



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

Recognised by the IOC
Ordinary member of SportAccord

APPENDIX 16

ATHLETES' COMMISSION MEETING 2016

21st – 22nd May 2016
Copenhagen, Denmark

ATTENDEES:

Mrs Magdalena Kotikova – ATC Chair (CZE)	Mr Karl-Johan Iraeus – ATC Member (SWE)
Ms Josefina Eiremo – ATC Member (SWE)	Ms Eliisa Alanko – ATC Member (FIN)
Mr Junoh Lee – ATC Member (KOR)	Ms Lidwien Reehuis – ATC Member (NED)
Mr Tero Tiitu – ATC Member (FIN)	Ms Jill Roberts – ATC Member (AUS)
Ms Sarah Mitchell – IFF Competition Coordinator	
Mr Emanuel Antener – ATC Member (SUI) – via Skype on Sunday	

IFF Central Board review

- Magdalena Kotikova explained her role as Chair of the ATC and as a member of the IFF CB. She gave a general overview of how the CB meetings work: Saturday includes group workshops on a specific topic, while Sunday is more about updates from the different areas of the IFF – referee, competition, members, finance etc
- Recap of the recent meetings (Tampere 12/05, Stockholm 03/16):
 - o Preparation of GA discussions
 - o International lobbying
 - o License system for participation in IFF events – development of new system with three levels to suit the different development stages of all NAs
 - o EOTO update
 - o Structure of the CB assessed – number of members? more meetings? Should their role be reporting or making political decisions?
 - o Discussion of the new rule changes and the Rules Group
- Magdalena informed that although being involved with the CB is very interesting work, she will not continue after the end of the year as she feels that as she has been away from playing for a longer time now she is not able to reflect the view of today's players as well as she used to be able to

Rule Changes

- Process for the rule changes for 2018 was discussed
- For the rule change proposals, the ATC had gathered the responses from national team players, coaches and club captains

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- ATC would like one of the members added to the Rule Group – Emanuel Antener will be nominated as is he the current ATC representative on the RACC. Magdalena will raise this proposal at the next IFF CB meeting in June
- Emanuel has not received the latest information on the rule change process – IFF office will look into this
- ATC members agreed that an international interpretation of the rules is very important, especially for at IFF events where there can be referees from many different countries and teams can never be sure of what interpretation of a rule may be applied from one game to the next
- Questions were raised about the future use of video review
- Reducing the amount of rules should be the aim
- What about feedback from spectators about the rules? Has this ever been done? How the game is seen and understood by the spectators both live and on television is very important for our future, so perhaps this needs to be investigated
- Many players don't realise that they have the possibility to have a voice in the rule changes, so the role of the ATC in this is very important

ATC Election System

- IFF CB has approved a new ATC election system where elections will now be held during WFC qualification events and the term will be for 4yrs. It has been changed because we need the members to be involved for a longer time to be more effective and wanted to increase the number of players that are included in the voting process
- Men will be voted on at WFC 2016 for 3yrs and then in WFCQ 2020 for 4yrs. Women will be voted on at WFCQ 2017 for 4yrs
- ATC members raised some good questions about this new election process:
 - o How will the organising country players (who do not participate in the qualification events) be able to vote and how will it be decided who from this country will vote, as they do not necessarily have a 'team' at the time of the qualifications?
 - o Will it be possible in the future for more players than just those at the qualification events to be included to the voting?
 - For example, key players from Sweden are not always included to the qualification team, so how do they get to participate in the voting
 - For example, other national associations that are not participating in the qualifications
- ATC recommends that in the future we should move to an online voting system that is more flexible as to when the vote is held
- Question was brought up about whether it is necessary to have a 'rule' about having representatives from the same countries or not only the 'top' countries, in order to ensure a wide-range of national representatives from big & small NAs. IFF advised about the possibility of the CB still having the right to choose someone from the nominees to be on the ATC even if they are not in the top 4 vote results, in order to provide some regional / gender balance, if needed.
- IFF hopes that with the introduction of the election process during the Qualification events that it will increase the number of nominees from smaller NAs and result in a wider selection of ATC members from countries other than the 'top' ones
- ATC recommended that the IFF needs to review the process of how the nominations are done and when and how the information is given to the voting players. Many players have found that the information they are given from their NAs about the nomination process and the ATC in general is



very limited, and during events, the team management does not always present the ATC election information in any detail or with any importance

