

International Floorball Federation

IFF



ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 2006

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2006

1. General

IFF consists today of 16 ordinary Member Associations and 21 provisional members.

The ordinary Members Associations are: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland. The number of ordinary members has increased from 9 to 16.

The provisional Member Associations are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Georgia, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain Ukraine and the United States.

2. The IFF Central Board (CB)

The CB elected by the IFF Congress held in Zurich, Kloten, in Switzerland on May 21st, 2004 has had the following composition:

Tomas Eriksson, President	
John Liljelund, Vice President	resigned from the CB 16.04.2005
Renato Orlando, Vice President	
Tomas Jonsson, Treasurer	
Thomas Gilardi, Member	
Per Jansson, Member	
Risto Kauppinen, Member	
Peter Lindström, Member	
Martin Vaculik, Member	

There have altogether been seven CB meetings between the Congresses, held as follows:

Zurich	22.05 2004
Helsinki	28.08 2004
Zurich	08.01 2005
Prague	09.04 2005
Singapore	04.06 2005
Helsinki	27.08 2005
Ostrava	07.01 2006
Stockholm	01.04 2006

The minutes of these meetings are published on www.floorball.org.

The following were appointed by the Central Board:

Stefan Kratz, Secretary General	until 01.05.2005 and as Head of Technical department since then
John Liljelund, Secretary General	from 01.05.2005 forwards
Merita Bruun, assistant	from 09.02.2005 forwards

The CB has during the period, in accordance with the decision of the Congress in Zurich 2004, concluded that the main focus for the work of IFF shall be divided into three different fields. Firstly, the International lobby work, with the aim of reaching the recognition of the International Olympic Committee and to secure the participation in International Multi-Sports event and also profile IFF in the International Sports Community. Secondly IFF has worked with the Marketing issue, in order to strengthen the financial and market situation of the IFF and also make the sport more suitable for Television. Thirdly the main focus has been on the Development of the IFF Member Associations, where IFF has built a Floorball Development Programme, consisting of a four day interactive course for organisation and administration work, refereeing and coaching.

The IFF gained full membership of the GAISF at the General Assembly decided in Lausanne on May 20th, 2004, which gave IFF a possibility to apply for membership in IWGA. However the IWGA was not in a position to enter of IFF's application, due to organisational reasons of IWGA. Nevertheless IFF has continued the dialogue with the IWGA, and its President Mr Ron Froehlich, and President Eriksson and vice-president Orlando, has meet in Berlin with Mr Froehlich at the Sport Accord, and vice-president Orlando attended at the World Games in Duisburg in 2005, as an observer.

The CB handed in, in November 2003 an application to the IOC for recognition. The IOC decided not to accept Floorball as a recognised sport. The reasons for this a mainly that the IOC decided that there needs to be at least 50 member federations. The next possibility to receive the IOC recognition will be in Beijing in 2008, the CB will apply again then.

The CB decided to elect an Executive Committee, the ExCo, consisting of Mr Tomas Eriksson, President and Renato Orlando vice President and Mr. John Liljelund, Secretary General. Amongst other things, such as preparation of CB meetings, the ExCo has worked with international affairs and the cooperation with other sports authorities.

The CB decided to move the IFF Office from Solna in Sweden to Helsinki in Finland, still keeping the Technical Department in Solna. The IFF Office opened in Helsinki in April 2005.

Between the General Assemblies the CB had to take the necessary steps, in order to handle all members equally and under the same regulations, to suspend Poland and Russia for not having settled their debts to IFF. Due to good communication, and change in management in the respective associations, the CB was able, in early February 2005, to lift the suspensions after Poland and Russia settled and paid all debts. Since then, IFF is very pleased with both Poland and Russia for their good cooperation and compliance within the Floorball community.

At its meeting on January 7, 2006, the CB decided to suspend Georgia, from February 1, 2006 for not complying with IFF financial and juridical regulations. Over a substantial period of time, Georgia has been in debt to IFF, and has not given IFF a substantial clarification for not attending the WFC in Singapore and the European Cup qualification in Denmark in 2005.

