



**INTERNATIONAL
FLOORBALL
FEDERATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

Looking back over the previous two-year period, the IFF has been working a lot with the development of competitions, both the ones being played and their regulations and the operations around them. The regulations have now been streamlined as well as the agreements for the organisers. At the same time the discussions regarding a need to renew the Event structure and look over the number of Events has grown stronger. As a result of this the Future of Floorball project continuation that the IFF General Assembly 2022 decided upon, has taken a quite different form, with the IFF now reviewing the whole event structure, the international calendar and the format of the WFC. IFF has taken a more active approach in involving the member federations in the discussions and the IFF Association meeting gave a clear indication that more work was needed when it came to the international competitions as a whole. The number of events has increased for the member federations and an evaluation is therefore needed.

The previous period provided some clear achievements, but also some clear shortcomings that need to be looked upon more in detail.

The main positive achievements of the previous period are related to the fact that IFF was able to bring the IFF finances back to a better, more acceptable level in 2023 after the Covid-19 pandemic, and were able to run a successful World Floorball Championships in Singapore. The growth of the sport in Asia has also been very positive, and securing that Floorball is in the South East Asian Games for 2025, 2027 and 2029 is a major achievement for the sport and the IFF is very grateful towards the Asia Oceania Floorball Confederation for this. On the political level the ability to make sure of 8 men's and 8 women's teams at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu is by far the most important one, as this gives the sport far greater visibility in the event, with the competition being played over eight days. The activation of the Chinese Floorball Union will also be a key focus point, especially after the event to strengthen the sport in China.

With IFF Events, the WFC 2022 in Switzerland was a huge success both from a spectator, but even more so from a visibility aspect. The U19 WFC 2023 for Men in Frederikshavn, Denmark and the 2024 event for Women in Lahti, Finland both made new spectator records for the U19 categories. The number of side events organised by the Finnish federation in Lahti made it a really amazing U19 Event. The inaugural 3v3 WFC organised in Lahti, in combination with the U19 WFC, exceeded expectations both in number of participating teams with 41 teams participating, the level of the games, and the atmosphere in the venues. This clearly showed that there is a place for this type of tournament in the international calendar. The IFF needs to build on this, as this modified format will be helpful to bring more countries to international competitions and help spread the sport to new countries and regions.

The number of non-european countries participating in the IFF General Assembly and the Association meeting has continued to grow, which is very positive, but we still need to ensure that we have more countries participating and taking part in the IFF webinars and information meetings.

If we look at the major shortcomings in regard to the strategy and the approved Plan of Action for 2023-2024, then the biggest one is by far that the sport has not grown in the number of players as this was one of the main targets. There has been some small development, but still there is no major growth. One reason for this is that a number of countries are still struggling with the dropout that occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, so the IFF needs to investigate what can be done to help the member federations recover better and stronger.

The IFF and event organisation has been a struggling topic. The organisers of the major events are able to sell large amounts of sponsorship packages, but the IFF has had several difficulties in building such paths to the WFC's and the lack of sponsorship revenues is a significant issue for the IFF today. The IFF has been trying to look for solutions and discussions in the Core Country Marketing Network Groups and

ideas of how to move forward have been proposed. There had been higher expectations for the IFF App regarding streaming revenue, but the IFF has not been able to reach its full potential. As a major investment into the IFF App was made, we need to reach a much larger number of users and to find a way of how to better market the IFF App going forward.

The increase of visibility and awareness has not been as fast or big as expected from the WFC in Singapore, nor have IFF been able to work enough with the Floorball stars and the creation of them.

2. COVID-19

There has been no specific effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on Floorball activities during 2023-2024, however some members are still not fully recovered from the effect of the loss of players and financial impacts.

3. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The IFF today consists of 80 Member Associations of which 45 are ordinary members and 35 provisional members. During the previous period, the number of Member Associations has continued to grow with three new members from 77 to 80. There are constantly new countries in the process to apply for membership within the IFF.

The ordinary Members Associations are: Australia, Austria, *Belarus*, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, *Russia*, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and USA. There were no new ordinary members during 2023-2024. Belarus and Russia have been suspended since 2022 based on the decision of the IFF CB due to the war in Ukraine.

The provisional Member Associations are: Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chinese Macau, Colombia, Croatia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kenya, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela. According to the Statutes of IFF, for provisional members membership shall only initially be granted for a period of four years, after which the membership status of the country in question shall be subject for revision by the IFF CB, based on the activity of the member Association.

The IFF has continued the work to spread the sport of Floorball, but a lot of focus has been given also to the service of the members especially when facing challenges after the pandemic. There has been a growth in regional cooperation, in Asia within the AOFC and in Europe a new group named the EuroPower (Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and Ukraine) alongside the existing Six Nations (Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Slovakia), which are now co-operating in a number of fields like education and event organisation.

Helping the Member Associations to develop their own operations, while at the same time needing to develop the universality of the sport, especially outside Europe, is a challenge. The IFF has worked on this issue and has maintained contact with around 10-15 countries in Africa. In Latin America, IFF has been in contact with 8-10 countries helping with basic coaching and referee seminars and preparing them for applying for IFF membership.

The number of players has not grown according to the expectations and the member associations have

mainly concentrated to get the players back after the pandemic. In some countries the losses were significant due to the restrictions and it will still take some time to fully recover to the situation there was before the pandemic.

Some regions, such as Asia, have been able to maintain activities relatively well and despite some set backs, like the cancellation of AIMAG, there has been positive development in the region and the level of the sport has increased based on the performances in the qualification events.

3.1. Asia and Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC)

The Asia and Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC) was founded by the Asia and Oceania Member Associations of the IFF in 2005. It currently has its regional headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand and has its own website: <https://www.asiaoceaniafloorballconfederation.org/> . The AOFC consists today of 20 IFF members: Australia, China, Chinese Macau, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Thailand.

The AOFC Executive Committee was:

Mr Dato Seri Chaiyapak Siriwat, Thailand	President
Mr. Stephen King, Australia	Senior Vice President
Mr. Atul Gupta, India	Vice President
Adm. Graivut Vattanatham, Thailand	Vice President
Mr. Ching Sy Jeng, Singapore	Vice President
Mr. Kenneth Ho, Singapore	Secretary General
Ms. Penthai Siriwat, Thailand	Deputy Secretary General
Mr. Ramezanali Davalo, Iran	West Asia Envoy
Mr. Kim Se Woong, Korea	Treasurer

Central Board Members:

Mr. Kyle Lister, Australia	Mr. Asim Kiyani, Pakistan
Mr. Harinder Kumar, India	Mr. Ralph Ramos, Philippines
Mr. Muchlas Susendo, M.Pd Indonesia	Ms. Binbin Lin, Singapore
Mr. Soichi Kato, Japan	Mr. Liu Dong Wei, China
Mr. Hwang Joo Kim, Korea	Ms. Pakkamol Siriwat, Thailand
Mr. Risal Rahman, Malaysia	Mr. Ivan Chan, Hong Kong
Mr. Christian Bertschinger, New Zealand	

3.2. Associations' Meeting 2023

The IFF Associations' Meeting was held in conjunction with the Women's WFC 2023 in Singapore on 8th & 9th December with 27 registered member associations, out of which almost half were from outside Europe, which was very positive. The topics were mainly about the Future of Floorball and the plans for a new competition structure and competition calendars were presented to the member associations and there were several group works concentrating on those topics.

3.3. License System for Member Associations

The License system was created to help guide the Member Associations in the development of their own

organisations, rather than only focusing on participation in international events. The most important reason was that IFF's responsibility is to secure the level and the quality of the sport and to treat all members equally. The License System 2.0 has been approved and took full effect in 2023 regarding the financial aspects. The IFF CB has carefully followed up on the registrations for IFF Events based on the IFF License rules. The IFF Central Board started in the beginning of 2024 to work with the updates for the license system to simplify and clarify the tier criteria.



4. CENTRAL BOARD

The IFF Central Board (CB) was elected for four years, in accordance with the new IFF Statutes, by the IFF virtual General Assembly held via Zoom, on the 11th December 2020. The number in brackets is the number of CB meetings the member has participated in during 2023-2024.

Mr. Tomas Eriksson, Sweden, President (10)
Mr. Filip Suman, Czech Republic, Vice President (10)
Mrs. Monica Birdal, Norway, Treasurer (5)
Mr. Jörg Beer, Switzerland, Member (10)
Mr. Tamuz Hidir, Ukraine, Member (10)
Mr. Steen Houman, Denmark, Member (9)
Mr. Calle Karlsson, USA, Member (8)
Mr. Stephen King, Australia, Member (AOFC Senior Vice President) (8)
Mr. Martin Klabere, Sweden, Member (10)
Mr. Carlos Lopez, Spain, Member (10)
Ms. Agata Plechan (Athlete's Commission chair, ex officio) (9)
Ms. Pakkamol Siriwat, Thailand, Member (9)

Between the General Assemblies there have been 10 IFF CB meetings, held as follows:

Prague	26.02.2023
Malmö	21.05.2023
Helsinki	03.09.2023
Berlin	12.11.2023
Singapore	07.12.2023
Malaga	03.03.2024
Solna	28.04.2024
Zurich	08.09.2024
Helsinki	03.11.2024
Malmö	13.12.2024

The IFF CB has continued to work with the system of dividing its sessions by running specific and strategic workshop sessions during the first day of the two-day meetings to discuss, analyse and prepare more specific questions, before the actual meeting itself on the second day. This has allowed for a broader discussion about topics, and has proven to be very fruitful and efficient, developing the work of the CB and giving a broader picture of the relevant situation, while giving the possibility to dig deeper into a number of topics.

The most important decisions taken during the IFF CB meetings are published directly after the meetings in news on the IFF website and social media, and later distributed via the IFF Newsletter. The minutes from the meetings, along with the associated documents, are also published on the IFF website after acceptance by the IFF CB.

4.1. Main Fields of focus for the IFF CB

The IFF CB has, in accordance with the Plan of Action 2023-2024, approved by the IFF General Assembly 2022, worked with the implementation of the IFF Strategy, redefined the Future of Floorball project, and created a task list for actions to be taken in the five different fields of activity (Organisational Development, Marketing & Promotion, Visibility & Awareness, Event structure change and Rule Changes) all in order to make the sport more interesting for the young players, the spectators and the sponsors. Further the IFF CB has worked with defining the needed changes for the IFF International calendar, the Event structure and the WFC format and discussed this in the IFF Association Meeting in Singapore and then based on the results and the CB's Calendar working group prepared a proposal which was presented to the Member Associations in a webinar in October 2024. Based on the feedback from the members the Central Board decided to move ahead with the plan of changing from a 2-year to a 4-year WFC cycle.

