



# **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

## **FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL MATCHES**

### **National & Club teams**

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## § 1 GENERAL

- 1.1. Friendly International matches are either:
  - a) Internationals played between national teams of the Member Associations of IFF;
  - b) Any other match where a national team plays against a Club or regional team from another country;
  - c) Club matches played between club teams representing the highest league from at least two different nations;
  - d) National League matches played abroad
- 1.2. Friendly International matches shall be conducted in accordance with IFF Competition Regulations, IFF Juridical Regulations and the IFF Rules of the Game.
- 1.3. All IFF Member Associations shall inform the IFF when organising friendly international matches. The organiser of internationals shall use the IFF form “Information form for International Matches and Request of Referees”. The information form shall be sent to IFF no later than sixty (60) days prior to the match / start of the event. Forms received after this time will be subject to monetary sanctions.
- 1.4. The organiser may use the guidelines of the IFF Organisers Regulations, when organising Friendly International Matches.
- 1.5. In Internationals the official match record of IFF shall be used. The Match Record shall be signed by the organiser, the referees and the teams and sent, along with other match secretariat papers, to the IFF Office by the organiser no later than seven (7) days after the last match.
- 1.6. Matches between a national team and a club or regional team from a different country may be played without any official record of the match, however, the National Association of the participating national team should inform the IFF with the IFF form “Information form for International Club Tournament” at least thirty (30) days in advance.
- 1.7. Club tournaments, involving club teams from the highest division of at least two Member Associations, are International Elite Club Tournaments. These tournaments shall be informed to IFF by the organiser / Member Association of the organiser with the IFF form “Information form for International Club Tournament” at least thirty (30) days in advance.
- 1.8. For National league matches played abroad, an open application letter should be made by the participating Member Association to the IFF at least sixty (60) days in advance. Once approved, the Member Association hosting the foreign National league match/es should inform the IFF with the IFF form “Information form for International Club Tournament” at least thirty (30) days in advance.
- 1.9. All International matches (tournaments) between two national teams shall be included in the IFF list of International matches. All International Elite Club Tournaments shall be included in the IFF list of International Club Tournaments
- 1.10. Those with a possibility to influence the outcome of a match may not, themselves or via other person/s, bet on the outcome of a match. This means that i.e. players, officials, secretariat, and board members may not bet on a match where the own team participates. Further, their team delegates are responsible for any untrue action, or attitude aimed at altering documents, or the performance of the participating team members, or influencing or agreeing of the result of a match or competition, or the scoring or any other individual appearance at any point of a match to the advantage of its own team, opponent or any third party.
- 1.11. Referees may not bet on a match, or any match in a tournament, they are part of.

## § 2 PARTICIPATION

- 2.1. All IFF Member Associations or club teams which are not under suspension may play friendly internationals or send club teams to International Club tournaments.
- 2.2. Participation in an elite level International Club tournament (as mentioned in § 1.8) in another country requires the approval from the respective National Floorball Association.
- 2.3. Participation of National teams in club competitions is possible when:
  - a) the organiser mentions in the invitation the possibility of a national team/s participation in the tournament regulations;
  - b) the organiser receives official approval from the respective Association and also confirmation that the individual players participation corresponds with the national legislation
- 2.4. The National Association shall report the participation of one of their national teams in a club competition to the IFF.
- 2.5. The organiser shall ensure that a potential match between two national teams within the tournament would be refereed by international referees.
- 2.6. Participation of a national team in a match against a club or regional team from another country is possible when the organiser receives official approval from the Association in which the match shall be played
- 2.7. Further, the National Association of the national team participating in such matches shall report the participation of their team to the IFF (as mentioned in § 1.6) and provide the confirmation from the hosting association when submitting the information form

## § 3 QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 3.1. Only players with nationality of their own nation, having not participated earlier for another adult national representative team in a Championship, shall be eligible to represent the nation in the Championship.
- 3.2. A player may represent one nation in a recognised junior (U17, U19) international match and another in a recognised adult (U23, adult) international. Once a player has represented a nation in a recognised adult international match this rules out the possibility to play for another nation at any international level (junior or adult).
- 3.3. It is the responsibility of each National Association to ensure that all players and team officials registered to their own national representative teams &/or a Club team from their association meet all eligibility requirements.
- 3.4. Eligibility must be finalised prior to the submission of an official team list. No applications for Sporting Nationality will be processed after the team list submission.
- 3.5. Nationality can be confirmed as follows:
  - 3.5.1. **Permanent Nationality**. Any person holding a permanent nationality is eligible to play for the representative teams of the association of that country.

Proof of permanent nationality:

- The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a permanent international passport that explicitly, and in Latin characters, states the player's first name(s) and surname(s), as well as their day, month and year of birth
- Identity cards or other local supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification for the purpose of proving nationality

3.5.2. **Sporting Nationality.** In the case of a player who has not represented any country at international level, they can choose their sporting nationality based on fulfilling one of the following criteria:

- born on the territory of the relevant association; OR
- biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association; OR
- grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association; OR
- has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years

Proof of sporting nationality

- Birth certificate showing the player's first name (s) and surname (s), date of birth, and place of birth; OR
- Birth certificate showing biological mother/grandmother's or biological father/grandfather's first name (s) and surname (s), date of birth, and place of birth PLUS proof of relationship to the player; OR
- Proof of having lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years.

