

Helsinki, Finland, 29th of September 2020

IFF Central Board meeting 6/2020 29.09.2020 in Teams

Place: Meeting held as a Teams meeting

Participants: **Tomas Eriksson** **President**
Jörg Beer
Monica Birdal
Steen Houman
Martin Klabere
Carlos Lopez
Lidwien Reehuis **ATC Chair**
Ron Spence
Filip Suman **Vice President**
Kaarina Vuori

Veli Halonen **Operations Manager**
Stefan Kratz **Competition Manager**
John Liljelund **Secretary General**

Excused: **Stephen King** **AOFC Vice President**

§ 1. **Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson opened the meeting at 17:00 CET and welcomed the members to the sixth CB meeting of the year 2020.

Mr. Eriksson informed of how the meeting will be run with the one-hour sessions and a 10 minutes break in between. Mr. King has informed that he might be forced, due to work to leave the meeting at some point.

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.

CB decided: To approve the report and include the new and updated appendixes

§ 3 **Minutes from the CB meeting: 05/2020 U19 WFC 2020 over Teams, 04.09.2020 (Appendix 1)**

The minutes from the last meeting were scrutinized, approved and put ad acta.

§ 4. **IFF Competition calendar 2021**

a) **Decision of dates for the postponed Events**

Mr. Eriksson made a short recap of the present situation. As the IFF Central Board decided to postpone the Men's WFC 2020 from being played in December 2020 to 2021 in its previous meeting the issue of when to play the WFC 2020, so that there is not a clash of dates with the WFC 2021 arise. IFF has been in contact to both countries and discussed the situation and possible solutions. The main issue is that there are limited options for the dates when both arenas are available in Helsinki during the fall of 2021, due to the ice hockey series and other postponed events. The CB has also earlier defined that it would not be ideal to play the WFC 2020 and WFC 2021 at the same time, for several reasons.

After the CB decision the IFF secretary general has been in contact to both organisers and discussed the possible solutions in this situation and the timetable for possible decisions. Mr. Eriksson conveyed a big thanks to the Finnish and Swedish federations to solve the situation in a positive manner and thanked IFF Office for the coordination of the dates for the events.

The Finnish Floorball Federation has applied to be able to organise the Men's WFC 2020 in Helsinki in the Helsinki Ice Hockey hall and the Hartwall Arena from the 3rd to 11th of December 2021. As this would coincide totally with the dates of the Women's WFC 2021, which were planned to be played from the 4th to 12th of December 2021, the Swedish Floorball federation has evaluated the occurred situation together with their partners and stakeholders, to find the best possible solution. The outcome of this is that the Swedish Floorball federation proposes to play the Women's WFC in Uppsala from the 27.11. to 5.12.2021, as this is the only other option in November, prior to the Men's WFC. This will cause a three-day overlap with the Men's WFC group stage, which we will have to use to our advantage.

Mr. Suman felt that it was positive to be able to find a solution for a one week move of the Women's WFC 2021, but the three days overlap is not good. There will probably be some issues with the coordination with TV and the media employees for the participating countries. In addition, it will cause a lot of extra work for the IFF Office and Event management. Ms. Vuori felt that it is not ideal to have the clash of three days, but this seems to be the best solution available for everyone. There will be some challenges with games being played in two tournaments simultaneously.

The basis for the change of the dates is that the organising will take place based on the original agreements made for the respective WFC's 2020 and 2021. The CB extended their sincere gratitude to the Swedish Floorball Federation and the City of Uppsala for their willingness to solve the situation in a good way.

CB decided: To approve the report and decide to play the Men's WFC in Helsinki, Finland from the 3.-11.12.2021 and the Women's WFC 2021 in Uppsala, Sweden from the 27.11.-5.12.2021 based on the original organisers agreements.

b) **Information of the situation with other events**

WFC 2021 Qualifications

Mr. Kratz reported that the competition office has been working with the European organisers still during the last week-end to find a solution where Italy and Latvia, both to be played 2nd-6th February 2021, and Slovakia to be played 3rd-7th February 2021 now all are confirmed with the organisers.

Poland had earlier informed that they were not able to organise as originally planned but held another meeting with the Gdansk city officials on Saturday 26th of September, whereafter they confirmed that they will not be able to organise the event at all. Slovakia had been approached as a back-up and has now confirmed their ability to organise 03-07.02.2021, place to be informed in the nearest days.

The Americas qualification will be played in Toronto, Canada 29th – 30th January 2021. The Go/NoGo dates for the qualifications has earlier been set to 02.11.2020 for the organisers and 09.11 for the teams, but with the current development of the COVID-19 pandemic the competition office proposes a rescheduling of these dates for the European and American qualifications to 06.12.2020 for the organisers and 13.12.2020 for the teams.

