreed that a number of the tasks related to the Future of Floorball will also be included into the Plan of Action.

Based on the positive feedback received from the Good Governance webinar held by the ETC interim chair held in Ukraine, the ETC held an open webinar for all IFF member federations in May. The webinar discussed the general principles of Good Governance and the need for the federations to work with that and the topic of Conflict of Interest. The webinar had around 30 participants from over 20 member federations. The IFF ETC will discuss the next possible webinars in this field. (**Appendix 18**)

The ETC has dealt with an anonymous complaint concerning the Swedish club Storvreta and their social media and decided not to take any action upon it. The ETC has informed the Swedish federation about the case. (**Appendix 19**)

The IFF was saddened by the news that the IFF ETC chair Mr. Harri Syväsalmi has passed away. The IFF has conveyed our condolences to the family of Mr. Syväsalmi and published news about his passing.

CB decided: To approve the report and confirm the decisions of the IFF ExCo.

b) Strategy Implementation

Mr. King reported on the work of the IFF Strategy Implementation, where the Strategy Working Group (SWG) chair has prepared the Strategy Status Report for August 2024 (**Appendix 20**). The IFF Committees and the Office is working with the Suggestion Actions table and updating that ongoingly, in accordance with the decision taken earlier that the updates have to be taken in time for the IFF CB meeting. It is worthwhile to highlight is that nearly all actions have been commenced, with only 6 out of 151 not started yet.

The basic idea for the reporting of the Strategy Implementation for the IFF General Assembly, would consist of the Strategy Status Report, showing the present situation with the different suggested actions and how the work has proceeded with them. In the presentation to the GA we should then lift a few concrete examples of what has been done and where we have challenges. The report will be prepared by the Strategy Working Group (SWG) prior to the next CB meeting in November.

The Strategy Implementation Report from Phase 1 (2021-2024) would consist of a short description of how the implementation plan has been built, using the four Strategy Key Priority subgroups, which built the plan for the specific suggested actions. The Implementation plan has been overseen by the Strategy Working Group (SWG) and the concrete work has been done by the IFF CB, the Committees and the Office. Further the report will highlight a few targets from each Key Priority Area.

The SWG is working on a proposed working plan for how to go ahead with the Phase 2 of the Strategy Implementation. Mr. King and Mr. Liljelund have prepared a proposal for the Strategy Working Group (SWG) which includes a proposal for each Target Suggested Actions, defining the actions and the responsibilities and the timetable, based on the original plan made by the CB. The first draft would then be given to the Office (each responsible person) to go through the suggested actions to see how they can be executed.

The SWG is then to analyse this during the end of the year and the plan could then go to the new elected CB for their further analysis in a CB workshop and to approve it.

Mr. King further informed that an analysis of the IFF Calendar Working Group proposal, on the table at the moment is not in any conflict with the suggested Strategy Key Priorities or of their specific targets. The Target and the Suggested Actions in the Strategy can be reached with the proposal Event Structure and the International calendar, as the Strategy doesn't define a specific outcome, just the actions to be taken.

Quantum Analytics has analysed how well the IFF World Floorball Championships 2023 has been able to advance the targets set by the IFF Strategy. The report is to be analysed as a part of the CB Workshop Strategy session. (**Appendix 21**)

Mr. King is further reported on the work done together with Mr. Liljelund to prepare a proposal for an update of the IFF License System for 2025. The IFF CB workshop discussed this proposal and made some minor changes to the proposal. (**Appendix 22**) Mr. Suman felt that the License system could be a tool to force federations to develop and the Fit4Future the tool to advance the development.

CB decided: To approve the report and approve the License system 3.0 proposal.

c) CB Member responsibilities

Mr. Houman reported about the Six Nations (6NFC) cooperation. The six floorball federations (Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia) that are part of 6NFC held a meeting on June 6th, to discuss changes in the agreement between the federations and to hear Poland, who hosts the next tournament, inform about the upcoming tournament. The preparation of the tournament are going as planned. The tournament will be arranged so all teams will play each other in a single round robin, with playing time of 3x15min. The six federations agreed to remove the seminars that have been held in connection with the tournament. Instead, there was a wish to meet more politically, to discuss the future of floorball.

Mr. Lopez reported that in conjunction with a referee course that is being held for new Spanish referees this autumn, the educational material has been offered to the Latin America countries and three persons from Ecuador and Peru have participated in it. The meeting discussed the situation of Peru and Ecuador regarding recognition and application to IFF and also about the special situation in Brazil and how to move forward. The meeting was very productive, especially because we talked about what it was needed for both perspectives (them and IFF). Peru has already started the process of registration the Federation and waiting for a response. They will go to the Government Office to ask and see how it goes. They have asked for recognition as "Federation" but if this fails, they will ask for recognition as "Association", Ecuador has directly gone to the second via: Association. When they get this they will apply to IFF, they have both started preparing the documents.

