



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

*Recognised by the IOC
Ordinary member of SportAccord*

APPENDIX 20

Helsinki, Finland, October 14th, 2016

IFF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Minutes 1/2016

Date: 14th of October 2016
Place: Telephone meeting
Decision: Circulation

Participants: Ismo Haaponiemi, chairman (FIN)
Rainer Martiskin (AUS)
Artis Krauklis (LAT)

Excused: Linda Noppa (SWE) due to case concerning a Swedish player

Object: Game situation in the Champions Cup Final between Storvreta IBK and Classic, in Borås, Sweden on the 2nd of October, 2016 reported for consideration by the CC Disciplinary function in accordance with CC Regulation §11. As the incident occurred in the final match of the tournament, the CC Disciplinary function gave the matter forward to the IFF Disciplinary Committee to deliberate on.

Facts of the case: Player Henrik Stenberg (Storvreta) has during the 2nd period of the match made a contact with the opponent goalkeeper's helmet in what could be seen as a dangerous manner. The incident happens at 25:01 on the match clock and neither of the referees of the game were in a position at that moment to see what actually happened. Stenberg was chasing the fast throw by the Storvreta goalkeeper and came second to the ball in front of the Classic goal. Trying to reach the ball Stenberg ran very close to the goal and clearly touched the Classic goalkeeper's helmet, forcing the goalkeeper's head back. Stenberg also hits the goal in the situation.

Basis for decision: CC Disciplinary function citation of Mr. Henrik Stenberg in the game.
Henrik Stenberg's response
Storvreta IBK's response
IFF Referee Observer report
IFF Referees report
Classic's report

Essential provisions: Rules of the Game (edition 2014)
- Rule 617.4 Offences leading to a Match Penalty 3
Champions Cup Competition Regulation (edition 2015) § 11
IFF Juridical Regulations (Art. 9.6 b)

Consideration: The IFF Disciplinary Committee finds that the incident has fulfilled the criteria for the DC to take it under consideration.

It is the responsibility of any player to conduct himself in accordance to the IFF Game Rules and the related regulations



In the fast game situation, created by the opening throw of the Storvreta goalkeeper, the Classic defender and Storvreta's Henrik Stenberg race for the ball. The Classic defender gets to the ball first, closely followed by Stenberg.

The ball goes behind the Classic goal and both players follow it. In this situation Henrik Stenberg chooses to cut his running line closer to the goal, in order to catch the opponent. Stenberg gets far too close to the Classic goalkeeper and clearly touches his helmet with his left hand in an unnecessary way. Stenberg had the opportunity to avoid the direct contact with the Classic goalkeeper. In this situation Stenberg didn't show enough respect and consideration for the safety of the opponent's player, especially as such actions, which are directed to the head/neck can lead to unpredictable and serious injuries for the other player.

In this situation the referees are in accordance to their own statement not in a position to see exactly what happens between the Classic goalkeeper and Stenberg. The situation occurs very quickly and the closest referee's view is blocked by Stenberg. When Stenberg, who tries to round the goal makes contact with the goalkeeper, the referee Tomas Sojka stops the game for a free hit for Classic. As the referees are not allowed to watch any replays from the video screen after their decision, they continued the game with a free hit.

In their statements, both Storvreta IBK and Henrik Stenberg admit that Henrik Stenberg touches the Classic goalkeeper, but stresses that there was no intention to harm the opponent as part of the duel with the Classic defender, that Stenberg slows down in the situation and there is no violence used in the situation. They claim that the situation should not be taken up for consideration, as the referees had not seen any foul in the situation

The IFF DC finds that the player makes an unnecessary contact with the helmet of the Classic goalkeeper and has put out his hand already well in advance of the contact to the helmet. Whether this contact is intentional or not is very hard to judge, but Stenberg touches the helmet with the effect that the head of the Classic goalkeeper twists in a dangerous manner. This as such can be very dangerous for the goalkeeper's health and should not be accepted in Floorball in any situation. The IFF DC finds that the player in the quick situation made a bad decision at the moment without thinking of the safety of the goalkeeper's welfare. The incident could have led to really drastic and serious results, as it was directed to the head and it is not something that should be seen on the field of play in Floorball

Even if Henrik Stenberg's contact to the Classic goalkeeper was not necessarily intended to harm the player, he clearly goes for the helmet and he has to accept the consequence of his actions, meaning that the Classic goalkeeper could have been seriously injured in the situation. In addition it was not in any way sportsmanlike in line with what you should expect from an international level player.

Decision and applicable provisions:

In accordance with the Juridical regulations Chapter 1, Article 9.6 b) and Chapter 2, Section 3, Disciplinary Committee, Article 46, General jurisdictions of the juridical regulations the disciplinary committee imposes the following sanction



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Mr. Henrik Stenberg is sanctioned with a suspension of any Floorball activity in two (2) official matches in his team Storvreta IBK. As the infraction happened when playing for his club team, the suspension must therefore be served in the national series of his club.

The Player is sanctioned from playing from the 18th of October until the 24th of October, which includes two games of Storvreta in the SSL.

In addition, the IF DC wants to point out that this type of contact to the goalkeeper helmets are in no way acceptable in our sport.

Reasons:

The system of introducing the Event Disciplinary function is aimed to sort out situations, where the referees have, like in this case not been in a position to see the infringements of the players in such situations. So the claim made by Henrik Stenberg and Storvreta IBK, that the IFF DC should not take the matter for consideration is not valid, as the referees have stated that they could not have seen the situation clearly.

Henrik Stenberg tried to gain advantage for himself by running too close to the goal and goalkeeper, without consideration for the safety of the opponent's health. He made unnecessary contact with the opponent's helmet and caused danger to him by doing so. It seems there was some intent to touch the goalkeeper, but not necessarily any to actually harm the opponent.

Regardless of this, the action of Henrik Stenberg is totally unnecessary in this situation and against the values of the sport in Floorball. Henrik Stenberg had already so to say lost the duel against the Classic defender for the ball, so the decision to cut in close to the goal and the contact with the goalkeeper serves no real advantage for him or his team.

The player Henrik Stenberg hazarded the consequences of his action. Touching the helmet of the Classic goalkeeper as well as the additional movement with his results the high risk of hurting the player. To accept this risk is equal to the matter of fact in this case and it was only good luck that the Classic goalkeeper wasn't hurt.

Decision procedure:

The decision was made unanimously.

Appeal procedure:

The directions for an appeal according to the IFF Juridical Regulation Chapter V, Article 69-77.

An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee against any sanction passed by the Disciplinary Committee, the Jury or the Central Board, unless the sanction pronounced is a suspension for less than three matches or of up to two months. (Juridical Regulation Art 69 c.)

In Helsinki, 14.10.2016

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