



## **IFF RC meeting, 8-9. October 2016 Hotel Rantasipi Airport, Finland**

Klaus Koskela, IFF RC Chairman  
Lukas Gyger, IFF RC Vice-Chairman  
Radek Hora  
Mats Öster  
Veli Halonen, IFF RC secretary  
Pierre Boudville, excused  
Brigitta Radacsi, excused

### **The minutes of the RC meeting**

#### 1 § Opening and welcome

The IFF RC chairman Mr. Klaus Koskela opened the meeting on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October at 10:00 and welcomed all the RC members to the last meeting of this RC. New RC will start its work in the beginning of 2017.

#### 2 § IFF Way of Refereeing seminar

The RC handled the first version of the IFF way of Refereeing “Playbook vol 1”, which was created in a working group in August in Prague. The group consists participants from Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland.

There will be the first education for the IFF observers and for the persons, who are involved with the referee issues in their own national associations during the upcoming Men’s WFC in Riga in Latvia from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of December.

The objective is to take the “Referee Playbook” in use for the first time for the upcoming Women’s WFC 2017 qualifications.

#### 3 § Referee and observer nominations for 2017-2018

The RC nominated 126 referees to be international referees and 25 observers as international observers. Out of 126 referees, 30 were nominated to the IFF referee development group, which has turned out to be an excellent way to educate and later to promote referees from the group to become ordinary international referees.

The RC also decided to create a new group for educational purposes. The new group will mainly referee in the international weekend games and in IFF qualifications and educate the new IFF referees inside the tournament. During the international weekend they will referee in tournaments, where the organizing association can’t provide observers. To be member of that group the

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referees need to have experience in international tournaments and the will and ability to educate others. The IFF RC is constantly looking for referees to this group. The main target group is those referees who are planning or already decided to end their international referee careers.

#### 4 § Observer feedback sheet

The IFF Observer feedback form as such has been in use for several years and the RC thinks that it's now time to change it and mainly create a new form, which would be easier to fill with the main information in words, rather than in numbers. It's easier for the RC members eventually to evaluate that kind of information. The new feedback form would be a web based form by using the Webropol survey software where to the IFF office has access and this way no extra costs would be created. The IFF RC Chairman Mr. Koskela to come with a proposal of the content of the new form latest by the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.

#### 5 § The appointments of the IFF referees regarding the neutrality

The RC carried out a test, where the Finnish and Swedish referees refereed national team games, Finland vs. Sweden in two games during the international weekend in September 2016. According to the feedback available at this stage, the games were handled well. RC widely discussed about the neutrality issue regarding the IFF events. The outcome of the discussion was that the RC would still prefer that neutral referees would referee the games unless there's a "force majeure" situation, which have every once and a while occurred in IFF events.

The RC also discussed about the neutrality demand in club tournaments and concerning those tournaments the IFF RC would be ready to nominate the referees to club tournaments in a more flexible way. In the club tournaments the players of the team might not all be citizens of the country, where the team plays the national league and therefore the neutrality of the referees is in a different perspective.

#### 6 § The reports of different referee groups

Mr. Gyger gave a short report of the situation in the gold referee group. It seems that at the time there's a change of the referee generation going on in several IFF member associations and the amount of gold level referees has decreased. It however is quite obvious that based on the proposals from the IFF member associations there will be more international referees than ever before and that progress is positive and will give the opportunity to increase the number of gold group referees in the near future.

Mr. Öster reported about the silver group referees, which has been growing during the last two years. That also gives the positive anticipation for the future gold level group.

He also reported about the international observer situation. At the time there should be more international observers, but it's a matter of education nationally and also a matter of missing suitable candidates. There are several international referees who have ended their international careers, but aren't either willing or capable to become international observers. The RC needs to

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work with the planning of observer educations as well as trying to motivate and support the IFF member associations to recruit new persons to become international observers.

Mr. Radek Hora gave a report about the IFF referee development group. The group has existed now for six years and the results have been mainly positive. With the co-operation with the Czech Open organizers, the IFF RC has been able to educate and to promote to the ordinary international referee group more than 20 referee pairs. The IFF referee development group also includes the AOFC referee development group, which had its first educational clinic in February 2016 on conjunction with the WFC 2016 Asia and Oceania qualifications.

#### 7 § Reports from the IFF Development Seminars Referee Block

The IFF development function has carried out three seminars after last spring with the referee block education. In May 2016 in Quezon City in Philippines, in September in Gwalior in India and also in September in Douala in Cameroon, which was the first ever FDS in Africa.

The outcome from the seminars has mainly been very positive and the seminars are a very good way to educate to the participants up to date information directly by the IFF educators. There has also been time for the discussion with the representatives of the participating member associations in order to define for them more thoroughly in which areas they should concentrate and also to educate the path to become international referees and what it requires.

#### 8 § The next meeting

The next meeting will take place in spring 2017 and that will be the first meeting for the new RC.

#### 9 § Closing the meeting

The IFF RC chairman Mr. Klaus Koskela thanked all the RC members for the last four years in the RC and for a very fruitful and co-operative work and ended the meeting at 13:30

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