Regarding Brazil, Mr Luthi from Floorball4all was very positive. As there are two organizations working in Brazil the "clever" step is to make them join in one and collaborate getting more and better resources and doubling the number of people involved in floorball. So they have done some steps on that way - with the help of Floorball4all. So it looks that they are now looking to the idea much better than before. Mr. Luthi is personally traveling to Brazil in April so he will act there as a mentor to make this real.

The Floorball Federation of Colombia has asked for a meeting, in order to try to be able to register the federation and they are looking to participate in the coming IFF general Assembly. The IFF office has prepared a letter together with Mr. Lopez and it has been sent.

No major development in Chile. IFF has been invited for an online meeting on the 3rd of September by Floorball4All, to discuss the next steps for recognition and joining the IFF for Peru and Ecuador. The development in Mexico continues to go forward. **(Appendix 23)**

Mr. Lopez further reported about the development in regard with the EuroPower, which is now one year old as a group and the group held a meeting in June to evaluate the outcome of the this first year and also reorganize the upcoming calendar and actions. Austria has now confirmed that they will join the group. For the countries, it is very important to have the seminar component related to the matches. Mr. Hidir also feels that the EuroPower helps improving the development of the federations. Mr. Suman concluded that the countries in the EuroPower group are among the most active in the Fit4Future.

The next EuroPower events will be:

October – Quievrechain (France) – for men's teams (France – Belgium – Italy – Ukraine). The tournament is played with 4 games per team, with the 3 X 15 min. format

November – Italy – for women's teams (Italy – France – Belgium – Spain – Ukraine – Austria)

Teams will stay at Bella Italia EFA Village in Lignano Sabbiadoro while matches will be played at the venue in Latisana, which is at 15-20 minutes distance by car. This is an important part of LOC's preparations for the U19 WFC 2026 where the Palasport Arena in Latisana will be the second venue.

Mr. Suman reported on the progress of the Floorball - Fit for Future Program, how the program is being run and what actions have been taken (**Appendix 24**). The program is run as an IFF operation, coordinated by Mr. Frederik Dilger, working four days a week for the program, based on the financial support provided by the EFT countries. The Floorball:FitForFuture (4F) program was officially launched on April 17, 2024. Since its inception, 25 IFF Member Federations have participated in the program, which are all actively involved in the evaluation phase. The registration process was created and in addition to the "original" nine 4F-countries, 20 IFF Member Federations have registered for the development Program. At least two 1:1 meetings (with some federations 3-4 meetings) were conducted with 17 new federations.

The program is divided into two different phases, the first being the evaluation phase and the second being the Development phase, where the countries will create a Development Action Plan (DAP) based on their Maturity Matrix evaluation. In the Development phase IFF will invest substantial support into each federation in the Program, that is why Mr. Suman is proposing that the countries participating in the 2nd phase should need to sign an agreement with the IFF receiving the services of the Fit4Future program. The proposal was discussed in the CB workshop and it was decided that we would include three steps of sanctions for federations not fulfilling their tasks. The sanctions would be one a warning, two cancelation of the agreement and the support provided by the program and three to have to pay a service fee of 200 EUR for each month in the program Phase 2. The former Fit4Future countries will have a meeting in beginning of October.

Mr. Hidir reported on the situation in East-Europe and in the Middle East (**Appendix 26**). An update on the current situation in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Ukraine, and Moldova. The highlight is the upcoming IFF international development seminar planned for October, which will be a good possibility to meet the National federations. This seminar will be held in connection with the Taraz Open tournament in Kazakhstan. Additionally, the Ukrainian Cup, organized in September, will mark the start of a new season.

Mr. Eriksson thanked for a good report.

CB decided: To approve the report and approve the Fit4Future service agreement.

§ 8. International Sports

International Olympic Committee/IOC

Mr. Eriksson and Mr. Suman reported on their experience of the Paris Olympic Games. Mr. Eriksson informed about the IOC session held in the connection with the Olympic Games. There was a number of IOC member wanting President Bach to continue for two new years. Bach informed that he will not stand for re-election and a new IOC president will be elected in March 2025. The session discussed the introduction of the Olympic E-sport games and it will be launched in 2025 in Saudi-Arabia for 12 years. There will be three categories in the Olympic E-Sports Games. They are the Traditional Esports games (Role Play games), Simulated Sports Games (FIFA 2024) Physical Sports Games (E-cycling)

Mr. Suman informed added that after the Olympics, the IOC asked for the nominations for the presidency until the 15th of September. For Floorball it will be very important who will be elected.

IFF has applied for the IOC Development support and have received the support of 32.000 USD accordingly for the three projects: the Implementation of the 3v3 WFC, update of the GoGirls project, and the IFF Good Governance development (**Appendix 27ac**).

During the IPACS (International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport) Good Governance session it was indirectly said that IPACS, which has run the Good Governance review of ASOIF and WOF, will also run it for the ARISF and AIMS IF's. In relation to this IFF needs to update some of its policies and take action to be prepared to meet the 50 IPACS recommendations. The IFF secretary general will make an evaluation of how the IFF is performing today and make a proposal of an action plan for the IFF CB in November, especially if some statute changes are needed.