3. The Appeal Committee (AC)

The composition of the AC has been:

Lars Granqvist (Sweden), Chairman
Tom Hedkrok (Finland), Member
Kjell Hovland Olsen (Norway), Member

The Appeal Committee has had no cases to deal with during the period.

4. The Disciplinary Committee (DC)

The composition of the DC has been:

Olav Hermansson (Finland), Chairman
Rudolf Buri (Switzerland), member
Krister Kalte (Sweden), member

The Disciplinary Committee has had one case to deal with during the period. The case concerned the Latvian team Rubene, in connection with the European Cup.

5. The Development function

The IFF CB decided to reduce the number of committees and gave smaller functional groups the duty to perform the work of the previous committees. The composition of the Development function has been:

The composition of the Development function has been:

Renato Orlando (Switzerland), Chairman
Martin Vaculik (the Czech Republic), member
John Liljelund (Secretary General), member

The Development function has during this period, in close co-operation with the respective committees and functions, and the IFF Office created the Floorball Development Programme. The Programme is a process where the IFF Member Associations are invited to participate in a four-day seminar with separate blocks for organisation and administration, refereeing and coaching. The seminar builds on group works, practical exercises and lectures. The aim with the seminar is to give the participants the needed tools to train the trainers in their respective countries after the seminar. The participating associations build up a two year development plan during the seminar, which the IFF then monitors.

The first pilot seminar was held in Eger, Hungary in December 2005, with participants from Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia. The lecturers at this seminar were Mr. Renato Orlando (organisation), Mr. Thomas Thim (refereeing) and Mr. Petri Kettunen (coaching) assisted by Mr. John Liljelund General Secretary in all fields. The Office has produced an extensive educational material for the seminar, consisting of presentations, tests, group works and DVD's.

The member associations were invited to apply for the organisation of the Floorball Development Programme Seminar for 2006. The plan is to have 3-5 Development Seminars in 2006.

Also the "Floorball – Start up-kit" has been translated into Chinese Mandarin.

6. The Material function

Responsible for material questions has been John Liljelund,

The main work has been the following-up of the Material Regulations, which involved several meetings with the Swedish Testing and Research Institute (SP) as well as with the manufacturers of Floorball equipment.

During the period the Czech Test Institute ITC has been appointed for testing Floorball Material under the surveillance of the SP.

During the period a new version of the Material Regulations has been worked out to be in force as from 01.07.2006.

7. The Marketing function

The Marketing and Information Committee has been changed into a function by the Congress of 2004.

The composition of the Marketing function has been:

Per Jansson (Sweden), Chairman
Risto Kauppinen (Finland), member
Peter Lindström (Norway), member
John Liljelund (Secretary General), member

The Marketing Strategy of IFF was renewed during the period, now based on the principle that IFF has now grown so, that the system for partners have been divided into a four level system, where the Floorball Material Sponsors are on the bottom first line, and then there are Partners, Main Sponsors and a Title Sponsor. Also a new Marketing Material presentation has been produced.

The Marketing function has started the re-negotiations with the present IFF Sponsors Exel (official ball sponsor), Puma (referee apparel sponsor) with the target to upgrade these agreements.

IFF is very pleased to have signed and prolonged the contract with the well-known company Gerflor (sports flooring), until 2010.

During the General Assemblies the process has started to evaluate whether to have the marketing function in-house or being outsourced, or a combination of these and how to handle the event marketing. The pre-negotiation has started with a potential partner in the fields of marketing and sales, concerning commercial rights, media rights and signal distribution.

The Marketing function has also concentrated on the Television visibility of Floorball, which has given a good result both from the World Floorball Championships 2005 in Singapore, with visibility in 7 countries. For the WFC 2006 in Sweden, the IFF has together with the organiser the Swedish Floorball Federation, secured the production of a total of 8 matches. The host Broadcaster will televise matches in Sweden, IFF has agreed with EuroSport and the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE), that these will broadcast live games from the championships.

