



Covid-19 Impact Study 2021

Final Report

Introduction

Since early 2020, Covid-19 has affected all our daily lives. The global pandemic stopped people from enjoying their hobbies, meeting friends and family, travelling, or even working as normal. The speed at which the virus spread, and the loss of life was enormous. Face masks, lockdowns and PCR tests have become part of regular life since that time. There has been an unimaginable impact on us all.

Most sport was cancelled or postponed starting in March 2020. Major sporting events, including the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and football's EURO 2020, were postponed, resulting in hundreds of millions of euros being added to the event budgets. The return to sport was complicated. Covid-19 protocols had to be written. Local and national regulations had to be implemented, travel restrictions, quarantine, vaccine certificates, spectator restrictions, plus a myriad of other obstacles had to be navigated.

The impact caused by the pandemic on Floorball activities has been substantial. There is not a single IFF Member Association who has not been touched by the effects of the pandemic. This report by the International Floorball Federation aims to identify the areas of the sport that have been hardest hit. By having a better understanding of the impact, the IFF, Member Associations, Clubs, and greater Floorball community can focus their resources on the areas where it will be needed most.

Cover image: Alissa Eckert, Dan Higgins / CDC

Survey Method

The Covid-19 Impact Study survey and its results were designed and analysed using Webropol, an online survey software tool. The survey was sent out to all 74 IFF Member Associations, of which 32 (42%) returned a completed survey. The study was conducted during April and May 2021, meaning that the answers relate to the MA experiences of the second half of the 2019-20 season and the whole 2020-21 season. The survey consisted of a total of 107 questions in nine different categories:

1. Competition
2. Participation
3. Referees
4. Organisation
5. Media
6. Marketing
7. Transfers
8. Finance
9. National Teams & IFF Events

In addition to the MA survey responses, the IFF Administration itself completed an analysis of how Covid-19 effected its operations during the same period. Similar categories and questions to those used in the survey were addressed by the IFF. Along with a short summary of the member responses an Impact on the IFF is included at the end of each section.

In Appendix 1, all text answers to questions are included. Some answers have been edited slightly to correct grammar as well as to maintain anonymity, especially regarding answers on financial matters.

1. COMPETITION

1.1. Were you able to complete all national competitions in season 2019/20? (Q.1)

This includes all competition categories - adults, juniors, seniors for any competitions scheduled between September 2019 - June 2020



The data gathered from this question shows the general impact of Covid-19 on floorball. 25 Member Associations (MA) could not finish their national competitions while only seven MA could complete the 2019/20 season.

1.2. Tell us how your competitions were affected in season 2019/20 (Q.2)

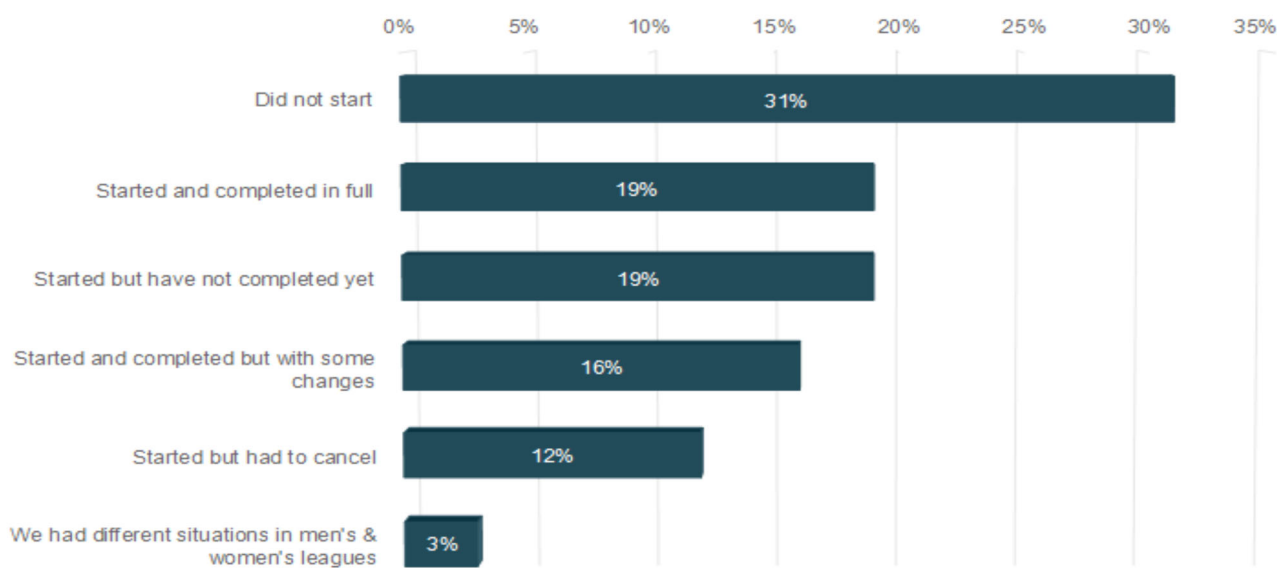
Give details of how all age groups (junior, youth, adult, senior) were affected in the period September 2019 - June 2020

Most Member Associations were forced to stop the season in February or March 2020 due to national lockdowns. In adult competitions, many countries did not announce any champions due to the final rounds being cancelled. After lockdowns were lifted and restrictions eased towards the middle of 2020, only a few countries decided to organise playoffs and final weekends. Most countries were forced to completely cancel junior competitions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.3. Were you able to start / complete the season in 2020/21 for your highest leagues? (Q.3)

This includes both men's & women's highest league scheduled to be played between September 2020 - June 2021

For 2020/21, almost a third of respondents were not able to start their highest leagues at the beginning of the season - usually around September / October in most countries. At the time of the survey, only six countries had been able to start and complete the season without interruptions, five countries finished the season with some changes in rules, while four began the season but were forced to cancel their highest leagues.



1.4. Tell us why you could not complete / start your highest leagues in season 2020/21, or what changes you had to implement in order to complete the competition (Q.4)

What were the main issues? Government restrictions, financial issues etc during the period of September 2020 - June 2021

The main reason why season 2020/21 could not be started or completed was due to government restrictions, and the most common problem was not being able to practice together as a team due to restrictions on the number of people that could gather in social environments. As a result, competitions were postponed and cancelled with a few exceptions where playoffs were played on a one round basis.

The cost of participating in competitions was also impacted in some countries by teams having to take regular Covid-19 tests to be allowed to play. Without any financial support the costs were too expensive for many teams to cover. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

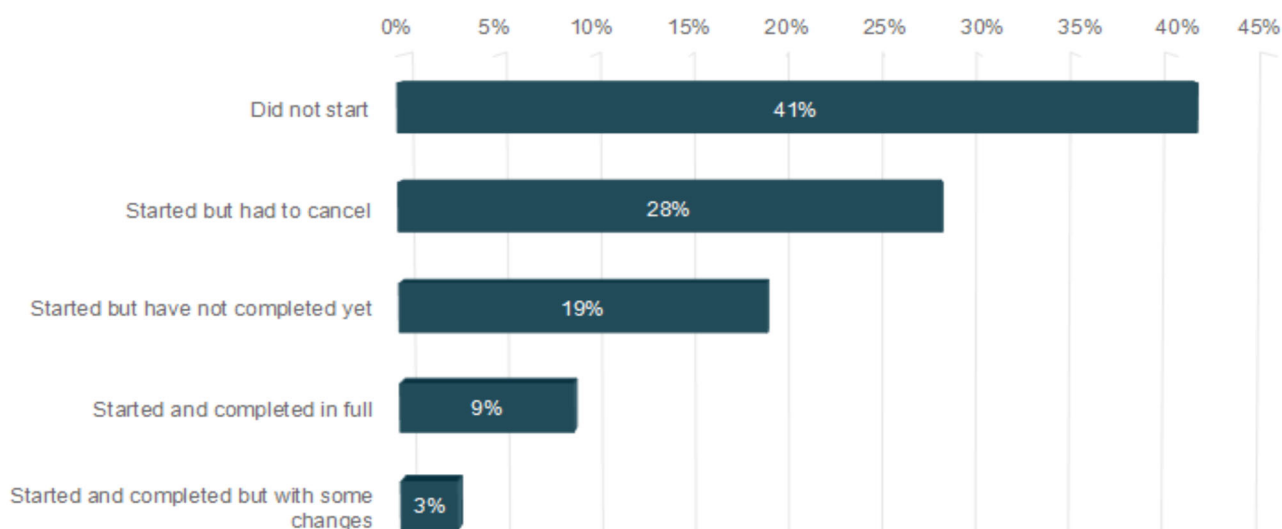
1.5. How were the highest leagues affected? (Q.5)

Both men's and women's leagues were affected the same way. There was a lot of uncertainty among competitions and teams participating. A few countries were missing teams from previous seasons while other countries did not even begin the process of organising the competitions. Most countries did not start the season as planned and only a few could organise playoffs and finals at the end of the season in March - May 2021. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.6. Were you able to start / complete the season in 2020/21 for other national competitions? (Q.6)

Other competitions include all national competitions for junior, youth, adult & seniors and special events (such as Cup competitions) scheduled to be played during the period September 2020 - June 2021. Other competitions do NOT include your highest adult leagues

In terms of cup competitions and other competitions, the situation was more difficult. At the time of the survey, only four countries were able to start and complete their competitions including one country who had some changes introduced. 22 countries could not even start their other competitions or were forced to cancel.



1.7. Tell us why you could not complete / start your other national competitions in season 2020/21 (Q.7)

What were the main issues? Government restrictions, financial issues etc during the period of September 2020 - June 2021

Again, one of the main reasons were government restrictions for gatherings and sport events. Many countries saw their governments close all gyms and stadiums to prevent social gatherings and only allowed individual training sessions. There were also travel restrictions among regions which made it difficult to organise nationwide competitions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.8. How were the other competitions affected in each age group? (Q.8)

Provide information on how each age category was impacted. Other competitions do NOT include your highest adult leagues.

Juniors (under 16yrs) were greatly affected during the 2020/21 season. Almost half of the countries were unable to start the competitions at the start of the season and almost all the countries, who started their competitions, were forced to cancel quite early into the season. The countries who started competitions were able to organise only a few match days.

Youth (16-21yrs) competitions were affected the same way as juniors with a few exceptions, where only a couple of match days were postponed or the competitions were postponed until May 2021.

Adult (21-40yrs) competitions saw the most play out of the four age groups. Most countries cancelled their competitions, but a couple of exceptions were made in the highest leagues, while some countries held playoffs and finals during March - May 2021.

Seniors (over 40yrs) saw the least action. Only a few countries were able to organise match days before the second pandemic wave in the second half of 2020 but were forced to cancel or postpone until March - April 2021. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.9. Did you introduce any modified competitions? (Q.9)

For example, 3v3 competitions or outdoor events



● Yes ● No

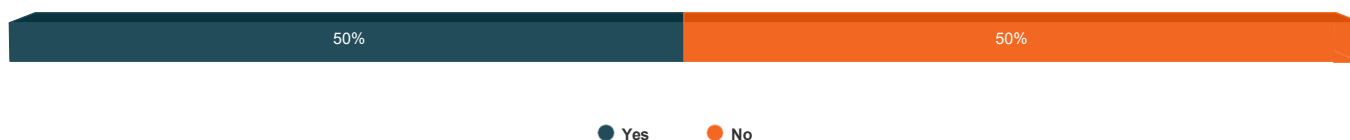
1.10. Give details of what types of modified competitions you used (Q.10)

Almost a quarter of the countries introduced modified competitions. These included 3v3 matches, street floorball tours for summer, and online competitions. Small participation events were allowed during some periods and Member Associations took advantage of this. Reduced numbers of players and spectators at matches was the main safety precaution taken by event organisers.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.11. Did you introduce any special competition rules? (Q.11)

Special rules might include those to do with how competitions were decided, or special conditions that may have been applied during a game, such as teams not changing ends



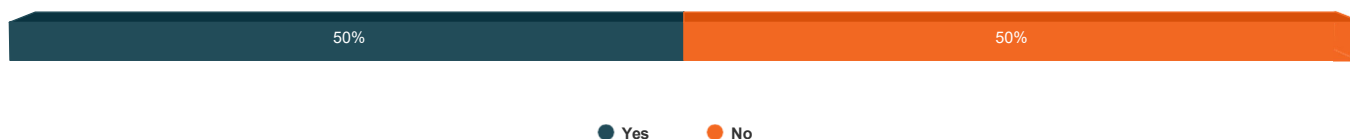
1.12. Briefly explain the different competition rules that were used (Q.12)

Special rules were introduced by 16 countries which is half of the respondents. The most common rules introduced were wearing masks inside the venue, teams not switching sides during the game, shorter game time, smaller teams, and no handshakes after the game. A few responses included medals being given to the players by the team captain, not by officials. Government rules included no spectators at the venues and following social distancing guidelines.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.13. Were there any special conditions for players participating in competitions? (Q.13)

These may have included temperature checks before games, testing procedures etc



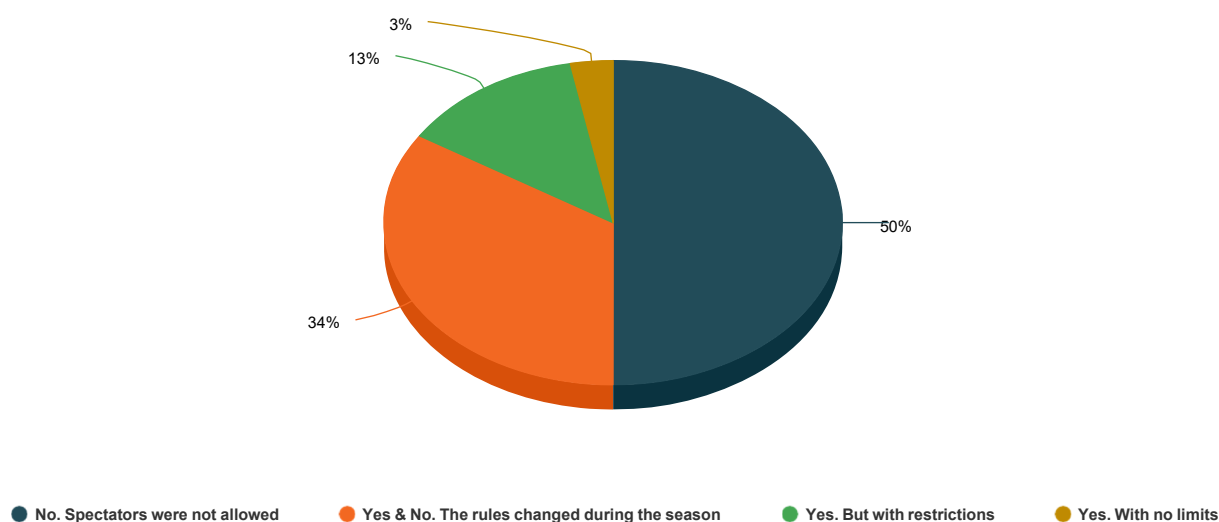
1.14. Briefly describe what these special conditions were (Q.14)

Special conditions for players were introduced by 16 countries which makes up half of the respondents. The most common rules were temperature checks at venues, Covid-19 tests before games, wearing a mask at the venue, and entering or leaving the venue according to their designated times. A few mentions of no goal celebrations and no changing rooms were also included among the responses. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.15. During season 2020/21 were you allowed spectators at games? (Q.15)

This applies for any competitions scheduled between September 2020 - June 2021

Half of the respondents were not allowed any spectators during season 2020/21 while only one country was allowed spectators without any limits. Three countries were allowed spectators with restrictions through the whole season and 11 countries had to change spectator rules mid-way through the season.



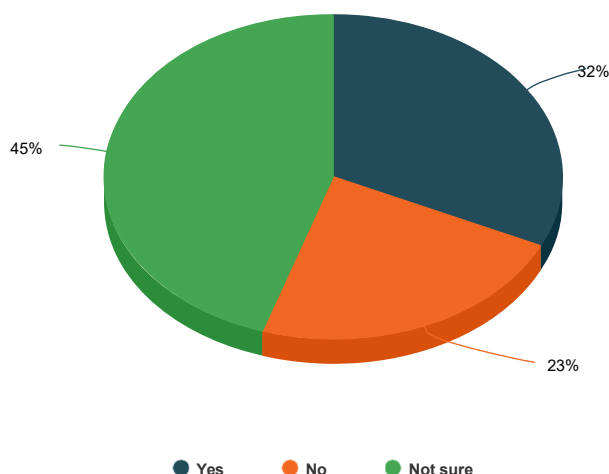
1.16. Describe the spectator restrictions (Q.16)

During the first weeks of the season, many countries were allowed spectators. As the second wave of the pandemic started, restrictions were put in place by the government. The restrictions ranged from social distancing to spectator limits. Governments allowed up to a certain number of spectators and this number varied through the season. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.17. Do you expect the spectator restrictions to be lifted by the start of season 2021/22? (Q.17)

This refers to all competitions scheduled to start after September 2021

Only 10 countries expect to see fans at venues for the 2021/22 season while seven countries do not think it is possible and 14 are not sure if it is possible.



1.18. How do you plan to attract spectators back to events in season 2021/22? (Q.18)

At the time of the questionnaire, there was still lots of uncertainty among the floorball community about spectators returning. Many respondents said their situation was dependent on government restrictions and were quite unsure whether they should put assets towards promoting the new season. Many countries hoped the vaccination process would help fans return to venues. A few responses mentioned live streaming games to show fans that Floorball is back and using social media campaigns to get fans to venues. *<See full text responses in Appendix 1>*

1.19. Did you have other forms of competitions during season 2020/21 instead of the ordinary floorball series? (Q.19)

This refers to, for example Floorball-at-home competitions, outdoor events, held anytime during September 2020 - June 2021.



1.20. Provide a brief description of the other types of competitions that were held (Q.20)

Five countries held other types of competitions. These included street floorball events during summer, online competitions, and home skill competitions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.21. Have you planned any new competitions to help restart Floorball? (Q.21)

For example: summer floorball tournaments, street floorball



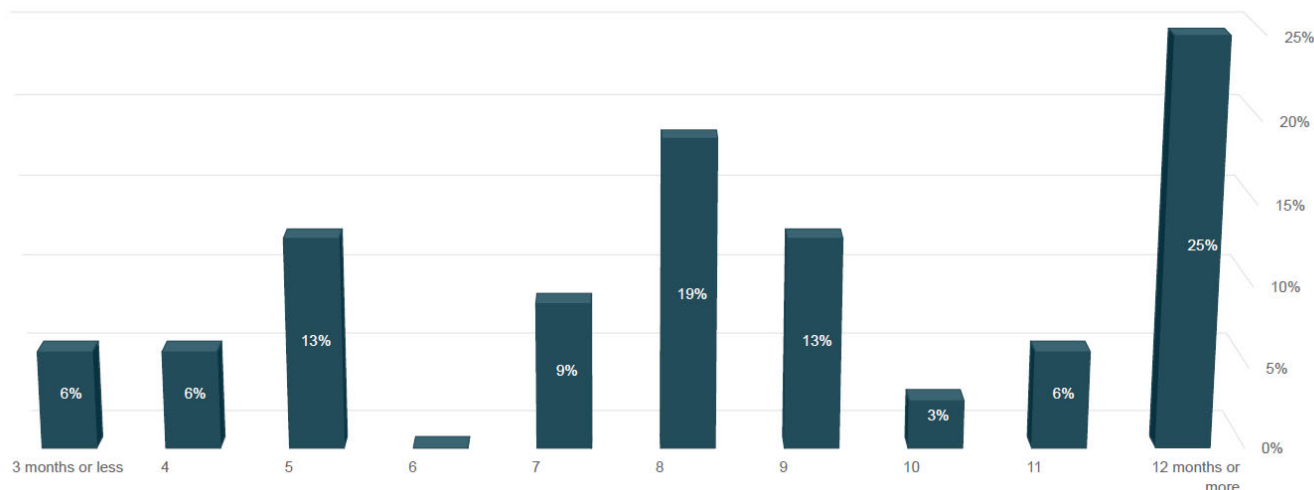
1.22. Give a brief description of any new competitions you have planned (Q.22)

Over half of the respondents have events planned to restart Floorball. These events include street floorball, floorball camps for kids, outdoor floorball themed events, friendly competitions and 3v3 tournaments for vaccinated players. All these activities would be conditional on government restrictions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.23. For how many months from the beginning of January 2020 until the end of April 2021, were competitions stopped? (Q.23)

Many competitions were completely cancelled, while others stopped and started throughout the season. Give an estimated total amount of time when ALL of your competitions were completely stopped during the period

Over 2/3 of countries were without any floorball for over seven months starting from January 2020 and eight of them for over 12 months. Only eight countries were fortunate enough to be without competitions for 5 or less months.



1.24. How did government restrictions affect other Floorball activities in your country? (Q.24)

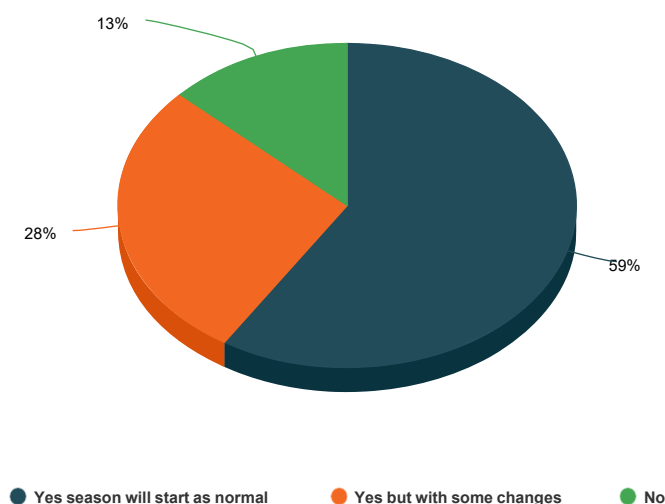
Give information on how other Floorball activities, such as training camps, education seminars etc have been affected by Covid-19

For most of the period, indoor sports venues were closed due to sport being disallowed. Outdoor training sessions were allowed in smaller groups and when the situation in countries was more relaxed, teams were allowed to have indoor training sessions as well. The group sizes depended on the government guidelines. Training camps were cancelled and postponed for all ages. Education seminars for coaches, players and referees were delivered through online platforms. There was also a time where teams had to organise training sessions online. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.25. Do you expect to start season 2021/22 as planned? (Q.25)

This refers to any competitions scheduled to start after September 2021

More positive notes come from 87% of the responses which show they expect the new season 2021/22 to start. 28% think the season will go ahead but with changes, with only 4 countries thinking the season will not start as planned.



