

Helsinki, Finland, 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2020

## IFF Central Board meeting 7/2020 30.10.2020 in Teams

**Place:** Meeting held as a Teams meeting

<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Tomas Eriksson</b>	<b>President</b>
	<b>Jörg Beer</b>	
	<b>Monica Birdal</b>	
	<b>Steen Houman</b>	<b>§§ 4.-</b>
	<b>Stephen King</b>	<b>§§ 1. – 6b</b>
	<b>Martin Klabere</b>	
	<b>Carlos Lopez</b>	
	<b>Lidwien Reehuis</b>	<b>ATC Chair</b>
	<b>Ron Spence</b>	
	<b>Filip Suman</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
	<b>Kaarina Vuori</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 seventh CB meeting of the year 2020. Mr. Halonen made a rollcall, concluding that everybody else are present than Mr. Houman, who had informed he will arrive a bit late due to work task.

Mr. Eriksson informed of how the meeting will be run with the 50 minutes sessions and a 10 minutes break in between. To start we will run a workshop in two groups discussing the content of the Annual Report and the Plan of Action and then in separate points in the bigger group the questions about the situation with the IFF financial situation and the need for a furloughing and then separately the running of the IFF General Assembly and how to act in regards to the elections of the CB and the late arrived nomination from USFbA.

Further Mr. Eriksson asked if the CB members would be ready to try to end the meeting still today, even if it would mean that we would have to prolong the meeting from what was planned for today, in order not to need a separate meeting for tomorrow. The CB agreed to the proposal.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 2. Approval of the agenda**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there are the following updated or new appendix handed in for the meeting, which have been sent out to the CB members on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

Appendix 6b -	Minutes Co-determination negotiations meeting 27.10.
Appendix 10 -	Updated Art 41.3. of IFF Statutes – Athletes Comm. election
Appendix 19 -	Updated IFF Hub presentation
Appendix 26 -	Late USFbA nomination for IFF CB

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

**§ 3 Minutes from the CB meeting:  
06/2020 U19 WFC 2020 over Teams, 29.09.2020 (Appendix 1)**

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

**§ 4. Financial questions**

**a) Financial report 2020 - by 23.10.2020**

Mrs. Birdal presented the financial report and the balance sheet by the 23.10.2020 (**Appendix 2**).

The outcome per 23<sup>rd</sup> of October is 15.787 CHF, which is some 206.600 CHF (2019: 222.441 CHF) less compared with the same period last year. This is due to the postponements and cancellations of IFF events and would have been much worse without the saves earlier made by the Office and decided by the CB.

The liquidity is 133.500 CHF, some 40.800 lower compared with last year (174.286 CHF) when we were lagging with paying staff and office costs (about 144.800 CHF) which is not the case this year.

The IFF Office has followed up the finances and made a new updated forecast for the remaining part of the year. The income and costs remain on track to what was reported in the last meeting. The estimated forecast is presented in the Financial Report and the predicted loss of 197.500 is fully related to the COVID-19 and income losses for 2020, the most significant as follows; postponement of participating-, organiser and marketing fees (267.000), surplus of TV rights (20.000), less transfers (25.000) and material income (155.000).

The total lowered and saved costs this far points at some 634.400 CHF compared to the budget for this year.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**b) Information on IFF claims – License system and WFC 2020 – status October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

Mrs. Birdal presented the claims situation by the 23.10.2020 for Associations participating in the WFC 2020 and separately for those not participating in the IFF Events. (**Appendix 3 and 4**). The situation for a number of the countries continues to be difficult with lower income when less activity is possible due to the pandemic. Mrs. Birdal thinks it is still a good thing that we are still chasing the outstanding amounts during the COVID-19 times.

The efforts are nevertheless ongoing to get all teams registered for the WFCs 2020 and 2021 to be in line with the License system requirements. Latvia has paid the organisers fee from WFCQ 2020 but is still behind with the annual fee for 2020. For the WFCs 2021 Canada and Latvia, both lagging with payment of the participation fees, have been approached. Latvia has informed that their fees are planned to be paid in October and November, which was done for the WFC 2022 this week concerning the October payment. Canada, although reminded, has not responded with any dates for payment.

The follow-up of payment plans (**Appendix 5**) shows no change for any of these member associations. China is still to pay the annual fee for 2020 and have been reminded several times about this and they have stated that they will pay. Russia has paid the 2021 participation fees and are planning to continue with paying off their old debt. For Slovenia it is status quo, they are paying all new invoices but are not able to pay off any old debts in this situation. Communication with Ukraine has not yet led to any payment. The IFF Office continues to monitor these cases.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and to continue to follow up on the pay-off plans for Canada, China, Russia, Malaysia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Cote d'Ivoire.

**c) Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Mr. Kratz and Mr. Liljelund presented the possible forecasted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic related to the postponements of the WFC 2020 and other events. The forecasted loss for 2020, after the postponement of the WFC 2020 is now after the savings made so far around 197.500 CHF. In addition to this the loss of all the WFC 2020 income the IFF is also facing a severe cashflow crisis in the end of the year if nothing is being done.

As it has earlier been reported the direct financial effect for the finances of 2020 when the WFC 2020 event was postponed to 2021 is forecasted to be around -200.000, even if the loss of income from the WFC in total equals up to 400.000 – 450.000 CHF. The loss of some 200.000 CHF will have to be covered in one way or the other for the fiscal year, especially as there is no way of knowing how for example the registration for the WFC 2022 will look like. The CB has earlier discussed that the best solution in this situation is a combination of the office furloughing, taking a loan and seeking of other means of additional funding, through IOC and governmental support and new forms of sponsorship.

As a furloughing of the IFF Office for a period of four-five months or letting people go would result in a serious decrease of the IFF operational functionality, it must be the target to try to minimize the time of furloughing the employees as much as possible.