The IFF Secretary General and a number of the IFF staff have participated in the IOC's Webinar on Good Governance series. The second webinar, held in July was 'Focus on Organisational Integrity', while the next to be held in September will be on principle of Democracy.

Mr. Eriksson felt that it is really good that we actively take part in the webinars.

SportAccord

Mr. Eriksson reported that the SportAccord IF Forum will be held in Lausanne on the 21.-23.10. The program is not yet finalised.

It is still unclear when the SportAccord Annual General Meeting will be held, despite numerous questions asked about this matter. Mr. Liljelund will be the ARISF representative in the SportAccord AGM, as the SportAccord council members can't represent their respective organisations in the SportAccord AGM.

Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations/ARISF

Mr. Eriksson reported that ARISF has invited for the ARISF AGM 2024 which will be held during the IF Forum on the 21st of October in Lausanne (**Appendix 28**). The work in ARISF has been mostly on the internal development of services for the member federations, which will continue during the later part of the year. The fact that elections for the IOC president will take place in March 2025, means that not very much will move on the political scene before that. IFF is working on proposal for membership services that will be presented at the AGM in October.

International World Games Association/IWGA

Mr. Kratz reported on behalf of the Ms Mitchell reported that length of the floorball competition at TWG 25 has been extended by one day to ease the pressure on the playing schedule. Competition will now be held from 6th – 13th August. The official arrival day for athletes and officials will also therefore change to be 3rd August. (**Appendix 29a**)

A second competition meeting was held on-line between the IFF and Floorball Competition Department in Chengdu on 23rd July. Discussions centred around the venue setup, including the FOP layout and lighting, a confirmation of the competition equipment list, delivery of meals at the venue for athletes and officials, and confirmation of the updated match schedule.

Ms Mitchell reported that after noticing that at the Olympics all team sports played national anthems prior to matches, she had asked the IWGA Sports Director about the possibility of any change to the IWGA regulations which currently limit the playing of anthems only to medal

ceremonies. The IWGA discussed this and has advised that they will now allow anthems to be played prior to all final placement matches, giving each team the opportunity to hear their national anthem at least once during the event. This will be updated to the IWGA ceremony protocols.

The 1st Information Bulletin has been published by the organising committee (**Appendix 30**) and a 1st IFF Information Letter for the National Associations will be sent during September. Ms Mitchell will attend the 2nd Competition Manager's Meeting in Chengdu from 23rd – 24th October. This meeting will include a site inspection of the competition and training venues and detailed discussions about the venue plans.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IWGA AGM was held in Esslingen, Germany on the 1st of May, attended by 29 out of the 38 members on-site, after Surfing has resigned its membership. In addition to the ordinary topics, the AGM discussed the opening of the bidding process for The World Games 2033. Based on the proposal sent from the Boules sport about Equity and Diversity in the IWGA ExCo. The IOC is having a Women Lead in Sports Master Program. IOC will give priority for the ARISF/AIMS IF. The cost will be carried by the IWGA.

The AGM approved the amendments of the Rules of the World Games, allowing Aikido to participate in the Games even without having World Championships. The nominations of the candidates for the IWGA Athletes Commission shall be made by March 15th, 2025. IF's can nominate one female and one male candidate.

The AGM approved the American Football Federation (IFAF), which got a total of 22 votes in favour and the International Cheer Union (ICU) which got 22 votes as new IWGA members.

As reported as a part of the ExCo report IFF got one place in the IWGA Women's Leadership program, which was awarded to Ms. Agata Plechan. The IWGA ExCo held an extra meeting in Madrid in August to discuss the present stage of the preparations of the TWG 2025 in Chengdu. The TWG LOC has now approved a slogan and a mascot, which had been presented with the One year to go ceremony on the 7th of August in Chengdu (**Appendix 31**)

The IWGA Media workshop will be held in Lausanne in the end of November and the IFF Event Manager Ms. Mitchell and the IFF Communication specialist Ms Mari Myllärinen will participate from the IFF.

Mr. Suman asked if there is any knowledge what the event will look like. As The World Games is one of the key objectives for next year. Mr. Liljelund answered that IFF Office will start to prepare a promotion plan for the TWG.

University Sport/FISU

Nothing reported

Multi-Sport Games

SEA GAMES 2025 Thailand

Ms. Siriwat reported that Floorball is in for the next upcoming SEA Games. The host city contract was signed in early June for Thailand. In the SEAGC council meeting it was cleared that Floorball will be in for Malaysia in 2027. Mr. Kratz reported on behalf of Ms. Mitchell informed that the SEA Games (9th -20th of December) clashes directly with the WFC, so the teams playing in both will have to go directly after the WFC to the SEA Games.

Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Ms. Siriwat reported on the cancellation of the AIMAG in Thailand. The Olympic Committee of Asia made the decision to cancel the event.

Ms Mitchell reported that the IFF was informed on 19th August of the cancellation of the event. It was scheduled to be held in Thailand from 21st – 30th November, with 8 men's & 8 women's teams competing in Floorball. The organising committee failed to meet the deadline set by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to confirm the budget, infrastructure and other requirements, and therefore took the decision to cancel the event. **(Appendix 32)**

This is a very disappointing outcome for Floorball as this was the first time that it had been included on the AIMAG programme, with the strong backing of Floorball Thailand. The next event is scheduled to be held in 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. An announcement on the dates will be made soon by the OCA.