1.26. What will the changes be for season 2021/22? (Q.26)

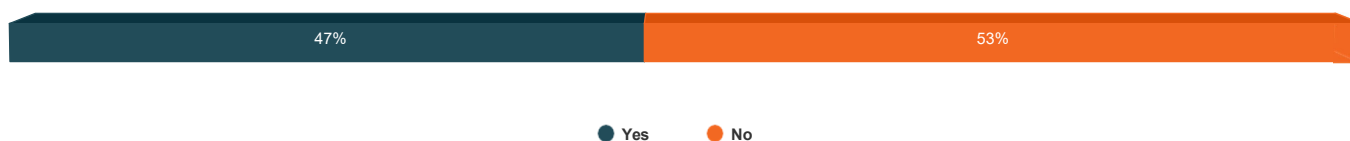
A few Member Associations think they will struggle with the schedule, meaning the season could start later. Covid tests could also be required before match days to prevent any outbreaks. A couple of countries think there will be less teams and could make leagues smaller. Vaccinations could also become a requirement to play in some countries. *<See full text responses in Appendix 1>*

1.27. Why will you not start season 2021/22 as planned? (Q.27)

The four respondents that indicated that they do not think the new season will start as planned, indicated that this is because they felt it was unlikely that the situation would be better in September. At the time of the questionnaire there were many restrictions in place and still a lot of uncertainty in terms of restarting sport. *<See full text responses in Appendix 1>*

1.28. Will there be any special conditions for playing season 2021/22? (Q.28)

Will there be any special regulations for participants, special competition rules, Covid-19 testing etc

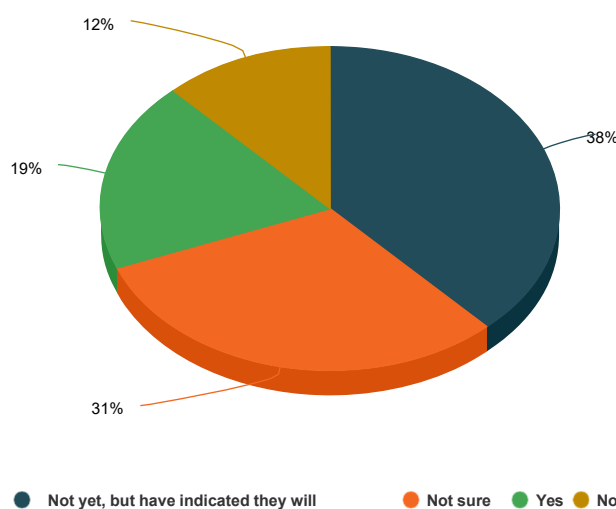


1.29. Give a brief description of these special conditions (Q.29)

15 countries out of 32 think there will be special regulations for participants in 2021/22 but at the time of the questionnaire, countries were still uncertain about what the rest of the year would bring. Many respondents think they will need to have antigen tests or temperature checks before the games. The general consensus is to follow government protocols to keep the season going and avoid any outbreaks. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

1.30. Does your government have a plan for returning activities, such as sport, to normal levels? (Q.30)

By May 2021, only six governments had a definite plan for returning activities to normal levels. Almost 70% of responses have mentioned that it is still uncertain what the government has planned for the return of sport.



1.31. What are the government plans that relate directly to helping return Floorball to pre-Covid levels? (Q.31)

Give a brief description of the plans

The six governments that had a plan for sport to restart stated that teams would be able to start indoor training sessions as soon as possible and latest in the beginning of August. The main idea was to lift restrictions step by step to open opportunities for teams to have training sessions and camps. The governments would like to allow spectators, but this is an uncertain promise.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

COMPETITION SUMMARY

Competitions were clearly the activity that was most significantly impacted by Covid-19. The lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, the regulations that stopped indoor activities, the closing of schools and halls, as well as the limits on the number of people who could participate in an activity, all had a very negative impact on Floorball worldwide. There was not a single country where Floorball competitions were not stopped for some period of time.

In many countries where Floorball is a larger and more well-known sport, the top leagues were able to restart much sooner than in other countries, but still the junior leagues and lower adult divisions all suffered extensive breaks. Even the top leagues that restarted often had to pause due to regulations being introduced again, struggled with how to manage the competition when covid positive cases caused games to be cancelled, or had to play with empty arenas.

On a positive note, the Floorball community showed they were easily adaptable to adopting new rules, new formats of play, and Covid-adapted playing environments.

IMPACT ON IFF COMPETITIONS

From 3rd February 2020 - 25th August 2021 no IFF events were held and just 17 international matches played by National Associations. As a comparison, in the previous same period (Feb 2018 – Aug 2019) there were 20 IFF events and 177 international matches organised by National Associations.

At the end of January 2020, just before Covid-19 really hit, the Men's WFC 2020 European qualifications were played but the AOFC event scheduled for early March was the first IFF event to be cancelled. Over the next 18 months, all IFF events were cancelled or postponed, some being postponed several times. It was an unprecedented situation that we faced and the uncertainty about how the pandemic would develop, the different advice and approaches between countries, and the lack of any previous protocols to follow made the situation incredibly difficult for all stakeholders – the IFF, the local organising committees and, of course, the participating National Associations.

Like the National Associations, the IFF had to adapt. Covid-19 protocols for events were developed; Go/No-go dates for events were introduced; even whole new competitions were launched with the World Virtual Floorball Freestyle Cup in 2020. Trying to predict future Floorball activities in a world that looked completely different, not just as a whole but in each of our Member Associations, was very complex.

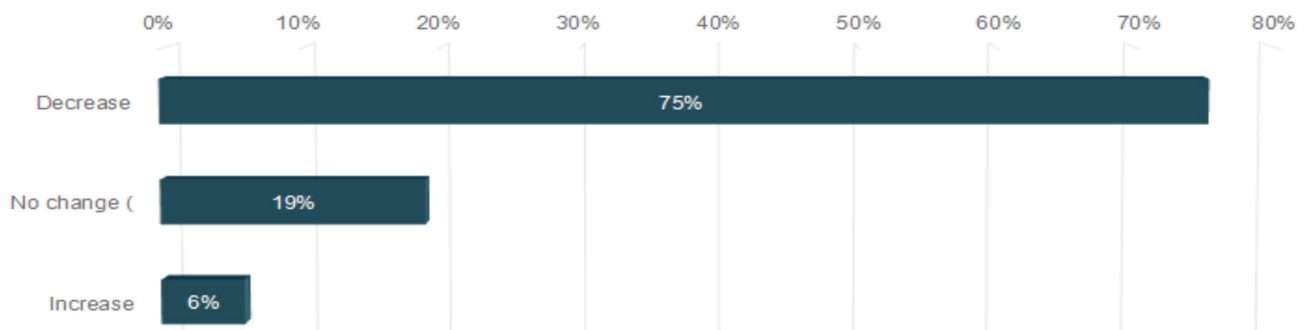
2. PARTICIPATION

2.1. Did you see an increase or decrease in licenced players between the 2019/20 & 2020/21 seasons? (Q.32)

Season 2019/20 = September 2019 – June 2020

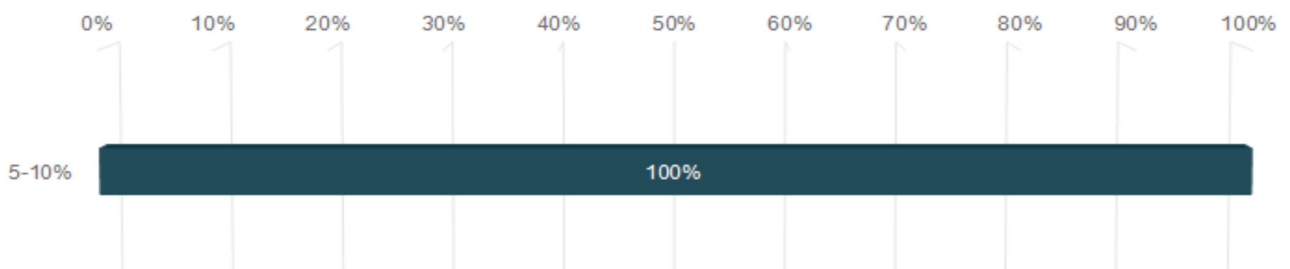
Season 2020/21 = September 2020 – June 2021

Exactly 75% of the respondents have seen a decrease in player numbers between the two seasons. Only two countries have seen an increase and six countries reported that there has not been any change.



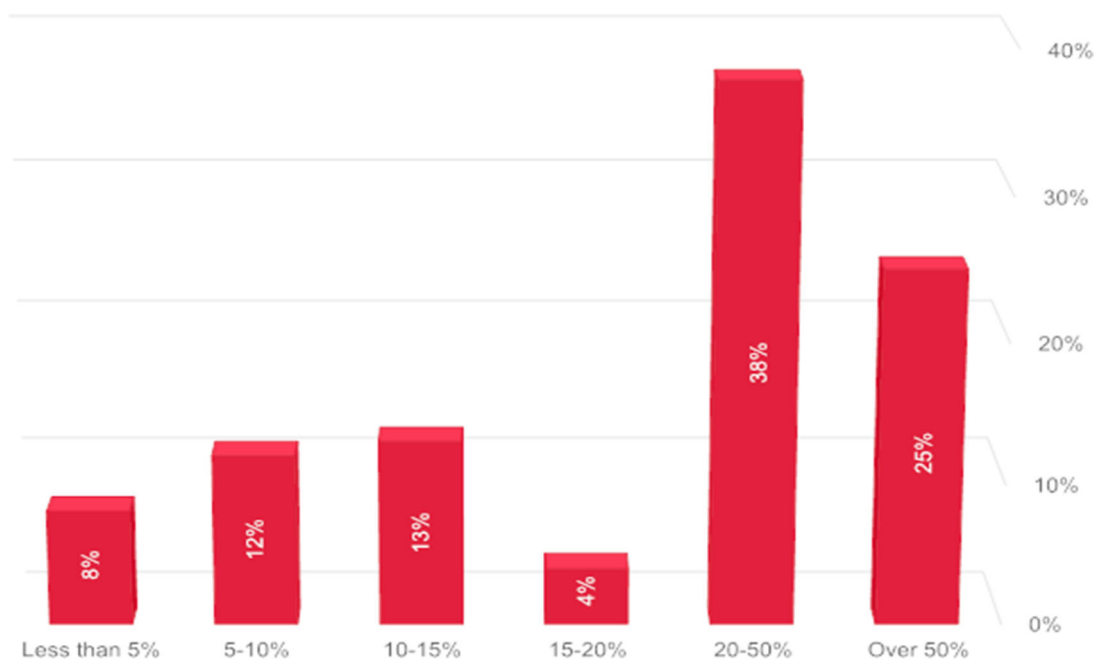
2.2. What was the percentage increase? (Q.33)

The two countries who reported an increase both gave a response of having a 5-10% increase on player numbers.



2.3. What was the percentage decrease? (Q.34)

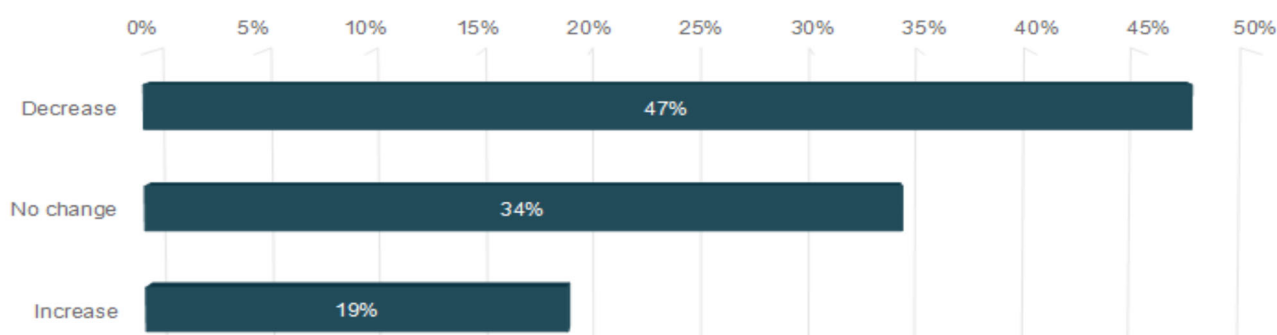
As the graph shows, 63% of the respondents saw at least a 20% decrease on player numbers. Six countries saw a more than 50% decrease on player numbers, and other countries saw a smaller decrease, between 1-20% of the player base.



2.4. What impact do you think Covid-19 will have on licensed player numbers for season 2021/22? (Q.35)

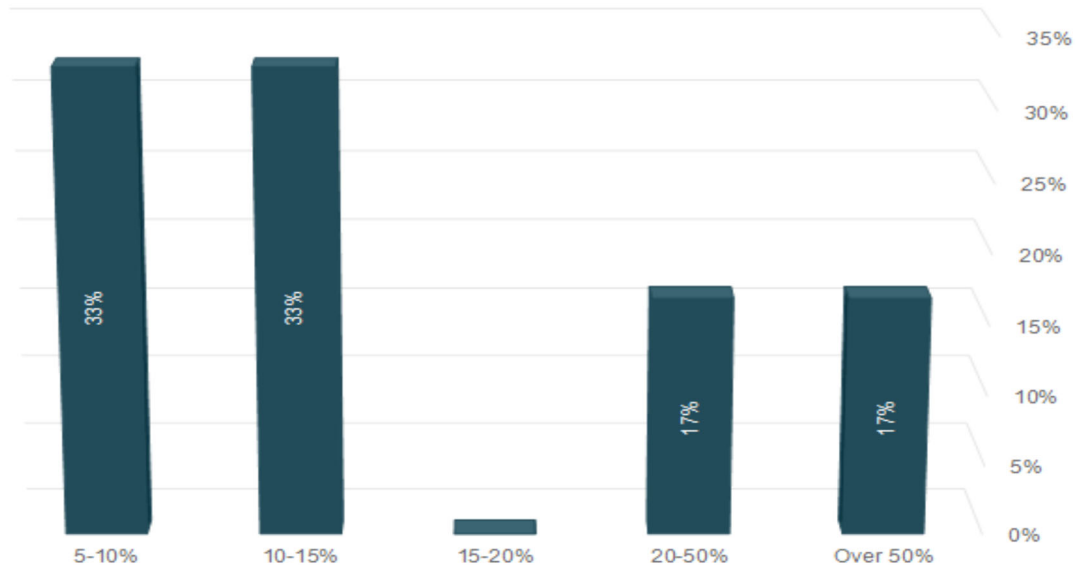
This refers to licensed player registrations for competitions starting in September 2021 and onwards

Almost half of the participating countries think there will be a decrease in licenced player numbers for the upcoming season. When looking at the answer of the previous questions, these numbers could end up being even higher. A third of the Member Associations think there will not be a noticeable change and 19% think there will be an increase on player numbers.



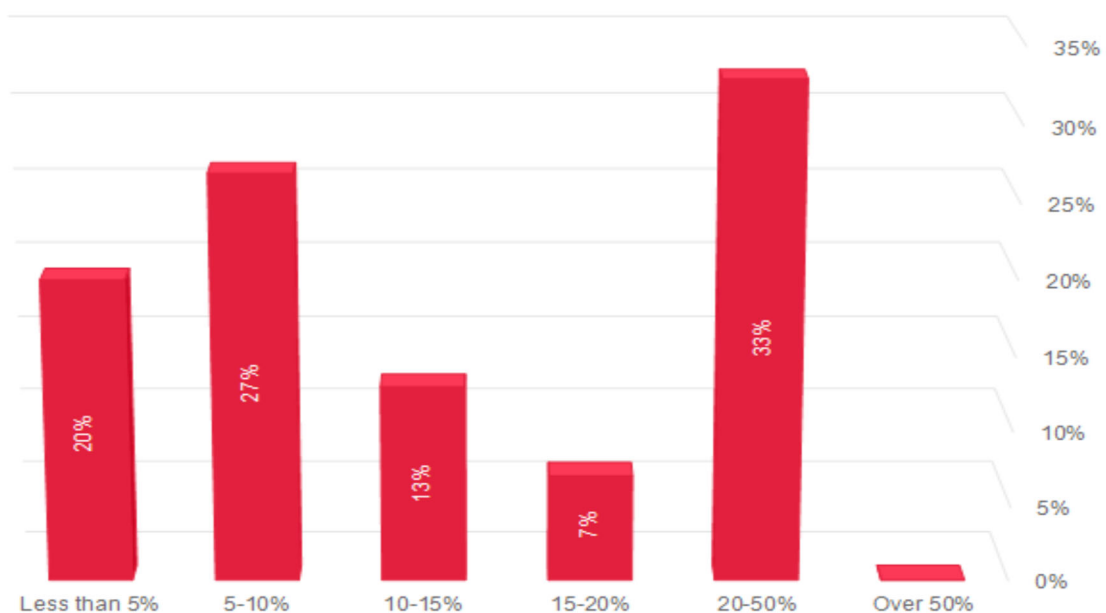
2.5. We expect licensed player numbers to increase by.... (Q.36)

Four respondents think there could be a small increase on player numbers and expect the percentage to be between 5% and 15%. Two, more optimistic, countries expect an increase of 20-50% and over 50%.



2.6. We expect licensed player numbers to decrease by.... (Q.37)

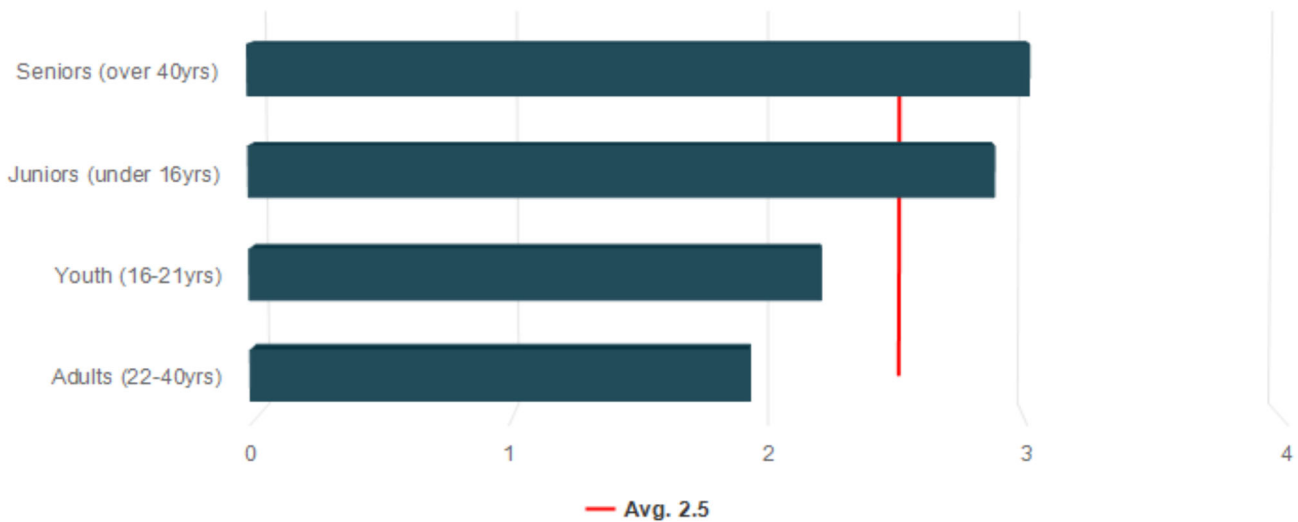
More countries expect player numbers to decrease than increase. Almost 2/3 of participating countries expect the numbers to decrease by up to 20% and a third of participants think the number will be between 20-50%.



2.7. In terms of the decrease in licensed player numbers, which age group do you think will be most affected? (Q.38)

Please rank each category from MOST affected to LEAST affected. 1 = most affected / 4 = least affected

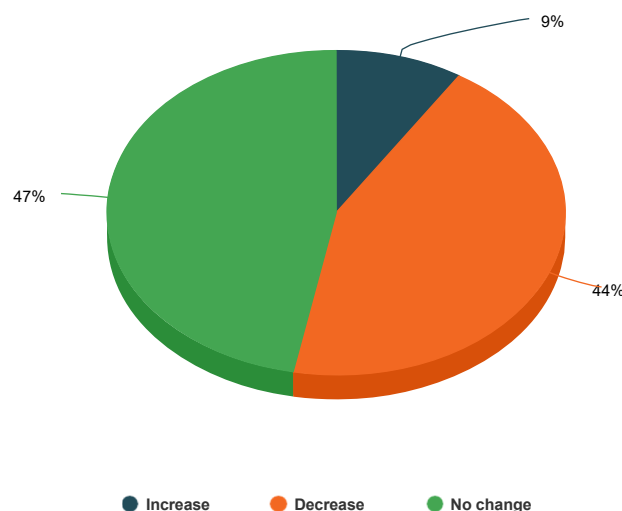
According to the graph, Member Associations think the Adults' age group will be most affected by the decrease in licensed players with Youth coming second. Participants think Seniors are most likely not going to be affected as much as Juniors. Adult competitions would be the most affected due to sponsorships and highest leagues come under that age category.



2.8. What do you think the impact will be on the number of teams &/or clubs that register for season 2021/22? (Q.39)

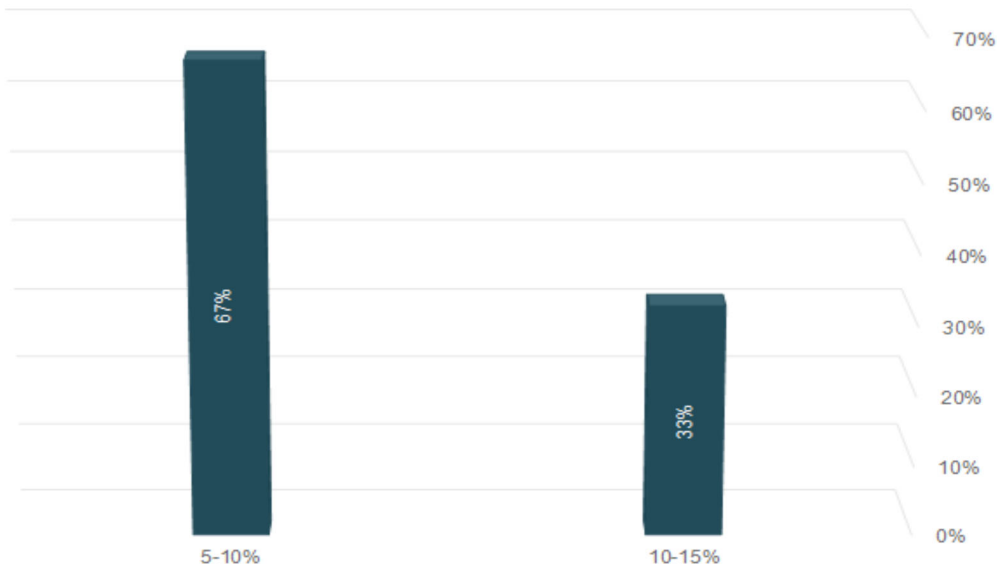
This refers to club/team registrations for competitions starting in September 2021 and onwards

Less than half of the participating countries think there will be a decrease in teams registering for the upcoming season. Only three countries see an increase coming and 15 countries do not think there will be a noticeable change in the team numbers.



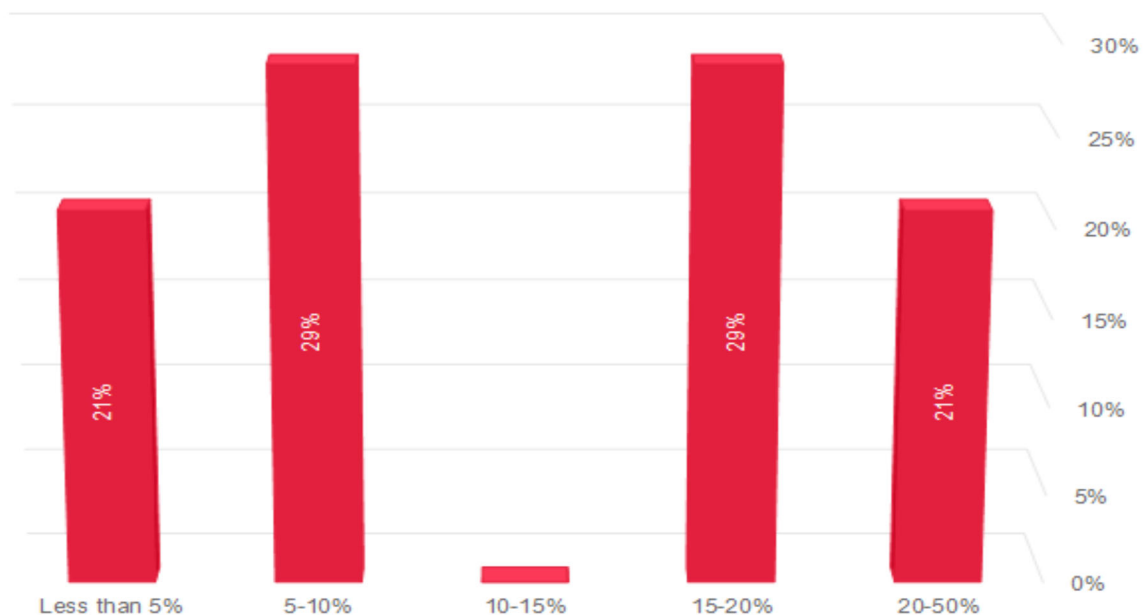
2.9. We expect the number of clubs &/or teams that register for season 2021/22 to increase by.... (Q.40)

All three countries who think the number of teams registered for next season will be higher, think the percentage increase will be between 5-15%.