The IFF secretary general has already taken the following actions to try to find solutions to minimize the effect of a possible postponement of the WFC 2020. IFF has seized the opportunity and applied for a COVID-19 support from the IOC in August, as the WFC 2020 will have to be postponed for 2021. The IFF has applied for a direct support and/or a long-term loan. The IOC has informed that the IOC President has now received a proposal from the Financial department and a decision in the matter is due most likely in November.

IFF has secured a long-term loan (7 years) of 100.000 CHF from the Finnish federation with payback in 2023 – 2027 in equal parts, with an interest rate of 1 per cent. interest rate. Based on the application made to the Finnish Ministry of Education the IFF has received a support of 50.000 EUR for the IFF Office. These actions have now cleared the cashflow crisis for the coming months, regardless of the number of countries registered for the Men's WFC 2022.

As IFF has secure at least the 50.000 EUR support, the needed time of furloughing time could be reduced to even less than half of the initial need. The IFF secretary general has in cooperation

with the executive director of the Finnish Floorball Federation Mr. Pekka Ilmivalta started the Co-determination negotiation process, in accordance with Finnish law for the IFF Office employees in Helsinki. Similar discussions with the two other employees have been held as well. The process for furloughing is now during COVID-19 amended as follows in Finland. The invitation for the Co-determination negotiations must be sent out at least 5 days prior to the negotiations with a clear proposal of what they concern. This has been done on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. (**Appendix 6ab**) The Co-determination negotiations meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October and the in the Co-determination meeting were concluded in a common understanding of the need for the furloughing and that there were no other alternative solutions available. The decisions based on the negotiations can be made earliest on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, based on the outcome of the Co-determination negotiations.

If the IFF Office is furloughed for a period of 5 weeks and with the support received from the Finnish Ministry of Education would mean that the result of the 2020 would be around -81.500 CHF, before possible additional savings in the end of the year and the possible IOC support.

The CB discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, from a financial point of view. Mr. Eriksson felt that there has been a lot of work done to reduce the forecasted deficit by the secretary general and the IFF Office, to which the IFF President is really pleased about. The CB needs to understand that if the IFF Office is temporarily layoff, it means that the IFF Office is not in position to perform as quickly as usual. Mr. King wanted to thank the whole office for the sacrifice they are making in favour of the sport. Further it was asked when we need to make a solution concerning the next year budget. Mr. Liljelund explained that due to the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic, it is very difficult to know what will happen, but the CB needs to look on the situation again in May. There should not be to big issues if we have a decent amount of registrations for the Women's U19 WFC 2022 and Men's WFC 2022 and members paying the membership fees.

The IFF CB would like to express its most sincere gratitude to the IFF Staff, for their excellent performance in these hard and extra ordinary times and for their sacrifice and significant salary loss caused by the furloughing.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

#### **d) IFF General Assembly 2020**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the IFF General Assembly 2020 will be held over Teams on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December as a virtual meeting. The invitation has been sent out on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

Mr. Halonen reported that as the IFF CB has decided the GA will take place virtually in Teams-service and that way we do not have to purchase any new, most likely, expensive systems. A meeting can be carried out in Teams with 250 participants and the assumption is that we will not have more than 100 participants to the actual Teams meeting. The recommendation to the member associations will be that they would only use one computer/account to participate to the meeting.

From the IFF's side to run the meeting we will need separate computers to administrate the participants, to run the presentation, to handle the possible voting and one for the "streaming" purposes.

If there will be an election for the Central Board members, the voting will take place with Webropol and the voting template has already been created to the system. The anonymous links will then be delivered beforehand to the persons who will vote for the member associations and the IFF office needs to secure that everyone has received the link. If any other voting will occur the voting shall be handled with Mentimeter, because simple yes/no voting should be relatively easy and quick to handle that way and the results are visible right after voting.

The IFF CB needs to approve the following documents for the IFF General Assembly, that has to be sent out to the member associations, no later than 30 full days prior to the meeting, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The CB discussed the following documents in detail and approved them accordingly:

- Final Announcement (**Appendix 7a**)  
The CB Approved the Final Announcement
- Proposal for IFF GA Agenda (**Appendix 7b**)  
The CB made some slight changes to the IFF GA Agenda, based on the workshop discussions.
- Proposal for IFF Annual Report 2019-2020 (**Appendix 8**)  
The IFF CB discussed the proposal for the Annual Report 2019-2020, prepared by the IFF Office in a separate workshop. The CB felt that the Annual Report is a very well-prepared document, which illustrates the vast range of activities the IFF has performed in the last two years. The CB feels that the IFF Office has made an excellent work with the preparation the Annual Report. The CB made a few small changes and to include more information related to the development of Floorball in Africa, which the Office will update. The Office will also illustrate the document.
- Proposal for IFF Plan of Actions 2021-2022 (**Appendix 9**)  
The IFF CB discussed the proposal for the Plan of Action during the CB workshop and felt that the document very well reflects the input the CB members have given earlier in the planning process, during the preparation process. The CB made some minor changes to the proposal and the following updates will be made in relation to the following topics:
  - Change of the headline for chapter 4 to Objectives for 2021 – 2022
  - A more detailed description about the License System and how it works
  - Include more mentioning's of Closing the Gap
  - Clarification of the planning of inclusions of new age groups
  - Clarification of possible advantages of the new World University Championships.
  - Some minor stylistic changes.
- Proposal for IFF Statutes update 2020 (**Appendix 10**)  
The CB discussed the proposed updates and made some clarifications of the Articles 30.4., 33.1. and 41.3. and approved the updated proposal.
- Proposal for IFF Budget 2021 – 2022 (**Appendix 11**)  
Mr. Kratz reported that the IFF office has prepared the budget proposals for 2021 and 2022.  
  