The process to support the Member Association to develop their own organisation and operations, has taken a new form based on the results of the Erasmus project Fit4Future run by Czech Floorball. The project has been transformed into the IFF Fit4Future programme where a number of member federations, after the initial organisation evaluation with the Maturity Matrix, will enter into a 2nd phase program. A proposal for the update of the IFF Licence System 3.0 has been prepared and will be fully in force for the invitations for the coming IFF Events, where countries with debts to the IFF are not allowed to register for the IFF Events, if there is not a payment plan in place that is being followed. The pandemic has partly prolonged the process to put this in place.

The work with the streamlining of the IFF regulations, guidelines and event agreements has continued and the learnings from the different events have been included into the regulations. IFF has introduced the rule of a Sporting nationally in the Competition regulations, in order to secure the possibility to represent a national team without citizenship of that country.

4.2. Appointments

The following have been appointed by the IFF CB:

- Ms. Blanka Benyo, Operations Coordinator, September 2024 (new employee appointment)

4.3. International Lobby work

The process and the system for inclusion of additional events for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028 has shown that the road for Floorball to be included in the Olympic Games is very far away, unless one of the stronger Floorball nations would organise the Games. The IOC is steering the process, so that the Olympic Games Organising Committees (OGOC) are making a proposal of what seems to be 2-4 Additional Events. This severely diminishes the possibilities for Floorball to participate in the Olympic Games in the future and changes the direction of our activities to focus more on building our sport presentation and the operations.

In regard to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) the IFF has continued work to promote and spread the 3v3 format, where the first 3v3 WFC was played in Lahti in 2024. The rapid introduction of this event was partly in order to have the possibility to promote this version for the Youth Olympic Games in 2030. As the future with the SportAccord Games and for us the Urban Games is still unclear, the IFF has focused more to work with lobbying for the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games 2026 in Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with the AOFC.

The IFF has been in close contact with the IOC Sports Department, following-up on the development work already done in relation to the requirements set for International Federations to seek participation in the Olympic Games and International and Regional Multi-Sport Games. Floorball was, for the first time, included on the programme of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Thailand, but after several postponements it was finally cancelled by the Olympic Committee of Asia in mid-2024. This was a huge loss for the IFF and especially for the Asian floorball countries.

The IFF CB has stressed the need to raise the awareness of the importance of lobbying the decision makers of the NOC and the International Sport Federations on a national and international level within the Floorball community. IFF representatives have been welcomed by many organisations, and meetings have been held with the most senior sports hierarchy and organisations during the period, showing that we have reached a higher stage of acceptance in the international sports family. Through the IFF and Member Association representatives a lot of lobby work has seen good results in the form of inclusion in International Multi-Sport Events and positions in the sport organisations. The IFF representatives are invited to cooperate within the international sport community and are involved in discussions with the International Sport Federations, SportAccord, IOC, IWGA and WADA.

The IFF Secretary General, Mr John Liljelund, was re-elected as a member of the Executive Board for the Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations (ARISF) for the period 2022-2025 and elected to the International World Games Association Executive Committee for the period 2023-2026. In addition Mr. Matthias Hofbauer (SUI) was elected as a member of the IWGA Athletes Commission for 2023-2025. The IWGA ATC will have their next elections in 2025 in Chengdu.

4.4. IFF Executive Committee (ExCo)

The composition of the ExCo has been:

Mr. Tomas Eriksson, President & Chair
Mr. Filip Suman, Vice President
Mr. Stephen King, AOFC Senior Vice President
Ms. Monica Birdal, Treasurer
Mr. John Liljelund, Secretary General

The ExCo has worked mostly with handling urgent daily business, especially related to the IFF Office placement for the period 2025-2028, the Event structure changes and the new international calendar and urgent issues arising inbetween the IFF CB meetings. The work of the ExCo, in regard to the preparation of the CB meetings and workshops has mainly been handled by the President and the Secretary General and email discussions within the ExCo.

5. CONTACTS TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

5.1. International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The IFF has held several meetings with the IOC Sports Department discussing the development of the sport and the way for IFF to move forward. The level of the cooperation has moved far more towards an operational level on how to develop the sport.

IFF applied for, and was granted, the revised IOC support for development projects and anti-doping education on a yearly basis as an ARISF member. IFF has provided all needed information to the IOC in the different projects that we have run as a part of the IOC support like the Fair Floorball campaign, Introduction of 3v3 WFC, GoGirls floorball, Future of Floorball process, and matters related to Integrity in Sport and Sustainability.

5.2. Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) / SportAccord

GAISF was dissolved at the end of 2022 based on the initiative of the Summer and Winter Olympic sports, as they felt that the activities of GAISF were a duplication of the activities of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and the Association of the Winter International Olympic Federations (AWIOF). The new SportAccord organisation that was founded is based on the membership of the four umbrella organisations; Summer Olympic (ASOIF), Winter Olympic (WOF), IOC recognised IF's (ARISF) and Recognised Independent IF's (AIMS).

There was not any SportAccord meeting organised in 2023, but in 2024 the SportAccord convention was organised in Birmingham, UK and it appears that the SportAccord convention is back on the program for 2025, even though no organiser has yet been appointed. SportAccord has organised the IF Forum in both 2023 and 2024 in Lausanne, to discuss topics like sustainability, AI in Sports, and safeguarding.

Due to the prolonged process for the dissolution of GAISF, the multi-sport events, apart from the Combat Games in Saudi Arabia in 2024, have not been organised since 2019, when the first Urban Games were held in Budapest, Hungary.

5.3. Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations (ARISF)

IFF has taken part in the activities of the ARISF and participated in the ARISF General Assembly, held virtually in 2022, and held in Lausanne 2023 in connection to the IF Forum. With the dissolution of GAISF, the role of the ARISF has changed dramatically, as it is now the sole organisation to give direct support to its members. The ARISF Executive Board has been working on the service of ARISF, mainly in the field of Anti-Doping and the cooperation with the International Testing Agency (ITA), the Good Governance in cooperation with the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sports (IPACS) and in the field of safeguarding.

In his position on the ARISF Executive Board, the IFF Secretary General has been given the task of finding ways of how ARISF could better serve the interests of its members in the future.

5.4. International University Sports Federation (FISU)

FISU changed the format of its events for floorball from a national team to a tournament for university teams in their new University World Games (UWG). In 2022 the UWG Floorball was planned to be held in Liberec, Czech Republic, but due to lack of interest to participate the event was cancelled. In discussions with FISU it has become clear that FISU has now changed the format of the UWG's and dropped Floorball from the program. The discussions about changing the format in FISU have not progressed and IFF has planned that maybe in the future in the 3v3 WFC, there could also be played a "University" category or division.

Mr. Carlos Lopez has been the main contact with FISU, since being elected as the Floorball FISU Technical Delegate in 2020.

5.5. International Masters Games Association (IMGA)

Finland was awarded the 2023 European Masters Games (EMG) which was held in Tampere from 26th June – 9th July. The Floorball tournament was organised by the Tampere Floorball clubs Classic and KooVee, in cooperation with the EMG and the IFF. This event was played with two age-groups, namely Men 35-50 and men over 50, with nine teams participating in the tournament. IMGA has informed that in order to keep Floorball on the program there needs to be more teams participating and discussions have been started with the IMGA about how to reach the target of close to twenty teams in Como, Italy in 2027. IFF promoted the event as an IFF Masters World Championships and will continue with this system.

5.6. International World Games Association (IWGA)

IFF has actively taken part in the activities of the IWGA and worked closely with them, especially in preparation for The World Games events. IFF participated in the IWGA Media workshops organised in Lausanne in both 2023 and 2024, as well as the IWGA General Assemblies in 2023 and 2024, which were both held in Madrid, Spain. In the IWGA AGM in 2023 the IFF Secretary General was elected as a member of the IWGA Executive Committee.

The IFF Secretary General is the chair of the IWGA Marketing Committee which has been working on the renewal of the IWGA marketing product offering and sponsorship strategy. Mr. Matthias Hofbauer is an elected member of the IWGA Athletes Committee. The IWGA introduced a course for Women Leadership in Sports and the IFF nominated Ms. Agata Plechan, IFF ATC chair and Ms. Zuzana Svobodová (Czech Floorball) for participation. IFF got one spot that was given to Ms. Plechan. The course started in November 2024 and IWGA will run a second one in 2024/2025. .

5.7. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The IFF has, during the period, prepared all the needed documents and policies for the implementation of the new World Anti-Doping Code that came into force on January 1st 2021 and have successfully received the full Code compliance in 2024, after fulfilling all the corrective actions. IFF has actively taken part in the WADA's Anti-Doping work and commented upon the proposals for the new WADA Code and International Standards. The IFF has also participated in the IF's WADA symposium organised in Lausanne 2023 and 2024.

IFF nominated Ms. Agata Plechan, the IFF Athlete Commission chair as a candidate for the new WADA Athlete Council Elections in 2022. Ms. Plechan was not elected in the open election and IFF then nominated her for the election to for the third round conducted by WADA, but unfortunately Ms. Plechan was neither elected here. IFF has then been in discussions with the WADA President Banka and a number of WADA Executive Board members, to discuss the way WADA has reacted to the change of the sports structure, as there are no GAISF anymore. IFF decided to nominate Ms. Plechan for the WADA Athletes council elections also in 2024.

5.8. International School Sports Federation (ISF)

There have been no ISF Floorball Championships played during the period and no contact with the IFF.

