

**Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2019**

## **IFF Central Board meeting 5/2019 13.12.2019**

**Place:** Meeting at Hotel des Artes, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

<b>Participants:</b> Tomas Eriksson	<b>President</b>
Jörg Beer	
Monica Birdal	<b>Treasurer</b>
Steen Houman	
Stephen King	
Martin Klabere	
Carlos Lopez	
Lidwien Reehuis	<b>ATC Chair</b>
Kaarina Salomaa	
Ron Spence	
Filip Suman	<b>Vice President</b>
Veli Halonen	<b>Operations Manager</b>
Stefan Kratz	<b>Competition Manager</b>
John Liljelund	<b>Secretary General</b>

## **Minutes**

### **§ 1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the fifth and final CB meeting of the year 2019.

Mr. Eriksson further informed of the program for the day and the coming weekend, with the IFF Association Meeting on Saturday and Sunday in the Stade de la Maladier, Espace Gilbert Facchinetti meeting room and the City Reception on Friday. Mr. Halonen gave practical information of the transportations to and from the City Reception.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### **§ 2. Approval of the agenda**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there were there no completions to the agenda.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### **§ 3 Minutes from the CB meeting: 04/2019 Eerikkilä Sport Institute, Finland, 06.-09.09.2019 (Appendix 1)**

The minutes from the last meeting are to be scrutinized, approved and put ad acta.

§ 4. **Economy**

a) **Financial report 2019, by 30.11.2019**

Mrs. Birdal presented the financial report and the balance sheet by the 30.11.2019 (**Appendix 2**).

The outcome per 30<sup>th</sup> of November is 80.193 CHF, which is 135.558 less compared with the same period last year, mainly due to that higher organisers fee and marketing income from the WFC 2018 compared to the Women's WFC 2019 and also that these were already fully paid well in advance of the Event. In addition, neither the CC nor the EFC was played 2018 with a negative financial result effect for this year's outcome of about 35.000 CHF compared to 2018. The liquidity is some 103.000 CHF better compared with last year mainly due to the loans (50.000 CHF) and pre-paid daily allowances for the WFC 2019 (41.300 CHF). The Office has been working hard to find possible cuts.

The forecast for the remaining part of the year points at a possible loss for the full year of 38.000 CHF, which is an improvement of around 15.000 CHF compared with the forecast presented in the last CB meeting.

On the cost side of the budget we have saved more than 230.000 CHF to cover for the lack of success in the sales of sponsorships and less income from the Material Approval system, which are the main reasons for the forecasted loss.

The IFF Office will try to control the cost side still for December, to see if we could still make the loss a bit smaller for the full year 2019.

Mr. Eriksson thanked the treasurer Ms. Birdal and the secretary general for a job well done, to reduce the loss.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

b) **Information on IFF claims – status December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Mrs. Birdal and Mr. Kratz presented the claims situation by the 12.12.2019 for Associations participating in the in WFC's in 2020 and those associations which are not participating in any IFF Events (**Appendix 3 and 4**).

A lot of time and efforts have been put in by the Office, with the aim to get all teams registered for the WFC's in 2020 to be in line with the License system 2.0. Latvia has this far followed the pay-off plan, except for the November payment where they asked for a short respite due to payment of flight tickets to the WFC 2019 but should be back on track before the WFCQ and have paid this part as late as today 13.12. Russia has almost cleared their debts and only has the final amount to be paid until the end of December. Korea has cleared their debts. Slovenia has cleared the old part of their debts and a plan for the newer part shall be finalised during December. Ukraine has proposed a plan in line with what they believe they can handle to settle their debts. Further a meeting with Malaysia regarding their debts was held during SEA Games and a plan is to be proposed during December. These Associations are still to be monitored. Cote d'Ivoire has proposed a pay-off plan starting midst of March 2020 where at least 500 CHF shall be paid every three months until their debts are settled.

Mr. Kratz felt that there is only one concern, which is Canada. Regarding the U19 WFC 2019 organiser and Floorball Canada they report that they are still optimistic but won't take it for granted that they will be able to start paying off 31st of December.

Mr. Klabere felt that we still need to have a plan in place, if there would be some issues which would prevent the Latvians to pay the planned payments prior to the U19 WFC 2020. No matter what the tournament needs to be played with Latvia due to the fact that they are organizing one of the WFCQ's. Mr. Liljelund expressed that we need to play the tournament and decide about the implications after the event.

Mr. Suman asked when we will be able to follow the License system in full, meaning that no country can register without having paid all their debts. Mr. Eriksson expressed that there is a difference between the principle and practice. Ms. Birdal felt that we should deal with the debts in two different ways, having on one side the normal debts for membership fees and participation fees and then debts from organising events. Mr. Suman proposed that such a system should be

Mr. Liljelund proposed that the CB will take a principle discussion and a decision concerning the actions to be taken in regards of Floorball Canada, if the U19 WFC 2019 organiser is not in position to start paying of their debt in accordance with the payment plan. Mr. Spence believes that the debt will be paid back, but the process is ongoing to start the payment. The LOC of the U19 WFC 2019 is working hard to be able to pay. There is still some optimism in order to be able to make the payments.

Mr. Liljelund expressed that it is critical issue of the participation of Canada in the WFC 2020 and The World Games 2021, if Floorball Canada can pay their debts in accordance to a plan, or a revised payment plan it would save them, but as long as the debt is paid Canada can't register to any new event. If the payment plan is not followed Canada will not play in the WFC 2020 and therefore cannot participate in The World Games.

Mr. King is a little bit torn between suspending Canada and giving them possibilities to adjust the payment plan. It is difficult as it seems that Floorball Canada, has not been aware of the situation. Mr. Suman feels that this situation is quite difficult, as it is not only question of a normal non-payment of organiser fees, but a special situation, where we had to go in and save the organiser.

Mr. Spence says that Floorball Canada had no idea of what happened within the organisation. Mr. Klabere felt that we should be super strict to follow the IFF Rules and asked if Floorball Canada pays any costs for their National teams for the Events, to which Mr. Spence answered that Floorball Canada doesn't pay anything. Mr. Lopez felt that it is very important to be strict in this situation. Ms. Birdal felt that it is important that Floorball Canada needs to have development, to be able to gain some earnings and then pay back the debt. Ms. Salomaa felt that this is an unfortunate and problematic situation, and we should be strict, but at the same time make sure Canada stays active so they have possibilities to pay back the debt. Mr. Suman would like to hear from Mr. Spence what kind idea there is within Floorball Canada to solve the issue. Mr. Beer feels that we must give Canada the possibility to pay and Mr. Houman thinks that it has to be solved and also Floorball Canada must take their responsibility. Ms. Reehuis feels that Floorball Canada needs to grab the steering wheel and take their responsibility.

