



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The two-year period has been dominated foremost by one major topic: the management of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the recovery from it. In 2021 the IFF had to postpone and cancel a number of events and at the same time create procedures to keep up with Covid and travel restrictions, which required an enormous amount of work. It can be seen as a major achievement that the IFF has been able, together with the organisers, to hold both the U19 WFC and the adult WFC's for 2020 and 2021, as one of the few international federations to be able to hold their major events. At the same time we have not been able to host the WFC 2021 qualifications due to the pandemic, which has affected the lower ranked teams, as they have not had a possibility to play the qualifications, as teams were qualified for the WFC based on ranking.

The major events were executed in a good manner, but took quite a lot of extra additional energy and time from the administration to manage all the needed protocols related to the pandemic. Overall it can be concluded that the IFF has managed the financial effects of the pandemic quite well and have through the organisation of the WFC's recovered well from the pandemic, even if there is still some work to be done. It is without doubt that the firm actions taken during the pandemic and the effective decision process introduced when Covid started was the right solution.

The pandemic has slowed down a number of activities, due to the restrictions and the fact that in many countries it has not been possible to even play Floorball at all. In 2022 recovery from this has started, but the development of the member services has not been able to start, as a lot of energy has still been to try to find solutions to find ways of how to play the events, mainly the qualifications, as they have been very difficult to find organisers for them. The IFF Central Board has decided to look over the system and requirements for the organisers, to try to make the organisation easier for the member federations.

The testing of the Future of Floorball new playing format with fewer players and a shorter playing time for the major events has due to the pandemic not been executed in the scale that was originally expected, this has lead to the fact that there are far less experiences of the effect of the proposal than what would have been needed. It has become evident that the expectations of the proposal have very different effects in the different countries, based on the level of the maturity of the competition system in these countries. The pandemic has also shown that maybe the proposal may not be the only solution for all the problems we have with the product of Floorball in the international events. It is clear that the process with looking over the development of our sport has to continue and include all the member federations in the coming years. As decided in the IFF General Assembly 2018 (GA) , the IFF Central Board will bring a proposal for the IFF GA 2022 in Zurich on the continued process.

There has been made a total of Future of Floorball tests in approximately 100 international games with both juniors and adults in friendly international and Women's U19 championships and in the Men's WFCQ 2022. The evaluation of the tests has not been carried out to the needed extent to give us a clear understanding of the effect of the proposed changes. During the discussions with stakeholders it has become evident that the whole Floorball community needs to be part of the process to evaluate what changes are needed in order to develop our product. Therefore the step forward must be to include all member associations in looking at what changes we need to enhance our product. IFF is planning to start a series of workshops to find common understanding of what changes need to be taken. The proposed Future of Floorball changes can be a part of the changes that we are looking for.

The IFF GA 2020 approved the IFF Strategy - Strengthening the Foundations for the period 2021-2032 and the work with the implementation of the Strategy has been done during this period. IFF invited the member federations and individuals to participate in the Strategy Implementation work through the four Strategy subgroups which together with the Strategy Working Group (SWG) evaluated the suggested action and divided them into three periods when they shall be solved. For the period 2021-2024 responsibility of the suggested actions have each been given to a person within the IFF organisation

and a deadline for this execution has been set. The process for the implementation of the Strategy is well on track and the concrete work with the suggested actions has started in the later part of 2022.

It is still too early to say what the overall effect of the Covid-19 pandemic will be, it is clear that Floorball has lost a number of players over the globe, but it seems that the recovery process has started. IFF has started to look over the way we could organise all of the IFF Events in the future to ensure that all member federations will have the possibility to participate in the events like U19 and Adult WFC qualification, the EuroFloorball Cup and EuroFloorball Challenge.

The financial position of the IFF has slowly been strengthened after the WFC's were played in the later part of 2021. IFF is still dealing with the negative impact of the IFF's bail-out of the U19 WFC 2019 organiser (Canada) only a week prior to the tournament, which was a necessary measure to secure the event going ahead. The Canadian federation is following the payment plan made, but the company that actually organised the event has not due to the pandemic been able to start said payments to the IFF.

The pandemic and the effect it has had on the IFF has clearly shown that the IFF needs to be much more active in the communication and interaction with the national associations. The IFF has started to plan again to hold meetings with the member federations in the Core Country group and separate meetings with the AOFC countries.

The IFF successfully executed the World Games in Birmingham, USA in July 2022, as the tournament was played with eight male teams, but due to some issues with the Birmingham Organising Committee, it required far more effort from the IFF to make the event happen than compared with the World Games in Wroclaw, Poland in 2017. The Event was postponed from 2021 to 2022.

The fact that the Men's World Floorball Championships will be played in November, due to the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in December 2022, has caused a major time issue, as it is played a month earlier than normal, especially as the U19 WFC 2022 was only played in the beginning of September.

## **2. COVID-19**

At the end of 2020 we started to believe that Covid-19 was on the way out and that we would be able to return to a normal competition schedule in 2021. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The year began with the cancellation of the Champions Cup in January and it continued from there. Cancelled events included the Men's U19 WFC 2021 qualifications (which had already been postponed from 2020) and the Women's WFC 2021 qualifications which were originally postponed from February to May, but in the end were still unable to be played. Just two international events, one in May and one in June, were played in 'bubble' environments with just two teams competing in each event.

Only from July onwards did events start to slowly return'. An IFF World Championship was finally played in August in Czech Republic with the U19 Men's event. Under strict covid regulations we managed to play a full WFC with 15 teams. Of the original 16 qualified teams, all those from outside of Europe were not able to participate due to continued travel restrictions and 5 teams were entered as replacements, giving a full European participation list. For most, this was the first experience of a large-scale event under covid conditions and, although it was not without its challenges, with the great work of the Czech Floorball organisers we were able to finally stage a major event - our first in 20 months.

Within the space of 3 months the IFF then successfully staged three more World Championships - the Women's U19 WFC in Sweden (postponed from May 2020), the Women's WFC 2021 also in Sweden, and the Men's WFC 2020 in Helsinki (postponed from 2020). This was an incredible feat.

All three events were held with strict Covid regulations including the requirement of Covid passports,

regular testing and strict isolation conditions. These regulations affected not only all the event participants, but in many cases also the event spectators, with limited spectator numbers allowed or access only for those with vaccination certificates. With the added stress and work involved with holding an event during the Covid pandemic, the combined efforts of the Swedish and Finnish organisers ensured that all three events were even more successful than we could have imagined at the start of the year.



2022 has been a better year, but still began with another cancelled Champions Cup, after the arrival of the Omicron covid variant in late 2021. Many events, originally scheduled for early in the year, like the Men's WFC Qualifications, were postponed until May which, with the lessening of the Covid-19 threat, allowed all events to be played.

Since April 2022, nearly all planned international events have been played with varying degrees of Covid-19 regulations, including the postponed The World Games in Birmingham, USA. With the close of 2022 drawing near, we are now without nearly any restrictions and all special Covid-19

competition specific regulations have been removed by the IFF, including the return to the normal practice of teams changing benches at each period. The effects of Covid are sure to still be felt in the Floorball world. Many associations have reduced participation levels and the financial impact of Covid is still being recovered from, however, it really does seem that we are now on track to return to our full regular competition schedule in 2023.

Despite the Covid the IFF was able to react to the changes and demands of the Covid-19 and we were able to run many events during those demanding times and also able to increase the number of members. There were only few tournaments the IFF was not able to run, mainly club tournaments, such as EFChallenge. The IFF also managed the debt situation well despite the Covid-19.

### **3. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

The IFF today consists of 77 Member Associations of which 45 are ordinary members and 32 provisional members. During the previous period, the number of Member Associations has continued to grow with three new members from 74 to 77 despite the Covid-19. Two of the members are at the present time suspended based on the decision of the IFF CB due to the war in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. There are still many countries in the process to apply for membership within the IFF.

The ordinary Members Associations are: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and USA. The number of ordinary members has increased from 44 to 45. The provisional Member Associations are: Argentina, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chinese Macau, Colombia, Croatia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kenya, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia,

Mozambique, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela. According to the Statutes of IFF, for provisional members, membership shall only initially be granted for a period of four years, after which the membership status of the country in question shall be subject for revision by the IFF CB, based on the activity of the member Association.

The IFF has continued the work to spread the sport of Floorball, but a lot of focus has been given also to the service of the members. There has been a growth in regional cooperation, in Asia within the AOFC and in Europe with the group called Six Nations (Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia), which are now co-operating in a number of fields like education and event organisation. Rather than aiming to just increase the number of member countries, there has been significant work of 'closing the gap' between the current Member Associations to bring the countries closer together, not just on field of play but also in organisation. The past two years have however been challenging because only from spring 2022 the member associations have been able to organise more live events and co-operation meetings.

Helping the Member Associations to develop their own operations, while at the same time needing to develop the universality of the sport, especially outside Europe, is a challenge. The IFF has worked on this issue and has maintained contact with around 10-15 countries in Africa, the Americas, and Asia and Oceania.

### **3.1. Asia and Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC)**

The Asia and Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC) was founded by the Asia and Oceania Member Associations of the IFF in 2005. It currently has its regional headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand and has its own website: <https://www.asiaoceaniafloorballconfederation.org/>. The AOFC consists today of 17 IFF members: Australia, China, Chinese Macau, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Due to Covid-19 the AOFC General Assembly, which was to be held in July 2020 was postponed until 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. The meeting was held online and elections were also held. The AOFC General Assembly elected the following administration.

#### **Executive Committee:**

President	Dato Seri Khun Chaiyapak Siriwat, Thailand
Senior Vice President	Mr. Stephen King, Australia
Vice President	Mr. Atul Gupta, India
Vice President	Adm. Graivut Vattanatham, Thailand
Vice President	Mr. Ching Sy Jeng, Singapore
Secretary General	Mr. Kenneth Ho, Singapore
Dep. Secretary General	Ms. Penthai Siriwat, Thailand
West Asia Envoy	Mr. Ramezanali Davalo, Iran
Treasurer	Mr. Kim Se Woong, Korea

#### **Central Board Members:**

Member	Mr. Kyle Lister, Australia
Member	Mr. Harinder Kumar, India



Member	Mr. Muchlas Susendo, M.Pd Indonesia
Member	Mr. Soichi Kato, Japan
Member	Mr. Hwang Joo Kim, Korea
Member	Mr. Risal Rahman, Malaysia
Member	Mr. Christian Bertschinger, New Zealand
Member	Mr. Asim Kiyani, Pakistan
Member	Mr. Ralph Ramos, Philippines
Member	Ms. Binbin Lin, Singapore
Member	Mr. Liu Dong Wei, China
Member	Ms. Pakkamol Siriwat, Thailand
Member	Mr. Ivan Chan, Hong Kong

Due to Covid-19 most of the planned events were cancelled in 2021 and some AOFC nations were not able to participate to IFF events in the end of 2021.

The Men's WFC AOFC Qualifications were played from the 31<sup>st</sup> of May to 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 in Singapore with eight teams participating in the event. The men's U19 WFC qualifications in AOFC were played from the 29<sup>th</sup> of September to 1<sup>st</sup> of October in Wellington New Zealand with three teams.

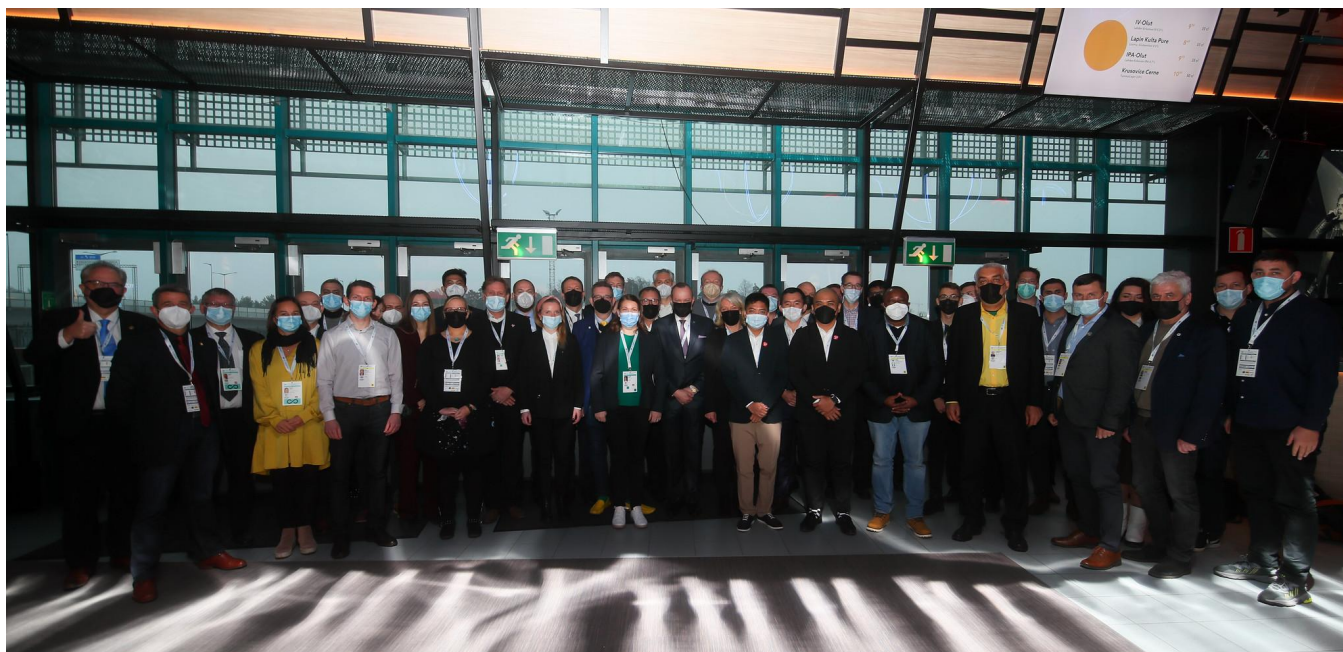
### **3.2. General Assembly 2020**

The 16th IFF General Assembly (GA) was held as a virtual meeting in Zoom on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, with a total of 51 Member Associations registered. 39 of the 44 ordinary members were registered to the meeting and 12 provisional members. Statutory topics related to the approval of the IFF Annual Report 2019-2020, IFF Financial reports and Auditors reports for 2019 – 2020, Plan of Action 2021-22, and Budget for 2021-2022 were all handled.