- A promotional video from ATC members telling about the work of the ATC and the importance of it could be made to help the voting process
- In the future, it would be good to have short (2-3min) videos from the nominated members for the elections with some information about themselves and why they are interested in being on the ATC, rather than just 3 lines on the voting page that we have now.
- Whole information of the process and importance of the ATC – for players, team managers, national associations – needs to be improved
- The election process needs to be more professional than it has been in the past

Anti-Doping Education Review

- Supplements are the biggest problem because it is so unclear about what is ok and what isn't. Would be good to get more information from the IFF on how they recommend that players can check supplements
- There should be more use of role models for AD education – listening to IFF officials talking about AD has much less impact than if there are current or former high-profile players giving the information or at least an introduction to help engage the players and make them understand the importance of the AD message
- The timing of the Outreach sessions during WFC can be problematic for players. For some teams it is put into their schedule at a time that the players would prefer to be doing something else (for example on their rest day), and so the feeling of the players can be quite negative towards having to be there
- ATC thinks it would be useful to provide players with a more positive AD message – information on what to do, rather than what not to do
- U19s – education definitely should be introduced already for this age group. ATC members are very willing to be used for the U19s education
- More education / promotion on what to expect during tests and what are the players rights
- ATC could record videos for SNTD campaign – personal messages about why not to dope

Betting / Match-fixing

- ATC agree that it is very important that players are made aware that betting & match-fixing situations are increasingly going to happen and they need information on what to do when it does happen
- ATC agree that a separate policy for betting/match-fixing must be developed, similar to the AD policy
- Tero Tiitu has done a lot of study on this issue in his Master's program and feels that, in the future, betting & match-fixing has the potential to be a much bigger problem for Floorball than doping issues
- We can't limit the amount of betting, so we have to focus on creating a culture of it being negative and unacceptable in floorball and provide as much information as possible to all involved
- Regulations need to not just be for international players but at all levels, which then becomes the responsibility of the NAs
- Sample flyer from Swimming Australia will be edited for Floorball and sent back to ATC members for review and then presented to the CB for approval, with the plan that it be widely distributed at all future IFF events



- The steps in this process are:
 - o IFF to create the Policy and introduce it to the NAs, maybe at the General Assembly
 - o Flyer to be created for players
 - o NAs to be given information on how to actually handle any reports of match-fixing
- IFF regulations on betting are currently very unclear. The competition regulations talk about not betting on your own matches and competition, while the Juridical Regulations state just not betting on your own match. These need to be clarified
- ATC asked whether the IFF regulation should be changed to be not betting on your own sport/event, rather than just own match?
- For smaller NAs making their own policy can be difficult depending on their stage of development
- This policy should be included to the license system and the Tier levels in the future

The World Games (TWG) & SportAccord

- ATC was provided with a summary of SportAccord, with some information about what SportAccord is and who it involves, as well as some highlights from the recent SportAccord convention that were most relevant to floorball
- IFF discussed about the importance of TWG and how everyone (IFF, NAs, players) will need to work to lift the profile of the event. Explained that, for now, TWG is Floorball's Olympics
- ATC members need to educate themselves a little better on TWG so that they can provide information on this event to other people
- There was discussion about how the floorball event will work at TWG – only 6 men's teams with a smaller than normal roster. Initial reaction was somewhat negative towards this, however through the discussions the ATC members came to understand that for Floorball to be included in these large multi-sport events and to continue the steps towards the ultimate goal of the Olympics, compromises will need to be made. Many other sports face the same challenges and floorball needs to take every opportunity that is given to them, even if it means participating with a format which is not the 'true' game of floorball as we know it today
- ATC is to put together a short list of main points about TWG that they can use when talking about this event and to ensure that they have common answers
- TWG will be heavily promoted over the next year – especially during WFC 2016 where the qualifying teams will be decided and ATC members are happy to assist with this

IFF Committees & Ambassador Roles

- Opportunities for ATC members to be included to some of the IFF committees was discussed. RACC (currently Emanuel) & Referee Committee (no one was immediately interested in this). There may be some new committees / commissions that have been established over the last year where ATC members could also participate
- ATC would like to ask again about a representative on the Medical Committee – there are current members with some medical background. They understand that some of the MC work is sensitive as it regards doping issues, however, it should be possible for them to be included in the major discussions and excluded from others, as required
- It is planned that GoGirls! Floorball Ambassadors will be introduced for every country participating to WFC 2017 and one ATC member could be the main ambassador for this program. More information on this will be decided later
- Special Olympics (currently Tero)



