

By E-mail:
 International Floorball Federation
 (IFF), Mr. Tomas Eriksson, President

Copy to:
 IFF, Mr. John Liljelund
 IFF, Mr. Renato Orlando
 CB Swiss Unihockey

Berne, 30 March 2007

Consequences of the new IFF calendar

Dear Mr. President,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

Swiss Unihockey has, in the past few days, found out about the new International Floorball Federation (IFF) calendar. From a detailed examination of these new dates, we have concluded that they offer many positive possibilities and above all also opportunities, but also present certain obstacles.

We should like to inform you about two points as follows:

Women's U19 World Championship 2008

The Swiss Unihockey CB took a very close look at the new situations and in so doing noticed that in particular the change of the Women's U19 World Championship 2008 from November to May causes the SUHV considerable difficulties. Swiss Unihockey human resources are, contrary to the normal situation, completely taken up with the preparation, execution and follow-up of the 2007 Men's U19 World Championship up to the end of December 2007. So it is not possible for Swiss Unihockey, for personnel reasons, to organise the 2008 Women's U19 World Championship in parallel with this and to guarantee its perfect execution. It would not be responsible to start the organisation of a Women U19 World Championship only 4 months before it is to be held.

So, for personnel reasons and because the new dates leave too little preparation time, Swiss Unihockey is unfortunately not in a position to organise the 2008 Women's U19 World Championship in Switzerland. It is with considerable regret that we ask the IFF to reallocate the tournament and to find another organiser for this event.

Fixtures calendar

Swiss Unihockey has also devoted some considerable thought to whether the new fixtures calendar can meet all the requirements. In the opinion of the CB, the new dates constitute a challenge and thus also



offer our sport an opportunity. Nevertheless, from the Swiss point of view, detailed study has shown that it could cause some "problem" or another:

September

We would suggest that in September only 1 weekend be designated IFF weekend. That could be used both for the qualifiers for the European Cup as well as for holding international matches. The first weekend in September would be good. This change would result in the players being available sooner for the clubs and the associations and so they would be able to put their minds fully to preparing the season with a minimum of interruptions.

The concentration of fixtures (EC qualification, international weekend, WUFC, EC, World Championships) before Christmas will heavily tax players, coaches and their employers alike. We would gladly hold the European Cup or/and the WUFC on the international February date as in the past. This would, on the one hand, reduce the pre-Christmas strain on the players (employees) and the employers and, on the other, enhance the sporting value of this meeting. From the viewpoint of the technicians and coaches, it is not to be ruled out that players and teams will in February be in far better sporting form than in October. In February, other kinds of sport will also be competing less for media attention and Floorball will feature better in sports reporting.

December

We consider it of the utmost urgency and as indispensable that the IFF as rapidly as possible define the exact date or the exact week for the A World Championships. In Switzerland, we plan match dates approximately 2 years in advance and therefore depend on receiving the exact dates as soon as possible. The match schedule for 2007/2008 was already signed and sealed last November and will now have to be revised.

May



In order for us to offer the U19 World Championships a suitable platform (spectators, etc.) in May, we should really appreciate it if both of these World Championships could be held in Ascension week. That would give countless fans the possibility of locally following the matches live.

Switzerland, as a regular organiser of international events, always supports the efforts of the IFF but, at the same time, is of the opinion that the needs of the clubs, the teams and the coaches must also be given the highest consideration. Our topmost leagues have been caught totally unaware by these substantial changes, but will do everything possible to meet the new deadlines.

We would ask you to take a stand on our requests and we are convinced that Swiss Unihockey will continue in future to prove a reliable partner for the IFF. We thank you very much for your feedback and our ever excellent relations.

Yours sincerely

SWISS UNIHOCKEY

 
Gerhard Zingg Thomas Gilardi
President Vice-President