

Helsinki, Finland, 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

## IFF Central Board meeting 4/2020 15.06.2020 in Teams

<b>Place:</b>	Meeting held as a Teams meeting	
<b>Schedule:</b>	<b>Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Teams meeting 15:00 CET</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Tomas Eriksson</b>	<b>President</b>
	<b>Jörg Beer</b>	
	<b>Monica Birdal</b>	
	<b>Steen Houman</b>	
	<b>Stephen King</b>	
	<b>Martin Klabere</b>	
	<b>Carlos Lopez</b>	
	<b>Lidwien Reehuis</b>	<b>ATC Chair</b>
	<b>Kaarina Salomaa</b>	
	<b>Ron Spence</b>	
	<b>Filip Suman</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
	<b>Veli Halonen</b>	<b>Operations Manager</b>
	<b>Stefan Kratz</b>	<b>Competition Manager</b>
	<b>John Liljelund</b>	<b>Secretary General</b>

**Excused:**

## Minutes

### § 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the fourth CB meeting of the year to discuss the present COVID-10 pandemic and its implications on the IFF Events and the application of the Swedish Floorball Federation concerning the proposed postponement of the Women's U19 WFC 2020 and asked Mr. Liljelund to make a roll call and give the proposal for how to conduct the meeting, which was done.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### § 2. Approval of the agenda

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there are no updated or new appendix for the meeting agenda.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

§ 3 **Minutes from the CB meeting:  
03/2020 in Teams, 22.05.2020 (Appendix 1)**

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

§ 4. **Women's U19 WFC 2020 in Uppsala, Sweden**

Mr. Eriksson made a short re-cap of the present situation in Sweden and how this affects the situation regarding the U19 WFC 2020 and the discussions held with the Swedish Floorball Federation after the May CB meeting. The CB then decided that IFF want to primarily play the Events and if not possible to play it in September then postpone it to 2021 and agreed that it would be possible to be played in May 2021, if needed.

Therefore, IFF sent a letter for consideration to the Swedish association and the U19 WFC 2020 LOC directly after the CB meeting in May with a number of questions concerning the Swedish associations preferences to either go ahead to play in September or to apply for an postponement of the Event to May 2021. The Swedish Association were asked to answer the following questions in the two possible scenarios.

If the situation permits to at all play the U19 WFC in September 2020, under which circumstances are you willing to organise the event:

- What are the required governmental and Health authorities recommendation needed to be able to go ahead with the event?
- What security requirements must be in place to be able to organise?
- When do you need to make the final decision of a Go/No-go?
- What is the minimum number of participating teams that you are willing to go ahead with?

If the Swedish Association finds that there are not sufficient conditions for organising the Event in September and the solution would be to apply for a postponement until May 2021, what are the requirements Sweden would prefer.

- Proposal of when to play with motivations
- How the organisation will be solved for the U19 WFC 2020 in May 2021
- Plan of how the LOC will inform the participating teams about the practical issues
- Based on which clear directives from the Health authorities are making the execution impossible in September 2020, like maximum number of persons gathering, travel restrictions for travel to Sweden, visa issues and other relevant questions
- Clear directive from the City of Uppsala that there is a possibility to play in May 2021 and the IFU Arena.

IFF has after this held several meetings with representatives from the Swedish association to clarify these questions and discuss the possible solutions. As a result of these discussions the Swedish association has made the conclusion, that they need to apply for the postponement of the U19 WFC 2020. Mr. Eriksson asked Mr. Klabere if there are anything else which needs to report from a Swedish perspective. Mr. Klabere answered that the situation in Sweden has not developed enough in the direction which would make it possible to arrange the event in September and the Swedish association has therefore made the application.

Mr. Eriksson reported that the Swedish Floorball Federation has together with Uppsala Municipality and the IFU Arena handed in an application last week in which they propose to postpone the Women's U19 WFC 2020 to be played in Uppsala, Sweden between the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 (**Appendix 2**).