3.4. A player may, only once, request to change the association for which they are eligible play at adult level, to the association of another country of which they hold the nationality. A request to change association may be granted only in the following circumstances:

- The player wishes to represent an association that was admitted to federation membership after they were already assigned sporting nationality by way of participation in an international event;
- The player never represented their current association in any international event after the association which they wish to represent was admitted to membership;
- The player, at the time of playing their first match in an international competition (at any level) for their current association:
  - held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent; or
  - in the case of a newly recognised country, obtained the nationality of the association which they wish to represent as soon as reasonably practicable after the country was recognised by the majority of the members of the United Nations

3.5. Friendly Internationals can be played in the age categories of U17, U19, U23, and Adult. It is allowed, upon agreement, between the participating countries, that different age category teams compete against each other in the same event.

3.6. In the case of an event with different age categories playing against each other, the event will be classified according to the oldest age category.

3.7. A team shall be classified according to the age of the oldest player in the team.

3.8. All players must be aged as follows to be eligible to participate in each age category:

- U17:** players shall be aged at least 14 years old at the start of the event and turn 17 years no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the same year as the event
- U19:** players shall be aged at least 15 years old at the start of the event and turn 19 years no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the same year as the event (see 3.9 for exceptions)

- c) **U23:** players shall be aged at least 15 years old at the start of the event and turn 23 no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the same year as the event
  - d) **Adults:** players shall be aged at least 15 years old at the start of the event (see 3.9 for exceptions)
- 3.9. For events involving teams that are preparing for an upcoming WFC or U19 WFC, the ages of the players in the respective adult or U19 team can be the same as the official age eligibility for the final round event. This only applies for Friendly International matches held after the WFC or U19 WFC qualifications and before the WFC or U19 WFC final rounds.
- 3.10. All team officials must be at least 18 years old before the start of the event in which they will participate
- 3.11. Only players being licensed for a club taking part in an international club match or tournament shall be eligible to play for the club concerned. A Club may grant their players, who are under contractual basis, an exemption (Temporary Play) from this regulation for participation with another Club in a specified friendly international tournament. The tournament shall be played between the first of May and the last of August and the tournament shall allow such participation. The player shall not be under suspension and shall not have participated in the EFCh.
- 3.12. Such an exemption shall be informed to the National Association of the Club giving the exemption and to the organiser of the tournaments 21 days in advance of the tournament by filling in the Temporary Play form. All Temporary Plays shall be published on the IFF web pages. A maximum of two Temporary Plays per player and year is allowed.
- 3.13. At least 10 days prior to the start of the match / tournament a list of the team delegation, completed on the official IFF form and signed by the National Association concerned, shall be sent to IFF. This list may consist of up to 30 players and 10 officials.
- 3.14. Every player and team official included on the team list shall also be included on the published team list visible in the IFF Media Platform and online statistics.
- 3.15. After submission of the team list to the IFF, no changes, except to shirt numbers, may be made to the team list.
- 3.16. A maximum of 20 players and 5 officials are allowed to participate in a match. These players and officials may only be selected from the official team list of 30 players and 10 officials that has been submitted to the IFF.
- 3.17. A list of players and officials who are taking part in a match shall be handed in to the match secretariat no later than 30 minutes before the start of the match. No other than those on the list are allowed to be in the substitution zone.

## § 4 RELEASE OF PLAYERS

- 4.1. 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.

- 4.2. 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, to be present in the team concerned.

## **§ 5 PLAYING SYSTEM FOR FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS**

- 5.1. Friendly International Matches shall be organised in accordance with the guidelines of the IFF Organisers Regulations. Exceptions may only be made by a mutual agreement between the participants concerned.
- 5.2. For National League matches played abroad and for matches played between a national team and a club or regional team from another country, the respective rules of the National Association should be followed.

## **§ 6 PLAYER'S OUTFITS**

- 6.1. The player's outfit shall be according to the IFF Rules of the Game.
- 6.2. IFF may decide about further regulations for friendly international matches regarding numbering, colours and advertisements on the player's outfit and equipment, and the team official's outfit and equipment.

## **§ 7 VENUE**

- 7.1. For Friendly International Matches the venue shall be chosen in accordance with the requirements of the IFF Organisers Regulations. Exceptions may only be made by a mutual agreement between the participants concerned.

## **§ 8 ADVERTISEMENTS**

- 8.1. A team is entitled to have advertisements on the player's outfit.
- 8.2. IFF shall have the possibility to ask for advertisements on the player's outfit, based on an agreement with the National Associations.

## **§ 9 ANTI-DOPING**

- 9.1. For all Friendly International Matches the valid IFF regulations and the WADA Anti-Doping Regulations are applicable.
- 9.2. All players using medication that is on the Prohibited List should have a valid Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) when participating in a Friendly International Match. A valid TUE issued by either the IFF or a NADO is allowed.
- 9.3. For player's participating in Friendly International Matches, all TUE applications must be made with the player's own National Anti-Doping Organisation.

