



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

Ordinary member of AGFIS/GAISF

Helsinki, September 4th, 2007

IFF Central Board meeting 4/2007 01.09.2007

Place: Scandic Hotel Asker, Asker, Norway

Participants: Tomas Eriksson President
Mona Aagaard
Tomas Jonsson
Per Jansson
Filip Suman

Stefan Kratz Head of Technical Department
Merita Bruun Assistant
John Liljelund Secretary General

Excused: Renato Orlando vice president
Risto Kauppinen

Minutes

§ 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson greeted all welcome and opened the meeting at 09.00.

§ 2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was scrutinized, completed/updated with three new appendix (Appex 17: Road Map Thailand; Appex 18: EFC 2008 Report and Appex 19: Swedish Floorball Federations application for rule test).

Mr. Liljelund also informed that the IFF Coach Manual: Individual Technique and Tactics, written by Ms. Anniina Paavilainen, has been published on the web.

§ 3. Minutes from the CB meeting 03/2007 in Frederikshavn, Denmark (17.05.2007) –

The minutes from the last meeting held in Frederikshavn 17.05.2007 were scrutinized, approved and put ad acta. **(Appendix 1)**

§ 4. Economy

a) Preliminary financial report 30.08.2007 (Appendix 2)

Mr. Jonsson reported on the preliminary financial report, per 30.08.2007. The only extra costs appearing are the TV costs from the Women's WFC, which are to be dealt with as promotion of the Sport. On the income side it is only the marketing income, which is not up to budget.

Mr. Jansson replied and explained that due to the change of the International Competition calendar leaves the season 2007-2008 without an Adult Championships. Infront will come back with new proposals, during the autumn. Less money will also be used in the field of marketing, so this will even up the gap somewhat. Mr. Jansson also reported that IFF has signed a marketing agreement with Puma.

The CB decided: To approve the report.



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b) Information on IFF claims – status August 30th, 2007 (Appendix 3)

Mr. Kratz reported that the claims situation is per 30.08.2007, is under control and the claims are diminishing.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

§ 5. World Championships

a) WFC 2007 Denmark

Mr. Suman gave a Jury report from the 6th Women's WFC 2007 held in Frederikshavn, Denmark, stating that the Danish Federation organised a very good event. There were only a small number of technical problems, mainly concerning spectators and TV. **(Appendix 15)**

Mr. Eriksson also stated that the Danish Federation organised a good event and that Denmark has proven that the federation can organise major events. Mrs. Aagaard also concluded that the Danish General Assembly approved the federations actions taken for the WFC.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the final result from the TV broadcasts from the WFC 2007. In the end the live stream from the A-division had an average of over 9.000 unique visitors. The TV broadcast reached the Swiss TV (SFR) and the Finnish TV – YLE Extra actually broadcasted the final live on national TV. IFF made a major financial investment in the Women's WFC.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

b) WFC U19 Men 2007 Switzerland

Mr. Kratz reported on the preparations for the U19 WFC in Switzerland and it is on track, referees have been appointed, the agreement has been signed and Mr. Gilardi is the chairman of the Organisation Committee and Mr. Thomas Berger is the general secretary of the Event. The next information to the teams goes out in some weeks.

Mr. Suman proposed on the promotion and relegation of the upcoming U19 WFC 2007 taking into consideration the possible qualification for the B-division 2009 and how to avoid an inter-continental qualification. The RACC was of the opinion that 4 spots left open for qualifying teams would be sufficient considering one qualification in Asia, one in Americas and two in Europe. A possible team being the single qualifying team on a continent (as was the case with Canada for the Women's WFC 2007) would then be given a free spot without affecting any other continent.

The RACC proposed to:

- a) that the 8th placed team of A-division shall be relegated to the B-division (no change)
- b) that the winner of the B-division shall be promoted to the A-division (no change)
- c) that the teams placed 5th-8th of the B-division shall qualify for the B-division 2009 **(Appendix 4)**

The CB decided: To approve the report and approve the proposal of the RACC.