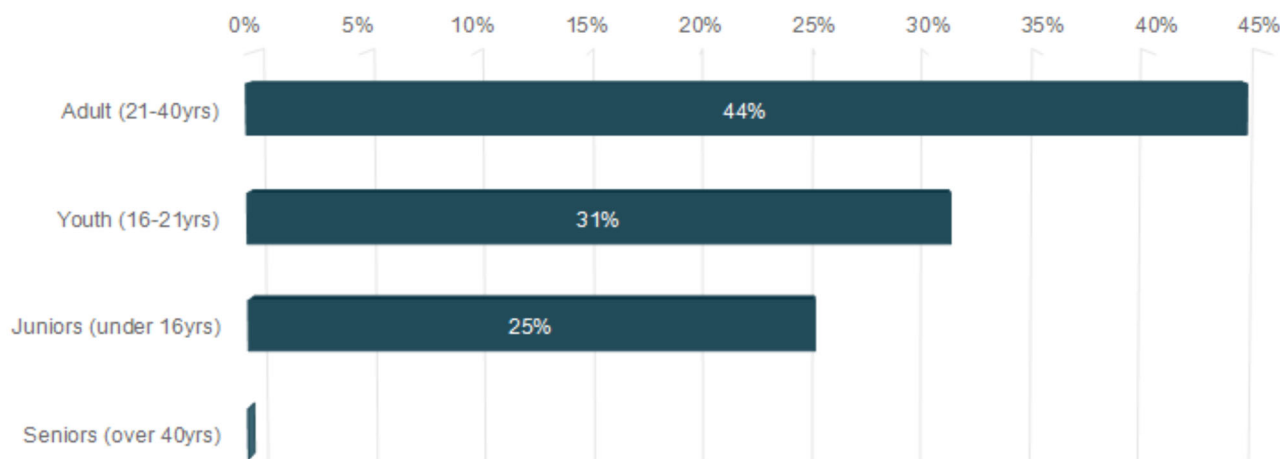
2.10. We expect the number of clubs &/or teams that register for season 2021/22 to decrease by.... (Q.41)

Half of the countries who think the number of registered teams will decrease, think the percentage will be in the 1-10% range. The other half consider the percentage to be above 15% and up to 50%.



2.11. Thinking about future participation (in the next 2-3yrs), which age segment do you think Covid-19 will have the greatest negative impact on? (Q.42)

Nearly half of the Member Associations think Adults will see the greatest negative impact in the next few years. Almost a third consider Youth levels to be affected the most and exactly a quarter of participants think Juniors will be the most vulnerable.



2.12. What actions have been taken, or are planned, to get players back playing after the pandemic restrictions are lifted? (Q.43)

For example, reduced fees for the first season; regular testing to increase safety levels for participants; special events or competitions etc.

The number one action taken by a lot of Member Associations was reducing participation fees. Many have said that clubs and players have taken this very positively and are happy that federations are taking financial issues into account. A few countries are trying new ways of playing floorball, for example school leagues and summer leagues. Many countries plan on having a special campaign to get players back to floorball and attract new people to the sport. A few mentioned restarting floorball with extra training camps and competitions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

With the lack of Floorball competitions, there was a subsequent impact on the level of participation, with National Associations finding it difficult to maintain licensed player numbers when they had no competitions to offer. This loss of players will be felt for many years to come and could significantly impact the Associations ability to operate at pre-Covid levels, especially as many rely on player licence fees to make up a large proportion of their operating income.

The adult (21-40yrs) age group was identified as the category that was projected to lose the greatest number of participants in coming years. Although juniors were severely restricted in their activities, the younger age groups were generally the focus of government actions when lifting restrictions. For associations it will be important to engage again with the youth and secure the participation of juniors to ensure future growth, as well as also working to attract back these senior players who contribute to the depth of an association.

IMPACT OF REDUCED PARTICIPATION ON IFF

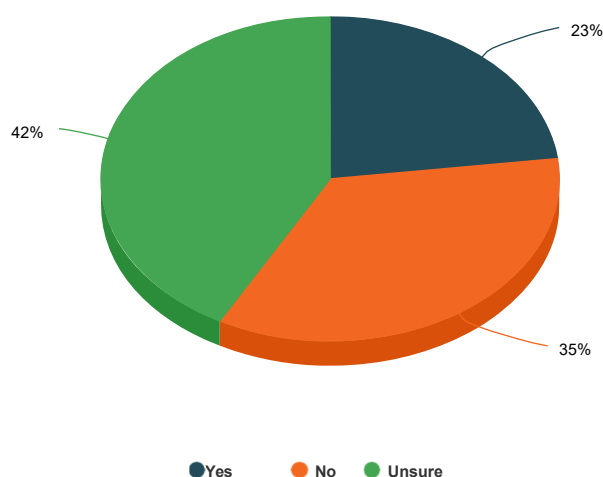
The reduced number of participants in each of our Member Associations will be clearly reflected in the overall participation statistics for our sport when the next Member audit is carried out. Floorball will not be alone in this situation, as the majority of sports will feel the same impact, but it will be how quickly that we can rebuild those participation numbers that will prove significant, especially in comparison to the recovery of other sports.

To ensure the quality of future IFF competitions it will be important that our Member Associations can rebuild their participation levels as quickly as possible, allowing for depth of players for selection at national representative level.

3. REFEREES

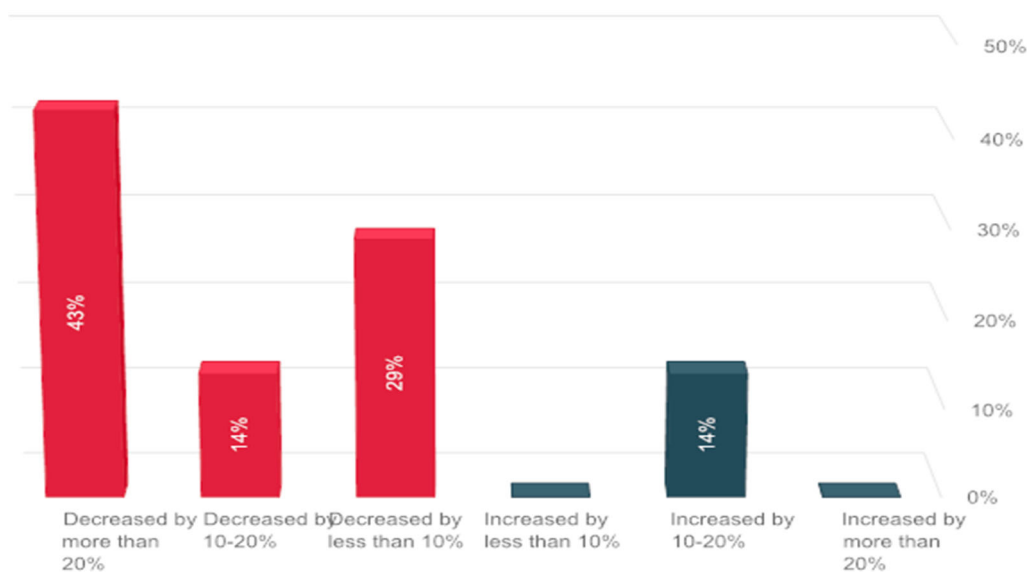
3.1. Has Covid-19 affected the number of referees registered in your association? (Q.44)

Only seven countries have seen a change in the number of registered referees while 75% of participating countries have either not seen a change or are unsure.



3.2. The number of registered referees has.... (Q.45)

Six countries out of seven have seen a decrease in referees while only one country has seen an increase.



3.3. Have you organised referee courses and education during the 2020-21 season? (Q.46)

This refers to the period September 2020 - June 2021

The majority of countries organised referee courses during the 2020-21 season while only 8 countries did not.



3.4. Please give examples of what type of referee education you have provided and how it was organised (online, face-to-face) (Q.47)

There was a mix of answers when asked what type of education was provided and how it was organised. Mostly the courses were held online with a couple of countries being able to have face-to-face seminars. The idea was to keep referees in the game and get beginner referees to try out floorball. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

3.5. Please explain why you have not been able to organise referee education (Q.48)

The reason why countries were unable to organise referee education was mostly due to government restrictions with a few exceptions where referees were not interested as there were no competitions going on. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

REFEREE SUMMARY

Unlike players who can practice technical skills on their own, maintaining the skill levels of a referee is very difficult without any matches to officiate. We can expect to see the development of referees impacted by the break in competitions and it will be important to be aware of the need to fill the 'gap' in both experience of referees and the number of referees in the future.

Many National Associations took the opportunity to provide education for new referees, mostly online, which was an activity that many of them had not done before, either because of the lack of resources or the idea that only face-to-face education was acceptable. As well as the actual online education, many created new educational materials and developed new communication methods. These positive actions will help to ensure that the level of refereeing is maintained once competition levels return to 'normal'. A return to referee exchange programmes will be important for helping to maintain skill levels and development.

IMPACT ON IFF REFEREES

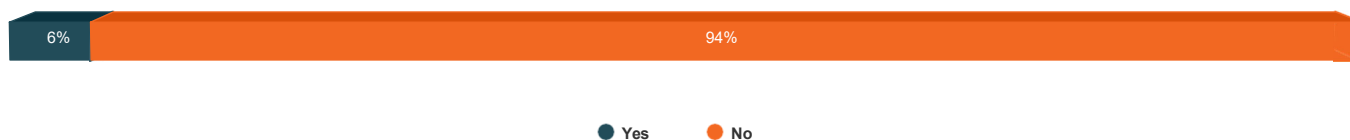
During the break in international tournaments, most of the referee education responsibility fell to the National Associations since no international events were organised. The break in events allowed for other projects such as the Physical Play project to be given more attention. All IFF referee educations were carried out online and the IFF Referee Committee was able to manage the international referee and observer nomination procedure for 2021/2022 as planned.

The IFF didn't lose any international referees or observers because of the lack of games due to the pandemic and all the selected referees and observers continued their international careers as planned. The IFF, like the national associations, also created some new materials and had online educations and online rule tests. All the selected international referees and observers had to take the updated online rule test before their final approval as international referees and observers.

4. ORGANISATION

4.1. Have you had to reduce your staff numbers in the past year? (Q.49)

This includes full-time or part-time staff involved in the running of the National Association as well as others on temporary contracts with national teams



4.2. Please give a brief overview. What are the main reasons for reducing staff numbers? In what areas of responsibilities have staff been most reduced? Do you think these changes were as a direct result of Covid-19? (Q.50)

Just two Member Associations have had to reduce their staff numbers in the past year while the others have been able to work with full force. The reasoning for reducing staff numbers is because of the economic situation the pandemic has created. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.3. What other activities (coaching courses, development camps, promotional events etc) have been impacted? (Q.51)

Most countries were forced to cancel all activities from coaching seminars to training camps. Some of them were able to organise coaching sessions and seminars online which saw more people taking part due to people working from home offices. Training camps were postponed or cancelled for all ages. Promotional events and tournaments were also not organised due to government restrictions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.4. Has there been any significant criticism toward the National Association's handling of the pandemic from the players or clubs? (Q.52)



4.5. Please give more information about the complaint/s? (Q.53)

Only four countries reported receiving complaints from players or clubs. The main reason for the complaints was the uncertainty about when floorball could continue. The community understood the seriousness of the pandemic but were hoping for more information about future plans.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.6. Apart from the financial impact and reduced competition activities, what other effects has Covid-19 had on the national association? (Q.54)

Overall, face-to-face meetings have reduced between the player base and Member Association. Associations who were working from the office have now been working from home for over a year and, according to associations, it works very well. This has also helped speed up the digital development. A couple of countries reported a lack of motivation from players and staff which resulted in less player numbers and fans. Volunteer numbers have also seen a decline in some countries.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.7. Have your members requested any financial reductions, such as lower membership fees, or other financial assistance? (Q.55)



4.8. What did they request and what was your response to their requests? (Q.56)

Almost 40% of participants reported that they have been asked for financial assistance by their members, with most asking for reduced fees due to no competitions being played. All Member Associations accepted their requests and offered reduced fees from 50% up to 100%. In a few instances, the government also helped clubs cover their missing incomes.

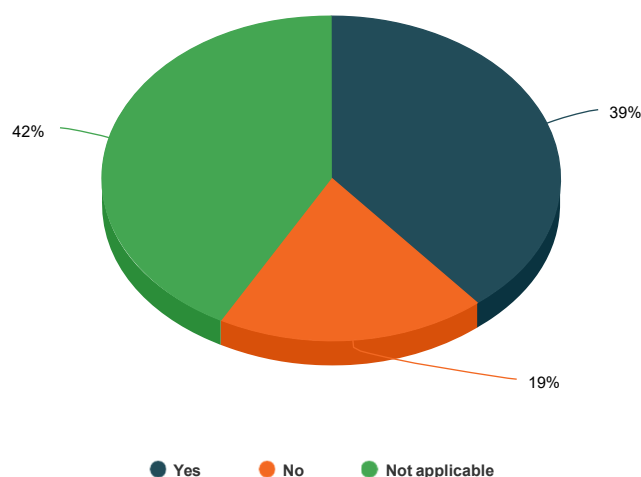
<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.9. What has been the impact of Covid-19 to the overall development work inside your association? (Q.57)

The responses for this question were very mixed. With Covid-19 stopping competitions, many members were able to focus on education, referees and other areas that were not being dealt with due to the lack of time. They also saw development in technology because of the pandemic forcing people to work from home offices. On the other hand, many members said they saw a loss of motivation and morale to keep going with development projects. Due to financial issues, development plans in most countries were slowed down. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.10. Have you been able to continue joint development projects with other IFF Member Associations? (Q.58)

This refers to projects either already in process or planned for the future



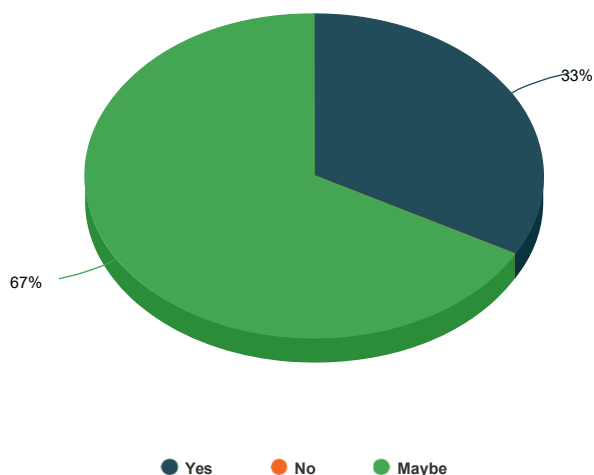
4.11. What has changed in these projects? (Q.59)

Please give details of how the projects have been changed / stopped / cancelled?

Only six countries reported that they were not able to continue with development projects with other Members. The projects in place were either cancelled or postponed until further notice. For example, elite-referee exchanges were not possible to go ahead with. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

4.12. Do you expect the projects to begin again in the future? (Q.60)

Only two of the six members think these projects could go ahead in the future.



4.13. In your view, how has the IFF (Office and Central Board) managed the pandemic? Is there anything you think that was done well or could have been done differently? (Q.61)

The overall response to the IFF's actions was positive. Member Associations understood that the world was in an uncertain place and postponing tournaments was something that needed to be done. A few respondents complained about postponing the Women's U19 and Men's U19 WFCs, with some members indicating that they would have preferred earlier decisions about these events. Other than this, the opinion was that the IFF handled the pandemic professionally.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

ORGANISATION SUMMARY

The different organisational structures of the Member Associations were affected in a variety of ways during the pandemic. Those with employed staff were able to work on alternative projects while several smaller associations, run just by volunteer staff took the opportunity to restructure and reorganise their operations. Although income may have been less, for most associations their costs were also reduced during the pandemic, so the financial impact was perhaps not as harsh as it may have been initially expected.

In most countries, office operations moved online with people working from home for at least a short amount of time, and in some cases, for very extended periods. The use of 'new' online tools for meetings and education exploded and proved very useful. Not only were more people able to be reached, but operating costs were reduced.

Understandably, in many countries, clubs requested some kind of financial assistance from the Association, mostly in the form of reduced fees for the coming season or partial/full refunds of fees already paid for competitions that were not able to be held.

IMPACT ON IFF ORGANISATION

Without events there was a clear financial impact for IFF, but with significantly reduced costs and savings, especially in regard to travel, combined with the support from the International Olympic Committee & the Finnish Ministry of Education, the IFF was able to carry on operations as normal for almost the entire period. The IFF staff were furloughed for a period of one month each at the end of 2020, but full-time staff numbers were not reduced and the temporary employment of interns for special projects (such as this survey) was still possible.

The IFF office in Helsinki, Finland, where the majority of IFF staff are located, followed the government guidelines for working from home. This has meant that the staff worked away from the office starting from March 2020. The government work-from-home recommendation ended in Finland on 15th October 2021 and most staff are now working a combination of days in the office and from home.

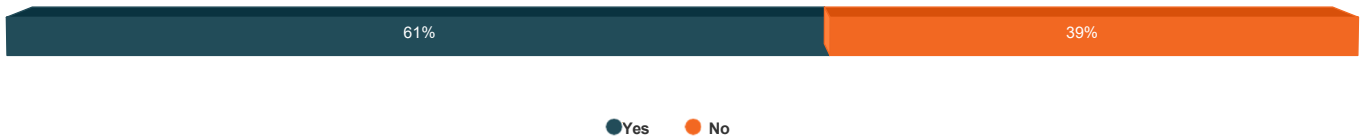
Apart from the stoppage of events, the main impact for the IFF operations was that almost all development activities were stopped in 2020, but during the latter part of the survey period some virtual development educations were organised. The fact that no physical meetings were able to be

organised first caused a small standstill in the operations, but within a few weeks the different tools for virtual meetings were quickly adopted. Microsoft Teams has been the main tool for regular staff meetings and internal communications, as well as the main method for conducting committee & Central Board meetings. New technologies were introduced for General Assembly 2020, including online voting via Mentimeter, but with the reduced income the development of other tools, such as the renewal of the IFF Statistics Software and IFF website were not able to proceed as planned.

The postponement and cancellation of Events lead to an increased need for consultation and negotiations with the organisers, not only in regard to agreements, but also how and when to publish news of decisions taken. IFF was forced to renegotiate all TV agreements for the WFC 2020. The IFF CB had four additional meetings per year compared to normal, mainly due to the pandemic and extra decisions that needed to be taken. There was close contact with the Member Associations as the political implications of the Covid-19 related decisions had to be discussed in detail.

5. MEDIA

5.1. Have you launched any new communication tools or methods during the pandemic? (Q.62)



5.2. Please give examples of the new communication tools or methods (Q.63)

Over 60% of participants launched new communication methods. These included Microsoft Teams, Instagram Live, Zoom, Google Meet and TikTok. Meeting applications were, in particular, very useful for home offices, while Instagram and TikTok helped with social media engagement. Clubs also started live streaming their games which was very convenient for fans.

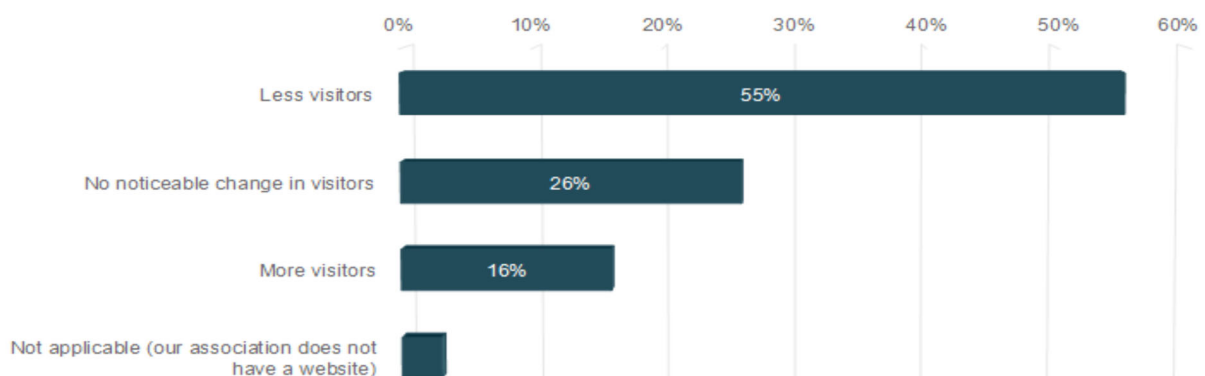
<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

5.3. What digital projects and/or campaigns have you launched to engage with the stakeholders? (Q.64)

Not many members organised projects to engage with stakeholders. Some examples would be floorball at home, highlights from previous years, training videos, live seminars to attract new people and online competitions. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

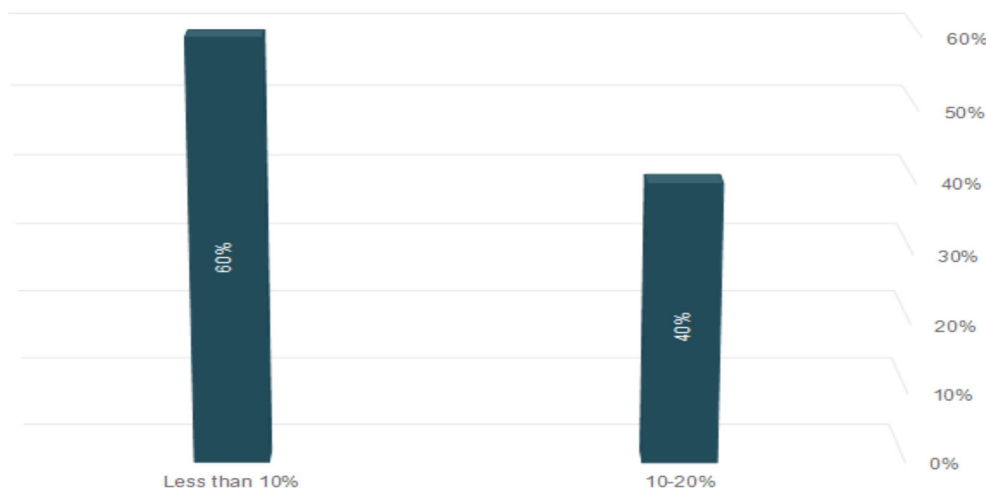
5.4. How has Covid-19 effected your website visitor numbers? (Q.65)

More than half of the members have seen a decline in visitor numbers while only 16% have seen an increase.



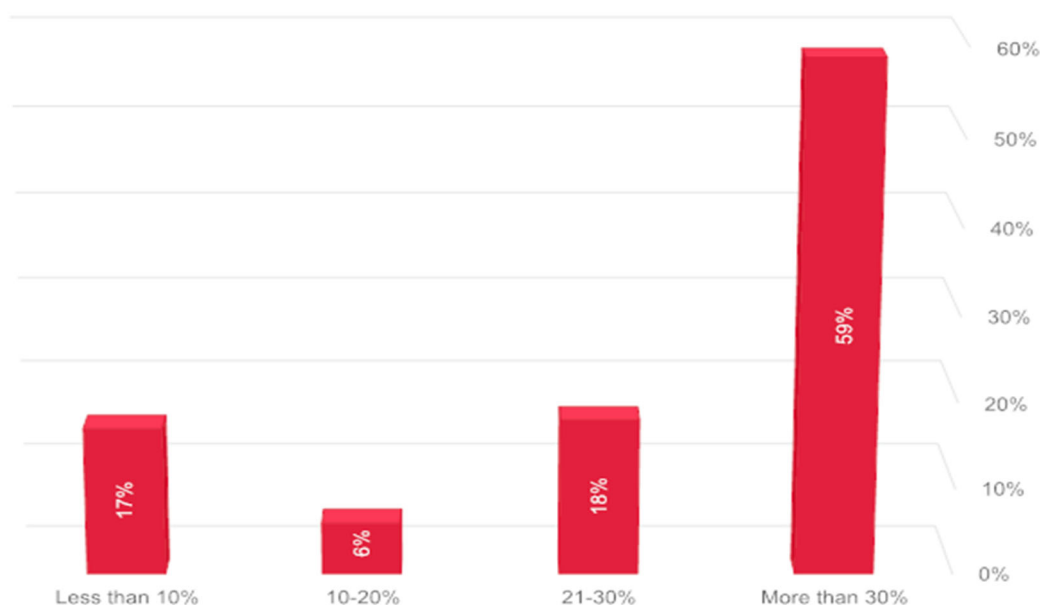
5.5. What is the approximate percentage increase in website visitors? (Q.66)

Three members out of five who saw an increase in visitor numbers, reported less than 10% increase and the other two members saw a 10-20% increase.