6. COMMITTEES

6.1. Rules & Competition Committee (RACC)

Office responsibility: Mr. Stefan Kratz, Ms. Sarah Mitchell and Ms. Monika Kraus

The composition of the Rules & Competition Committee (RACC) has been:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Sweden, Chair
Mr. Jan Jirovsky, Czech Republic, Vice-Chair
Mr. Teo Turay, Slovakia
Ms. Meelike Terasmaa, Estonia
Mr. Kenneth Ho, Singapore
Mr. Ari Vehniäinen, Finland
Mr. Beat Wullschleger, Switzerland
Mr. Marek Chomnicki, Poland
Ms. Zane Klabere, Latvia
Ms. Victoria Wikström, Sweden
Mr. Tomas Sladky, Czech Republic, Athletes' Commission Representative
Ms. Lara Heini, Switzerland, Athletes' Commission Representative

As well as the members of the RACC, the following persons were part of the jury group for IFF events: Mr. Andris Dzenis (Latvia), Mr. Ramezanali Davalo (Iran), Mr. Louis Nonguierma (Burkina Faso), Mr. Lubomir Klosek (Slovakia), Mr. Jens Orhoj (Denmark) Mr. Marcel Wadja (Côte d'Ivoire), Ms. Helén Wiklund Wårell (Sweden), Mr. Petr Chvojka (Czech Republic). The RACC acted as the jury in the following IFF Competitions:

Women's WFC 2023 Qualifications (January-February, Latvia and Italy)

Men's U19 WFC 2023 Qualifications (January, Austria and Spain)

Men's U19 WFC 2023 (April, Denmark)
Women's U19 WFC 2024 Qualifications (August 2023, France)
Women's WFC 2023 (December, Singapore)
Men's WFC 2024 Qualifications (January-May, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, and Canada)
Women's U19 WFC 2024 (April, Finland)
Men's WFC 2024 (December, Sweden)

During the period the RACC has had 12 meetings, with only one of these being a face-to-face meeting in October 2023. The main tasks have been to work with the development of the IFF competitions, including the first 3v3 WFC and the introduction of a new home and away format for the Champions Cup. A new proposal for the international calendar and a different WFC playing system were both introduced for discussions. Updates of regulations were made and work began on the Game Rules Edition 2026.

Other tasks for the RACC have been to follow up on International Transfers, Competition Regulations, Regulations for Friendly Internationals, preparation work for coming IFF events including venue inspections, and an update of guidelines for using video for goal review.

International Calendar review was made and a new proposal was presented to the members at the Associations Meeting 2023 in Singapore. The review process continued during 2024 with many different changes, with the final proposal including the idea to now change from a 2-yr WFC cycle to a 4-yr cycle. This proposal was presented to the Members via an online meeting in October. The work on the proposal continued until the end of the year, with a CB calendar working group and the RACC making an updated proposal to the CB.

Champions Cup new format was introduced with completely new regulations and playing format. (More information under Section 17 - Competitions)

3v3 Formats & Rules were formulated and introduced, including both a development format and an 'entertainment' format which was used for the first ever IFF 3v3 WFC played in 2024 in Lahti, Finland.

Rules of the Game 2026 edition work was begun, with a focus on improving player safety.

Competition Regulations included updates to the release of players rules, clarification of official age categories for international events, and updates to the eligibility rules. Updates to regulation documents have been made by the RACC as follows:

2023: Competition Regulations – National Teams / Competition Regulations – Friendly International Matches / IFF Champions Cup Regulations

2024: Competition Regulations – National Teams / Competition Regulations – Friendly International Matches / Competition Regulations – 3v3 WFC 2024 / IFF Champions Cup Regulations / IFF Juridical Regulations

6.1.2. Game Rules

IFF changes / updates the Game Rules in a four-year cycle, and the work with the Game Rules Edition 2026 started in October 2023. The IFF Rules Reference Group, headed by Mr. Martin Klabere, started its work with its first meeting in March 2024. The Rules Reference Group is responsible for reviewing the rule change proposals and recommending the proposals that will be implemented in the next edition or tested for further review. The Reference Group consists of a responsible person from the RACC, representatives from the IFF office, a delegate from ATC and two national team coaches (Women's and

Men's respectively).

The composition of the Reference Group was:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Chair
Mr. Sergio Garces Sanchez, Athletes' Commission Member
Mr. Esa Jussila, National team coach Finland men
Ms. Linda Lice, Assistant national team coach Latvia women
Mr. John Liljelund, IFF Secretary general
Mr. Veli Halonen, IFF Operations manager
Mr. Stefan Kratz, IFF Competition manager

The Rule group is responsible for the writing of the rule proposals in the correct terminology so that they are understood and interpreted in a consistent way by players and referees. This group started writing the first texts for the rules in August 2024.

The composition of the Rule Group was:

Mr. Martin Klabere, Chair
Mr. Niklaus Güpfer, Rules expert
Mr. Mattias Linell, Rules expert
Mr. Stefan Kratz, IFF Competition manager

For the Rules of the Game Edition 2026 the milestones during 2023-2024 were:

- October 2023 - Request was sent to all member Associations and all persons in the IFF bodies urging them to send in proposals, with a priority list and in the format the game rules are written, with examples.
- February 2024 - Deadline for sending in proposals.
- March 2024 - Reference group meeting prepared a list of rules for testing and asked for test associations
- March-May 2024 - In the period from March until May 2024 the Member Associations, IFF RC, IFF RACC, IFF Athletes Commission, and IFF Office had the chance to provide feedback on the possible changes in the game rules that the Reference Group had proposed.
- 15th April 2024 - Deadline to apply as test Association
- April/May 2024 - CB-decision of test Associations and which rules they were to test
- June 2024 - Reference group prepared a final proposal asking for feedback from Member Associations, IFF RC, RACC and Athletes Commission on the changes that were to be made
- August 2024 - Reference group gave proposal to RACC of what changes should be made in the Rule Book 2026
- September 2024 - March 2025 - Rule group works with formalising the text for the rule book

Further work on the change of rules will continue through 2025 and culminate with the publishing of the new edition in September 2025, with the rules to come into effect as of 1st July 2026.



6.2. Referee Committee (RC)

Office responsibility: Mr Veli Halonen

The composition of the Referee Committee (RC) has been:

Mr. Carlos Lopez, Spain, Chair
Mr. Lukas Gyger, Switzerland, Vice-chair
Mr. Peter Harris, Australia
Mr. Ola Hamberg, Sweden
Mr. Jakub Furmanek, Czech Republic
Mr. Mika Saastamoinen, Finland
Mr. Peter Zamecnik, Slovakia

The IFF RC had two in-person meetings and eight Teams meeting in 2023-2024. The RC tried hard to find more women to participate in the RC work but has not been as successful as they hoped. The number of female referee coaches increased, and their role has become bigger, but we are still missing female referees, and the RC remains the only IFF committee without female representation. The RC together with the member associations tried really hard to promote female referees from the national level to international level, but it will take a few years before the results will be visible.

The number of educations and webinars have increased and the international referees and referee coaches have been actively participating in the organised education, with the participation percentage being well over 90. The RC organised four webinars for referees and referee coaches and also four in-person clinics, mainly in Asia.

The RC created a working group a few years back to define mutual interpretations for the physical level of play and the group has continued its work as the IFF Referee Educational working group. There have still been challenges especially on national level to unify the interpretations of the rules, but on international level the results are more visible. The group started also to define the interpretations concerning the so-called stick offences, but the work has just started and the first interpretations are under construction by the end of 2024.

The Referee Committee has continued running on-line rule tests for the IFF referees before each IFF event and the results have been positive. In this way the RC can ensure that all the referees must concentrate also on the rule topics, not just the actual refereeing, which has not always been the case.

The new referee nomination period will start on the 1st January 2025 and will be valid until the 31st of December 2026, and the RC has updated the criteria for the IFF referees and referee coaches. With both groups the aim is to have longer careers, while at the same time ensuring that new people have the possibility to enter the international level. The IFF member associations proposed 152 referees and 28 referee coaches and the IFF CB approved the RC's proposal in its meeting on the 3rd of November 2024. Each referee took the IFF rule test before the nomination was finally confirmed.

There were 112 international referees for 2023 - 2024 coming from the following countries (numbers in brackets indicate the number of pairs from that country): Austria (2), Czech Republic (6), Denmark (1), Finland (7), Germany (2), Indonesia (2), Italy (1), Korea (1), Latvia (2), Malaysia (2), Poland (3), Singapore (3), Slovenia (2), Slovakia (3), Spain (2), Sweden (7), Switzerland (7), Ukraine (2), and USA (1). Only 4 referee pairs were female, but for the first time there was a mixed gender international referee pair, from Finland, who refereed at the Women's U19 WFC.

There were also 22 referee pairs in the IFF Referee Development Group. The Referee Development Group is a group, where the referees are not official IFF referees but have started their educational path to become international referees in a few years time frame. There are groups both in Asia and Europe at the time.

During 2023 and 2024 there have been 26 international Referee Coaches, of which three are female, from the following countries: Australia (1), Czech Republic (4), Finland (9), Germany (1), Latvia (1), Norway (2), Slovakia (1), Sweden (4), and Switzerland (3).

6.3. Medical Committee (MC)

Office responsibility: Mr. James Varecka

The composition of the Medical Committee (MC) was:

Dr. Walter Frey, Switzerland, Chair
Dr. Tiina Nylander, Finland, Vice chair
Dr. Patricia Wallace, Australia
Dr. Rostyslav Yuzkiv, Ukraine
Dr. Jonathan Koo, Canada (until April 2024)
Dr. Lars Erik Bartels, Norway (until April 2024)

A large increase in the number of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) applications received by the IFF for events, caused problems with our limited Medical Committee, especially during summer vacations or if an applicant had the same nationality as one of the Medical Committee. For the latter part of the period, the MC was reduced to only 4 members, of which only 3 were active. Two candidates from Finland and

Switzerland were interviewed as possible additions to the MC for the next period.

The MC had no meetings during the period.

6.4. Entourage Committee (ENC)

Office responsibility: Mr. Veli Halonen

The composition of the Entourage Committee was:

Mr. Tamuz Hidir, Ukraine, Chair

Mr. Janne Svensson, USA

Mr. Pavel Semenov, Estonia

Ms. Elina Anttonen, Finland

Mr. Junoh Lee, Korea

The task of the committee has been difficult to define as there has not been much activity needed so far in Floorball for such a group. There has been some co-operation with the Athletes Commission to help determine the areas in which the ENC can be more active.

6.5. Development Committee

Office responsibility: Mr. Veli Halonen

The composition of the Development Committee was:

Mr. Steen Houman, Denmark, Chair

Mr. Jarno Ihme, Finland

Ms. Mervi Kilpikoski, Finland

Mr. Ralph Ramos, Philippines

Ms. Zuzana Svobodova, Czechia

Mr. Daniel Williamsson, USA

The Development Committee mainly worked on topics related to the strategy implementation such as how to gain more players.

6.6. Ethics Commission (ETC)

Office responsibility: Mr John Liljelund

The composition of the ETC was:

Mr. Harri Syväsalmi, Finland, Chair

Ms. Sylvia Shenk, Germany, Acting chair

Mr. Bill Howitt, Australia

Ms. Carol Roberts, Canada

Mr. David Sharpe, Great Britain

The Ethics Commission (ETC) chair Mr. Harri Syväsalmi passed away in late 2024, and had not been able to participate in the work of the ETC for much of the 2023-2024 period, due to his severe illness. Ms. Sylvia Schenk was named the acting chair of the ETC during his absence. The IFF General Assembly

2022 confirmed the election of the two co-opted members Mr. Bill Howitt (AUS) and David Sharpe (GB).