For 2021 the budget is based on the 2020 budget also taking into consideration double U19 WFCs and double WFCs. The budget is built to cover, at least partly, the expected negative outcome of 2020 and shows a surplus of 73.000. The budget for 2022 is more conservative, includes The World Games and is built to balance costs and income. The detailed <budget for 2020 will be approved within these frames after the IFF General Assembly.
- Proposals for IFF Financial Report and Auditors report 2018 – 2019 (**Appendix 12a-d**)  
These documents have been approved already earlier by the CB.
- IFF Strategy 2021-2032 – Strengthening the Foundations (**Appendix 13**)  
Mr. King feels that the proposed document is sensational and proposes for the CB to approve the document. Further Mr. King expressed that the preparations of the document

have been extended and inclusive for all members and stakeholders. The CB also discussed how the document should be presented for the IFF General Assembly.

Mr. Suman asked of the timetable for the layout proposal, to which Mr. Liljelund answered that the proposal is promised for the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, just prior to the date for sending out the IFF GA documents. The Strategy Task Force will look over the proposal and therefore the proposal for the strategy might change until the meeting in regards to the layout.

- IFF Motion: Decision on Euro Floorball Championships (**Appendix 14**)  
The CB approved the proposal

- List of Nominations (**Appendix 15**)

Mr. Liljelund informed that the USFbA through its president Mr Calle Karlsson informed last week that USA federation are in the process to nominate a candidate for the IFF CB, knowing that they were late. The USFbA has in an email on the 28.10. nominated Mr. Calle Karlsson as a member of the IFF CB. The CB discussed if they are in favour of accepting the late nomination for the CB nomination and presenting it for approval on to the IFF General Assembly. If not, the nomination is still to be presented to the IFF GA but without the CB recommendation, in accordance with the legal advice from Switzerland the IFF GA needs then to approve it in any case.

Mr. King felt that it would be important to have a candidate nominated from North America, even if the nomination letter included a few unnecessary comments. Mr. Suman initially felt that all CB members, apart from Mr. Spence are in conflict of interest as they are all nominated for the coming period, so the topic should be left for the General Assembly to decide upon. Mrs. Vuori felt that it is unfortunate that the nomination has arrived late, and it should be left for the IFF GA to decide upon the matter. Mr. Klabere felt that all the candidates are very good, and we would with this have the representation from four continents in the IFF CB. It would further be important to keep as many as possible of the present CB members, as the IFF CB has been very well functioned. The whole candidate list would secure a broad international representation.

Mrs. Birdal feels the matter should be presented with a recommendation of acceptance of the USFbA nomination to the IFF GA. Mr. Lopez felt that the nomination letter was not correct in criticising other persons, but feels that it is important to have a broad representation in the IFF CB. Mrs. Reehuis felt that the CB should not recommend the approval to the IFF GA because of the tone set in the nomination letter. Mr. Spence doesn't think that this is an issue that the nomination has arrived late, so there is no issue to accept the nomination. Mr. Houman felt that it is very unfortunate that the nomination comes in late and it is not a good signal. Mr. Eriksson concluded that the CB must take cognisance that the nomination has arrived late and give the recommendation to the IFF General Assembly whether to approve the late nomination or not. Mr. Beer expressed that he was not sure if we can accept the late nomination. Mr. Liljelund explained that based on the advice given by Mr. Florian Saluz and the GAISF Administration, we can take the candidate on the list of nominees if the General Assembly so decides, as the information has not yet been distributed to the IFF members.

Based on the discussion Mr. Liljelund made a proposal that one solution could be to solve the difficult situation by proposing to the IFF General Assembly in the update of the Statutes to enlarge the IFF CB, to secure the representation of a total of four continents and the have a direct link within the IFF CB to the USFbA, in regards to the upcoming World Games 2022 in Birmingham, USA 2022. If the IFF CB would make the proposal to the IFF General Assembly to enlarge the IFF CB size from the present 9 members to 9-11 members, especially as we have a virtual meeting. Mrs. Vuori felt that this would a possible solution to avoid unnecessary problems. Mr. Beer felt that it could be a possible solution. Mr. Suman felt that he is split in this question, as he has always valued to have elections and feel that the seats are more valuable if the persons have been elected. The only thing talking in favour of

the proposed solution with 9-11 members is the fact that the IFF General Assembly is conducted electronically. Mr. Suman further feels that we need to evaluate the situation clearly before the elections in 2024 and be brave to not avoid elections in the future. It will therefore be important to give the CB members their specific tasks to make the CB more powerful. Mr. Klabere feels the idea is brilliant, at it would secure a broad as possible representation in the CB. Mr. Halonen felt that as we have grown the number of members since the present size of the CB was introduced, the relative level of representation would stay the same with an increased number of CB members. Mr. Houman feels that adding more persons to the CB would strengthen the IFF Central Board and assist in the development of our activities. Mrs. Reehuis is also in favour of the proposal made. Mr. King and Mr. Houman understands the view of Mr. Suman but thinks that from a pragmatic point would be better to enlarge the CB now and are therefore in favour of the proposal, which will help IFF execute the targets mentioned in the Plan of Actions. Mrs. Birdal felt that the proposal is good, but we would need to consider the introduction of an electoral committee in the future. Mrs. Vuori feels that it is important to have enough manpower to execute the Plan of Action. Mr. Lopez feels that we need to strengthen our operations to meet the targets of the Plan of Action.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that he would discuss with Mr. Karlsson, concerning the situation. The IFF President is in favour in the COVID-19 times to propose to the IFF GA to have 1+9-11+1 in the CB. Mr. Eriksson is not in favour to have an election committee on the International level.

The CB decided to make the recommendation for the General Assembly to approve the nomination of Mr. Calle Karlsson and to make a change of the size in the Statutes, concerning the number of CB members to be elected in the interest of a broad regional representation.