Mr. King felt that if Mr. Anthony MacNeil/U19 WFC 2019 falls over, the IFF needs to support Floorball Canada in some way.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the proposal is to decide to divide the debts of the membership into two different categories, primarily to debts occurred from unpaid membership fees, participation fees, shared referee fees and sanction fees and secondly of debt related to the operational organizational costs of IFF Events. The debts of the first part are regulated directly by the IFF License system and the second part must be dealt separately and paid back in accordance to a payment plan approved by the IFF CB. The CB is to decide that as long as the U19 WFC 2019/Floorball Canada can follow the made payment plan or a revised payment plan, with payments every quarter Canada can participate in the WFC 2020, if Canada fails to make payments an automatic suspension from registration to any IFF Events will take place, until the

plan is followed and payments are back on track. If Canada fails to make payments IFF will remove them from the WFC 2020, which automatically means that they are not in position to participate in The World Games 2021 in Birmingham.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and to continue to follow up on the situation of Latvia, Canada and Russia regarding their participation in the U19 WFC and WFC 2020. From the registration for WFC 2022 all registered teams need to have paid all membership related debts.

The CB further decided to divide the debts of the membership into two different categories, primarily to debts occurred from unpaid membership fees, participation fees, shared referee fees and sanction fees and secondly of debt related to the operational organizational costs of IFF Events. The debts of the first part are regulated directly by the IFF License system and the second part must be dealt separately and paid back in accordance to a payment plan approved by the IFF CB. The CB is to decide that as long as the U19 WFC 2019/Floorball Canada can follow the made payment plan or a revised payment plan, with payments every quarter Canada can participate in the WFC 2020, if Canada fails to make payments an automatic suspension from registration to any IFF Events will take place, until the plan is followed and payments are back on track. If Canada fails to make payments IFF will remove them from the WFC 2020, which automatically means that they are not in position to participate in The World Games 2021 in Birmingham.

## § 5. World Championships

### a) WFC 2019 Neuchatel, Switzerland

Mr. Beer gave a status report concerning the ongoing WFC 2019 played in Neuchâtel. **(Appendix 5)** After the first six days of the tournament and the good performance of the Swiss Team has started a euphoria in Switzerland. The organisation is working well, and the cooperation is very good with the local club and the IFF.

The ticket sales have now reached close to 10.000 sold tickets and we are very close to reach the budgeted sum and there are a lot of tickets still reserved. The Sunday is sold out. SUHV has invited a lot of school pupils and arranged their transportation to the matches during the week, there are some 5.000 school kids and teachers registered for the day matches during the week. The sponsorship income has reached around CHF 150.000, with the target of CHF 170.000 gross and CHF 150.000 net, so the target was met.

In the venue some extra media stands had to be installed and the build-up of the venues worked OK, even if there were some problems with the flooring in the main venue. There are a lot of VIP's coming to the WFC, with between 200-250 for the first weekend and 400-450 for the second and final weekend. As the preparations are running to an end, there are some 98% of all tasks completed and the LOC are ready to go. The LOC has built a Fan zone in the parking area outside the venues, where both food and drinks are served.

The LOC have received some CHF 100.000 from Swiss Olympics, value in kind support from the City of Neuchâtel and some support from the Federal Department of Sports. The aim is still not to have a bigger loss than CHF 140.000, which will be dependable on the ticket sales. So, if the ticket sales stays on budget the overall result will be less than a 140.000 CHF loss. There will be a lot of VIP's and the Swiss Sports Minister for the Swiss game on the Final Day. The City Reception is planned for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> at 14:00 in the Hôtel de Ville.

Mr. Klabere gave a report on behalf of the WFC 2019 Jury. It has been a very good tournament, with most things working. There have been some issues with the teams not following the rules, issues with the national anthems and flags, one goal review. So, it has been a good tournament. The local organiser has been a little upset, as there are hired people making mistakes.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the TV arrangements and that the organisation of the TV/Internet-TV production. IFF acts as Host Broadcaster and has contracted PolarHD together with the Swiss association to run the production. The Swiss TV acts as Official Broadcaster in Switzerland. IFF has further organised the satellite uplink through an SNG car for the event and the signal from the La Riveraine arena is transferred to the production room via a dedicated internet solution. IFF is responsible for the Satellite segment and has booked a 24/7 satellite feed for the whole event, making it possible to cover most of the produced matches. For some of the matches from the 2<sup>nd</sup> arena a secondary feed is used on the same satellite. The size of the TV operation has grown significantly from previous Women's WFC events and so the IFF Office is using Mr. Micael Fasth as a TV Coordinator during the Event to assist the secretary general in securing a smooth running of the TV operations.

IFF has had the responsibility for the sales and distribution of the signal for the WFC. So far there are deals made with the following TV Channels, from 13 countries (11 countries in 2017) for broadcasts for some 140 matches (**Appendix 6**):

Host Nation:	SRF (German), CHRTS (French), SRI (Italian)
China:	BeijingTV
Czech Republic:	Czech TV
Finland:	YLE
Indonesia:	Usee TV
Germany:	Sportdeutschland.tv
Latvia:	Latvian TV7
Malaysia:	Astro
Singapore:	StarHub TV
Slovakia:	Slovak TV
Sweden:	Discovery
Thailand:	True Vision
Ukraine:	UA Pershy

IFF has also a total of 12 matches on the Olympic Channel, with English Commentary.

Discussions are still ongoing with some companies, like the Philippines TV5. There are also some contacts to secure streaming in Brazil and Estonia. Compared with previous events there are no broadcasts presently in Denmark, Norway, Russia and USA, where there has been visibility before.

Mr. Eriksson and Mr. Suman felt that that the TV is a real success. Mr. Suman felt that the organisation is running smoothly, for the future a rule is needed that all matches needs to be treated in the same way, as the LOC is more focusing on the home games. We need to show that all fans are equally interesting, and the service should be the same. There have been quite big results in the group matches and we need to look upon how to close the gap.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

**b) U19 WFC 2020, Uppsala, Sweden**

Mr. Kratz reported that the U19 WFC 2020 qualifications was played September 11th-15th in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, and that Russia and Austria qualified to the final round. Further Mr. Kratz reported that the group ballot has been held in Uppsala and made by the IFF President, that the schedule has been published and that the ticket sales has started.

Mr. Klabere gave a short report of the preparations for the U19 WFC 2020 to be played in Uppsala, Sweden in May. The LOC is running the preparations and ticket sales has started in November. The project leader Ms. Ebba Wengström is up to full speed.

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

**c) Next Events**

**WFC 2020, Helsinki Finland**

Mr. Kratz reported that the preparations of the WFC 2020 qualifications are ongoing and proceeding well. There is a first preliminary match schedule to work on.

Ms. Salomaa reported on the preparations of the WFC 2020 Final round. The LOC preparations are well on track and the LOC has started the sales of the Final Weekend packages for the Hartwall Arena and the packages for the Finnish fan's (Follow your team) on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. By the 3rd of December there has been sold 2200 Final Weekend Packages (Saturday and Sunday) and some 1.000 tickets are reserved, which will be invoiced in January. All the eight ticket categories have been selling equally. The Preliminary round and quarter-final daily tickets will be on sale from March/April 2020, but some reservations from clubs and partners have already been made. (**Appendix 7**) The LOC has now three employees and a fourth will start in beginning of the year.

