

Helsinki, Finland, 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2021

## **IFF Central Board meeting 2/2021 20.02.2021 in Teams**

<b>Place:</b>	Meeting held as a Teams meeting	
<b>Schedule:</b>	Friday, February 19 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CB workshop on Strategy Implementation 13:00 – 19:00 CET</b> <b>CB meeting 13:00 – 19:00 CET</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Tomas Eriksson</b> <b>Monica Birdal</b> <b>Tamuz Hidir</b> <b>Steen Houman</b> <b>Calle Karlsson</b> <b>Stephen King</b> <b>Martin Klabere</b> <b>Carlos Lopez</b> <b>Pakkamol Siriwat</b> <b>Filip Suman</b> <b>Kaarina Vuori</b>	<b>President</b>  <b>§ 5 D excused for the WFC 2024 discussions</b>  <b>Vice President</b>
	<b>Veli Halonen</b> <b>Stefan Kratz</b> <b>John Liljelund</b>	<b>Operations Manager</b> <b>Competition Manager</b> <b>Secretary General</b>
<b>Excused:</b>	<b>Jörg Beer</b> <b>Agata Plechan</b>	<b>ATC Chair</b>

## **Minutes**

### **§ 1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson welcomed all the CB members to the first ordinary CB meeting of the IFF Central Board elected by the IFF General Assembly in December 2020 and opened the meeting at 13:00 CET.

The CB workshop held on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> discussed the Strategy Implementation process and went through all the targets and tasks defined in the Strategy. The CB will need to make the decisions in this meeting based on the workshop results in this meeting. Mr. Eriksson thanked all for a good and effective CB workshop yesterday and to Mr. Halonen and Mr. Liljelund for organising the workshop.

Mr. Eriksson informed that Mr. Jörg Beer and Ms. Agata Plechan have informed that they are for personal reasons not able to participate in the meeting.

### **§ 2. Approval of the agenda**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that there are the following updated or new appendix for the meeting.

Appendix 6 - Updated proposal for the Canadian Payment plan  
Appendix 11 - WFC 2022 Report

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

### § 3 **Minutes from the CB meeting: 01/2021 over Teams (24.01.2021)**

The minutes from the last meetings were scrutinized, approved and put ad acta. (**Appendix 1**)

**CB decided:** To approve the minutes of the IFF CB meeting 01/2021

### § 4. **Financial questions**

#### **a) Financial report 2020 (prel.) and 2021 - by 12.02.2021**

Mrs. Birdal presented the preliminary financial report and the balance sheet by the 31.12.2020 (**Appendix 2a**). The outcome, a surplus of 7.818 CHF, is almost the same as in the last meeting. The final report will be presented in the next meeting when remaining financial issues from 2020 should have been handled. Mrs. Birdal is very pleased that we are still looking for a small positive result after the challenging and strange Covid-19 year. Mr. Kratz explained that there might be some minor changes of some Swiss francs in the end.

Mrs. Birdal further presented the financial report and the balance sheet by the 12.02.2021 (**Appendix 2b**). The situation looks very good, but it is still abnormal times, it is really too early to say what the end result for the year will be before we know what events will be played in the end.

The outcome per 12<sup>th</sup> of February is 452.704 CHF, which is some 217.260 CHF (2020: 235.441 CHF) better than the same period last year. This is mainly due to the double WFCs and the participation and organisers fees connected to these and the second instalment of the IOC Covid-19 support, but also the lowered costs due to lack of travelling to meetings and events. Unfortunately the situation with COVID-19 continues to negatively affect us, and we must still be very careful due to the uncertainty regarding the possibility to carry out the IFF events in 2021, and an expected backlash on the material income for 2021 since this comes delayed and the first payment of the year is based on what happened with the material sales the last four month of the year before. Mr. Suman asked about the different supports IFF has received. Mr. King asked if there is a risk with the value in kind income from the sponsors. Mr. Liljelund answered that there are no real issues if we can play the Events in November-December and explained that if we are not able to play the WFC's in the end of the years this will be a very big crises. Mr. Eriksson wanted to thank the IFF Office for being on top of the financial situation and asked to start making plans in regard to possible Covid-19 pandemic problems.

The U19 WFC 2021 Qualifications have already been cancelled which, if we still can play the final round this year, will have a relatively small but negative impact of the finances. If the U19 WFC 2020 however would be cancelled both the result and the liquidity will be negatively affected with some 40.000 CHF.

The liquidity 12<sup>th</sup> February is 426.550 CHF, some 259.200 higher compared with last year (167.261 CHF) and due to this we have not up to now taken up the secured loan of 100.000 EUR from the Finnish Floorball Federation. If the situation would worsen dramatically the IFF would need to seriously look over this option.

At this time of the year, it is too early to have a forecast for 2021 but will be prepared for coming meetings.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**b) Information on IFF claims – License system and WFC 2020-2021, status February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Mrs. Birdal presented the claims situation by the 12.02.2021 for the Member Associations participating in the WFC 2020 and 2021 and separately for those not participating in the IFF Events. (**Appendix 3 and 4**). Not much has happened since the last meeting, for obvious reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the WFCs 2020 no action is needed. For the WFCs 2021 Canada are still lagging with the payment of both participation fees. Cote d'Ivoire has continued to pay off their debt to IFF according to plan. The situation is not too bad, but the question is if the countries participating in the WFC's will be able to handle their debts before the WFC's. Mr. Hidir informed that the situation is difficult in Ukraine, but the new president has the IFF debts as a priority.

Mr. King asked if there has been any decision about how IFF will handle the payment made by the associations for the cancelled qualifications. Mr. Kratz answered that the IFF always proposes to the country, if the event is cancelled to use the money for some other fee they have to pay, in order not to have to return the money. The discussions will be taken case by case with the concerned party.

The follow-up of payment plans (**Appendix 5**) shows only the change for Cote d'Ivoire. The IFF Office continues to monitor these cases.

Floorball Canada and Premier Floorball has handed in a request of a further revised pay-off plan (**Appendix 6**). The reason behind this is the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic where floorball has not been played in Canada since March 2020 and due to this Floorball Canada has not collected any membership fees and have had no competition related revenues. For the same reasons Premier Floorball has not been able to sell any franchises. Floorball Canada anticipates that the season 2021-2022 will be played but it is unsure whether they can start in September. The IFF Office has discussed the proposal with Floorball Canada and asked Floorball Canada to look over the proposed timetable. The IFF Office has until yesterday received an altered proposal, based on the discussions held with the Floorball Canada. It would from an IFF Office point of view and based on the discussions in the CB, feel that approving the updated proposal is the best possible approach in these difficult times. Mr. Kratz informed that Floorball Canada has informed that concerning the WFC participation fees are handled by the teams, so they will be paid if they will be able to participate.

Mr. Klabere felt that it is important to keep the process up and running and anything we can receive from Canada is good and supported the new payment plan. Mr. Eriksson expressed that this is a difficult situation, and we need to try to solve the situation in the best possible way. Mr. Suman also supported the proposal.

**CB decided:** To approve the revised payment plan from Floorball Canada and Premier Floorball and that that Floorball Canada is eligible to register for the Men's WFC 2022. Further to approve the reports and to continue to follow up on the pay-off plans for Canada, Russia, Malaysia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Cote d'Ivoire.