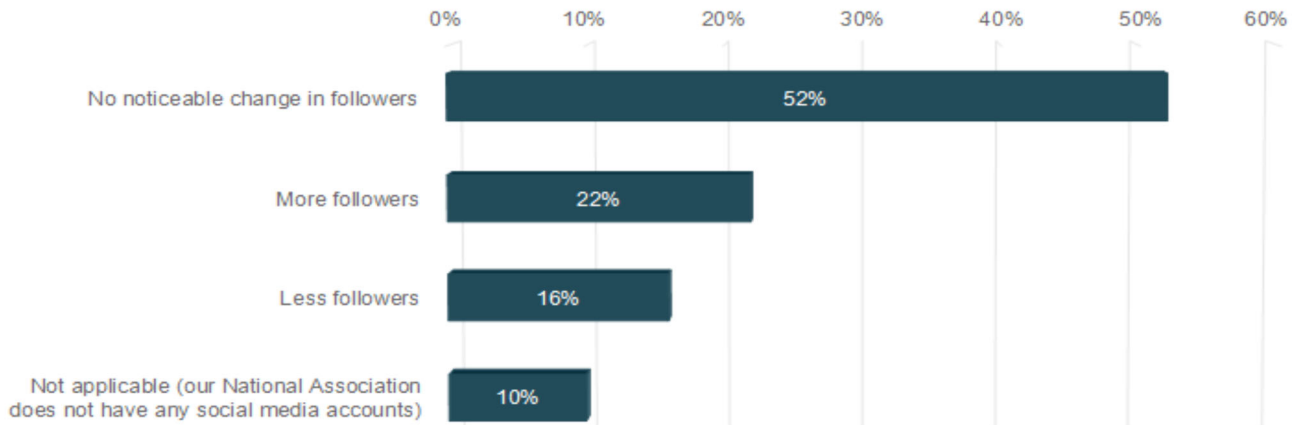
5.6. What is the approximate percentage decrease in website visitors? (Q.67)

10 members out of 17 saw more than a 30% decrease in visitor numbers. Three members saw less than 10% and 21-30% while one member reported a 10-20% decrease.



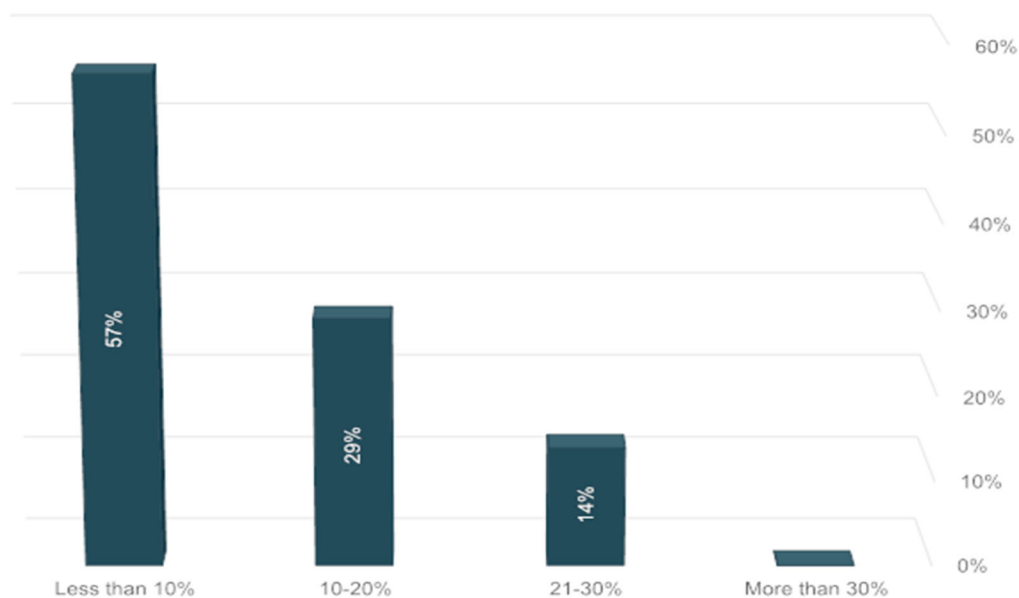
5.7. How has Covid-19 effected your follower numbers on social media? (Q.68)

Over half of the participants did not see any change in followers. Seven members saw an increase and five members saw a decrease.



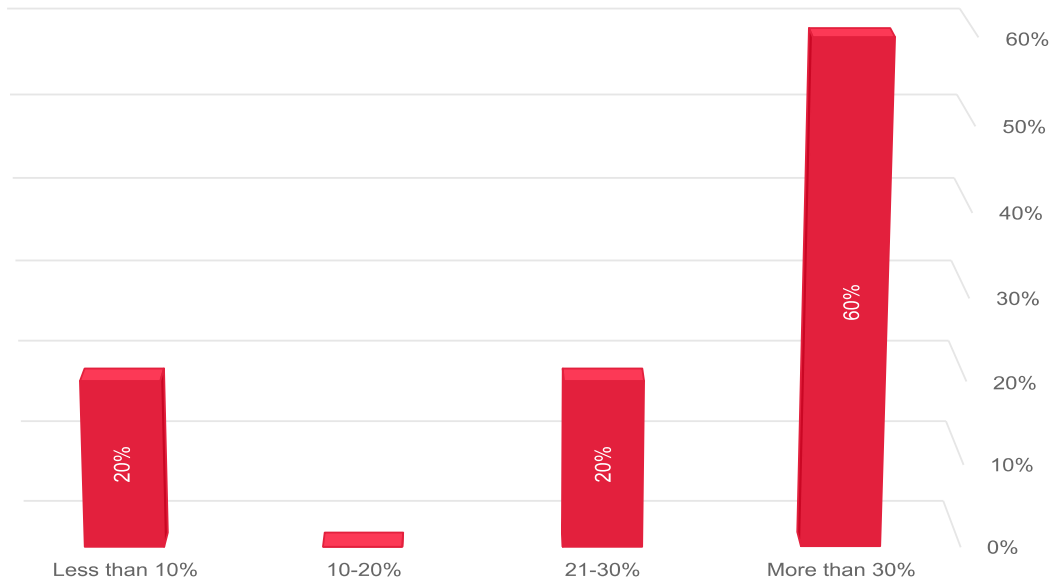
5.8. What is the approximate percentage increase in followers on social media? (Q.69)

Seven members saw an increase in followers. Four of them were less than 10%, two saw an increase of 10-20% and one member reported an increase of 21-30%.



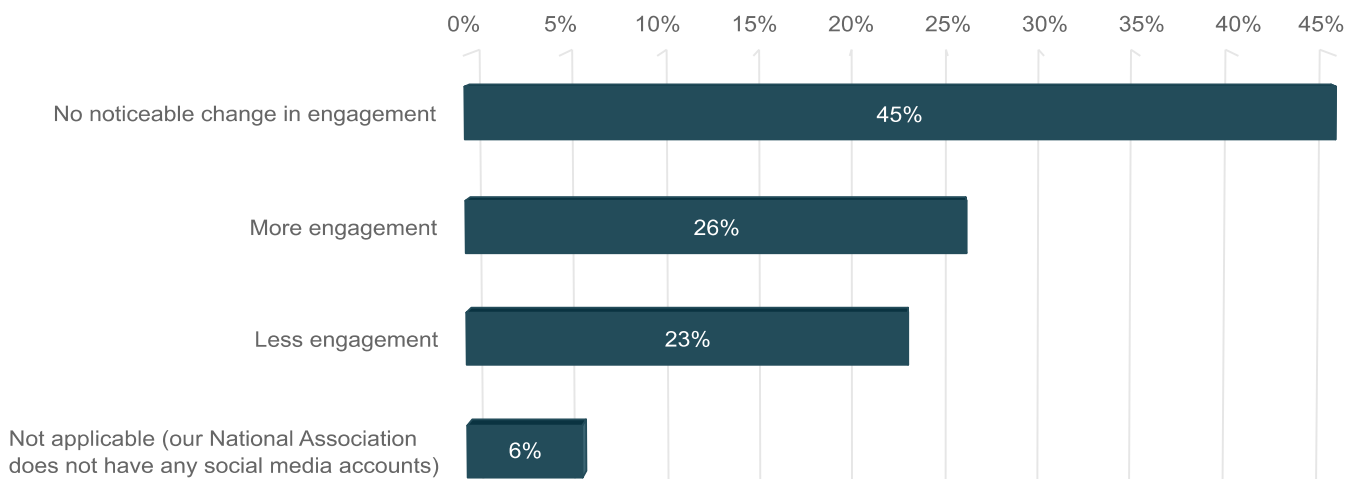
5.9. What is the approximate percentage decrease in followers on social media? (Q.70)

Only five members saw a decrease in followers. Three out of five members saw a decrease of more than 30% and the other two 21-30% and less than 10%.



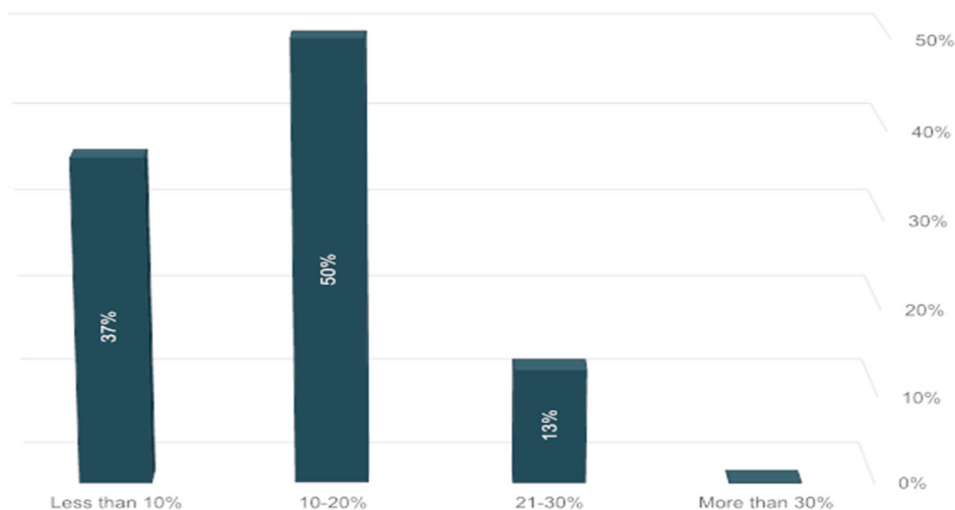
5.10. How has Covid-19 effected your engagement numbers on social media? (Q.71)

Almost half of the members had no noticeable change in engagement while 23% saw less and 26% saw more engagement.



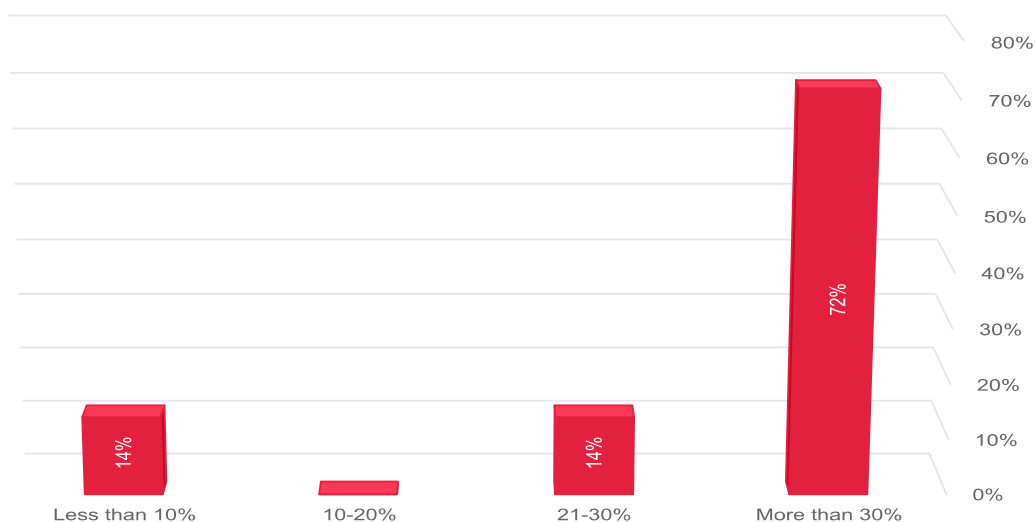
**5.11. What is the approximate percentage increase in engagement numbers on social media?
(Q.72)**

Eight members saw an increase in engagement numbers. Four of them had a 10-20% increase, three of them saw less than a 10% increase while only one member saw a 21-30% increase.



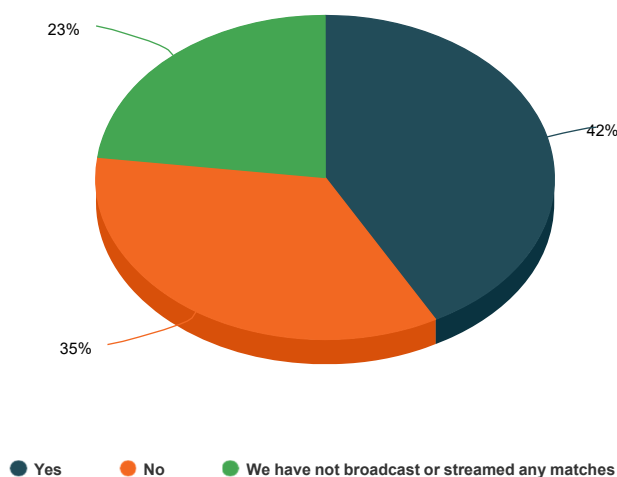
**5.12. What is the approximate percentage decrease in engagement numbers on social media?
(Q.73)**

Just seven countries saw a decrease in engagement numbers. Five of them had more than 30% increase while the other two had less than 10% and 21-30%.



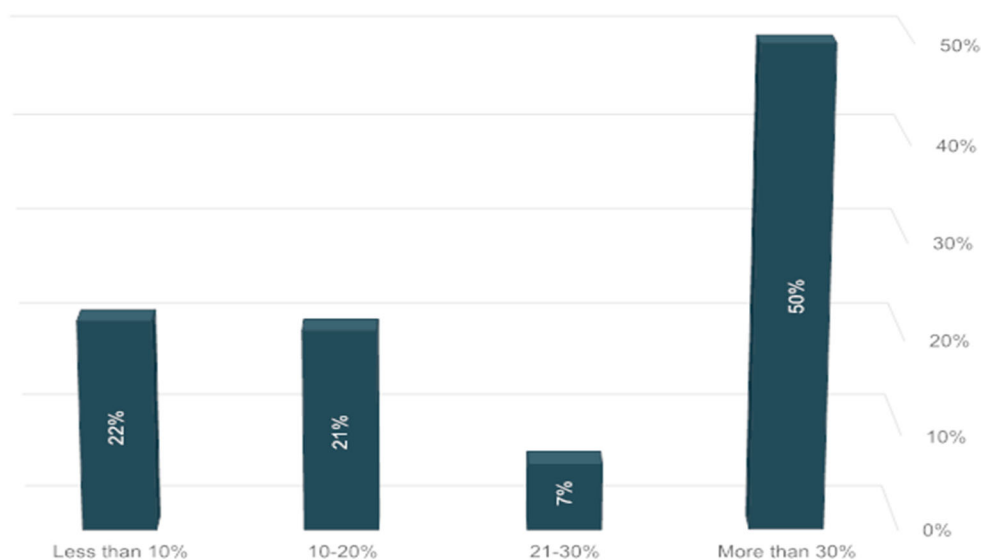
5.13. During the pandemic have you been able to increase the reach of Floorball through other methods (for example TV / streaming)? (Q.74)

42% of members were able to increase the reach of Floorball thanks to streaming the games, while 35% were not able to increase. Only seven countries did not broadcast any matches.



5.14. How big has the increase been? (Q.75)

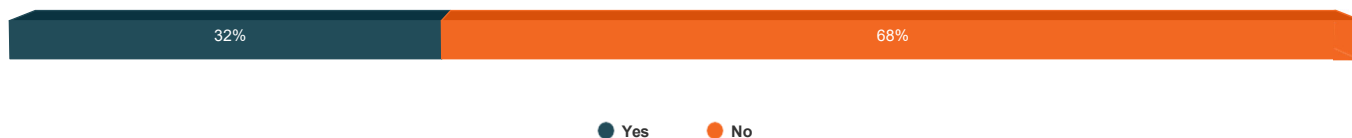
14 members saw an increase in the reach. Exactly 50% of these saw an increase of more than 30%, three had an increase of less than 10% and 10-20%, while one member had a 21-30% increase.



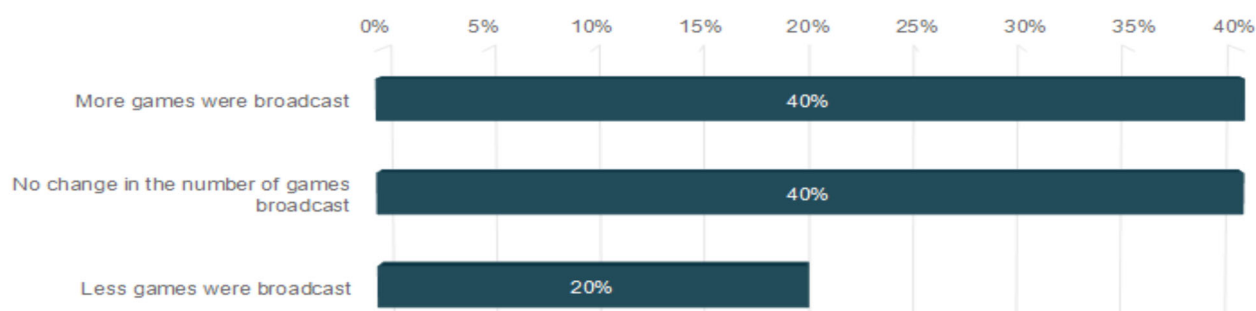
5.15. Do you have any agreements to broadcast Floorball matches? (Q.76)

This could be free-to-air television, pay-tv, or other online platform agreements

Most reported not having any agreements to broadcast Floorball matches with only 10 members having current agreements.

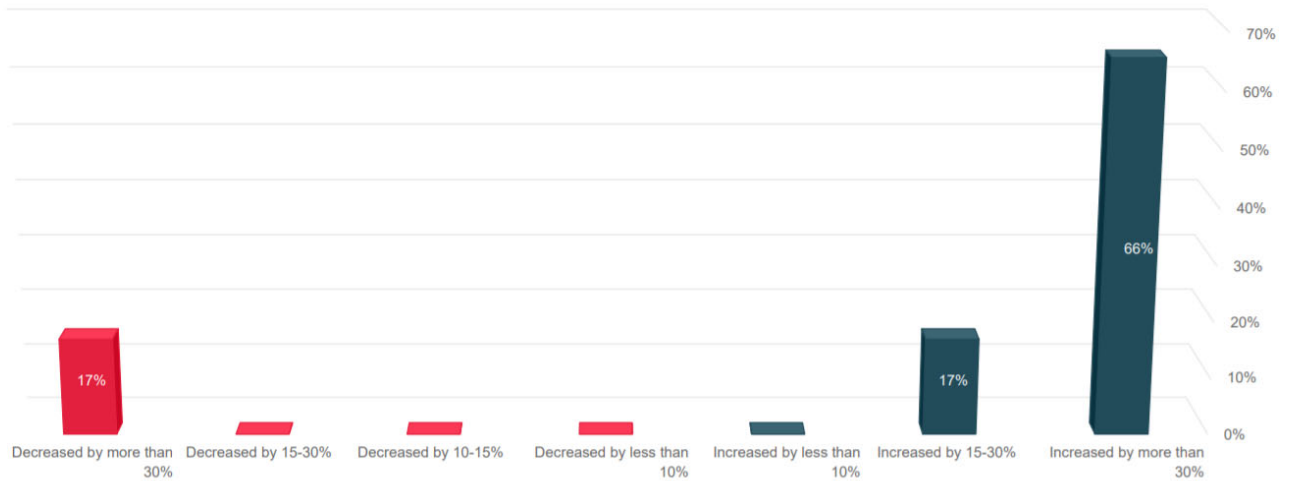


5.16. Did the number of games broadcast during season 2020/21 change? (Q.77)



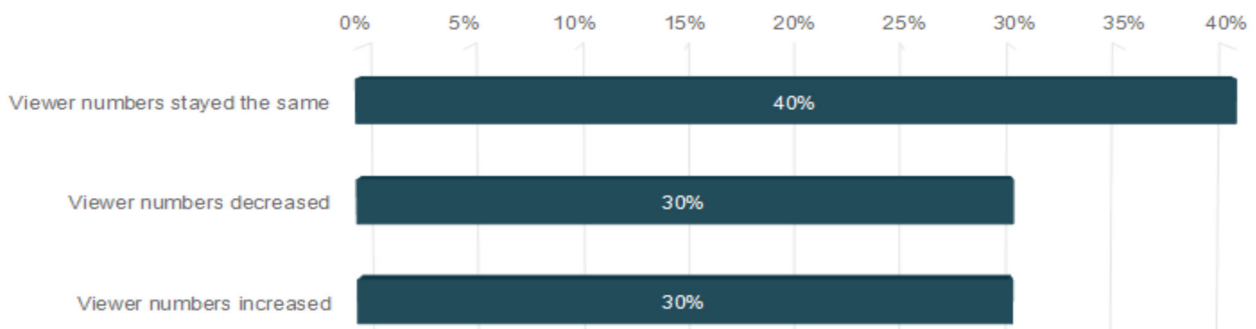
5.17. What has been the percentage change in the number of game broadcasts? (Q.78)

Out of the 10 members who had agreements to broadcast, two have less games, four have more games and the other four have the same number of games to broadcast. Four members reported an increase of more than 30%, while the other two reported a decrease by more than 30%.



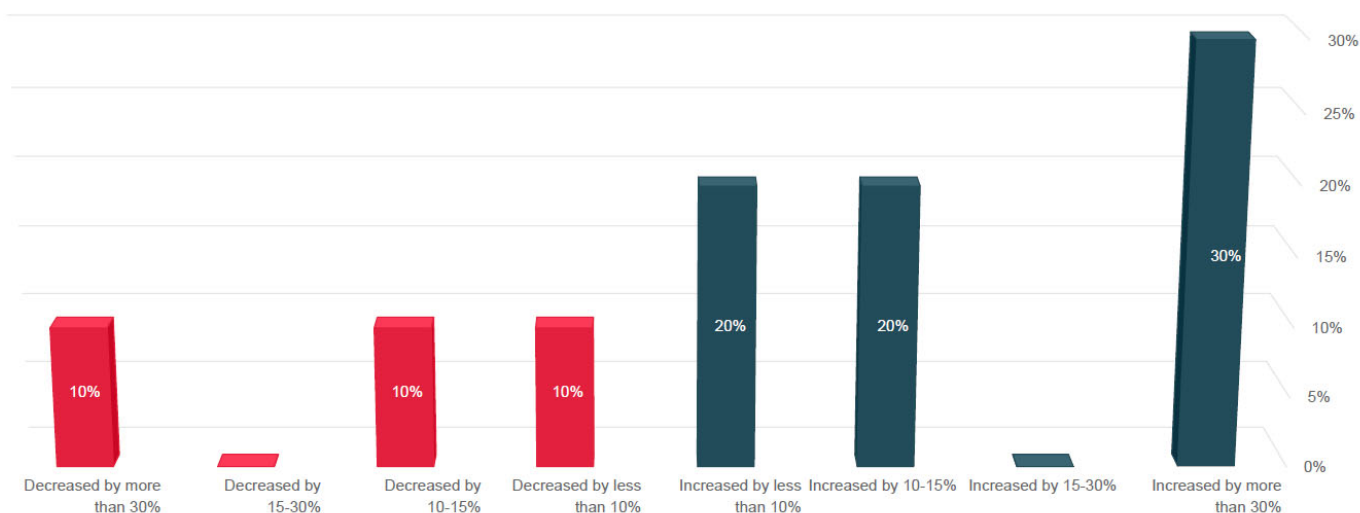
5.18. How were viewer numbers impacted by Covid-19? (Q.79)

Four countries reported to have almost the same viewer numbers as before. Three countries saw a decrease and the other three saw an increase.