The monetary goal for sponsorship and partner sales has been exceeded, with the newest partner, the Finnish Lottery company Veikkaus and the transportation partner Reissu Ruoti. The Ballot will be held on the 10.3.2020 in the Casino Helsinki, Fennia hall, with invitations to be sent out in early 2020.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**d) Upcoming Events**

**U19 WFC 2021, Czech Republic**

Mr. Kratz reported that the invitation has been sent to the U19 WFC 2021.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**WFC 2021, Uppsala, Sweden**

Mr. Kratz reported that the invitation has been sent to the WFC 2021.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**U19 WFC 2022**

Mr. Kratz reported that the contract negotiations has started with Floorball New Zealand and IFF has together with the LOC started the discussions of how to connect and cooperate with the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport Conference 2022, which is organized at the same time in Auckland, New Zealand.

Ms. Mitchell met with the IWG 2022 secretary general Ms. Rachel Frogatt in Helsinki, in November and discussed how IFF and Floorball New Zealand could co-operate with the conference. The most interesting idea for during the conference itself was to have a mini-court where people could try the game and find out more information about it. This would need to be run by Floorball New Zealand, through the Auckland Floorball Association. IFF may need to assist with some equipment. In conjunction with the mini-court she was interested in the suggestion of having a screen that would also show the live stream from the U19 WFC and creating a mini-fan zone. She saw good possibilities of, in particular, getting the SWE and FIN delegations involved in this. Mr. Liljelund has already been in contact to Ms. Birgitta Kervinen discussing the possible forms of cooperation with the Finnish delegation.

In the lead-up to the conference the IWG will be doing a lot of work throughout the Pacific Islands which, if Floorball New Zealand, can get involved with, would be great for the regional development. The New Zealand Floorball will be in touch with Ms. Frogatt again soon and they will discuss further what the three organizations (IFF, IWF, Floorball New Zealand) could all co-operate on.

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

#### **WFC 2022, Zurich, Switzerland**

Mr. Klabere reported that the WFC 2022 shall, after having communicated with Swiss Floorball, the event shall be played within the time period of the 15.10-06.11.2022, as the Swiss Association is still internally discussing which are the best dates. It is the wish of SUHV to play in the last weekend. The WFC 2022 will be played in Zurich and Winterthur. The objective is to make the biggest Floorball ever in Floorball, with a budget of 6 million CHF. There have been good negotiations with the Swiss government, the Canton of Zürich and the Cities, which will make special projects and a one-year path for the WFC 2022. The management of the WFC will be elected soon.

Mr. Suman pointed out that it is important for the national federations to know the timing of the Event.

**CB decided:** to approve the report

#### **§ 6. EuroFloorball Cup**

##### **a) EuroFloorball Cup 2019**

Mr. Kratz reported that the EFC 2019 was played in Malacky, Slovakia 9-13.10.2019 and that Nauka-SAFU, Russia, won the Women's event and Tsunami Zahorska Bystrica, Slovakia, won the Men's event.

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

##### **b) Champions Cup 2019**

Mr. Kratz reported that the draw for the Semi-finals has been made in Ostrava and thereafter published.

Mr. Suman gave an update on the preparations of the Champions Cup 2020 to be played in Ostrava, Czech Republic 11-12.01.2020. The organisation is proceeding as planned for the eight

matches. The cooperation with the city and the region is going well. The ticket sales is very good, in the arena of 2000 seats and 3000 standing seats, with soon moving over to sales of the standing.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the situation with the CC Home & Away concept from 2023 forward. The stakeholders of the Champions Cup have during the autumn finalised their views to the proposal and the Champions Cup Steering Group will convene for its meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January to discuss the way forward.

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

## § 7. Committees and Ad Hoc group reports

### a) ExCo reports

Mr. Eriksson reported on the ExCo activities after the previous CB meeting, which have mainly concentrated upon the preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> IFF Association Meeting to be held in Neuchâtel during the WFC on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of December, at the Stade de la Maladière, the football stadium next to the Floorball venue. Presently there are a total of 39 member associations registered for the meeting, which is one more than for the Association Meeting in Bratislava two years ago. The agenda has been sent to all the participants on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. We have some African countries which have not received visas for Switzerland. The meeting room is a bit challenging, but fortunately there are room for the group works.

There have been quite some comments about the quite high hotel prices in Neuchâtel, which has affected the situation for a number of countries. The ExCo has approved the Agenda for the Association Meeting, which in the end of November has been sent to the member associations. **(Appendix 8)**

The ExCo has continued the process and started to secure the cashflow issue and loan agreements have been signed with all the National Associations initially contacted, namely the Czech Floorball, Swedish Floorball and Swiss Floorball and the loans of 25.000 CHF has been paid to IFF, which the IFF is sincerely grateful for.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF Ethics Commission will have its yearly meeting on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, for the first time with the present composition after the IFF General Assembly. **(Appendix 9)** The ETC is to discuss the issues of Gambling and Gaming in Floorball, Reporting Mechanisms in Sport and the cooperation between the IFF ETC and IFF Disciplinary Committee.

Mr. Eriksson reported that as a result of discussions between the IFF and the IOC Sport Department, the IOC Sport Department will organise their End of Year outing for the Sports Department in Neuchâtel on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. The program is built in cooperation with the Recognised Federations contact person Mr. Andrew Hofer. The program will consist of an introduction to Floorball, Field of Play activities, an Official Game between IFF, a walk through the venue and the IFF/LOC operations and following one of the quarterfinals. Mr. Tero Kalsta and Mr. Juerg Kihm will host the IOC Sport department during their visit.

Mr. King reported how the Strategy Task Force has started its work. The STF has held two skype meetings so far **(Appendix 10ab)**, in which the main focus has been on preparations of the IFF Association meeting Strategy workshops, the Growth Pockets and Trend documents, the structure of the Strategy document and preparations to build the content list of the document chapters. The STF will have its first face to face meeting in Zurich on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of February

2020, to evaluate the results of the IFF Associations meeting and work on the first draft of the Strategy Document, which shall be handed out to the IFF community for comments in April/May. The STF members will facilitate the working groups during the Association meeting with the help of some CB members.

Mr. Eriksson reported that the IFF Disciplinary Committee has dealt with a case concerning the Swiss player Mr. Nils Conrad, who collided with the Finnish Player Mr. Nico Salo, during the Men's EFT in Tampere, in November, which the referees did not react to during the game. As there was no disciplinary organ appointed for the EFT, the Finnish federation asked the IFF DC to handle the case, as the Finnish team had reported the incident for disciplinary actions. The DC found that there was not a need for any additional punishment, even if the incident could have resulted in a five minute or Match Penalty 1. (**Appendix 25**)

Mr. Klabere felt that when there is an International tournament, the jurisdiction of disciplinary matters should always be handled by the IFF Disciplinary committee. Mr. Liljelund and Mr. Klabere felt that it is important that the IFF RACC will come with a proposal for how to solve this issue.

The CB discussed the need to find a solution on how to deal with the growing number of tackles to the head. The task is to be given to the RACC and the RC.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and the proposal to look over handling of disciplinary matters in the Friendly International tournaments and the growing number of tackles to the head.

