

IFF & Floorball Material Producers Development Board meeting at Renew Offices, in Mölnlycke, Sweden 29.05.2012

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| Participants: | Exel (E-SG) | Timo Bygden and Kim Lohmann |
| | FatPipe (Powerstick) | Sami Turtiainen |
| | Oxdog (Evosport) | Joacim Bergström |
| | Unihoc (Renew) | Jan-Inge Forsberg and Torbjörn Jonsson |
| | Salming (X3M) | Thomas Nord and Per Eriksson |
| | SP | Lars-Åke Henriksson |
| | IFF | John Liljelund |

Report on present issues

1. *Welcome*

Mr. Liljelund opened the meeting at 10.30 at the Renew Offices in Mölnlycke, Sweden and informed that SB-Yhtiöt/Realstick is not in a position to participate. Mr. Liljelund conveyed the greetings from Mr. Tomas Eriksson, IFF President that he is not able to participate due to other tasks.

2. *Manufacturers proposals for tests for composite blades*

Mr. Liljelund reported that all companies, but one have given in their proposal on new tests for composite blades.

Mr. Henriksson reported on the different proposed test alternatives:

The objective is to find one test for all blades in the future.

Abrasion test:

- What happens when the stick blade is wearing out in contact with the floor?
- The problem is how to build a test instrument
- Some tests could be done also by playing, one group by general players and a second by manufacturer players, but the level of validity could be an issue.

Floor surface test:

- What type of shoots are used and should be tested – Slap shot, Dragged wrist shot
- What kind marks are left on the flooring, different types of floors?
- There is no issue with the new blades, but only with old and used blades.

Impact test:

- Try to use the same test as with the SP shafts today, in order to measure the durability of the blade. This to test the durability for the ribs.
- Is there a real need for this test – if the blade breaks the market will react
- What kind of fracture is caused by breaking it, with which force and what kind of surface edges is produced?

Bend/twist test

- Can there be a certain amount of flexibility for the blade. With more flexibility in the blade there might be less risk of injury.
- If you would make the blade thickness smaller, you could add the flexibility.
- The level of flexibility could be 20 – 40 per cent, even if it would mean that the dimensions of the blade have to be changed.

Safety test and Risk of blade explosion:

- Has been covered in earlier points.

Release of paint flakes

- No need for separate test.

It was agreed that SP will build the test method for the new composite blades as soon as possible. After SP has defined the test method, the Development Board has to evaluate the results before deciding the final ruling if the market is ready or not.

Report on present issues (cont.)

The process will be the following:

1. SP builds the Test Method (ready by mid July)
2. SP tests the existing material and writes a report on it (end of September)
3. DB evaluates the test results and either approves or denies the extra regulation
4. Companies tests test material in accordance with the extra regulation
5. If and when approved they are then let into the market directly

SP gives a first draft of in a few weeks, manufacturers are to comment directly to SP

3. Actions to be taken in the carbon blade case

Based on the present situation the IFF is admitting Oxdog an exemption for the sales of and play with the Oxdog Onepiece products already approved by the SP, for the period of the 1.7.2012 – 31.05.2013.

Mr. Lohmann proposed instead that Oxdog would be given a six months premium before the other companies can start to sell the product after the approval of the new Test Method.

Mr. Forsberg (Unihoc) wanted to express their principal objection to the exemption given to Oxdog.

4. Too long sticks on the market

Mr. Liljelund informed that after IFF had been informed about the fact that there are some players using too long sticks, a small scale investigation took place proving that a surprisingly large number of manufacturers have given out readymade sticks, components or stick stickers for players making it possible for using too long sticks in official match play. The bigger problem is that there are too long sticks made by the player themselves. IFF has discussed with other International Federations and for example IIHF have given Zedno Chara the right to play with a too long stick. IFF is of the opinion that it is not acceptable that players are given too long products by the manufacturers and in order to determine how large problem this is IFF proposes the following.

Any player longer than 190cm are before the 15th of August 2012 allowed to apply for a personal exemption to play with a too long stick (max. 118 cm) produced by a manufacturer, based on some medical or other reason for the season 2012-2013 as a test. The stick shall for all other dimensions fulfil the Material Regulation requirements. IFF will grant the exception to the player and provide an IFF/SP sticker (max. 6 pcs/player) with their name (X.Name) and a series number, which will be attached to the stick by the player instead of the IFF official marking. The player will be punished if they provide their sticks or stickers to any other player and they lose their personal exemption.

5. Other issues

Mr. Liljelund reminded about the offer sent out for the participation in the Manufacturer Village during Champions Cup. The time for the registration ends on the 31st of May, 2012.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting to be held when the SP Test Report will be ready.

Upcoming meetings and issues

- Next meeting will be held in either in Helsinki, when the SP Test Report is ready or in connection to the Champions Cup, in Umeå, Sweden, with the preliminary date of 5th of October 2012.
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Issues that need to be discussed or decided upon or taken action upon

- SP to provide a first draft of the Composite Blade Test Method by the 15th of June
 - Manufacturers to provide their input and comments to the proposed test method by the end of June
 - SP and IFF will based on this finalise the Test Method by the mid of July
 - SP needs to send out the exemption to Oxdog by mid of June
 - SP is to build the Test Method instruments and test the existing material, provided by the manufacturers and will write a report by the end of September
 - The Development Board is to evaluate the Test Report and make a final decision for a go or a no go for the composite blade.
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**New ideas,
etc...**