The ETC held its yearly meeting in 2022, in connection with the Men's WFC in Switzerland to discuss the preparations of the enlargement of the scope of the IFF Code of Ethics to include also the National Association leadership and staff under the jurisdiction of the IFF Code of Ethics. Further the ETC discussed the need to provide education to the IFF members in the field of Conflict of Interest and Anti-Corruption guidelines and the process of how the ETC is working and streamlining the complaint form handling, so that only the members of the ETC were to receive the complaint forms.

The ETC worked on the field of ethics education and ran an education session during the IFF Association Meeting during the Women's WFC 2023 in Singapore. As a result of this session the ETC acting chair Ms. Schenk ran a Good Governance webinar for the Ukrainian federation in the beginning of 2024. As this was very well received the ETC decided to hold a general Good Governance webinar for all IFF members in May 2024, run by Ms. Schenk, Mr. Howitt and Mr. Liljelund, which was attended by more than 35 member federations.

As the enlargement of the IFF Code of Ethics scope, to include also the leadership and the staff of the member federations, was approved by the IFF CB in beginning of 2024, the ETC discussed the need to enlarge the number of ETC members to at least five, in order to secure that there was enough persons to handle the possible rising number of complaints coming in. The decision was to have five members, and the idea was to continue with five persons, but to replace the non-active members.

A vast amount of the ETC members' time has been taken by the handling of the complaints, where there have been four different cases in 2023 and four in 2024. The ETC has during the period looked over the way of how the complaints will be handled and what will be published, and the ETC sub-page has been updated accordingly. Due to several anonymous and incomplete complaints that didn't allow the ETC to judge their jurisdiction and necessary details of an alleged breach, the ETC has concluded to no longer accept anonymous complaints and to overhaul the website and the complaint form accordingly, as there has been some complaints that have been handed in in 4-5 similar versions, all being anonymous. From some complaints the ETC received it became obvious that in parts of the Floorball community actions are not always guided by the necessary respect for one another, especially towards women. The ETC calls all members of the IFF to always act respectfully towards everyone in the Floorball community

6.7. Appeal Committee (AC)

Office responsibility: Mr John Liljelund

The composition of the Appeal Committee (AC), elected for the period of 2021-2024 was:

Ms. Märta Bergendahl, Sweden, Chair
Mr. Tom Hedkrok, Finland
Mr. Kim-Alexander Hofgaard Jorstad, Norway
Mr. Giorgio Rambaldi, Italy

Ms. Aiga Staltmane-Veksa, Latvia, Substitute member
Mr. Adriano Serafim, Brazil, Substitute member
Mr. Charly Olivier Lobe Priso, Cameroon, Substitute member

The Appeal Committee has not had any cases to deal with during the period.

6.8. Disciplinary Committee (DC)

Office responsibility: Mr John Liljelund

The composition of the Disciplinary Committee (DC), elected for the period of 2021-2024 was:

Mr. Ismo Haaponiemi, Finland, Chair
Ms. Linda Noppa, Sweden
Mr. Tomas Brezina, Czech Republic
Mr. Peter Vrba, Slovakia

Ms. Ilmars Blumbergs, Latvia, Substitute member
Mr. Marcel Wadja, Côte d'Ivoire, Substitute member
Mr. Florian Saluz, Switzerland, Substitute member
Ms. Yvette Manong Mouga, Cameroon, Substitute member

The DC has handled only one case during the two-year period, where the IFF Event Disciplinary Function (EDF) from the Women's U19 WFC 2024 in Lahti, Finland, handed over a case of violent behaviour on the field of play. The IFF DC decided to sanction the player with a suspension from all Floorball activities for a period of three international games, which was transferred as sanction in the national league.

6.9. Athletes' Commission (ATC)

Office responsibility: Ms. Monika Kraus

During the period, the Athletes' Commission (ATC) members were:

Ms. Agata Plechan, Poland, Chair
Ms. Josefina Eiremo, Sweden
Ms. Yui Takahashi, Japan
Ms. Kabaziba Daphine, Uganda
Ms. Lara Heini, Switzerland
Mr. Junoh Lee, Korea
Mr. Tomas Sladky, Czech Republic
Mr. Sergio Garces, Spain
Mr. Jarno Ihme, Finland

The ATC met 6 times during 2023-2024. Face-to-face meetings were organised in accordance with the IFF Events, respectively in 2023 during the Champions Cup Finals in Tampere and in 2024 in Lahti, during the U19 WFC and 3v3 WFC.

In 2024 the ATC published a series of blog posts where each described different topics associated with their floorball journey. Blog posts were published with a frequency of one blog per month. The ATC were the initiators of the changes in the Competition Regulations regarding the Release of the players for the International Weekends.

Under the supervision of the ATC Chair, Ms. Agata Plechan, the ATC introduced the "Buddy Program" that aims to connect the young athletes with top league athletes for personalised guidance. First pairs were introduced and the testing period started in September 2024 and will last until April 2025.



Due to Covid-19, the elections for Athlete's Commission male members were postponed until the end of 2024, and will be held during the WFC 2024 in Malmö, Sweden. The female members will be chosen during the WFCQ 2025, with both elections planned on being held via an online voting system. The ATC will meet in person during the U19 WFC 2025 in a newly formed team.

ATC representatives were members of several IFF bodies, including the RACC where they actively participated in the Committee's meetings in which changes of the Competition Regulations, Rules of the Game and International Calendar were discussed. They were also part of the Entourage Committee, IFF Central Board, Strategy groups, and IFF Hall of Fame working group. They participated in events organised by the IOC and WADA, and produced materials for the IFF FairFloorball and Stick with It campaigns.

6.10. Strategy Working Group (SWG)

The SWG members were:

Mr Stephen King, Australia, IFF Board Member, Chair
Mr Filip Suman, Czech Republic, IFF Vice President & Czech Floorball
Mrs Kaarina Vuori, Finland, Finnish Floorball President and IFF CB member
Mrs Helén Wiklund Wårell, Sweden, Swedish Floorball Federation Board Member
Mr. Teo Turay, Slovakia, Slovak Floorball Federation
Mr John Liljelund, Finland, IFF Secretary General

The Strategy Working Group (SWG) was appointed by the IFF Central Board to lead the IFF Strategy 2021-2032 implementation process. The SWG monitored the Strategy Implementation phase one 2021-2024 based on the Suggested Actions list created by the Strategy subgroups in 2021. The Subgroups, together with the IFF Office, built a timeline for the Suggested Actions for the first period and responsible persons were nominated for each suggested action. The IFF CB, the committees and the IFF Administration started the operational work with the Strategy Implementation during the second half of 2022 and this has continued throughout the period.

The implementation process worked extremely well and out of the 151 Suggested Actions for the first implementation phase a total of 82 have been concluded, 60 have been started and are ongoing and just 9 are yet to begin. It's very likely that the actions, which have not been started will not be started, since they seem to be slightly too optimistic actions. The IFF CB is very pleased with this positive development.

The SWG held a number of virtual meetings to plan and evaluate the actions taken as a part of the Strategy Implementation, and started the preparation of the Strategy Implementation second phase (2025-2028). The SWG worked on a proposed working plan for how to proceed with Phase 2 of the Strategy Implementation and prepared a proposal for each of the Targets Suggested Actions, defining the actions and the responsibilities and the timetable, based on the original plan made by the CB. The first draft was then given to the Office (each responsible person) to go through the suggested actions to see how they could be executed. The SWG then analysed these during the end of the year and the plan will go to the newly elected CB for their further analysis in a CB workshop and to approve it.

7. SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

7.1 Equality Function

The representation of females has been at 40%, or lower, in all but one of the IFF Committees during the period, with the average being 27%. The only one with equal representation has been the Athletes Commission, while the Referee Committee has no female members. Only two of the IFF committees are chaired by women. As well as representation on IFF committees, there is still an unequal participation of women in Member Association boards, and involved with refereeing and coaching.

The Swedish Floorball Federation Fifty/Fifty programme was further developed with more English material, and the IFF has provided communication support to spread knowledge about the available service. So far about 200 persons have taken the equality education courses. Discussions have been held between the IFF and Swedish Federation about the future direction of the programme. The concept has attracted interest also in other sports federations and corporate areas, so licensing the course material might be an option to create some cash flow to maintain the service. The programme was included as one of the IOC Sustainability Case Studies, published in 2024. More information on this can be found under the section 'Sustainability'

7.2. ParaFloorball Function (PFF)

7.2.1. Special Olympics (SO)

The Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 6 million athletes and Unified Sports partners in over 190 countries. With the support of more than 1 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics

delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and over 100,000 games and competitions throughout the year.

IFF and SO signed the Proclamation for partnership during the IFF Associations' Meeting 2011 and Floorball was an official sport for the first time in the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Austria 2017 after being a demonstration sport in 2013 in Korea. Turin, Italy will host the Special Olympics World Winter Games in 2025 with Floorball on the programme, and is expected to be amongst the largest of sports in terms of participation numbers. Floorball has grown a lot within the Special Olympics and whereas all registrations were accepted in the past, due to the vast interest, the number of participating teams in 2025 has had to be limited.

SO demonstration matches have been regularly played in major IFF events, such as the adult & U19 world championships.

7.2.2. International Committee Wheelchair Floorball (ICWH)

ICWH was established in 2012 with the aim to spread and develop the sport further. Manual Wheelchair Floorball is played almost with the same rules as Floorball, 5 vs 5 plus goalkeepers. Manual Wheelchair Floorball demonstration matches have been played in some IFF Events and there have been discussions about more official cooperation between IFF and ICWH.

7.2.3. International PowerChair Hockey (IPCH)

Powerchair Hockey is a team sport for people with a physical disability who need a power chair to practice sport. There are two kinds of players - those who have enough strength to hold a stick in their hand play with a floorball stick, while others play with a stick that is attached to the wheelchair, a T-stick. Players drive with a maximum speed of 15km/h on an indoor playing field of 26m long and 16m wide, that is enclosed by plastic boundaries with a height of 20cm. The shape of the playing field resembles a floorball court, with the corners rounded and the goal located away from the boards, so you can also play around it.

Currently Powerchair Hockey is played in Europe, America and Australia, with national leagues, European Championships and World Championships. In North America, they play a different form of Powerchair Hockey (Volt Hockey). In other countries and parts of the world, the sport is still being developed. IPCH has expressed an interest to join IFF as a member - similar to being a member country. IFF have requested more details from them about what they would want and need from IFF, and what they would expect from such a move. Discussions are ongoing.