**c) Minutes from the IFF General Assembly 2020**

Mr. Eriksson informed that the minutes of the IFF General Assembly 2020 held over Teams on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 (**Appendix 7**), were sent out to the IFF membership on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December after the scrutineers had confirmed their accuracy. As there has not been any written comments handed in to the IFF Office by the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, the minutes of the IFF General Assembly are in accordance with the IFF Statutes now approved.

IFF used for the first time an official outside scrutineer, Mrs. Mervi Kilpikoski, the Finnish Floorball Federation Good Governance specialist and Data Protection Officer. In the report provided (**Appendix 8**) Mrs. Kilpikoski states that the meeting was run in accordance with the IFF Statutes and the principles of Good Governance, without any issues that might have affected the result of the meeting. The report will be published together with the IFF General Assembly Minutes. Mr. Eriksson conveyed its gratitude to Mrs. Mervi Kilpikoski for the work as the outside scrutineer for the IFF General Assembly 2020

**CB decided:** To approve the report and conclude that the IFF General Assembly 2020 minutes are approved by the membership.

## § 5. **World Championships**

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

Mrs. Vuori to give a short report on the present situation of the preparations in Finland for the Men's WFC 2020 to be played from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. The WFC 2020 steering group had a meeting in February and the plan to re-start the ticket sales in relation to the Finnish league Fliiga-finals in April. The main issue is how much audience can be taken into the venues and its financial effect.

Mr. Suman asked what the general attitude of the LOC will be towards the organisation of the event, if there is not a possibility to have a full house. Ms. Vuori expressed that the Finnish association is keen to organise the event as far as possible, even if there would occur major financial issue if there would not be a possibility for a full house. Mr. Klabere felt that it is important to play in any case as it will be very important for floorball as a whole.

Mr. Liljelund reported upon the preparations concerning the TV production and cooperation with the TV takers has continued. The LOC and IFF has visited the venues again and looked over the infrastructure and negotiations will re-start with takers in March-April after we know exactly how the TV production will be organised for the Women's WFC 2021 in Uppsala as coordination is here needed. IFF kindly asks for information from the national associations.

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

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

Mr. Klabere reported on the preparations for the U19 WFC 2020 to be played in Uppsala, Sweden in May 2021. The Swedish federation and the LOC have decided that even if the event will have full audience restrictions, they are prepared to organise the event, regardless the loss of income. The biggest concerns the organiser have at the moment, are related to Covid-19 protocols and the effect these will have on the organisation. As a solution a small group consisting of both IFF and SIBF is looking upon the actual Covid-19 protocol for the Women's U19 WFC 2020.

There has unfortunately now been found some deficiencies in the roof construction of IFU arena on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February due to massive amount of snow, so the city of Uppsala has closed the complete arena the same day and it is at this time unclear when it can be re-opened. The

Swedish federation will follow-up the situation with the City of Uppsala and keep IFF aware of any development and how this would affect the organisation of the Women's U19 WFC 2020. Mr. Klabere informed that the City of Uppsala will inform by the 26<sup>th</sup> of February concerning the situation of the IFU arena roof and when and how the use of it can continue again. Losing the arena for some time would be very problematic not only for the U19 WFC 2020, but also for the Swedish federation as so many teams have it as their home venue. The LOC is looking over the IFF Covid-19 protocol in cooperation with IFF and the only real issue here is the very huge costs for the Covid-19 tests in Sweden.

Mr. Kratz informed that the Go/NoGo dates are set for the 8<sup>th</sup> of March for the teams and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March for the LOC. The IFF will then together with the Swedish federation and the LOC make all appropriate decisions by the middle of March.

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

## c) **Next Events**

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

Mr. Suman reported on the final round preparations. The Covid-19 situation in Czech Republic is definitely not easy. The LOC is still ready to go ahead with the championship, as there are still other championships being conducted in the Czech Republic. The National Sport Agency promised to grant the possibility for the Czech Floorball to organise the event. The Czech Floorball is also open for the possibility to play the event in the end of summer, if IFF CB would feels it's the better option.

The preparation of the final round in Brno is ongoing, and the schedule has been prepared and published. On behalf of the IFF Mr. Liljelund has written a letter to the National Sport Agency of Czech Republic to support Czech Floorball in their quest to receive an exception to organise the U19 WFC 2021 despite the Covid-19 situation (**Appendix 9**). The Czech Floorball Central Board had a meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February to handle the issue from the LOC point-of-view regarding organising on planned dates or to postpone the event.

Mr. Kratz informed that eight teams have informed that eight teams have told that they are willing to participate, but it is not clear whether they might still be able to come to the event. Mr. Liljelund explained that it is very important for IFF and Floorball to play the event, in a way making it a showcase for the sport in getting back to playing despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Klabere feels that there is a possibility for more teams to participate later in the year. The situation could be much clearer in August or September. So if it would be OK for the Czech Floorball able to move it, it would be good for all. Mr. Houman feels that we need to take the safety of the athletes, as there are a lot of player who have not played floorball for a long time. Mr. King proposed that we should go back to the countries registered and ask if their situation would change for the autumn. Ms. Vuori felt that if it is OK for the Czech, it would be better to postpone. Mr. Kratz informed that many countries have felt that the situation is very difficult in the first part of the year.

Mr. Lopez stressed that it is important to communicate that a possible postponement of the event will not make it possible to play the qualifications. Mr. Kratz answered that there will not be any qualifications played in this situation, even if the Event would be postponed.

Mr. Suman explained that there would be some more costs for the organiser and as the venue is booked for the September international weekend. the option would be to play the event the last weekend of August.

The Go/NoGo dates were set to the 8<sup>th</sup> of February for the teams and for the 1<sup>st</sup> of March for LOC. So far, the following 8 countries have advised that they cannot participate in the Event if organised in the end of April: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Germany, Norway and Slovenia.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and ask the participating teams for a clarification of their possibility for participation and report this to the Men's U19 WFC 2021 LOC.

### **WFC 2021, Uppsala, Sweden**

Mr. Klabere gave a report of the final round preparations. The LOC has contracted a new travel agency (Stricct Travel), which means that the cooperation with the earlier company Avisita has been terminated. Information about this shall be sent to the participating teams. The main issue is now the issue with the IFU Arena, which was already reported concerning the Women's U19 WFC 2021.

Mr. Liljelund informed about the discussions has been ongoing with the Swedish federation on TV agreement and production. IFF has rendered its rights to the Swedish association to include in their bigger TV discussions, which will most likely bring a better visibility for International floorball in Sweden. Additionally, the need to coordinate the TV timetable for the end of the Women's WFC and the beginning of the Men's WFC.

Mr. Kratz reported that the LOC has been asked to propose dates for the ballot of the groups which most likely will take place before all WFCQs are played.

Mr. Kratz further reported of postponements of the WFC 2021 qualifications.

#### **WFCQ AOFC in Japan**

The event has earlier been postponed being played from the 29<sup>th</sup> of June to 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. The Go/NoGo dates are set for the 19<sup>th</sup> of April for the teams and 26<sup>th</sup> of April for the LOC.

#### **WFCQ Americas in Canada**

The event has been postponed being played from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June in Guelph (Ontario) but due to the state-of-emergency lockdown the LOC hasn't yet been able to secure the date with the venue. Currently only Canadian citizens may cross the border. The Go/NoGo date is set for the 9<sup>th</sup> of April for both teams and the LOC.