- 9.4. All players registered for participation in Friendly International Matches agree to undergo doping control testing. Refusal of a player to submit to a doping test shall be considered as equivalent to a positive result.
- 9.5. In case of a positive doping test the player concerned shall be suspended during investigation. Any decision about punishment shall be taken after the investigation is over, according to the applicable Anti-Doping regulations.

## **§ 10 BETTING**

- 10.1. It is prohibited for any athletes, and their entourage, from participating in all forms of, or support for, betting or gambling related to their own Floorball matches and Floorball competitions
- 10.2. It is prohibited to use any Inside Information for betting purposes, including disclosing Inside Information to any person (with or without reward) where the athlete might reasonably be expected to know that its disclosure could be used in relation to betting
- 10.3. The use of electronic equipment in relation to one's own match/es is limited according to the information in Section 11 of this document
- 10.4. Matches may be excluded from the betting offer of organisations under investigation or subject to sanctions for manipulations.
- 10.5. It is prohibited to bet on matches for minors (under 18 years old).
- 10.6. Sponsorship by betting operators of sports teams composed of minors (athletes under 18 years old) shall be prohibited.
- 10.7. Unauthorised betting types and formulas, following annual identification by a technical group of sport and betting experts will be determined by the IFF or Association. Betting operators will be requested not to offer these bets to punters.
- 10.8. To ensure an economic fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organisers of events, but also for the development of Floorball recognition of a "betting right" of an IFF event shall be agreed upon between the betting companies and the IFF, and for a national event between the betting companies and the National Association.
- 10.9. Sanctions for breaches of the betting regulations are according to the IFF Juridical Regulations Article 8 and 9.

## **§ 11 USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

- 11.1. Participants' laptops, computers and similar devices and telecommunication tools including mobile phones and internet in the pre-defined restricted areas (including locker rooms) shall be turned off during the participants own matches.
- 11.2. For the purpose of statistics and player analysis only, tablets and other electronic devices may be used on team benches
- 11.3. Headsets may be used for communication between team staff within the competition venue. No communication connections with sources outside the competition venue are allowed during the time related to your match.

## § 12 REFEREES

- 12.1. All matters concerning referees in IFF Friendly International Matches shall be dealt with by the IFF Referee Committee according to valid regulations and decisions.
- 12.2. All International matches between two national teams (Adults, U23, U19) shall be refereed by an international referee pair who shall be appointed by the IFF Referee Committee. The organiser may propose preferred referee pairs, but the final decision is at the discretion of the IFF Referee Committee
- 12.3. The Referees appointed shall be included on the IFF list of International Referees. In some events, the IFF Referee Committee may appoint referees from the IFF Referee Development Group
- 12.4. The organiser of the Friendly International Matches is responsible for all costs related to the appointment of international referees, including travel, accommodation, daily allowance and insurance
- 12.5. The costs of the appointment of referees for an international club match, a national league match abroad or any other match where a national team plays versus a club or regional team from another country, shall be agreed upon by the participating teams.
- 12.6. Any breaches or infringements that occur in Friendly International Matches shall be sanctioned according to the IFF Regulations.
- 12.7. The organiser of an international club match, a national league match abroad or any other match where a national team plays versus a club or regional team from another country shall follow the respective rules of their National Association when appointing referees for these matches.
- 12.8. The hosting National Association of an international club match, a national league match abroad or any other match where a national team plays versus a club or regional team from another country, reserves the right to directly appoint referees to the matches
- 12.9. Matches involving two U17 teams do not require the appointment of international referees. The hosting National Association reserves the right to appoint referees for these matches.
- 12.10. Appointments of referees in IFF events shall in principle be made at the earliest the day before a match.
- 12.11. Random financial audits for referees may be carried out as well as regular scrutiny of their on-court decisions.

## § 13 INTEGRITY

- 13.1. The National Associations shall have regulations ensuring that they, and their clubs, fulfil their financial obligations towards their athletes and sports officials i.e. regular pay and good conditions for their professional athletes and sports officials (including referees).
- 13.2. Any person who is under prosecution for action including forgery, corruption, etc. or who has been convicted of a criminal offence within the last two years shall, to avoid conflicts of interest, not be allowed to be involved in the management of federations, clubs, associations, teams etc.

13.3. Random financial audits for National Associations as well as their Clubs may be carried out at any time to ensure transparency in their financial dealings.

## **§ 14 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

14.1. The organiser of the Friendly International Match may appoint a jury to act as disciplinary function for the event

14.2. All sanctions imposed by referees and/or the jury shall be informed to the National Associations of the player or of the official, and to the IFF.

14.3. A disciplinary matter reported of any of the playing teams in a Friendly International Match shall be decided by the disciplinary function of the event.

14.4. A suspension decided by the event disciplinary function may not exceed 3 matches.

14.5. Sanctions imposed by the Jury are final as far as the duration of the competition to which they apply is concerned.

## **§ 15 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

15.1. In case of any unforeseen circumstance, the organiser can contact the IFF Office for assistance to solve the issue.