

Proposal for change to Team List system for IFF events

Background

At the last CB-meeting RACC had a proposal to change the handling of team lists from 21 days to 30 days prior the event. In the CB a discussion came up regarding PR and Media and I brought back the topic for going through the change ones more.

Following text are in the CB-minutes from Helsinki

Regarding updating of competition regulations, the RACC proposes a change in the handling of team lists where teams would submit one team list 30 days prior to the event (instead of a first list and a final list). The list would have a final team list of 20 players + 7 or 10 officials (depending on the event) and then 10 emergency players. The players on the emergency list would be handled just like the first list players are now – these are the only players that the team can substitute into the final list in the case of injury.

Mr. Suman asked for the reason for the change, to which Mr. Klabere answered that it makes it easier for the participating countries and pushing down the administration for the participants. Mr. Suman feels that there is a major issue for the PR and Media view. Mr. Klabere concluded that he will take back the proposal for further discussions in the RACC, to clarify the situation.

Proposal

Change the competition regulations regarding team lists to be one team list 30 days prior to the event. The list would have a final team list of 20 players + 7 or 10 officials (depending on the event) and then 10 emergency players. The players on the emergency list would be handled just like the first list players are now – these are the only players that the team can substitute into the final list in the case of injury.

Reasons for RACC to keep the original proposal

- A. Wada rules
 - B. Media and PR
 - C. Statistic system
 - D. Accreditation system
 - E. Mobile app
 - F. Player and team presentation
 - G. Match program
- A. WADA rules say that TUEs must be submitted at least 30 days prior to an event. These have to be processed & approved by the IFF Medical Committee. The earlier they are received the better due to the fact that they require a lot of paperwork – medical records etc., so it would be easier if only final list players had to do this. At present, because of our list dates, every player on the first list who might need a TUE has to do the application.
- B. Due to the change of the international calendar (October instead of November) the opportunity to change from the old system with 2 lists close to the tournament to only have one list 30 days before has a positive effects regarding PR and Media from the participating countries point of view. With a new timeline and only one list to focus on this also gives the countries to make their own plan of realising the 30 players instead of being punched into giving this information 30 days before the tournament. This year probably most countries could have a press conference in the period 23 to 31 of October. (also see comment under item F)

- C. Every player and team staff must be entered into the statistics system (whether they are in the first list or final we need to have a record of them). These must be in the system and ready to be published the day after we receive the final team lists. At present this means that we enter approximately 600 names to the system. Some of these are completely new records some are old records that need updating (eg a new photo added)
At the moment, from the time IFF receive the final list until when the team cards need to be ready to be visible to the public is generally less than 24hrs. It would be much easier if we could from the beginning prepare the team cards to only have the final team list players entered, rather than entering all 30 players and then having to re-edit the teams and remove 10 players
- D. Only the final team list players are entered into the accreditation system
The time from when IFF currently receive the final team lists to when the LOC require all of the information to be ready for the cards to be sent to print is approximately 48hrs.
This means that IFF have to prepare excel files which have all 30 players on them and then when IFF receive the final lists IFF edit these to have only the final list players. These are then imported to the accreditation system, all the imports have to be checked and all the accreditation card files finalised and sent to the organisers. To only have 48hrs to do is administratively challenging.
With the proposed system all of the accreditations could be prepared a week in advance which would considerably ease the pressure on both the IFF and LOC.
- E. The mobile app takes all of the player and team information from the statistics system. The longer that IFF keep the players and teams hidden (ie. until we publish them) then the longer it is before the final update of the mobile app can be launched
The testing of the app cannot be completed until the team lists are visible in the statistics system
Promotional images of the app, which are used for the marketing in all the media channels, cannot be easily made (eg. via a simple screenshot) until the app is fully functional. Until all the information is loaded the only way to make such images is with mock-ups made via design software which requires a lot more work
The mobile app is a key marketing tool which is being limited by the late publishing of the team lists.
- F. These cannot be finalised until IFF are sure of the final team list. This means that the IFF & LOC have just 21 days to promote 16 teams. Even doing one team a day this is not a good timeline to work with. By keeping the current system IFF are limiting the LOC's ability to promote the event's key players and teams to a very short time. From a marketing perspective it would be much better to already be able to promote the teams and players well before this time
The amount of time required to research team and player backgrounds and create all the graphical elements that are used in the media promotions requires time, which at present isn't available.
- G. The LOC is under great pressure in the final weeks before the event to get the match programme finalised for printing
One of the key components of this is the team lists, including the team photos. If teams are late by only just one or two days in providing their team photo this can create a really bad situation for the LOC in producing the match programme. Extending the timelines for the team lists would greatly ease the pressure on the LOC for producing this material.
- H. For participating countries/teams the two lists are problematic from an administrative perspective for most of them.

In the last years we have several times changed the 21 days final list date to be after the November weekend and this has made it to be even as little as 18 days which everyone can understand with the information A-G above made it almost impossible.

The new system also means that IFF & LOC can then choose to publish this list any time after it is received. If national associations want to make their own announcement then they need to do it before the 30 days (ie. before they give it to IFF).

One list submitted at 30 days would also work for every tournament.

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