#### **WFCQ EUR1 in Latvia**

The event was originally postponed being played on the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of June but due to a clash of events in Valmiera during the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> of June, when also a European Championship in BMX is taking place, the city of Valmiera asked the Latvian Floorball Union if it was possible to change dates. The Latvian LOC has managed to postpone the WFCQ further to be played 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> of June. The teams were informed about the planned change on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and the change was made on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

Germany and Norway have switched qualification groups since the Norwegian finals are played on the 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The new Go/NoGo dates are set for the 12<sup>th</sup> of April for teams and 16<sup>th</sup> of April for the LOC.

#### **WFCQ EUR2 in Italy**

The event has earlier been postponed being played from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of May. Germany and Norway have switched qualifications since the Norwegian finals are played 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May. The Go/NoGo dates are set for the 29<sup>th</sup> of March for teams and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April for the LOC.

WFCQ EUR3 in Slovakia

The event has earlier been postponed being played from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The Go/NoGo dates are set for the 29<sup>th</sup> of March for teams and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April for the LOC.

Mr. Eriksson praised the IFF competition office for the work done in regards to the WFCQ's

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

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

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

Mr. Kratz to report in the absence of Beer reported on the preparations (**Appendix 11**). The preparations are going well under the leadership of Mr. Daniel Kasser and the marketing revenue has already reached 88%, which is really good. Mr. Liljelund reported about the meeting with Swiss TV (SRF) and the idea that SRF will be the Host Broadcaster and IFF will be responsible for the TV production through our production company PolarHD. The deal concerning this will be made in the coming months.

Mr. Kratz reported that a total of 36 teams have registered, 24 from Europe, 9 from AOFC, 1 from Africa and 2 from Americas. Switzerland as the organiser is directly qualified. Mr. Suman asked concerning the number of for the WFC's 2018 and 2020, to which Mr. Kratz answered that for the WFC 2020 we had 35 registered teams and for 2018 there was 34 teams.

The IFF Competition office proposes that the African teams shall play in the European qualifications as was done in the WFC 2020, and that these shall be played in three places with 2 groups of 4 teams in each with 10 to qualify from EUR/AFR (Group winners, 3rd place winners and the best 4th placed team based on the results of the group matches). Further the proposal is that AOFC shall play in one place with 9 teams divided in two groups with 4 teams to qualify (Group winners, 3rd-4th placed teams) and that Americas shall play best of two matches in one place where the winner qualifies to the final round.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports and the proposed system of the qualifications.

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

Mr. Kratz reported that the LOC is in the process of increasing the organising committee to 12 persons to better cover all areas of the organisation.

LOC has informed that preparations are ongoing as planned and that the arena is secured, some 60% of the budgeted financial support and 50% of the sponsorship targets have been reached. Applications for grants will start later this year as those can't be submitted too far out. The LOC are also investigating possible Covid-19 recovery funding.

Further LOC has informed that they work with BCD travel in Wellington for accommodation options and bookings. A promotion video is expected to be published in April/May 2021 when also the website should be ready.

The main risk at this stage is the uncertainty with regards to international travel. The NZ government has indicated that it will be towards the end of this year before overseas travel is becoming more normal again and that is under the provision that the vaccination is working. So

at this stage LOC thinks that international travel to NZ will be possible in May 2022 but it might be a while before flight offerings are back up to what they used to be before Covid-19.

Mr. Kratz further reported that 18 teams have registered, 13 from Europe, 3 from AOFC and 2 from Americas. 8 European teams and New Zealand (organiser) are directly qualified. The IFF Competition office proposes that the two remaining teams from AOFC (Australia and Singapore) and the two teams from Americas (Canada and USA) shall also be directly qualified and that 5 European teams shall play in one qualification where three teams qualify to the final round. The European teams can't be named until after the U19 WFC 2020 is decided. As the ranking from the Women's U19 is not known yet, as the U19 WFC 2020 has not been played yet. If the U19 WFC cannot be played in 2021 the present ranking will be used.

Mr. Houman stressed that the Six nations have handed in the letter of concern concerning the organisation of the Women's U19 WFC in New Zealand 2022, due to the Covid-19 situation.

**CB decided:** to approve the reports and the proposed system of qualification.

### **U19 WFC 2023, 2024 and WFC 2024 bid process**

Mr. Halonen reported on the outcome of the bids for the U19 WFC 2023, U19 WFC 2024 and the WFC 2024.

There were two IFF member associations, which bid to host the WFC 2024, Singapore and Sweden. The actual bidding time was in November, but the time was prolonged in order to get more detailed information from both bidders. After the bid was closed the evaluation took place and this time there were 12 persons from the IFF ExCo, IFF RACC and IFF office who evaluated the bids. A total of 9 out of 12 evaluators placed Singapore as number one in the bid. The final result by points was Singapore 780/1000 and Sweden 774/1000. The result based on the evaluations is therefore a draw.

The IFF bid has been built on questions from four different sectors, those being the event, finance, event delivery and sports development/legacy. The event section concentrating on timing, places, cities, and venues. The finance section concentrating on the financial impact of the event, that also includes the TV and marketing. The delivery is concentrating on practical topics such as volunteers, experience of earlier events, transportation, accommodation etc. The development then defining the legacy of the event and the possible development projects in the country and region.

In general, the bids were extremely even. In the event part the biggest difference was in the dates of the event, where Sweden scored 15/15 points and Singapore 5/15. The Singapore Floorball Association had a preliminary plan to host the event from the 16th to 24th of November due to Year-End school holidays taking place at that time and to that way to get even more spectators. Organising the event in December is not a problem for Singapore as they state in the updated bid version, which probably some of the evaluators missed. Singapore Marathon takes place during the first weekend of December and there could be some synergy benefits for the event in December. The result of the event part is therefore actually equal.

In the financial part Sweden had 205 points out of 250 and Singapore had 193 out of 250. The main differences being in the number of matches produced for the TV and paid by the LOC. Otherwise TV and Internet TV related questions are equal. Singapore at the time of the original bid has more sponsors outside the Floorball markets, but Sweden has in the last month or so made a number of really large sponsorship deals. Financial target being more positive in then Swedish bid, but Singapore looking for synergy benefits by organizing also the WFC 2023 and

that way considering the events to be financially combined. The budget for the Swedish bid is 2,6 million euros and 2,43 million euros for the Singapore bid.

Sweden has informed that they presently have 12 sponsors, which are also willing to be part of the WFC 2024 and Singapore has been prepared to seek 8-10 sponsors for the event, but no secured yet. Both Sweden and Singapore having the sponsors outside the Floorball. Sweden has informed that they are ready to cover the TV production costs of all matches in the WFC 2024 and Singapore is based on their bid, prepared to cover the costs of 11-12 matches.

In the delivery section Singapore got 337 points out of 450 and Sweden 333 points. The main difference was the monetary support from the city/region/government, but in that section the Swedish had not marked the monetary support, which is actually the same percentage in both bids, around 35 %. Singapore was slightly ahead of volunteer recruiting and also the accommodation variety is broader in Singapore, but Sweden was ahead of media capacity and social media. Both bidders had similar ideas of sustainability.

The biggest difference in the bids were in the development section. The Singaporeans had more detailed plans to use the legacy of the event afterwards and develop Floorball not only in Singapore, but in Asia in general. The WFC 2024, if granted to Singapore, would be the first IFF men's major event for them and Sweden on the other hand has already organised the men's WFC in 1996, 2006 and 2014 and has vast experience of organising. **(Appendix 10)**

Mr. Klabere excused himself from participating in the discussion concerning the appointment of the WFC 2024, for Good Governance reasons.