The Swedish association feels that based on prevailing COVID-19 situation does not grant a possibility to organise the event in Uppsala in September 2020. The reasons for this are mainly

the fact that the safety of the players cannot be fully secured and consequently the present Health authorities restriction of a maximum of 50 persons gatherings in public places (no final deadline is yet set), which means that there are no possibilities for the any spectators in the arena. The restriction for audience and the eminent risk of not having the total of 16 participating teams would heavily affect the organisers finances, as there are no sign of a significant .change of the travel restrictions and demand for quarantine when travelling to or back home from Sweden from outside the EU-region.

Mr. Suman asked what the implications will be for both the organiser and the IFF. Mr. Eriksson answered that there might be a number of implications, but there will for sure be a number of IFF Events bundled together in 2020. Mr. Liljelund expressed that the primary target for IFF is to have the U19 WFC 2020 played in a safe way. The financial effect is not as big as expected in a case of a postponement, as the Swedish association has proposed to organise the event under the signed contract. Mr. King felt that it is very important that IFF is clearly looking after the interest of the athletes and its member associations, which in this case is for the safety of the athletes and also safeguarding the development of their national development, which would seriously be affected if the qualified teams could not participate or we would have needed to cancel and event. Ms. Reehuis further stressed that the safety for the athletes in regard to the COVID-19 situation and the fact that this can't in present situations be guaranteed for the athletes should always be the main reason for postponing the U19 WFC 2020. Mr. Eriksson fully agreed with these statements. Mr. Suman added that as the present health situation and restrictions would make it possible to play in a number of other European countries, it is important that IFF clearly communicates the present restrictions for public gathering doesn't make it possible to play the U19 WFC in September 2020 in Sweden.

Based on the discussion Mr. Eriksson proposed that IFF would agree to postpone the Women's U19 WFC 2020 based on the application of the Swedish association, in order to secure the health and safety of the athletes and the equality to participate for all qualified countries, especially as IFF has been approached by a number of participating member association expressing their concern for the safety of the participants and their inability to travel to Europe. The fact is that for the countries outside of the EU-region would have huge issues to even find flights to Sweden and they would most likely be extremely expensive and the risk of a two week quarantine in Sweden prior to the U19 WFC and/or returning back home would not make participation practically nor financially possible. Further it is clear that playing the Event without all qualified teams would dramatically affect the development of Floorball in these countries. Mr. Eriksson further proposes that the U19 WFC 2020 will be played with the same age group as invited for and the participation fees are kept for the teams registered and the agreement with the Swedish association will be kept and followed. The IFF Office are given the task to look over the practical issues related to the postponement

The IFF CB discussed the application from the Swedish association to postpone the U19 WFC 2020 to May 2021. The CB agreed that the Event should still be called the U19 WFC 2020, despite that it will be played in 2021.

**CB decided:** To postpone the Women's U19 WFC 2020 to 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and to first inform the participating teams and then publish the information on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. The Event is still called the U19 WFC 2020. The IFF Office is given the task coordinate the postponement with the U19 WFC 2020 organiser.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that as the U19 WFC 2020 has now been postponed, it is not ideal to have the Consultative meeting concerning the Euro Floorball Championships in Sweden on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. The options are to have the meeting digitally over Teams/Zoom or to move it later in the year. If in the end we need to also move the WFC 2020, then the urgency for this

meeting is not that imminent. The meeting would need to be held before the IFF CB meeting planned for the 30.10.-01.11.2020.

The CB discussed how to proceed. Mr. Eriksson asked Mr. Liljelund what time aspects the IFF CB would need to take into consideration. Mr. Liljelund answered that with the present time frame the Consultative meeting needs to be held before the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, in order to have a proposal ready for the IFF CB on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

Mr. Lopez felt that the meeting should be postponed as far as possible, in order to have it as a face to face meeting to have all participants and views represented in the meeting. Mrs. Birdal felt that it would be difficult to have a Teams meeting with so many persons participating and if it would be possible to have the meeting in groups. Mr. Suman agreed with Mr. Lopez and Mrs. Birdal that we need to have the meeting face to face, so the question is to find the time and place to have a face to face meeting. One idea is to have a meeting just before the deadline for sending out the documents to the member associations prior to the IFF General Assembly. Mr. Klabere explained that the COVID-19 situation, could give us the possibility to come with the proposal to the IFF General Assembly even later than the statutes stipulates. Mr. Klabere expressed that if we can't have a consultative meeting in front of the Helsinki GA 2020, it could also be possible to push the decision with even a year and take it in an Extra Ordinary General Assembly in connection to any IFF Event in 2021.