8. The Rules- and Competition Committee (RACC)

The composition of the RACC has been:

Renato Orlando, (Switzerland), Chairman
Martin Wolmhed (prev. Johansson), (Sweden) Vice Chairman
Hans Botman, (the Netherlands), member
Filip Suman, (the Czech Republic), member
Andris Dzenis, (Latvia), co-opted member
Björge Jansen, (Norway), co-opted member
Ari Vehniäinen, (Finland), co-opted member

The main tasks during the period have been to work with the 2006 edition of the Rules of the Game and completely revise the regulations related to competitions and the working out new playing systems of the World Floorball Championships and the European Cup.

The RACC, based on many experiences made at different IFF-events and of the many inputs given by Associations, clubs, players, officials, referees and many others being involved in Floorball, organised a Workshop in Helsinki, in order to thoroughly discuss the competitions, the regulations and the requirements of the Member Associations, its clubs, the media as well as of the spectators.

During the period the RACC has been the Jury in the following IFF Competitions:

European Cup Qualification Round 2004 in Czech Republic and 2005 in Denmark.

European Cup Final round 2005 in Switzerland & 2006 in the Czech Republic

Men's World Championships 2004 in Switzerland

Women's World Championships 2005 in Singapore

Men's U19 World Championships 2005 in Latvia

First Women's U19 World Championships 2004 in Finland

Other tasks for the RACC has been to follow up on International Transfers, Competition Regulations, Regulations for Friendly Internationals, preparation work for coming IFF events including technical inspections etc.

9. The Referee Committee (RC)

The composition of the RC has been:

Thomas Gilardi, (Switzerland), Chairman

Klaus Koskela, (Finland), Vice Chairman

Jan Hagen, (Norway), member

Thomas Thim, (Sweden); member

Daniel Würmlin, (Switzerland), member

Andrew G. Clough, (United Kingdom), co-opted member

Jon-Erik Eriksen, (Norway), co-opted member

Jörg Heuer, (Germany), co-opted member

The RC has mainly been involved in appointing referees to the World Championships', European Cup's and friendly Internationals, and to observe and educate the referees during these events. The RC has also given support to the Office in the preparation for the Development Programme Materials.

10. The Senior Adviser's Group (SAG)

The composition of the SAG has been:

Bengt Sevelius (Sweden, Engso President), Chairman

11. The IFF Competitions

a) World Championships according to the ranking

Men's 5th World Championships 2004 in Switzerland

26 Associations from 4 continents participated. The WFC was divided into an A-division with 10 teams and a B-division with 10 teams and a C-division with 7 teams.

A-division: 1) Sweden 2) Czech Republic 3) Finland 4) Switzerland 5) Norway 6) Latvia 7) Russia
8) Germany 9) Denmark 10) Austria relegated to the B-division

B-division: 1) Italy 2) Estonia 3) Hungary 4) Netherlands 5) Slovenia 6) Great Britain 7) USA
8) Australia 9) Singapore. Poland was disallowed participation due to suspension.
Italy promoted to the A-division for 2006 and Poland relegated to the C-Division 2006.

C-division: 1) Japan 2) Canada 3) Spain 4) Slovakia 5) France 6) Malaysia 7) Belgium
Georgia did not participate despite of registration.
Japan promoted to the B-division for 2006.

Women's 5th World Championships 2005 in Singapore

17 Associations from 4 continents participated for the first time outside Europe in an IFF event in Singapore. The WFC was divided into an A-division with 8 teams and a B-division with 10 teams.

A-division: 1) Switzerland 2) Finland 3) Sweden 4) Norway 5) Latvia 6) Russia 7) Czech Republic
8) Japan

B-division: 1) Denmark 2) USA 3) Singapore 4) Germany 5) Australia 6) Hungary 7) Netherlands
8) Spain 9) Malaysia. Georgia did not participate despite of registration.
Denmark promoted to the A-division 2007.