Mr. Liljelund explained the view from an overall IFF standpoint in the situation where the bids are so close. From a development issue it is clear that the Singaporean bid is better. On the other having a third consecutive IFF WFC outside Europe in as many years, which in these Covid-19 times could be an issue if not all countries would register for financial reasons caused by the pandemic. There is a financial difference for IFF with the Swedish bid, mainly due to the promise to take the costs for TV production of all matches and the possibility to have a positive effect from the already existing sponsors in Sweden. It is a very tough decision the CB will have to take. Mr. Eriksson asked if there are any other implications side effects in relation to either candidate having received the organisation. Mr. Liljelund answered that for IFF there might be a positive outcome for a TV deal in the years 2021 – 2024 in Sweden.

Mr. Houman felt that the financial impact for the IFF is the key issue in the matter and asked what the predicted financial difference between the two bids really is. There is no real issue to have two events after each other. Mr. Liljelund explained that there major difference is the Swedish promise to cover all the TV production costs for all matches in the WFC, compared to the Singaporean 11-12 games. Also the fact that there are more sponsors already will give a possibility for IFF to seek additional revenue for IFF.

Mrs. Birdal felt that without the Covid-19 pandemic effects on Floorball nationally and internationally, the event should without any question go to Singapore, but in the present situation and for the heavy financial effects on the IFF and national floorball, it would be more preferable to play the event in Europe this time. Ms. Vuori feels that it is really good that we have such good and equal bids from both Singapore and Sweden. One small concern could be if there are some issues with the WFC 2023, to then have the WFC 2024 directly and in this time it would be a little problematic to have two such big events neck to neck. But it is quite difficult to judge which organiser is better.

Mr. Suman felt that the Singaporean bid was really well built and very professional and focused on the importance to have the two events to build the level of Floorball in the region. Further Mr. Suman felt that the in the future it must be a condition to have all matches produced for TV as a

requirement. Mr. Suman asked what the opinion of the AOFC representatives is in this tight situation.

Mr. King is still divided between the two candidates, as the development factor is a key issue for the region and for floorball as a whole. It is still unclear how the WFC 2024 benefit of the event in Singapore will flow to the other countries in the region and there is a risk that the financial return could probably be much bigger for IFF through the event being hosted in Sweden.

Ms. Siriwat feels that it would be an excellent opportunity for Singapore to organise the event in 2024, but in these difficult times the financial parameters must be taken into account. The development in the AOFC region can be built through the Women's WFC and a possible Men's WFC in the future and also through the development of the AOFC competitions.

Mr. Lopez feels that we also need to take into account that in the year 2024 we have the IFF General Assembly and secure as large as possible participation in the Event. Mr. Hidir feels that from a purely idealistic reason Singapore is the better option, but from an operational and financial reasons Sweden is this time a better option.

Ms. Vuori felt that both bids are very good and it would be very good for IFF if the Singaporean association would apply for the WFC 2026 or 2028 to continue the development of the region.

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the CB is in favour of appointing the WFC 2024 to Sweden mainly due for the financial and operational reasons in the very tight situation between the two bids. The CB further wanted to thank Singapore for a very good and competitive bid and look forward to seeing additional bids for Men's WFC in the future.

Mr. Houman excused himself from participating in the discussion concerning the appointment of the U19 WFC 2023, for Good Governance reasons.

Mr. Halonen reported on the bid of the Men's U19 WFC 2023 and the Women's U19 WFC 2024. For the Men's U19 WFC 2023 there were two member associations, which made the bid; Denmark and Slovakia. Denmark was clearly better in the bid based on the evaluation and the difference was around 250 points. The plan for Floorball Denmark is to organise the event in Frederikshavn in Arena Nord from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 both playing venues being under the same roof. Floorball Denmark has also been promised as a support for the event from the city of Frederikshavn and from Sport Event Denmark in total of 100 000 € (750 000 DKK). Mr. Houman excused himself from participating in the discussion concerning the appointment of the U19 WFC 2023, for Good Governance reasons.

For the Women's U19 WFC 2024 there was eventually only in the end Finland to bid for the event, because due to the financial impact of Covid-19 both Australia and Italy withdrew from the bid. The Finnish Floorball Federation plans to run the event in city of Lahti in the Lahti Sports and Fair Center from the 1st to 5th of May 2024. Also there both playing venues will be under the same roof.

Mr. Halonen proposed based on the outcome from the bid evaluation to grant Denmark the organisation of the Men's U19 WFC 2023 in Frederikshavn and Finland the organisation of the Women's U19 WFC 2024 in Lahti.

**CB decided:** to approve the report, and to appoint Denmark as the organiser of the Men's U19 WFC 2023, Finland as the organiser of the Women's U19 WFC 2024 and Sweden as organiser of the Men's WFC 2024. The CB further thanked the Singapore Floorball Association for an excellent bid and welcome for new bids for the coming WFC's

#### **e) Covid-19 protocols and regulations**

The IFF office has prepared the following documents IFF Covid-19 Event protocol ver 1 (**Appendix 12a**), Regulations to minimize Covid-19 – MU19 WFC 2021 (**Appendix 12b**) and general document IFF Restart Guidelines (**Appendix 13**).

The first version of the IFF Covid-19 Event Protocols has been distributed to all 2021 event organisers and has been received well. It is a very detailed document but, so far, the feedback from the organisers is very positive with the general comment being that it is very useful. From the general IFF Covid-19 Event protocol ver 1, there will be made a specific Covid-19 Regulation to customize the requirements for each event.

There have been some questions raised via the CB of the added costs for organisers and IFF. It is considered that the protocols have a far more significant effect on operational matters, rather than financial ones. There are, of course, other financial impacts that could be felt due to Covid-19 restrictions, such as events being played without spectators, however this kind of 'rule' is not set by the protocols themselves but defined more by local government guidelines (Appendix 12c). The documents have also been sent to the IFF Medical Committee for feedback, which is still to be received.

The IFF Office the proposals for handling of the Covid-19 tests for IFF personnel are for **Qualifications**, costs for the home country test prior to travel, and the host nation prior to departure from the event, are the responsibility of the IFF. Any tests done during the event are the responsibility of the LOC.

For **WFC Final rounds** (U19 and adults), costs for the home country test prior to travel is the responsibility of the IFF. The costs of the test done prior to departure from the event, as well as any tests during the event are the responsibility of the LOC.

Mr. King made a comment that the document would need to be sent as an information to all countries to help them in their own work. Mr. Klabere earlier had some doubts about the content, but after having seen the proposal for the Men's U19 WFC 2021, it feels more as a recommendation, than a specific rule. Also some of the times defined in the protocol is not in line with the national regulations and in regard to overseas travels, but these needs to be fixed case by case. This is a very positive outcome in the end. Mr. Suman also felt that the document is more of a guideline and then prepare a concrete regulation.

Mr. Liljelund expressed that the Covid-19 protocol is a general guideline and needs to be discussed case by case with the organiser and result in a separate regulation for each event.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and the proposal of handling the cost for Covid-19 tests for IFF personnel in IFF events. The IFF Competition department will send out this document to all members.