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c) WFC Men 2008 Czech Republic

Mr. Suman reported that the preparations for the WFC are well under way. The test version of the web-site is launched. The organisation is now finalizing the agreements with the two big arenas Cez Arena and Sazka Arena. The problem is that in Sazka there have never been used a system where the spectators can leave the hall and return. Mr. Suman believes that the group stage will be very well organised in Ostrava. The work on the marketing has started and the Cez Arena will be tested during the EFT.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

Mr. Kratz reported about the C-division to be played in Bratislava, Slovak Republic 21.-27. of April 2008 and the agreement situation. The following teams have registered for the tournament: Australia, Spain, Slovakia, Canada, France, Korea, Georgia, Iceland & Liechtenstein and there has been interest also from Ireland to enter.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the process of signing a contract is under way and will be dealt with during September.

Mr. Suman reminded that all teams participating in IFF Events need to have paid the participating fee, in order to be able to participate.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

d) WFC U19 Women 2008

Mr. Eriksson reported on the discussions held with the Swiss federation, during the WFC 2007, that the change of organiser has been made in agreement with the SUHV according to the IFF Statutes and Regulations. Mr. Eriksson stressed that IFF is very pleased that the Polish Federation has agreed to the solution found for the U19 WFC 2008 to be played in Siedlec, Poland in May 2008. Mr. Jansson congratulated the president for sorting out this difficult task in a positive way for international Floorball.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the preparations are under way and there will be a meeting held in order to settle the agreement, during the autumn. The U19 WFC will be played in four cities in a radius of 30 km.

The following teams have registered: Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland, Norway, Latvia, Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Georgia & Ukraine

The CB decided: To approve the report.

e) Licence system for the participation in WFC's

Mr. Liljelund reported on the preparations made to start the work in order to build a licence system for the participation in the future WFC. Mr. Orlando proposed to form a working group, consisting of Mr. Orlando (chair), Mr. Jansson and Mr. Kauppinen and Mr. Liljelund (secretary) and that it would meet in January during the EuroFloorball Cup Final round in Finland. The task is to discuss the need, implications and criteria's for such a licence system and the time line for implementations, keeping in mind the different aspects of our member associations, marketing and IFF.

The CB decided: To approve the report and to form the working group as proposed.

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§ 6. EuroFloorball Cup

a) EFC 2008

Mr. Kauppinen had sent in a written report on the preparations of the EuroFloorball Cup 2008 to be played in Finland and the preparations are well under way. The TV agreement has been made with the Sport Channel, securing the broadcast of at least both finals. **(Appendix 18)**

The CB decided: To approve the report.

b) EuroFloorball Cup Qualifications 2008

Mr. Kratz informed about the EFC qualification tournaments being played in Norway 29.8 - 2.9 and in Italy 5.- 9.9 and for the top seeded countries in Liberec, Czech Republic 7.-9.9.

The registration ended on the 30th of May and the following teams have registered:

Men:

Direct qualified; AIK, Warbergs IC-85, SSV Helsinki, SV Wiler-Ersigen & Tatran Stresovice.

To qualify; SC Classic, Tigers Langnau, Torpedo Havirov, Fjerdingby IBK, Latvijas Avize, Frederikshavn Bulldogs, DRS Archangelsk, TTÜ SK, FBC Dragons Ruzinov, Cotswold Cobras, FB Agents Amsterdam, Debreceni FSE, Viking Roma FC, CUF Leganes & Waterloo Lions.

Totally 20 teams.

Women:

Direct qualified; UHC Dietlikon, Rönaby IBK, Tapanilan Erä, Con Invest Dekanka & Sveiva IBK.

To qualify; Zug United, IKSU, FBC Liberec, Frederikshavn Bulldogs, Rubene, Aligator Gdynia, Szolnok Cannibals, SK Saku Fortuna, Nizhny Novgorod FBC-30, UC Face Off, IBC Leoben & FBC Insport Strikes.

Totally 17 teams.