- IFF will put together a summary of the various committee and ambassador roles and send this to the ATC members so that they can make a more informed decision on what positions they would be interested to take on

ATC Profile

- It was discussed about what work the ATC itself can do to raise its profile and awareness:
 - o ATC members (especially those also from small federations) to have a role with contact with smaller NAs to show that even the small countries are important
 - o ATC members could be involved in development programmes
 - o ATC members to be more active in a role between the players in their country and their NA & IFF
 - o Ambassadors for different projects and inclusion to IFF committees
- The IFF can help to raise the awareness by:
 - o More promotion of the ATC work via the IFF website, social media – set regular schedule
 - o Banner for ATC at IFF events – a “contact us” type of message
- IFF & ATC to build an outline of the ATC – what does it do, who is involved, how does it work etc
- The role/profile of the ATC has grown considerably over the past 4yrs but it could still be better organised and promoted

Region & National Association ATC

- During the Asia Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC) General Assembly in February, they agreed to establish an AOFC Athletes Commission. The role will, in reality, be minimal and only mirror the IFF ATC. The current IFF ATC members from the AOFC region – Jill Roberts & Junoh Lee – will have this role for now, and any future AOFC member on the IFF Athletes Commission will be automatically put into this position
- It is not foreseen that it will have any active role in the short term until the AOFC actually establish the role. The aim is to be seen to have the Athletes Commission in place and to have them also represent the AOFC views on the IFF ATC
- At future AOFC Central Board meetings this will be discussed in more detail and a CB member will be appointed to be responsible for the AOFC ATC
- It is important that NAs also start to build their own ATC / Player's Associations
- Czech Republic will start the process of building their own ATC after the CB meeting in June
- Sweden had a player's association group approx. 3yrs ago (4 men + 4 women) but they only met once and nothing else has ever come of it
- Switzerland have a new 'Player's Association' as well as the National Olympic Committee ATC have an annual meeting which every sport is required to have representatives at
- Having a national ATC should become one of the license system requirements in the future

Blog topics

- A more visual blog with photos & videos should be made
- A 'Day in the life of a floorball player' with photos &/or short video (1min) could be used as an introduction to more in-depth, serious topics
- 30 sec videos of ATC doing floorball things could be included to Instagram regularly



- Blog topics were decided & scheduled as follows:
 - o (Jun) Lidwien – not just a player / development
 - o (Jul) Jill – the real cost of loving floorball
 - o (Aug/Sep) Tero / Eliisa – combining sport & study
 - o (Oct) Junoh – how to develop floorball in a new region
 - o (Nov) Emanuel – impact of a big lifestyle change on floorball
 - o (Nov) Josefina – how to manage your body for a long career
 - o (Dec) Karl-Johan – retiring from top-level floorball
- Deadline each month is 15th – but can be sent to IFF earlier and then published depending on what other news is being done
- In conjunction with the publishing of the blog it could be good to have the ATC member (who wrote the blog) 'take over' the IFF Twitter account for an hour and be available to answer questions from people

Champions Cup

- ATC discussed whether they should make a statement regarding the current Champions Cup format
- Players feel that it is a big investment for what is now an insignificant event. There is no tournament feeling about – no specific build up or excitement about it
- The respect for the tournament has been lost by the players
- Previous system also had problems but the new format is not the solution
- Support for the CC event is definitely there from the players – they want this type of event but in some different format
- Alternative formats that were discussed were, in part, quite similar to past formats – old CC and European Cup
 - o Qualification round and then Final Four at a later date – question is still of course of when these events would be held. Q in Aug, Final in Oct?
 - o Splitting the Men's & Women's tournament to allow for a better match schedule
 - o Local home team should still be included somehow to ensure the local spectator interest
 - o Qualification round is very important to have as many European teams participating

Other matters

- Many of the topics discussed concerned the 'culture' of floorball – how players train, ethical issues such as anti-doping and betting, how we support each other to develop. ATC talked about making a picture of a good floorball player – personality, psychology, lifestyle. Could this help to mould the culture of floorball and tie together the anti-doping, betting policies etc?