## § 6. Club competitions

### a) Champions Cup

Mr. Liljelund reported on the Champions Cup Steering Group meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January over Teams. (**Appendix 14**).

The CCSG discussed the nomination of the organisers for the Champions Cup 2022 and 2023 competitions, after the cancellation of the CC 2021 in Switzerland. As Finland was originally to organise the CC 2022, but it would have been only some weeks after the end of the postponed WFC 2020, played in December 2021, it was agreed that Switzerland will take the organisation of the CC 2022 and Finland the CC 2023. The CC 2022 will either be played in December 2021

(between 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of December) or on the 15.-16.1.2022, due to a booking in the AXA Arena in Winterthur. The stakeholders are presently processing the options from their own perspectives.

The CCSG also discussed and approved the proposal for the basic Champions Cup Agreement (**Appendix 15a**) for the Home & Away Concept starting in the season 2023-2024 and the Champions Cup regulation 2023 (**Appendix 15b**). The stakeholder CB will approve these documents in their respective Central Boards prior to the IFF CB meeting, all stakeholder have approved the proposals in their respective CB's, with the comment from the Czech Republic that there needs to be an evaluation of the how the concept works after two years. Mr. Suman asked if the two years will be enough to evaluate the Home & Away concept. Mr. Liljelund felt that this enough and the CCSG will evaluate the Champions Cup new concept after each year anyway, as described in the CC Home & Away Concept. The CB discussed the issue of the needed financial commitment of IFF, which has to be guaranteed if there are no sales for the CC 2023 in September 2021

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and the proposed CC Agreement and the CC Regulation 2023.

#### **b) Euro Floorball Cup 2021**

Mr. Kratz reported that due to the Covid-19 situation and the effect this have had on both IFF events and national leagues, where several countries lack champions, the IFF Competition office proposes that the EuroFloorball Challenge (EFCh) and EuroFloorball Cup (EFC) shall not be organised 2021.

Mr. Eriksson felt that it is very unfortunate, but in this situation probably the best option.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and to decide not to organise the EFCh and EFC in 2021.

### **§ 7. ExCo, Strategy Implementation and Ad Hoc group reports**

#### **a) ExCo reports**

Mr. Eriksson is reported on the ExCo activities after the previous CB meeting, as the IFF ExCo has mainly focussed on the preparation of the upcoming CB meeting and the CB workshop.

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

#### **b) Strategy Implementation**

Mr. King reported on the preparations made in regard to the work related to the planning of the Strategy Implementation. The idea is to build a structure with a Strategy Implementation working group (SWG) should consist of a total of five persons. Two from the CB and two from the member associations and one from the office. Then there would be four sub-groups, one for each Key Priority Area (Awareness & Visibility, Development & Service Level, Governance & Sport Culture and Sport Presentation & Appearance). The main idea is that the SWG will coordinate and steer the Strategy implementation together with the different sub-groups and other entities who have been given the responsibility to conduct the tasks mentioned in the Strategy document. The SWG will work out a document based on the CB workshop yesterday and the tasks and responsible defined there.

After the SWG has started its work the idea is to form a Strategy reference group which would act as more of a feedback group where developed actions and plans can be run past for any comment before they are implemented and/or approved by the IFF CB but not for them to action anything. The Reference group should consist of 16-18 persons, representing the following groups: 2 x AOFC, 1 x Americas, 1 x Africa, 4 x Top 4 Countries, 3 x 5-10+ Countries, 3 x 10-74 countries, 2 x Athletes Commission and 1-2 x Outside persons.

These persons could then be divided into four groups based on experience and interest. The persons for the sub-groups and the reference group will be asked from the members and other stakeholders during the spring. The four sub-groups will be set up in the next months in line with the preparation of the Implementation document.

Mr. Klabere feels that the proposal for the composition is very good also from the equality point of view. Mr. Liljelund explained that there will be possibilities for all CB members to be involved in the sub-groups and the reference group in the future.

The proposal for the Strategy Implementation working group is:

- Mr. Steve King, (CB/AUS), chair
- Ms. Kaarina Vuori (CB/FIN)
- Ms. Helèn Wiklund-Wårell (EFT/SWE)
- Mr. Teo Turay (Six countries group/SVK)
- Mr. John Liljelund, (IFF)

**CB decided:** To approve the report and form the Strategy implementation working group

### c) **CB Member responsibilities**

Mr. Eriksson explained how the CB members are to report on their responsibilities for each CB meeting. As the work is only starting, the members are to start reporting on their responsibilities from the next meeting. For this meeting only the topics that have been brought forward are on the Agenda. The CB members are to provide the secretary general with their report in accordance with the given directions. The responsibilities to be reported here are North America/Mr. Karlsson, Asia region/Ms. Siriwat, Latin-America/Mr. Lopez, East-Europe/Middle East/Mr. Hidir, the Six Nations group/Mr. Houman and the Erasmus+ 4Floorball project/Mr. Suman.

Mr. Houman reported from the Six Nations associations steering group meeting on February the 8<sup>th</sup> with Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia. The situation with the Covid-19 pandemic has forced to postpone the tournament in 2020 with Germany as the host for the women tournament. In 2021, Slovakia will be the host for both the men and women tournament in 2021. With two WFC in 2021 for both women and men, there will be two six nations tournament. It is still to be decided if both tournaments will be played under the same roof, though Slovakia will be able to arrange both tournaments in Bratislava. The format for the tournament will be 3x15min, and all teams will play each other. This format was tested at the last tournament in Poland 2019, and with great success. The steering group will soon decide where the two tournaments will be played and will inform IFF office.

The Steering group has also sent the IFF CB members a letter of concern, related to the financial issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that there are three events in 2022, out of which two are in either USA or New Zealand. **(Appendix 16)** The concern is that as the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial situation are still unclear and there can be difficulties for the members to be able to in the end participate in all the Events. The aim with the letter was to raise the present concern of the six nations to the IFF Central Board. The Six Nations are fully

in support of the New Zealand as the host for the U19 WFC 2022 and willing to travel there, but all countries have severe financial issues due to Covid-19.

Mr. Eriksson expressed that there are a lot Asian-Oceania and American countries always travelling to Europe. It is important that the countries have raised concerns and also now expressed that the letter was in no way directed against the organisation of the U19 WFC 2022 in New Zealand. Mr. King felt that it was important that Mr. Houman clarified the thought process behind the letter.

Mr. Suman shortly reported that the basic presentations have been made as one-to-one meetings with the participating target countries, the mentor countries and the IFF (Target countries Denmark, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Spain, Mentor countries Czech Republic, Sweden and Switzerland). The initial meeting is planned for March but is still pending due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will most probably will be moved to end of April. The exceptions to the project were really high in the one-to-one meetings. The Czech Floorball will discuss with the secretary general of how to involve all CB members to the project.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## **8. International Sports**

### **International Olympic Committee/IOC**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the IFF has sent in the needed documentation to the IOC for receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Covid-19 recovery support from the IOC. The sum of 37.500 USD was paid by the end of January.

### **General Association of International Sport Associations/GAISF**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the GAISF SportAccord convention is planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of May in Ekaterinburg in Russia, where all the international organisations are meant to have their Annual General meetings during the week. It is however presently a bit unclear if the event will be able to be held in May in Russia and there has been some rumours of postponements till after the Paralympics in September. There was some news about this last weeks and there seems to be clashes with some Olympic Sports qualifications for the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games.