The General Assembly elected a new Central Board for the IFF as well as the Appeal Committee, Disciplinary Committee, and the Ethics Commission. The persons elected will be presented in their own sections of the Central Board and the committees.

### **3.3. Extraordinary General Assembly 2021**

The IFF Extraordinary General Assembly was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 in conjunction with the Men's WFC 2020 in Helsinki Finland as a hybrid meeting. The GA decided to continue with the Future of Floorball format testing in the IFF events in 2022. The GA also decided to take the decision for the proposed European Championships in the 2022 GA. The GA also voted for qualification to TWG 2022, and the decision was that the best AOFC team from the WFC 2020 would qualify to TWG 2022.



### 3.4. Associations' Meeting 2021

The IFF Associations' Meeting (AM) took place during the Men's WFC 2020 in Helsinki, Finland on 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021, with representatives from 22 IFF Member Associations present. The global Covid restrictions caused a lot of cancellations and therefore the IFF CB decided to run the Associations Meeting as a hybrid meeting. The first AM took place in St. Gallen, Switzerland during the women's WFC 2011, replacing the IFF President's and Secretary General's meeting. It is a two-day planning and development meeting, where the IFF Member Associations can discuss topics with each other, the IFF CB members, and IFF Administration representatives. In 2021, the meeting concentrated on the IFF Strategy for 2021-2032 and the participants were evaluating the outcome of the Strategy Task Force, which eventually brought more information for the STF to continue the work, which the working groups had already started.

One important topic was the influence of Covid and how to continue after the pandemic. The outcome was that there will definitely be challenges in all IFF member associations, but still the time after pandemic was considered to be positive and the IFF member associations were in the opinion that things will start to move back to new normal.

### 3.5. License System for Member Associations

The License system was created to help guide the Member Associations in the development of their own organisations, rather than only focusing on participation in international events. The most important reason was that IFF's responsibility is to secure the level and the quality of the sport and to treat all members equally. The approved License System 2.0 will take full effect in 2023 regarding the financial parts

The Associations Meeting in 2019 found this to be a good building block for the future, but due to the Covid it was challenging to concentrate on this topic since most of the IFF member associations needed to concentrate on how to survive through the pandemic. The development of the License System is ongoing.

#### 4. CENTRAL BOARD

The IFF Central Board (CB) was elected for four years, in accordance with the new IFF Statutes, by the IFF virtual General Assembly held in Zoom, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. The number in brackets is the number of CB meetings the member has participated in.

Mr. Tomas Eriksson, Sweden, President(16)  
Mr. Filip Suman, Czech Republic, Vice President,(16)  
Ms. Monica Birdal , Norway, Treasurer(15)  
Mr. Jörg Beer, Switzerland, Member(15)  
Mr. Tamuz Hidir, Ukraine, Member(16)  
Mr. Steen Houman, Denmark, Member(15)  
Mr. Calle Karlsson, USA, Member(11)  
Mr. Stephen King, Australia, Member (AOFC Senior Vice President)(14)  
Mr. Martin Klabere , Sweden, Member(16)  
Mr. Carlos Lopez, Spain, Member(16)  
Ms. Agata Plechan(Athlete's Commission chair, ex officio)(13)  
Ms. Pakkamol Siriwat, Thailand, Member(14)  
Ms. Kaarina Vuori, Finland, Member(16)

Between the General Assemblies there have been 16 IFF CB meetings, held as follows:

Virtual	12.12.2020
Virtual	20.02.2021
Virtual	14.04.2021
Virtual	07.05.2021
Virtual	09.06.2021
Virtual	05.09.2021
Per Capsulam	26.09.2021
Helsinki/Hybrid	14.11.2021
Helsinki/Hybrid	09.12.2021
Per Capsulam	16.01.2022
Per Capsulam	28.02.2022
Zurich	27.03.2022
Madrid	05.06.2022
Krakow	04.09.2022
Copenhagen	09.10.2022
Zurich	11.12.2022(scheduled)

The IFF CB has continued with the system to divide its work by running specific workshop sessions during the first day of the two-day meetings to discuss, analyse and prepare more strategic questions, before the actual meeting itself on the second day. This has proven to be very efficient and has developed the work of the board and been efficient in getting a broader picture of the relevant situation. Further it has given the board members the possibility to dig deeper into a number of topics. Due to Covid-19 the board was forced to change some of the meetings in 2021 to virtual meetings, conducted via Teams. In 2022 the meetings have been held as face-to-face meetings, with some members participating over teams.

The most important decisions from the IFF CB meetings are published directly after the meetings are held via the IFF Newsletter. The minutes from the meetings along with the associated documents are also published on the IFF website after acceptance by the IFF CB.

#### **4.1. Main Fields of focus**

The IFF CB has, in accordance with the Plan of Action 2021-2022 that was approved in the General Assembly 2020, worked with the implementation of the IFF Licence System 2.0 and to support the Member Association to develop their operations. The process has not worked as smoothly as expected and the preliminary results of the Erasmus project Fit4Future run by the Czech Floorball clearly shows that there is a need to look over the tier system. The IFF Licence System will be fully in force for the invitations for the coming IFF Events, where countries with debts to the IFF are not allowed to register for the IFF Events, if there is not a payment plan in place that is being followed. The pandemic has partly prolonged the process to put this in place.

The work with the streamlining of the IFF regulations and guidelines has continued and the learnings from the different events have been included into the regulations. IFF has introduced the rule of a Sporting nationally in the Competition regulations, in order to secure the possibility to represent a national team. The system was adopted from other sports.

#### **4.2. Appointments**

The following persons have been appointed by the IFF CB:

Mr. Jürg Kihm, Communications Manager, June 2021 (new employment appointment as replacement for Ms. Bruun.)

Mr. James Varecka, Operations Coordinator, September 2022 (new employee appointment)

#### **4.3. New Committees**

The Development Committee is starting its work in the beginning of 2023. The preparations and the selection of the members is still ongoing. The IFF CB appointed the CB Member Mr. Steen Houman as the chair of the committee. The Development Committee members are:

- Mr. Steen Houman, chair (DEN)
- Ms. Zuzana Svoboda, (CZE)
- Ms. Mervi Kilpikoski (FIN)
- Mr. Jarno Ihme, ATC member (FIN)
- Mr. Ching Sy Jeng, AOFC representative (CHN)
- Mr. Ralph Ramos, AOFC representative (PHI)



- Mr. Anders Buvarp (USA) (until September 2022)  
Mr. Daniel Williamsson (USA), (from October 2022)
- Ms. Linda Lice (LAT)

#### **4.4. IOC Road Map**

The process and the system for inclusion of Additional Events for the Olympic Games in Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 has been changed from the system for Tokyo 2020, where all IOC Recognised IF's were able to apply for inclusion. Now the IOC is steering the process, so that the Olympic Games Organising Committees (OGOC) are making a proposal of what seems to be 2-4 Additional Events. This severely diminishes the possibilities for Floorball to participate in the Olympic Games in the future and changes the direction of our activities to focus more on building our sport presentation and the operations.

IFF has continued to work for the inclusion in the Sport Initiation Program/SportLabs at the Youth Olympic Games or the GAISF Urban Games with the Urban/Street Floorball versions. As part of this IFF has continued the process to update our operations and policies to fulfil the IOC requirements.

The IFF has been in close contact with the IOC Sports Department, following-up on the development work already done in relation to the requirements set for International Federations to seek participation in the Olympic Games and International and Regional Multi-Sport Games. The growth of the sport in Asia has resulted in the inclusion of Floorball in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in 2023 in Thailand, this is due to the excellent performance of the Asian federations.

#### **4.5. Lobby work**

The IFF CB has stressed the need to raise the awareness of the importance of lobbying the decision makers of the NOC and the International Sport Federations on a national and international level within the Floorball community. IFF representatives have been welcomed by many organisations, and meetings have been held with the most senior sports hierarchy and organisations during the period, show that we have reached a higher stage of acceptance in the international sports family.

Through the IFF and Member Association representatives a lot of lobby work has seen good results in the form of inclusion in International Multi-Sport Events and positions in the sport organisations. The IFF representatives are invited to cooperate within the international sport community and are involved in discussions with the International Sport Federations, SportAccord, IOC, IWGA and WADA.

The IFF Secretary General, Mr John Liljelund, has been re-elected as a member of the council for the Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations (ARISF) for the period 2021-2024.

#### **4.6. IFF Executive Committee (ExCo)**

The composition of the ExCo has been:

Mr. Tomas Eriksson, President & Chair  
Mr. Filip Suman, Vice President  
Mr. Stephen King, AOFC Senior Vice President  
Ms. Monica Birdal, Treasurer  
Mr. John Liljelund, Secretary General

The ExCo has worked mostly with international affairs and the cooperation with other sports authorities, also handling urgent daily business, especially related to the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on the IFF Administration and the IFF Events. The work of the ExCo has mainly been handled by the

President and the Secretary General in 2021. 2022 and email discussions within the ExCo.

## **5. CONTACTS TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS**

### **5.1. International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

The IFF has held several meetings with the IOC Sports Department discussing the development of the sport and the way for IFF to move forward. The level of the cooperation has moved far more towards an operational level on how to develop the sport.

IFF applied for, and was granted, the revised IOC support for development projects and anti-doping education on a yearly basis as an ARISF member. IFF has provided all needed information to the IOC in several questionnaires regarding Women and Sport, Sport for All, and matters related to Integrity in Sport and Sustainability. For the year 2021 the IOC has made it possible for the IF's to use the development support also for the running of the daily operations.

### **5.2. Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) / SportAccord**

The Summer and Winter Olympic sports have started a process to dissolve GAISF, as they feel that the activities of GAISF are a duplication to the activities of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and the Association of the Winter International Olympic Federations (AWIOF). The process for the dissolution is ongoing but has been delayed quite a lot, as the workshops for the GAISF members which were supposed to be held in May have still not been held and the Extraordinary GAISF General Assembly is to be held at the end of November. IFF has within ARISF participated in the discussion to secure the interests of the IOC recognised federations.

There has not been any SportAccord organised in either 2021 and 2022 due to the pandemic and the travel restrictions and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as the SportAccord was supposed to be held in Yekaterinburg in Russia. IFF has participated in the virtual IF Forum in 2021. The plan is that the GAISF International Federation Forum is to be held in Lausanne at the end of November.

IFF has actively used the services of SportAccord provided to its members and, with their assistance has continued to work with two IFF YouTube channels via SportsHub, which is a web portal for live images of a number of sports. The channels are used for live streaming IFF Events as well as building a library of floorball videos accessible by all. IFF has continued the monetisation of the YouTube channels, however, the revenue from this is minimal.

Due to the pandemic the GAISF multi-sport events have not been organised since 2019, when the first Urban Games were held in Budapest, Hungary in 2019. Floorball was not included on the program, but discussions are ongoing in regards to possible participation in the coming events.

Additionally, IFF has participated in the Policy Advisory Board for the .sport domain, which GAISF is seeking on behalf of the international sports community.

### **5.3. Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations (ARISF)**

IFF has taken part in the activities of the ARISF and participated in the ARISF General Assembly, held virtually in 2021. The ARISF AGM 2022 has not yet been held due to the unclarity of the future of GAISF and is planned to be held in connection to the Extraordinary AGM of GAISF in November. The ARISF Development support has, since 2018, been included in the IOC development support.

In his position on the ARISF Council, the IFF Secretary General has been given the task of finding ways of how ARISF could better serve the interests of its members in the future. One of these projects is the cooperation with the IOC Sports Department, running the Case Study on Marketing which was never held due to the cancellation of the Sport CONventions 2021 and 2022. IFF has been active in promoting the representation of ARISF within for example WADA.

#### **5.4. International University Sports Federation (FISU)**

FISU changed the format of its events for floorball from a national team to a tournament for university teams in their new University World Games (UWG). In 2022 the UWG Floorball was planned to be held in Liberec, Czech Republic, but due to lack of interest to participate the event was cancelled. IFF did a lot of promotion for the event, but the new system has not yet been broadly acknowledged in the universities. As a result of this IFF and FISU started discussing a change of format where the event would be played with 3vs3 with goalkeepers from 2024 forward. IFF is to present a format to FISU still during 2022.