CB decided: To approve the report and to reschedule the Go/NoGo-dates to 06.12.2020 for the organisers and 13.12.2020 for the teams.

U19 WFC 2021 Qualifications

The EUR U19 qualifications are scheduled for November, but the COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit the possibility and safety of travel and organising, not to even speak of the possibility to participate in Floorball activities in many countries. Many of the associations have expressed their concern about being able to participate in events in November. The competition office has due to this been working on alternative plans for the Men's U19 WFC Qualifications to ensure that we can provide safe events at a time and place which ensures the maximum participation. For EUR1 in Italy a postponement of the event to 23rd – 27th February in the same location as originally planned has been secured.

For EUR2, Poland had originally advised that they would not be able to organise in November so the work to find a new organiser within the group was started, including fruitful talks with Italy about playing the complete qualification there. Russia has offered Kazan as a location for the group, however, with the current conditions travel for any of the participating countries to Russia would be highly unlikely.

After discussions with the city, Poland have now returned with the positive information that they will receive funding and are now able to organise the qualification in Łochów from 24th – 28th February.

In line with the postponement the competition office proposes a rescheduling of the Go/NoGo dates for the European qualifications to 06.01 for the organisers and 13.01 for the teams.

Mr. Suman made a technical remark concerning the naming of the Events and Mr. Kratz informed that this will be fixed. Mr. Houman asked what will happen if the qualifications can't be played and Mr. Kratz answered that then we will have to include the teams in the final round based on ranking. Mr. Lopez asked what happens if a team would not be able to participate due to local restrictions, Mr. Liljelund answered that the team will not be sanctioned.

CB decided: To approve the report and to reschedule the U19 WFC 2021 EUR1 qualification to be played in Italy 23rd-27th February 2021 and EUR2 qualification to be played 24th-28th February 2021 in Poland. Further to reschedule the Go/NoGo dates for the European qualifications to 06.01 for the organisers and 13.01 for the team's postponement with the U19 WFC 2021 organiser. The Event is still called U19 WFC 2021.

§ 5. Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic implications and the postponement of the WFC 2020

Mr. Eriksson informed that as reported in the last CB meeting the financial effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of the WFC 2020 on the IFF finances and the cash-flow situation has stayed unchanged. The financial deficit caused by the COVID-19 and the postponement of the WFC after all savings made earlier this year through no travel, meetings or visits and no new projects started still points to a loss of 200.000 – 250.000 CHF.

Mr. Liljelund gave a report of what actions have been taken to try to minimize the effect this forecasted loss would have on the IFF operations and the IFF Office during the end of 2020 and the beginning of the 2021.

- 1) The IFF has negotiated and agreed with the Finnish Floorball Federation of a loan for seven years of 100.000 CHF with an interest rate of 1%, where the payoff would start in 2023.
- 2) IFF has made an application to the IOC for a support and a possible loan from the IOC and based on the present information the IOC Financial department will give an initial answer of the process and coming decisions by the 9th of October. It is still however unclear when a final decision will be given.
- 3) IFF has made an application of a COVID-19 support for the IFF Office from the Ministry of Education, via the Finnish Federation. A first answer from the Ministry is expected during the first weeks of October.
- 4) The IFF Marketing function has initiated a project with the WFC 2020 marketing agency i2 to create a Floorball product offering which can be sold in the absence of the WFC 2020 event. The targeting for the product is to align with corporate social responsibility programs (CSR). The concept is based on encouraging kids and youth to play floorball together anywhere, anytime. The core values of the concept are joy of exercise, friendship, equality. It has been named Floorball Hat Trick, mainly as the very simple rules define that the winner is the one that has first scored three goals.

i2 will create the sales material and design for the concept and sales are to commence in October. Further, the marketing agency will create a website and content for participating companies to use in their marketing. The agency will also do sales. The partner package does also include some visibility in WFCs (Jumbotron / LED) but in form of partners associated to the Floorball Hat Trick concept not as WFC partners/sponsors (joint visibility).

The IFF will promote the concept via all digital channels and contact potential buyers. The IFF will further call upon its members and the WFC LOC's to support the communication of the concept. The Member Associations can also take part in sales by which they will also be entitled to a commission. The primary plan is to run the concept through 2021. Further analysis can be made late 2021. The target is to create incremental new revenue for IFF, which if the project is successful will come in 2021.

Mr. Beer felt that the Hat Trick is a very good initiative and asked how the project will be run, to which Mr. Liljelund answered to. Ms. Vuori felt that it is a very good idea and it is good to get new ways working within the field of Social Responsibility and Sustainability to activate new sponsors. Mr. Eriksson felt that the four actions have been well prepared.