Mr. Eriksson felt that there is a huge possibility still for the participation for the AIMAG 2026. It is very important to have good contacts with Saudi Arabia.

CB decided: To approve the reports

§ 9. Committees and Commissions**a) Rules and Competition Committee (RACC)**

Mr. Klabere reported from the RACC meeting held 14.05 **(Appendix 33)**. There was a plan to have the RACC meeting in August which was not held due to a number of reasons.

A further update of the text regarding the release of players has been finalised and approved by the IFF ExCo, to have it valid from the 8th of September. The new text is now to be included to the IFF Competition Regulations – National Teams **(Appendix 34)** and the IFF Competition Regulations – Friendly International Matches **(Appendix 35)**. The topic was discussed by the ExCo as the initial idea was to have it approved before the registration of Team lists before the September EFT, but due to timetables it was not possible. Mr. Klabere felt that we need to be very clear towards the National Association that they need to change their own National regulations in order to be able to follow the rules.

Ms. Plechan felt this is positive for the National associations.

The ExCo also discussed the proposed sanctions for non-compliance with the new player release regulations and approved the updated Juridical Regulations to take force from the 8th of September, with a small change in regard to the initial sanction fee for non-compliance with 1.000 CHF. The text to be added to the IFF Juridical regulations Art 25 is as follows:

25.2. If a player, having advised their National Associations of not being available for a national team event to which the player was nominated, then participates in a club match during the same period as the national team event dates, in accordance with the Competition Regulations – National teams & Friendly international matches Art 4.5-4.7, the National Association of the player's club will be sanctioned as follows:

First time (1-2 players) 1.000 CHF

First time (more than three players) 10.000 CHF

Second time (regardless of the number of players) 15.000 CHF

Third time (regardless of time period) Suspension from International Floorball activities for up to two years

Mr. Klabere reported there were no changes in the Rules of the Game edition 2026 proposals sent to the Member Associations, IFF RC, IFF RACC and IFF Athletes Commission for feedback until 31.05.2024 (**Appendix 36a**). Regarding the request for proposals on an activity rule there were no proposals sent to IFF. The only comment coming back, was the Czech federation asking that some of their proposals were not approved and if this was the final decision. The idea was to include some rules already for this season, which are more clarifications.

Further Mr. Klabere reported that the rules group has had a meeting to handle the rules proposals possibly to be implemented already 2024 and the rules to be tested by Sweden and Switzerland. The rules experts Mattias Linell and Niklaus Güpfert has worked out texts for these and also come to the conclusion that some of them would be too complicated to implement immediately but need more preparations aiming for 2025 instead (**Appendix 36b**)

Mr. Beer reported about the Swiss federation position paper concerning the proposed Rule Changes to be implemented earlier (**Appendix 48**). The SUHV feels that there is not enough time to educate the referees for the season 2024-2025 and proposes that the changes would come in force for the season 2025-2026.

Mr. Klabere felt that as there are some challenges with the time of education in the member federations and therefore the implementation of the rules in this season will be difficult. Therefore Mr. Klabere proposes that we would only include these rules only for the season 2025-2026.

Mr. Suman asked if there were six-seven rules that were to be proposed to be implemented already for this season and then separately two rules that Sweden and Switzerland wanted to be tested. Mr. Klabere confirmed that this is the case. Ms. Vuori asked if the substitution players can warm up standing in the substitution zone.

CB decided: To approve the report and to confirm the ExCo decision to update the Competition Regulations, Juridical Regulations and the game rules proposals and inform them accordingly to the members. Those rule change proposals aimed for the season 2024-2025 will be implemented for the season 2025-2026.

b) Calendar Working Group (CWG)

Mr Klabere reported from the CWG meetings held on 25.06 (**Appendix 37a**) & 16.08 (**Appendix 37b**)

Ms Mitchell has made a proposal for a 4-yr WFC competition format with continental and international qualification events (**Appendix 38**). The CWG identifies that the following steps should be taken:

- 1) Decide on whether to change to the 4-yr cycle;
- 2) Confirm the competition structure within the 4-yr cycle;
- 3) Determine the playing formats of the events within the new competition structure, including the WFC format;
- 4) Decide on the schedule of the events (in which month and year they are played);
- 5) Decide on when the new system would be implemented.

The CWG will arrange an online information session for all National Associations (date to be confirmed by the CB) to explain why the change is being considered and how it will impact the NAs in the future. The CB is to discuss the question during the CB workshop.

In the interim period, there are some changes being discussed to the international calendar that could be implemented already earlier, regardless of whether we use a 2yr or 4yr WFC cycle in the future: The CB discussed these changes and found that there still needs to be a further preparation made by the RACC.