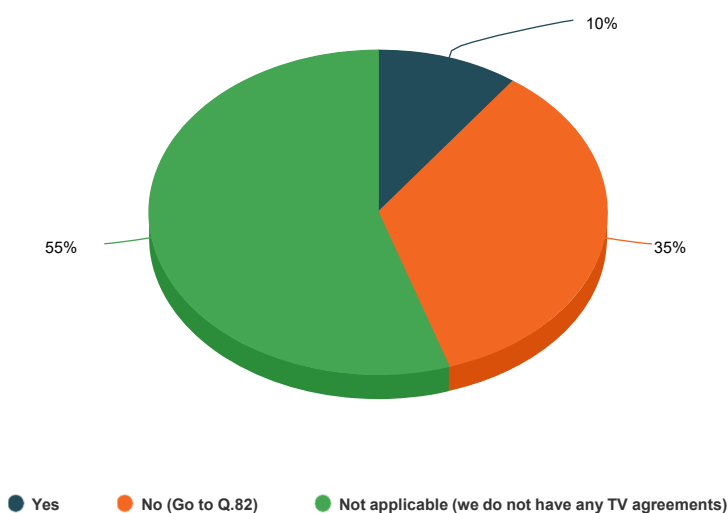


5.19. What has been the percentage change in viewer numbers? (Q.80)

Three members reported an increase of more than 30%, two members had an increase of 10-15% and less than 10%. The three who had a decrease in viewer numbers had a less than 10%, 10-15% and more than a 30% decrease.



5.20. Has Covid-19 affected any current/future TV agreements? (Q.81)



5.21. Give a brief description of how Covid-19 has affected any current/future TV agreements? (Q.82)

Just three countries reported that Covid-19 has affected their current/future TV agreements. Many people were interested to watch games from TV or streaming services meaning the federations will investigate getting a deal. Due to the pandemic, airtime which may have usually been available for Floorball was allocated to other sports due to the increased demand for online sports broadcasting.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

MEDIA SUMMARY

At the beginning of the pandemic, when all Floorball activities were stopped, Associations worked hard to maintain the engagement of their fans. Over an extended period though this became increasingly difficult as the amount of new content was significantly reduced. The most significant impact was on website visitor numbers, while social media channel engagement remained steadier. Many adopted the use of new channels, such as Tik Tok, and successfully used social media to run 'at-home' campaigns and promotions.

Once top league competitions were able to resume the restrictions on spectators meant that the broadcast of Floorball matches became even more important as this was the only possible way to reach an audience. Many associations already had broadcast or streaming agreements in place and most of these were able to broaden their reach. Many used archive footage and created highlight packages to ensure continual content on their channels.

IMPACT ON IFF MEDIA

As the pandemic took over and cancelled or postponed IFF Events, it also reduced floorball content. Website user numbers decreased and so did the impressions and engagements on IFF social media channels. The usual increase on these numbers during World Floorball Championships and other events was not realised due to the pandemic.

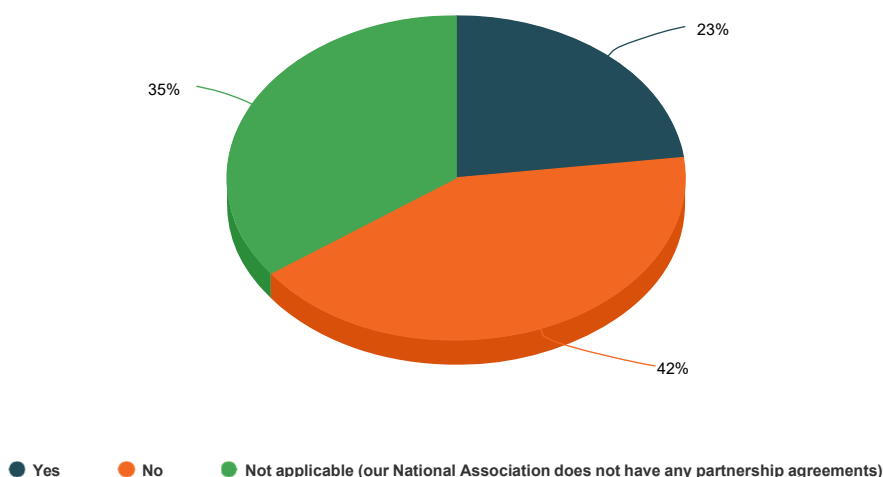
To keep followers engaged, the IFF shared followers' videos on how to keep practising floorball at home. To utilise new virtual concepts, IFF launched the first ever World Virtual Freestyle Floorball Cup (WVFFC) which was aimed to activate floorball players around the world. Since events were not creating any new content, different types of throwback posts were published on social media utilising photos and video footage from past IFF Events.

6. MARKETING

6.1. How have your sponsors responded to any reduction in exposure due to games not being played / no spectators allowed / games not being broadcast? (Q.83)

Most of the sponsors have been very understanding of the situation Floorball was in. There were a few cases where the sponsors would reduce their support or would expect the federation to come up with different ways to get them exposure. Only a few members reported that they lost a few sponsors. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

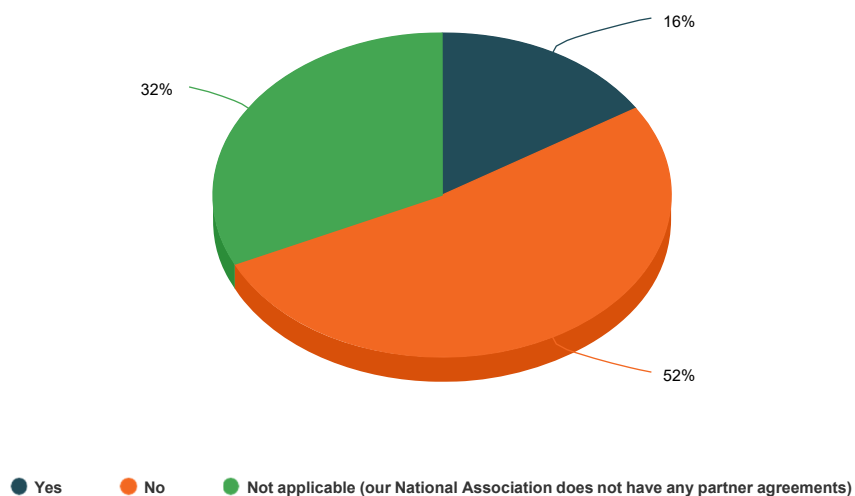
6.2. Has Covid-19 had any financial implications on current partnership agreements? (Q.84)



6.3. Please give examples of the financial implications. (Q.85)

Just seven members reported having financial implications with current partnerships. Some of the implications were postponing sponsorship contracts to upcoming years and reducing the income from sponsorships. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

6.4. Have you been forced to change your partner agreements? (Q.86)



6.5. How have you changed these agreements? (Q.87)

Only five members have had to change their partner agreements by extending the validity period of the agreement or by just cancelling it due to no events. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

6.6. How have future partnerships / sponsorship deals been impacted by Covid-19? (Q.88)

There is a lot of uncertainty in this field about the future. Many have stated they are waiting until the pandemic is over and hope for the best. A few members have begun new talks about potential sponsorships for upcoming years. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

6.7. Have you developed new marketing products due to the pandemic? (Q.89)



6.8. What new marketing products have you developed? (Q.90)

Just five members reported that they developed new marketing products. These include opening a store to sell national team merchandise and other Floorball memorabilia, different digital content for the fans, partnerships with other federations, online studio for match days and street floorball.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

6.9. From a commercial perspective, how has any reduction in licensed players, or the lack of competitions, impacted on the general interest in the sport? (Q.91)

Most of the members think it has had a negative impact and will continue for a little while. They can see numbers decrease on their websites and engagement in general has not been great. There are a few exceptions where fans are interested in streaming networks and are engaged with social media content. Yet again, many are uncertain what the impact will be because the pandemic is still ongoing.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

MARKETING SUMMARY

The marketing activities of the IFF National Associations already varied greatly before the pandemic, so the effects have also been different. Fortunately, most members who already had agreements have found that their sponsors and partners have been understanding of the situation, however, they do foresee an impact for future negotiations, both with current and potential partners. Their lower participant numbers and reduced website/social media users could reduce their negotiating strength and make them less attractive as a partner.

IMPACT ON IFF MARKETING

The market was very challenging for the IFF due to the pandemic. With the absence of events and uncertain outlook about restarting floorball, in addition to instability on the market in general, resulted in a reluctance to engage into negotiations. Despite the difficult market situation, the IFF was still able to open some new leads and progress the discussion with sports apparel providers. The positive outcomes of new partners for some federations as well as for WFC 2022 in Switzerland shows that companies see the situation improving in the near future.

Prior to the pandemic, the partnership with Protocol Sports Marketing had not produced many results so the slow situation on the market left time to re-negotiate the existing agreement. In addition, a new sales agency was contracted during the period - Red Carpet Brand Alliances. This agreement covers the Nordic countries, with sales starting in November 2021.

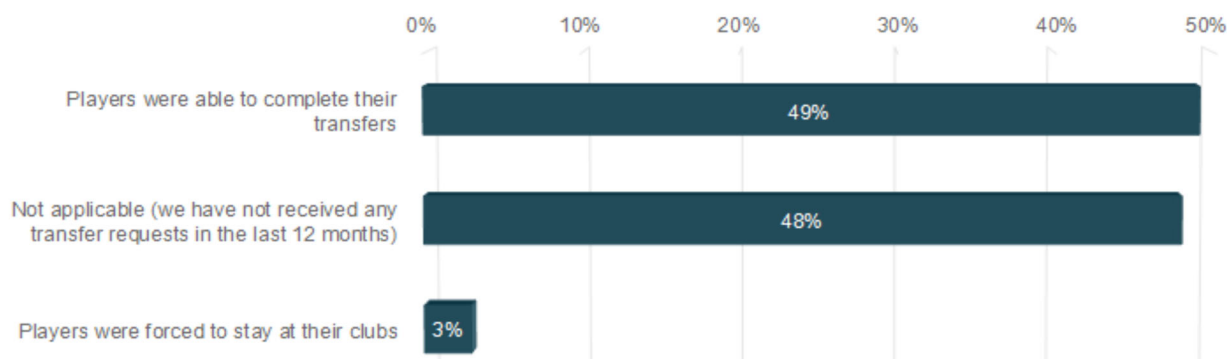
Floorball manufacturers have been hard hit by the pandemic, not just by reduced sales, but also by difficulties in sourcing product materials. Until participation levels significantly increase, finding a balance between demand, production, and supply will be difficult.

During the pandemic the IFF invested time to create a product catalogue with the assistance of the Swedish Floorball Federation. The IFF sponsors have been very understanding of the overall situation. With the restart of events the IFF have tried to, where possible, fulfil special requests from sponsors that in some way help to compensate for the missed events, despite it being a force majeure situation.

7. TRANSFERS

7.1. What impact did Covid-19 have on player transfers within your association? Were players able to complete transfers? (Q.92)

Just one member said that players were forced to stay at their clubs. All others were able to complete transfers



7.2. Do you think Covid-19 will have an impact in your country during the upcoming transfer window? (Q.93)



7.3. What do you think the impact will be? (Q.94)

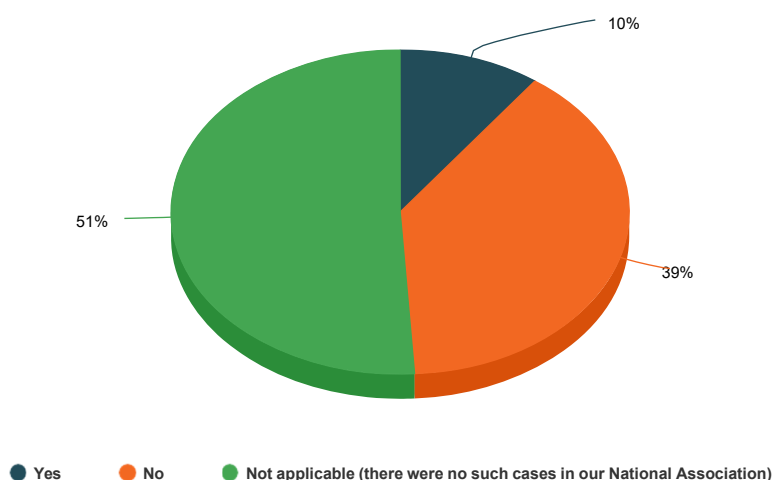
Seven members think the next transfer window will be impacted by Covid-19. Members think there will be less transfers due to travel restrictions, quality of players could be lower in the leagues, and players could be unable to play due to leagues not starting, meaning they would not want to transfer to a league that is not going ahead. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

7.4. How many local players that were playing abroad transferred back to your country due to Covid-19? (Q.95)

Most members did not have any players coming back, but some of the larger nations with many players based in other countries, reported having up to 30 players return home due to Covid-19.

<See full text responses in Appendix 1>

7.5. Were there any international transfers to/from your country that were started but then not completed due to Covid-19? (Q.96)



7.6. How many international transfers were interrupted by the pandemic? (Q.97)

There were only three countries that reported an interrupted international transfer. The number of interrupted transfers ranged between one and four. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

TRANSFER SUMMARY

Most international transfers are made between the larger Floorball countries so, not surprisingly, it was these countries who felt the greatest impact of the pandemic in this area. With competitions stopped and lockdowns introduced many players, especially those who are based in foreign countries for the sole purpose of playing Floorball, chose to return to their home country.

Smaller member countries that have many foreign players who are temporarily located there due to other (non-Floorball related) employment, also experienced a loss of players as many companies shut down projects during the pandemic. Most believe that transfers will still be impacted in the short-term due to continuing uncertainty caused by the pandemic and travel restrictions.

IMPACT ON IFF TRANSFERS

Due to Covid-19 the IFF introduced a temporary transfer rule which allowed foreign players, whose series in their leagues were temporarily stopped, to return to their original country. Players were also able to move and temporarily play in another country for the same reason. The Covid-19 temporary regulations were valid from 1st November 2020 until 30th of June 2021.

The pandemic forced a lot of National Leagues to suspend their competitions and therefore players were looking for a opportunities to play in leagues that were still running. IFF noticed an increase in transfers between November 2020 and January 2021, during which 73 players temporarily moved to play in another league. Due to the lack of International Tournaments during the summer, there were no Temporary Play Transfers or Student Transfers. In total, international transfers were made to 20 different countries during the 2020/2021 transfer period (1st July 2020 – 15th January 2021), with the top four destinations being Finland (127), Sweden (126), Czech Republic (98) and Switzerland (93).

8. FINANCE

8.1. What have been the overall financial impacts (positive or negative) of Covid-19 on the National association? (Q.98)

Provide a monetary figure or percentage impact, as well as reasons. For example, lack of sponsors; reduced/increased government support; ticket sales etc.

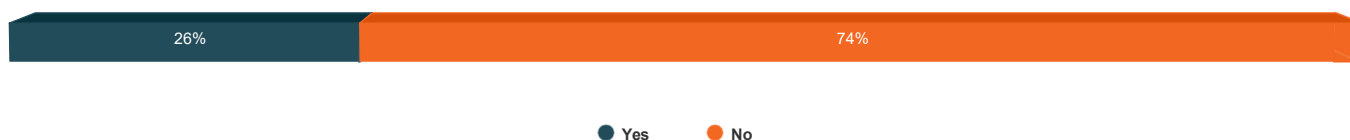
The situation is very different for all countries, but overall, it has been negative. The percentages for decreased revenue ranged from 10% to 70% but some federations received full government support which helped them to stay in the positive. Decreased player numbers meant revenue from player fees dropped. Some countries feel they will struggle to keep the federation going due to no government support and sponsors pulling out of deals. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

8.2. How much did your turnover change in 2020 compared to 2019? (Q.99)

Provide a monetary figure or percentage impact

Turnover changes were also very different between members. Some countries reported no change in turnover at all, many members saw a change between 5-20%, and a couple reported losing out on 60-90% of previous turnover. The bigger Floorball countries seem to have a better recovery in this due to their federations being more stable financially. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

8.3. Have you received financial support from the government or National Sport organisations specifically related to Covid-19? (Q.100)



8.4. Please give a brief description of the support you have/will receive (Q.101)

Was it one time support or ongoing support? For how long will you continue to receive this support?

Just eight members reported to having received financial support. Half of them got a one-time support payment for salaries, purchasing masks and sanitizers, or supporting teams. Other members have ongoing support to keep the federation and teams going. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

8.5. What areas of your organisation do you think will be most greatly affected by your financial impacts? (Q.102)

Most of the members think development and national teams will take the biggest hit due to their financial impacts. National team members will not get as much support as before, meaning they would need to pay for camps and tournaments themselves. Development work is also under fire due to the lack of government support. Members are worried youth development will take a hit due to the lack of camps and coaches. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The level of government support that members received had a significant impact on their financial situation during the pandemic. Some were lucky enough to receive high levels of aid, while most received very little, or even nothing. The financial impact is also somewhat double-edged. The bigger federations may have had more significant losses but due to their larger member base their recovery may be swifter, while the smaller federations, with smaller losses but much less potential for income, may take a much longer time to recover. Development and national teams were the areas highlighted as most likely to suffer in the future due to a reduction in available finances.

IMPACT ON IFF FINANCES

The financials for IFF were already quite strained, mainly being a liquidity problem, but were moving in a positive direction when Covid-19 hit. Relatively early it was realised the need to cut about a third of the annual budget so as not to jeopardise the existence of IFF. All travelling was stopped and only the most essential investments on development were carried out. In the end of 2020, the IFF employees were all furloughed for four weeks.

The IFF received Covid-19 financial support of USD 75,000 from the IOC, divided in two halves, the first part in 2020 and the second part early 2021, as well as support from the Finnish Ministry of Education of EUR 50,000. These support payments, together with the cost-cutting measures, helped IFF to stay on the positive side. To avoid a further liquidity crisis, the IFF negotiated with the associations registered to IFF events that had to be cancelled, as well as those associations that could not participate in IFF events due to restrictions, that their paid fees should stay with IFF and be used for later events. In addition, IFF secured the possibility of a EUR 100,000 loan from the Finnish Floorball Federation, but as the Covid restrictions have eased and events were confirmed to be played this option has not yet been needed to be used.

9. NATIONAL TEAMS & IFF EVENTS

9.1. How were national team activities affected? (Q.103)

Camps were postponed; friendlies were cancelled etc.

All countries experienced the similar problem of there being no activities with the national teams. They were unable to have training camps, friendly matches, and team meetings. Only a few countries were able to organise a couple of meetings, but these were forgotten quite quickly due to the second wave. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

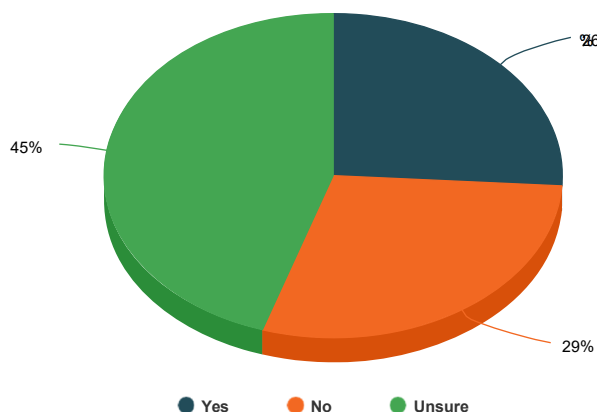
9.2. What do you think will be the impact of this pandemic for future national teams? (Q.104)

Training camps and friendlies will be organised differently; set guidelines for teams to follow; travelling.

A lot of federations think it will be a lot more difficult to organise training camps and friendly internationals with other countries. They would need to follow the strict Covid-19 protocol set by governments and without financial support from governments it would be quite expensive to organise. Some think vaccinations could save money and time when organising these events. A few are concerned about the lack of fans interested in matches. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

9.3. Will there be an effect on your ability to register for future IFF events due to Covid-19 related impacts? (Q.105)

Answers for this question are quite mixed. Almost half of the participants are unsure about their current situation while the other half is split with yes, there could be an effect on their ability to register and no, there will not be any problems.



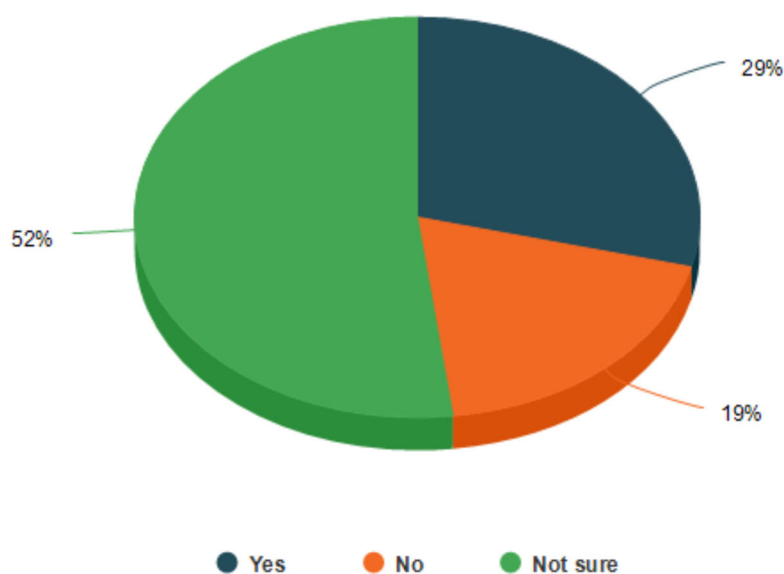
9.4. What do you think will be the main issue? Financial problems; travel; vaccinations etc. (Q.106)

The main problem federations have is the financial side of registering. They are also concerned about the travel restrictions and vaccinations. Whenever a player is not vaccinated, they would have to quarantine and that would also be of extra cost. <See full text responses in Appendix 1>

9.5. Do you think there will be an effect on the ability of clubs from your country to register for future IFF events, due to any Covid-19 related financial impact? (Q.107)

For events such as Champions Cup, EuroFloorball Cup or EuroFloorball Challenge

Just nine participating countries think clubs would struggle to register for any upcoming IFF events. Over half of the members are unsure if this would be a problem and six members are certain it would not be a problem in the future.



NATIONAL TEAMS SUMMARY

The level of government support that members received had a significant impact on their financial situation during the pandemic. Some were lucky enough to receive high levels of aid, while most received very little, or even nothing. The financial impact is also somewhat double-edged. The bigger federations may have had more significant losses but due to their larger member base their recovery may be swifter, while the smaller federations, with smaller losses but much less potential for income, may take a much longer time to recover. Development and national teams were the areas highlighted as most likely to suffer in the future due to a reduction in available finances.

IMPACT ON IFF EVENTS

The direct impact of the pandemic of IFF events during the survey period is summarised in the earlier section on competitions, however the impacts on the national teams will have a flow-on effect for future IFF events. There is expected to be some financial strain on many Member Associations and the participation of national teams in international events is an area where many may look to for cutting expenses.

The holding of events is imperative to the success of the IFF. We rely on income from these for the running of the organisation as well as the implementation of development plans. The IFF relies on National Associations to host events and for teams to register and participate. Any significant drop in either of these areas will need to be looked out for.

In the short-term, National Associations may find it more difficult to secure government support for hosting tournaments, thereby limiting the number organisers available to host IFF events. The increased need for Covid-19 protocols and the added expense both for the organiser and participating teams may also have an impact on participation in events. The risk associated with hosting or attending an event is also higher while the Covid-19 virus remains active.

Conclusion

This Covid-19 Impact Study provides a picture of the huge impact that the pandemic has had on Floorball worldwide. The lack of competitions had the biggest effect, especially on participation levels and the finances of clubs, national associations, and the IFF, however the study shows the great resilience of our Member Associations to adapt and change. While we may not have been able to offer traditional competitions during the worst periods of the pandemic, we found new ways to bring Floorball to our members. Online education, online team training, online meetings, and virtual competitions were areas where new opportunities appeared.