7.2.4. International Volt Floorball

Volt Floorball has been part of the discussions led by the Swedish ParaFloorball about the forms of how to organise ParaFloorball, but they have not yet decided how they want to be affiliated with IFF.



8. MARKETING

The composition of the Marketing function has been:

Mr. Jörg Beer, Switzerland, Core Country Marketing Network Group Chair
 Mr. John Liljelund, IFF Secretary General
 Mr. Tero Kalsta, IFF Sales & Sustainability Manager

The work of the IFF Marketing function continued to focus on the positioning of Floorball, increasing the visibility and sales value of Floorball in the market. The primary objective has been to create sponsorship income which has proven to be challenging. The IFF has worked in cooperation with the Core Country Marketing Network Group (CCMNG) to harmonise the sales arguments for the Floorball community on a general level and reinforce the brand image of the sport. This forum (CCMNG) also acts as a platform to exchange ideas and best practices. In 2023 and 2024 the group convened twice a year. The network comprises of sales and marketing people from the European top ten floorball countries but naturally welcomes anyone interested to its meetings.

The IFF Sales & Sustainability Manager's work has consisted of executing direct sponsorship sales, account management of existing sponsors, running day to day operative marketing and development of sales and organising the operative work of the CCMNG. For marketing and communications it also requires active cooperation with the media department. Since late 2019 the development of the sustainability approach and activities have also been an integral part of the work. In the first half of 2023 a

lot of time was invested in launching the newly established partnership with PUMA. To the great disappointment of the IFF the work with the sales agency Red Carpet Brand Alliances (RCBA) never properly took off and was terminated at the end of summer 2024. During the second half of 2024, the possibilities for external sales agencies were investigated and are still on-going.

The unique sponsorship assets such as customised referee shirts and penalty benches have been included as integral parts of the available advertising assets. Further, the IFF has been very open to partner requests to create bespoke solutions to create unique and added value to the customer. There has also been a strong approach to include sustainability into the sponsorships. The WFC 2022 LOC showed great examples by involving a clothing supplier/brand and a logistics provider. The WFC 2024 LOC are cooperating with a hotel chain that fulfils eco-label requirements.

The IFF Sales Manager has also overseen the Champions Cup sales and marketing. The Champions Cup format with 16 teams and home-and-away matches started for the Champions Cup 2024 season. Based on the regulations teams play on their home flooring and use their home rinks hence displaying their local partners and ads.

Since the IFF App was launched on the eve of the WFC 2022 it has been downloaded almost 70.000 times. The IFF has been able to test and run commercial and promotional campaigns on this new platform. During WFC 2023 a combined campaign, Goal of the Day, using the app and IFF social media channels was executed. In conjunction with this, the targeted (country-specific) visibility of a campaign was also tested. Recently the IFF began to offer national federation sponsors the opportunity to have visibility in their respective country sections of the app. Some small scale social media campaigns have been run on IFF / WFC channels but definitely something still needs to be developed and used more efficiently.

The model for provisioning the rights for the LOC in IFF events has been adapted by a decision backed by the Central Board. The reason was the need to create additional revenue for the IFF when LOCs have been able to create great value of the rights. Therefore the current agreement template now includes the previous fixed fee for event rights and marketing rights but also a percentage of the ticketing income as well as a commission of sponsorship income above a certain target sum. Regardless of the model, the sales progression for the events is done in close cooperation between the IFF and the LOC. The IFF has also been investigating and discussing new ways to execute sponsorship sales which would entail closer cooperation with the LOCs. The IFF has been able to sell some event specific partnerships cases but still has fallen short on closing long-term deals. The contact with past sponsors has continued to either secure collaboration locally when events return or potentially converging these as long term partnerships.

The IFF corporate identity has been in use for the last eight years. It has been well established and the LOCs have become familiar with the IFF logo and the requirements to create event logos according to the IFF Corporate Identity Guidelines. The combination of the IFF emblem combined with the event emblem has brought consistency and the IFF logo is recognisable in the floorball community and beyond. Some small adjustments have been made to the guidelines along the way but on a general level they have served their purpose very well. The IFF has continued utilising the Brandcloud content platform to host the graphic material which consists of the event identity planning guidelines, all IFF logo/emblem material and IFF sponsor material. This has saved time and minimises management efforts.

The IFF has continued as a member of the European Sponsorship Association (ESA). Through the membership it has had access to some good research material and has also been able to push through articles about IFF sponsor cases. ESA also organises quarterly round-table discussions with peers from the sponsorship industry which has helped networking and delivered good insight around current topics.

Quantum Consultancy has continued to execute the event reports for the Adult WFC's. This has provided a continued production about the far-reaching effects of the championships, from economic impact to

media visibility. The reports are important for IFF sales, sponsors, LOCs and their stakeholders, host cities, and not least for potential host city bidders. The agreement with Quantum covers events for the next three years, including the WFC 2024. Negotiations for a potential extension of the partnership have been initiated by Mr Liljelund. For the U19 WFC 2024 the LOC, in cooperation with the local university and the host city, also conducted an event report.

In early 2024 it was confirmed that the 3v3 World Floorball Championships would be organised for the first time (May 2024). This required a swift decision and process to create a brand image for the new playing format. In the first half of 2024 the IFF combined with a Czech design agency to create the 3v3 WFC logo, brand image and guidelines. The logo and image was successfully launched in April and the inaugural 3v3 WFC event itself in May. Going forward all future event organisers will utilise the same logo with the possibility to adapt the colour scheme.



The IFF has been active in promoting The World Games and the participation of floorball in the event. The IWGA has recognised the IFF for good TWG promotion in the floorball community and is also using some of the promotion examples in their documents. The IFF has also encouraged the use and delivered promotional material for the national federations especially on the eve of the historical inclusion of both genders in The World Games 2025.

8.1. Champions Cup Steering Group (CCSG)

The five stakeholders of the Champions Cup (IFF, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Czechia) are jointly responsible for the overall management, development and planning of the Champions Cup.

The composition of the Champions Cup Steering Group (CCSG) has been:

Mr. John Liljelund, Finland, IFF Secretary General, Interim chair & secretary
Mr. Pekka Ilmivalta, Finland
Mr. Tomas Frank, Czechia
Mr. Zdeněk Mlčoušek, Czechia
Mr. Magnus Nilsson, Sweden
Mr. Mikael Ahlerup, Sweden (until May 2023)
Mr. Joakim Lindström, Sweden (from May 2023)
Mr. Michael Zoss, Switzerland

The Champions Cup changed to a Home and Away format for the period 2023-2024, after having played the last final tournament in 2023 in Tampere, Finland. The new version of the Champions Cup was built on the concept of both the women and men playing their quarterfinals in the respective Northern and Southern conference and then the semi-finals based on a ballot. The Champions Cup stakeholders have built the concept and are financing the event, and the teams received financial support for travel and streaming during the event.

The first year proved that, from a sporting perspective, the Champions Cup format has been quite positive for the clubs, but both the federations and the clubs feel that the format is too expensive. The stakeholders agreed to run the present format for two seasons and the second is being played during the season 2024-2025. After this the concept will be evaluated.

In relation to this the five stakeholders have agreed that the CC should be included in the national sales plan of the associations. The IFF Sales and Sustainability Manager has partially allocated his time to the sales and marketing of the Champions Cup as well as coordinating and supporting the National Associations and the Clubs participating in the CC, in the promotion of the Champions Cup.

8.2. Materials in competitions

IFF has continued to deliver flooring, rinks, balls and goals to IFF major events – World Floorball Championships (Adults & U19), Champions Cup and EFC. The transportation is arranged so that the organisers of the events have secured storage facilities and the materials are delivered from one competition to another in order to save unnecessary transportation costs. The IFF materials are stored in Slovakia and Latvia.

The IFF has also offered the possibility for the Member Associations, who organise smaller IFF events, to use the IFF floors, rinks and goals without any direct charge and the IFF has in many cases covered half of the transport costs.

9. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

The agreements with all the IFF Partners have made it possible for the IFF to build a solid foundation for IFF events, where all the championships have the same look and feel when it comes to Floorball equipment and apparel. Further, this creates top quality circumstances for athletes and referees. During the latter part of 2022 the existing sponsor agreements were renegotiated. The implementation thereof has been ongoing in 2023 and 2024.

9.1. UNIHOC

Based on the agreement signed in early 2023 UNIHOC will continue to be the IFF's Official Floorball Material Provider for Men's, Women's and U19 World Floorball Championships including sticks, balls, goals and goalkeeper equipment. UNIHOC also provides the official IFF match ball DYNAMIC. The value-in-kind material included in the agreement will continue to be utilised for IFF Development work.

UNIHOC has continued to create its sustainable ECO product-line and strategically wants to stand out from the competition. The selection includes stick bags, drinking bottles and the use of recycled raw material has increased. Further, the IFF has, through its network, introduced UNIHOC to a carbon recycling pilot project (Carbon Fiber Circular Alliance) to evaluate if they can utilise recycled carbon fibre for production. On a broader scale it is very interesting for the IFF and the Floorball world in general if this project can prove Floorball stick shafts are suitable for recycling as raw material.

UNIHOC has continued to be an integral part of the IFF App "Guess the Result" competition with prizes. The IFF has promoted several partner campaigns and also published interviews and articles on the homepage.

For 2024 it was pleasing to see two major IFF sponsors, UNIHOC and Gerlfor, combining to release a joint product when the new version of a shooting floor was launched. The material and colour are the

same as the official match floor.

9.2. Gerflor

During 2021 the IFF ran a large survey for players and other stakeholders to investigate the most popular colour for the sports flooring used in IFF events. Based on the results of those surveys a new floor colour, dark blue, was selected. Since the start of the new agreement with Gerflor the dark blue coloured flooring has been rolled out (first event was the U19 WFC 2023). By coincidence the WFC 2022 was already played with dark blue floors when floors of the Swiss Federation were used.

The goal to increase the visibility of floorball in joint marketing efforts continues and in 2024 there will be a couple of campaigns leading up to the WFC 2024.

9.3. Swerink

IFF renewed the agreement with Swerink in 2022, a partnership dating back to 2006. This will guarantee Swerink the status of IFF Official Rink Provider for the years 2023-2026. With the change of the flooring colour to dark blue Swerink has also adapted the top lining of the event rinks to dark blue. IFF and Swerink have continued closer cooperation in which Swerink has supported Member Associations and clubs by selling them used and renovated floorball rinks.