Mr. Carlos Lopez has been elected as the Floorball FISU Technical Delegate after that Mr. Taneli Tiilikainen informed FISU in 2020 that he is not continuing.

#### **5.5. International Masters Games Association (IMGA)**

Finland was awarded the 2023 European Masters Games (EMG) to be held in Tampere from 26<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July, with Floorball on the program. The Floorball tournament will be organised by the Tampere Floorball clubs Classic and KooVee, in cooperation with the EMG and the IFF. This event is open to athletes from all around the world, not just Europe, and the event aims to promote physical activity and diverse initiatives that enhance the values of sport. The focus was to socialise athletes through sport competitions, cultural activities and entertainment.

#### **5.6. International World Games Association (IWGA)**

IFF has taken part in the activities of the IWGA and was involved in the IWGA Strategy and Statutes change process in advance of the IWGA AGM 2021. Further, IFF has participated in the IWGA General Assemblies in 2021 and 2022.

The IFF Secretary General is a member of the IWGA Marketing Committee which has been working on the renewal of the IWGA marketing product offering and sponsorship strategy. In addition, IFF has participated in the IWGA Media Workshop organised in cooperation with the Olympic Channel as a virtual event in 2021. In Madrid 2019, discussions were on the use of social media and the media rules for The World Games 2022 in Birmingham, USA.

#### **5.7. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**

The IFF has, during the period, prepared for the implementation of the new World Anti-Doping Code that came into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

IFF has actively taken part in the WADA's Anti-Doping work and commented upon the proposals for the new WADA Code and International Standards. The IFF has also participated in the IF's WADA symposium organised in Lausanne 2021.

IFF nominated Ms. Agata Plechan, the IFF Athlete Commission chair as a candidate for the new WADA Athlete Council Elections in 2022. IFF activated the ARISF federation in the election process, which

was conducted by the WADA acknowledged IF Athlete commissions. There were a total of 34 candidates and in Group 2 there were eight candidates elected. Ms. Plechan received 3,9 percent of the total votes, but was unfortunately not elected, but became 11th out of 34 candidates. IFF continued to propose Ms. Plechan for the Group 3 elections of the WADA Athlete Council.

## **5.8. International School Sports Federation (ISF)**

There have been no ISF Floorball Championships played during the period and no contact with the IFF.

## **6. COMMITTEES**

### **6.1. Rules & Competition Committee (RACC)**

The composition of the Rules & Competition Committee (RACC) has been:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Sweden, Chair  
Mr. Jan Jirovsky, Czech Republic, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Teo Turay, Slovakia, Member  
Ms. Meelike Terasmaa, Estonia, Member  
Mr. Kenneth Ho, Singapore, Member  
Mr. Ari Vehniäinen, Finland, Member  
Mr. Beat Wullschleger, Switzerland, Member  
Mr. Marek Chomnicki, Poland, Member  
Ms. Zane Klabere, Latvia, Member  
Ms. Victoria Wikström, Sweden, Member  
Mr. Tomas Sladky, Czech Republic, Athletes' Commission Representative  
Ms. Lara Heini, Switzerland, Athletes' Commission Representative (from June 2021)  
Ms. Agata Plechan, Poland, Athletes' Commission Representative (until June 2021)

RACC Jury persons: Mr. Andris Dzenis (Latvia), Mr. Ramezanali Davalo (Iran), Mr. Louis Nonguierma (Burkina Faso), Mr. Lubomir Klosek (Slovakia), Mr. Jens Orhoj (Denmark) Mr. Marcel Wadja (Côte d'Ivoire) and Ms. Helén Wiklund Wårell (Sweden).

Office responsibility: Mr. Stefan Kratz, Ms. Sarah Mitchell and Ms. Monika Kraus

During the period the RACC has had 11 meetings, all held digitally.

The main tasks during the period have been to work with the development of the IFF competitions, including the Future of Floorball testing, finalising the work on the Game Rules Edition 2022 and update regulations. Other tasks for the RACC have been to follow up on International Transfers, Competition Regulations, Regulations for Friendly Internationals, preparation work for coming IFF events including technical inspections, update and follow up of guidelines for using video for goal review.

Updates to regulation documents have been made by the RACC as follows:

2021

Competition Regulations – National Teams

Competition Regulations – Friendly International Matches

2022



Competition Regulations – National Teams  
Competition Regulations – Friendly International Matches

The RACC has carried out the testing of a Future of Floorball concept in the U19 WFC 2020, WFCQ 2022 and the World Games 2022. Due to Covid-19 the planned tests for WFCQ 2021 was moved to WFCQ 2022. Further the Future of Floorball concept has been tested in the 6-Nations Floorball Challenge for Men 2022. The Future of Floorball Concept will be decided upon by the General Assembly 2022.

During the period the RACC acted as the Jury in the following IFF Competitions:

- Men's WFC 2020, December 2021 in Finland
- Women's WFC 2021, November/December in Sweden
- Men's WFC 2022 Qualifications, April-June 2022 in Singapore, USA, Latvia (2 qualifications), & Italy
- Women's U19 WFC 2020, September 2021 in Sweden
- Men's U19 WFC, August 2021 in Czech Republic
- Women's U19 WFC, August/September 2022 in Poland
- Men's U19 WFC 2023 Americas Qualifications, September 2022 in USA
- Men's U19 WFC 2023 AOFC Qualifications, September/October 2022 in New Zealand
- Men's WFC, November 2022 in Switzerland

#### **6.1.1 Game Rules**

IFF is changing the Game Rules in a four-year cycle, where the new edition of the Game Rules came into force fully from the 1st of July 2022 but in use already in the WFCQ 2022. The IFF Rules Reference Group, headed by Mr. Martin Klabere started its work in November 2019 and the IFF CB approved the final version in September 2021.

The composition of the Reference Group has been:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Chair  
Mr. Tomas Sladky, Athletes' Commission Member  
Mr. Sascha Rhyner, national team coach Czech women  
Mr. John Liljelund, IFF Secretary general  
Mr. Veli Halonen, IFF Operations manager  
Mr. Stefan Kratz, IFF Competition manager

The IFF Rule Reference Group had its first meeting in March 2020 and the last meeting in April 2021.

The Rule group started the work of writing the texts for the rules to be tested in July/August 2020 and the work with texts for all new rules ended September 2021.

The composition of the Rule Group has been:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Chair  
Mr. Niklaus Güpfer, Rules expert  
Mr. Mattias Linell, Rules expert  
Mr. Stefan Kratz, IFF Competition manager

For the Rules of the Game Edition 2022 the milestones were as follows:

- *November 2019*: Request was sent to all Member Associations and all persons in the IFF bodies urging them to send in proposals, with a priority list and in a special template
- *February 2020*: Deadline for sending in proposals
- *March 2020*: Reference group meeting. Preparing a list of rules for testing and asking for test Associations. Asking for feedback from IFF RC, RACC and Athletes Commission on the Changes in the book
- *April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020*: Deadline to apply as test Association
- *April/May 2020*: CB decision of test Associations
- *June 2020*: Reference group prepared a final proposal and again asked for feedback
- *August 2020*: Deadline for feedback, Reference group handed in the proposal to the RACC.
- *September 2020*: The rule group started the work with formalising the text for the rule book
- *February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021*: Collection of experiences from the tested rules
- *February 2021*: Reference group evaluated the tests
- *March 2021*: Feedback was asked from the IFF RC, RACC, IFF Office and the IFF Athletes Commission on the final book
- *May 2021*: Deadline for feedback from IFF RC, RACC, IFF Office and Athletes Commission
- *September 2021*: IFF CB made a final decision and new IFF Rules of the Game was sent to all member Associations
- *February 2022*: The game rules with the new layout was sent to the member Associations
- *February 2022*: The new edition became valid for the WFC qualifications and friendly internationals
- *May 2022*: An updated version, correcting two mistakes, was sent to the member Associations
- *July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022*: The new edition of the IFF Rules of the Game became fully valid

Some of the news in the Rules of the Game Edition 2022 is that a glossary has been included and that it is made in a completely new format to make it more accessible.

The Rule group has, in addition to work with the game rules, also participated in the Physical Play project and the update of the Play Book together with the Referee Committee.

The new Rules of the Game 2022 were also updated as gender neutral.

## **6.2. Referee Committee (RC)**

The composition of the Referee Committee (RC) has been:

Mr. Carlos Lopez, Spain, Chair  
Mr. Lukas Gyger, Switzerland, Vice-chair  
Mr. Peter Harris, Australia, Member  
Mr. Ola Hamberg, Sweden, Member  
Mr. Petr Cerny, Czech Republic, Member  
Mr. Mika Saastamoinen, Finland, Member  
Mr. Peter Zamecnik, Slovakia, Member  
IFF Responsibility: Mr. Veli Halonen



The RC has been involved in appointing referees to all IFF events and Friendly Internationals, and to observe and educate the international referees during these events. The IFF RC has been the only IFF committee without female members and that can't be the case in the future. The RC however was able to nominate the first female head of the referees for an IFF major event for the Women's WFC 2021 and that was a success and the similar work will continue.

The IFF CB decided in December 2019 that the RACC and RC should start the work together to unify the rule interpretations and the first meeting related to this topic has

been held. Due to Covid-19 the physical meetings were not held but work and the outcome of the working group was presented in spring 2022 and the new interpretations have now been taken in use in all IFF events from February 2022 on together with the new rules of the game edition 2022.

The RC started a referee development group in the beginning of 2011 and from that group the RC has been able to promote more than 30 new referee pairs to the IFF ordinary referee group. The development group is a cost-efficient way to educate the referees from new IFF Member Associations, whereby the IFF provides the observations and education and the National Associations have covered other costs. Development group referees come from Australia, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, and Slovakia.

The AOFC Referee Development Group was established in February 2016 and since then there have been separate referee educations in conjunction with AOFC events. Due to the pandemic most of the planned educations and clinics were postponed to 2023. However, in conjunction with the AOFC Cup in 2022 and the AOFC qualifications, observations and education were carried out. Webinars were carried out regarding the new rules of the game and the physical play interpretations.

The new nomination period will start from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 and the RC has received 144 proposals for international referees and 35 as international observers as of the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. Out of 144 referees, 36 have been proposed to the IFF referee development group. The number of female referees is growing very slowly, but the IFF Member Associations are working to implement programs to help increase these numbers. According to the IFF License system 2.0 all the member associations participating in IFF events should at least propose one referee pair to international level.

The IFF RC is running web-based rule test to all nominated IFF referees. The tests are also run before the events the referees are nominated to.

There have been 108 international referees for 2021 - 2022 coming from the following countries (numbers in brackets indicate the number of pairs from that country): Austria (1), Czech Republic (8), Denmark (1), Finland (7), Indonesia (1), Japan (1), Korea (1), Latvia (3), Norway (1), Poland (3), Singapore (2), Slovenia (1), Slovakia (3), Spain (1), Sweden (7), Switzerland (8), Ukraine (2), and USA (1). Only 4 referee pairs were female.

During 2019 and 2020 there have been 25 international observers, of which three are female, from the following countries: Australia (1), Czech Republic (4), Denmark (1), Finland (7), New Zealand(1),

Norway (2), Poland (1), Slovakia (1), Sweden (4), and Switzerland (3).

### **6.3. Medical Committee (MC)**

The composition of the Medical Committee (MC) has been:

Dr. Walter Frey, Switzerland, Chair  
Dr. Tiina Nylander, Finland, Vice chair  
Dr. Lars-Erik Bartels, Denmark, member  
Dr. Patricia Wallace, Australia, member  
Dr. Jonathan J. Koo, Canada, member

Office responsibility: Mr. Juerg Kihm

The MC acts as the IFF TUE committee, being responsible for granting Therapeutic Use Exemptions to Floorball players that are required to take prohibited medication. In addition, the MC functions as an expert group when renewing the IFF Anti-Doping rules and other practices regarding the Anti-Doping work, i.e. the Testing Pools and Test Distribution Plan (TDP). The MC is also involved in other fields which concern the promotion of athletes' health, the communication with and feedback given to WADA, and the preparation of Anti-doping materials, such as the Anti-doping Guidelines for IFF Events.

### **6.4. Ethics Commission (ETC)**

The Ethics Commission (ETC), as elected at the IFF GA 2020, has the following members:

Mr. Harri Syväsalmi (new), Chair  
Ms. Wendy Kuan, Singapore (new), Member (removed in 2022)  
Ms. Carol Roberts, Canada (re-election), Member  
Ms. Sylvia Shenk, Germany (re-election), Member

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Mr. Bill Howitt, Australia (co-opted from May 2022), Member  
Mr. David Sharpe, Ireland (co-opted from May 2022), Member

Office responsibility: John Liljelund, Secretary General

The ETC has handled two complaints during the period, one concerning an alleged nazi salute, which was actually not a nazi salute and led to no actions. The second was a complaint against the ETC member Ms. Wendy Kuan from Singapore concerning vote manipulation in the election process. The ETC handled this case without any IFF involvement, as it was concerning an IFF official. The ETC found that Ms. Kuan as an IFF ETC member did not act in accordance with the IFF Code of Ethics, even though there had not been any breaches of the Sport Singapore regulations, based on the statements of SFA investigations. The ETC handed the case to the IFF Disciplinary committee to decide upon based on their findings, who then decided to discharge Ms. Kuan as a member of the IFF ETC in May 2022.

