

Helsinki, Finland 28th of October 2018

Proposal to the IFF General Assembly

Changing the Structure of Future Floorball Major Events

The first World Floorball Championships were played in 1996 in Sweden and after a number of different set-ups the format for the WFC was finalized in 2003. Due to the quick development and growth of the sport the present system with just a WFC Final round played with 16 teams was introduced for the Women's WFC 2013 and used since.

The discussion of the format for the Major IFF Events has continued and after the introduction of Floorball to the first major International multi-sport event – The World Games 2017, in Wroclaw, Poland it has been intensified, due to the game format used there based on the requirements of the organizer and the International World Games Association. The experience with a shorter game time, smaller teams and very intense and exiting matches, fostered a discussion of the need to change the format also for the IFF Major Events. As discussed in the IFF Associations Meeting in Bratislava 2017, the member associations were clearly in favor to change the IFF World Championships format to be more like the format of The World Games.

Based on the result from the Associations Meeting, the IFF Central Board has prepared the matter and the IFF RACC has collected input from the National Associations through a Future of Floorball questionnaire. Later based on the feedback from a number of players, coaches member associations and representatives of floorball and main media, the IFF Central Board proposes to the IFF General Assembly to decide to execute a set of initial tests for the new system during the seasons 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 in IFF Events and in other by the members selected International Events during the season 2019 and/or 2020 - 2021, after which the Floorball Community can evaluate the overall effect of the changes on both a national and international level together, with the aim that the Member Associations could then take a final decision whether to make the change for the future in the IFF General Assembly 2022.

This would mean that the tests shall be played with National Teams consisting of a maximum of 22 persons in the Team delegation, consisting of 17 players and 5 team officials. The playing time is 3 x 15 minutes effective time, with 10 minutes intermissions.

The main reason for the proposed change is not the possible future participation in multi-sport games or the Olympic Games, but to follow the global sport trends and to proactively make our sport easier accessible and more interesting for the sport audience and market. The recent discussion has clearly shown that we first need to carefully test new structures before introducing them, in order to reach our ultimate goals and the set missions and visions, but at the same time show that our sport is flexible and adaptable.

The IFF Central Board feels that there is no pressing need for the National Associations to adopt this game format to their national leagues for the time of the test, but the National Associations are of course free to test this in their national series. In the long run, the sport will have to adopt to possible multi-sport events, like some of the other team sports.