9.4. PUMA

The IFF was able to secure a new sports apparel partner PUMA at the end of 2022. Therefore a major project for 2023 was to set up an operating model with the new provider. In the first half of 2023 the IFF stocked up with new material and rolled them out to the international referees. The existing agreement also enabled the organisation of clothing for IFF staff/officials. In 2023 the IFF also introduced a new prize, the FairFloorball Player, in collaboration with PUMA. As a new partner PUMA has shown deep interest to create visibility for the new partnership and floorball. During the first cooperation year they published floorball related articles in their internal newsletter and organised an outdoor “Floorball Day” (in cooperation with Floorball Germany) at their headquarters in Herzogenaurach, Germany.

10. TV & LIVE STREAMING

During the period, the IFF has concentrated on building streaming and broadcast production guidelines for both the major Events and the IFF Champions Cup home and away format. IFF has continued to work to increase the television visibility of Floorball, based on the principle of distributing as many televised matches as possible at a reasonable price to the Member Associations. This approach has given good results from the World Championships, with a total of 22 broadcasters across 73 nations in four continents providing broadcast coverage of some 659 hours in total for the Men’s WFC 2022, which is a bit higher than for the Men’s WFC 2021 in Finland.

For the Women’s WFC in Singapore 2023 the result was a bit lower, especially as the time difference to the European market proved to be an issue for a lot of the previous TV takers, the African market and the two channels we had been working with before. A total 22 (26 in 2021) broadcasters across 16 (71 in 2021) nations on three of a total of 791 hours, which was an increase.

IFF has signed a cooperation agreement with Czech (CTV), Finnish (YLE), Norwegian (TV2), Latvian (TV4), Swedish (SVT) and Swiss (SRF) National Broadcasting Companies to secure visibility of IFF owned TV matches from the WFC.

IFF has been offering the matches produced from the WFC group games for a nominal fee to the nations playing and to broadcasters within their geographical region, in order to build the relationship with TV. IFF has made an agreement with the Canadian company Protocol Sports Marketing which has been offering the IFF Events for TV in a number of markets like Canada, France, Georgia, Slovenia, USA and also to the African AfricaXP channel.

For both the Men’s WFC 2022 and the WFC 2023, IFF acted as Host producer and broadcaster of the TV production, working together with the Swiss National Broadcasting Company – SRF in 2022. The IFF has a long-term contract for the production of the TV and livestream signals with PolarHD/SpringMedia, a Latvian-based TV production company. PolarHD has produced the WFC 2015, WFC 2016 and WFC 2019, WFC 2020 and WFC 2022.

IFF once again used the services of an English language commentator, Mr Olly Hogben, for both the WFC’s during the period. As the demand for TV commentary has increased IFF had additional commentary for the WFC’s in Mr. Richard Drew and Mr Tom Surbeck in Switzerland and Ms. Lisa O’Sullivan in Singapore. Several IFF staff also acted as lead commentators during WFC, providing English commentary for the matches produced for the North American and Asian markets. All 48 matches from these two events were broadcast with English commentary. Several highlights videos have also been produced, including English voiceover commentary, provided by Mr Hogben.

IFF continues to provide livestreaming from all IFF events. It is now a requirement for all IFF event

organisers to produce a live stream, and international weekend event organisers are encouraged to provide streaming or online match replays.

For the adult WFC (WFC 2022 in Switzerland and WFC 2023) an IFF TV Studio was added. For both semi-finals and the gold medal match the studio was integrated into the live stream for the IFF app. This was achieved with the cooperation from Polar HD, and the studio host was IFF employee, Mr Juerg Kihm. The studio guests for WFC 2022 were: Patrik Doza (CZE), Sascha Rhyner (SUI), Petri Kettunen (FIN). For the WFC 2023 event the Studio guests were: Zuzanna Svoboda (CZE), Sofie Andersson (SWE), Flurina Mari (SUI) and David Jansson (SUI/SWE). The daily overtime show which is a 5-8 minutes summary of the action was added to U19 WFC in Denmark and WFC 2023 in Singapore.

All IFF events (WFC, WFCQ, U19 WFC, U19 WFCQ, Champions Cup) were live streamed through the IFF Media Platform / IFF App. As all international events are run with the IFF app using the online match reporting system, the organisers from the non-IFF events were also encouraged to use the platform for streaming and media. To incentivise those organisers a financial participation model was introduced. This means a local organiser can earn money through the livestream on the IFF app. After deduction of all cost (Sportswik, Stripe, Amazon, IFF) the organiser receives around 52% of the sales

11. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is commonly divided in three areas: economic, environment and social, and this remains also the approach of the IFF. Over the years, the IFF has been active on the economic and social side, with increased emphasis on the environment since 2019, due to the alarming status of climate change. Some of the social aspects have already been explained in Chapter 5. Special Functions and 10.2. Material Support.

Since joining the UN Sports for Climate Action (S4CA) network in late 2019 the IFF made a further commitment to the Race To Zero network in 2022. The membership in these organisations obligates us to report according to their requirements, commit to emission reductions and gain credibility. The mentioned reporting concerns the IFF office and employees. For IFF events the reporting is always event-specific and the WFC 2022 with its Green Goal initiative has created a new benchmark for championship events. Both of the aforementioned are in line with the environmental sustainability targets outlined in the IFF strategy.

The IOC regularly seeks for good cases that can be documented as IOC Sustainability Case Studies and are published on the IOC website. During the latter part of 2023 the IFF submitted two floorball-themed cases which were published in early 2024. One was about the WFC 2022 Green Goal initiative which was ground-breaking for floorball: firstly, it defined the benchmark CO2 emissions for a Men's World Floorball Championship and secondly it showcased how, with structured and dedicated measures, emissions can be significantly decreased, cutting emissions in half in comparison to the 2018 tournament in Prague. The second case study was about the Fifty/Fifty gender equality education programme developed by the Swedish Floorball Federation. The Fifty/Fifty online course is aimed for the boards of clubs and federations and is available free of charge to all sports clubs and sports federations whose national floorball federation is an affiliate of the IFF. The aim of the course is for clubs and federations to increase their knowledge about why it is important to work with gender equality and the benefits that it offers both the club and its members. Fifty/Fifty is intended to sow the seeds for new ideas and enable clubs and federations to make practical, relatively small changes that, in the long run, result in significant improvement.

The WFC 2024 has carried on the legacy of the WFC 2022 and at an early stage created a sustainability policy for the 2024 event. For WFC 2024 sustainability is about taking responsibility for the impact they

have on their surroundings and working from responsible environmental, social, and economic aspects. Their sustainability work has focused on reducing the environmental impact and making conscious choices. The WFC 2024 will be permeated by high ambitions when it comes to sustainability at all levels - socially, environmentally, and economically. More information on their policy can be found on the [WFC 2024 website](#).

To name a few examples, the LOC has partnered with a hotel company which offers eco-labeled accommodation. These hotels have been primarily offered as team hotels. The organiser has also strongly been communicating and encouraging event visitors to utilise public transportation as the primary choice to arrive at the venues. Together with the venue operators they have also secured that recycling possibilities are available for spectators. Another element is a floorball equipment recycling initiative whereby the LOC offered any district or club collection boxes for used floorball equipment that were placed in their premises. All collected material will be donated to a charitable organisation to support hobbies of financially challenged families.

The EU-funded Erasmus+ project GAMES which started in the middle of 2022 reached its pinnacle at the WFC 2024. The Swedish Floorball Federation will host a Final Conference during the championships which will present the results of the project. The consortium, managed by Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, working with three head sports organisations, analysed the climate change governance and management models currently used in athletics, biathlon and floorball, and has supported the development of strategies in each sport while using their popularity to raise broader environmental awareness. As a result the IFF will finally publish a Sustainability Guideline for Event Organisers. Further the plan is to develop the bidding requirements to include more concrete requirements regarding environmental sustainability and the monitoring thereof.

With the help of its sponsors the IFF has been able to meet some of its sustainability requirements. The majority of the PUMA referee outfits (excluding socks) are 100% recycled polyester. Further, the WFC 2024 merchandise items are 25% recycled (cotton) raw material. The next generation Gerflor Taraflex floorings are made of 81% bio-content and recycled materials. With a 43% reduction in its carbon footprint compared to the previous Taraflex range, it has established itself as one of the most responsible floor coverings on the market. The product has the best carbon footprint in its category for sports flooring. It stands out for its reduced environmental impact throughout its life cycle not least that it is fully recyclable.

12. DEVELOPMENT

The Development function has been run in the IFF Office by Mr. Veli Halonen, IFF Operations Manager together with Mr. John Liljelund, the IFF Secretary General. The IFF carried out a vast survey addressed to the whole IFF family concerning the Future of Floorball and received around 1500 replies from the community. The results were presented in the IFF Associations Meeting in December 2023 in Singapore, and partly based on those results the IFF Central Board started to build the priority list for topics to concentrate on.

There are new coaching and refereeing materials created and the first two levels, level zero and level one on coaching are ready to be presented and the zero level material has already been used for a coaching clinic in September 2024 in Helsinki and in a coaching seminar in Kazakhstan in October 2024.



The IFF also applied for European Union Erasmus+ funding for a coaching program together with the Finnish Floorball Federation in cooperation with ten IFF member associations from Europe. Unfortunately this time the funds were not granted for the project, but a re-application will be sent next year.

There were several small clinics run in 2023 and 2024, but no full scale development seminars with all three sectors, administration, coaching and refereeing. Mainly the seminars/clinics were concentrating on coaching and refereeing, either separately or together. There were coaching clinics run in India & Solomon Islands, and refereeing clinics run in India, Singapore, Solomon Islands, and Philippines. No administration education was requested by the member associations during 2023-2024. Also webinars were carried out both in coaching and refereeing.

IFF was a partner for the Fit4Floorball Erasmus+ project, which was run by the Czech Floorball Union. The project concluded at the end of 2023, and the project was continued as a program led by the IFF and financed by the EFT countries. Its work with the IFF member associations started during 2024.

12.1. Floorball: Fit For Future Programme (4F)

On April 17, 2024, the IFF launched its new development programme, *Floorball: Fit For Future* (4F). All IFF member federations were invited to two online launch meetings, with a total of 34 national floorball federations registering for these information sessions.

The 4F programme built on the previous 4F development project, which ran from 2021 to end of 2023 with the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and was led by Czech Floorball. The project group aimed to create development tools that would accelerate the progress and growth of individual floorball federations. Specifically, two key tools were successfully developed: the Maturity Matrix, which is a comprehensive system with relevant activities, designed to evaluate and compare federations across key operational areas and the Development Action Plan (DAP), which serves as a strategic management system to help national floorball federations to grow.