The present ongoing EFC qualification has gone on without problems in Norway.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

§ 7. Committees and Function reports

a) ExCo reports

Mr. Eriksson reported on the planned meeting with the presidents of the four biggest federations to be held on the 12th of October, in order to exchange views and to discuss the actions needed to be taken in the IOC Recognition process, due to the fact that there is a new president in both the Swedish and Swiss federations. Mr. Eriksson wants to re-vitalise the contacts between these countries.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that during the IFF Presidential meeting nobody opposed to the proposal of having the IFF General Assembly in connection with the WFC 2008 in Prague. The practical issues will be dealt with by the Czech federation and the IFF office.

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Mr. Liljelund reported that the AOFC is organising their General Assembly on the 7th of December 2007.

Proposal: To approve the reports and decide to held the IFF General Assembly on the 13th of December starting at 9.00.

b) **Contacts to International Sports Organisations**

Mr. Eriksson reported on the Recognition process of the IOC and the actions taken by IFF in order to fulfil the requirements set by IOC. IFF will submit an application to the IOC for recognition by the 15th of December 2007. The application will require a lot of work, in order to bring together all the needed data, from the office. The ExCo will make a first draft for the CB to fulfill the requirements. **(Appendix 5a-b)**

Mr. Eriksson and the central board is very pleased with the response taken by the member associations to provide the application, supplying statistical and other data's for the IOC application. Mr. Liljelund thanked Ms. Bruun and Ms. Paavilainen for the very good work done in collecting the data from the member associations and Mr. Kratz has put together the data needed in competition and financial questions.

Mr. Liljelund reported about the correspondence with Mr. Hein Verbruggen GAISF President and his plans to visit the EuroFloorball Cup Final Round in October 2008. **(Appendix 6)**

The CB decided: To approve the report.

Mr. Suman asked proposed that the IFF should send a letter thanking the ISF for organising the first ISF championship in Brno, in the Czech Republic. Mr. Suman explained that the general secretary of the ISF, felt that Floorball would have a possibility to become a ordinary sport of ISF.

Mr. Eriksson proposed that IFF will write a letter to the ISF and the Czech School Sport federation.

The CB decided: To approve the proposal.

e) **RACC**

Mr. Suman reported that RACC has concentrated on the EFCQ tournaments and to prepare for the coming year with up to 10 IFF Events in 2008. The RACC preparing to build a Jury guideline and to adopt the competition regulations with the international calendar change. Also the work with the Game Rule changes for 2010 will be started.

Mr. Suman reported upon the issues related to the IFF Friendly International Matches Regulation and the practical issues concerning the use of non-licensed players related to this, which has been in focus during the summer in the IFF Member Federations.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Czech club 1.SC SSK Vitkovice has served IFF with a complaint related to a violation of the § 3.2. of the IFF Friendly International regulation during the Czech Open, in the Elite Category, where two Czech clubs Tatran Stresovice and Torpedo Pegres Havirov has been using players not licensed to their club, but to other clubs in other countries, during the Czech Open 2007. **(Appendix 7)**

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Mr. Suman felt that there is a need to further stress the implications of the Friendly Internationals regulation, but agreed that the CB needs to sanction the clubs. The RACC also need to look over the Friendly Internationals Regulation, in order to streamline it. Mr. Suman sees problems in enforcing this regulation in the smaller federations.

Mr. Jansson felt that we need to stamp authority, in order to not having the same type of problems in the future and that we can only respect the present regulation we have. In this case it is not a case of a mistake, but a clear breach from the club side.

Mr. Eriksson felt that sanctioning the clubs is under the jurisdiction of the IFF CB and proposed that the CB will make a sanction

Mr. Liljelund proposed to sanction the two Czech clubs Tatran Stresovice and Torpedo Pegres Havirov, for the clear breach of the § 3.2. in the IFF Friendly Internationals by using the players in the Czech Open, which are not licensed to the clubs in question. According to the IFF Juridical Regulation **Chapter 2, Section 6, Article 27 Ineligibility point 2**. If a player takes part in a friendly match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of CHF 2,000. Due to the fact that we are in the middle of the implementation process of the Friendly Internationals regulation and could therefore have reasons to give a punishment on a lower level than stipulated. Therefore the sanction shall be 750 CHF per club.