- 1) Move the Adult WFC to be played in October
- 2) Move the U19 WFC to be played in February
- 3) Move Adult WFCQ to be played in September – December of the year prior to the WFC (no set dates so as to help ease the problem of getting organisers)

CB decided: to approve the process of going forward based on the idea of a 4-year cycle and organise a consultation webinar for the member federations on the Event structure. The CB further decided to prepare the changes for the interim period by the RACC

c) Floorball Germany Administrative Sanction for the use of non-international referees

Mr. Kratz reported on behalf of Ms. Mitchell reported that Floorball Germany played two international matches on 22nd July (GER MU17 v SLO MU19) and 23rd July (GER MU19 v SLO MU19) and used non-international referees to officiate the matches, without the approval of the IFF.

The information of the matches was submitted to the IFF on 10th July, which in itself meant that a sanction of CHF 1000 was given to the association, due to the late notification of the Friendly Internationals. The payment of this invoice is still outstanding.

Due to the late arrival of the notification, the appointment of international referees was very difficult because of limited availability. The association asked about being able to use a German pair who referee the national league but are not international referees, or part of the Referee Development group. The association was clearly informed, on numerous occasions that this was not possible and provided the names of the international referees that they could have for the event.

Despite the information about the need to use international referees, and the information about the sanction that would apply if they proceeded with the matches with their local referees, the local referees were used.

A report of the incident (**Appendix 39**) outlines the communication between the IFF and Floorball Germany on this matter. The IFF Office recommends a sanction of CHF 2.000 according to the IFF Juridical Regulations:

Article 22: Involvement

Anyone who knowingly takes part in committing any infringement of the IFF Regulations and/or Guidelines, either as instigator or accomplice, is punishable.

and

Article 27: Non-observance of IFF rules, regulations and guidelines

27.1 Failing to follow the rules, regulations and guidelines from the IFF and the event organiser

CB decided: to approve the report and decide to give Floorball Germany an administrative sanction

d) Referee Committee (RC)

Mr. Lopez reported that the IFF Referee Committee has decided that the educational webinars have been postponed being organised for the new group of international referees for the period 2025-2026, due to the nomination period starting now in September. The office has sent the information and criteria about the new nomination period 2025-2026 for the international referees and referee coaches to the member associations on 5th of June 2024 and the deadline to send the proposals to the IFF is on the 20th of September 2024. The planned educational webinars have been planned to start for the new nominated referees after the final approval by the CB in November 2024

The referee nominations for the first round of Champions Cup have been made and also the WFC 2024 referee and referee coach nominations have been sent out with seven referee pairs and four referee coaches.

The RC is preparing, together with the educational working group, the main educational topics for the upcoming season. There are some general topics for leadership and then more specific guidelines to handle the "empty hand" offences meaning offences, which are carried out with the hand not holding the stick and are usually very difficult to notice but cause a lot of complaints from the teams' side.

The RC will run a seminar for all IFF referee coaches in conjunction with the WFC 2024 in Malmö and that will be carried out during the first weekend of the event.

Mr. Lopez stressed that we need to invest to have referee coaches to not only WFC's and WFCQ's, but also other tournaments.

CB decided: To approve the report

c) Medical committee

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Varecka that WADA has now found us to be fully Code Compliant after a decision of the review board. **(Appendix 42)**

Mr. Varecka has continued to work on the already earlier indicated needs to have a renewal of the IFF Medical Committee composition. Discussions have been started with a candidate from Switzerland, which will continue during the coming months and the IFF secretary general has had discussions with one potential candidate from Finland.

The 2025 WADA Prohibited List is yet to be announced by WADA and will most likely be coming around September.

Mr. Varecka is planning to start a new dialogue and create a letter to send to all member associations explaining in detail the processes for TUE applications and to encourage Member Associations to apply for these via their National Anti-Doping Organisation. Also to be included in the letter to the Members will be the Anti-Doping education requirements for participating in IFF events and the different ways that the NAs can get their players to complete this, as well as what they need to provide to the IFF for proof of education. This is being done in collaboration with Ms. Mitchell.

More TUE applications continue to come in which is causing problems with our limited Medical Committee, especially during summer vacations or if the applicant has the same nationality as one of the Medical Committee (as this excludes them from being able to participate in the TUE approval process). This is one of the reasons for encouraging applicants to apply for a TUE via

their NADO instead to make the process easier for the IFF by only needing to recognise the NADO-approved TUE for use in our events.

Mr. Beer informed that the SUHV will work to find their candidate for the Medical committee.

CB decided: To approve the report

d) Athletes commission

Ms. Plechan reported on the activities of the ATC. The ATC has been working on a project called the AT Buddy, where the ATC members and experienced players are supporting U19 athletes from smaller countries. (**Appendix 40a-b**) In recent months, the ATC has been actively holding meetings during the U19 WFC in Lahti, the 3vs3 WFC weekend, and online.

The time in Lahti provided ATC members with the opportunity to have many valuable conversations with floorball players from around the world. This led to extensive feedback about the 3vs3 WFC, which was collected by ATC members. After the meeting in Lahti, the idea of the ATC Buddy program was finalized (**Appendix 40c**). The ATC proposes a testing period starting in September 2024 with selected players who have agreed to participate. The feedback gathered during this period will help determine the future of the ATC Buddy initiative.