The ETC held its yearly meeting in 2021 as a virtual one, in connection with the Men's WFC, and discussed the present situation of the ETC. During the spring of 2022 the ETC discussed the need to find replacements in the ETC, as Ms. Kuan had been suspended from the work of the ETC and that the chair Mr. Syväsalmi has been severely ill for a period of time. The conclusion was that IFF needed to find replacements for the ETC. The IFF CB approved Mr. Bill Howit and Mr. David Sharpe as co-opted



members of the IFF ETC for the Period 2022-2024, with the appointment needs to be confirmed by the IFF General Assembly 2022.

The IFF has made an agreement with Sportradar for the monitoring of betting sites offering bets during the IFF Major Events, starting with the Men's WFC 2022.

### **6.5. Appeal Committee (AC)**

The composition of the Appeal Committee (AC) has been elected for the period of 2021-2024:

Ms. Märit Bergendahl, Sweden (new), Chair  
Mr. Tom Hedkrok, Finland (re-election), Member  
Mr. Kim-Alexander Hofgaard Jorstad, Norway (re-election), Member  
Mr. Giorgio Rambaldi, Italy (re-election), Member

Ms. Aiga Staltmane-Veksa, Latvia, (re-election), Substitute member  
Mr. Adriano Serafim, Brazil (new), Substitute member  
Mr. Charly Olivier Lobe Priso, Cameroon (new), Substitute member

Office responsibility: John Liljelund, Secretary General

The Appeal Committee has not had any cases to deal with during the period.

### **6.6. Disciplinary Committee (DC)**

The composition of the Disciplinary Committee (DC) has been elected for the period of 2021-2024:

Mr. Ismo Haaponiemi, Finland, (re-election), Chairman  
Ms. Linda Noppa, Sweden, (re-election) Member  
Mr. Tomas Brezina, Czech Republic, (re-election) Member  
Mr. Peter Vrba, Slovakia (new), Member

Ms. Ilmars Blumbergs, Latvia (new), Substitute member  
Mr. Marcel Wadja, Cote d'Ivoire (re-election), Substitute member  
Mr. Florian Saluz, Switzerland (new) Substitute member  
Mr. Yvette Manong Moug, Cameroon (new) Substitute member

Office responsibility: John Liljelund

The DC has handled three cases during the two year period. The first case was related to a breach of the Covid regulations of a team official during the Women's WFC 2021. The DC decided to sanction the team official with a suspension from all Floorball activities for a period of three months. The second case was regarding the breach of the IFF Code of Ethics of an official of a national association official, who was suspended as a member of the IFF Ethics Commission.

The third case concerned the breaches of the IFF and the LOC guidelines during the World Games medal ceremony in Birmingham World Games 2022. The DC decided to sanction the national federation with fines and to give a reprimand to the team official in question.

### **6.7. Athletes' Commission (ATC)**

During the period, the Athletes' Commission (ATC) members were:

Ms. Agata Plechan, Poland, Chair  
Ms. Josefina Eiremo, Sweden, Member  
Ms. Yui Takahashi, Japan, Member  
Ms. Kabaziba Daphine, Uganda, Member  
Mr. Junoh Lee, Korea, Member  
Mr. Tomas Sladky, Czech Republic, Member  
Mr. Sergio Garces, Spain, Member  
Mr. Jarno Ihme, Finland, Member

Office responsibility: Ms. Sarah Mitchell (2021) / Ms. Monika Kraus (2022)

In February 2021, due to Covid-19 and the uncertainty around the holding of events, the elections for the female candidates of the ATC were held via an online survey, distributed to all IFF Member Associations. There were a record eleven candidates from India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland and Uganda, and four were elected to serve on the ATC from 2021-2025.

Josefina Eiremo and Yui Takahashi were re-elected, while Kabaziba Daphine and Lara Heini joined the ATC as new members. 2021 also saw a new chair of the committee (appointed in December 2020) after the retirement of Lidwien Reehuis from the position. The IFF Central Board appointed a current ATC member, Ms Agata Plechan, from Poland, to the position.

In total, there are 9 representatives in the Athletes' Commission – four males, four females and the Committee Chair who also is part of the IFF Central Board. This group works together to promote the rights of the athletes and help in promoting the IFF values as outlined in the IFF Strategy. Representatives from the ATC are active in the Referee Committee and the Rules and Competition Committee. The input from a player's perspective to many of the topics that are discussed and decided upon by these committees has proved highly valuable.

The ATC members have been very active in media activities for the IFF, in connection to events such as the U19 WFCs and special campaigns, including the launch of the IFF's new social responsibility project - Fair Floorball and the Peace for Sport global White card campaign.

Due to Covid-19 the ATC has not met in person since 2019, meeting instead online for regular meetings to discuss strategic topics. They are looking forward to a face-to-face meeting in January 2023.

## **6.8. Strategy Working Group (SWG)**

The IFF CB appointed a Strategy Working Group (SWG) to lead the IFF Strategy 2021-2032 implementation process.

The SWG members were:

Mr Stephen King, Australia, IFF Board Member (Chair)  
Mr Filip Suman, Czech Republic, IFF Vice-President & Czech Floorball  
Mrs Kaarina Vuori, Finland, Finnish Floorball President and IFF CB member  
Mrs Helén Wiklund Wårell, Sweden, Swedish Floorball Federation Board Member  
Mr. Teo Turay, Slovakia, Slovak Floorball Federation  
Mr John Liljelund, Finland, IFF Secretary General

The SWG has held a number of virtual meetings to plan and evaluate the actions taken as a part of the

## Strategy Implementation.

The SWG started its work to formulate the process for the strategy implementation and first divided the “Suggested Actions” to reach the targets set in the strategy into three different time phases. The first for the years 2021-2024, the second for 2025-2028 and then the last for the years 2029-2032. In order to collect a broader understanding of how and what would be needed to secure reaching the targets, the IFF then invited the member federations and individuals to join the four Strategy Subgroups. The subgroups were formed to look over and evaluate the implementation steps of the Strategy for the four key priority indicators:

Awareness and visibility

Development, service level and expansion

Governance, sport culture and leadership

Sports presentation and appearance

The four Subgroups started their work during the fall of 2021 and worked until the first half of 2022. In the subgroups all the suggested actions have been evaluated and concrete action points to be taken into the implementation plan. The subgroups have worked in different ways with virtual meetings and workshops.

### **Subgroup 1**

James Ogolla, Kenya

Roman Urbář, Czech Republic

Stefan Jonasson, Sweden

Timo Lyytinen, Finland

Michael Zoss, Switzerland

Abdul Sukur, Indonesia

### **Subgroup 2**

Cherie Loe, Singapore

Collins Malika, Kenya

Nicolas Sanéz, Belgium

Jean-Emmanuel Chapartegui, France

Dorothee Vogelesang, Netherlands

Louise Khng, Singapore

Juno Lee, Korea

Anders Jonsson, Sweden

Adama Kouenda, Burkina Faso

Robert Bakaze, Uganda

Linken Kao, Malaysia

Steen Houman, Denmark

Paul Maina Mwangi, Kenya

Antti Savolainen, Finland

Kelik Wibawa, Indonesia

### **Subgroup 3**

Michal Buchel, Switzerland

Julian Rueger, Germany

Lin Binbin, Singapore

Tomáš Frank, Czech Rep

Sofie Andersson, Sweden

Victor de Bruin, Netherlands

Jacob Bjørnsholm Madsen, Denmark  
Tuulikki Kangasluoma, Finland  
Peter Zingg, Switzerland  
Muchlas Suseno, Indonesia

#### **Subgroup 4**

Wendy Kuan, Singapore  
Peter Klapita, Slovakia  
Katarína Klapitová, Slovakia  
Jan Jirovský, Czech Rep  
Inez Rehn, Sweden  
Carsten Provstgaard, Denmark  
Juha Kivilehto, Finland  
Jörg Beer, Switzerland  
Komarudin, Indonesia

The Subgroups have together with the IFF Office built a timeline for the Suggested Actions for the first period and responsible persons have been nominated for each suggested action. The IFF Administration has started the operational work with the Strategy Implementation during the fall of 2022.

## **7. SPECIAL FUNCTIONS**

### **7.1. Equality Function**

The Equality Function has continued to promote equality, not just between gender, but also between nationalities, working to ensure that all floorball enthusiasts have the possibility to equally participate in the sport.

IFF GoGirls! Floorball Ambassadors were again appointed for the Women's WFC in 2021. Each participating country nominated one player that was presented via the IFF media channels both prior to and during the event. For the first time, the Floorball Ambassador programme was extended to include the Men's WFC 2020. Just like for the women's events, each team nominated a WFC 2020 Team Ambassador who was interviewed during the event about various topics.

GoGirls! Floorball offers materials for players, coaches, parents, local organisations, clubs and national associations that give advice and ideas on how to increase the number of girls and women in Floorball. The aims of the project are to provide information on how to get girls playing, how to teach them to play, and how to keep them involved.

IFF Member Associations are encouraged to use the GoGirls! Floorball materials for their own development. In 2021, the Cote d'Ivoire Floorball Federation (FIFL) launched its own GoGirls! Floorball project with the aim to increase, encourage and promote the participation of girls in floorball. Around fifty girls participated in the first stage of the project, while the next stage will see the program expand to regional areas of the country.

In cooperation with the Swedish Floorball Federation, a new project called Fifty/Fifty was launched during 2021. The Fifty/Fifty online course is aimed for the boards of clubs and federations and is available free of charge to all sports clubs and sports federations whose national floorball federation is an affiliate of the International Floorball Federation (IFF). The aim of the course is for clubs and federations to increase their knowledge about why it is important to work with gender equality and the



benefits that it offers both the club and its members. Fifty/Fifty is intended to sow the seeds for new ideas and enable clubs and federations to make practical, relatively small changes that, in the long run, result in significant improvement.

## **7.2. ParaFloorball Function (PFF)**

The purpose of the ParaFloorball Function (PFF) is to coordinate and promote the activities of the different versions of Floorball played by disabled athletes. It was originally established by the IFF Central Board in December 2010 to coordinate and cooperate with the different international organisations that have floorball for the disabled on their program.

Office responsibility: Mr. Juerg Kihm.

The PFF follows the IFF mission promoting all versions of Floorball being played. The IFF currently cooperates with three international organisations that have Floorball on their program, Special Olympics, International PowerChair Hockey, and the International Committee Wheelchair Floorball.

### **7.2.1. Special Olympics (SO)**

Founded in 1968, and celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2018, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 6 million athletes and Unified Sports partners in over 190 countries. With the support of more than 1 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and over 100,000 games and competitions throughout the year.

IFF and SO signed the Proclamation for partnership during the IFF Associations' Meeting 2011 and Floorball was an official sport for the first time in the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Austria 2017 after being a demonstration sport in 2013 in Korea. Kazan, Russia was supposed to host the Special Olympics World Winter Games in 2022 with Floorball on the programme, but the games were cancelled. Floorball has grown a lot within the Special Olympics and there have been a lot of development seminars organised in cooperation with Special Olympics national organisations.

### **7.2.2. International PowerChair Hockey (IPCH)**



IPCH (previously ICEWH) belongs to the sport section of the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) and is the international head organisation of Electric Wheelchair Hockey Floorball. PowerChair Hockey (PCH) is a sport for people in motorised wheelchairs. PCH is played on an area approximately the size of a basketball court with a surrounding barrier. IPCH demonstration matches have been played in many IFF Events since 2010. IPCH is investigating into the formalities which are required to join IFF as a member.

### **7.2.3. International Committee Wheelchair Floorball (ICWH)**

ICWH was established in 2012 with the aim to spread and develop the sport further. Manual Wheelchair Floorball is played almost with the same rules as Floorball, 5 vs 5 plus goalkeepers. Manual Wheelchair Floorball demonstration matches have been played in some IFF Events and

there have been discussions about more official cooperation between IFF and ICWH.

## **8. MARKETING**

The composition of the Marketing function has been:

Mr. Jörg Beer, Switzerland, CCMNG Chair

Mr. John Liljelund, IFF Secretary General

Mr. Tero Kalsta, IFF Sales Coordinator

The work of the IFF Marketing function has continued to focus on the positioning of Floorball and increasing the visibility and sales value of Floorball in the market. This has been done in cooperation with the Core Country Marketing Network Group (CCMNG) to harmonise the sales arguments for the Floorball community on a general level and reinforce the brand image of the sport. This forum also acts as a platform to exchange ideas and best practices. The CCMNG was not able to convene for a long period due to the pandemic but held two meetings online (end of 2021 and early 2022). The first physical meeting since 2019 was held in June 2022 with one other meeting planned before the end of 2022.

The IFF Sales Coordinator has continued the work of organising the operative work of the CCMNG, executing direct sponsorship sales, account management of existing sponsors, and running day to day operative marketing and development of sales. Since late 2019 the development of the sustainability approach has also been an integral part of the Sales Coordinators work. The agreement with Protocol Sports Marketing (PSM) was restructured in May 2022. Due to challenges in creating sponsorship leads it was mutually decided to end this part of the cooperation and concentrate on the broadcast rights (excluding the well-established long-term tv relationships in the big floorball countries). To extend its reach and capitalise on established contacts the IFF signed an agreement with the sales agency Red Carpet Brand Alliances (RCBA). The cooperation grants RCBA the right to sell IFF sponsorship assets in the Scandinavian area (excluding named on-going leads). The sales strategy and portfolio were updated in autumn 2022 and the parties convene bi-monthly in status meetings.