We developed new ways of working during the pandemic, many of which will likely stay with us in the future. The time away from organising competitions offered some members the chance to re-organise and focus on areas of the organisation that had been overlooked. For most of the competitions there were large periods where spectators were not allowed in the venue, so clubs and associations offered more games than ever via online platforms.

There is no doubt that in the coming years we will all still feel the effects of 2020/2021. The Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over, and we must still find ways to rebuild. A focus on attracting back players, spectators, and sponsors will be vital. The IFF & National Associations must be sure to focus not just on recovering the youth development but also ensure that the recreational and lower-level adult players are brought back to the sport. Returning participation numbers to pre-Covid levels is important not just for the statistics but also directly impacts the financial position of clubs and associations.

The success of online activities must be built upon. The benefits of online education – lower costs and higher participation possibilities – must continue. In sport, there is often no substitute for face-to-face training, but we must try and offer a variety of education methods at all levels to cater for as many people as possible.

The online presence of Floorball has grown significantly in past years and during the pandemic we were able to maintain a significant proportion of followers across all media channels. Future events must capitalise on new technologies and platforms to keep our followers engaged and attract new ones. The pandemic has shown the importance of the online connection to our supporters. Even without competitions we clearly have a strong product to offer not just to consumers but also for our partners.



Since the survey was concluded in mid-2021, the IFF have successfully staged two Under 19 World Championships and have two adult WFCs just around the corner. The league competitions in almost all European countries have begun for season 2021/22 and international matches are being held regularly between Member Associations. There are still major sporting events being postponed or cancelled, so the pandemic is not yet over, but Floorball has developed strong Covid-19 protocols that can be implemented for all events, and we now have the knowledge of how to plan within Covid-19 adapted event environments. We are hopeful that we do not find ourselves again in the situation of having to postpone or cancel events, and we are confident that the Member Associations will slowly recover memberships levels.

The IFF hopes that with the review of this report new initiatives and projects will be implemented to help rebuild Floorball throughout the world. Life has not returned to 'normal', and perhaps may never fully return to how things were before, so we must adapt to the new climate and endeavour to find different and improved ways to engage our players, fans, sponsors, and media to make Floorball even stronger than before.

Thank you to all of the National Associations who took the time to complete the survey, and thank you to Mattias Kauk from Northumbria University who provided the results analysis as part of his Sport Management studies and internship with IFF.

Sarah Mitchell
IFF Event Manager

APPENDIX 1: Text responses

1.2 Tell us how your competitions were affected in season 2019/20 (Q.2)

We started competition but were not able to complete competition and/or play offs. We kept all teams in their leagues, no promotion or relegation
The season ran normal from September 2019 for all leagues until March when COVID started to spread. All leagues were stopped on 13.03.2020 when the first lockdown started in Switzerland.
We host our major tournament of the year called the Canada Cup which is for all ages, and we were not able to play it this year. It is usually in May of the year.
All competitions stopped in March 2020. We were able to do a Supercup (final four weekend format) to resume Adult male and Adult female competitions in December 2020. All the others just cancelled.
The winners in each category were chosen taking into account the "1st round" results - no play offs or final tournaments.
The confinement in France was declared the 17 th March 2020. As a result, all inside or outside practice/match of floorball were cancelled for each category of age in all the country. The lifting of the lockdown was announced the 11 th May 2020 but it was not until the 14 th June 2020 that we were able to practice floorball. Some club had the chance to have their gymnasiums from this day to the end of summer in August 2020, some were not that lucky and couldn't play floorball inside until September 2020. For the season 2019/2020, there was no difference between any age group.
ActiveSG SFA Floorball League for Div 5 & 6 were unable to complete in April / May 2020. ActiveSG Floorball Plate and Bowl for school junior was unable to take place. ActiveSG SFA Premier Floorball League (mid-April - Aug) is unable to kick start due to Circuit Breaker Period imposed by local Government from 8th April – mid-Jun 2020. An annual Island wide sporting activities organized by the Sports Agency with various National Sports Associations called "GetActive Pesta Sukan" for more than 50 sports were hold back and SFA usually have divisions like: Youth -U18, U16 & U12; Open (Men and Women); Corporate (Mixed). 2nd National Age Groups Floorball Championships for U18, U16, U14, & U12 was unable to take place during Mid Term School Holidays in Jun 2020
All juniors suspended. Some senior competitions continued but no National Tournaments
Top series (F-liiga men, F-liiga women and men's first division) played full season. Most of the other competitions were stopped in the end of November. In some parts of country some junior games could be played during the whole season.
Most of the leagues for seniors were completed, but appr. 2.000 matches were not played.
Games were stopped in March 2020 and later on a decision was taken to cancel all competitions for the season 2019/20.
In March 2020 government restrictions interrupted all sport competitions. A month later CB decided to cancel season 2019/2020.
Our competitions went on well up to February 2020. When we were hit by covid everything was put to a standstill
Under 17 youth could not be completed
We cannot compete in anything. Sporting tournaments were all cancelled, but we were able to have some very limited training camps for the national team, and a final national championship for 9 teams (adult)
Liechtenstein does not have its own competitions. Liechtenstein is completely integrated in the competitions of Swiss Floorball. Therefore, Liechtenstein was affected exactly the same as Switzerland.
All matches could not be finished in the Championship tournament.
The government banned all competitions in our country.
Floorball for all age groups were shut down in the middle of March 2020.
All groups were cancelled last year
All Sports were suspended in Kenya thus it was impossible to hold any competitions
All competitions. We decided not to complete all competitions and finished the season in March without promotions and relegations.
We had to stop all the leagues in March 2020. We did not "name" the Champions.
Did not finished any of the national championships, due to government restriction.
completely cancelled.

1.4 Tell us why you could not complete / start your highest leagues in season 2020/21, or what changes you had to implement in order to complete the competition (Q.4)

What were the main issues? Government restrictions, financial issues etc during the period of September 2020 - June 2021

Due to the COVID situation, all leagues were stopped on 23.10.2020. The National league A (top league) for women and men restarted on 06.01.2021 - all others could not play again.
Government restrictions prevented us from playing any floorball at all. There was no gathering allowed or team sports.
We were not able to start until late January (adults male and female, and juniors). Some teams didn't join due to the pandemic. Every weekend we have had restrictions in one or more arenas that made us cancel or delay matches; we do not know if we will be able to finish and if so how or when. For kids we have started in late February but with less teams due to the pandemic.
The Extraleague schedules were modified due to the COVID restrictions. The main round was played almost without any significant changes, only some games were postponed until no positive tests were found in the given teams. We changed the play-off system. Final will be played as "final four - one day semis, another day finals" system instead of semis (3 wins) and finals (2 wins).
Unable to start due to the control of total number of players allowed on court at any 1 point of time. Before Feb 2021, only a group of 5 pax is allowed and revised to max a group of 8 pax is allowed hence SFA organised a Modified league for Men and Woman (Mixed divisions) which allowed 4v4 = 8 pax on competition court at any 1 point of time, from 6 Mar 2021 and have just ended the round 1 on 2nd May 2021. As of now, due to the increase in the local community cases, Government Multiple Taskforce Ministries had revised and reinstated the rule of cap max 5 pax are allowed to gather, visiting and activities; back to Phase 2 status and till will be monitor till 30th May 2021.
Some States played WA and ACT; other States did not play
Government restrictions
Government restrictions
Games were started in the beginning of the season, but all games were stopped in October 2020.
The second wave came to our country in Autumn 2020 and government restrictions had been so strict that any sport can be played. This continues so far, except football, ice hockey, basketball, volleyball, and handball highest leagues. These five sports have professional players - main reason why they got government exception.
Government restrictions
government restrictions due to Covid-19
We couldn't start because all players are required to undergo Covid tests every two weeks, and the costs are supposed to be met by the National Sports Associations or Federations, yet the government is not supporting us financially and the covid test fee is way too high.
Covid Restrictions
government restrictions.
As a state of emergency was declared.
The covid situation is in a bad level here so we could not start them.
Had to take a break in January and February. We had to change the dates of our highest league and move the final for our cup tournament and highest league.
Government restrictions Gym closed... can't gather people by law... Not allowed to lend Gyms
Because sports were suspended by the government due to Covid 19
Our Superfinal was held on May 2, 2021.
We started the season normally in all federal leagues (1st, 2nd Men's league and 1st Women's league). We had to stop playing after couple of games because of the Government restrictions and also had to cancel the leagues later.
Government restrictions
Covid-19 restrictions were very different depending on state and region It was never possible to have all states available at the same time because of these different rules and restrictions.

1.5 How were the highest leagues affected? (Q.5)

Men	Women
Break from 23.10. to 06.01.2021	Break from 23.10. to 06.01.2021
Could not play games or train together	Could not play games or train together
Three teams less than season before. Lots of cancellations, postponed matches.	Two teams less than season before. Lots of cancellations and postponed matches.
the league was able to "start" as there was a weekend of competition in early October 2020 but was then cancelled	Did not start
Highest leagues with 12 teams, last played was from April - Aug 2019.	Highest leagues with 12 teams, last played was from April - Aug 2019.
Some states played others didn't	Some states played and others didn't
Did not start	Did not start
Not completed (league stopped 20th of January)	Not completed (league stopped 20th of January)
Highest competition was cancelled	Highest competition was cancelled
stopped	stopped
Unable to play due to restrictions. Number of games reduced.	Unable to play due to restrictions. Number of games reduced.
Delayed	We have no leagues
The Federation couldn't meet covid testing fees which are too high in Uganda	The Federation couldn't meet the Covid testing fees which are too high in Uganda
Not organised	Not organised
No competitions were played	No competitions were played
The number of games was limited.	The number of games was limited.
Not started	Not started
Final moved to 6th of June	Final moved to 6th of June
Couldn't happen	Couldn't happen
Superfinal was great	Superfinal was great
Started but had to cancel	Started but had to cancel
Did not finish	Did not finish
not played	not played

1.7 Tell us why you could not complete / start your other national competitions in season 2020/21 (Q.7)

What were the main issues? Government restrictions, financial issues etc during the period of September 2020 - June 2021

Due to the COVID situation, all leagues were stopped on 23.10.2020. The National league A (top league) for women and men restarted on 06.01.2021 - all others could not play again.
Government restrictions prevented us from playing any floorball at all. There was no gathering allowed or team sports.
In Spain we have travel restrictions among regions. So, all the competitions or events must be within your own province.
The other competitions are scheduled to finish in April and May.
government restrictions, from September 24th several regions were under specific restrictions that closed gymnasium for everyone (first Marseilles, then Paris in early October, then Lille, Lyon on the 10th of October...).

<p>The Government restrictions and its Safety Measurement Management (SMM) has been capped at max of 5 pax (gathering, dining, visiting to family and sporting activities). With such restrictions, no games are able to start. SFA has started Back2Floorball Modified Competition from 6th Mar 2021, when the SMM cap increased to 8 pax which allowed us to organise 4v4 games (please refer to Singapore Floorball Association FB for details on how to play with goalkeeper and over 3 shifts); and have just ended Round 1 on 2 May 2021. Unfortunately, there was increased in local community cases hence the Multiple Taskforce Ministries must raise the restriction and go back to 5 pax max for all and monitor till end of May 2021.</p>
<p>Travel restrictions</p>
<p>The main issues were government and regional restrictions.</p>
<p>Government restrictions</p>
<p>Government restrictions.</p>
<p>Games were started in the beginning of the season, but all games were stopped in October 2020. A revised version of the Italian Cup is being played in the months of May and June for Men and Women. Some other tournaments will be played in the month of June.</p>
<p>The same reason as the national leagues.</p>
<p>Restrictions</p>
<p>government restrictions due to Covid19</p>
<p>We couldn't start because all players are required to undergo covid tests every two weeks and the costs are supposed to be met by the National Sports Associations or Federations, yet the government is not supporting us financially and the covid test fee is way too high.</p>
<p>Covid restrictions</p>
<p>Government restrictions.</p>
<p>As a state of emergency was declared.</p>
<p>Same as the other competitions</p>
<p>Government restrictions forced us to shut down at various dates during the autumn. Except from the highest leagues, Allsvenskan Men kept playing.</p>
<p>Due to government restrictions.</p>
<p>Government restrictions Gym closed... can't gather people by law... Not allowed to lend Gyms</p>
<p>Government restrictions</p>
<p>We were not able to complete it because of COVID-19 situation in the Czech Republic. All sports halls were closed in October, and they are still closed (actually there is possibility to practice just 2 people).</p>
<p>It seems maybe that we will be a little bit more free in June, 2021</p>
<p>For same reason as the federal leagues.</p>
<p>Government restrictions</p>
<p>Covid-19 restrictions were very different depending on state and region It was never possible to have all states available at the same time because of these different rules and restrictions.</p>
<p>In Sept when our leagues start, for all levels (juniors and adults) the measurements were that with taking certain regulations into account the matches were allowed to happen. Halfway through October(4 senior match days and 2 kid's days) we had to cancel all as no indoor</p>

sports were allowed anymore

1.8 How were the other competitions affected in each age group? (Q.8)

Provide information on how each age category was impacted. Other competitions do NOT include your highest adult leagues.

Juniors (under 16yrs)	Youth (16-21yrs)	Adult (21-40yrs)	Seniors (over 40yrs)
2 of 10 game days played, no tournaments	No separate competition in NL	4 of 24 game days played, 1 of 6 tournament days held	No separate competition in NL
Stop of the season on 23.10.2021	Stop of the season on 23.10.2021	Stop of the season on 23.10.2021	Stop of the season on 23.10.2021
Could not play games or train together	Could not play games or train together	Could not play games or train together	Could not play games or train together
Cancellations and/or postponed every weekend somewhere.	We do not have that	Cancellations and/or postponed everyweekend somewhere.	We do not have that
slightly postponed until the "3rd wave" of COVID has passed	Only a few matches postponed	Only a few matches postponed	n.a
from mid-October no gymnasiums were opened. Still not open in May 2021	from mid-October no gymnasiums were opened. Still not open in May 2021	from mid-October no gymnasiums were opened. Still not open in May 2021	from mid-October no gymnasiums were opened. Still not open in May 2021
2-3 events unable to organised	2-3 events	2-3 events	1 event
No play	No play	Different play in different States	Not Applicable
Mostly stopped in the end of November. In some regions it was possible to play in categories 12 years and younger.	Stopped in the end of November	Mostly stopped in the end of November. The third highest level both for women and men could be partly played. We asked the teams if they are able and willing to play for place to upper level.	Only some minor games could be played before the end of November
Did not start	Did not start	Did not start	No competition at all
Started but had to cancel	Started but had to cancel	Did not start	Did not start
No competitions being played	Promotional tournaments are scheduled for June.	Promotional tournaments are scheduled for June.	Promotional tournaments are scheduled for June.
stopped	stopped	stopped	stopped
All events cancelled	All events cancelled	All events cancelled	All events cancelled
delayed, will be played in June 2021	delayed, will be played in May 2021	delayed, will be played in May 2021	no league
The Federation couldn't meet the Covid testing fees which are too high in Uganda	The Federation couldn't meet the Covid testing fees which are too high in Uganda	The Federation couldn't meet the Covid testing fees which are too high in Uganda	The Federation couldn't meet the Covid testing fees which are too high in Uganda

Juniors (under 16yrs)	Youth (16-21yrs)	Adult (21-40yrs)	Seniors (over 40yrs)
Not organised	Not organised	Not organised	Not organised
Started but have not completed yet	Started but have not completed yet	Started but have not completed yet	Started but have not completed yet
The number of games was limited.	The number of games was limited.	The number of games was limited.	The number of games was limited.
Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled except for SSL Men and Women and Allsvenskan Men	Cancelled
cancelled but has played in May and June	cancel	cancel, but highest league has played	cancel
100% affected	100% affected	100% affected	100% affected
Didn't happen as schools closed	Didn't happen as schools closed	Didn't happen due to government restrictions	Didn't happen
started in September but closed from October until today	started in September but closed from October until today	started in September but closed from October until today	started in September but closed from October until today
not played for 18 months	not played for 18 months	not played for 18 months	not played for 18 months
Started but had to cancel	Started but had to cancel	Started but had to cancel	Started but had to cancel
Started in September, but was stopped at the end of October, due to government restrictions	Started in September, but was stopped at the end of October, due to government restrictions	Started in September, but was stopped at the end of October, due to government restrictions	Started in September, but was stopped at the end of October, due to government restrictions

1.10 Give details of what types of modified competitions you used (Q.10)

SFA launched a " Back2Floorball Modified competition from 6th Mar 2021 onwards when the Government has increased the social gathering / meeting number to 8 pax. Basically, it was played over 3 shifts which the 1st and 2nd shifts are played with 3 players + 1 goalkeeper with big goal post and 3rd period is with 4 players with small goalpost. Players from the same club from different shift are not allowed to mingle within the Competition venue.
3v3 competition is planned to be played in June 2021
3v3 to reduce the number of players and spectators at every match
Street Floorball Tour invented by Swiss Unihockey.
We had a little Tehran province competition with 3 teams. And they played 4v4.
Online competitions
We have already prepared outdoor tournament called Street Floorball League which will be played from June till August.

1.12 Briefly explain the different competition rules that were used (Q.12)

We are playing 3 x 15 effective time in all competitions (big field for juniors and adults). Masks compulsory. No locker rooms. No spectators. Referees also using electronic whistles (not blowing ones)
- no changing ends - no "thanks fives" after the game - no spectators (GOV requirement) - medals for the teams given to players by the team captain, not by officials - if 2 or more matches in a row, halls were aired - some halls were disinfected by the local organizers
-shorter timing, -more breaks -No substitute -Referees are not allowed inside the court -2 shifts played with 3 players + 1 goalkeeper with big goalpost and -3rd shift played with 4 players with small goalpost
Teams didn't changed ends and that worked extremely well.
Corona protocols were made for both highest leagues, adults, and juniors. Infection control rules were implemented such as: Teams did not change ends, distance rules for all participants outside the rink etc. End tables based upon average points per match.
Teams not changing side
No change of court halves
Shortened games; 4+1 format of games; Shortened penalties
Everyone to carry out covid tests on their own. 3v3 version instead of the standard one
We stopped the use of goalies, and used small goals for social grades, due to the sharing of equipment. we stopped the changes of sub zones.
The limited number of players was in a team. Teams had not been ranked.
Changes in completion rules: An extensive set of rules handling the outcomes if a team was affected by covid-19. Changes in the rules of the game: Teams not changing ends.
Not switching side between the periods
We change some competition rules in the beginning of season 2020/2021. We wanted to find solution how to play and mainly how to settle promotions and relegations. Unfortunately, we set up that we can set promotions and relegations after we play at least 50 % of standard match schedule. Actually, we play less and there is no possibility/time to finish it before the new season.
No handshakes, use masks
Teams not changing ends, no handshakes, larger team area in game court. Staff must wear masks.

1.14 Briefly describe what these special conditions (for players to take part in competitions) were (Q.14)

Temperature check - signed compliance - mask all the time - no celebrations - no locker rooms - first leave court and arena until the next teams enter (so many times no possibility of warm up)
- temperature checks - obligatory masks, with the exception of warm-up, game, and cool-down
-Temperature taking -Players entering to the competition venue accordingly to their designated shift and -they can only play 1 shift in a day
Sign in for contact tracing
Special protocols and in the highest leagues they had to have a medical person responsible for checking every player before training and matches.
Mandatory to do antigen test in the 72 hours before the game. Check of body temperature before entering.
Players were to meet the Covid testing fees on their own and present a certificate
We had the same special conditions as Swiss Floorball. These were slightly different from canton to canton. - No spectators - Masks compulsory immediately before and after the games - Temperature check - In case of symptoms quarantine for the individual player or the whole team.
Temperature checks before games and COVID-19 testing procedures
Temperature measurement. Submitting a health checklist document
We checked the temperature and also had an oxygen device controlling their level of oxygen.
Every team had to follow a protocol made by us from January including negative corona test for playing in competition game
For leisure games, temperatures had to be checked and a go ahead given by area chiefs

We have exception for the highest men's and women's league. In the beginning players were tested by PCR tests and later by antigen tests.
Sometimes temperature checks, but masks for all (not mandatory during the match for players, referees and head coaches)
Testing procedures

1.16 Describe the spectator restrictions (Q.16)

First with restrictions, later on spectators were not allowed.
GOV restrictions, firstly fans were allowed, later 50% capacity, from the middle of the season no spectators at all.
In the beginning of the season there were limited number of spectators allowed to follow the games having safety distance. Starting from December there were no spectators in the games.
There were various numbers during the period. At the most 200 spectators, but most of the period it was not allowed with spectators.
Number of spectators have been adjusted according to the number of infected people.
from none to a few tens or hundreds
The government published the recommendations about total capacity allowed incl. players and spectators.
Standing at 1 meter distance.
For some periods of time there were no spectators allowed
At the beginning of season spectators were not allowed in case with government orders. Gradually, closer to 2021 spectators started coming back.
Changed from 500 to 8 at various times during the season.
before Christmas it was allowed to have spectators with 1 meter between every seats. After Christmas it has not been allowed.
Spectators were not allowed except the September when we could play all competitions.
In the beginning of the season, it was allowed to let spectators in the halls. For this we also had different rules everywhere in Germany. In the end it was not possible to let any spectators in.
Limited spectators at the start of the season. When season resumed - from March no spectators.

1.18 How do you plan to attract spectators back to events in season 2021/22? (Q.18)

We already have very low amount of spectators in our competitions, but we are hoping to create some marketing to attract people back to the halls/trainings of clubs and matches. We will try to help clubs promote playing floorball again
There are currently no plans to do so, as there is little likelihood of spectators being admitted at the start of the season.
We generally don't have many spectators, but we will continue to encourage players to invite their friends and family to come and watch.
Not really plan anything because this will not be our decision.
The possibility of watching the games online via YouTube or Facebook has grown very much. We are sure that the spectators will be back which will give them great joy. Now we are consulting the possibilities of making some educational (promotional) videos encouraging to come back to the arenas and getting vaccinated.
In France we don't have many spectators (they are usually family members, friends of players), it is really an issue
Did not have any plan for such as we are very much constricted by Government policy and cost for test (if to allow spectators); However, we do arrange LIVE streaming of each and every match during Games days.
First task is to get all juniors playing again as they attract most spectators
It's a big question. Are people still afraid to come watch the games or not. Still the live game is best way to follow, but there a lot of open questions. We haven't made any detailed marketing plans so far.

We think there won't be spectators on floorball games in 21/22 due to govt restrictions
Campaigns and information in social media etc.
This will depend on the pandemic situation and the rollout of vaccine.
Everything will depend on pandemic situation.
No special plans
The spectators are the parents and the relatives. For us the situation won't change.
By doing social media campaigns. Encouraging people to go for covid vaccination.
If government allows us, we do.
Not yet planned
Vaccines for the people will encourage more people to attend games.
We believe that this is basically not necessary, because they are all hot again for public events after Corona. In any case, we will advertise properly in the social media and local newspapers.
Via posting information about events in social media and conduct entertainment events in the sports halls
vaccination
We are launching a new strategy for our events with focus on a better experience for the spectator
We have no specific plans regarding spectators, but are planning a restart in a broader sense, where spectators will be included.
We don't see it as a problem. We expect that spectator interest will be even bigger when restrictions end.
It's up to Government decision!
Through active engagement and advertising
We plan to prepare special campaign. But we have to know more about the future situation.
We made the direct net broadcasts as much as possible.
Same as any other year, no restrictions for covid and spectators anymore. All restrictions are now lifted.

1.20 Provide a brief description of the other types of competitions that were held (Q.20)

We start the Street Floorball Tour (outdoor, 3 vs 3, no goalie, mixed) in summer.
Some outdoor competitions for children and youths were arranged.
online technical skills competition
Online competitions
Home skill competitions.