Only Cameroon has come in with an application for Ordinary membership (**Appendix 16**), which the IFF CB discussed as a part of approving the proposal for the Agenda of the IFF GA, as a recommendation is needed from the IFF. Cameroon has a debt to IFF of 3.800 CHF, the complete sum consisting of non-paid annual fees during the period 2014-2020. As there is still an ongoing issue with the rival organisation in Cameroon, the IOC has advised that the IFF should contact all parties and seek for a solution to bring the two organisations together. Based on this situation the CB recommends that the Cameroon Floorball Association application for ordinary memberships should be decided during the Extra Ordinary General Assembly in 2021.

A number of member associations have raised concern for their availability to pay the 2020 membership fees due to the COVID-19 situation. The IFF CB discussed the matter and what can be done here and will inform that the IFF will be lenient in towards its members in regards to this. The IFF CB will inform the members of this during the IFF General Assembly.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and the documents with the described changes made by the CB, which are to be sent out to the member associations for the IFF General Assembly no later than on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November..

## § 5. World Championships

### a) Men's WFC 2020, Helsinki Finland – played in December 2021

Mrs. Vuori reported about the preparation of the Men's WFC 2020 to be played from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 and the present situation of the preparations in Finland.

Preparations have continued as normal, with volunteer recruitment and the planning of the venues. A venue inspection was carried out in October in both venues, the Nordis Ice Hockey hall and the Hartwall Arena. The WFC logo has been updated with the new dates and Men's prior to the WFC to differentiate the event from the Women's WFC 2021. The LOC will re-start the ticket sales of the Finals in November and the rest of the tickets will start in the spring. The LOC is also planning a virtual campaign for the December, when the event would have been played in the Social media.

Mr. Liljelund reported on the TV broadcasts and that the organisation of the TV/Internet-TV production. IFF has made an agreement for the TV broadcast with YLE for the Finnish games and with Swiss TV for the Swiss games and the semi-finals and finals. These agreements have been re-confirmed for the WFC 2020 played in 2021. The agreement with Czech Floorball for the TV broadcast in Czech TV is approved but has to be confirmed also for 2021. Discussions with the other possible takers are ongoing. As there has been travel restrictions so no venue checks for TV-production have been made so far and most of the preparations have been on hold for the TV productions.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**b) Women's U19 WFC 2020, Uppsala, Sweden – played in May 2021**

Mr. Klabere gave a short report of the preparations for the U19 WFC 2020 to be played in Uppsala, Sweden in May 2021. The LOC has continued to run the preparations, but the communication has been a bit slow for a period of time but been activated this week. The Go/NoGo dates has been discussed between LOC and the IFF to be set to 8<sup>th</sup> of March for the teams and 12<sup>th</sup> of March for the LOC. The LOC has sent out the information letter to the teams during this week.

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

**c) Next Events**

**WFC 2021, Uppsala, Sweden**

Mr. Klabere gave a report of the final round preparations. The planning of the ticket prices is ongoing and the preparations for the match schedule is to start. Mr. Liljelund reminded that as the two Adult WFC events coincide it is imperative to take the TV needs into the process early enough.

Mr. Kratz reported that the WFC qualifications will be played according to the Test of the Future of Floorball concept with match time 3x15 minutes and team delegations consisting of 17 players and 5 officials. This will be reminded to the teams in an information letter sent out by the organisers of the WFCQ's.

Currently all WFC 2021 qualifications are in preparation to be played the set dates, but the IFF competition office will discuss with respective organiser of possible alternative dates should a postponement be needed. Mr. Suman asked when the Go/No-go dates for the European qualifications will be confirmed and how long forward the qualifications will be moved. Mr. Kratz answered that the date is the 6<sup>th</sup> of December for the LOC and the 13<sup>th</sup> of December for the teams. The qualifications must be finished before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

For the WFCQ AOFC in Japan the Go/NoGo dates have been discussed to be set to 19th April for the teams and 26th April for the LOC.

Mr. Liljelund informed that IFF has approached the Swedish federation to initiate the discussions of the TV agreement and production.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and to set the Go/NoGo dates for the WFCQ AOFC to be 19th April for the teams and 26th April for the LOC.

#### **U19 WFC 2021, Czech Republic**

Mr. Suman gave a report of the final round preparations. The organisation is continuing in the very special conditions with the assumption that the Event will be played in May.

Mr. Kratz reported that all U19 WFC 2021 qualifications are currently in preparation to be played at the set dates.

The Go/NoGo date for the final round needs, due to reasons of various reservations, to be set to 1<sup>st</sup> of March for the organiser. This means that all participants of the qualifications should inform of their possibilities to participate in the final round before the last qualifications have been played.

The LOC has also initiated a discussion with the IFF competition office of possible postponement dates of the Men's U19 WFC to the month end July-August, should this be needed. The situation will be continuously monitored.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and to set the Go/NoGo dates to be 8<sup>th</sup> February for the teams and 1<sup>st</sup> March for the LOC.

#### **d) Upcoming Events**

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

Mr. Beer reported on preparations. The WFC 2022 Steering committee has started a few campaigns and LOC has prepared a set of the Event logo for the WFC 2022 and are in agreement with the basic idea, but there are some details still being discussed. The launch of the logo will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November and the cooperation with myclimate is running well. The negotiations are finalised with the Swiss life arena and reservations are made for the Hallenstadion. The kick-off with the organisation committees in Zurich and Winterthur together with the clubs. The budget has been approved and the budget shows an even result. The sponsoring concept has been finalised in cooperation with IFF and sales is starting. The first version of the WFC contract has been evaluated and the negotiations will continue. The contacts will be made with the Swiss TV and make the agreement with the local organisers and start a street floorball.

Mr. Liljelund concluded that the negotiations are proceeding well and the discussion concerning the logo have been really fruitful and IFF is very pleased with the logo.