The primary goal for 2024 was to ensure that all IFF member federations could begin utilising these tools in order to foster sustainable growth and prepare for future challenges. To achieve this, the 4F project was

officially transformed into a long-term IFF development programme. To enable federations to effectively utilise the developed tools, it was necessary to ensure personnel support. Thanks to the support of the EFT countries, Frederik Dilger, who served as the German representative during the three years of the 4F project, was appointed in April to lead and coordinate the 4F programme on behalf of the IFF.

As the development tools were developed with the support of the European Union, their content initially focused on the development of federations within the European context. To fully involve non-European countries in the 4F programme, it was necessary to adapt the tools to meet the specific conditions of other continents prior to the programme's official launch.

The IFF 4F development program has successfully involved 25 national federations, each at different stages of the development process, which actively participated in evaluating their current status through the Maturity Matrix. The evaluation sparked productive discussions within federations and led to significant spread of knowledge.

A specialised IT software was developed specifically for the evaluation process, enabling federations to thoroughly evaluate the stage of development in various areas. The federations received intensive support during the evaluation process, ensuring they had the necessary guidance and resources to effectively utilise the software.

Additionally, significant progress was made with the former so-called 4F mentee countries, including Spain, Poland, Slovakia, Denmark, and Germany, focusing on creating and implementing their Development Action Plans (DAP). This collaborative effort led to concrete improvements in their structures and practices.

The programme's efforts culminated in a three-day live meeting in October 2024, where members of the 4F group engaged in meaningful exchanges, reviewed the year's progress, and discussed the future direction of the program. Work was also underway to expand the IT software for the development phase, enabling even more federations to benefit from the 4F programme.

12.2. Development Program

There have not been that many requests to run seminars in Europe and therefore the IFF has concentrated on running smaller clinics separately in Asia and also in conjunction with IFF events concentrating on coaching and refereeing. Webinars have also been in the program.

IFF is annually running projects funded by the IOC. In 2023 the projects being the continuum of GoGirls project, Future of Floorball and the creation of the 3v3 WFC. In 2024 the implementation of the first ever 3v3 World Championships was a huge success. The IFF also concentrated on the Good Governance issues for the IFF member associations and those were mainly bi-lateral operations to strengthen the structures of the members.

12.3. Material Support

The IFF has been in the position to support new and growing Floorball countries as they strive towards developing their Floorball activities by providing them educational material and Floorball equipment. After the Covid-19 pandemic the requests to ship materials has decreased significantly, but still the IFF sent some bigger amounts of equipment to certain areas and also supported African countries. The greatest

challenge is the shipping costs and the difficulties with the local customs and regulations, which are really difficult to fulfil and anticipate.

The total amount of equipment has been:

- 780 sticks
- 1400 balls
- 25 tool bags
- 20 goalkeeper sets

IFF also has an ongoing system for renting old Floorball rinks to Member Associations, based on a nominal rent for the period of two years. During 2023-24 the IFF has provided rinks to Canada, Poland and Slovakia, with plans also to send two rinks to the Oceania region still in 2024.

IFF is very thankful for the support of UNIHOC, which has made this material support possible.



13. COMMUNICATIONS

IFF Communications aims to serve three target groups: Member Associations, Athletes (players, referees, coaches etc) and Stakeholders (followers, fans, partners, sponsors etc). The IFF digital channels serve the purpose of maintaining and distributing floorball content to these three groups. We aim to lead, support and serve our member associations, together with the athletes and all other stakeholders to promote, develop, protect and spread the game of floorball.

Furthermore, the IFF should maintain and increase the visibility of the sport to create interest in the media.

Increased visibility and awareness of floorball should result in new players, new media and new sponsors. We can increase the awareness of the sport, while creating a communication platform where our community is entertained, informed, engaged and keen to be an active user.

Media channels currently utilised by IFF are website (IFF and event-specific), newsletter, IFF App, and TV during events. IFF is active on several social media with both IFF and event-specific (WFC, U19 WFC, CC) channels on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The IFF has also provided the stream from IFF events to Olympic Channel and The WGA channel.

13.1. Developments in Communication 2023-2024

The biggest change in the Communication section of the IFF was that streaming moved entirely to the IFF App and is now offered behind a paywall. Therefore the development of the App and creating specific content for it has been taken into account in the IFF Media Team work. Unfortunately, the income from the IFF App has not been quite what was expected and the number of users has been lower than originally expected. In addition to the IFF App, the IFF Media Team has utilised Magnifi for automated video clips and highlights from the events. This has saved a lot of time compared to clipping all the goals separately from the stream. Magnifi was used during the Women's WFC 2023, Women's U19 WFC 2024 and during some of the 2024 Champions Cup matches, and will also be in use for the Men's WFC 2024.

The first 3v3 WFC was played in conjunction with the U19 WFC 2024, and although the event was highlighted on different media platforms, it drowned under the content from the U19 event. The coverage of the event on the IFF channels was limited due to lack of resources. This has been highlighted as a priority for improvement for the next event edition in 2025.

During 2023 IFF Media took over the Champions Cup channels as the event format changed, and with the home and away series it meant there was no single event organiser who had responsibility for the media work. This added three social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, X) as well as the Champions Cup website to the existing channels that IFF Media staff were responsible for managing. The U19 WFC and WFC channels continue to be updated by the local organisers.

13.2. Website

The IFF website is the main source of all important material and news for member associations and media. Event-specific websites are developed in cooperation with the local organisers and have all the event-related information.

13.3. IFF App

Streaming on Youtube has been replaced by streaming on the IFF App. The IFF App is the hub for all floorball content including match replays, highlights, interviews and statistics. During events the IFF App acts as a match centre with results and statistics.

13.4. Social media

The role of social media is to reach, engage and interact with the Floorball community. Creating engaging content is the key. The IFF is present in many different social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, YouTube and TikTok. Currently the IFF Instagram (@iff_floorball) has the biggest follower count across IFF channels with 88,832 followers.

*Current number of followers / subscribers across **all** IFF Social Media Channels (IFF, CC, U19 WFC, WFC).*

Instagram	117,871
Youtube	84,500
Facebook	71,385
X	18,720
TikTok	13,868
LinkedIn	2,285
Total	308,629

**Numbers are correct as at 20th October 2024*

14. INFORMATION & DEVELOPMENT MATERIAL

As a part of the service to the Member Associations there are several documents which are available for download from the IFF website [from this link](#).

These include:

- Coaching material
- School curriculum
- Basic referee education material
- GoGirls! Floorball
- This is Floorball
- Keep Floorball Honest
- STOP Harassment & Abuse in Sport
- Special Olympics
- Points Masters
- Event Handbook

15. MATERIAL BOARD

IFF Secretary General, Mr. John Liljelund, has been responsible for all questions related to Floorball material and the Material Approval system, run by the Swedish Testing and Research Institute (RISE - previously SP). The IFF Material Board (previously the Development Board), which is a co-operative body of the IFF and the major Floorball manufacturers has the task to discuss and evaluate the development of the Floorball equipment and prepare the IFF Material regulations. The main work has been the follow-up of

the Material Regulations, which involved several meetings with RISE and the Czech Test Institute, ITC, as well as with the manufacturers of Floorball equipment. During the period, a new version of the Material Regulations MR 2024 was published and was brought into force from 1st July 2024 for the next two-year period.

During the last year, a lot of focus has been put on the financial problems the Material manufacturers have been having, especially a few companies. The fact that Exel Sports Group has been bankrupt during the period, created a lot of work for the IFF and RISE. Now there has been an agreement for how to deal with the transfer of some Exel product certificates and how the new company selling Exel material will handle its responsibilities towards RISE and IFF.

Together with the Material Board, IFF has continued the exemption for the use of over-length sticks for players taller than 190cm. The system has now been used for the eighth year in a row, with good feedback from the players, describing that their health problems have been reduced significantly due to the possibility to use longer sticks. The number of new approvals was 37 in 2023 and 43 in 2024, giving a total of 234 approvals since the exemption was introduced.

The Material Board has supported projects related to the development of Floorball in Canada, to rebuild the federation activities after the pandemic in a three-year project, starting in 2023. The results of the first year have been very positive and the Material Board has continued the support for 2024.

As the long time serving Floorball material specialist Lars-Åke Henriksson at RISE will retire in early 2025, the IFF and the Material Board has during 2024 discussed how to continue with the Material Approval system, as the operations of RISE have faced quite severe criticism, especially in regard to the certification process of protective eyewear and face masks. The IFF has been evaluating different models on how to continue the process in the future and a decision will have to be made at the start of 2025. The IFF would like to extend its most sincere gratitude to Mr. Lars-Åke Henriksson for the excellent cooperation over the years.

16. ANTI-DOPING

The WADA Prohibited List 2024 edition was announced and implemented by the IFF, with coordinated news on federation channels about which drugs and medication have now been deemed prohibited. Not many major medication changes were implemented from WADA's side and the same process was followed for the 2025 regulations which were announced at the end of 2024.

16.1. Education

The IFF has continued its work to make sure all athletes competing at IFF events have valid Anti-Doping Education, including manual checks of all education certificates. Further information provided to member federations via email encouraging them to conduct their event education for athletes via their National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) was sent out at the end of 2024.

16.2. Testing

2023

Total amount of tests by IFF in 2022: 90

In-competition tests: 50

WFC 2023 (22), U19 WFC 2022 (8), WFCQs (16), Champions Cup (4)

Out-of-Competition tests in 2023: 40

Out-of-Competition tests by IFF analysed for hGH/GHRFs: 5
Out-of-Competition tests by IFF analysed for ESAs:5

The Code Compliance Questionnaire was also completed to WADA's expectations and the IFF after several changes, amendments and work is now fully compliant with all of WADA's Code.

17. ONLINE EVENT TOOLS

The IFF and IFF Event Organisers have continued to use our two main online planning tools - GATE accreditation system, and Eventello, an event task management system. The online match statistics have been in a period of transition during 2023-2024, with a move of all event & player statistics from the old database to the IFF Media Platform / IFF app.

17.2. Eventello

IFF used this online event management tool throughout 2023-2024. In 2023, there was a change of ownership of the software company that manages the tool, and the IFF negotiated a new contract with the company to ensure a continuity of the system. The IFF staff, based on feedback from event organisers, updated the task list on a regular basis and allowed customisation according to the needs of each event organiser. As well as being a key tool in event preparation, Eventello was also used for the bidding of the major events (WFC 2026, WFC 2027, WFC 2028), providing a comparative evaluation of the bidders.

17.3. GATE Accreditation

The IFF has continued the use of its online accreditation system, called GATE. The card layout is personalised for each event based on the event branding and provides information on the person accredited, accreditation group they belong to, and the areas to which they have access. Every team member, IFF official, media representative and LOC staff or volunteer is required to have an accreditation card.