## **b) CB members responsibilities**

Mr. Houman reported on the Six Nation floorball challenge, which was arranged by the Polish Floorball Federation in the 3rd week of October. The six nations, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia had a seminar, which was conducted by two coaches from the Czech Floorball. The evaluation was very positive from the participants, and on the second day of the seminar, 20 coaches from Poland participated as well. The Six Nation steering group will soon meet, and the intention is to continue with the same setup of the tournaments with some small adjustments.

The six nation's tournament, which was played parallel with the seminar, was played as 3x15min, according to IFF's wishes to test the format. It's not easy to compare, but the same six nations met two years ago at the same tournament, though the playing format was different. But the differences between playing 3x20min and 3x15min was, there were less scored goals per game (8,1 and 6,9) with 3x15 min and the time between goals was shorter (6,30 min compared to 7,24 min). Among some of the players and coaches, the system was fine to be used at the six nations, but it gave the coaches shorter time to change tactics. One comment was that the matches were quite fast. The next tournament will be in October 2020.

Mr. Liljelund informed that as there were not enough participants interested in the IFF proposal for the Road to HEL-project to close the gap on the top level with the EFT countries, the project has been put on hold, after discussions with Eerikkilä Sports Institute. IFF and Eerikkilä are still willing to conduct the project, but with a bit more participants and a longer preparation time. Mr. Liljelund to discuss the matter with the representatives of the Six in Neuchâtel.

Mr Lopez reported about the on the development in Central and Latin America and the plans for the future. There is a lack of communication from the countries, partly due to the change of people in the countries. The process is now looking more to structure the approach and lean towards education and training of coaches and referees, recognition of associations, building of

organisations and management of these and finally a more continues reporting. (**Appendix 11**) Mr. Lopez has built a document to help the support towards the countries and what and how IFF can help in the question of the education, building the federation and the sport. There have been some new issues with Floorball4all. Mr. Houman reported that there are Floorball teams from Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay.

Mr. King reported on the on the present status of the AOFC activities. (**Appendix 24**). The feedback from the SEA Games 2019 which was held in Manila is that the event was a real success. The discussion is ongoing to combine some seminars in relation to the AOFC qualifications. Malaysia is to host the AOFC Cup in 2020 and the Mentor project is suspended presently for New Zealand. The referee development in AOFC is really good, but more exchange with Europe is needed. There is a lot of positive issues ongoing.

Ms. Birdal reported on the conclusions of the Six Nations on the possible direction of the project Road to HEL. We need to separate the six countries from the project.

Mr. Spence provided a short report on the present issues in Northern America. There have been several major floorball events taken place in the last six months. The Golden Gate Cup continues to be a success for over 10 years now. In addition, there are regional tournaments taking place. The State Games of America is a multi-sport event that took place in Virginia in early August 2019. Many floorball teams from across the nation participated in several different age and ability divisions.

The USA men's team travelled to Iceland in November to gain international experience. To summarize, the USA is making good progress towards showcasing floorball in the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama.

As expected in Canada, hosting the U19 tournament in Halifax has led to a big increase in the number of clubs in the Maritime provinces of Canada. We now have 6 active clubs where we did not have any just a few years ago. The legacy that Mr. Juha Mikkola left, the Canada Cup, is entering a new stage of growth. The 2020 tournament will be the best one and we are working hard to bring more international teams to the event.

The experience of both Belleville and Halifax has given us a hard lesson in how much a risk is involved with hosting a WFC. In Belleville, we had an event where all the circumstances worked in our favour. In Halifax, this was not the case. Floorball Canada will bring a proposal for how work with this problem for the next CB meeting. Floorball Canada wants to share the experience of the country who have take over an Event, which has gone wrong.

Mr. King asked if Floorball Canada has thought about to make a Lessons Learned process, to understand what actually has happened.

Mr. Halonen asked about the numbers of the teams in the events. Before the Canada Cup was a tournament of 60 teams and now it is about 30 teams.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

### c) Contacts to International Sports Organisations

SportAccord

Mr. Eriksson reported that Mr. Williamson from USFbA has just participated in the Regional SportAccord in Miami, USA during the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of December. SportAccord covers the hotel and participation for one IF delegate. The CB want to have a report from the Event.

Mr. Eriksson further informed that Mr. Liljelund has participated in the IF Forum in Lausanne, in end of October, which focused on the Role of the Athletes in centre of Sports. SportAccord

invited the IF's a week before the event to include its Athletes, so IFF arranged that the ATC member Mr. Junoh Lee to participate. The IF Forum was more hands on this time, which was greatly appreciated by the IF's.

Adjacent to the IF Forum the IOC organised the IOC Sustainability Forum, where the different IF Sustainability projects were presented and the UN Sport for Climate Change initiative was broadly presented. The IFF Stick with it-project has been accepted as one of the IOC Sustainability projects. (**Appendix 12**)

Mr. Liljelund proposed that the IFF CB would analyse and discuss the SportAccord Good Governance review and the improvements to be made in advance of the repeated questionnaire in 2020 during the workshop in the first CB meeting of 2020.

#### ARISF

Mr. Liljelund reported that the ARISF Council had its meeting in Lausanne in connection to the IF Forum. The topics were mostly focused upon the cooperation with SportAccord and IOC and the implementation of the Strategy revised during the ARISF AGM in Gold Coast. Mr. Liljelund was given the task to write a short one-page clarification of the Role of ARISF before the end of the year. The IOC has decided to run the series of extensive case studies which are being conducted by the IOC and an outside company. Mr. Liljelund was appointed to prepare the Case Study as the ARISF representative together with Mr. Andrew Hoffer, IOC Senior Manager, Winter and Recognised Sports. The preparations for the case study have been made in October-November and it has been ordered from the outside company IOC is using. The results will be presented during the ARISF – IOC Workshop, during the SportAccord in Beijing, China in April 2020.

#### IOC

Mr. Eriksson reported that IFF has to fill in the yearly reporting for the IOC Development support by the mid of December

#### IWGA/TWG

Mr. Liljelund informed that IFF has participated in the IWGA Olympic Channel workshop in Madrid, where the first principles for the Birmingham World Games TV production guidelines were told. The TV production will be done by the IBS, like in Wroclaw and Floorball, like most sports will preliminary have the last two days (semi-finals and medal matches) produced for the TWG Channel. It is not yet sure what the rules are for TV production from the other days, but IFF has already started the discussions with IWGA concerning rights. IFF has also applied for full participation in the TWG 2021 Demonstration Sports Program, which provides opportunities to present the sport at the TWG Plaza, in the City and the venue during the tournament. (**Appendix 13**)

The Birmingham Organisation Committee has answered that they will inform about their decision in beginning of 2020. At the same time IFF has been informed that there is not an interest from the BOC side towards a test-event of Floorball prior to the TWG. The USFbA is planning to run the US Open in Birmingham in August 2020, which can act as a test event. The USFbA has also conducted a very successful education session for some 50 PE teachers, from 40 schools in Birmingham on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. In addition, the cooperation has continued with the USFbA TWG group on how to popularise the Sport in Birmingham and more discussions are to take place during the WFC.