Mr. Kratz reported that the invitation to the WFC 2022 was sent 14<sup>th</sup> October with 31<sup>st</sup> December as last day to register. So far four countries have registered, Denmark, Finland, Slovakia and Sweden.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports

### **U19 WFC 2022, Wellington, New Zealand**

Mr. Kratz reported that the detailed contract discussions with Floorball New Zealand is ongoing, in order to clarify the different responsibilities and try to find saves for the organiser. The finances is the main concern due to the pandemic but LOC has produced a balanced budget which is considered achievable.

Mr. Kratz reported that the invitation to the U19 WFC 2022 was sent 21<sup>st</sup> October with 31<sup>st</sup> December as last day to register. So far three countries have registered: Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports

### **WFC 2023 and WFC 2024 bid process**

Mr. Halonen reported that the bidding for the WFC 2023 and 2024 is ongoing until 13<sup>th</sup> November whereafter the evaluation will start. The evaluations will be finalised well in time for the CB to take a decision in December. IFF has had a meeting with the Singaporean Federation and the Swedish federation has asked for a meeting, which will be schedule later.

The bidding for the U19 WFC 2023 and 2024 is under preparation to be sent to the interested organisers with the actual bidding to start 1<sup>st</sup> December and end by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The evaluations will take place still in January and thereafter put forward to the CB for decision.

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

## **§ 6. Euro Floorball Cup**

### **a) Euro Floorball Cup 2020**

Nothing reported

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### **b) Champions Cup 2021**

Mr. Beer reported on the CC 2021 in Winterthur 9.-10.1.2021 preparations. The general situation in Switzerland is problematic. The SUHV has temporarily stopped all competitions a week ago for a period until the end of November. The Swiss government has taken a decision that all contact sports, like floorball is forbidden to have any matches, apart for training for under 16 years of age. Floorball has by the government been defined as a professional sport so the top leagues could be played, but there is no knowledge yet how the situation will turn out.

The draw for the semi-finals was carried out 26<sup>th</sup> September. The Go/no-go date for the event is set to 6<sup>th</sup> November and the SUHV will discuss the matter after the CCSG meeting. Mr. Suman asked if the SUHV is planning to cancel or postpone the event. Mr. Beer answered that it is very difficult to plan anything before we know how the COVID-19 pandemic develops. The SUHV CB will make a decision of the Go/No-go on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November.

Mr. Liljelund reported that the Champions Cup Steering Group meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of

November to discuss among other topics the Champions Cup 2021 in Winterthur and the Go-NoGo decision, the Implementation plan of the Champions Cup concept, the proposal for the CC agreement, the CC regulation and the CC sales presentation.

**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 has mostly been related to different IFF General Assembly and COVID-19 related matters and the effect of the postponement of the Men's WFC 2020 on the IFF operations and the IFF Office. The President has together with the secretary general evaluated the situation and the different options to tackle the financial effect of a move of the WFC 2020. The President and the secretary general have discussed the principles for how the work of the Office shall be organised if the furloughing will have to take place. The idea presented by the secretary general is that the Competition department, the Communication Department and then the Operations and Marketing team will internally plan how to organise the time of furloughing and their work during the November-December period and then agree upon the results with the secretary general.

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mr. King, on the continued process of the Strategy work after that the sixth STF meeting held over Teams on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, in which the last additions and changes based on the feedback from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commentary round were made to the IFF Strategy. The STF has now presented the IFF Strategy 2021-2032 text for the IFF CB approval. The work with the layout is still in progress and the aim is to have a proposal ready by the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, but in the GA documents only the text will be sent out and the final version will be sent out later. The STF also decided to have a last meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November to discuss the plans for Implementation and make a proposal to the CB how the work for building an Implementation plan could be handled.

Mr. Suman reported on the Czech Floorball initiated and run EU project status. (**Appendix 17**) The competition was much harder than before, but the project was approved for funding, receiving a total of 80 points out of 100. The process can now start. Mr. Eriksson congratulated the Czech Floorball for receiving the full program. The whole project is around 399.000 EUR out of the full 400.000 EUR.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

### b) CB members responsibilities

Mr. Houman reported on the Six Nation Floorball group plans and next activities. The Six nation group had to cancel the Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia floorball challenge in 2020, and talks have begun to decide on how the six nations for men and women in 2021 will be arranged. In conjunction with the six nations floorball challenge a seminar is arranged, and it will be open for other national federations, who just need to cover their own travel and food and accommodation. Mr. Halonen asked that the Six Nations should coordinate the process of the seminar with the IFF in advance of running the process.

Mr Lopez reported about the development in Central and Latin America and the plans for the future. Mr. Lopez has continued with the contacts and last week I got a "new" message from Argentina. Apparently, they have in the federations elected a new CB and the President came to me very actively. They also have a new facebook page: AAF- Asociación Argentina de Floorball

- <https://www.facebook.com/FloorballArgentina> We had a video meeting with the Argentinians representatives (President - Ricardo Serial and G secretary - Federico Galiano) and they have a very good base to work with due to their structure within their big Confederation of a number of sports. They are like part of a bigger organization called "Social Hockey" and we need to understand what this is. They have asked for help in education and we can from Spain offer them an online education. They have also asked for a letter of representation from IFF, which Mr. Halonen promised that we will send to them. The situation in Peru has changed due to the COVID-19 and they have reported that all activities has seized for now. The situation in Colombia has calmed down and the two groups are again cooperating.

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mr. King on the on the present status of the AOFC activities. The AOFC planned to have the AGM earlier this year, which was then moved to the potential summer, and now upon consultation with the AOFC president Mr. Chaiyapak Siriwat , Mr. Steve King, and the general secretaries it was decided that a digital AOFC General Meeting is scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> of November and the invitation has been sent out (**Appendix 18**). The agenda for the meeting will be finalised by the end of October. The plan is also to have elections, even though it is not yet decided exactly how.