The last ATC meeting was held online on August 7, 2024. ATC members discussed the next steps for the ATC Buddy program and the Rules of the Game. The ATC noted that the current rules for penalty shoots are too complicated. A similar concern was raised about the rules for bench penalties in the current rule book, though the ATC recognizes that simplifying these rules is a challenging task.

Last blog article will be delivered by Jarno Ihme in September. With this article we will finish our round of blog articles written by each ATC member.

The ATC has in their meeting decided to have Ms. Agata Plechan nominated for a seat at the WADA Council.

Mr. Liljelund proposed that the CB would decide on the confirmation of the ATC chair prior to the sending out of the final announcement of the IFF General Assembly. The reason for this is that as the CB consists of 1+9-11 members plus the ATC representative, with our present Statutes we could end up with a representation quota problem of the 30 per cent of both genders, if the ATC chair is only elected after the election of the ATC in connection to the WFCQ in January 2025. To keep the functionality of the IFF CB the proposal is to elect Ms. Agata Plechan as the ATC chair for the period 2025-2028.

CB decided: To approve the report, the ATC Buddy programme, and ~~the~~ elect Ms. Agata Plechan as the ATC chair for the period 2025-2028

e) Development Committee (DevC)

Mr. Houman reported that he Development Committee (DevC) asked the IFF members with less than 3000 licensed players/members for a proposal of how to attract new players and there were eight members replying in April 2024. Based on the feedback the intention was to have a joint meeting to talk about the topic in August, but due to the European summer vacation season the meeting has been postponed to September and the results will then be presented to the CB in November.

Mr. Halonen reported that coaching and referee development seminars will take place in Solomon Islands in the end of September with the help of Floorball Australia and AOFC. A two-day coaching seminar will be organized in Helsinki in September for few coaches from Hong Kong. A referee clinic is to be run in Singapore for the international level referees in the AOFC area due to the cancellation of AIMAG and AOFC Cup in 2024, otherwise, there would be too long a break for the referees without matches. Some discussions are also ongoing for Americas, but nothing so far decided.

A coaching and referee seminar is planned to take place in Kazakhstan in the end of October 2024 in conjunction with a 3v3 friendly tournament. Other countries nearby will also be invited.

For the beginning of 2025 the plan is to run webinars and also to organize more full-scale seminars for the members. The financial challenge still seems to exist, and the members are much more careful with possible financial burdens than they were before Covid even though it's been already more than two years when the immediate effect of Covid ended.

Mr. Suman felt that it is important that the Development committee should inform about what activities are made in the name of the committee to its members.

The Africa Cup 2024 will be played in Nairobi in Kenya from the 14th to 15th of September with teams from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya and Morocco.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the COACHES Erasmus+ program (Creation Of a Holistic Coaching Education Structure for Floorball) has not received the approval of the EU. Based on the scoring and feedback the COACHES project received, the project is pretty viable and should have good chances to be accepted after some modifications. **(Appendix 41)** The main criticism is related to the lacking analysis of the educational situation in the countries and the specific problems of the participating countries. Further the inclusion aspects are not sufficiently developed and the digital aspect remains undeveloped. The IFF and Eerikkilä Sport Institute is planning to make the application again for 2025

CB decided: To approve the report

f) Entourage Commission (ENC)

Nothing reported.

CB decided: To approve the report

§ 10. Functions

a) Communication & Media function

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Varecka that the daily business of the IFF Media department runs normally. The cooperation with the LOC media team for the U19 WFCQ 2025 and the WFC 2025 and planning for the Events is ongoing.

CB decided: To approve the report

b) Marketing function

Mr. Beer, reported about the current sales and marketing situation. **(Appendix 43a)** Discussions has been held on how to be more active, create better products and looking over the sales system for the major events.

Good cooperation with the Swedish Federation continues, we have some potential companies to offer visibility elements which belong to the IFF. A sales push will be made by the Swedes by including IFF held rights into their final sales packages / negotiations. Even if there had been contacts to RBCA in June and July, the agency RCBA informed us that they are not able to assist us in our sales (due to challenging market situation they have to focus on short-term income). Therefore, the agreement has been terminated. The IFF took contact with an experienced sponsor salesperson (background e.g. from both sponsor (Valio, biggest Finnish dairy company) and rights holder (Finnish Ski Sports) side)) for a possible cooperation. He and the former Finnish Floorball Federation marketing manager are working jointly as entrepreneurs. Further, as member of the European Sponsorships Association, IFF has asked them to introduce us to their large network of agencies as an organisation looking for assistance in selling our sponsorship rights.

The IFF is continuously in contact with companies that have been sponsors in past events (Dachser and Fisherman's Friend (discussed to repeat the referee wear for 2026/27)) and pushing for new ones (e.g. iFolor). During summer we have had good meetings for example with Vitamin Well (drink) and Kuusakoski (recycling company) and have submitted suggestions for ways to collaborate.