The IWGA has asked for which IFF Events in the time period 2020-2024 IFF would be able and happy to organise in China, to which IFF have listed the possible ones, if a solution would be find with the China Floorball Union. The events are namely the AOFC Cup, the WFC qualifications and maybe the U19 WFC. This would certainly then serve as a test-event for the Chengdu 2025 World Games.

Mr. Suman asked why the BOC has not reacted based on the experiences from Wroclaw, Mr. Liljelund answered that the reason is purely lack of resources, both technical and financial.

#### SEA Games

Mr. Kratz reported on the organisation of the Floorball tournament of the SEA Games 2019, in Manila, the Philippines, in his role as the Floorball Technical Delegate. The organisation worked quite well, with the support of the Philippines Floorball Association. The matches were played in the UP CHK Gym, Diliman, Quezon City, with five Men's and Women's teams each. The participating countries were Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. There was a lot of spectators and this was a good experience to organise other events. Floorball was played partly prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Event on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, with the group stage played from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of November and the Finals on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. The medal tally results were, Women, gold to Singapore, silver to Thailand and bronze to Malaysia. For men, the gold to Thailand, the silver to Singapore and the bronze to Malaysia.

Mr. Eriksson reported that the SEA Games have three categories of sports, number 1, 2 and 3. In the Number 1 category there are only Athletics and Aquatics. In the Category 2 there are the Olympic and Asian Games sports, a total of 48 sports. Floorball is presently in category 3, along with "regional and new sports", a total of 12 sports. The needed number of minimum countries are 4 (of the total 11 SEA Countries) so now we have reached a critical mass, where the plans must be laid down for the 2021 SEA Games organized in Vietnam, in the capital city Hanoi. The dates (preliminary) are set to November 26 until December 2, 2021. The 2023 SEA Games are awarded to Cambodia, in the capital city Phnom Penh the dates set to (preliminary) May 5-15, 2023. Countries in line to join with Floorball would be the hosts, Vietnam and Cambodia, with Laos, and Myanmar also having taken good steps forward. The conclusion is that we are on the program to stay there.

During the SEA Games the Mr. Eriksson met with a large number of the SEA Games countries NOC representatives.

Vietnam NOC secretary general Tran Van Manh (also the president for Hockey), and meet with NOC President Ngoc Thien Nguyen, and the needs for an action plan towards the SEA Games in 2021. Mr Tran called for co-operation with IFF having equipment, most important a rink, and goals, and balls/sticks sent to Vietnam, to Hanoi, where the NOC plan to implement Floorball to schools in the capital area, the capital also hosting the next SEA Games. Floorball cannot be an own NSA, so will be under Hockey, like it is in Thailand today. The challenge for the Vietnam NOC is that it cannot get funding from the Ministry for Floorball, has to be raised elsewhere until taking part in the SEA Games, that is after December 2021. AOFC has offered to assist with costs, on sight, for seminars in Vietnam.

Malaysia NOC new secretary general, Mr Nazifuddin Najib; he was well updated with Floorball developments in Malaysia, and spreading well to all states eventually, and having double bronzes at these 2019 SEA Games will strengthen Floorball Malaysia's position. Malaysia Floorball is today an associate member and will stay as one until Floorball is either Olympic or Asian Games sport.

NOC President of Indonesia, recently elected Mr Raja Sapta Oktohari (since Mr Erik Tohir had to step down becoming a Minister in the cabinet). Mr Oktohari is from cycling and was updated on Floorball in Indonesia, as it is spreading well, with lots of challenges with a very big country with vast distances and a population of 230 million. Indonesia Floorball President Mr Toho with his team is doing a good job, enabling the NOC and Ministry to approve the 2019 SEA Games inclusion. Since the news are out that Floorball is included in the 2021 Asia and Martial Art Games, this will broaden Floorball's possibilities for growth and participation in the future.

Singapore NOC President Mr Tan Chuan Jin, also speaker of Parliament, and secretary general Mr Chris Chan, who both are very well updated on Floorball, since in Singapore Floorball is spread to more than 80% of the schools. Singapore NOC is giving IFF and Floorball full support and is part of the task force within the SEA Games Council, as well as in the OCA.

Philippines NOC President Mr Abraham Tolentino (from chess) and Steve Hontiveros, former secretary general, now chairman. Received updates within the POC, having staged three elections internally in the POC during its last term. Updates on Floorball, growth is good, and this enabled the inclusion to the 2019 SEA Games. During the SEA Games also meet with Congressman Sambar, who is in full support for Floorball in the Philippines.

In addition, Mr. Eriksson meet and had talks with Singapore Floorball, President Kenneth Ho, and with Philippines Floorball President Ralph Ramos, and vice President Marco Ortiz, and with Malaysia Floorball President Razman Rizal, and with Thailand Floorball President, also AOFC President, Mr Chaiyapak. Indonesia did not take part during my part of the visit with Professor Toho Mutohir, or Mr Raymond Nangoy. Talks primarily on upcoming SEA Games in 2021, and in 2023, and the 2021 Asia Indoor and Martial Art Games, and co-operation with their respective NOC. Mr. Eriksson also meet with the esteemed IOC Member from Thailand, Mrs Khunying Patama, and updated her on Floorball in AOFC and on our inclusion in upcoming SEA Games and Asian Games.

Asia Indoor and Martial Art Games;

Mr. Eriksson informed that these Multi Sport Games are organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), and has been awarded to The Thailand Olympic Committee. These Games are organized every 4 years. The dates are set to (preliminary) April 24 until May 2, 2021. The cities are Bangkok, and Pattaya. A total of only 20 sports have been confirmed, new confirmed sports are Netball, Taekwondo and Floorball. This is a great achievement taking into account that there are only 20 sports on the program, that Floorball is in. OCA has decided that not only countries from Asia, 45, but also Oceania 17 countries may take part, a total of 62 countries all in all.

Mr. Eriksson informed that the registration for the World University Championships in Koper, Slovenia has been slow. The WUC LOC has contacted the IFF and asked for support and sent the invitation with an information package to the IFF member associations. Also IFF has sent out information to its members concerning the registration. FISU has decided to change the format for the WUC, moving over to Universities instead of National Teams, so this can maybe be one of the reasons, but it is important to secure the last national team WUC in Koper, as the new format for the Floorball WUC, can bring much more teams to the WUC in the future, as our sport grows.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

#### d) **RACC**

Mr. Klabere reported on the RACC meeting held September 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> in Prague, Czech Republic. (**Appendix 14**) The RACC discussed a number of issues during the meeting, like the questions of the different parts in the project Future of Floorball, overview of how to handle qualifications to the WFC's in connection to EuroFloorball Championships, IFF test tournaments, national federation tests (number of players/leaders and game time), organisers for our events, uneven results in some WFC qualification matches involving the top 4 ranked teams, Champions Cup new format, video goal reviews, the rule book update and more practical issues as the Jury tasks.