In the WFC 2020 in Helsinki the IFF together with the LOC and their sales agency created some new sponsorship assets. The customised Fisherman's Friend referee shirts created a lot of attention and initially also received an honourable mention in the Finnish Sponsorship awards. Another special element were the custom made penalty benches (in the form of a tool box) for the hardware chain Starkki. Both of these created interest for the next championship and are now implemented for the WFC 2022 with custom referee shirts (DUSCHOLUX) and bathtubs (Schmidlin) as penalty benches. Altogether there have been several sales successes for the IFF in the 2021 and 2022 championships. For WFC 2022 IFF has also signed Craft as Sports Apparel Sponsor and Fromm as Event Partner (which also bought floor visibility for Uppsala and Helsinki).

The Sales Coordinator has also overseen the Champions Cup sales and marketing and in 2019 was able to attract some Floorball manufacturers as sponsors. Because of the pandemic the event had to be cancelled for 2021 and 2022. A new sponsorship model has been drafted to comply with the extended Champions Cup format about to start in autumn 2023.

The work to build on the strong social media channels has continued. As the consumption of the sport has increasingly moved into the digital realm this is also where the IFF needs to be present. Therefore, a lot of time has been invested to find ways to create new formats to meet the fans needs and simultaneously create opportunities for sponsors to capitalise on these formats. A major change and

impact will be the shift to using the Sportswik app enabling active and deep fan-engagement. The solution has many commercial elements that have proven to work well. The same platform will also become the new home for IFF streaming. A fundamental change with this platform is compulsory registration which will enable data-driven fan engagement and planning.

The model for provisioning the marketing rights for the LOC in IFF events for a fixed fee has been well received and remains in place. This gives both parties budgeting transparency and aids the IFF in financial management. Regardless of the model the sales progression for the events is done in close cooperation between the IFF and the LOC. Sales reporting is important due to the new sales agency cooperation of the IFF. It has also proven that LOC sponsors that have participated in recent World Floorball Championships have been receptive to open discussions with IFF to cooperate also after a local partnership. The IFF has been able to engage some new sponsors in single events and continues to negotiate with these parties to converge them as long-term partners.

The IFF corporate identity has been well established during the five years since launch. The organising committees are quite used to the new guidelines, and it has brought consistency to the IFF brand. Some small adjustments have been made to the guidelines along the way but on a general level they have served their purpose very well. Since 2021 the IFF has started utilising the Brandcloud content platform which hosts the brand and event identity planning guidelines, all IFF logo/emblem material and IFF sponsor material. The goal is to simplify the work of the organisers and save time for the IFF office.

The IFF has continued its membership in the European Sponsorship Association (ESA). Through the membership it has had access to some good research material and has also been able to push through articles about IFF sponsor cases and especially the upcoming Green Goal target of the WFC 2022. ESA also organises quarterly round table discussion with peers from the sponsorship industry which helps networking and delivers good insight around current topics.

The WFC 2019 was the last event from which Sportcal conducted the event study and report. Since the departure of Sportcal key personnel, the IFF has negotiated a partnership with Quantum Consultancy who continued to execute the studies for the Adult WFC's in 2021 (WFC 2021 and WFC 2020). This has provided a continued production about the far-reaching effects of the championships from economic impact to media visibility. The reports are important for IFF sales, sponsors, LOCs and their stakeholders, host cities, and not least for potential host city bidders. The agreement with Quantum covers events for the next three years, including the WFC 2022-2024.

## 8.1. Champions Cup Steering Group (CCSG)

The composition of the Champions Cup Steering Group (CCSG) has been:

Pekka Ilmivalta	Finland
Tomas Frank	Czech Republic
Jan Jirovsky	Czech Republic
Magnus Nilsson	Sweden
Mikael Ahlerup	Sweden
Michael Zoss	Switzerland
John Liljelund	IFF Secretary General (interim chair & secretary)

The five stakeholders of the Champions Cup (IFF, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Czech Republic) are jointly responsible for the sales and marketing of the CC. In relation to this the five stakeholders have agreed that the CC should be included in the national sales plan of the associations. The IFF Sales Coordinator has partially allocated his time to the sales and marketing of the Champions Cup as well as coordinating and supporting the National Associations and the Clubs participating in the CC, in

the promotion of the Champions Cup.

During 2021-2022 the CCSGs main task and objective has been to finalise the new Champions Cup format planned to start in the autumn 2023. The main topics have been to create the playing system (for both genders) and agree on the home and away format. A new stakeholder agreement has been prepared to reflect the changed concept. Ensuing, the IFF office has prepared a new sales portfolio proposal for the renewed model.

## **8.2. Materials in competitions**

IFF is continuing to deliver flooring, rinks, balls and goals to IFF major events – World Floorball Championships (adults & U19), Champions Cup and EFC. The transportation is arranged so that the organisers of the events have secured storage facilities and the materials are delivered from one competition to another in order to save unnecessary transportation costs. The IFF materials are stored in Slovakia and Latvia.

The IFF has also offered the possibility for the Member Associations, who organise smaller IFF events, to use the IFF floors, rinks and goals without any direct charge and the IFF has in many cases covered half of the transport costs.

The IFF also delivered two floorings for the TWG and the same flooring was used by Korfbal in the event. The BOC was in charge of the costs for the delivery.

## **9. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

The agreements with all the IFF Partners have made it possible for the IFF to build a solid foundation for IFF events, where all the championships have the same look and feel when it comes to Floorball equipment and apparel

### **9.1. Unihoc**

The IFF and UNIHOC signed a new partnership agreement in 2022 for the period between 2023 – 2026 to jointly develop the sport of floorball on a global level. The conditions of the agreement were negotiated on good terms, but the negative impacts of the pandemic on the floorball business did not leave much room for negotiation; however a small increase to the value of the deal was achieved. UNIHOC will continue to be the IFF's Official Floorball Material Provider, including sticks, balls, goals and goalkeeper equipment. UNIHOC provides the official IFF Match ball DYNAMIC. The material provided will continue to be utilised for IFF Development work.

UNIHOC has continued to create its sustainable ECO product-line and strategically wants to stand out from the competition. The selection includes stick bags, drinking bottles, use of recycled raw material (stick blades, shirts) and a stick which has been partially CO2-compensated through the climate fund myclimate. Further, the IFF has through its network, introduced UNIHOC to a carbon recycling pilot project to evaluate if they can utilise recycled carbon fibre for production. On a broader scale it is very interesting for the IFF and the floorball world in general if this project can prove floorball stick shafts are suitable for recycling as raw material.

UNIHOC has become an integral part of the IFF Mobile Event Application in "Guess the Winner" competition with prizes. The IFF has promoted several partner campaigns and also published interviews and articles on the homepage. For the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year special elements and stories were created. Further, special floor stickers were implemented and a slot for a special anniversary



video was booked for the WFC 2022 venue

## 9.2. Flooring

IFF has used the Gerflor floorings in its events and based on the agreement received one sponsor flooring for the use of IFF and Gerflor has provided competition floorings for the event. The IFF for the time being is negotiating with Gerflor to continue as an IFF sponsor for the upcoming four years period.

## 9.3. Swerink

IFF renewed the agreement with Swerink in 2022, a partnership dating back to 2006. This will guarantee Swerink the status of IFF Official Rink Provider for the years 2023-2026. IFF and Swerink have continued the closer cooperation, in which Swerink has supported Member Associations and clubs by selling them used and renovated floorball rinks.

## 9.4. Sports Apparel

The IFF is still without a Sports Apparel Sponsor. In the last two Men's World Floorball Championships Craft has been the provider of referee outfits and received good visibility in the floorball community. The target is to continue the discussion once the Quantum Consultancy report of the WFC 2022 is available. Obviously the IFF must also keep all the other options open as well. The IFF WFC Most Valuable Player (MVP) Asics Golden Shoe award, which is handed out in both Men's and Women's WFC's to the MVP player has been renamed to be the IFF MVP Golden Shoe. A further renaming will be considered once there is a new sponsor (or a new award will be created, remains to be seen).





## 10. TV & LIVESTREAMING

During the period, the IFF has concentrated on building guidelines and increasing the television visibility of Floorball based on the principle of distributing as many televised matches as possible at a reasonable price to the Member Associations. This approach has given good results from the World Championships, with a total of 26 broadcasters across 71 nations on four continents providing broadcast coverage of the Women's WFC 2021, and 25 broadcasters across 17 nations in three continents providing broadcast coverage of the Men's WFC 2021. IFF has signed a cooperation agreement with Czech (CTV), Finnish (YLE), Norwegian TV2, Latvian TV4, Swedish SVT and Swiss (SRF) National Broadcasting Companies to secure visibility of IFF owned TV matches from the WFC.

IFF has been offering the matches produced from the WFC group games for a nominal fee to the nations playing and to broadcasters within their geographical region, in order to build the relationship with TV. IFF has made an agreement with the Canadian company Protocol Sports Marketing which has been offering the IFF Events for TV in a number of markets like Canada, Russia, USA and for the Women's WFC also to the African WSports channel, which is specialised in Women's sports.

For the Men's WFC 2021, IFF acted as Host producer and broadcaster of the TV production, working together with the Finnish National Broadcasting Company - YLE. The IFF has a long-term contract for the production of the TV and live stream signals with PolarHD, a Latvian-based TV production company. PolarHD has produced the WFC 2015, WFC 2016 and WFC 2019 and was contracted to produce the WFC 2020, which has been postponed to 2021. IFF is to continue the agreement with PolarHD for the coming WFC's as well. For the Women's WFC 2021 in Sweden IFF worked together with LOC with the Swedish production company Rego.

The Men's WFC 2021 had a total of 381 hours of broadcasting and the Women's WFC 2021 had a total of 379 broadcasting hours from the event. The visibility of IFF major events on The Olympic Channel continued.

IFF once again used the services of an English language commentator, Mr Olly Hogben, for both the WFC's during 2021. As the demand for TV commentary has increased, IFF had additional commentary for the WFC's in Mr. Richard Drew in Sweden and Mr. Clayton Lucas in Finland. For the Men's WFC IFF also hired Ms. Raisa Halonen and Mr. David Brown with English commentary for the matches produced for the North American and Asian market. In total, 56 matches from these two events were broadcast with English commentary. Several highlights videos have also been produced, including English voiceover commentary, provided by Mr Hogben. Mr. Hogben has also been providing commentary for the Ukraine solidarity match between Finland and Sweden during the Men's WFCQ in Latvia, the World Floorball summit games and the finals of the U19 WFC 2022 in Katowice. Mr. Clayton Lucas made English commentary for nine matches during the U19 WFC 2022.

IFF continues to provide livestreaming from all IFF events. It is now a requirement for all IFF event organisers to produce a live stream, and all international weekend event organisers are encouraged to provide streaming or online match replays. IFF's partnership with the SportAccord SportsHub on YouTube offers the IFF greater opportunities in regards to programming and monetisation. Although the IFF still has two online channels, changes to the YouTube streaming configuration now allows concurrent livestreams on the one channel, so all content is now focused to the main channel (Channel 1) ([www.youtube.com/iffchannel](http://www.youtube.com/iffchannel)). (More information on YouTube can be found under point 15)

IFF has in 2022 started the preparations to move the streaming of matches from the IFF YouTube channel to an own Over the Tapel Top (OTT) channel, named Sportswik. This will bring along a lot of changes as the tool will at the same time act as a mobile and fan engagement application.

## 11. SUSTAINABILITY

As a start it is good to highlight the definition of sustainability. Sustainability is commonly divided in three areas: economic, environment and social. This is also the approach of the IFF. For a longer period, the federation has been active on the economic and social side, with the latest emphasis on the environment due to the alarming status of climate change. Some of the social aspects have already been explained in Chapter 7. Special Functions and 12.2. Material Support.

Since joining the UN Sports for Climate Action (S4CA) network in late 2019 the IFF has in early 2022 made a further commitment to the Race To Zero network. This network has similar targets as S4CA but instead of sports organisations comprises of businesses, cities, regions, education institutions and investors. The membership in these organisations encourages us to report according to their requirements, commit to emission reductions and gain credibility. It is also in line with the environmental sustainability targets outlined in the IFF strategy.

The IFF has continued its cooperation with myclimate as the environmental partner. The federation utilises their CO<sub>2</sub>-emission calculator and know-how to measure the IFF office emissions. Further, there has also been cross-communicational cooperation.

The World Floorball Championships 2022 LOC decided already in 2019 to choose sustainability as their focus area and developed the Green Goal concept. After partnering with myclimate they calculated the WFC 2018 CO<sub>2</sub>-footprint as starting point, created goals for WFC 2022 and defined five main focus areas for creating the biggest impact: arena, teams, travel for fans, food and material/waste. According to the focus areas the LOC developed many solutions and partnerships to meet the ambitious goals of reducing the 2022 footprint by 56% in comparison to 2018. As some examples: the staff and volunteer clothing are procured from the most environmentally friendly company available, charter trains to encourage fans to avoid travelling by car, partner with a hotel chain which emphasises sustainability, recycle venue decoration material as new products such as bags and backpacks and offer voluntary compensation payments options with ticket purchase. As a result, after the event the LOC and myclimate will produce a Sustainability Manual for IFF Event Organisers. All this work supports the targets set out in the IFF Strategy to have climate neutral IFF events by 2028.