As sponsorship revenue has been limited and the financial structure for the IFF will change (headquarter set up with the Finnish Federation and the financial support that will most likely decrease) there is a need evaluate alternative models to create revenue. Some elements have already been introduced in the LOC agreements (ticket revenue commission / commission for exceeded sales target). Going forward at least three options can be considered: 1) Based on good local sales results, increase the ad space the LOC receives (with a IFF commission) 2) Create a combined sales model with EFT countries where we could include added visibility in other IFF events (which could attract brands to operate on multiple markets / revenue share model) 3) Investigate new possible (European) Sports Marketing Agencies as sales agents.

The IFF has been negotiating with Protocol Sports Marketing for an agreement with new terms and requested a proposal based on our wishes (mainly shorter agreement term). Later we received a memo which to our surprise referred to the renewal clause in the agreement and insists that the agreement has been renewed for further five years based on the accrued gross revenue. As they had not considered our wishes on new agreement terms the IFF, after legal consultation, has decided to terminate the contract. This said we are still in discussion with them to find a solution. After the latest call with PSM they have asked the IFF to submit a proposal which will be prepared during the first week of September (three-year agreement term, retainer amount, terms/targets of gross revenue for agreement renewal, retainer payment conditions connected to successfully reaching sales targets). Mr Liljelund has also mapped other distribution agencies, so we have alternative solutions.

In the future IFF will offer the national federations the possibility to include national sponsors in the IFF App visible for country-specific users (based on user's phone prefix) on a 60/40 revenue share basis. Based on discussions in the latest CCMNG meeting the IFF will during first week of September prepare sales material for national federations with target to get some sponsors already for WFC 2024. Further IFF will offer non-IFF event organisers the possibility to stream matches on the IFF App. It has proven to be a good model to offer organisers access to a floorball audience, increases the content offering and generates some revenue for both parties.

The Champions Cup is not generating interest for partnerships. The numbers for the events in terms of spectators and stream visibility (in general) are not convincing, and there is still the

possible conflict of competing brands as the regulations define the use of local flooring and rinks (and possible exclusive agreements of clubs e.g. Storvreta/Nike). Furthermore, it has also become clear that creating material for all events, especially in the early stages with many matches and different venues is quite time-consuming.

The IFF has actively been in contact with the clubs participating in the Champions Cup 2025 to make sure the venues have good presentation of the CC2025 image. The material is predominantly for digital surfaces (screens / LED panes) and the IFF has tried to accommodate the varying material needs in the venues. The IFF media team has been active in promoting the Champions Cup and it has been nice to see that teams have been somewhat active. Due to active measures from IFF media on CC Instagram it received almost 800k views in the period between 19.-27.8 with 16% being followers and 84% non-followers (!!!).

Based on the idea to create new revenue streams for the IFF the first organiser agreements with a commission on ticket sale income have been negotiated (U19 WFC 2025 / WFC 2025). Further clauses are also introduced whereby the IFF is entitled to a commission of sponsorship revenue above a certain target amount.

The CCMNG meeting was held in Malmö 29th of August. The agenda consisted of sales and marketing related topics, success cases and development ideas/possibilities. The possible new sales models (for example combines sales) was also discussed. (**Appendix 43b**)

The idea of connecting national federation sponsors via a networking event has moved forward. This will take place during the WFC 2024 on the 12th of December at the Malmö Arena (**Appendix 44**). We expect to have 40-50 people attending. First there will be official programme followed by networking in the VIP area (and possibility to watch the quarterfinal match).

The launch of the 3V3 WFC was a success, brand and logo included. The plan is to use the same logo also for future 3v3 events but leave some room for the LOC to adapt the colour. A guideline for LOCs is ready and has been submitted to the next organising committee. After further investigation of the existing IFF sponsor agreements the rights are covered for PUMA, but other branches create opportunities for next partners. There are big potential for floorball brands and we need to discuss this with the existing partner and then with others to map the full picture

The IFF CB workshop has revised the Player of the Year concept and the preparations will continue based on the changes made to the proposal in the workshop (**Appendix 45**)

CB decided: To approve the report

c) **Material function**

Mr. Liljelund reports that IFF has held the annual meeting with the IFF Material Board (**Appendix 46**) The Material Board discussed the present situation on the market and the yearly duties related to the Material Development support, which is given to Floorball Canada for the second year of their three-year program. The situation with RISE is still open and ~~after~~ the discussions with the RISE leadership will continue in October, after which we know how to continue with the process. A decision must be taken latest in December of how we will continue to give the manufacturers time to prepare.

Mr. Halonen reported that the B4G Group Oy has taken over the Exel Floorball operations and applied for the move of some of the IFF Material certificates for the Exel Floorball brand. In order for this to be possible B4G must comply with the IFF Material Regulations. In order to do that they need to pay the cost for the move of the certification from E-SG Oy to RISE and pay the other costs related to the move of certificates. This Exel/B4G has done.