1.21 Give a brief description of any new competitions you have planned (Q.22)

Street Floorball
Open air events during summer.
It's not the Federation that planned, but several clubs start to advertise about tournament in August or September
Mid-year School holiday floorball camp - Jun 2020. Shooting Camp - Jun 2020. Learn to play Camp - Jun 2020
Winter Competitions
For upcoming summer there are a lot of plans to have both outdoor and indoor games for players. These are mainly events to play, not typical competition. We're helping teams to organise these and for clubs there is a possibility to have financial support up to 3000 € to organise an event.
Our regions have plans for summer camps etc.
School floorball league in new season 2021/22.
Summer tournaments; Floorball camp
3v3 competitions for those who have already got their first covid jab
Started a new national competition
We want to start Russian Street Floorball League to attract more and more people in floorball movement.
There are initiatives taken on the regional levels. Spring/summer series for youth players but these are still pending because of government restrictions.
We have made a competition for youth in May and June and are planning to have a 3 vs 3 outdoor tournament in June.
Friendly games currently as we visit various teams
Summer floorball tournaments organised by the clubs and also by federation in case there is no tournament for all categories. We also prepare street floorball league.
There are street floorball tournaments in planning. If the Corona situation gets better, we will surely be able to play these tournaments.
We are running the national champions in August 2021.

1.24 How did government restrictions affect other Floorball activities in your country? (Q.24)

Give information on how other Floorball activities, such as training camps, education seminars etc have been affected by Covid-19

No indoor sports allowed at all, also not for national teams for floorball (with testing regulations). Since beginning of April 2021 outdoor in smaller groups and for kids are allowed.
Most of the activities were cancelled due to the restrictions about COVID.
We are not allowed to gather in groups and mostly have to stay at home, so we are not able to play or train floorball. Most of our tournaments require players to travel to different areas of the province/country and that was not allowed as well.
No possibility of anything since March 2020 until September 2020. Then we were able to start with "some" adult training. In October we started floorball school trainings but outdoors first. In November they let us go indoors, but a maximum of 20 persons per group. Education and seminars were all done in online formats.
The restrictions mainly affected the league competitions. As our players are not professionals within the meaning of Polish law, we had to pause the Extraleague season for about 1 month after the mainround. Only professionals were allowed to train and play. A few national team camps were also called off and postponed.
the national adult team were able to attend training camps, for the women to prepare for the qualifications that were supposed to happen in May in Italy; and for the men to continue their cycle. All other floorball activities were cancelled.
All activities must be done with 5pax since July 2020 till Feb 2021 to 8 pax. Therefore, SFA with SportSG had organised some form like mini event with 2v2, take up teams is less than 10 teams
No training camps, education by online means, no travel between states to National Tournaments

Many training camps were cancelled. Education seminars were organised via teams or zoom. In many areas even training session for teams were disallowed after November
We held education seminars for coaches online. This was actually a good thing, as everybody had time :) CB meetings were regularly held online.
It affected everything, but in some periods we were allowed within strict restrictions to arrange training camps etc. Seminars were arranged on Teams, Zoom etc.
Government restrictions basically blocked all activities for younger players so this has had a huge impact on our youth movement. It will definitely take time to recover from this and rebuild the base of the pyramid.
Training camps were not allowed from November till March. After that we can organise training camps for 4 days, but all players have to be tested 24 hours before they come to the camp and 12 hours before they leave the camp. Educational seminars are still allowed only online.
Everything except trainings and highest league has been cancelled this season
Affected at all. Only events that can be held online are allowed.
Everyone and players are required to undergo covid tests every two weeks and the costs are supposed to be met by the National Sports Associations or Federations, yet the government is not supporting us financially and the covid test fee is way too high.
We have not had any training camps throughout this period. Any educational seminars have been online.
It's a strong lockdown
training camps were allowed until recently. there was also limited seminars and floorball teaching at schools.
Due to government restrictions, training camps were only possible for competitive sports (national teams). Training and seminars were conducted online (Skype, Teams, Zoom, etc.).
Training camps for Russian NT's didn't stop but seminars etc could only be conducted online
Gymnasiums were closed.
Completely banned all competitions
Everything with few exceptions has been completely shut down.
It has been very limited to hold any national team practice. Moreover, many of our education courses has not been able to hold.
No training, no seminars, no tournaments... Only some schools have floorball for PE class... Olympic sports and pro sports have their own training facilities... so they could do... and have few tournaments without spectators...
Trainings couldn't happen at all, and schools were also closed down
All floorball activities were stopped by the government restrictions since October. We moved education and seminars to online world and also all meetings of CB and committees. Clubs tried to organise online practices.
We still from the autumn 2020 can play the master league matches and occasionally the matches for the next official league. Maybe in the start of June we can continue the matches for juniors.
Since November only the National team players are allowed to practice. We haven't had any other activities since.
All activities were stopped due to government restrictions.
All practices and games were completely shutdown

1.26 What will the changes be for season 2021/22? (Q.26)

We try to anticipate governments restrictions so we will probably make smaller groups in the leagues, so we hope to at least finish the "home leg" if there are new restrictions
With the most recent increase of local community case, most likely activities could get back to max of 8 pax and if possible, max of 10 pax is allowed before 75% of population received and completed their vaccination.
Approx. 1-2 month later start Less teams Less player Less refs
Ensure that majority of our players have been vaccinated and tested for covid.
Match schedule
If the vaccinations will be in good level in September we will start the next season. And all the players should be vaccinated.
The government will have to be updated on players Covid tests before every game
We are working on test strategy and thinking about several ideas to support the League start.
Just delays of schedule otherwise as normal.

1.27 Why will you not start season 2021/22 as planned? (Q.27)

There are still many government restrictions at this time and not too sure when they will be lifted.
The situation is not clear yet. So, we do not trust it will be normal by September 2021
Lockdown and restrictions
We are in a third wave.

1.29 Give a brief description of these special conditions (Q.29)

we aim to have temperature measurements and are reviewing if we can do antigen-quick testing upon arrivals at match days. We have scheduled with more room between matches, stimulate fast departure to limit the amount of people in the halls
It's not set yet - depends to the situation in fall. Possible actions could be proof of testing/vaccination, less spectators, no handshake etc.
Not sure yet, probably depends on what the government restrictions.
We have said yes but we do not really know how the situation will be. Most probably some kind of restrictions will be still on in September (masks, no contact, temperature check...)
it will depend on the government
We'll follow govt. rules.
There may be needed corona protocols also next season.
We are not able to name these conditions for now. However, we can expect them surely. For example, Covid-19 testing before matches, no handshaking, etc. But we will see what the government brings us.
This depends on the state requirements which are not yet defined.
Temperature measurement Submitting a health checklist document
Probably some regulations regarding spectators and handling of cases of covid-19 in teams during the season. This also depends on any new restrictions on the government level.
Testing of players on a weekly basis before any game
We prepare some regulations changes to help clubs to continue and also to avoid fear of joining teams for the new season.
We are still working on this. But there will be surely a testing and we will allow over aged players to play in youth leagues to offer easier start for everybody.
Depends on government decisions.

1.31 What are the government plans that relate directly to helping return Floorball to pre-Covid levels? (Q.31)

Give a brief description of the plans

Presence of spectators. No limits for training camps, age, professionals vs. amateurs etc.
If all participating teams and its players to go thru the Covid-19 test prior entering to the competition venue and these apply to spectatorship. Also, National Teams full team training required to have Covid-19 test. However, as of now 5/5/21, all such activities cap at max 5 pax till 30/5/2021.
Teams are able to start indoor trainings latest in the beginning of august.
It's 15 pages, but only describes lifting of (some) restrictions from Orange to Yellow phase.
They have an opening plan that includes sports in 4 different levels/steps.
They have allowed all activities to go back as normal as of June 1st.

2.12 What actions have been taken, or are planned, to get players back playing after the pandemic restrictions are lifted? (Q.43)

For example, reduced fees for the first season; regular testing to increase safety levels for participants; special events or competitions etc.

we're aiming to implement quick tests if government support is granted
No concrete plans yet.
Most of our growth is through word of mouth and new people trying the game out. We will continue to do that as well as, when we are allowed to play, make the game as safe as possible that people feel comfortable coming out to play.
We have "opened" new targets in terms of promotion, contact with new places, offer online and outdoor activities. Education plan online. Approach to new groups that we want to introduce floorball there.
We didn't discuss the topic yet.
we reduced the fees for the licenced player of the year 2020/2021 as it was not possible to play. We are working on providing advice on coming back to sport after a long interruption (on a nutritional aspect and physical one)
Learn to play. Mini Competitions for the Juniors / Youth which these were the groups had missed out playing during the affected period from April 2020 till Sept 2021. Modified competition with fun elements
Developing a Play Local strategy
Clubs were released for half of the participation fees of the season 20-21 (totally 1,2 M €). Participation fees 21-22 are in the same level as they were in the season 19-20.
Longer payment period. Social media campaign
The Federation has started a Club Development Project.
No final decision taken yet. We are working on having the Basic Instructor course 75% online (to a large extend registered lessons hosted on an LMS) in order to make it more accessible and increase the number of instructors that can work in school environments and among juniors.
Increase the possibilities to play - school league.
None so far
Advertisement and demonstration of the sport in schools; special events, e.g. 3V3 tournament
Regular testing Regular camps
Restarting with an increase in training camps
Yet to plan
Since we are just entering our third wave, we do not know how it will happen yet. We hope to get back into schools when things are normal.

Student & fun tournaments, street floorball, social media advertising, advertising in local newspapers.
We refused to increase the fees for participation in competitions. COVID-19 vaccination is mandatory for all events participants
Hold competitions as many as possible
We are working on school sports lessons education programme for floorball in schools nationwide. We expect it that might raise interest and more new players will join sports schools and teams after getting to know floorball in school sports lessons.
Reduced fees for playing and education and marketing activities are some examples of measures in our restart plan.
We have launched a 're-opening' plan to get players back. It has been well taken by the clubs.
special events online promotion etc
Regular testing
We have already prepared special campaign. Also, we prepared financial compensation for club's fees and players licences. We prepared some activity for summer and also other activities with clubs.
Reducing the Fees has been planned, but not sure yet. We allow Over Aged players to play in youth leagues
No actions, just following local government restrictions and rules

3.4 Please give examples of what type of referee education you have provided and how it was organised (online, face-to-face). (Q.47)

We have had online referee training on the rules of match and an online session on what the clubs would need to get a better feeling and stimulate referee development and education
Mainly online courses
Our system was based in the cooperation with a "company" that provided the referees. We were in charge of the education and observations, and they did the nominations, payments (we pay the "company", and they pay the referees). From two seasons back they were not giving the necessary quality to us, and we tried to make them understand. With the COVID explosion in March 2020 they totally disappeared. We tried to keep everyone active via online with tests, short videos, chats, etc. but most of them no answered at all. So, at the beginning of this season we received their call and after an "exchange of opinions" they quit and forbid all their referees to continue with floorball. Many of them did but a little group left the company and continued with us (the best including the international couple). So, we have made a Referee Committee from zero and now things work much better than ever. We did some online course to "refresh" concepts, we included some new referees and educated them, new courses and with the absolute commitment of the "veterans" now we can say we have a better system and organisation.
only online seminar at the beginning of the season
Similar but conducted over Webinar / Zoom -Face -to-Face comply with numbers capping.
Online education and accreditation
Only few face-to-face educations, mostly for the beginners. So, most of the educations were online. For the first time we organised online course for the beginners with around 60 participants.
Online
Online seminars with foreign referees
face-to-face
Online refresher courses
online training
Online courses One International One National 4 at state level

We also access the referees of Swiss Unihockey through the integration with Swiss Unihockey and our own referees participate in the referee training of Swiss Unihockey. This was partly conducted as classroom training or online.
There was regular referee courses and seminars organised online
Both online and face-to-face
We had online courses.
Online education was implemented on all levels. The extent of these, was close to a normal season. More use of online-observations on the elite-level as a complement to the physical observations.
We moved education to the online world.
Zoom mostly
We had online and face-to-face education in beginning of the Season
Face-to-face seminar in August with online lecture from international referee Thomas Andersson (Sweden).
Only web based lower levels courses.

3.5 Please explain why you have not been able to organise referee education (Q.48)

Not too sure, not sure that we have that many people interested in refereeing, especially if there is no floorball to play.
unable to move from our houses from the best part of 14 months now
There were no competitions Refs were not interested
Activities and events have been reduced as much as possible due to restrictions
government restrictions.
It has not been possible due to government restrictions
Government restrictions. can't use Gyms... and no tournaments...
Gathering was prohibited

4.2 Please give a brief overview. What are the main reasons for reducing staff numbers? In what areas of responsibilities have staff been most reduced? Do you think these changes were as a direct result of Covid-19? (Q.50)

Economy. Development consultants all across the country. Yes.
We have to lay off some people, and we have borne more costs for taking care of athletes in our teams.

4.3 What other activities (coaching courses, development camps, promotional events etc) have been impacted? (Q.51)

we had planned to have a development seminar for coaches, a training education day for referees, promotional tv series were reduced to 1 episode of 4 participants
The National Pupils Championship and the Floorball Symposium (Business Event) were cancelled.
We have no staff, so it was not impacted. Though we have not done anything as volunteers for floorball, no meetings, or development or events.
Coaching courses have been adapted to mixed ones (online – video conferences - reduced in-person sessions) This has also let us reorganise the educational system with good results. Also given us the opportunity to reach places and groups that we couldn't before due to the difficulty on having time and people for it.

We cancelled Polish Cup tournament. We didn't organise Polish Open. League Cup was postponed until September, We had no courses and seminars for the training staff
the French federation was not in a good shape before the covid so there were not any other activities than floorball matches
all the above mentioned have been badly impacted as we are not even able to have FULL team training yet.
Development camps and National Tournaments
WFC2020 were moved to 2021. Most of the seminars, education sessions were online. We had a lot of more meetings with the clubs, almost 100 % of them were online => no need to travel and more participants. Many of development camps for the top juniors were cancelled
Due to restrictions all activities were stopped.
All activities have been impacted.
Everything has been stopped.
None held
trainings, camps, and competitions
Coaching courses. Development camps
development camps have not taken place
Activity is almost at a stand still
All courses, like coaching, development and promotional were all impacted. Since we cannot travel to the WFC, or the qualifications, we are also at risk of losing our funding.
We do not have our own offer, we participate in the activities of Swiss Floorball. The whole offer of Swiss Floorball was more or less affected.
Russian Floorball Camp (online)
training camps
We had all courses online.
Almost everything has been affected, but some have been implemented in other ways such as online or being postponed to a later date.
All our youth camps since September have been cancelled. All our coaching and referee's courses have not been able to be held
floorball activities were almost zero for 1 year in Korea... because Gym was closed for public...
Promotional events
Almost all activities - national teams, work with talents, education, competitions, school tournaments.
We try to continue.
In the Summer we will have coaching courses and development camps for youth. But since November we have only offered online education and courses.
All activities were impacted.

4.5 Please give more information about the complaint/s? (Q.53)

Players think the Association has neglected them and stopping them from playing yet the government rules are very tight.
The complaints have been polarised, such as criticism for continue playing on the elite-level and at the same time criticism for not playing on other levels.
After season 2019/2020 when we stop competitions without promotions and relegations, we had to change regulations to avoid the same situation (without promotions and relegations) during next season 2020/2021.
The clubs understood the reason, why we are not able to play and practice, but they were expecting more information about it, and we couldn't deliver that.

4.6 Apart from the financial impact and reduced competition activities, what other effects has Covid-19 had on the national association? (Q.54)

the general meetings were temporary online as opposed to online
The digitalisation gathered more speed, most employees are in home office for about a year now - this seems to work very well.
We are all volunteers, so I think there is little motivation or drive as we are all focused on other more pressing areas, at the moment. It is also hard to work towards something when we don't know what it will look like when we come out on the other side.
We are less members and this affects all due that we do not have any financial support apart from the fees. From the very beginning we have been totally open to the Clubs and Members, and all the resolutions and decisions have been done with their approval and knowledge of everyone.
Lack of certainty about the future, especially taking into consideration the funds we need for the participation in WFCs. Accumulation of WFCs in the 4 months period, and the prospect of further huge expenses in 2022 (New Zealand). CB online meetings, no face-to-face meetings for almost more than 1 year,
this time far from the floorball pitches had let us find time to restructure the federation. From August 2020 we were a small group of motivated people to want to impulse a new dynamic. We had time to find an organisation/projects without impact on the competitions as there was no matches.
Lost a big group of attraction to the Juniors / Youth in schools as they are under Ministry of Education and as most of them are minor, hence extra care has to be imposed and the annual National Schools Games which give winning colour added to their academy results are unable to carry out. 2 years of unable to play the sport, equally losing them.
Motivation of volunteers is tough to maintain
We have worked mostly at home, so we were able to see each other and couldn't have normal face to face meetings. Waiting for better times.
We do our work as volunteers, so we got a big break from floorball and freshen up a bit. This might be positive as there could be fresh energy in CB. Or some guys could leave it entirely. Not sure at the moment
None.
Nothing.
Fewer volunteers
reduced number of registered players; impossibility to organise floorball camps abroad
Reduced face to face interactions with our players
Reduced motivation from players and volunteers (people have learnt to not be busy and are prioritizing things differently)
Nothing
We have experimented with a bubble of training camp, for both floorball and hockey in one specific location. It has been more difficult in terms of sharing resources, so it has impacted the national association.
So far none.
Holding official competitions requires approval from government agencies and during the pandemic this process has become much more difficult
nothing special
We were not able to have our coaching classes face to face.
Improvement in spreading information faster and more efficient in the organisation. The skill of handling digital meetings has also improved vastly. Better cooperation with the Elite club's association and the regional Floorball associations.
It has given the association the time to rebuild itself. We made a lot of organisation changes in January 2020, and covid-19 have given the time to adjust the association and been more clear what the goal is.
Many will stop playing after corona... because they stopped... and we lost a chance to have new players
Our strategic plan on promoting the sport was highly affected as movement became a challenge and learning institutions were closed.

Due to the Corona pandemic and the associated uncertainty, plans to establish a physical office had to be temporarily suspended.
Interest has fallen due to stoppage of all floorball activities.
lost track with Schools and other organisations during the shutdown.

4.8 What did they request and what was your response to their requests? (Q.56)

The requested money for missing sponsorship, ticket sales, catering income etc. The government supported the clubs with significant financial support.
We have reduced the membership fee (players fee) because we have a "good financial situation" coming from previous years. This has helped the Clubs / teams to keep some players that were not sure to continue.
As earlier mentioned, clubs were released around half of the participation fee.
We prolonged payment period for yearly fees and will not enforce payment till national competitions are running again. No other fees (competition team and player fees) were charged at all.
Reduced fees for participation in our leagues.
They want to get back their participation fees from competitions.
That the Federation cuts all fees they are supposed to pay by 60% which we accepted
They have requested to make the fee as zero for these times. We have agreed to their request.
Requested reimbursement of competition fees in combination with subsidies for the upcoming season. No reimbursements have been made, but competition fees for the upcoming season have been reduced. The clubs have been able to apply for governmental financial support.
They requested financial help due to job losses. We assisted where we could.
They asked for compensations for competitions entry fee and also for player's licences. After first season 2019/2020 there was no compensation but after season 2020/2021 we prepared compensation of both.
In order to get youth players back we introduced a 75% discount to get them signed back up.

4.9 What has been the impact of Covid-19 to the overall development work inside your association? (Q.57)

we are not able to continue development on several projects. Clubs are not able to train therefore have very limited interactions with their members
swiss unihockey lost some speed, but all development projects were still running.
We are all volunteers, so I think there is little motivation or drive as we are all focused on other more pressing areas at the moment. It is also hard to work towards something when we don't know what it will look like when we come out on the other side.
In terms of "administrative organization" the lack of competition and events has helped to reorganise things like the Education and Referees that were absolutely necessary but never had time for that. So, in that way it has been a kind of positive and will leave us in better conditions than before. Unfortunately, there are more fields that has been very negative: recognition now is further due to the reduction of members, chance to establish in new places was totally cut off, some teams / clubs have almost disappeared.
we have done all possible effort to continue the work as before C19.
I might say that the covid had a positive impact. We were able to change some things, to prepare the recognition from the French sports ministry that will promote a great deal floorball in France
Financial impact, withhold development activities for staff and many others plans. Like to continue to lobby Floorball to Cambodia, for

2023 SEA Games to be held there. Overseas Exchange programme to enhance Coaches and elite players. Unable to make full use of coaching funding.
Slowed the development particularly the juniors' plans
We have learned to organise online meetings and the contents have been better and better.
We held new elections and freshened up CB. Seems to be positive, but real work starts in about a month.

Less possibilities to visit clubs and schools etc.
Covid-19 stopped increasing the number of our members and don't allow us to start new coach education with national team coaches.
Bad for morale and motivation. Uncertainty and repeated cancelled events are de-motivating
froze the activities for all the lockdown restrictions
The impact has been so big, especially financially
It has slowed thing down significantly. The association was going into a growth stage. This has stopped
Activities are not being organised because of lockdown restrictions
It's kind of paused at the moment. With no competition, the government stopped giving funding for training. It's also harder to go into the schools because a lot of schools have just adapted to onlineteaching rather than in person school.
At first it faltered, but with the possibility of online activities (training) the development could be continued. Since the floorball community is very familiar with social media anyway and practically everything is done digitally, the transition was very easy.
Employees began to work more from home. Many issues began to be resolved remotely
Not enough games and training sessions
Not negative.
Development work in some areas have been negatively affected since resources had to be relocated to handle the more acute situation with covid-19.
We have got the time to focus more on development work and we are launching a lot of new initiates after the summer break such as 3vs3 tournament, national day of floorball, week of floorball inschool.
No activities - no developments
Development has been slow, but we have embraced technology
We'll see. We tried to do the best to stay and help our clubs and also to continue with the same amount of clubs, teams and players.
Can't raise interest and attract new players, new sponsors due to lack of floorball activities.
Somehow it helped us to react and develop many things in our systems, such as educational programs and competitions. We will hopefully come back stronger.
Slown down and no progress for 18 months.

4.11 What has changed in these projects? (Q.59)

3 nations floorball league F4 19/20 and season 20/21 were cancelled.
Not applicable
WFCQ had been cancelled.
Most of the projects have been able to continue, such as Erasmus+, discussions regarding a prolonged EFT agreement, physical play project etc. We have not been able to exchange elite referees with Finland, Switzerland and the Czech Republic as planned.
we didn't have...

4.13 In your view, how has the IFF (Office and Central Board) managed the pandemic? Is there anything you think that was done well or could have been done differently? (Q.61)

Due to the fact that swiss unihockey as one of the biggest associations had not too many demands on the IFF, the things needed worked as well as usual.
At first there was a lot of unknown and not many answers, but the IFF adjusted quickly. I appreciate now that go-no/go dates are set and timely decisions are made and communicated well.
Maybe my opinion here is not the best (I am involved in IFF committees). But I honestly think that it has been well done in terms of transparency as well as proactive (i mean that from Office and the committees they have tried to prepare things always with time in advance).
A mistake was the postponement of WFC WU19 and MU19. Earlier decisions would make it possible to better secure financial resources and secure the preparations. Accumulation of 4 WFC events in 4 months and subsequent WFC events in the next six months (WFC WU19), does not make any training or development sense. Some decisions should have been made much earlier, as it was almost certain that the tournaments would not be possible to play at the planned dates.
We are very sad that the qualifications in Italy were cancelled, but we understand the already qualified teams that didn't want to have bad surprises
Think they have done well. Have been doing different activities during this period of time. With more social media feature activities / stories from different countries and with different angle to share information be it past, new, and future.
Managed well given the financial impacts
It has been really hard times for the IFF. There have been challenges to all competitions and thereby impacts to economics. What could be made differently? Couldn't answer.
Quite honestly, did not follow it too much. I think you handled international competition postponements pretty well.
IFF should have cancelled and rescheduled international activities and championships at an earlier stage. Big economic challenge with so many championships the coming season. To reschedule international activities is a big problem for our planning of national activity.
Everything has been done differently, but I wouldn't postpone WU19 WFC in Uppsala 4th time.
No opinion
in a good and professional way
Well, I think it's been okay however I think the IFF would have made more engagements with member Associations.
We feel IFF should have taken a stronger lead and cancelled competitions. It is very frustrating to have world championships consistently

rescheduled. For our players it has made them less certain to continue at an international level as they don't know whether what they are preparing for will go ahead or not.
IFF and the office bearers have managed it very well and have been supportive. Would request for more online courses/ programmes so that the officials and players are motivated and involved.
I think we all did the best that we can do for the moment.
From our point of view, the IFF did a lot of things right, especially the information worked very well. It was certainly not easy to reconcile all the different restrictions of the countries.
We would like that Go/No-go decisions occurred earlier than now
Covid-19 protocol was really helpful for us.
No
The cooperation with the IFF has improved during the pandemic related to cancelling/postpone international events in Sweden. There's been a very clear communication regarding when the IFF would take decisions concerning international events (go/no go dates), which we have appreciated.
We know it has been a difficult time with a lot of uncertainty. So, we are happy with the work that has been done.
all same ~ just hope normal life is back
Fairly good
It was something really new for the whole world. We found that the situation wasn't easy so it's not fair to say what should be done better.
All by our mind is ok. Only one case we like to know early, is any possibilities to join with final tournament (men, U19 men), if somebody will not participate there. As we understand we are still the first runner up?
Until now, we would have liked cancellations and postponements to have been communicated earlier. This would have simplified some internal planning. However, we understand the background to the previous procedure.
No opinion.
Good communication and advance notice for rescheduling of events.