The IFF has been forwarding all sustainability related news to GAISF to be posted on sustainability.sport. It is a free online platform dedicated to sport and sustainability. Created to collate sport's efforts in sustainability onto one single platform, the portal features a vast array of resources to inform, educate and inspire. The future of the site however is uncertain due to the unclear situation around GAISF in general.

In 2020 the IOC launched the IOC / DOW Sustainability Award. The IFF was among the 15 recipients of this first edition of the award. The pandemic slowed down the promotion of this award which was handed out the second time in 2022. The concept will be renewed for 2023 by including the IOC sponsors more closely to the prize awarded to the winners.

The recycling initiative "Stick with it!" was finally launched in 2021 (original plan to launch 2020 in Helsinki). Collection boxes for used floorball equipment were placed in the WFC 2021 and WFC 2020 venues. Further, there were collection boxes situated in floorball training facilities across the Helsinki metropolitan area, which was the most successful placement for this concept. Roughly 300 sticks (usable or serviced) were donated to Hope ry in Finland and some material collected in Sweden to another charitable organisation.

In 2021 the IFF applied together with the Swedish Floorball Federation, as part of a bigger consortium of three head sports organisations (floorball, biathlon, athletics), for an EU-funded development programme. The consortium, managed by Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, was successful and

during 2022 has kicked-off a three-year project aiming to analyse the climate change governance and management models currently used in athletics, biathlon and floorball, and support the development of decarbonisation strategies in each sport while using their popularity to raise broader environmental awareness.

The IFF is also delighted to acknowledge that at least all top four nations national federations have created sustainability strategies and also launched some initiatives.



In conjunction with the adult World Floorball Championships 2021 the IFF launched its new responsibility campaign, Fair Floorball. The campaign aims to encourage everyone to act responsibly. The foundation, fair, derives from IFF values and emphasises many points from IFF sustainability programs. The campaign was visible in IFF events in various formats on advertising surfaces, social media, players and referees. The following punchlines have been developed to cover different areas and each have dedicated Athletes' Commission ambassadors to promote the message.

- FairPlay – Anti-doping / Illegal betting / Match-fixing / Game rules
- FairAccess – Special Olympics / Wheelchair Floorball / Diverse formats the the sport
- FairTreatment – Equality /LGBT+ / Discrimination / Racism / Respect
- FairFuture – Youth / Development / Environment / Economic support

## **12. DEVELOPMENT**

The Development function has been run in the IFF Office by Mr. Veli Halonen, IFF Operations Manager together with Mr. John Liljelund, the IFF Secretary General.

The Development function has during this period, in close co-operation with the respective committees and functions and the IFF Office, focused on developing the IFF members and gaining new member associations. The work to strengthen the development of the IFF member associations started in 2005 through the IFF Development Program Seminars.

During the two years period the seminars and clinics have been organised mostly online. From the late spring 2022 on there have been some live events mainly on the referee sector, but also some smaller online coaching clinics have taken place. IFF has continued providing rinks, balls and other equipment despite the Covid restrictions.

IFF has been a partner for the Fit4Floorball Erasmus+ project, which is run by the Czech Floorball Union. The aim of the project is to create beneficial material for national sports organisations to develop and to grow.

### **12.1. Development Program**

The aim of the Floorball Development seminar is to give participants the tools to 'train the trainers' in their respective countries. The participating associations build a two-year development plan during the seminar, which the IFF then monitors. The strategy implementation of the strategy 2021-2032 contains several development related programs and projects which have mainly started in autumn 2022. Such

as the update project for the coaching education material with the help of outside experts.

The IFF supported Floorball USA with the project regarding The World Games 2021 in 2021, which were played in July 2022 in Birmingham, USA.

The previous two years have been challenging for the IFF development program. It was only in spring 2022 when Europe started to open up after the pandemic and still there are places (mostly in Asia), which are not yet totally open and one negative outcome has been that the air fares for travelling have become much more expensive than those were before the pandemic, which is a challenge, not only for the IFF, but also for the member associations. The IFF ran webinars and web-based education programmes during this time.

## **12.2. Material Support**

The IFF has been in the position to support new and growing Floorball countries as they strive towards developing their Floorball activities by providing them educational material and Floorball equipment. The pandemic caused huge problems for the IFF to ship anything mainly outside the EU and EFTA area. The shipments have slowly started after spring 2022, but there are still challenges to ship to South America, Africa, and some parts in Asia.

The total amount of equipment has been:

- Ø 655 sticks
- Ø 1200 balls
- Ø 20 tool bags
- Ø 10 goalkeeper sets

IFF also has an ongoing system for renting old Floorball rinks to Member Associations, based on a nominal rent for the period of two years. During 2021-22 the IFF has provided rinks to USA, Poland and Slovakia and we are waiting for a delivery confirmation to West Africa.

IFF is very thankful for the support of UNIHOC, which has made this material support possible.

## **13. COMMUNICATIONS**

IFF Communications aims to serve three target groups: Member Associations, Athletes (players, referees, coaches etc) and Stakeholders (followers, fans, partners, sponsors etc).

The IFF (digital) channels serve the purpose of maintaining and distributing floorball content to its target groups (member associations, athletes, stakeholders).

We lead, support and serve our member associations together with the athletes and all other stakeholders promote, develop, protect and spread the game of floorball.

Furthermore, the IFF should maintain and increase the visibility of the sport to create interest in the media. Increased visibility and awareness of floorball should result in new players, new media and new sponsors.

Increase the awareness of the sport – while creating a communication platform where our community is entertained, informed, engaged and keen to be an active user.

#### Currently used Media channels by IFF

- Homepage
- Newsletter
- IFF Event app
- TV during events
- YouTube
- Social Media
  - o Facebook
  - o Instagram
  - o Twitter
  - o TikTok
  - o Snapchat
  - o LinkedIn

The IFF has also provided the stream from IFF events to Olympic Channel and The IWGA channel.

#### Internet / Homepage

The homepage is the main source for all important material and news for member associations and media. It contains all international statistics (matches, player cards, etc.). During events should act as a match centre (results/stats).

#### YouTube / Streaming platform / LIVE in social media

For the last ten years YouTube has been the cornerstone for broadcasting international matches. So far our material has been used by big tech companies to earn money with our content. It must be our goal to switch to a model where IFF owns the data and can monetize the content. This can be a stand-alone solution or preferably an-overall-communication-engagement-platform.

#### Social media

The role of social media is to reach, engage and interact with the Floorball community. Those channels shall be used as advertising channels/platforms towards our own overall-communication-engagement-solution.

The current numbers of followers on Social Media

<b>Social Media Followers</b>	
YouTube	80'100
Instagram	97'213
Facebook	59'555
TikTok	3'128
Twitter	14'300
LinkedIn	1'295
<b>Total</b>	<b>255'591</b>

There were two major events taking place in 2021. The Men's WFC 2020 in Helsinki, Finland and the Women's WFC 2021 in Uppsala, Sweden. From both events all matches were streamed live on the IFF YouTube channel.



YouTube	WFC 2020	WFC 2021
Watch time	252'709	207'883
Views	1'165'035	983'600
Comments	296	168
Shares	6'330	7'403

For further media data about the two major events, follow those two links

[Media Data Women's WFC 2021](#)

[Media Data Men's WFC 2020](#)

#### The IFF event app

The IFF Events app has been serving very well over the last years. But it is outdated; from the look and feel as well as from the handling and content/interaction perspective. Ideally, we move to an all year platform where we can have regular interaction with our community and not only with the guessing game 2-3 times a year. There have been over 71'000 downloads of the app.

## **14. INFORMATION & DEVELOPMENT MATERIAL**

As a part of the service to the Member Associations there are several documents which are ready to be downloaded from the IFF homepage [from this link](#).

There is a lot of education material such as:

- Coaching material
- School curriculum
- Basic referee education material
- GoGirls! Floorball
- This is Floorball
- Keep Floorball Honest
- STOP Harassment & Abuse in Sport
- Special Olympics
- Points Masters
- Event Handbook

## **15. MATERIAL BOARD**

IFF Secretary General, Mr. John Liljelund, has been responsible for all questions related to Floorball material and the Material Approval system, run by the Swedish Testing and Research Institute (RISE - previously SP). The IFF Material Board (previously the Development Board), which is a co-operative body of the IFF and the major Floorball manufacturers decided to change the name to the IFF Material Board to help clarify the role of the group.

The main work has been the follow-up of the Material Regulations, which involved several meetings with RISE and the Czech Test Institute, ITC, as well as with the manufacturers of Floorball equipment. During the period, a new version of the Material Regulations MR 2022 was published and was brought into force from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 for the next two-year period.

During the last year, a lot of focus has been put on the financial problems the Material manufacturers have been facing as a result of the pandemic, with significantly decreased sales. There have also been a few companies who have debts to the IFF and RISE, which puts their certification at risk. Now, all companies are fulfilling the Material Regulation rules.

Together with the Material Board, IFF has continued the exemption for the use of over-length sticks for players taller than 190cm. The system has now been used for the sixth year in a row, with good feedback from the players, describing that their health problems have been reduced significantly due to the possibility to use longer sticks. The number of new approvals was 26 in 2021 and 23 in 2022, giving a total of 154 approvals since the exemption was introduced.

The Material Board has during the period supported development projects related to the development of Floorball in the USA as a part of the preparation for The World Games in 2022. As a result of the significant decrease in Floorball material sales in 2021, there was no fund for development projects in 2022.

## **16. ANTI-DOPING**

During this period the IFF has renewed its Anti-Doping Rules to meet the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The IFF Anti-Doping Rules are adopted and implemented in conformance with IFF's responsibilities under the Code and are in furtherance of IFF's continuing efforts to eradicate doping in the sport of Floorball.

### **16.1. Education**

The aim of the IFF anti-doping education programme is that the players first contact with anti-doping should be information and education, not testing. IFF has continued to push for education. In all events players are asked to do an E-Learning Course from their NADO or via ADEL. Federations also can aim to get the education done through a live session by the National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADO).

### **16.2. Testing**

The IFF has conducted doping tests during IFF events as well as Out-Of-Competition (OOC) testing. The IFF annually collects, publishes, and reports to WADA the doping tests conducted by the IFF (details can be found on the IFF website under Anti-doping). The IFF has also actively taken part in the events and consultation rounds arranged by WADA and in the process of renewing the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standards. Covid-19 has affected the doping control activities as events have been cancelled and other Covid-19-related restrictions have affected the testing procedures and capacity.

The IFF has maintained a Testing Pool (TP) from which athlete whereabouts are obtained, which can be used to increase the effectiveness of the OOC testing program. The TP consists of the top three national teams according to the results from the previous World Floorball Championships and according to the WFC being played that year. The whereabouts are collected for the purpose of efficient test planning.

The IFF uses the WADA's web-based database management system, Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS), which was developed for the purpose of coordinating anti-doping activities and to provide a mechanism to assist stakeholders with their implementation of the Code. The IFF uses ADAMS for the management of daily anti-doping activities such as TUE's and Whereabouts.

## **17. ONLINE EVENT TOOLS**

The IFF and IFF Event Organisers continue to use two main planning tools - GATE accreditation system, and Eventello, an event management system. In addition, the event statistics and match records are managed via the IFF Online Statistics system. Eventello, in particular, provides a key

communication channel between the IFF and the local organisers for our major events.

### **17.1. Event Management**

IFF has continued to use the online event management tool, Eventello, during 2021 & 2022. Together with the event organisers the task list is updated on a regular basis and allows customisation according to the needs of each event organiser. As well as being a key tool in event preparation, Eventello is also used for the bidding of the major events, providing a comparative evaluation of the bidders.

Eventello has been used by the IFF and local organisers for all World Championships – adult & U19 during the last two years, as well as being used as an internal IFF planning tool for The World Games 2022. The tool allows all users to keep track of tasks and event-related information based on a set task list developed by the IFF. In addition, local organisers can add their own tasks to the tool for added internal planning purposes.

### **17.2. Accreditation system**

The IFF has continued the use of its online accreditation system, called GATE. The card layout is personalised for each event based on the event branding and provides information on the person accredited, accreditation group they belong to, and the areas to which they have access. Every team member, IFF official, media representative and LOC staff or volunteer is required to have an accreditation card.

For smaller events a basic design with generic cards can be used, while for the major events a fully personalised card system is implemented. The customisation of the card, including the use of icons to denote special privileges (such as access to private transport or meals), allows the IFF to offer a very useful and easy-to-use tool for event organisers.

### **17.3. Statistic Software**

The IFF Statistic Software is used to record every match at IFF events as well as all international matches organised by Member Associations, and has been in use since WFC 2007. All matches events can be followed live through the online match records and the software provides tournament and player statistics that can be displayed on the IFF or event website, as well as in the IFF app.