Mr. Spence is reported on the on the present status of the North America situation. The situation is confusing in Canada, as all activities has been shut down and the border between the USA and Canada is shut down for a long time. In USA the development seems to be moving forward much faster than in Canada. The USFbA has open a North American Floorball league and the Chicago Blackhawks is sponsoring the USA U19 Men's team.

Mrs. Vuori reported on the Digital Service design project the IFF Hub, which is part of her academic studies and the discussion with the IFF Office of how it could be introduced within the IFF organisation (**Appendix 19**).

The aim of the project was to study how 1) the communication between IFF and member associations and 2) direct communication between different member associations, could be improved. Second goal was to find ways for the member associations to share their knowledge and best practises. At the moment the lack of communication complicates the sharing of knowledge, which hinders the development of member associations and in a big scale, the global growth of floorball.

The outcome of the project was a plan for an "IFF Hub" which could be an online platform for IFF and member associations to share information and increase communication. The users of the IFF Hub would be IFF employees/officials and member association employees & volunteers. Project report includes the first demo of IFF Hub, which was built in Microsoft Teams environment. However, by following the principles and guides provided on the project report, IFF Hub could be built on some other online environment as well.

Mr. Spence asked how many persons were testing this project and Mrs. Vuori answered that there were five persons. Mr. Eriksson concluded that the findings are really good, and you have presented it very thoroughly. It lies with the IFF Office to look upon this together with Mrs. Vuori to look upon the implementation.

Ms. Vuori also reported on the paper she wrote for her school on the Driving Forces and megatrends in sport (**Appendix 20**). Mr Eriksson expressed that it is for the Office to look upon this and see how it can be used. Mr. Beer felt that it was a very good and inspirational paper and Mr. Beer will use the outcome in Swiss Floorball.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

### **c) Contacts to International Sports Organisations**

#### **SportAccord**

Mr. Eriksson reported that due to the Corona virus the IF Forum will be held in a fully virtual format on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November with the theme on how to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic in Sports. IFF has been asked to make a case study presentation in the session Staying Connected in Times of Crisis - Engaging your Athletes, Fans, and Stakeholders. Mr. Liljelund will speak about the new project the World Virtual Freestyle Floorball Championships, which is presently ongoing.

The GAISF Annual General Meeting will be held separately on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November in the same way, as a virtual meeting.

#### **ARISF**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the ARISF General Assembly will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November in a fully virtual format. The ARISF council had a virtual meeting in end of September to further discuss the upcoming ARISF AGM and the topics for the meeting. The AGM will not discuss any major new topics, as the topic of the cooperation with the IOC is still in process. As Ms. Molly Rohne (Netball) has stepped down as the ARISF Council member, as she is no longer the Netball president, there is an election for a replacement council member. The candidates are Mr. Claude Azema (boules), Mr. Jacques Fontaine (squash) and Mr. Giannarigo Rona (bridge) and the replacement will be elected until the next election of the whole ARISF council in 2021.

#### **IOC**

Mr. Eriksson reported that there has not yet been any information given by IOC concerning the IFF application for IOC support and/or a loan to deal with the COVID-19 effects

#### **IWGA/TWG**

Mr. Liljelund informed that the IWGA AGM will be held as a virtual meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. There is a proposal for Statutes changes on the table and some practical issues.

Due to the COVID-19 situation there has been no activities towards The World Games 2022 BOC, as the US Nationals have been moved and a new time for an event in Birmingham, Alabama is still being discussed with the USFbA and preliminary we are looking to have it between June – September.

#### **Other Events**

##### **Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**

Mr. Eriksson informed that there is nothing new reported concerning the Asia Indoor and Martial Art Games, which will be organised in Thailand and played in Bangkok and Chon Buri. The dates are set to May 21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

##### **SEA Games in 2021**

Mr. Eriksson informed that the SEA Games in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2021, Dates are November 21<sup>st</sup> - December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. The SEA Games Council is to decide upon the program, based on the appeals made concerning a total of 24 sports the Vietnamese LOC wants to remove from the program.

##### **FISU**

Mr. Eriksson informed that there has been no contact from FISU in regard to the new World University Championships 2022 in Liberec, Czech Republic or concerning the new technical delegate, as Mr. Taneli Tiilikainen has informed that he will step down. Mr. Suman will ask from Liberec if their organisation has been confirmed by FISU, as IF has not received any information.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

**d) RACC**

Mr. Klabere reported that the competition office is working on the system for the placement of the teams not qualified for the final round of the WFCs, to see if the current system needs to be changed. As in the current system the teams are ranked based on average points and goal difference achieved in their respective WFCQ matches. The ranking will be more important after the WFC 2021 final round when the placement of the teams will have a direct effect of the number of teams per region to qualify for the final round in 2023. The ranking system will then be discussed in an upcoming RACC meeting and thereafter put forward to the CB.

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

**e) RC**

Mr. Lopez reported, that the IFF RC has requested the member associations in the beginning of June 2020 to send in the proposals for the international referees and international observers by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. The RC received proposals from 25 IFF member associations and the RC proposes altogether 142 referees and 31 observers to be approved by the IFF CB. **(Appendix 21)**

The number has increased compared to the last round in 2018 by 10 % and especially the number has grown in the AOFC area. The IFF RC proposes to the IFF CB to approve the nominations according to the RC motion.

The challenge however is still the number of female referees and observers even though the number slightly increased in both categories.

The RC has run a web-based rule test to all proposed referees and observers. All 142 proposed referees and 31 proposed referee observers took the test, and all passed the test.

Mrs. Vuori informed that the Finnish Federation has officially inquired why one of their referee pair has not been approved by the IFF RC. Mr. Lopez answered that the IFF RC will give a reply to the Finnish federation in the coming days.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and appoint the proposed International referees and the International observers.