IFF has asked for an offer for an exhibition booth at the SportAccord exhibition, in order to support the development of Russian Floorball and giving more visibility for Floorball. There is also a plan to continue with the Sport exhibition, which would give us a possibility to again showcase the sport. There is a quite active Floorball club in Ekaterinburg. IFF has been in contact with the Russian federation concerning this.

### **Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations/ARISF**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the ARISF AGM will be held during the SportAccord and this time the elections for the President, vice-president, secretary general and three members of the council. Mr. Eriksson to propose that the IFF would nominate Mr. Liljelund, who presently is a member of the ARISF council to continue and run for vice president/secretary general/council member. The nomination must be handed in no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mr. Suman proposes that IFF should aim as high as possible with the nomination for the ARISF Council. The CB discussed the steps forward and how to act in the process.

During the SportAccord the yearly ARISF/IOC workshop will also be held where a workshop is organised concerning the Marketing case study Mr. Liljelund has worked on together with the IOC Recognised Federations manager Mr. Andrew Hoffer.

### **International World Games Association/IWGA**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the IWGA will also hold their AGM during the SportAccord, but there are no elections or major questions on the Agenda, as all the statutory and other decisions were made in the last AGM in December.

IFF has been in active contact with the TWG 2022 organiser and the IWGA sport department to make additions to the TWG International Games Management System (IGMS) concerning the new information requests. IFF has also made some additional comment to the plans of the Field of Play in the Floorball and korfbal venue. The Competition Managers meeting has been postponed to January 2022, due to the serious Covid-19 situation in Alabama.

Mr. Karlsson reported on the status of the local preparations for the TWG 2022 by the USFbA and the planned test event and seminars in Birmingham. The plan is to have the US Championships in Birmingham in August and run a youth tournament and IFF development seminar at the same time, to raise awareness in the TWG Floorball venue. There is a lot of schools and YMCA who has been able to start playing floorball in Birmingham.

Mr. Eriksson asked how the USFbA will reach out to the North American Floorball community. Mr. Karlsson answered that the USFbA will reach out to community speaking about the dress rehearsal and cooperate with the North America Floorball League.

### **University Sport/FISU**

Mr. Eriksson reported that the FISU has approved the nominations of Mr. Carlos Lopez as the FISU Technical commission chair and Ms. Meelike Terasmaa as the vice-chair for the next four-year period. (**Appendix 17ab**) IFF has extended its gratitude to Mr. Taneli Tiilikainen and Mrs. Kristina Landgren Carestam for their support in the FISU Technical committee during the previous period.

FISU has also confirmed the dates for the Liberec University Floorball Championships from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. The event in Liberec will be the first with University teams (**Appendix 18**)

### **Multi-Sport Games**

#### **Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2022, Bangkok, Thailand**

Ms. Siriwat reported concerning the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2022. Due to the current resurgence of Covid-19 in Thailand at present, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has accepted the Organising Committee's proposal for the postponement of the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. Initially the Games was scheduled from the 21<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

In conjunction with the OCA, Sports Authority of Thailand and AIMAG Organising Committee, the new proposed dates for the Games are from the 10<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2022. We will keep the

participating member countries updated with regards to any future changes. However, this remains the official dates secured for the Games which will be hosted in Bangkok and Chonburi province in 2022.

### **SEA Games 2021**

Ms. Siriwat reported on the preparations with regards to the upcoming Southeast Asian Games (SEA GAMES) which will be hosted in Vietnam in 2021, Floorball has not been selected as a competition sport in the Games. This, however, works very well in our favour as the scheduled timing of the competition will be in conjunction with the prospective dates for the World Championships in both Sweden and Finland.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and nominate Mr. Liljelund for a position in the ARISF Council.

## **9) Committees and Commissions**

### **a) Rules and Competition Committee (RACC)**

Mr. Klabere reported about the update of the Game Rules process due to the effect the Covid-19 has had on the national championships and leagues, which has resulted in a need to give more time to the National associations reported on the rules tests. The new timetable looks like this:

Collection of test experiences: 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 – to be postponed to 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

Reference Group evaluation of test/s: February 2021 - to be postponed to April 2021.

Asking for feedback from IFF RC, RACC, IFF Office and Athletes Commission on the final book: March 2021 - to be postponed to early May 2021.

Deadline for feedback: May 2021 - to be postponed to 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

This process aims towards that the IFF CB could make the final decision after proposal from the RACC for the IFF Rules of the Games 2022 in September and then it will be sent to the to all the member Associations. The Swedish association has promised to help with a new and easier layout for the new Rule book.

The RACC is also preparing for the test tournaments (WFCQ) regarding Future of Floorball (3 x 15 min and 17 players) to collect information of how the new format is working.

Mr. Klabere further proposed the composition of the IFF RACC and the Jury group:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Chair (SWE)

Mr. Jan Jirovský, Vice chair (CZE)

Mr. Marek Chomnicki, (POL)

Ms. Zane Klabere, (LAT)

Mr. Kenneth Ho, (SGP)

Ms. Meelike Terasmaa, (EST)

Mr. Teodor Turay, (SVK)

Mr. Ari Vehniäinen, (FIN)

Ms. Victoria Wickström, (SWE)

Mr. Beat Wullschleger, (SUI)

Mr. Tomas Sladky, ATC member (CZE)

Ms. (ATC member) – will be nominated by ATC later (until it is set Agatha Plechan, Poland is covering the position).

Mr. Suman felt that the size of the RACC with 12 members will work. Mr. Klabere felt that it is very important to have some new persons, representatives from another continent and the ATC representation. Some new forms for cooperation have been discussed with the IFF Office.

The IFF Competition office proposes to clarify the clause in the Friendly Internationals Regulation § 3. and in the National Teams regulation § 3. concerning the freeing of players during the International week-ends, as there this year has been some unclarity in the interpretation of the meaning of the rule. The aim of the rule has always been to free players for Friendly Internationals and/or National Team training camps during these week-ends.

#### **Competition Regulations – National Teams**

§ 3.7 For Friendly Internationals and **training camps** during IFF International weekends in February, April, September (1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of February 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend of April, 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of September) players shall be freed for participation in their respective national teams at least three days in advance of the event or at the latest, Wednesday at noon, to be present in the team concerned.

§ 3.8 For Friendly Internationals and **training camps** during IFF International weekends in October and November (3<sup>rd</sup> full weekend of October and the 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend of November), the players shall be freed on Monday at noon.

#### **Competition Regulations - Friendly International Matches**

§ 3.5 For Friendly Internationals and **training camps** during IFF International weekends in February, April, September (1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of February, 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend of April, 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of September) players shall be freed for participation in their respective national teams at least three days in advance of the event or at the latest, Wednesday at noon, to be present in the team concerned.

§ 3.6 For Friendly Internationals and **training camps** during IFF International weekends in October and November (3<sup>rd</sup> full weekend of October and the 2<sup>nd</sup> full weekend of November), the players shall be freed on Monday at noon.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports, confirm the RACC composition as proposed and change the § 3. in the Regulations for Friendly internationals and National Teams as proposed

#### **b) Referee Committee (RC)**

Mr. Lopez reported on the preparations made for the composition of the Referee Committee (RC). Mr. Lopez proposes that the following persons shall be elected in the RC:

Mr. Carlos Lopez, Chair (ESP)  
Mr. Peter Harris (AUS)  
Mr. Petr Cerný (CZE)  
Mr. Mika Saastamoinen (FIN)  
Mr. Peter Zámecnik (SVK)  
Mr. Ola Hamberg (SWE)  
Mr. Lukas Gyger (SUI)

Mr. Jean-Francois Greffe was also proposed to the IFF RC by Floorball Cote d'Ivoire and the motion is that the IFF RC will during the upcoming four-year term invite him to an IFF event and to familiarise him with the work of the Referee Committee for the future. He will not at the time be appointed as a RC member.