Mr. Klabere presented the following proposals the RACC has made for the IFF CB (**Appendix 15a**):

To Change the Competition Regulations National Teams edition 2020, concerning the following:

- To include the clause about the Possible disqualification of direct qualified teams in tournaments due to financial problems
- To remove the specific Order of Play system from the regulation

To Change the International Weekend regulation with effect on the Juridical Regulation 2020

- To change the date of informing of a Friendly International and the Sanction Dates

**CB decided:** To approve the report and make the changes to the Change the Competition Regulations National Teams edition 2020 and the Friendly International regulation edition 2020.

Mr. Klabere further presented the following proposals the RACC has made in regards of the Future of Floorball (**Appendix 15a**). It is quite problematic that representatives from the countries building proposals for Future of Floorball and the Euro Floorball Championships, are not of the same view in the RACC. Concerning the Future of Floorball there is by the RACC far too little countries testing, which will make the whole issue problematic when there are many countries only giving their views without testing. It is necessary that everyone have to test the proposed system, to be able to make a real evaluation on them. Mr. Klabere thinks it is imperative to test the matters in IFF events.

- The RACC proposes that the IFF Test tournaments during the season 2020-2021 should be the WFCQ 2021-2022 (national teams), EFC 2020-2022 (club tournament) and EFCh 2020-2022 (club tournament) and they should be played in accordance to the Future of Floorball basic concept (3 x 15 mins / 17 players + 5 officials / 10 minutes intermissions).

Mr. Liljelund felt that there is an issue to include the WFCQ in the testing events, based on the earlier discussions and decisions of the IFF General Assembly.

Mr. Suman feels that we need to persuade some countries still need to test the system during the qualifications. Mr. Suman agrees with the proposal that consultations should be done with the European countries.

Mr. Beer informed that Switzerland will not make testing on the field of game, but instead make an academic study on the overall effects on spectators and all other stakeholders. There is no problem to do the tests in the qualifications and make the analysis based on this,

Ms. Reehuis feels that there should not be a different system in the WFCQ as in the Final Round, which has been the message from the Athletes. There needs to be a longer process before to include the system into the WFCQ's.

Mr. Klabere pointed out that the GA decided that tests should be for national teams in international events which means that we only can test on U19 or WFCQ.

Mr. Houman feels that we need to test this, but the question is how to deal on this. Ms. Salomaa felt that all implications must be opened and carefully discussed. It would be good to have the overall picture clear. There needs to be discussions.

Ms. Birdal thinks it is important that we are still testing, and everybody will not agree, but that will not ever happen. We can't analyse the questions without having data from tests.

Mr Spence feels that it would not be a problem to run the test. Mr. Lopez thinks that regarding the RACC proposal technically he is in favour of this, but there are a lot of political issues in the process that should be discussed in a consultation phase.

Mr. King thinks that the matter will be supported in Asia due to smaller financial costs. The AOFC countries probably will not be stressed for a change of the quota in the short term as there are many other games for countries to focus on for the next few years. In the short term the system can be tested in the AOFC Cup but needs to be discussed within AOFC.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there should be some more consultation in the matter and the decision will be made in the future CB meetings.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and decided to start consultations concerning the proposal of running the tests in the WFC qualifications and take the decision in the coming meeting.

Mr. Klabere further presented the following proposals the RACC has made in regards of the implementation of the IFF Euro Floorball Championships (**Appendix 15a**). Mr. Klabere felt that presently we need to have a tournament with 8 teams which is played in February, which are directly qualified. There has been raised concerns from countries concerning the qualifications to the WFC's and there is still a need to have a continued discussion with the countries regarding how the whole qualifications will be organised.

- The RACC has in its discussions felt that the format must be created by IFF since the RACC want a proposal that is kept together because almost every change is affecting the other parts.
- The Ranking to participate in the EuroFloorball Championships shall be based on: The last WFC (ranking system is very slow, and this is a good way of giving quick developing countries a possibility to participate)
- No of participating teams: 8 (there are different solutions depending on what CB decides regarding 'standalone tournament' or 'all directly qualified to WFC' that are participating including organiser outside the 8 best ranked teams)
- Playing system: 6 or 7 days depending on resting days after group matches. Three group matches, quarterfinals (A1-B4, A2-B3, A3-B2 & A4-B1), semi-finals and medal matches (gold & bronze).
- To keep the term for the EuroFloorball Championships as decided by the IFF General Assembly in beginning of February
- The RACC is not in favour of having a system where teams are directly qualified to the EuroFloorball Championships and/or WFC.
- To have the EuroFloorball Championships as a stand-alone tournament or that all participating federations in the EF Championship is directly qualified to the WFC or that qualification system with more stages could be an option.
- To prepare a new system for how the Quota is built for the WFC's, taking into account both the WFC ranking and the number of teams participating in the WFC qualifications.
- Prepare a proposal to enlarge the WFC from 16 teams to 20 teams starting from 2022

Mr. Suman felt that this topic is even more important than the testing of the Future of Floorball. Here it is important to consult them and give them the full implication of the proposal.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the consultation must be done in a situation with both the leadership and the technical specialist at the same time. The consultation must be held.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and start the consultation process with the concerned European member associations and the take the decision in the coming meetings.

Mr. Klabere thinks that the question of the new quota system and the number of teams in the WFC Final round needs to be taken in advance of the IFF General Assembly 2020, to be able

take the decision in December 2020. The conclusions are to be taken by the CB before the General Assembly documents goes out.

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

Mr. Klabere presented the updated time schedule for the Rule Change Process (**Appendix 15b**)

**CB decided:** To approve the report and accept the proposal.

**e) RC**

Mr. Lopez reported that the RC had its meeting from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of October in Madrid. The RC has started to create a new plan of action and the RC decided to wait for the outcomes of the IFF Strategy work and its impact to the RC plans of action. (**Appendix 16a**)

RC also discussed about the different kind of rule interpretation in different IFF member associations and the plan is that the RC chair will correspond with the RACC chair if in the future would be possible to unify the interpretations in the rules of the game, already for the next version of the Game Rules. The IFF Way of Refereeing Playbook can't set the rules or the interpretations without the mandate of the RACC. There have been some issues in some tournaments due to the different interpretations.

The RC has nominated the referees and observers for the Women's WFC and made the updates for the SEA Games nominations as well. The RC also prepared a list of the number of Events where IFF has nominated referees (**Appendix 16b**)

The IFF has made a contract with a Finnish provider of a web-based system called Moodle. It's a system which is widely used in high schools, universities and other institutes. The IFF RC intends to use the system for referee web-based education, such as rule tests, video rule book, referee educational material and for observation information of the referees. All the IFF referee related material will locate in the system. The system will be operational for the IFF in the end of this year and the material updates will start right after that.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**f) Medical committee**

Mr. Halonen, in the absence of Ms. Bruun, reported that the IFF Anti-Doping Manager participated in a Testing and Investigations seminar in Oslo organised by the Nordic Athlete Passport Management Unit (NAPMU) and the World Conference on Doping in Sport in Katowice, Poland where the new version of the WADA Code and International Standards were approved. The Code and Standards will take effect on 1 January 2021. Poland's Minister for Sport and Tourism, Witold Bańka, was also elected as the next WADA President and Yang Yang as Vice-President. They officially take office on 1 January 2020. (**Appendix 17**)

The IFF Medical Committee had a meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Zurich during which new medical guideline documents relating to concussions in floorball were finalised. The documents are now published on <https://floorball.sport/anti-doping-and-medical/medical-guidelines/>

Mr. Liljelund reported that on December 9th the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) Executive Committee (ExCo) unanimously endorsed the recommendation made by the independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) that the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) be

declared non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) for a period of four years. This will also have consequences for the IFF as Russia cannot be given the right to host any IFF Event and Russian government representatives may not attend any official events.

