

4th IFF Athletes' Commission Annual Meeting 6th – 7th May 2017

Place: VIDÅ Arena
Växjö, Sweden

Participants: Lidwien Reehuis (NED), Chair
Eliisa Alanko (FIN)
Josefina Eiremo (SWE)
Junoh Lee (KOR)
Agata Plechan (POL)
Johan Samuelsson (SWE)
Tomas Sladky (CZE)
Yui Takahashi (JPN)
Tero Tiitu (FIN)

Sarah Mitchell IFF Event Manager & ATC Officer

Minutes

§ 1. Opening of the meeting

Ms Reehuis opened the 4th Annual meeting of the ATC and welcomed the members to the meeting. This is the first meeting of the new ATC which will, after the introduction of the new system, have a term of 4 years.

§ 2. The IFF and ATC

Ms Reehuis introduced Mr John Liljelund, IFF Secretary General. She welcomed him to the first session, and asked him to discuss how the IFF sees the role of the ATC and in what ways the CB would like to see the ATC more involved in the IFF.

Mr Liljelund welcomed the new ATC and gave a brief overview of how the IFF executive sees the role of the ATC and outlined the different areas where he hopes that the ATC members can be involved in. He made it clear that the IFF wants the ATC to speak out, give their opinions, and take the responsibility and opportunity to present their ideas to the IFF executive.

He hopes that some of the experience that the ATC members gain from their involvement with the IFF will be used in the future as they take up management & leadership roles within their National Association once their playing careers have ended. He believes that the ATC can help to enhance the involvement of athletes once they retire.

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He discussed the importance of The World Games (TWG) to Floorball at the moment, as well as other multi-sports opportunities that lie ahead for us – Youth Olympics, Olympics Sports Labs, Masters Games. ATC members asked what the IFF's main aim of our involvement in TWG is, and Mr Liljelund explained that apart from the political benefits, we aim to present a 'wow' factor to all the people that matter – spectators, IOC, Sports officials etc.

Mr Liljelund explained that a key element of IFF's focus is marketing and sponsorship to help increase financial interest. At present we have big events, in regards of spectators and media coverage, but the level of the event is not matched at an equivalent marketing level.

When asked about television coverage for TWG, Mr Liljelund responded that IFF essentially has no rights for TV, we are subject to what the organisers will produce. As the Host Broadcasters will only produce the final day of competition, IFF will itself pay the cost to produce the first 3 days of the event. The Host Broadcaster and IFF are in discussions with CZE, SWE & FIN television. There will be some coverage of Floorball on the Olympic channel, but it will be limited. IFF will still produce highlights and match interviews.

The decision on the participation of Floorball at the next TWG will be based on sport performance, spectators, and social involvement. The decision will be made during SportAccord on 16 April 2018 in Bangkok.

§ 3. Profile of the ATC

The ATC discussed the current profile of the ATC and there was general agreement that most people do not know that the ATC exists, and even if they do, then they do not really have any understanding of what it does or what its purpose is.

Different ways that the profile of the ATC could be raised were talked about:

- ATC members to self-promote via social media and the IFF can re-promote through their SoMe channels
- National Associations to publish news about this meeting
- ATC members to actively contact players
- Blogs
- Twitter / Instagram takeovers by ATC members

The focus on using social media to promote the ATC brought up the question of what is the target group of the ATC? It was decided that, for now, it should be the adult players whose opinions are needed to develop the sport. It was also important to focus the questions/work of the ATC on specific topics that we would like to get feedback or opinions from players on. Just asking generally if there is anything that people want to address to the ATC will not necessarily get any responses.

Mr Lee thought it was important for the ATC members to be in contact with players that they are already involved with – their national team & club players.

Mr Tiitu asked how the ATC works in other sports? How is it promoted or used?

Ms Eiremo thought that the larger events, like WFC, should be used to promote the ATC. Ms Mitchell explained that, in previous years, the elections for the ATC have been the priority at the WFC, but with the new system, where elections are held during WFC qualifications and the ATC has a term of 4 years, there should now be a much greater possibility to promote the ATC during the WFC.