The CB decided: To approve the proposal and sanction the two Czech clubs with a sanction of 750 CHF according to the IFF Juridical Regulation **Chapter 2, Section 6, Article 27 Ineligibility point 2**, for the breach of the IFF Friendly Internationals regulation §3.2. .

Mr. Kratz reported that the Finnish Floorball Federation CB has decided to apply for the right to test a new interpretation of the Floorball Game Rules 608, 610, and 613 in the Finnish Men's League during the season 2007 – 2008. (**Appendix 8**).

The proposed changes is to be able to reduce the unnecessary verbal insults between players and have the possibility to give a player a personal 10 minute penalty, without the bench penalty effecting the number of players on the field. This is in order to reduce the growing amount of unsportsmanlike behaviour on the field, especially in tight situations and in the end of the periods, where the level is higher to give such 2+10 penalties.

Mr. Kratz and Mr. Suman felt that the Finnish Federation has made the application too early.

Mr. Jansson proposed that the Finnish Federation need to fulfil the application with an explanation how the Finnish International referees are briefed when refereeing International Matches.

Mr. Suman informed that the RACC are in favour of the application.

The CB decided: To give the Finnish federation the right to test the rule change, but to ask for a plan to brief Finnish International referees refereeing International Matches.

Mr. Kratz informed that the Swedish Federation has applied for the right to test the rule change to play with 4 vs. 4 in sudden death. (**Appendix 19**). This rule test will be done in the highest series for the men and women, Svenska Superligan and Elitserien Damer, during the season 2007-2008.

Mr. Jansson stressed that the Swedish application arrived late and was not in favour of approving it. Mr. Jansson felt that there is not enough information, nor reason or explanations on how to the test will be implemented.

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Mr. Suman stressed that RACC had not received the application in time, but strongly feels that this is a change of rules. The system is not completely new and if the Swedish federation wants to test it, he is not against it, but is very worried about the way the Swedish federation has acted in this case.

Mr. Eriksson wanted to stress the fact that we have agreed system on how to change and test new Game Rules, the decision taken in Prague 1998.

Mr. Liljelund felt that it is important that the IFF member federations follows the regulations laid down concerning the change of Game Rules and thinks that in this case the application should be accepted. Mr. Liljelund felt that the IFF should conclude that in all questions related to any kind of local rule changes or rule testing is with IFF jurisdiction and is without possibility of interpretation for the National Member Associations.

Mrs. Aagaard feels that if the Swedish federation wants to test a new rule, they need to do it the right way and IFF need to be firm when it comes to follow the rule.

Mr. Jonsson felt that there is not enough information to judge the implications of this rule change.

Mr. Eriksson proposed that the Swedish Federation need to fulfil the application with explanations, reasons for the test and all the implementations of it until Friday the 7th of September, after which the IFF CB will decide upon it.

The CB decided: To ask the Swedish federation to send in a fulfilled application including the reasons for this test, the explanation of what is changed and the implications for the game until the 7th of September after which the IFF CB will decide upon it.

The IFF CB further concluded that in all questions related to any kind of local rule changes or rule testing is with IFF jurisdiction and is without possibility of interpretation for the National Member Associations.

f) RC

Mr. Jansson reported on the work of the RC and the concern of not having enough International Referees for the future. We need to concentrate on getting our member federations to nominate international referees and accept the task to educate and develop them.

The CB decided: To approve the report.

g) Development function

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mr. Orlando on the Coaching Course held in China 10.-11.6.2007, in Beijing. **(Appendix 9)**. The course was held for six universities by Ms. Emily Koh and Ms. Lily Surinam and the course has received positive feedback both by the Chinese participants, the Nordic Sports and the lecturers.