For IFF to approve the move of the certificates, B4G Oy needs to pay all the outstanding debts to IFF. IFF has agreed to make a payment plan, like the one we had with Exel brand/E-SG Oy for the outstanding debt of an equivalent of some 274.000 SEK, to be paid to the IFF, with a monthly payment of 1.000 CHF until the 31st of May 2026. (**Appendix 47**)

The further plan is to start a process to look over the rules for the goalkeepers' uniforms, in order to solve the issue with present goalkeeper shirts and trousers.

CB decided: To approve the report

d) Equality function

Ms. Vuori asked if there are any plans for the IFF CB running the Fifty-Fifty program, as it would be important to run this in the IFF CB. Mr. Klabere informed that the Swedish federation CB will start running the program this autumn. Mr. Liljelund answered that we will need to see what happens with the Fifty-Fifty program as a whole and to discuss how to handle this.

CB decided: To approve the report

e) Parafloorball function

Mr. Houman reported that the growth of floorball within Special Olympics has been amazing, during the period that year data has been collected, and since 2023 the number of programs offering floorball has increased from 72 to 97. The total number of athletes playing floorball at Special Olympics has reached 50.000. Floorball was first introduced at Special Olympics in 2008 and after a slow start, the development has been very fast and with an extremely positive response within the organisation.

The big challenge ~~is~~ for IFF is to translate the growth of floorball within Special Olympics to directly benefit IFF by way of more federations being established and joining IFF and the IFF competitions.

In March 2025 Special Olympics will host World Winter Games with 32 programs in the floorball tournament. Several of the programs are from nations where IFF is yet to have a member federation. The participating nations are Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bharat, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Japan, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the discussions with the Swedish Floorball Federation Parasport section, which has been leading the group of different Para Floorball disciplines (Special Olympics, Manual wheelchair, Volt Floorball and Power hockey) have not proceeded during the last months. IFF is waiting for the different ParaFloorball organisations to come back to the IFF.

CB decided: To approve the report

f) Sustainability function

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Kalsta that during the coming months the IFF will prepare reported the office emission numbers according to the Sports for Climate Action requirements.

FairFloorball has been visible in all Champions Cup 2025 events. Moving toward the WFC 2024 we are planning on environmental sustainability awareness raising campaigns in line with the sustainability theme of the championships

The IOC published their Sustainability Case studies in May and those included two cases from floorball: Green Goal initiative at the WFC 2022 and the Fifty/Fifty equality online training module

The GAMES project is progressing well under the guidance of project lead Sant'Anna. The three-year project is nearing its end, and the final conference will be organised during the WFC 2024 (9th of December). The conference will present the outcomes of the project and a conference room for 80-100 is booked. All consortium partners will be present (Sant'Anna, Biathlon Union, World Athletics, Swedish Federation, IFF). The goal is to attract as much attention as possible while this takes place during the championships. The IFF periodically publishes news about our participation in the GAMES project and the results thereof. One of the last elements in the project for floorball will be the evaluating the success of planned operative GAMES goals for the WFC 2024 by the end of February 2025. The LOC sustainability partner Greentime will make the overall evaluation. As a reminder the WFC 2024 LOC has the goal of making the championships a "Certified Sustainable Event".

GAMES project will also participate in a panel in the IF Forum 2024 (Lausanne) on the 23rd of October. The topic will be "Advancing sustainability in sport through EU funding"

CB decided: To approve the report

§ 11. IFF Office

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture has provided the support to the Finnish Floorball federation for the year 2024, to support the IFF Office with 70.000 EUR.

Mr. Liljelund to further inform that Ms. Blanka Benyó will start as Office coordinator from the 1st of September and IFF are discussing a change of the agreement with Mr. Juerg Kihm, to only work with the IFF App, working only with 20 per cent for IFF. He will further continue working in IFF Events and Development seminars on a case-by-case basis,

The IFF office has looked over the job descriptions and tasks of every employee, to clarify the responsibilities of all employees. This document will be evaluated each year.

CB decided: To approve the report

§ 12. Members

Membership questions

Mr. Halonen reported that the IFF CB has decided to change the member associations in both in Cameroon and Burkina Faso during the last year. In Cameroon the new association has started very actively and the same goes in Burkina Faso. Challenges in Burkina Faso is caused by the internal overall political situation in Burkina Faso due to the political changes caused by the military overthrow in 2023 and its effects on the political situation.

CB decided: To approve the report

Members under suspension

Nothing reported

New Member applications

Mr. Halonen reported that at the present time there are no membership applications to be brought for the CB to decide, but there are few African countries in the process, such as Morocco, Malawi and Tanzania. Also, from Latin America some interest shown and the office is working on those.

CB decided: To approve the report

§ 13. Next meeting

Mr. Eriksson to concluded that the next ordinary CB meeting (M4), has been planned for the 2nd - 3rd of November, in Helsinki, Finland. Starting on the morning of the 2nd of November. Ms. Siriwat informed that she will have to excuse herself for the meeting.

The plan for the further CB meetings in 2024 is:

M5	13.12.	Malmö, Sweden
	14.12.	GA Malmö
M6	15.12.	New CB

CB decided: To approve the report

§ 14. Closing of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting at 12:47.

**John Liljelund
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson
President**