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ATC Decided: IFF will make a small news about the ATC meeting that each player can translate into their own language and add their own quotes, and then give this to their National Associations, local floorball media for publishing.

IFF will investigate how the ATC works in other sports.

ATC would like IFF office help to build an ATC Facebook page and assist with other social media activities, and ATC will work on ways to promote the ATC during the WFC in Bratislava in December 2017.

§ 4. Goals of the ATC

The ATC discussed what should be the goals of the ATC for this term.

Mr Tiitu said that the ATC should not just be a messenger between the players and IFF but should also present their own opinions on IFF matters.

Ms Plechan asked about what has the ATC done in the future and that we need to show people what we actually do.

Ms Reehuis explained that as the Chair, and member of the IFF CB, it will be her role to bring the main issues from the CB and present them to the ATC members.

Mr Sladky and Mr Samuelsson both proposed that there should be increased awareness of the doping information on the IFF website. At present it is a bit difficult to find the information. A link on the home page that takes you to information and links where you can directly check medications would be very useful.

The 'Keep Floorball Honest' flyer (about betting & match-fixing) that was produced in conjunction with the ATC was looked at. Mr Sladky suggested that player contracts should include a clause for no betting.

Mr Samuelsson mentioned some cases in Sweden where players had been punished for betting incidents but he said that the rules about it were unclear. Do the IFF rules apply to all competitions? Do all National Associations have their own rules?

ATC Decided: To make an action plan of goals for the ATC for the next term

§ 5. IFF Committees and Commission

Ms Mitchell advised about the different IFF committees that ATC members can be involved with:

- Rules & Competition Committee
- Referee Committee
- Medical Committee (limited role)
- Entourage Committee
- Equality Commission

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It was a little unclear exactly what role the ATC members could play in each committee.

ATC Decided: IFF to present a clearer definition of the work of each committee and the role the ATC member would play. ATC Members to then consider the possible options and make nominations to the committees after further discussions.

§ 6. Competition Matters

Ms Reehuis introduced Mr Martin Klabere, IFF CB Member and Chair of the IFF Rules & Competition Committee. She welcomed him to the second session, and asked him to discuss several topics relating to competition that the ATC members had asked about.

a) Compression wear colours

The rule about compression wear colours (ie. compression wear worn under the playing outfit must match to either the shirt or shorts) was discussed. Ms Takahashi said that for smaller countries, where players are supplying their own equipment, this rule was very difficult. Ms Alanko said that as there are so many different types of compression wear, players are used to using the ones they are familiar with, and it can be difficult when they are forced to wear different types of clothing as it is supplied by their national associations.

Suggestion was that there could be the addition of a universally accepted colour, such as black. Then players would have the option of using compression wear that either matched their playing uniform or was black.

b) New playing systems for National Associations

Several national associations have proposed new playing systems for overtime and penalty shot competitions for next season. Mr Klabere explained that, in principle, any new systems like this would be allowed but they must be approved by the RACC and the NAs must provide a report on the system for the IFF to review. For all IFF events, the standard playing system as outlined in the Rules of the Game will apply.

c) Reducing participation costs

Ms Takahashi raised this point as the costs for participating in several IFF events each year is very expensive, especially in countries such as hers (Japan) where all the players must cover their own costs. Mr Klabere said that he does not know how the problem of the costs for players can be solved by the IFF. IFF has reduced many of the participation/registration fees for events over the last years to help encourage involvement in events, but the costs of the actual participation (travel, accommodation, uniforms etc) and how the National Associations cover those costs is not something that IFF can really influence.

RACC is taking under consideration the timing of events, such as the AOFC WFC qualifications to make sure that they do not clash with big holidays (such as Chinese New Year) which has led to very high travel costs for teams in the past.

d) WFC Qualifications system

The point was raised as to whether the current system for the WFC Qualifications was the best possible. Ms Alanko said that although she understands the importance of the 'big' countries playing in these smaller events, the lack of competitive games for the high level teams makes them somewhat pointless (for them). They asked about the opportunity to play a Friendly International match during the qualification event against another of the 'big' countries.