**f) Medical committee**

Mr. Halonen, in the absence of Ms. Bruun, reported that the planning of the Anti-Doping activities for 2021 under the new Code and Rules are proceeding. Having two Adult WFC's can change the planned testing pool criteria a bit for 2021. The Anti-Doping activities are living from day to day.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**g) Athletes Commission**

Ms. Reehuis informed that the IFF Office has sent out the invitation to the member associations to nominate one female candidate for the Athletes Commission elections of 2021 for four female members. (**Appendix 22**). As approved by the IFF Central Board in June 2016, ATC members are elected for a term of 4 years and the elections are held during the WFC Qualification events. In this way we ensure that a large number of athletes have the opportunity to vote in the ATC elections. Via the elections, the players will elect a minimum of three representatives, and the IFF CB can (if they choose), based on regional aspects, elect one member to the Athletes Commission.

In 2021, it will be the female members who will be up for election. As the dates for the Women's WFC Qualifications vary greatly in 2021 it is most likely that much of the voting will take place online. The new term for the female ATC members will be from February 2021 – January 2025. The current male members were confirmed at the beginning of this year and their term will end in January 2024.

Mr. Liljelund informed that the work to find a new chair for the Athletes Commissions, as Ms. Lidwien Reehuis has informed that she is not in position to continue for the next four period year.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**h) Marketing function**

Mr. Beer, reported about the current sales and marketing situation. (**Appendix 23**)

The market remains challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainties connected with that. For additional measures outside the fields of the ordinary marketing rights, IFF has worked with i2, the partner company of the WFC 2020, and they have carved out a social responsibility program called Floorball Hat Trick (**Appendix 24**). This is a program designed to encourage kids and adolescents to exercise more in their free time, play floorball outside with little restraints of rinks, flooring or strict rules. The idea is to onboard companies to support this project along their corporate social responsibility strategy. The agency has sales leads and some potential clients lined up. The IFF and also other NF's are invited to sell the project if they wish (for a good commission). Several national federations have been contacted (sales and marketing contacts) and requested to at least support communicating this new product. So far there has been no or very little response from the national federations. The IFF needs help here to strengthen its own finances and answer to the request of finding new sources for outside funding. The IFF will make contact the member associations again and also inform about the campaign in general. Mr. Beer informed that the Swiss Floorball will support the campaign.

Protocol Sports (PSM) has been informed of all 2021 event schedules as base for their sales efforts. They have informed that a marketing campaign will also be planned based on the new schedule. We are expecting news about a possible new PSM sales agent for Europe. A hard drive with high class WFC games and highlights was delivered to PSM headquarters as material to approach broadcasters. We have been reported of interest from a Canadian TV channel.

As the results from the PSM cooperation have been miniscule the IFF is scanning for some optional solutions on the agency sector.

In respect to the IFF Apparel sponsor, a proposal was submitted for Craft Finland which was on their board agenda roughly four weeks ago. Follow up on the proposal for Craft has been done on a regular basis, but still without any real answer from their side. After further discussions with NeH, (a merchandise company from Sweden) we have been asked presented them with a

proposal which will be prepared by end of October. This proposal would include an element for referee equipment (NeH closely cooperates with Adidas, Craft and Puma) and merchandising cooperation (WFC merchandise and event decoration, sales staff/booth, inventory, webstore). If we are able to find a deal here, discussions with the organisers for WFC 2021 and 2022, needs to be held to try to find a solution on this side as well. For the WF 2021, it should not be an issue as they are already working with NeH.

During the pandemic the IFF has kept promoting past highlights of WFC events to keep the social media channels active and interesting. The media department has also developed, finalised and launched the World Virtual Freestyle Floorball Cup 2020 to create action on the floorball scene. The IFF is running a campaign to increase the subscriber base of the IFF YouTube channel (with UNIHOC giveaways). For the end of the year further two campaigns with UNIHOC have been prepared which also include giveaways to create engagement.

The sales for the IFF Champions Cup 2021 have been ongoing and good discussions with floorball manufacturers but decisions have been postponed until the Go/NoGo (6th of November).

An IFF survey project will be carried out in autumn to investigate possibilities to increase the awareness of floorball and how sustainability can be harnessed for this purpose. The project will commence in October 2020 and the final report should be available late February / early March 2021. The study will be made by the Glion Institute of Higher Education students. National federations will separately be surveyed about the IFF brand renewal, how it is perceived and how successful it has been in comparison to the set goals.

Mr. Eriksson thanked Mr. Beer for a good report.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

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

Mr. Halonen reported that the IFF ran a referee webinar in co-operation with the Indian Floorball Federation on the 2nd of October with 87 participants all over India. The webinar was mainly concentrating on rule topics and also how the procedure to change and test the new rules is carried out within the IFF. There are a number of requests to run webinars in Africa and Asia.

The IFF is also preparing to start negotiations with the Finnish Sports Institute Eerikkilä to build an education path for coaches in our member associations who wish to have higher coaching education. The IFF has already received the basic proposal from Eerikkilä.

Mrs. Vuori felt that it would be good to have a cooperation with Eerikkilä. Mr. Liljelund expressed that the discussions are ongoing and the Office will revert to the topic later, when we have more information in coming IFF CB meeting.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**j) International Lobbying Ad Hoc group**

Nothing reported.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

§ 8. **IFF Office**

Mr. Halonen reported that the international transfer progress was positive during the late summer and early autumn, but during the last few weeks the number of the transfers has slightly decreased compared to the year 2019. In the end of August, the number of transfers was 85 % of the numbers of 2019 and at the present time the percentage is 80 %. However, the number of express transfers is increasing due to the fact that some countries have stopped their seasons due to Covid-19 and players want to transfer to other countries to play.