As floorball has not been mentioned in the McLaren report and Russian players have not tested positive, the IFF is however of the opinion that the players can attend the WFC qualification event (also for example the YOG in Lausanne in January 2020 will not be affected by this due to the given the timing of this recommendation).

RUSADA will now have 21 days to accept the above-referenced notice. If RUSADA disputes WADA's allegation, the matter will be referred to CAS. The IFF will follow up on the recommendations and try to gain as much information as possible about how the different consequences shall be interpreted. WADA has also stated that it will liaise with Code Signatories and other stakeholders who may be affected by this decision, in order to clarify the next steps while bearing in mind that the case may still be appealed to CAS.

Further it was reported that WADA has also informed that the Bangkok Laboratory is suspended (taking effect 18 November 2019), so the IFF will need to use another lab for the AOFC WFCQ. The IFF is investigating other solution in cooperation with the LOC.

IFF received an invitation to participate in an information briefing on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December at 14:00 CET, to which the IFF Anti-Doping Manager Ms. Bruun will participate.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and take notice of the WADA recommendation.

#### **g) Athletes Commission**

Ms. Reehuis informed on the present activities of the ATC. The IFF has asked for nominations for the Men candidate for the election of the IFF Athletes Commission, which will take place during the WFCQ for the Men's WFC 2020 in beginning of 2020, where the athletes of the organising country Finland will have their national team squad (20 players) voting at the same time, as they are directly qualified.

The IFF has received 7 nominations for the male members of the IFF Athletes Commission for 2020-2024. The nominations are as follows:

Tomas Sladky (CZE) – re-nomination  
Junoh Lee (KOR) – re-nomination  
He Xiaolong (CHN)  
Jarno Ihme (FIN)  
Anže Šnebedr (SLO)  
Sergio Garcés (ESP)  
Marian Hrabovyk (UKR)

The current female members, whose term will end in 2021 are:

Josefina Eiremo (SWE), Eliisa Alanko (FIN), Yui Takahashi (JPN), Agata Plechan (POL)  
Thesame process will take affect during the Women's WFCQ 2021.

Ms. Reehuis further informed that the ATC member Ms. Agata Plechan has been nominated by the IFF ATC, as a member of WADA Athletes Commission. (**Appendix 19**)

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **h) Marketing function**

Mr. Beer reported about the current sales and marketing situation.

The IFF closed an agreement with the marketing agency Protocol Sports Marketing in early October, after the consultation with the CB members Mr. Beer and Mr. Suman. This consultation gave some points which were included in the agreement with Protocol Sports. The agreement grants rights to sell broadcast, sponsorship and merchandising (excluding our key area broadcast agreements, business branch floorball and merchandising rights included in the WFC agreements). Since commencing the partnership, a strategy has been constructed in cooperation with them, Protocol Sports have produced sales and marketing material (promo videos and sales prospectus) and their sales team is working at full steam and has already contacted 128 companies, with 99 which has been on the initial prospect list. (**Appendix 20**). Mr. Beer asked that the CB would be able to see the sales materials of what Protocol Sports has produced.

Discussions with Hummel and Puma have been kept. Updated expectations were delivered to Puma in October. Ongoing contact with both companies.

The campaign to attract more followers on the IFF Instagram account has worked quite well. Since starting in July we added over 4.000 followers and reached the 70k milestone in late October. Since the further campaigns in cooperation with Unihoc have started and another running throughout the WFC 2019.

For developing our portfolio in terms of attractivity towards the fans and potential sponsors there are active negotiations with a company which produces digital brand activation services (e.g. live voting (venue/stream/app), social media wall, decibel meter, etc.). An element for audience voting for best players of the WFC is under discussion with UNIHOC (with target to be utilized in WFC 2020).

The floorball material recycling initiative "Stick with it!" was concepted and also accepted as an IOC Sustainability Case Study (presented at the IF Forum in Lausanne). The plan is further planned together with the WFC2020 LOC and Unihoc. A sustainability manual for event organizers is in preparation.

An IFF brand image a survey project has been started to evaluate how well the new brand has been established and how it is perceived. The study will be made by the Glion Institute of Higher Education students.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

#### **i) Development & Equality Ad Hoc group**

Mr. Halonen reported that the second edition of Africa Cup was played in Nairobi in Kenya from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2019. Originally there were nine men's and four women's teams registered, but few weeks before the event Rwanda and Cameroon withdrew both teams and soon after that Nigeria informed that they won't be able to participate either. One day before the event started Togo withdrew and Uganda informed in the Technical Meeting that their women's team won't participate. The Africa Cup 2019 was then played with two women's teams and five men's teams. Kenya won both Women's and Men's Africa Cup 2019, Burkina Faso being second.

There was also a one-day seminar ran on the day before the event with some 25 participants in both categories, coaching and refereeing.

After the Africa Cup there have been discussions with the African member associations that maybe the Africa Cup should be played every second year and the aim would be to move towards the direction where the games are played in a normal size field of play and with 5 vs 5. The playing time could be shorter. It has also been discussed that the neighbouring countries should organize international weekend games the way those games are organized in Europe. Based on the feedback from some African member associations that would not be too demanding financially. Burkina Faso and Somalia have made some preliminary plans already. Mr. Eriksson feels that this a very good development. Mr. Suman asked if it is too early to play 5vs5, to which Mr. Halonen answered that this time we already played 4vs.4 in this year tournament, which was played on a 28 x 16 m rink.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**j) International Lobbying Ad Hoc group**

Mr. King gave a short report on the ongoing activity.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 8. IFF Office**

Mr. Liljelund informed that in accordance with the previous CB decisions, discussions with the Finnish Association and the Ministry of Education and Culture has been held during the autumn, to ensure the interest of the Finnish Federation to host the IFF Office for the next four year term and for the Ministry of Education and Culture to support the SSBL for the hosting. As a result of these discussion, the Ministry of Education and Culture has informed that The Ministry has supported the IFF Office in Finland for several years and would contribute to the effective function of the Office in Finland also in the future. **(Appendix 21)**

Based on this Mr. Liljelund proposes that the IFF CB decides to start the process to keep the IFF Office in Finland for the years 2021-2024. The secretary general will prepare the Agreements for the Hosting of the IFF Office and the Employment of the IFF Secretary General on behalf of IFF and present them to the Finnish Federation. The Final decision will be made in the IFF CB meeting in May 2020.