The RC is looking on how to work with how to increase the number of female referees and how to work with the referee observers. Mr. Halonen expressed that there are a number of female international referee observers, which could help the situation in the future.

Mr. King asked if there can be only one nomination per country, which we might need to change to get also female candidates. Mr. Halonen informed that we ask for one candidate per country. Mr. Klabere thinks that there should be a possibility to nominate persons during the period and also have two persons per country. Mr. Hidir supported the thoughts of Mr. Klabere. Mr. Liljelund expressed that we should move into a system where we also ask for one men and one women for all positions.

Mr. Eriksson underlined that there are only men in the RC, which is understandable as a result of the associations nominations. However this is not good, and the RC need to look into recruiting more female referees in general, and more female observers, and hence broaden the base from which the IFF can recruit women also formally to the RC.

Mr. Suman asked what the plans in the upcoming weeks are, as some of the members are very motivated to start the work. Mr. Lopez answered that the first meeting will be set in the next 3-4 weeks.

**CB decided:** To approve the report, elect the RC members as proposed and to move into a system where we also ask for one male and one female for all positions.

#### c) **Medical committee**

Mr. Halonen, in the absence of Ms. Bruun, reported that the IFF has sent a first list of possible Russian athletes and officials (30+7) that have the possibility to make it to the WFC 2021 to WADA and will wait for further instructions and the outcome of the WFCQ.

A RUSADA Compliance - Q&A has been published by WADA on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February:  
[https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2021-02-04\\_rusadacompliance\\_qa.pdf](https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2021-02-04_rusadacompliance_qa.pdf).

The IFF has asked the International Testing Agency, ITA Legal Department and ITA Education Department, for more information on their International Hearing Panel and Anti-Doping Education services (like costs and other information) in case the IFF would need such services in the future.

The Medical Committee chair Mr. Walter O. Frey has made the following proposal for the composition for the IFF Medical Committee. In the medical committee all members needs to be medical doctors. The proposed members are:

Dr. Walter O. Frey, Chair (SUI)  
Dr. Tiina Nylander, Vice chair (FIN)  
Dr. Lars Erik Bartels (DEN)  
Dr. Jonathan J. Koo (CAN)  
Dr. Patricia Wallace (AUS)

**CB decided:** To approve the report and elect the MC members as proposed.

#### d) **Athletes commission**

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Ms. Plechan on how the Athletes Commission elections for the Women's candidates, which were supposed to be held during the Women's WFCQ 2021 has been organised. As the WFCQ has now all been postponed or even cancelled there needed to

be a new solution for how to elect the members. The CB had in its previous meeting approved the proposal from Ms. Mitchell that we would allow for all member association to participate in the ATC elections by a digital platform. A Webropol survey link was distributed to all IFF Member Associations who were asked to forward the election information to 20 of their women's national team players. The Voting closed on 14<sup>th</sup> of February and the results are now presented to CB for confirmation of the elected representatives.

The number of total votes received surveys (402) through this system was lower than expected and stayed on the same level as it would have normally been if the election had been carried out during the WFCQ's. In the future we need to ask the countries to nominate the voting persons in advance and provide their emails. We have needed to adjust the voting result slightly, as there were more voting surveys returned from some countries exceeding the allowed number of 20 voting forms. The result is displayed in the report (**Appendix 19**) and the proposal is to directly approve the voting result, without using the CB's right to adjust one of the elected due to geographical reasons.

Therefore, the CB is to confirm the following female representatives for the IFF Athletes Commission for the period 2021-2025:

Josefina Eiremo (SWE)	123	(Re-elected)
Lara Heini (SUI)	122	
Kabaziba Daphine (UGA)	109	
Yui Takahashi (JPN)	93	(Re-elected)

**CB decided:** To approve the report and confirm the Athletes Commission voting result.

#### e) **Development Committee (DevC)**

Mr. Houman reported on the preparations for building the composition of the Development Committee which was established in the previous IFF CB meeting, the chair and the office have had talks on what areas the Development Committee could work on in order to support the IFF strategy 2021-2032 implementation. There have been discussions with the IFF Office on the tasks and structure of the Development Committee.

The initial conclusion is to work on an education staircase for the IFF education systems. This in order to assist especially Member Association, who is still new in the world of floorball. The IFF has earlier made a survey of what type of support the members needs from the IFF and this was confirmed as an important task for IFF in the survey.

The IFF Development committee will look for members in the coming months, of persons who has knowledge in the field of development and education. The plans of the Development Committee are presented in the appendix (**Appendix 20**).

Mr. Klabere feels that the plan for the Development committee seems to be very good and well prepared. Mr. King commented that there needs be a tight communication between the Strategy Implementation working group and the Development Committee as there are a number of development related tasks.

Mr. Halonen reported that the China Floorball Union ran a referee webinar on the 23rd to 24th of January 2021 in co-operation with the AOFC educators from Singapore. The role of the AOFC educators was more supervisory. Mr. Halonen brought the greetings from the IFF during the opening on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January.

**CB decided:** To approve the report and confirm the composition in the next CB meeting.

**f) Entourage Commission (ENC)**

Mr. Hidir presented the plans for the composition of the IFF Entourage Commission, starting to define what the task contains of and reaching out to a number of persons and will bring a proposal to the next CB meeting. Mr. Hidir has a good contact to the IOC Entourage chair Mr. Sergei Bubka and can in the future approach him for advice.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 10. Functions**

**a) Communication function**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Ms. Bruun that the World Freestyle Floorball Cup (WVFFC) report has been finalised (**Appendix 21**) The Event was a huge success and has received a lot of positive feedback from the Floorball community and quite some interest within the International Sporting community. As the CB discussed during the CB workshop we will need to have similar competitions also in the future together with the member associations.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**b) Marketing function**

Mr. Liljelund reported on behalf of Mr. Beer about the current sales and marketing situation (**Appendix 22**).

The cooperation with Protocol Sports remains very slow and in our correspondence, we have not received satisfactory answers. Mid-January we received a first report in six months which described the sales situation on the broadcasting side, but unfortunately without nothing very concrete. Regarding the sponsorship sales we do not have any insight about the situation even though we have requested for reports several times. Mr Beer and Mr Kalsta have discussed scenarios how to handle the situation moving forward.

Due to the poor results from the Protocol Sports situation and the difficult financial situation the IFF has been forced to look for options. Starting from February an entrepreneur (ex-Infront) will conduct sales for an IFF WFC Sponsorship product, to which the LOC organisers have given green light. The first round of contacting is expected to last 4-6 weeks with reporting in 2-week periods.

Follow up on the proposal for Craft has been done on a regular basis without any replies. Late October 2020 IFF presented a proposal to NeH, (a merchandise company from Sweden) 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). On a general level they have approved the proposal, but further negotiation is on-going as a vital element for them is selling LOC and volunteer clothing. Currently we are expecting their pricing proposal for clothing.

