

Jury report – Women’s U19 WFC 2006, Germany.

The tournament was played with 11 teams in the period 6th to 12th November 2006 in the east part of Germany in the cities of Naunhof (groups) and Leipzig (play-off). Only one arena at the time was used which positively affected the tournament and created a good “family” atmosphere.

The tournament had the same medalists like two years ago – Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, but the level of play has increased dramatically since Tampere 2004. Surprises were the German and Polish team with good performances. There were two groups - one consisted of six teams and the other of five teams which meant that some teams had to play 7 matches in seven days which seemed way too many for this category. The last matches were affected by the length of the tournament.

The general conclusion is that it was a good tournament. It was not perfect, but the LOC was enthusiastic and hard working. Only a few problems were actually visible for the spectators and most could be solved, so they hardly affected the teams. However, there were some problems that did affect the teams and thus influenced the tournament.

The strong points of the tournament:

- The atmosphere was perfect. During all matches there were quite many spectators, from around 50 to 600 in the Partelandhalle and 1300 in Leipzig.
- LOC was usually cooperative and working hard. Many things were improved during the week
- The setting in a small town (Naunhof – 10.000 inhabitants) was good for this tournament. It brought many spectators and good support from the local government
- Especially the opening and also the closing ceremony were really good, and during many matches there was some entertainment program for the spectators.
- Media interest from mostly local TV stations and newspapers

The main problem of the tournament:

- A lot of effort from the jury side was needed to improve the security. The LOC had decided to have a friendly tournament with ‘loose’ and ‘invisible’ security. This seemed ok and appropriate considering the type of tournament, but especially for the German matches and the final weekend special security arrangements had to be asked for. It was agreed that no spectators should be seated directly behind the team benches and no spectators should walk through the match secretariat. Unfortunately, this was not well looked after by the LOC. A lot of discussions and persuasions were needed to convince the LOC.
- There were some repeated problems with the national anthems. Incorrect anthems were played for team Russia and Slovakia. The corrected Slovakian anthem was too short, so this team had the wrong anthem twice. Beside that, different versions of the anthems were used. Because this problem tends to be repeated at almost every tournament the RACC discussed the solution of collecting similar versions of the anthems of all IFF members and store them on the IFF website for download by organizers.

- Almost all matches started too late, from 2 to 10 minutes. The schedule was good, with the usual timing, but the speaker was too slow and too passive. This was discussed several times, but led to only partial improvements.
- The dressing rooms in Naunhof were not perfect. A group of 2 team rooms and one referee room shared one shower area, so we had male referees who after the match entered a shower area filled with showering girls. Timing and privacy would be hard, so an alternative solution had to be found.
- There were some transportation problems. Team leaders were taken to the 2nd technical meeting too late, also some problems with transportation of teams and referees.
- There were major problems with the dressing rooms in Leipzig. Due to delayed renovation work, most of the dressing rooms were without water. The LOC had decided to use alternative dressing rooms, which were in the main spectator corridor, next to the bar and sandwich shop. The teams and referees would have to be forced to walk through a small alley, filled with eating and beer drinking spectators. This was not acceptable. After a discussion, during which some LOC protested that the arena and set-up was approved by IFF an O.K. solution for teams and referees, was found.
- The daily report was not used as good as possible. Problems that were discussed and solved were not noted that explicitly in the daily report. For local use, this is fine, but for the spreading of information and the archive this is not so good. RACC decided to discuss it more thoroughly and possibly prepare a guideline for jury members concerning this.
- There were teams not attending at the Technical meetings. Because it was caused by traveling reasons (delayed flights) and because of organizers mistake (late transportation for the 2nd tech meeting) and all teams apologized for that, no further action was proposed.