Mr. Eriksson expressed that IFF is extremely pleased with the performance of the lecturers and the co-operation with the AOFC and the Singaporean federation for the supply the lecturers on a short notice to China.



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Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mr. Orlando to further report on the planned development seminars for 2007 – 2008, in Spain, mini-seminar in Singapore and Australia, Germany, the Balkan area, USA and the Eastern European area.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the meeting held with the Russian Floorball Federation president Mr. Markov and the new secretary general Mr. Konstantin Zhukovskiy during ISPO. In this meeting it was agreed that the Russian Floorball federation will translate the Floorball Start Up-kit into Russian language and Mr. Liljelund now proposes to the CB to consider this as a payment for the sanction given to them by the CB.

The CB decided: To approve the proposal and approved the translation of the Start-up kit into Russian language as payment of 1500 CHF.

h) Marketing function

Mr. Jansson informed that the co-operation with Infront has been developing slowly, partly due to the change of strategy from Infront's side. Mr. Jansson also informed about the continuation of the agreement with Puma for the seasons for 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009, with the agreement ending last of June 2009. The agreement continues on the same premises as before. The office will need to take over more of the daily work, due to the new situation of Mr. Jansson.

Mr. Liljelund informed about the cooperation agreement signed with A4SP, in order to build the hype around Floorball. **(Appendix 10)**

Mr. Jansson added that this, if it works, gives additional statistics to the TV viewer.

The CB decided: To approve the reports

i) Medical committee

Ms. Bruun reported that the Medical committee is working very well and informed that IFF has made some comments upon the new WADA Code, concerning the team sport parts for whereabouts and testing pool information's. WADA have thanked us for the feedback given. Ms. Bruun and Mr. Orlando will participate on the WADA World Conference in Madrid in November.

Ms. Bruun also informed that there are two possible doping cases.

The CB decided: To approve the reports

j) Material function

Mr. Liljelund made a short report on the ISPO Summer 2007 project, which was conducted by the Development Board, in order to grow the market of Floorball in Central-Europe. **(Appendix 11)**

Mr. Suman wanted to underline that the Floorball Village was a very good presentation and it was important showing the co-operation between IFF and the manufacturers.

Mr. Eriksson felt that it is important to bring all manufacturers together working in the interest of Floorball.

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Mr. Liljelund reported upon the proposal the major updates and changes of the IFF Material Regulation. The changes are to be valid from the 1st of July 2008 and in order to give the manufacturer time to adjust to them, it is vital to make the changes now. **(Appendix 12 and 13)**

The CB decided: To approve the proposal and to approve the changes in the IFF Material Regulation.

§ 8. IFF Office

Mr. Liljelund informed that Ms. Anniina Paavilainen has decided to quit the IFF and seeks other opportunities in her life in end of December 2007. IFF will start the recruitment process during the autumn to replace her.

Mr. Liljelund also shortly presented the planned changes of duties and responsibilities of the Office, which will be implemented starting the 1st of January 2008, with the fourth and the fifth employee during 2008.

Mr. Eriksson fully supports the report given by the Office.

The CB decided: To approve the proposal

§ 9. Member Federations

a) Members under suspension

Nothing to report.

b) New Member Applications

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Irish Floorball Association has applied for membership in the IFF, under the auspices of Floorball Ireland. The Irish Floorball Association has sent in an application, with the appropriate documents. **(Appendix 14)**

The CB decided: To approve the Irish Floorball Association as a provisional member Nr. 40.

Mr. Liljelund further reported that there are at the moment different level of activities taken in order to have membership applications from Croatia, Israel, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Turkey and Thailand.

Mr. Kauppinen had sent in a report from the development of Thailand. **(Appendix 17)**

The CB decided: To approve the reports

§ 10. Next CB meeting

The next CB meeting will be held per capsulam in September and December and then during the EuroFloorball Cup in Vantaa, Finland on the 12th of January, 2008, starting at 10.00.

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§ 11. Closing of the meeting

**John Liljelund
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson
President**

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