5.2 Please give examples of the new communication tools or methods (Q.63)

visibility of developments and activities on social media
Microsoft teams right before the start of the pandemic. A great and useful help.
The women's national team is doing online stickhandling training at home.
Online courses Some video chats Video meetings
The clubs started online streaming on their own to let the spectators follow their matches.
SFA has created IG accounts and LIVE streaming on competition.
We updated covid-19 situation weekly during the autumn 2020 and after that when needed.
Teams, Zoom etc.
Streaming matches
zoom

Direct calls and SMS and the use of zoom and Microsoft teams
The tools are not new but are now simply used more in everyday life (e.g. Zoom meetings).
We have a great social media contact and communication with our members.
New platform for sending newsletters. New platform to follow floorball media. New platform for sending press releases
A new homepage and a newsletter
Zoom and Google meet has worked well for us
Online quiz Kahoot. TikTok channel. Special page about covid-19 information
All new communications plus direct broadcasts in the internet.
Added zoom online meeting portal and MS Teams for communication and tracking.

5.3 What digital projects and/or campaigns have you launched to engage with the stakeholders? (Q.64)

online members council,
We are right now launching a fully integrated digital communication tool based on Microsoft Office for the work with all stakeholders.
none that I know of
Online platform for courses.
n.a
none
SFA has created IG accounts and LIVE streaming on competition
Nil
There were no special campaigns.
Minor "history moments" on FB.
None.
Goalkeeper online practices.
None
irrelevant
How to stay safe during the Covid time
na
No
NA but a note on the section on TV broadcast -- we have our games on replay on national TV due to a lack of shows on, but we don't know the exact details of the viewership.
Not really much new, but simply expanded the social media offering.
Challenge #floorballathome
We have no idea.
We have weekly live seminars to attract people to floorball
Equality-project in social media. New type of floorball video with sponsor
Newsletter
no
We have held online meetings with stakeholders

Florbal doma (Floorball at home). Virtual play-offs. Online quiz. Online challenges. Webinars for coaches, players, and parents. Improve quality of streams from Livesport Superleague
We created content from old Latvian floorball highlights - Best of Latvian floorball. Published videos from history - old finals from Latvian Championships. Made match video and highlight archive on our YouTube channel.
We had online Seminars and we filmed Exercises for youth and made a little competition out of it. The training and control tests of the referees are carried out digitally.

5.21 Give a brief description of how Covid-19 has affected any current / future TV agreements? (Q.82)

There were more interested to follow games from tv and/or stream. We have to negotiate how we are streaming, and which are the conditions to stream the games in the future. Negotiations are ongoing.
New sports TV channel should start in spring, but due to pandemic situation TV company postpone the start of the channel. Our highest leagues were planned on this TV channel in autumn.
Some of our TV airtime has been allocated to other sports which have been able to check covid.

6.1 How have your sponsors responded to any reduction in exposure due to games not being played / no spectators allowed / games not being broadcast? (Q.83)

no specific response
The sponsors were very loyal and there were solutions with everybody - sometimes also with reductions of the fees.
They are not really happy about it, but they are understanding.
Unfortunately, no news, no changes, not support. And our "main sponsor" comes from Floorball...
n.a
no sponsors so no problem (but we are now looking for sponsors)
Basically, unable to attract new sponsors; existing sponsors request to extend the validity period.
Not applicable
Some sponsors are asked to have additional visibility or alternative content for compensating the unmet contract statements. Two of the sponsors have addressed the willingness to negotiate the reduction of annual contract fee, for compensating the reduced visibility or events which has been totally cancelled.
No response
They have shown a remarkable understanding for the situation.
They respect pandemic situation.
No sponsors
irrelevant
We have no sponsors
na

Negative
The sponsor continued to secure their funding to us, but in the future it will be more difficult if there are no competitions to participate in.
Not yet, the sponsors have been very supportive. What will happen if the pandemic lasts longer remains to be seen.
They have temporarily reduced payments
We don't have any sponsor.
No.
We have worked close to our partners all season to compensate them with other exposure. They have lost exposure in the venues but have had more exposure in social media and websites, background at Teams etc.
We don't have any sponsors
we didn't have big sponsors
Some have withdrawn
In first wave very generously, we were able to manage discussions about compensation, visibility, or projects (mostly digital projects). Of course, we lost some money, but we were able to find a way to continue with our current sponsors and we got one new main sponsor during summer 2020.
Good
Understanding was expressed in principle because of the unprecedented pandemic situation. In some cases, the association has accommodated sponsors financially (e.g. by suspending sponsor payments).
Treats the situation with understanding. Negotiations to extend the contracts have been suspended.
lost several sponsors.

6.3 Please give examples of the financial implications. (Q.85)

Deference of sponsorship means lesser income. No Competitions/activities = loss of revenue to SFA and indirectly no income for referees' group and coaches who teach in schools, but no National Schools Games means less and not necessary to train much.
One of the sponsors has proposed to postpone the whole contract period by one contract year. Straight implication to fiscal year finance is amount of the invoicing value based on contract content. The whole value and activities have been postponed as a whole to the next season.
Lesser sponsors/ no sponsor
We stopped receiving deductions from bookmakers while we were disabled to organise events.
Reduced income
Reduction of money because of cancelling the 2020 Superfinals. Postponing some money as a reaction of moving men's WFC to 2021 - so we wait till this winter how the situation will be.
lost several sponsors and partners because they had less funding available because of covid

6.5 How have you changed these agreements? (Q.87)

To extend the validity period for a year.
There haven't been any certain agreements which have to be changed as written format, but mutual changes have been negotiated, e.g. dates of invoicing, replacing some part of contract agreement to compensating ones.
One or two partnerships have been extended due to cancelled events/activity.
More specified value for assets Legal implications of "higher power" as a reaction to pandemic and the fact that some games/projects might be cancelled or postponed
Many were lost or halted.

6.6 How have future partnerships / sponsorship deals been impacted by Covid-19? (Q.88)

n/a
Surprisingly not really till today, we are discussing with a possible new sponsor in the moment.
There is no possibility of deals because we are not playing floorball right now.
It is clear that we need to grow, and our partnerships must go in that direction.
for the time being, not affected
NA
Delivery of KPIs. Branding awareness unable to deliver due to no overseas competitions. Sponsors may consider not to continue as their financial situation may be impacted by the Covid-19 too.
Not applicable
The impact of Covid-19 for prospective agreements have been notable. The companies are more hesitant to give any binding agreement before this Covid-19 picture is clear enough.
Future will tell :)
No impact.
We don't know yet.
Unknown
irrelevant
We don't have any partnership as of now
na
Not applicable
NA
Not yet. As already mentioned, we will see what happens if the pandemic lasts longer.
Not any
More important to have games on TV to get reach and that social media and apps are even more important for our partners then before, to get the reach for our target group.
We don't know that yet
we don't know...

They have stalled
No significant impact
There is currently no indication that existing partnerships will change as a result of the Corona pandemic. Discussions with potential additional sponsors have not yet taken place.
Negotiations to extend the contracts have been suspended.
yes, several were put on hold.

6.8 What new marketing products have you developed? (Q.90)

We are going to open in the future our own boutique to sell T shirts, national teams' ensemble
We have produced different digital contents (player profiles, interviews, TOP scores) to provide floorball fans and consumers to by published constantly in social media channels. This has been additional asset for sponsors to reach our target group.
We have started a partner network, with the aim that partners to Swedish Floorball Federation will do business with each other, to strengthen the partnership. That our network gives them business. We have also worked really hard with our corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects like Innebandy Flex and Innebandy Fitness against our partners to show the wideness of Floorball
We are more active online
Special online studio for streams and match day. Developing assets connected with streams. Online trainings as a CSR/HR service for our sponsors. Improving assets during Street Floorball League

6.9 From a commercial perspective, how has any reduction in licensed players, or the lack of competitions, impacted on the general interest in the sport? (Q.91)

Not too much till today.
there was not too much commercial interest before, I think it will still be the same when we get to play again.
Specially very few matches and no spectators in the arenas make very difficult for that.
we saw significant increase of interest in the online streaming of the league matches. Therefore, we think about getting a streaming partner to widen the ability of reaching fans via it.
na
Due to Covid-19, and the number of people can gather together for activities, dining, visiting, sporting etc, may have caused players to re-think if they still want to continue with Team sport/s or to pick up other interests.
Yes, but hard to gauge the impact
The most obvious implications have been noticed in digital platform. Due to lack of played games, the online games results followers have dramatically dropped in Floorball domain which have been very attractive for marketers and sponsors as banner visibility. The consequence has been remarkable as billing wise.
Interest is lower, definitely. People are almost not thinking about playing floorball at the moment. Hopefully in Autumn situation will change.
We do not know.

There wasn't any.
Unknown
No impact. It is more about fear of uncertainty, health etc.
Our sport is still interest free.
na
We are in a financially tight situation
NA
Good question, but this will certainly not have a positive effect.
After the resumption, the interest in the competition was much higher than usual
Not anything
With the help of the social media channels we have more people interested in floorball
We haven't seen/heard so much about this from our partners in general. Those who are most impacted of Covid-19 are of course our partners that sell floorball products like Unihoc and Klubbhuset
Not able to say
It will be a lot... but we don't know yet
Negatively
We can see decrease in the number of news - mainly in regional news - also in TV numbers. On the other hand, we were able to engage fans and players with our digital content and the streams quality as well as number of viewers grow.
No competitions means no possibilities to attract finances.
Since we are trying to get back into the game, we cannot yet say whether there is a reduction in licensed athletes or how big it is.
no

7.3 What do you think the impact will be? (Q.94)

expat players are returning to home as expat assignments in Netherlands are terminated
Because swiss unihockey took a break (Top league) or even stopped meanwhile other countries continued to play, there might be some more players than usual to play abroad.
Players will not be able to travel to play
I think the quality of our players will be low since they are not playing now
less possibility of transfer due to the travel restriction
lower number of transfers
Less foreign players coming to Germany.

7.4 How many local players that were playing abroad transferred back to your country due to Covid-19? (Q.95)

0
Not sure yet - probably not too many.
0
Two - that is all of them.
no transfers were affected by the C19
none
None
NA
Around 20
None
Just a few.
0
None
irrelevant
One
3
Not applicable
NA
None.
3-4
1 player
0
We have no information of why a player transferred back to Sweden.
zero - must of the players going abroad is playing in Sweden.
no one
None
estimate 30
Unsure
none.
14
n/a

7.6 How many international transfers were interrupted by the pandemic? (Q.97)

4
We have no information regarding any interrupted transfers or the reason behind this.
1

8.1 What have been the overall financial impacts (positive or negative) of Covid-19 on the National association? (Q.98)

Provide a monetary figure or percentage impact, as well as reasons. For example, lack of sponsors; reduced/increased government support; ticket sales etc.

70% less turnover. all membership fees were paid and partially returned to clubs
Due to the programme of the government, there are no negative impacts, the financial statement 2020 is slightly better than planned.
It has had a negative impact as our only sources of income is memberships (which we haven't been able to sell because no one is playing) and the Canada Cup tournament (which we haven't been able to play)
No player fees. That represent around 20,000 euros that is more than 75% of annual budget.
Lack of certainty due to IFF decisions regarding WU19 and MU19 WFCs caused delay and decrease in government financial support. We were not able to give them precise dates and requirements of the federation, as the dates and places of WFCs were not sure.
we had 1700 licensed player in 2019/2020, in 2020/2021 it dropped at 1000. The impact was the lack of licences fees
Sponsors extend the validity period. Lesser revenues due to no competitions and activities
Lack of State membership fees. Approximately 40% reduction
During 2020 we reached a substantial above budget result of approximately 650,000 EUR. This was mainly due to travelling costs saved related to the National teams, but also other operations saw a drastic reduction in travel and lodging costs. However, we estimate loss amounting to 300,000 EUR during Spring 2021, due to the teams will pay no fees for the spring season as they are mainly discontinued.
We depend on Competition fees, minor sponsors, and donations. We have not received any govt support for 2nd year in a row. Since there is no IFF competitions, we only have loss 5k in year 2020. Turnover is down 95%.
Reduced income from fees and licenses. We have received some Government support. The Clubs have reduced ticket sales but have received some support from the Government (appr. 70%).
We got the full support from government and sponsors. There weren't any financial negatives.
None
Competitions fees
Reduced government support by almost 90%
not clear. We have had a reduction due to not being able to run all events to the same level
Negative
Overall negative. We have same number of sponsors but decrease in government funding. As we also did not manage to host an event, we also lost a bit on that.
Failure to generate revenue from spectator events. 10% less revenue.
COVID-19 had a negative rather than a positive impact because of lack of sponsors money (35%) and reduced government support (15%)
Decreasing number of memberships will cause financial problem since our budget is made by membership fee.
Not negative we found new sponsors and we are in talk with them.

For the season 20/21 the financial impact, as a whole, has been positive mostly due to cancelled/postponed international events and other activities. The financial result for 19/20 was +/- 0, and for 20/21 + €700 000. However, for the season 21/22 the financial impact is strongly negative due to costs for the aforementioned international events. Also subsidised competition fees affects the financial outcome. The preliminary budget is under balanced with a projected result of - €700 000.
Positive. Reduced cost to national team. Reduced cost to tournaments
It was negative... No events so no support...
Reduced income
The impact was negative although we lost some income, we were able to reduce/same costs. In 2020 we were able to have planned final statement, but we are afraid of the finances for 2021 because we will pay compensation and spend more because of more national teams' events (4 WFCs) etc. Our budget for 2021 is almost -750,000 euros.
Less income from clubs. Less income from government. Less income from ticket sales.
The financial impact, as a result of the Corona pandemic, had an overall negative impact on the association
Lost 50% of sponsor revenue Lost 75% of license revenue

8.2 How much did your turnover change in 2020 compared to 2019? (Q.99)

Provide a monetary figure or percentage impact

similar
It did not change.
Very little income coming in now.
A loss of around 20,000 euros that is more than 75% of annual budget.
2019 vs 2020 was almost the same. There is a significant decrease in 2021.
-35%
> than 50%
40% reduction
Approximately 700,000 EUR (7%) decrease in turnover.
Turnover is down 95%.
The Federation has lost appr. 375,000 EUR due to reduced license income. This has not been covered by the Government.
It was the same.
Unclear. Our association is a fully volunteer organisation. Events and activities are funded by the volunteers themselves.
50%
5%
na
Reduced by 90%
Some of deficit.
Is about the same.
in 2020, it was less by about 15-20%
We haven't had researched yet.

0%
Turnover 2018/2019 € 9,2 million Turnover 2019/2020: € 8,5 million Turnover 2020/2021: € 7,3 million
The same.
Minus 80% approximately
Over 40 percent decrease
Turnover was lower by 17 % in 2020 than in 2019.
Less income from clubs. Less income from government. Less income from ticket sales.
Revenue has decreased by approximately 30% in 2020 compared to 2019.
Overall Revenue declined 65%

8.4 Please give a brief description of the support you have/will receive (Q.101)

Was it one time support or ongoing support? For how long will you continue to receive this support?

Floorball was support with 2.2m EUR for 2020 from the government. 85% of this money was forwarded to the clubs. This support programme runs again in 2021.
Support is from Ministry of Finance to give support based on basic salary of employed staff - 30% of total payroll expenses, for the past 12 months.
One time support; Postponing the WFC Men 70K EUR.
Ongoing support. As long as the pandemic affects our sports.
We received only 750euros for buying masks and sanitizer
Compensation in some degree for lost revenue regarding the superfinal and some other events. Some kind of governmental financial support for restart will be received this autumn.
One time support in last summer.

8.5 What areas of your organisation do you think will be most greatly affected by your financial impacts? (Q.102)

competition and development
The operators of private infrastructures.
Paying off the debt and national teams
National teams and promotion
National teams - seminars and development
Our general development. We just started our project (election of March 2021) we want to introduce our boutique, we want to have referee training, coach trainings. We also want our national teams to be able to attend IFF tournaments such as Qualifications. Our financial situation doesn't allow us to do any of the above if there is just the same amount of players
Local Tournament / Competition for the Floorball community locally.
Development works for juniors
The losses during spring 2021 have been compensated by the strong result (travel cost savings) during 2020 and accordingly we see no need to adapt or reduce operations as such. However, the volume of teams and players attending the coming season is key to our

continued good financial position.
National teams
The activity for our national teams.
None.
National teams. Players have mostly had to pay for trips themselves. Association ability to subsidise is reduced and players' own financial situation is expected to reduce the number of available players.
competitions
The one in charge of development.
international travel
Organise games
The players' salaries and also for coaches. It will just be expenses not income. If the government does not sponsor our training camps, then we have to pay out of pocket.
Less revenue allows for less advertising in the local press.
Salaries. Travel costs
Field of sending teams to an international competition.
National teams due to less government support. Development work.
Our internal organisation will not be affected to a major degree. Clubs, especially on the elite-level, are the ones who are suffering most due to lost revenue from spectators and sponsors.
Tournaments
labour cost
Tournaments
Mainly national teams and work with talented players, also whole competitions because, except the Superleague and Extraleague, competitions were stopped.
The association is largely financed by entry fees and player license fees. These funds are used, among other things, to pay the full-time staff of the office. As a result of the fact that two seasons haven't been played to completion, the association could lose at least part of its important income, which could have an impact on the employees in the office in the medium term.
Youth development and referee development

9.1 How were national team activities affected? (Q.103)

Camps were postponed; friendlies were cancelled etc.

no activities at all, no trainings, no friendly matches
Some camps were cancelled, but the worst thing is, that they couldn't play any games vs. other national teams for one year now.
Everything was cancelled, all games, training, training camps, so no one is playing floorball to prepare for the national team.
Totally stopped
Cancelled and postponed camps. Polish Cup and Polish Open cancelled. Players were supposed to realise the training plan on their own. Less financial support
Women and U19 Men Qualifications cancelled. But the women (twice) and men (once) teams were able to have camps in 2021
National teams are unable to train in Full team and no " competition"
No activities
Yes, nearly all traveling/camps etc discontinued during 3.2020-7.2020 and further 11.2020-5.2021.
Everything was cancelled. Coaches periodically status check with leaders in teams.
No activities from March 12th 2020 till today.
Camps were postponed till March, and we weren't planning any friendly matches.
All events have been cancelled for more than a year. However, we have an upcoming camp at the end of this month
irrelevant
Everything was postponed
everything has been cancelled
All postponed except one camp for Female players for AOFC selections and training was organised
Camps were limited in a bubble. International competitions were cancelled.
No.
Camps were postponed; friendlies were cancelled
Camp had been cancelled. Some national team players had left teams because of restrictions of their jobs and also their own financial problems.
Camps were cancelled
First of all, it all started spring 2020 with a number of meetings with our Team Doctor to start setting up a protocol that could guideline us through the early camps. Protocols have been updated during the year to match the current situation in Sweden. Dialogue with staff has featured on regular basis which been both important but also challenging sometimes because of human nature and different opinions. When the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic has been too intense, dialogues been held with the elite clubs which resulted in cancelling some camps during the season. Friendlies/games haven't been played since February 2020. The ambition going into the summer is to have some extra camps to compensate the cancelled ones during the season.
Camps had been cancelled. Our U19 teams has hold a lot of online meetings to secure engagement and fitness level
no camp for more than a year
Trainings didn't happen at all
National teams' activities we highly affected. We had to postpone a lot of camps and some of them cancelled. Friendlies we cancelled and WFCs postponed.
Some

Camps were postponed or cancelled. We had Camps until November and started on March again. Now we take place as planned, but without any friendlies.
All activities were cancelled for 18 months.

9.2 What do you think will be the impact of this pandemic for future national teams? (Q.104)

Training camps and friendlies will be organised differently; set guidelines for teams to follow; travelling.

we hope that we can restore trainings for national teams, potentially with testing
No changes as far as we can say today.
It will be more difficult to host training camps and to travel to different areas to train.
Hope to come back as soon as this is more clear.
We are able to manage the preparations on a high level, however financial support is crucial. Most likely we will have to cancel a few national team camps for each national team (W, M, WU19, MU19). Participation in the international tournaments in 2021 is not sure at the time being.
travelling impossible without vaccination
Cost of travelling. Safety of travelling. Competency level
Unknown effect at present, less matches and impacts on international tournaments able to attend
Perhaps traveling will be slightly reduced in the future too, but no major impact if not an overall strain on economy will be experienced due to lesser volumes in local operations.
All above mentioned + less endorsements
We will not travel abroad before the governmental travel restrictions have been lifted.
Without change.
We have players in Iceland and abroad. We expect fewer big camps with and fewer training trips. We also expect fewer players to be available due to financial issues and homecoming quarantine upon arriving back after trips abroad.
travelling
We are likely to lose good player who now doing business and other things.
There is a real uncertainty. We have lost several key players due to fatigue with the starting /stopping. We will struggle to get the momentum back with national teams.
Can't say right now
we hope that we can go to the other countries to play at a national team level soon, with guidelines for teams. We are quite in a dark place right now, but we hope to be able to travel eventually and compete.
Depends, if the pandemic continues, significantly fewer spectators and less interest in the sport.
Travelling becoming more expensive
Travel restrictions. Financial problem
We are organising national camps with special rules for covid.
We will probably have some sort of protocol/guidelines regarding Covid-19 for some time ahead even though the vaccination will help us a lot. Domestic camps and friendlies will hopefully be more normal to organise and implement during the fall, and we won't have to cancel any camps due to high spread of Covid. Since we haven't played any games since February 2020 we are hopeful to be able to compete again at some level, EFT, Finnkampen etc. very soon. Smaller events. And of course, we hope that the WC can go through as well. Since the world cup includes players from more continents, we are in some sense depending on each other. What is possible due to travelling (vaccination pass etc.) is hard to say. Regarding WFC we don't really know yet the economic impact future guidelines will have. Own Team Doctor travelling with the team every time? Possible Quarantine for players/coaches before/during/after event? Testing procedures?
Not much will change.
many players stopped... so harder to rebuild the teams

More caution due to Covid 19
We hope that we restart the full work with national teams. We are afraid of increasing costs for safety and travelling.
Surely it will be more difficult to organise friendlies and the Camps are involved with lot of regulations, such as testing. We are expecting to come back to normality in 2022.
As long as there are restrictions all COVID protocols will be in use. After the pandemic we hope that situation will get back to normal.
no change at the moment.

9.4 What do you think will be the main issue? Financial problems; travel; vaccinations etc. (Q.106)

problems; travel; vaccinations
financial problems and travel difficulties, especially when considering the WFC in New Zealand. Difficulties for national teams caused by late information and not enough time to conclude for financial support
mainly financial problems
All above mentioned + less players
We will not travel abroad before the governmental travel restrictions have been lifted. Financials will also be an issue.
it will be financial, vaccination availability, quarantine restrictions upon travelling or returning to Thailand and also gathering players who have been resting off the team.
Financial problems
Financial problems; travel.