The IFF office has received a lot of inquiries related to the transfers and the Covid-19 situation. Since some of the IFF member associations have been forced to stop their seasons temporarily the IFF office has prepared a temporary transfer rule, which is valid from the first of November 2020 on in order to make it slightly easier for the players continue to play in other countries and leagues and when wanting to return there will be handled as a express transfer, but to the price of a normal transfer. Also the players under the age of 18 are released to pay the transfer fee if they want to return to their original countries to play. (**Appendix 25**) Mr. Klabere feels that this is a good proposal.

Mr. Halonen further reported that the IFF Office has planned to send out the invitation for nominations for the IFF Committees in beginning of November, in order to have the information of candidates before the IFF General Assembly.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

a) **Development operations**

Mr. Halonen informed how the IFF will use the WFC 2021 registration as a test, before the Tier system takes full effect in 2023. In relation to the License System the IFF will concentrate mainly to update the tier groups for the members based on the facts from the survey IFF ran in 2019 and on a mutual consulting between the member association and the IFF. The idea is to build development plans for a three-year period.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

b) **Communications operations**

Mr. Halonen informed on behalf of Ms. Bruun that the IFF launched the first ever World Virtual Freestyle Floorball Cup (WVFFC) 2020. The aim of this new competition format is to activate floorball players around the world and organise events utilising new virtual concepts, especially now during the COVID-19 times. In addition, this event format gives the possibility for players from countries with no national teams, to participate in an official IFF Event. The IFF has asked skilful floorball players to film a video of their best freestyle floorball moves (for example include zorro moves and/or other tricks) and send them to the IFF media team.

The competition received a total of 37 in the category U16 and 34 in the Adult category from a total of 27 countries. More details on <https://floorball.sport/freestyle-floorball-cup-2020/>

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**c) Material operations**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF Material Board members have been invited to participate in the IFF World Virtual Freestyle Floorball Championships and ask their contractual players to participate in the competition.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**d) ParaFloorball information**

Mr. Houman reported that within Special Olympics there is a webinar planned for March 2021 as the SOI monthly seminar in the USA, where all 50 states in USA and 10 provinces in Canada will be introduced to floorball. The webinar will be arranged with the aim to introduce programs and tell the good story from Arizona, where 2.000 athletes are playing floorball. When corona is over, then actions will be taken to have a seminar in USA/Canada with Special Olympics North America.

There are seminars postponed in Asia (Chinese Taipei and Japan) and Europa (Ukraine), due to the COVID-19 and talks have started with Special Olympics Africa to host a seminar for 8-12 countries. There are also discussions about having a seminar in Africa.

Mr. Halonen, reported on behalf of Ms. Bruun, that there are more IFF member associations connected with the Special Olympics programmes and there have also been talks about a Nordic co-operation within the associations.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports

**e) Equality operations**

Nothing reported

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**f) Sustainability operations**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Kalsta on the actions taken in regard to the IFF Sustainability actions. The most important projects on sustainability at the moment are the IOC DOW Carbon Award, the WFC 2022 cooperation with myclimate and the UNIHOC new ecological product line. The IFF has still had the target to publish one news article about sustainability per month

The IFF recently received an e-mail from the IOC and was asked to prepare videos for the award presentation of the IOC DOW Carbon Award. It has not been confirmed who has won the prize (last year it was 10 organisations) but it can be considered as a strong indication that we might be among the winners. The awards will be presented during an online event at the IF Forum Sustainability Session on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

The WFC 2022 LOC has partnered with myclimate to organise a championship event with minimal environmental effects. To create a baseline for comparison myclimate is currently

calculating, with the assistance of Czech Floorball the carbon footprint of the WFC 2018. Further all sectors of the event are investigated to pinpoint the most potential areas for sustainability work. Focus areas will be mobility, catering and procurement processes. The LOC is also formulating sustainability elements into the sponsorship deck. A press and stakeholder event to launch the WFC 2022 design is planned for 5th of November (two years ahead of the event) and sustainability will have a big role.

IFF has facilitated discussion between UNIHOC and myclimate. As a result, a new stick model with recycled blade material (launch in February) will also include a climate-compensation element channeled via myclimate carbon projects. Discussion with UNIHOC will be ongoing to synchronize their sustainability strategy with the IFF.

All sustainability material which the IFF publishes is being submitted for GAISF to be included in the sustainability.sport, portal.

The recycling initiative "Stick with it!" will move forward with the postponement of the WFC events. We have received a value-in-kind offer for producing the cardboard collection boxes.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 9. Member Federations

### a) Membership questions

Mr. Halonen to inform that there has not so far received any response from the IOC NOC Relations department concerning the arisen conflict between the IFF member association and another association in Cameroon. The issue is that the non-member association has presented a recognition from the Cameroonian NOC. The IFF secretary general has asked again from the IOC Sport Department if there is some answer to be given concerning the Cameroon NOC.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

### b) Members under suspension

No members under suspension

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

### c) New Member Applications

Mr. Halonen informed that the office has not received any of the pending applications, which are on the way in (Jordan, Cyprus, Zambia and Chinese Taipei), but the processes are still ongoing and we have finally received interest also from Colombia.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 10. Next CB meeting

Mr. Eriksson to conclude that the next scheduled CB meeting, has been planned to be held on the 10.12.2020 at 15:00 CET over Teams, to prepare for the IFF General Assembly.

The new elected CB is planned to convene for its inaugural meeting on the 12.12.2020 at 15:00 CET over Teams.

Mr. Eriksson conveyed the thanks for the performance and commitment of Mrs. Reehuis and Mr. Spence for their contribution in the IFF CB for the last four years. The CB will revert to the thanking the leaving CB members in the IFF General Assembly.

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

**§ 11. Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting at 20:35 CET.

**John Liljelund  
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson  
President**