During 2021, when no new events were being played, it allowed the time for historical match records to be entered into the system. There are still several old match records to be entered, and the search continues for many missing records that are needed to complete the archive.

Over the years several attempts have been made to build a new, more modern, statistics database, however the complexity of the job, and the associated costs, have always been a stumbling block. In the latter half of 2022, the decision to sign an agreement with Sportswik, provided a new opportunity for an updated statistics system. Preliminary work began already prior to the contract signing on how the statistics system could be moved to a new platform, and how statistics would be displayed. This continued during September and October with the expectation that the new system will be in use already at WFC 2022.

## 18. COMPETITIONS

### 18.1. World Championships

The Adult WFC is played with 16 teams divided into 4 groups based on ranking, with the teams ranked 1-8 balloted to groups A & B and teams ranked 9-16 to group C & D. In the first phase the teams play matches within their group which determines the placements for the next stage. In the second stage, the lowest teams in A & B have a play-off round against the highest teams in C & D, giving more teams the possibility of making the quarter-finals. Teams then play placement matches to decide final placings.

Since 2014 there has been a regional qualification system where all teams, apart from the final round organiser, must participate in regional tournaments to qualify for the Final Round.

The quota system for the WFC 2021 and 2022 for the participating teams by continent is based on the number of registered teams, using a deviation factor of 16 equalling the number of participating teams, and thereby determining the continental quota. This quota system was reviewed during 2019 and a new system was proposed by the RACC. The new quota system will be based on results from the previous WFC. The new system, decided by the CB in September 2020, will come into force from 2021, with the results of WFC 2021 determining the quota for WFC 2023.

In 2021, there was the exceptional circumstance of not just playing two adult world championships within the same calendar year, but within the same 3-week period. Due to the postponement of the Men's WFC from December 2020, a slight re-scheduling of the Women's WFC was also required. For the first time ever the Women's & Men's World Championships were played with an overlapping weekend, with the final matches of the women's played in Sweden at the same time as the first men's group matches in Finland.



#### **13th Women's WFC: 27th November - 5th December in Uppsala, Sweden**

26 teams registered for this event. Sweden, as the organiser, was directly qualified to the tournament while the remaining 25 teams were scheduled to play regional qualification tournaments to determine the final teams.

Russia qualified to the final round, but due to a WADA-ruling they could participate only under the IFF flag in a neutral uniform, and without any reference to Russia, the Russian flag, or the playing of the Russian National anthem. In all official records, they are therefore referred to as NFFR.

Australia and Japan qualified to the final round but due to Covid-19 restrictions were unable to travel and so were replaced by Thailand and Italy. The Central Board decided that qualified teams who could not participate in the final round would keep their ranking based on the last WFC.



## Final Standings

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1.  Sweden          | 9.  Latvia       |
| 2.  Finland         | 10.  Germany     |
| 3.  Switzerland     | 11.  NFFR        |
| 4.  Czech Republic | 12.  USA        |
| 5.  Poland        | 13.  Estonia   |
| 6.  Slovakia      | 14.  Singapore |
| 7.  Norway        | 15.  Thailand  |
| 8.  Denmark       | 16.  Italy     |

## Qualifications

The qualifications were originally scheduled for January / February 2021 in Italy, Slovakia, Latvia, Canada & Japan, but due to Covid-19 restrictions were postponed to May 2021. Unfortunately, it was still not possible to play at this time so all qualification events were cancelled. The IFF Central Board decided that the teams for the final round would be determined based on the current ranking and regional quotas.

WFCQ EUR1 (CANCELLED) - Valmiera, Latvia: 15th – 19th June 2021

Teams: Belgium, Finland, Norway, Latvia, Netherlands, Russia

WFCQ EUR2 (CANCELLED) – Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy: 25th – 29th May 2021

Teams: France, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Poland, Switzerland

WFCQ EUR3 (CANCELLED) – Bratislava, Slovakia: 26th – 30th May 2021

Teams: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Slovakia, Spain



WFCQ AOFC (CANCELLED) – Hachioji, Japan: 29th June – 3rd July 2021

Teams: Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand

WFCQ AMER (CANCELLED) – Guelph, ON, Canada: 11th – 12th June 2021

Teams: Canada, USA



### **13<sup>th</sup> Men's WFC: 3rd - 11th December 2021 in Helsinki, Finland**

Originally scheduled to be played from 4th - 12th December 2020, this event was postponed until 3rd - 11th December 2021.

35 teams registered for the event, among them was the first ever registration from Africa – Côte d'Ivoire – who competed in the European qualifications. The organiser, Finland was directly qualified to the final round, as well as Canada and USA. The IFF Central Board decided that due to The World Games being held in Birmingham, USA in 2021 (it was subsequently postponed until 2022), and WFC 2020 acting as the qualifying tournament for that event, it was important that North America was fully represented at the WFC. The remaining 32 teams played regional qualification tournaments to determine the final 16 teams.

Australia and Japan qualified to the final round but due to Covid-19 restrictions were unable to travel and so were replaced by Estonia & The Philippines. The Central Board decided that qualified teams who could not participate to the final round would keep their ranking based on the last WFC.

### **Final standings**

1.		Sweden	9.		Germany
2.		Finland	10.		Denmark
3.		Czech Republic	11.		Poland
4.		Switzerland	12.		Canada
5.		Latvia	13.		Thailand
6.		Norway	14.		Philippines
7.		Slovakia	15.		USA
8.		Estonia	16.		Singapore

### **Qualifications**

The qualification events were held in January/February 2020 in Denmark, Latvia and Slovakia. The AOFC qualification in Thailand, planned to be played the first week of March, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic so the top four teams from AOFC, based on the current rankings, qualified to the final round.

WFCQ EUR1 – Frederikshavn, Denmark: 30<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

1. Sweden; 2. Denmark; 3. Poland; 4. Estonia; 5. Slovenia; 6. Iceland; 7. Ukraine; 8. Great Britain

WFCQ EUR2 – Poprad, Slovakia: 30<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

1. Switzerland; 2. Slovakia; 3. Norway; 4. Russia; 5. Hungary; 6. Belgium; 7. Italy; 8. Côte d'Ivoire

WFCQ EUR3 - Liepaja, Latvia: 29<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020

1. Czech Republic; 2. Latvia; 3. Germany; 4. Spain; 5. Netherlands; 6. Austria; 7. France; 8. Liechtenstein

WFCQ AOFC (CANCELLED) - Liepaja, Latvia: 29<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020

Teams: Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand



#### **14<sup>th</sup> Men's WFC: 5th - 13th November 2022 in Zurich & Winterthur, Switzerland**

This event was moved to be played one month earlier than the normal competition calendar dates of early December, due to the FIFA World Cup also being scheduled to be played in December 2022. In total, 36 teams registered for the tournament – 24 from Europe, 9 from Asia Oceania, 1 from Africa, and 2 from the Americas.

The event will be played in a brand new venue in Zurich - Swiss Life Arena, with the second venue, AXA Arena in near-by Winterthur. The local organising committee has invested a lot of time and resources to focus on sustainability. They commissioned myclimate, which is also the sustainability partner of the IFF, to become their guide in creating a first ever WFC event in history which is aiming for carbon-neutrality. This Green Goal will be reached with creative and innovative measures in different areas as well as with the cooperation of our fans, partners and sponsors.

The first step was calculating the carbon footprint of the previous Men's WFC 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic, and this report will serve as a benchmark for all planned and executed measures before and during the 2022 event. As part of the project the organisers, in cooperation with the IFF, plan to compile a Sustainability Manual for future IFF Event Organisers. This document will help to identify key topics and present concrete examples for implementation

#### **Final Round teams**

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
	Finland		Sweden		Estonia		Denmark
	Switzerland		Czech Republic		Canada		Poland
	Norway		Latvia		Thailand		Australia
	Slovakia		Germany		Singapore		Philippines

## Qualifications

The qualifications were originally scheduled for January / February 2022 in Latvia, Poland & Italy but all were postponed until later dates due to Covid-19. Due to the change of dates, Poland was not able to host the event, and their group was moved to a second city in Latvia, while the group in Italy was moved to a different city.

Russia was registered to participate but due to their suspension from all international floorball activities, which came into effect on 1st March 2022, they were excluded from the rescheduled qualification event.

The qualifications acted as test events for the Future of Floorball playing system. Teams were limited to 17 players and 5 team officials on their team list and matches were played with 3 x 15 minutes match time. In the European qualifications, each event included two 2 groups of four teams. The teams played once against the others in their group and on the final day there was a play-off round of cross-over matches to determine the qualifying teams and final placings.

### WFCQ EUR1 - Valmiera, Latvia: 25th - 28th May 2022

1. Finland; 2. Latvia; 3. Denmark; 4. Estonia; 5. Iceland; 6. Great Britain; 7. Netherlands; 8. Ukraine

### WFCQ EUR2 – Koceni, Latvia: 25th - 28th May 2022

1. Sweden; 2. Norway; 3. Poland; 4. France; 5. Hungary; 6. Liechtenstein; 7. Belgium

### WFCQ EUR3 – Celano, Italy: 24th - 27th May 2022

1. Slovakia; 2. Czech Republic; 3. Germany; 4. Slovenia; 5. Spain; 6. Austria; 7. Italy; 8. Côte d'Ivoire

### WFCQ AOFC – Singapore: 30th May - 5th June 2022

1. Thailand; 2. Philippines; 3. Singapore; 4. Australia; 5. New Zealand; 6. Korea; 7. Japan; 8. Malaysia

### WFCQ AMER – Fort Worth, TX, USA: 29th - 30th April 2022

1. Canada; 2. USA

## 18.2. Under 19 World Championships

In 2021-2022 there were three U19 World Championships played. All of these events were affected by Covid-19, either in regards to the dates & places in which they were eventually played or with the teams that participated; and like the adult's world championships, the postponed Women's 2020 event and the Men's 2021 event ended up being played back-to-back.



### 9<sup>th</sup> Women's U19 WFC: 1st - 5th September 2021 in Uppsala, Sweden

19 teams registered for this event. 14 teams received direct qualification to the Final Round. One qualification was held in September 2019 in Italy. Originally scheduled for 6th - 10th May 2020, the final round event was first postponed to 5th - 9th May 2021 and then further postponed

until 1st - 5th September 2021.

The final round was to be played with the new U19 WFC playing system of the teams divided by ranking into 4 groups, rather than A- & B-division, and the top 9 teams qualifying directly to U19 WFC 2022. However, due to Covid-19 a large number of the qualified teams were unable to participate. The Central Board decided that qualified teams who could not participate in the final round would keep their ranking based on the last WFC.

From the original 16 teams only 9 participated. Those unable to were: Austria, Norway, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, & China. Due to this, the event was played in two groups, with the group of 4 playing 3 x 20 minutes, and the group of 5 playing 3 x 15 minute periods as well as each team once playing two games in a day. From the play-off phase onwards all matches were played with 3 x 20 minutes.

### Final standings

1.  Finland
2.  Sweden
3.  Czech Republic
4.  Switzerland
5.  Latvia
6.  Poland
7.  Slovakia
8.  Germany
9.  Russia

### Qualification Results:

U19 WFCQ EUR – Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy: 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019

1. Russia; 2. Austria; 3. Hungary; 4. Netherlands; 5. Italy



### **11th Men's U19 WFC: 25th - 29th August 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic**

28 teams registered for this event. 11 teams received direct qualification to the Final Round, based on results from the previous U19 WFC. Qualifications were to have been held in September 2020 but due to Covid-19 all regional qualifications had to be cancelled and the final round teams were all decided according to results from U19 WFC 2019.

For the final round, due to Covid-19, not all of the qualified teams were able to confirm their participation. 10 of the original 16 teams took part, with the addition of 5

replacement teams, as decided by the IFF Central Board. Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway & Russia were replaced by Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Hungary and Italy. The Central Board decided that qualified teams who could not participate in the final round would keep their ranking based on the last WFC.

The final round was divided into four groups, with four teams in A, B & C, and three in D, decided by ranking and ballot.



### Final standings

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1.  Czech Republic | 9.  Denmark   |
| 2.  Finland        | 10.  Estonia  |
| 3.  Sweden         | 11.  Slovenia |
| 4.  Switzerland    | 12.  Austria  |
| 5.  Latvia         | 13.  Belgium  |
| 6.  Germany        | 14.  Hungary  |
| 7.  Slovakia       | 15.  Italy    |
| 8.  Poland         |  |

### Qualification Results:

All qualifications were cancelled due to Covid-19



**Women's U19 World Floorball  
Championships 2022**

31 Aug - 4 Sep | Katowice | Poland

**10<sup>th</sup> Women's U19 WFC: 31st August - 4th September 2022 in  
Katowice, Poland**



Originally scheduled to be played in New Zealand in May 2022, the very tight travel restrictions for entry to New Zealand that were still in place at the end of 2021, forced the event to be moved to Europe where there was a greater possibility for more teams to participate.

A total of 18 teams registered for the event. With the decision to postpone, changes to the qualification system were also made. 14 teams received direct qualification based on a regional quota and results from the 2020 event, while the final two spots were decided at a European qualification event.

Of the 16 qualified teams, Italy replaced Russia who were suspended from all international floorball activities, while USA & Singapore withdrew from participating and were replaced by Latvia & Austria.

The 16 teams were divided into four groups based on ranking and ballot.