Mr. Eriksson explained that today the situation, if none of the three last actions would lead to a positive result, would require a furloughing of a maximum of two months of the whole IFF Office. As we will most likely not know until the end of October whether we will get some support from the IOC or the Finnish Ministry of Education, it is still too early to specifically decide on how long the furloughing should be. If we receive some support the time could most likely be shortened to 4-6 weeks. If we by the end of October still have no information of any support the process of furloughing must start anyway. It is possible to shorten the time given during the furloughing, if the situation would permit that. Therefore Mr. Eriksson proposes that the CB should decide that

the IFF secretary general will start the process for furloughing of a maximum of two months, with the aim to have the needed legal process ready by the 13th of November, in order to be able to execute it during this year. In addition, the secretary general is to be given the task to plan and coordinate the time for a possible furloughing so that the operations can be kept running as well as possible, taking in consideration the year 2021.

CB decided: To approve the report and decide to give the IFF secretary general the task to start the process for furloughing of a maximum of two months, with the aim to have the needed legal process ready by the 13th of November. In addition, the secretary general is given the task to plan and coordinate the time for a possible furloughing so that the operations can be kept running as well as possible.

§ 6. IFF CB feedback on the IFF Strategy 2nd submission for comments

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mr. King that the IFF CB has a part of the IFF Strategy Task Force (STF) 2nd submission of the IFF Strategy for a 2nd Commentary round received the CB decided for the IFF Strategy 2021 – 2032. The CB members have been asked to provide comments to the secretary general by the end of September and some comments have been received. They are collected in the discussion version of the Strategy. (**Appendix 3**). The STF will discuss all the proposed changes received from the 2nd commentary round in its meeting on the 12th of October and then present a final version to the IFF CB for the next scheduled meeting in end of October.

Mr. King proposes that the CB would discuss the proposed strategy chapter by chapter on a general level and if some changes or comments are felt to be needed they will then be to the comments file delivered to the STF. The discussion should also touch upon more about the presentation expectations of how the CB wants the final document to look like and how it is presented to the IFF General Assembly.

The CB went through the document and discussed the STF 2nd submission and the received comments from the 2nd commentary round. Mr. Houman asked a few questions concerning the way some of the KPI's were formulated. Ms. Vuori had added a number of comments related to proposal, related to among others to the ASOIF future strategy, which was missing in the present version, which will be discussed by the STF in their next meeting.

Mr. Houman asked if the history part is still needed and should be part of the document and that names outside IFF should not be mentioned in the document. Mr. Liljelund explained that the history is needed to define from where IFF is coming and why we reason like we do, in order for persons not knowing the IFF could understand the logic. Mr. Klabere felt that it is a very good document, which has been well prepared and including a much larger number of persons than before. Ms. Vuori felt that there is a lot in the document, but the implementation and the planning of it will be the key going forward. Mr. Eriksson was happy with the fact that the language has been checked.

CB decided: To approve the report and send the result of the feedback discussion to the STF for further actions.

§ 7. Next CB meeting

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the next CB meeting (M7) was planned to be held as a face-to-face meeting in the Helsinki region in Finland 31.10-01.11.2020. This at the moment doesn't look like a possible scenario, as the Finnish Government has presently again raised the rules for quarantines arriving to Finland. The meeting must now take place as a Teams meeting, but

maybe a smaller version of groups can be built to discuss the CB decided for the Annual Report and the Plan of Action. All documents and nominations for the IFF General Assembly must be sent out latest 10.11.2020. The CB discussed the different options and it was concluded that the members preferred to have the meeting on Friday October 30th and Saturday October 31st starting from 15:00 CET forward each day.

The meeting for the discussion concerning the Euro Floorball Championships was also supposed to be held on the 31st of October. Mr. Liljelund proposes that the meeting concerning the Euro Floorball Championships will be pushed forward, as it is important to be able to have a face-to-face meeting and consequently the IFF CB would conclude to the IFF General Assembly that the decision of the start of the Euro Floorball Championships will have to be delayed by at least a year. If we are able to organise the consultative meeting in 2021 than we would be able to organise an extra ordinary General Assembly during the IFF Association Meeting during the WFC 2020 in Helsinki in December 2021 to make the needed decisions in the matter.

Mr. Klabere and Ms. Reehuis fully agreed to the proposed move of the decision on the Euro Floorball Championships.

The other meetings are preliminary planned as follows:

M8: 09. Or 10.12.2020

IFF General Assembly 11.12.2020

M9: 12.12.2020

CB decided: To approve the report and decide accordingly

§ 11. Closing of the meeting

Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting at 18:15 and thanked the participants for a good meeting.

John Liljelund
Secretary General

Tomas Eriksson
President