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Ms Mitchell explained that this year we had an unusual situation in having two qualification groups in each location, which would make this kind of exhibition match possible. However, even if we continued with this system of two groups in one location, finding a time in the schedule is also difficult. Mr Klabere said that it was definitely something to consider for the future, as the benefit for the smaller cities to host these events is very important and while the smaller countries really look forward to competing against the bigger teams it would be very good to show some high level floorball as well.

e) Future of Champions Cup

The future setup of the Champions Cup was discussed. Information about how it will be played in the future (with a Final Four) was presented. The playing system is in the process of being discussed by the Champions Cup Steering Group Committee, who will make a proposal in July.

For those ATC members who have participated in CC, they stated that for them and their club it was a very important tournament, but if you only play one game it makes the tournament not so credible. A move to a Final Four and a home and away system was welcomed.

Ms Mitchell pointed out that with the change to a Final Four system we have lost the connection between the EuroFloorball Cup & CC, and there needs to be some development of the competition to again include the possibility of all of the European countries participating.

f) Use of technology

The use of the video cameras for the review of goals was discussed. Mr Klabere and Ms Mitchell explained about the system that was used during WFC 2016 in Riga. In the end, the system worked well but it was not without its difficulties and the costs for such a system are very high.

Mr Lee explained about how two goal decisions in two consecutive WFC qualifications had adversely affected Korea and, it is clear, that the use of technology needs to be available in the future. Ms Mitchell said that the full camera setup that we had in Riga would obviously not be available to us at all events, but with the use of the YouTube livestreaming it is possible to establish a very basic video review system. It would not be perfect and it would be a little bit of 'the luck of the draw' as to what you might be able to / or not able to see with the basic camera setup that we have for the majority of events, but it could be a start.

g) Rule Change 2018 update

Mr Klabere went through the list of rule change suggestions that had been received and reviewed by the Rule Change committee. Many of them had come from the ATC and he discussed how some of them have been implemented as well as the reasons for others not being considered.

The ATC can have a person included to the Rule Change Committee, and this can be someone separate from the RACC representative.

h) Transfer period

ATC asked if it is possible for the transfer period in December to be extended until mid-January as it gives more time to decide after WFC and the Christmas period.

In summary, Mr Klabere said that he would take many of the points that were raised to the RACC meeting which is to be held on 20th – 21st May.

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§ 7. IFF Materials

Ms Mitchell introduced some ideas for projects that the ATC could be involved with during their term:

- Development of a player questionnaire after IFF events for feedback to both the IFF & organiser
- Production of an Anti-Doping awareness flyer or one that explains about the Doping Control process
- Media tips for players
- Sexual Harrassment guidelines flyer
- Proposal for ATC involvement in IFF Development Programme (eg. coaching clinic in Korea with one or two ATC members attending)

ATC Decided: IFF will lead the production of the flyers and the questionnaire. ATC Members to discuss how to handle the media tips. Mr Lee to consider the submission of a proposal to the IFF Development Programme

§ 8. Blog topics

ATC members discussed different topics for blog articles and put together a proposal for the next 6 months:

- *Ms Eiremo – [How and why I keep Keeping on going strong playing](#)*
- *Mr Lee – [How I got a job in the Olympics from my floorball career](#)*
- *Ms Reehuis – [The goalkeeper's perspective](#)*
- *Mr Sladky – [How to combine being a player and a coach](#)*
- *Ms Plechan – [How to prepare yourself for important games when facilities are not optimal](#)*
- *Ms Alanko – [Travelling a lot for sports](#)*
- *Mr Tiitu – [What floorball teaches us about worklife](#)*
- *Ms Takahashi – [Moving to Sweden from Asia](#)*
- *Mr Samuelsson – [How becoming a parent affects you as a player](#)*

ATC members need to come up with new ideas on how to distribute and promote the blogs. Perhaps different formats for the blogs could also be used – more pictures, less words.

§ 9. Next ATC meeting

To be decided at a later date.

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