### Final standings

1.		Sweden	9.		Germany
2.		Czech Republic	10.		Hungary
3.		Finland	11.		Denmark
4.		Switzerland	12.		New Zealand
5.		Slovakia	13.		Italy
6.		Poland	14.		Austria
7.		Norway	15.		Australia
8.		Latvia	16.		Canada

### Qualification Results

WFCQ EUR – Saku, Estonia: 8th – 11th September 2021

1. Denmark; 2. Hungary; 3. Estonia; 4. Italy



### 18.3. Champions Cup

Both Champions Cup 2021 and 2022 were cancelled due to Covid-19.

### Champions Cup 2021: 9th - 10th January 2021 in Winterthur, Switzerland

In the 2020 national league season none of the participating countries were able to complete their league competition and so each country determined the representing team based on the league

standings. The Swedish women's champions, IKSU, informed that they would not participate in the Champions Cup, so Pixbo Wallenstam, as the runners-up, took their place in the competition.

Qualified teams:

Women: Pixbo Wallenstam IBK (SWE); Piranha Chur (SUI); PSS (FIN); 1. SC Vitkovice (CZE)

Men: Classic (FIN); IBF Falun (SWE); SV Wiler-Ersigen (SUI); Florbal MB (CZE)

### **Champions Cup 2022: 15th - 16th January 2022 in Winterthur, Switzerland**

Qualified teams:

Women: Thorengruppen IBK (SWE); Kloten-Dietlikon Jets (SUI); PSS (FIN); 1. SC Vitkovice (CZE)

Men: Classic (FIN); IBF Falun (SWE); Floorball Köniz (SUI); Florbal MB (CZE)

#### **18.3.1. Champions Cup Format**

Since 2018, the CCSG has been formulating a new concept for a European Club competition, which in the end will combine the Champions Cup, EFC and EFCh into one event.

In phase 1 of the Champions Cup has been played only with teams from Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, and EFC and EFCh has been played separately. During this time period the Champions Cup has been organised once a year during the period of 2019 –2023 in the beginning of January (preferably first full week) by Sweden (2019), Czech Republic (2020), Switzerland (2021 - cancelled), Switzerland (2022 - cancelled) and will be played in Finland (2023). The champions (men and women) from the EFT-countries (Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland) have participated during these years. For these CC events the two-day format with semi-finals, 3<sup>rd</sup> place matches and finals has been used.

In phase 2, which the Champions Cup Steering group has worked out during the period, a home and away match system will be implemented starting 2023, still with only the EFT-countries participating.

#### **18.4. EuroFloorball Cup & Challenge**

Open for registration to any of the national champions from the IFF European Member Associations ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and below, the Cup event is played with six women's & six men's teams with teams split into 2 groups, playing group games, semi-finals, finals and placement matches. It is a 5-day tournament. If more than six teams for either/both genders register, then teams are placed into the Cup or Challenge event based on ranking.

Neither the EuroFloorball Cup (EFC) or Challenge (EFCh) was played in 2021 or 2022. In 2021, this was a direct impact of Covid-19, with many countries not completing their national leagues, as well as the uncertainty that remained around holding any international events due to travel restrictions. In 2022, a lack of interest from possible organisers forced the cancellation. Due to this it has been decided that organisers of large Club events shall be approached to see if an inclusion of the EFC and EFCh in any of these events is possible.



**The World Games**  
2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA

#### **18.5. The World Games**

Floorball was an official medal sport for The World Games 2021 with the inclusion of eight men's teams. The IFF had applied to have a competition with six women's and six men's teams, but due to the restricted number of participants that was allowed this was not approved.

The decision to have the men's teams only was based on a regional assessment and the greater marketing and television potential of these games, as shown by past WFC figures.

The event was scheduled to be played in July 2021 in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, but because of the postponement of the Summer Olympics from 2020 until 2021 (due to the Covid-19), TWG 2021 was also postponed by one year, to the new dates of 7<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Teams qualified to the event based on results from the Men's WFC 2020 (played in December 2021):

- USA - host country
- Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Latvia - Top 5 placed teams at WFC 2020
- Canada - Highest placed team from the Americas (excluding USA) at WFC 2020
- Thailand - Highest placed team from Asia Oceania at WFC 2020



The teams were allowed 14 players and one team official, the costs of which are paid by TWG. These costs include local transport, accommodation, and meals. The IFF secured the possibility of up to four extra officials for each team, with their costs being the responsibility of the National Association.

The tournament was played based on the conditions the IWGA gave to IFF, as a five-day tournament in two groups of four. The first three days were group games followed by two days of semi-finals, placement & medal matches. The matches were played with 3x15 minute periods, as they were at TWG 2017.

### Final standings

1.  Sweden
2.  Finland
3.  Czech Republic
4.  Latvia
5.  Switzerland
6.  Canada
7.  Thailand
8.  USA

In addition to the actual competition, the IFF was involved in several activation events during the event, including:

- a dedicated space in the Sports Garden with a mini rink and speed shooting competition

- info sessions on The World Games Plaza stage
- field of play competition break sessions
- Special Olympics demonstration matches

Over the very long preparation period, the United States Floorball Association (USFbA) proved a valuable partner for the IFF and the TWG local organising committee. They promoted the event through development sessions and other tournaments within the USA, as well as providing many volunteers, essential staff and equipment for the event itself.

Floorball, again, proved itself as a worthy participant in The World Games family, attracting good venue spectator numbers as well as a high level of engagement through online media channels. The level of media coverage and support that Floorball received from TWG media was not as high as in the previous edition in 2017, however, this was perhaps not something that Floorball experienced alone. The local organisation of the event was problematic, not just in the promotion and staging, but also in the event logistics that directly affected the participating teams. Issues with accreditation, accommodation and transport were numerous, but, again this was not just for Floorball, but event-wide problems.

The next edition of TWG is scheduled for 2025 in Chengdu, China. The selection of the participating sports will be confirmed by IWGA in the IWGA General Assembly 2023.

### **18.6. Southeast Asian Games**

The Southeast Asian (SEA) Games is a biennial multi-sport event involving participants from the current 11 Southeast Asian countries. The games are under the regulation of the Southeast Asian Games Federation with supervision by the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia. Floorball was a demonstration sport in Myanmar 2013 and was an official medal sport for the first time in Singapore 2015.

The 2021 event was scheduled to take place in Vietnam, in Hanoi and 11 other locations from November 21 to December 2, 2021, but was postponed until May 2022.

Floorball was not included on the sport programme for the 2021 edition of the event, but is confirmed as a medal sport for the next one, scheduled to be played from 5th - 16th May 2023 in Cambodia.

### **18.7. Asia Oceania Floorball Confederation Cup**

The Asia Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC) Cup is a national team event for Member Associations who are part of the AOFC. In even years it is played for women and in uneven years for men.

**Men's AOFC Cup 2021:** Not played due to Covid-19.

**Women's AOFC Cup 2022: 23rd - 28th May 2022 in Singapore**

Final standings: 1. Singapore; 2. Philippines; 3. Thailand; 4. Malaysia; 5. Singapore WU19; 6. Indonesia

### **18.8. Africa Floorball Cup**

Africa Cup is a national team event for Member Associations in Africa. It is currently played as an

Urban Floorball event (4 vs 4 plus goalkeeper) on a modified size court with the matches played 2 x 15 minutes.

Participation in the event is strongly affected by where it is held and the possibility for teams to travel, sometimes very long distances. The limited number of players available means that teams often have very few players and it has been the experience that teams can withdraw at the very last minute – even as late as the first day of play. There is a need to encourage better commitment from the participating teams and support them wherever possible to ensure the highest level of participation. This event was not played in 2021 or 2022.

### **18.9. International weekends**

There are currently five official international weekends each year, in February, April, September, October & November. Due to the early playing of the WFC in 2022, the dates for the October & November weekends were changed, resulting in two international weekends in October - one at the beginning and one at the end on the weekend prior to the WFC.

During the period, the informing time was drastically reduced in order to allow associations to make plans on a much shorter timeline due to the issues of organising international events while Covid-19 restrictions were still in place. Associations were allowed to inform of international matches up to 30 days prior, changed from the regulation 90 days prior.

In 2021-22 there were a total of 227 international matches hosted by Member Associations (2021 = 88; 2022 = 139). These numbers are a positive increase from the 41 matches played in 2020, but are still some way off the pre-covid figures of 199 in 2019.

## **19. TRANSFERS**

All players wanting to transfer from one Member Association to another, must apply for an International Transfer. The IFF Office is responsible for handling and approving the transfers, of which there are six different categories:

- International Transfer
- Express International Transfer
- Temporary Transfer
- Intercontinental Visitor transfer
- Student Overseas Transfer
- Intermediate Student transfer

All transfers are handled by the IFF office during the official International Transfer window of 1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> January. Only Student Overseas Transfer can be handled outside of this transfer window. The International Transfer window remains open for a whole year for players that have not had a valid licence for the past two seasons.

There were 571 international transfers in the 2021/2022 transfer window, representing a decrease compared to 2020/2021 when a total of 591 transfers were completed. These 571 transfers involved two temporary transfers, four visitor transfers and 10 student transfers.

Transfers were done to a total of 21 different countries. Players were transferring from 22 different countries. The transfers involved 546 players across 22 IFF member associations. Swedish players moving to foreign leagues topped the list with 121 transfers, followed by Switzerland (98), Czech



Republic (76) and Finland (75).

Due to war in Ukraine, the IFF has reopened the transfer window to allow Ukrainian players for transfers abroad. A refugee transfer was granted to all players who live and play in a country where the reason of war, natural disaster or equivalent prevents a player from participation in Floorball actions organised by the National Floorball Association in the affected country. The transfers involved no transfer fee and were handled immediately. This transfer can be done at any time, including outside of the official transfer period. The player shall return to their original (giving) club when the situation allows, and the return transfer is also without any fee.

A change in transfer fees was implemented at the beginning of 2020. The transfer fees each rose by 10%. Current fees are: International Transfer 220 CHF; Express International Transfer 330 CHF; Temporary Transfer 110 CHF; Intercontinental Visitor transfer 110 CHF; Student Overseas Transfer 110 CHF; Intermediate Student transfer 55 CHF.

## **20. FINANCE**

Over the last years, the volume of the IFF economy has remained relatively constant and not grown as budgeted. This is mainly due to the number of sponsors and marketing income, as well as income from material, have not provided as much revenue as forecasted and the Covid-19 pandemic prevented also from natural growth.

Based on recommendations of the IFF auditor a depreciation of old claims was made in 2021, to be reported in the General Assembly 2022. The Financial Regulations were updated in both 2021 & 2022.

The finances of the IFF recovered quite well when we were able to play the final rounds of the WFCs 2020 and 2021 (U19 and Adults) combined with the continued saves on cost.

IFF has, since the implementation of the IFF License system 2.0, worked a lot with the Member Associations to reduce the number of debts to the IFF and for those with large debts pay-off plans have been made and followed-up. This has also been part of a clear effort to not compromise their participation in the upcoming IFF events. Since the registration of the WFC 2022 no country can register while having debts to the IFF, in accordance with the IFF License System, unless there is a pay-off plan made and followed. From the registrations to the WFCs 2024 the participations fees must be paid by the end of the date for registration to be eligible to participate

To secure a sound development the IFF still needs to work with ways to increase the outside financing, which primarily comes from the TV/live streaming and sponsors, especially from outside the Floorball market.

## **21. ADMINISTRATION**

As the IFF has grown in respect of the number of members and competitions, the need to have a larger number of staff has also constantly increased. For many years now, the IFF administration has worked at the far limit of its existing resources, especially with the growing number of events and especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, the number of events is expected to increase further in the future. As there is a constant need for more resources in the field of competition and development, the IFF has needed to increase the number of the employees and start to use as much outside working force as possible within the limits of the available financial resources.

Ms. Merita Bruun resigned in May 2022 after 17 years of service, at the end of her maternity leave. Mr. Juerg Kihm has been the replacement for Ms. Bruun during the maternity leave. One new employee

has been contracted during the period, taking the total to 8,5 full-time employees and:  
Mr. John Liljelund, Secretary general.  
Ms. Merita Bruun, Communication & Anti-Doping Manager (until May 2022)  
Mr. Stefan Kratz, Competition Manager  
Ms. Sarah Mitchell, Events Manager  
Mr. Veli Halonen, Operations Manager  
Mr. Tero Kalsta, Sales Coordinator  
Ms. Mari Myllärinen, Communication Coordinator  
Ms. Monika Kraus, Competition Coordinator  
Mr. Juerg Kihm, Communication (Maternity leave replacement and from 01.08 half time)  
Mr. James Varecka, Operations coordinator (From 12.09.2022)

## **22. CLOSING REMARKS**

The IFF Central Board would like to thank all Member Associations, as well as all committee and working group members, sponsors, the great number of volunteers who have helped IFF in different ways, and of course the office staff, for the tremendous work done in order to develop floorball from all possible aspects. The running of the IFF Events in 2021 and 2022 has been an enormous achievement with 7 major events inside 16 months. We look forward to a more positive outlook for the next period, which we hope will be a return to a more normal time table and will work more closely with all Member Associations to return Floorball to the schools, local venues, national events, and international television audience as quickly and as strongly as possible.