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

**a) Development operations**

Mr. Halonen informed that in accordance with the CB workshop the CB updates of the Tier Group list has been made in accordance with the expected level of Tier Group of every member Association, with the addition of what parts are still needed to be updated to fulfil all requirements. **(Appendix 26)**

IFF will use the WFC 2021 registration as a test, before the Tier system takes full effect in 2023. This topic will be presented at the IFF Association meeting 2019, in conjunction with the SportAccord Good Governance survey of ARISF and AIMS members, to explain the need for the implantation and creation of the said policies and documents.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**b) Communications operations**

Nothing to report

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**c) Material operations**

Mr. Liljelund reported that E-Sports Group Oy (E-SG) has started the payments of their outstanding debts, in accordance with their payment plan.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**d) ParaFloorball information**

Mr. Eriksson reported that IFF has signed a Joint Support Letter with the Special Olympic International to support the development of national floorball programs and seek assistance from the National Floorball Associations. (**Appendix 22**)

Mr. Houman reported that the preparation for Special Olympics World Winter Games is well on track. The Special Olympic Sweden Invitational Games are arranged from February 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, during which a Pregame tournament will be arranged in Östersund in Sweden with 12 teams participating, the timing has unfortunately been changed and now is at the same time as the IFF WFCQ 2019. The Special Olympics will be testing the IFF Statistics system during the Pregame Event, to see if it would be a solution for their Winter World Games in Åre in 2021 for the Floorball tournament. For the Games in 2021 in Sweden, around 54 teams will take part from all continents. For the first time since 2012, Special Olympics will not have a demo game during the WFC 2019 in Switzerland. Special Olympics will though be present and meet with IFF during the WFC.

Mr. Halonen, reported on behalf of Ms. Bruun, that IFF has been approached by head of International Wheelchair Floorball Federation who wish to be part of the IFF in the future. The IFF sees this as positive development and will organise a meeting to discuss this further. The solution seems to have a committee inside the IFF. Ms. Birdal reported on the electrical wheelchair EI-hockey played in Canada, Germany and Norway.

The Special Olympics will organise a test event for the SO World Winter Games 2021 where floorball will be the biggest sport. This test event will be organised in Åre in in January-February 2020 and the Special Olympics communication team has asked IFF to participate in the test event in order to set up a communication plan in cooperation with the IFF as floorball will be one of the sports they focus on.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

**e) Equality operations**

Nothing to report

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**f) Sustainability operations**

Mr. Liljelund reported on the actions taken in regard to the IFF Sustainability actions, which has been prepared together with Mr. Tero Kalsta. In December 2018, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) co-launched the new Sports for Climate Action Framework and defined the role of sport in the worldwide fight for climate change. The UN Sports for Climate Action Framework aims to help sports organisations reduce emissions caused by their operations and leverage the worldwide popularity of sport to engage millions of fans in the effort. **(Appendix 23)**

In preparation of the future IFF strategy we should consider including the Sports for Climate Action framework as basis of the sustainability elements in our strategy. Primarily this will aim to accomplish three things: 1) increase positive image 2) compliance with sponsor CSR programs 3) meet the expectations of our fan community (especially younger generation). The elements should cover IFF office, CB, referees in travel and events as well as events/bidding process and partnerships/sponsors.

Here is the declaration the IFF would commit to:

We, the signatories to the Sports for Climate Action Initiative support the goals of the Paris Agreement in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and affirm our commitment on behalf of our organizations to:

1. Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
2. Reduce overall climate impact;
3. Educate for climate action;
4. Promote sustainable and responsible consumption;
5. Advocate for climate action through communication.

The signatories (14 IFs) have also been included in one of the IOC Sustainability Case Study (<https://bit.ly/2XOjZFw>)

Ms. Salomaa feels that this is a really important initiative. Taking active role in corporate social responsibility issues like actions against climate change can attract new sponsors and makes IFF stand out in a positive way.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and decide to sign UN Sports for Climate Action Initiatives declaration.

**§ 9. Member Federations**

**a) Membership questions**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Chinese Floorball Union (CFU) has had their Inaugural meeting with a broad number of Floorball activists in Beijing on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. The outcome has been a success in accordance of Mr. Liu Dong Wei, the President of CFU. The CFU has asked for some more information from IFF, that has been delivered.

Mr. Liljelund reported that during the last three months or so the IFF Office has been looking into to the situation of the Pakistan Floorball Association, after having received a complaint from coaches and players. The issues raised in the complaint are internal questions of the Pakistan Floorball Association. However, in the same time information has been provided which suggests that the structure, juridical status and the membership of the association is not in-line with the what the PFA has provided to the IFF.

The IFF has asked for some clarifications from the PFA, but despite several reminders and promises to provide the information, IFF has not received a clear explanation of the situation. In addition to the PFA has not paid any membership fees in the past years, despite receiving

substantial funds in support for the participation in the AOFC Cup and the Singapore Open. The group making the complaint feels that the PFA is not working in the best interest of Floorball in Pakistan and has no real ambition to make the federation grow and have submitted an application for membership. (**Appendix 27a**).

The IFF Office has analysed the documents and feel that this group has the needed connections to have their federation legally registered and as they were the one who paid for the participation of the Pakistani teams in the said tournaments last summer, the IFF Office proposes to accept their application and replace the Pakistan Floorball Association with the Pakistan Floorball Federation as provisional member. The IFF Statutes gives the provisions for the CB to change the status of an provisional member and as there have not been sufficient explanations made by PFA and the membership fees are unpaid this is totally in-line with the provisions.

Ms. Birdal informed that the Norwegian Bandy federation is not in any way involved with the new Pakistani group even if many players and Mr. Kiyani are Norwegian -Pakistani living in Norway.

Mr. Houman informed that the President of the Pakistani Floorball Federation participated in the Special Olympic seminar but did not inform that he actually is the PFA president.

Mr. Suman reminded that we need to create a criteria to keep the membership with certain tasks in 6 months, 12 months and 24 months.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and replace the Pakistani provisional membership with the Pakistan Floorball Federation (PFF).

**b) Members under suspension**

No members under suspension

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

**c) New Member Applications**

Mr. Halonen informed that there are ongoing processes in around half a dozen countries for them to hand in the application to become members of the IFF during 2020. The first ones might even be ready to hand in the applications already during the spring 2020. There are a number of nations from Asia and some also from Africa, which would be ready to apply in 2020.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 10. Next CB meeting**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the next CB meeting, the first for the year 2020 will be held in Zurich, Switzerland on the 15.-16.2.2020. Ms. Birdal informed that she is on sick-leave during this meeting.

The other meetings are preliminary planned as follows:

M2: 23.-24.05.2020.

M3: 05.-06.09.2020 – Invitation for IFF GA to be sent out latest 11.09.2020. Ms. Reehuis will not participate in this meeting.

M4: 30.10-01.11.2020 – All documents and nominations have to be sent out latest 04.11.2020.

M5: 09. Or 10.12.2020  
IFF General Assembly 11.12.2020  
M6: 12.12.2020

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

**§ 11. Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting

**John Liljelund  
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson  
President**