



## UKFF PROPOSAL RESOLVING GOVERNING ISSUES IN UK FLOORBALL

### Background

The situation began in May 2011 when the existing NFA, GBFUA, held its Annual General Meeting. The NFA prevented clubs from attending the AGM by refusing to communicate the physical location or teleconference access details. The fact that the AGM agenda included a change of constitution and re-election of all officials for two years made this situation highly offensive to UK players and clubs who were willing to help develop UK floorball by standing for election as committee members. As a result of this situation UKFF, an independent and democratic organisation, has been founded by clubs from across the UK. The UKFF has grown since it was officially founded in March 2012 and within its first year it has become the largest floorball organisation in the United Kingdom. In October 2012 UKFF applied for the membership of IFF.

### UKFF in summary

- Founded on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 in Oxford, UK by clubs and senior and junior player organisations from South East, South West, Midlands, North and Scotland. All together 13 representatives were present.
- Operational key principles are democratic approach and full transparency making sure that everyone can take part and contribute to the development of the sport in UK.
- Currently consists of over 500 individual members and 29 club members, which totals approximately 67% of English floorball.
- Runs adult leagues in South East, South West and Midlands and a youth league, has an affiliated universities league and cooperates with Scotland league.
- Manages training for Men's, U19's and Women's National Teams.
- Operates and develops national refereeing and coaching qualification programs.
- Operates and has a pipeline of youth and new clubs development programs.

### Proposals

After meeting with IFF officials and discussions with the members and officials, UKFF would like to provide couple of options to resolve the burning issue in UK floorball which is slowing the growth of the sport. We have considered the past and present relationships between the parties involved, the needs of current members of both organisations and the desire to significantly develop floorball in UK. We understand that the situation is complicated and sensitive, which is why we have provided two options.

#### Option 1 – Change of NFA with GBFUA affiliated to UKFF

UKFF recognised by the IFF as a provisional NFA and GBFUA expelled. The IFF commits to promote UKFF to full membership status when it becomes possible to apply for Sport England recognition. Before the initial IFF recognition is completed, an agreement is signed between UKFF, GBFUA and SFF (Scotland) including the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Consolidation of Operations**
  - The Scottish clubs join UKFF as members and the SFF operation is consolidated with UKFF. Elections would be held at the next UKFF AGM.
  - GBFUA joins UKFF as an affiliated partner organisation which guarantees their members continuity of international recognition.
  - GBFUA is allowed to operate independently from UKFF and vice versa.
- 2. Membership Rules**
  - Both organisations retain their own existing membership solutions with club / individual membership of one organisation not implying membership of the other organisation i.e. to become a member of both organisations then the club and/or individual must complete a registration with (and pay for) both organisations separately.
  - If clubs and individuals are registered with both, then they are eligible to play in both UKFF and GBFUA leagues. The rule of thumb is that club and individual must register with the organisation whose league they are playing in.
  - GBFUA and their members have no vote at a UKFF AGM or EGM.
  - In case GBFUA members are also UKFF members, then normal voting rights apply. GBFUA members may be proposed for election of any UKFF office.
- 3. Pre-Agreement Commitments**
  - The finances of GBFUA including cash in hand, investments, debts, loans, grants, sponsorships or any other asset or liability are not transferred to UKFF – i.e. the responsibilities of GBFUA remain solely with GBFUA. The same applies vice versa.
  - The operational commitments of GBFUA such as venue bookings, kit or other equipment orders, management of assets etc. are also retained by GBFUA and UKFF does not take any responsibility for these unless it is agreed in a separate contract.
  - Any new assets or liabilities after the agreement are also the sole responsibility of the organisation signing up to that commitment.
- 4. Communication / Change Management**
  - Neither of the organisations is allowed to refer to each other in their publications, websites, advertising etc. apart from exceptions specifically stated in this proposal. This also includes previously used words such as 'breakaway group' or equivalent.



- The final agreement signed with and accepted by the IFF must be published on the websites, Facebook pages and other communication channels used by both organisations and via email/post to all members, partners, supporters and sponsors of both organisations ensuring that everyone knows about the change.

**5. Post-Agreement Activities / Cooperation**

- GBFUA is required to provide summarised details of their adult and youth player and member counts, and financials so that the national floorball statistics can be provided to the IFF annually (a submission to be completed for the end of April by 31<sup>st</sup> May each year). UKFF will provide a template for the required information.
- Individual members in both organisations are equally allowed to join the National Team trials and activities, but for the non-UKFF members, who are not registered with a foreign association, there may be additional costs due to insurance etc.
- GBFUA should confirm the registration of individual member(s) to UKFF if they join any National Team activities. This is purely to confirm that the player is registered in the UK.
- The winning team from the GBFUA adult league would play in the UKFF National Finals. The entry fee would be equal to the proportional (probably 1/12<sup>th</sup>) cost of the event.

**Option 2 – A Democratic Referendum**

IFF awards NFA status to the winner of a fully democratic UK referendum. The vote must be per floorball club as per Appendix A. The vote would be at a short meeting chaired by the IFF at 11am on May 12th at the Futsal Arena, Birmingham. Each organisation would be able to present their case in a short written document and in a short presentation.

UKFF is open to discuss about the above proposals and keen to find a positive solution together with the IFF, GBFUA and SFF by the end of May 2013.

In case further details or explanation are required, please feel free to contact me.

Kindest regards, on behalf of UKFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ville Manner'.

**Ville Manner**  
President  
UKFF

email: [ville.manner@ukfloorball.org](mailto:ville.manner@ukfloorball.org)

[www.ukfloorball.org](http://www.ukfloorball.org)



## Appendix A – Registered / Recognised UK Floorball Clubs

One vote per club – total of 41 votes:

Aberdeen Oilers  
Aberdeen University  
Bath Blaze (2 adult teams)  
Brighton Rock  
Bristol  
Burghfield  
Cambridge  
Chapel  
Chill  
Cobras (junior)  
Devils  
Dragons  
Dundee Northern Lights  
Edinburgh Eagles  
Farnham (1 adult team, 2 junior teams)  
Fife  
Fleet Fury  
Grantham Thundercats  
Hastings Predators  
Hawick  
Hawks  
Hereford Gauja  
Ilmington (2 adult teams, 3 junior teams)  
Kingdon Revolution  
London Crusaders  
London Sharks (2 adult teams)  
London Vikings  
LSE - Imperial  
Manchester Salibandits  
Mansfield Piranhas  
Milton Keynes Phantoms  
Newbold Fusion  
Nottingham University  
Oxford University  
Rhinos (junior)  
Spalding Lions  
Trowbridge Tigers  
Tynedale Wild  
United Cities of Midlands  
University College London  
Warwick University (3 adult teams)