



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

Ordinary member of AGFIS/GAISF

APPENDIX 5

Helsinki, February 26th, 2010 IFF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE Minutes 1/2010

Date: 26th of February 2010
Place: Telephone meeting
Decision: Circulation

Participants: Ismo Haaponiemi, chairman (FIN)
Tomas Vaculik (CZE)
Rainer Martiskin (AUS)

Excused: Rudolf Buri, (SUI) – not replied to e-mail

Object: Withdrawal of India from the 8th Men's World Floorball Championships qualification in Singapore 3rd to 7th of February 2010.

Facts of the case: The organizer of the Men's WFC qualification in Singapore had for a period of time asked (6th of January 2010) the arrival and accommodation information from the Indian team and then received the first information on the 14th of January, stating that they are not able to participate in the WFC qualifications. The IFF Competition Office directly sent the Indian federation a letter requesting an explanation and stating what the possible sanction of withdrawing from the WFC qualifications would be, in accordance with the IFF Juridical Regulations.

The IFF Competition Office received a letter on the 14th of January, in which it was stated that the Floorball Federation of India will have a meeting to discuss the situation on the 17th of January.

IFF then received on the 20th of January 2010 a letter from the Floorball Federation of India (FFI), in which the Indian federation informed that they for a number of mainly financial reasons and the lack of sponsors, have decided not to participate in the 8th Men's World Floorball Championship 2010 qualification in Singapore from the 3rd to the 7th of February, 2010.

Basis for decision: Correspondence between IFF and the FFI

Essential provisions: Rules of the Game (edition 2006)
Competition Regulation National Teams §2.3 §2.4, §3.4 and §3.5
IFF Juridical Regulations

Consideration: The IFF Central Board discussed the withdrawal of the FFI, in its meeting in Singapore on the 2nd of February, 2010. The CB felt that, it is not at all acceptable that any of the IFF member associations are withdrawing from any official IFF Event, since this harms the reputation of the sport. The CB additionally felt that it is important that all of the IFF members have to be dealt with in the same way, in accordance with the Statutes and the valid regulations. The CB decided to put forward the withdrawal of the FFI from the WFCQ 2010 to the IFF Disciplinary Committee, since according to the IFF Juridical regulations, **Section 3, Disciplinary Committee, Article 42 General jurisdictions**, it belongs to the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee.



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According to the IFF Juridical Regulation **Article 8, Sport offences, point 8. Failure to participate in or organising an official IFF tournament or matches**, the sanction for a withdrawal stipulates a decision from the Disciplinary Committee.

In this case it is still even more unfortunate, since the quoting for the qualification groups are based on the number of participating nations per region. This means that the withdrawal of one team will change the number of qualifiers per region to the WFC final round 2010.

The very late withdrawal of India from the WFC Qualification in Singapore will have a negative effect on the development of Floorball especially in the Asian region. When teams are withdrawing from the most important event in the region, namely the WFC 2010 qualification, it decreases the reliability of Floorball. The withdrawal of any team, regardless of timing after the publication of the match schedule, will create a lot of unnecessary work for the organiser and also affects the other participating teams, which will lose a match in the qualification tournament. It is also important not to forget the additional costs, which the loosing of one team from the tournament creates for the organiser, in surplus venue time and referee costs, as well decrease of value for the tournament.

When a team registers for an IFF Event and sends in the signed registration form, based on the invitation from the IFF, the team with this registration agrees to the different IFF regulations relegating the IFF Events, namely the Competition Regulations for National Teams. Therefore it is not possible for the FFI to conclude that they did not know the possible sanctions from withdrawing from the event, especially when they had been informed by the IFF Competition department of the possible sanctions. The Disciplinary Committee can for these reasons not find any circumstances in favour of the FFI. The FFI, which has during 2009 organised a Floorball Development Seminar should be fully aware of the effect of a late withdraw has on the organiser.

The Floorball Federation of India has to follow the rules and regulations of the IFF, as have all other member associations, as it has been stated in the IFF Development Seminars which India has both participated in and organised. During the seminars it has been clearly stated that every member association has to know the regulations of the IFF and regardless of the various reasons for a withdrawal, all the member associations are entitled to participate in the Events they are registered for.

The IFF DC finds the withdrawal of the Floorball Federation of India to be unacceptable and the Indian Federation thereby have to accept the consequence of their action.

Decision and applicable provisions:

In accordance with the regulations namely Article 8, Sport offences, point 8. and Section 3, Disciplinary Committee, Article 42, General jurisdictions of the juridical regulations the disciplinary committee imposes the following sanction to the Floorball Federation of India; **India is excluded from participation in the Men's World Floorball Championships 2012 and subject to a fine of CHF 7.500,-.**

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Reasons:

The IFF DC finds based on the analysis of the available material and the previous behaviour of the Floorball Federation of India, in relation to neglect of proactively informing about late withdrawal from other competitions (Canada 2009, APAC 2008), that the FFI is not to the least performing in the way that it would be obvious that they are respecting the rules of the IFF.

The fact that the FFI has decided to withdraw from the WFC 2010 and the qualification played in Singapore due to financial reasons and sponsorship, is not an acceptable reason for withdraw. There are a number of member associations where the players still pay from their own pocket for the participation to the IFF events. The IFF DC finds that the FFI has neglected to not only to inform the organiser of the WFC2010 qualifications of their travel plans, but also neglected that there will be a huge effect of their withdrawal on both the organiser and on Floorball at large. The FFI has not proactively informed that they will not participate in the WFCQ and failed to send in their withdrawal in time to avoid further sanctions, even after the IFF has informed of the possible sanctions. It is especially problematic that FFI has apart from the fact that they have now withdrawn from the WFCQ, also neglected to pay the participation fees and membership fees to the IFF, which are in relation to the IFF Juridical Regulations a reason for additional sanctions, but this is not the task of the IFF DC to deliberate this question now.

The IFF DC still finds it to the advantage of the FFI, since the final letter of withdrawal has been sent to the IFF on the 20th of January, which is just 13 days prior to the start of the tournament. The IFF DC accepts the information sent to the organiser of the WFCQ on the 14th of January, which however is just 20 days prior to the start of the tournament, as an official statement of withdrawal, in order to reduce the sanction for the FFI. The IFF DC further finds that, in order to support the development of the FFI, there is however a possibility to lower the level of the fine.

The FFI has in their letters to the IFF stated that a possible sanction might jeopardise the development of Floorball in India, as well as receiving official recognition from the authorities. This is unfortunate, but it has to be kept in mind that when you belong to an organisation, you have agreed to respect and follow the rules and regulation of that organisation.

The IFF DC finds it alarming that the FFI is of the opinion that it is fully acceptable to withdraw from a competition the FFI has entered to. The IFF DC finds this totally unacceptable, since it shows a clear disrespect of the organiser and the Rules of IFF.

The rules and regulations of the IFF are the basis we build the existence of International Floorball and all the member associations, clubs and players needs to respect these.

Decision procedure:

The decision was made unanimously.

Appeal procedure:

The directions for an appeal according to the IFF Juridical Regulation Article 48.

Helsinki, 26.02.2009

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