In the period the CB decided to increase the A-teams to ten and the USA was promoted to the A-division. There will be a decisive match between Japan and Singapore for the last place in the A-division.

b) U19 World Championships according to the ranking

Men's 3rd U19 World Championships 2005 in Latvia

16 Associations from 3 continents participated. The WFC was divided into an A-division with 8 teams and a B-division with 8 teams.

A-division: 1) Sweden 2) Finland 3) Switzerland 4) Latvia 5) Czech Republic 6) Norway
7) Poland 8) Denmark relegated to the B-Division 2007

B-division: 1) Russia 2) Slovakia 3) Estonia 4) Singapore 5) Germany 6) Hungary 7) Japan
8) Netherlands
Russia promoted to the A-division 2007.

Women's 1st U19 World Championships 2004 in Finland

8 Associations from 2 continents participated. The WFC was played in an A-division with 8 teams.

A-division: 1) Sweden 2) Finland 3) Switzerland 4) Latvia 5) Czech Republic 6) Norway
7) Germany 8) Hungary

c) European Cup according to the ranking

European Cup 2004-2005

The Qualification round of EC 2004-2005 was organised in Prague with 6 men teams (Pomor, Russia withdrew) and 6 women teams qualifying for two places each in the Final round. The Final round, for both men and women, was organised in Zurich, Switzerland, with 8 teams in each category.

The ranking of EC 2004-2005 for men:

1) SV Wiler-Ersigen 2) Pixbo Wallenstam IBK 3) SSV Helsinki 4) Balrog IK
5) Tatran Tectex Stresovice 6) Greåker IBK 7) FC Outlaws 8) Rubene 9) CUF Leganes
10) Jögeva SK Tähe 11) UA Sonics 12) SSV Diamante Bolzano

The ranking of EC 2004-2005 for women:

1) Red Ants Rychenberg 2) Tikkurilan Tiikerit 3) SC Classic 4) Örnköldsviks SK 5) FBC Liberec
6) Slevik FC 7) Aligator Gdynia 8) Jaegerspris 9) Lauku Avize 10) Szolnok Cannibals 11) Ladies Together
12) Jögeva SK Tähe

European Cup 2005-2006

The Qualification round of EC 2005-2006 was organised in Aalborg with 11 men teams and 8 women teams (Ukimerioni Kutaisi, Georgia withdrew) qualifying for two places each in the Final round. The Final round, for both men and women, was organised in Ostrava, Czech Republic, with 8 teams in each category.

The ranking of EC 2005-2006 for men:

1) Warbergs IC -85 2) SSV Helsinki 3) SV Wiler-Ersigen 4) Tatran Tectex Stresovice 5) Sarpsborgs IBK
6) Rubene 7) Nizhegorodets 8) FC Outlaws 9) UHC Sparkasse Weissenfels 10) TVZ Wikings
11) TTÜ SK 12) Dunai Krokodilok 13) HKL-HJM Bratislava 14) Cotswold Cobras 15) HSK den Haag
16) Viking Roma FC 17) IBN Brussels

The ranking of EC 2005-2006 for women:

1) IKSU 2) Tikkurilan Tiikerit 3) Red Ants Rychenberg 4) FBC Liberec 5) Tunet IBK
6) Frederikshavn Bulldogs 7) Rubene/Rants 8) Aligator UKS Chwarzno FC 9) TSV Halle Süd
10) Szent-Györgyi 11) U.C. Face Off 12) SK Saku Fortuna 13) IBC Leoben 14) CU Fuengirola

12. Economy

The financials of IFF 2004 and 2005 are separately reported.

There has been put a lot of work into the development of IFF during the two years, we have increased the number of staff in the office, we are glad that the operational work has improved substantially. The commitment of the CB, committee and function members has been very high, in order to bring Floorball forward. This was of course due to the great effort put in by the Member Associations for their support, which the Central Board is thankful.