Mr. King asked, if it would be possible to come with a proposal to the IFF GA in which IFF informs that we are seeking for a solution for the Event during 2021. Mr. Beer felt that it is in the interest of the IFF and the members to have the meeting prior to the decisive deadlines of the Helsinki GA 2020. Mr. Liljelund answered that this would then require to have the meeting prior to the IFF CB meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and proposed to have it on the October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and decide to postpone the Consultative Euro Floorball Championships meeting to the 30<sup>th</sup> of October in conjunction to the IFF CB meeting, in a place to be informed later.

## § 5. COVID-19 pandemic implications on other Events

Mr. Eriksson informed that there have been some member associations who have raised their concern concerning the safety and their possibility to participate, for the upcoming IFF Events in the later part of 2020 and in beginning of 2021. The concern is whether it is safe to travel to the event, without any quarantines and if the countries will have the opportunity to actually practice at all before the time of the event, regardless if it is a qualification to the U19 WFC 2021 or some other events. Based on this the IFF Competition department has prepared some basic guidelines for how IFF could move forward in this problematic situation.

Mr. Kratz reported of the general situation concerning the IFF Events and the preparations made by the IFF Competition department.

### U19 WFC 2021 Qualifications

The basic situation for the U19 WFC 2021 qualifications is still a bit unclear, as none of the qualifications will be able to be played during the original planned dates in August or in beginning of September. Here is the present situation concerning the U19 WFC 2021 qualifications:

AMERICAS – USA (Original plan 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August)

Event will be postponed from these dates. New dates / location yet to be confirmed, but the discussion has started between USA and Canada. The countries are discussing the International weekend in November and discussions are ongoing between the IFF and the two countries

EUR1 – Italy & EUR2 – Poland (Planned for 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November)

In this situation the LOC's need to set a date for final confirmation from their side if there is a possibility to hold the event as now planned. The IFF Competition department proposes that the Final confirmation from LOC's must be given by the 21<sup>st</sup> of August and the participating teams need to confirm their possibility to participate by the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. If the LOC can't organise or the teams can't at that stage confirm participation, the IFF will need to reconsider the situation

AOFC – Singapore (12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October)

The Travel restrictions in AOFC area have not yet been lifted. Current situation is:

- International travel from Australia is only allowed for 'essential' purposes and permission must be applied for from the government. Returning travelers must quarantine in a designated facility
- New Zealanders are advised not to travel overseas at this time. The New Zealand Government travel advice is "do not travel" — the highest level — regardless of destination. Returning travelers must quarantine in a designated facility
- Travel between Australia and New Zealand is likely to be opened up in July, but it is not clear what the quarantine restrictions will be
- Travel between Singapore & Japan is limited. Japanese citizens returning to Singapore must quarantine
- Travel between Singapore & China has been opened to 'essential' travel only. Passengers need to be sponsored by a government agency or a company.

Based on the current travel information it is highly unlikely that the event will be able to go ahead as planned, with all teams participating. The IFF needs to set a date for final confirmation from LOC if event can be held and already now prepared with an alternative plan

The Competition department proposes that the LOC needs to provide a final confirmation by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August and from the teams no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. The Competition department will begin working on an alternative plan, including the possibility of splitting the AOFC qualification into one Asian and one Oceanian group, based on travel possibilities

Further the Competition department proposes that negotiations will be started with the organizer of the U19 WFC 2021 concerning the possibility to further postpone the qualifications, if there is a majority of the U19 WFC 2021 qualifications that can't be played as now planned, to secure the possibility to have qualifications played before the final round.

Mr. Eriksson expressed that the Competition department and the secretary general has prepared this very well. Mr. Suman felt that the proposal is a good one but has there been prepared any emergency solutions of one of these organisers would not be able to organise their qualifications. Mr. Kratz explained that as there has already been one organizer withdrawn from their interest in organising the qualifications, so there are not very many options presently. Mr. Liljelund explained that IFF has therefore not looked for any emergency solution yet.

