



# INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

*Recognised by the IOC  
Ordinary member of SportAccord*

## ATHLETES' COMMISSION MEETING

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015**  
**Helsingborg, Sweden**

### **Present:**

Magdalena Kotikova – ATC Chair  
Josefina Eiremo – ATC Member  
Junoh Lee – ATC Member  
Emanuel Antener – ATC Member  
Tero Tiitu – ATC Member  
Sarah Mitchell – IFF Competition Coordinator  
John Liljelund – IFF Secretary General  
Martin Wolmhed – IFF Rules & Competition Committee Chair

### **GENERAL ATC WORK**

- ATC acts as role models for, and representatives of, the athletes
- The role of the ATC in development of rule changes is important
- ATC members have roles in IFF committees – already in Referee Committee (RC) & Rules & Competition Committee (RACC). Future positions will also be in the Entourage Commission and the Equality Commission

### **NEW EVENTS / PLAYING SYSTEMS**

- John Liljelund explained about future events that IFF will be involved in. These include South East Asian Games, Urban Games (4v4) & World Games. Participation in events such as these may require us to adopt new rules and playing systems
- Questions that we face are.... What will the sport look like? How can we change the game? What do the athletes want the game to be like?
- ATC will play a key role in providing the view of athletes to the IFF on this future
- World Games – 6 teams with 15 delegates (14 players + 1 coach) – may require a reduced playing time format (eg. 15min periods)
- IFF CB has already decided that 3 v 3 will be introduced as an entry level event format to assist new member associations
- Emanuel Antener explained about the already established 3v3 leagues in Switzerland and how, when played regularly, can be quite different to 3v3 played for fun or training. This format is used in SUI because of smaller halls and good for juniors.
- Establishing different playing formats, like the 3v3, may also create specialised players who concentrate only on this format of the game.
- All ATC members agreed the importance to be ready and support flexibility of our game



## IFF OBJECTIVES

- IFF is seeking a strategic sport alliance to enable our growth and visibility
- Floorball already offers added value with high youth participation, both as players & fans
- IFF is aiming to enter one Olympic Games in the next 20yrs
- To gain more publicity for Floorball we need to get into big games that will give us increased visibility, such as the World Games & Urban Games. Publicity means not just to the public but also within the sports decision making bodies

## NEW RULES

- Martin Wolmhed discussed about the new rules that have been introduced and those that may be discussed in the future
- Foot pass has been accepted very well. Current athletes notice only a small difference. Juniors have adopted it more quickly as a skill as it may become a more tactical part of the game
- To make the sport more viewer friendly means definitely having to change some of the rules in the future – such as introducing an activation rule (like a shot clock in basketball) or that penalties automatically result in a free-hit in the attacking zone
- Eye protection – recommended by IFF. SWE (15yrs), SUI & FIN (18yrs) have as compulsory for juniors. As the generation of juniors that come through with the experience of wearing glasses reaches adult level we would expect to see more players with them
- Some are concerned that if IFF regulates this then it could give the idea that Floorball is 'dangerous'
- Some comments from ATC members about different rules:
  - Josefina Eiremo – question about penalty where you get penalty shot & powerplay opportunity
  - Tero Tiitu – difference between 2min & 5min penalty is quite harsh
  - Emanuel Antener – in comparison to ice hockey it's good that we have the progression of nothing (play-on) to a free-hit to a penalty. (In hockey there is just nothing or penalty)
  - Tero Tiitu – why only one 30 second time out – could be longer or more of them

## ATC VISIBILITY & USE

- ATC members should feel free to approach IFF with ideas and questions. We need the input to develop the sport
- The gap between the players & decision makers is still small in Floorball, and ATC can help to keep it this way
- ATC members could be used for visits to developing countries
- Development of ATC on National level will be very useful as well

## DEVELOPMENT

- Important for the big countries to participate in events against the smaller countries – eg. WFC qualification events
- Current playing model of WFC including the qualifications is very beneficial in terms of development floorball