The market remains challenging due to the pandemic and companies, despite positive feedback in early November 2020, have put many things on hold. This has influenced the sales situation of the social responsibility program Floorball Hat Trick hence it has been put on hold by the agency i2.

The Core Country Marketing Network Group (CCMNG) which used to convene twice a year has been move to a virtual environment. The next meeting will take place as a Teams meeting 10<sup>th</sup> of March. The aim is to continue information exchange between the stakeholders and discuss the new strategy.

The sales for the new IFF Champions Cup concept have been initiated by contacting all the floorball manufacturers.

A new IFF fan survey project to investigate environmental perceptions was carried out in late January and early February 2021. The study results and report, made by the Glion Institute of Higher Education students, was submitted and are now under evaluation for action points. **(Appendix 23)**.

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 and Mr. Kalsta for the good work and the continued process seeking new sponsors.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**c) Material function**

Mr. Liljelund reported that the IFF test-institute RISE is renewing their product database system, which has caused some issues as the functionalities are not at all on the same level as before. IFF is in discussions with RISE to try to solve the end user search functions, which the referees will be using if checking if a product is approved or not.

The deadline for handing in proposals for changes for the Material Regulation 2022 is in end of February and there has been some new proposals handed in to RISE.

Mr. King asked if there an increased issue with non-organised floorball product manufacturers. Mr. Liljelund answered that there are also a few, but no major issues in this fields presently.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**d) Membership services**

Ms. Vuori shortly reported on the plans of how the function will work. The idea is to start implementing the tasks directed to the function from the CB Strategy workshop in close cooperation with the Strategy working group and the Development committee.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**e) Equality function**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Ms. Mitchell that IFF is in discussions with the IWG 2022 in Auckland, New Zealand and the Women's U19 WFC 2022 in Wellington about how Floorball can be present during the IWG Women in Sport event in Auckland simultaneously as the U19 WFC 2022.

The initial plan is having a mini-court set up at the IWG conference where people can come-and-try floorball. There would also be a video screen showing floorball promo videos as well as the livestream from the Women's U19 WFC in Wellington. There was originally an idea to play a mini World Championships between the conference attendees but that will now depend on how many people attend physically or virtually. The preparation for the submission for the IWG, will continue, which is due 6th April.

Mr. Eriksson felt that it would be beneficial if the National Associations could also sign the Birmingham declaration and asked the Equality function to look upon this question.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**f) Parafloorball function**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Ms. Bruun that an online meeting has been held between the International Powerchair Hockey (IPCH) chair Fabio Rodo and IFF representative Merita Bruun on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February. During the meeting the possibility for closer collaboration and the upcoming events were discussed.

Mrs. Birdal wanted to clarify that there is a plan to have a meeting between Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden and start discussion about a contact with the IFF in April.

Mr. Houman reported that within Special Olympics due to the Covid-19 pandemic a lot of activity is on hold, but a webinar was held with Special Olympics North America. Here floorball was introduced to the programs (50 in total, one from each state), and in total 107 attended the webinar. Presently there are only 3 programs in the USA playing Floorball. The next step is to have training sessions for the interested programs and to assist those programs who will begin introducing floorball to their athletes, when covid19 allows it.

The preparations for the Special Olympics World Games in Russia for 2022 is continuing. Mr. Lopez informed that there will be a webinar for Special Olympics Spain in the coming weeks.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**g) Sustainability function**

Mr. Halonen reported on behalf of Mr. Kalsta that the main focus for the sustainability activities in the first half of 2021 will be to set up a model how to comply with the requirements set forward by the UN Sports for Climate Action working groups. In the next 3-6 months all signatories are obliged to report their carbon footprint based on the standardised Greenhouse Gas Protocol (**Appendix 24**). To meet the requirement the IFF can rely on help and expertise of its climate partner myclimate which offer the required measurement tools.

Last year the decision was made to replace the "Say NO! To Doping" campaign and replace it with a new, broader sustainability campaign. The goal is to include as many IFF values as reasonably possible into the campaign. A concept named #FairFloorball has been prepared and already tested with the Ethics Commission. Once the new Athletes' Commission members are confirmed the concept will be tested in the ATC. The plan is to finalize the campaign (design and decided campaign elements) by the end of summer to start promoting in autumn with the full launch planned for the adult WFC's end of year. (**Appendix 27**)

All sustainability material published by the IFF have been submitted for GAISF and also published on the web-page [www.sustainability.sport](http://www.sustainability.sport).

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.

Mr. Klabere expressed that he really liked the #FairFloorball concept and how we can change the topic and the system and it is really easy to understand.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

## § 11. IFF Office

Mr. Liljelund reported that IFF has re-started the discussions with the Event Study research company Quantum, concerning the Event Studies of the WFC’s 2020-2024. The CB has earlier decided that we would contract the company, but it has been kept on-hold due to the postponement of the WFC 2020. In the new proposal the need of having measure making it possible to evaluate the development of our Events in line with the IFF Strategy 2021-2032 has been included. The proposal is that we will conduct these studies as long as the Events are organised in a way which makes it possible to conduct a full study. **(Appendix 25)**

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

## § 12. Members

### Membership questions

Mr. Karlsson reported that the USFbA has applied for an exemption for the date range of the Intercontinental Visitor Transfer period to start June 1st instead of July 1st. in order to make it possible for the North American Floorball League – NAFL to have players coming from abroad. **(Appendix 26)** The NAFL will be played with four teams during 4-5 weeks in June-July this summer. The USFbA is discussing with the NAFL organiser to secure that all IFF regulations are followed as the NAFL is an independent endeavour from the USFbA, but in cooperation with the USFbA.

### Members under suspension

Nothing to report

### New Member applications

Mr. Halonen further reported that there have been some initial contacts with the group that has formed the National Floorball Federation of Kazakhstan and the IFF and the AOFC are now co-operating to find a working solution for Kazakhstan as well, so that they can also apply for a membership within the IFF during the 2021. Mr. Houman informed that there are over 3.000 Special Olympic players in Kazakhstan. Mr. Hidir has been in contact to a group in Kazakhstan and it would be interesting.

Mr. Halonen to further report that there are at the time two organisations in Chinese Taipei that are looking for the IFF membership and the IFF has asked the China Floorball Union to co-operating with the IFF to help the two organisations to join their forces in order to be able to apply for the membership within the IFF as one organisation as stated in the IFF statutes.

Mr. Eriksson asked Mr. Halonen to explain how the process for membership applications should be handled. Mr. Halonen informed that all contacts must go through the IFF Office in all cases related to membership. Mr. Liljelund explained that there has been a number of countries which has had several floorball organisations prior to receiving the IFF membership.

**CB decided:** To approve the reports and the approve the exemption for the NAFL in the Intercontinental Visitor Transfer rule in the Transfer regulations starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021.

**§ 13. Next meeting**

Mr. Eriksson concluded that the next CB meeting (M3), which is planned to be held as a two-day meeting primarily at either of the U19 WFC, if played. If either of the events are not played, then the meeting will be hold over Teams on the 8.-9.5.2021.

**CB decided:** To approve the report

**§ 14. Closing of the meeting**

Mr. Eriksson thanked the CB members for two fruitful days and active participation of all. Mr. Eriksson closed the meeting at 17:46 CET.

**John Liljelund  
Secretary General**

**Tomas Eriksson  
President**