Mr. Lopez felt that IFF needs to clarify the situation, what happens if the COVID-19 situation will become more difficult closer to the event itself, as there has not been enough information about this from the organisers. Mr. Liljelund expressed that the IFF has taken cognisance of the concern of the member associations and will closely follow these and inform about it to the members.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the proposed timelines

### **WFC 2020 Helsinki, Finland**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Finnish federation has also received a similar letter, like the LOC for the U19 WFC 2020, with the same questions for the organiser concerning their possibility to

organise and under which conditions. The Finnish federation will discuss this in the coming weeks and provide a final answer to the IFF, in the end of August.

The Go/No-go date has been set to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. The SSBL and IFF will meet with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Health to discuss the situation and the possibilities to organise in end of August. The IFF needs to collect the information from the qualified teams whether they are able to participate in the WFC 2020 in December no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

The IFF CB then needs to have a separate meeting to confirm the Go/No-go of the WFC 2020 and decide upon the proposal of the Finnish Federation in conjunction to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the proposed actions

### **Champions Cup 2021, Winterthur, Switzerland**

Mr. Beer gave some possible updates of the preparations and the plan to set the Go/No-go date for the Champions Cup for Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the CB will further discuss the matter of the Champions Cup in the IFF CB meeting in September.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and set the Go/No-go date for 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

### **WFC 2021 Qualifications**

Mr. Kratz reported that in the case that there would not be an equal opportunity to play the WFC 2021 qualifications as planned in January/February 2021 it might be necessary that the following must be considered:

#### Alternative dates

- To minimise the disruption to national leagues the qualifications would need to be held, as far as possible, after the conclusion of the majority of the national competitions
- The April international weekend would clash with Men's U19 WFC and rescheduled Women's U19 WFC as well as with some national league's most likely still ongoing
- Proposal could be for them to be held at the end of May

#### AOFC qualification

- Currently, the qualification is planned to be held in Japan from 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January
- With the inclusion of Floorball to the Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games (dates are set to May 21-31, 2021, Floorball to be organized in Bangkok) and the possibility of Oceania countries to also participate, it may be good to consider for this event to act as the WFC qualification for AOFC (no matter what the decision for the other qualifications is)
- This would encourage full participation at the event as well as limiting costs for teams who would be competing in both events

Regarding the alternative dates, the WFC 2021 LOC has already been asked about the possibility of a postponement of the qualifications and they did not express a lot of flexibility in this matter, due to the need to start selling tickets. The IFF Competition department proposes that in this case we could find a solution by making the draw before the qualifications are actually played, giving the Swedish organizer the information of which teams Sweden would potentially meet to help the start of ticket sales.

The Competition department proposes that the final confirmation from the LOC's shall be handed in no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November and the confirmation from the teams for participation no later



of 9<sup>th</sup> of November and that the competition department shall prepare for alternative dates for the WFCQ 2021 and continue the discussion with the WFC 2021 LOC.

Mr. Eriksson thanked the IFF Office for the preparatory work done. Mr. King asked a few questions concerning the proposal to play the AOFC qualification later in May in conjunction of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts games, as it could be beneficial from a cost saving point of view for the countries, with all the events now planned for 2021.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the proposed timelines

## § 10. Next CB meeting

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the next CB meeting (M5) will be held on the 05.-06.09.2020, as the Invitation for IFF GA is to be sent out latest 11.09.2020. The meeting will most probably be conducted via Teams, with sessions initially planned between 14:00 – 19:00 CET on both days.

Based on the outcome of the WFC 2020 G0-No-go discussions the IFF CB might need to have a meeting in beginning of October.

The other meetings are preliminary planned as follows:

M6: 30.10-01.11.2020 – Consultative meeting on the Euro Floorball Championships on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October. All documents and nominations for the IFF GA must be sent out latest 10.11.2020.

The Office will look for options in Germany for these meetings.

M7: 09. Or 10.12.2020

IFF General Assembly 11.12.2020

M8: 12.12.2020

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

## § 11. Closing of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson thanked the CB for a good and efficient meeting and closed the meeting at 16:05 CET. Mr. Eriksson greeted everyone and wished that the whole CB and Staff will have a good summer vacations in the Northern hemisphere and that the COVID-19 situation will permit us to have a physical meeting in end of October.

**John Liljelund  
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson  
President**