- Visits from key players to small countries can help development but it must be done in conjunction with ongoing development work
- During WFC, could have top-level coaches &/or players to visit a smaller countries training session. Even during a WFC, a one hour visit could be possible.
- IFF could help facilitate the availability of players & coaches to visit other countries
- Junoh Lee – Thinks that the promotion of events such as World Games will not directly help Floorball development in smaller countries.
- Junoh Lee – the connection between top countries and lower is still limited. IFF needs to somehow address this
- Could be good to have events that combine the developing countries with the better countries outside of WFC events
- John Liljelund – from experience with new members, IFF has found that once associations have an established series (league) system then the development overall improves. The more matches you play = the better you can get.
- Josefina Eiremo – Even small steps are good. Need to start somewhere and it's important for key players to share their experience.
- Emanuel Antener – if the visiting players are going (to the smaller countries) with the correct message from the IFF then it can combine both efforts – that of the grass-level work and the higher-level international work

#### **ATHLETE CAREER PROGRAMME**

- Material is now complete, with comments from ATC members added.
- Will be ready for publishing next week
- Will be made available on the IFF website and sent to all IFF Members. ATC members should encourage their own federations to use the material – translate it if needed.
- There will be both an Athlete Guide and a separate National Association / Coach guide. The NA / coach guide will be released a little later than the Athlete guide – maybe in June/July.

#### **ANTI-DOPING WORK**

- Say No! To Doping (SNTD) campaign during WFC events is good.
- The throwing of the green balls by the starting line players is good, as long as there is a clear message that goes with it – either from the speaker or via a video on the big screen.
- Rather than the wristbands that have been used in the past (and with which there were some problems), one suggestion was to have SNTD Captain's bands and continue with the wristbands for the referees
- Athlete Outreach during WFC was good – did not take so much time and was enjoyable rather than just being given a lecture
- Tero Tiitu – would be good to make some short videos with real questions for high-profile athletes for the SNTD campaign. "Would it feel the same to win if you knew that you had used doping?" "Why do you choose not to use doping?" etc



## **BETTING**

- ATC members agreed the importance and necessity of betting education.
- Betting education will be provided to the athletes in the future. This will most likely be combined with the Anti-Doping Outreach education time.
- The betting education should not just be about what the rules are, but what to do if approached by someone offering incentives to fix matches. What are the procedures that athletes should follow?

## **REFEREE FEEDBACK**

- Referee Committee requested feedback from all of the teams at WFC 2014. This was done via the team management and the response was not very high, but the few answers they got were very useful for the referee management
- The idea is to use the information to guide the referee education in the future
- The feedback is done via an online questionnaire which can be filled out anonymously by anyone.
- Suggestion is that we also ask team captains to complete the questionnaire at the end of the event as they are the ones on the team who are often in the most direct communication with the referees

## **ATHLETE'S BLOG**

- Will continue to get material for this from ATC Members.
- Karl-Johan has done a 'Week in the life of' article which will be published soon.
- Junoh, Tero, Eliisa & Brigi should think of something that they would like to write about and discuss this with Magda

## **OTHER TOPICS**

- Question about how the IFF can better ensure that the information that is given at the Technical Meetings before events actually get to the players – info about ceremonies, interviews, media etc.
- Suggested that rather than making the captain's come to the Technical Meeting there could be on the afternoon before the event starts a 'Captain's Meeting'. Information that directly relates to the players could be given then as well as using it for a 'meet the press' and phot opp. Maximum time 2hrs.
- Some general information about the ATC election process should be added to the IFF website. Who is elected? How are they chosen? What is involved if you are elected? etc

## **NEXT MEETING**

- Agree that once a year for a face-to-face meeting is enough and that around this same time of year is probably the best
- Like the idea of combining it with the U19 WFC if possible – probably won't happen next year as it is being held in Canada and therefore costs could be over budget to get everyone there
- If Members know the date early enough then hopefully everyone can come next time