GATE software was originally part of the same contract as Eventello, but with the change of ownership of the managing company, IFF began a direct partnership with Loop8, the GATE software managers. A new contract was finalised with them in late 2024 that will continue the use of GATE for all of IFF events.

17.4. Online Match Reporting / Competition Statistics

During 2023-2024 the full IFF event statistics database was moved to be on the IFF Media Platform / App. Every international match is recorded using the Online Match Reporting System (OMRS) within the app. The transition of the statistics was a huge undertaking and although the migration has been finished, there is still work to be done in correcting and checking that the statistics are complete.

18. COMPETITIONS

18.1. World Championships

The Adult WFC is played over 9 days with 16 teams divided into 4 groups based on ranking, with the teams ranked 1-8 balloted to groups A & B and teams ranked 9-16 to group C & D. In the first phase the

teams play matches within their group. In the second stage, the lowest teams in A & B have a play-off round against the highest teams in C & D, with the winners proceeding to the quarterfinals. Teams then play placement matches to decide final placings.

To qualify for the final round, all teams (apart from the final round organiser) must compete in regional qualifications. The number of teams eligible to qualify from each region is based on a quota system, which was updated in 2023.



**Women's World Floorball
Championships 2023**
2 Dec - 10 Dec | Singapore

14th Women's WFC: 2nd - 10th December 2023 in Singapore

In total, 30* teams registered for the tournament – 21 from Europe, 7 from Asia Oceania, and 2 from the Americas. Singapore, as the host country, was the only team to receive direct qualification, with all others participating in regional qualifications in January – February 2023. From these events, 15 teams qualified – 12 from Europe, 2 from Asia Oceania, and 1 from the Americas. France qualified for the first time ever to an adult WFC final round.

The final round was played in Singapore - only the second time that an adult WFC has been played outside of Europe (both times being in Singapore). The group games and placement matches were played on two courts within one venue - OCBC Arena. On the final weekend, the semi-finals and medal matches were played in the Singapore Indoor Stadium. The event was well-organised from a competition and logistics perspective, but the marketing of the event fell short, as did ticket sales. The overall spectator numbers on the final day were positive.

Sweden won their 9th world championship in a row, with the last time they lost a WFC final being the previous WFC in Singapore, in 2005. Sweden beat Finland in the final by 6-4. Czechia won the bronze against Switzerland (5-4) - the first medal for Czech women since 2011.

**Russia registered to participate but were not considered for inclusion to the qualifications due to their suspension from all international activities according to the decision of the IFF Central Board on 1st March 2022.*

FINAL STANDINGS

1.		Sweden	9.		Japan
2.		Finland	10.		Germany
3.		Czechia	11.		Norway
4.		Switzerland	12.		Singapore
5.		Slovakia	13.		Estonia
6.		Poland	14.		USA
7.		Latvia	15.		France
8.		Denmark	16.		Australia

Qualifications

The qualification events were held in January/February 2023 in Latvia, Italy, Thailand and Canada.

WFCQ EUR1 - Koceni, Latvia: 31st January - 4th February 2023

1. Sweden; 2. Latvia; 3. Germany; 4. Netherlands; 5. Great Britain;

WFCQ EUR2 – Koceni, Latvia: 31st January - 4th February 2023

1. Finland; 2. Norway; 3. Denmark; 4. Belgium; 5. Austria;

WFCQ EUR3 – Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy: 31st January - 4th February 2023

1. Switzerland; 2. Slovakia; 3. Estonia; 4. Spain; 5. Ukraine;

WFCQ EUR4 – Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy: 31st January - 4th February 2023

1. Czechia; 2. Poland; 3. France; 4. Hungary; 5. Italy;

WFCQ AOFC – Chonburi, Thailand: 31st January - 5th February 2023

1. Japan; 2. Australia; 3. Thailand; 4. Philippines; 5. New Zealand; 6. Korea;

WFCQ AMER – Toronto, Canada: 25th - 26th February 2023

1. USA; 2. Canada



15th Men's WFC: 7th - 15th December 2024 in Malmö, Sweden

32 teams registered for the tournament – 22 from Europe, 8 from Asia Oceania, and 2 from the Americas. Sweden, as the host country, was the only team to receive direct qualification, with all others participating in regional qualifications in January – May 2024. From these events, 15 teams qualified – 11 from Europe, 3 from Asia Oceania, and 1 from the Americas. Slovenia qualified for their first ever adult WFC final round.

The final round will be played in two venues - Malmö Arena and Baltisken Hallen. The event is expected to receive high media coverage and hopefully high revenue from both TV and ticket sales. The LOC has built a sustainable event with the certification for climate actions.

FINAL ROUND TEAMS

Group A

	Czechia
	Switzerland
	Norway
	Germany

Group B

	Sweden
	Finland
	Latvia
	Slovakia

Group C

	Estonia
	Canada
	Australia
	Philippines

Group D

	Denmark
	Poland
	Thailand
	Slovenia

Qualifications

The qualification events were held between January and May 2024 in Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Canada and the Philippines. This was the first time that the Philippines had hosted an IFF international event.

WFCQ EUR1 - Liepāja, Latvia: 31st January - 3rd February 2024

1. Finland; 2. Latvia; 3. Germany; 4. Estonia; 5. Iceland; 6. France; 7. Netherlands; 8. Liechtenstein

WFCQ EUR2 – Łochów, Poland: 1st - 4th February 2024

1. Czechia; 2. Slovakia; 3. Norway; 4. Poland; 5. Hungary; 6. Spain; 7. Austria; 8. Great Britain

WFCQ EUR3 – Škofja Loka, Slovenia: 31st January - 4th February 2024

1. Switzerland; 2. Slovenia; 3. Denmark; 4. Italy; 5. Belgium;

WFCQ AMER – Toronto, Canada: 17th - 18th February 2024

1. Canada; 2. USA

WFCQ AOFC – Pasig (Manila), Philippines: 21st - 25th May 2024

1. Philippines; 2. Thailand; 3. Australia; 4. Singapore; 5. Japan; 6. Korea; 7. New Zealand; 8. China

18.2. Under 19 World Championships

The U19 WFC is played over 5 days with 16 teams divided into 4 groups based on ranking, with the teams ranked 1-8 balloted to groups A & B and teams ranked 9-16 to group C & D. The host country as well as the teams placed 1st - 9th in the previous U19 WFC of the same gender, receive direct qualification to the final round, while the remaining teams compete in regional qualifications. The number of teams eligible to qualify from each region is based on a quota system.

In the first phase the teams play matches within their group. In the second stage, the lowest teams in A & B have a play-off round against the highest teams in C & D. These matches determine the teams that will receive automatic qualification to the next U19 WFC. The top 2 teams in Group A & B play semi-finals and Bronze medal and Final games, while all teams play placement matches to decide the final placings.

Although the Men's U19 WFC 2025 is not included in this report, it is worthy to mention the AOFC Qualifications for the event, which were held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 20th - 22nd September 2024. This was the first international floorball event to be played in any of the Pacific Islands and was a tremendous success. Solomon Islands were not registered to the event itself but were able to play two international friendly matches against Singapore and New Zealand as part of those team's preparation for the event, as well as a mini-match against Japan and a joint training session with Australia. This idea of a non-participating country hosting an event, with the help of their more experienced neighbours (in this case, Australia & New Zealand) worked very well. For a new and small association, like the Solomon Islands, this was a valuable experience for their players and organisers, and was the perfect way to showcase the sport to their community, sponsors, and national sports bodies.



12th Men's U19 WFC: 26th - 30th April 2023, Frederikshavn, Denmark

From 25 teams registered for the event, 9 received direct qualification to the final round, while the remaining 16 competed in regional qualifications. From these, one team qualified from AMER, two from AOFC, and four from EUR.

The local organisation had a difficult preparation period, with staff turnover and budget problems, but they managed to deliver a high-level event. They set a new MU19 WFC spectator record with the spectator total of 18,316 breaking the previous record of 16,477 spectators set in Hamburg, Germany in 2013. The total number was calculated using the spectator numbers for each match. A total of 36 matches were played by the 16 participating nations.

Sweden won their 6th Men's U19 World Floorball Championships gold with a score of 7-4, after seeing off a spirited display from a Swiss team going in search of their first-ever Men's U19 world title. Sweden emerged victorious and recaptured the trophy that had eluded them for a decade. Czechia and Finland played for bronze, with Finland winning in a penalty shootout.

FINAL STANDINGS

1.		Sweden	9.		Germany
2.		Switzerland	10.		Poland
3.		Finland	11.		Slovenia
4.		Czechia	12.		Austria
5.		Latvia	13.		Estonia
6.		Slovakia	14.		Australia
7.		Norway	15.		Singapore
8.		Denmark	16.		USA

Qualifications

The qualification events were held in regional events between September 2022 and January 2023. Difficulties in securing organisers for the European qualifications was the reason for the delayed playing of the events.

WFCQ AMER – Draper, Utah, USA: 2nd - 3rd September 2022

1. USA; 2. Canada

WFCQ AOFC – Wellington, New Zealand: 29th September - 1st October 2022

1. Australia; 2. Singapore; 3. New Zealand;

WFCQ EUR1 - Salzburg, Austria: 24th - 28th January 2023

1. Norway; 2. Austria; 3. Belgium; 4. Netherlands; 5. Great Britain; 6. France;

WFCQ EUR2 – El Escorial, Spain: 24th - 28th January 2023

1. Estonia; 2. Slovenia; 3. Hungary; 4. Spain; 5. Italy;



11th Women's U19 WFC: 8th - 12th May 2024, Lahti, Finland

This event was played in a single venue with two competition courts, as well as the first ever IFF 3v3 WFC. It was a smaller venue in regards to spectator capacity but it allowed a lot of room for spectator activities as well as the 3v3. Thirteen countries secured direct qualification to the final round based on results from the previous Women's U19 WFC in 2022, as well as by way of regional quotas. There was just one qualification event held in Europe.

Despite the lower than normal spectator capacity, new records were made at this event. The Finland v Sweden final was attended by a total of 1,965 spectators which was a new single match record for the Women's U19 WFC tournament, while the total number of spectators at the tournament, 15,941 spectators, was also the highest ever for the female U19 WFC.

In the final, Sweden beat Finland 4-2, taking their 8th Women's U19 WFC gold, while the bronze medal was won by Czechia with a 5-1 win over Switzerland.

FINAL STANDINGS

1.		Sweden	9.		Latvia
2.		Finland	10.		Germany
3.		Czechia	11.		Singapore
4.		Switzerland	12.		Italy
5.		Slovakia	13.		New Zealand
6.		Poland	14.		Hungary
7.		Denmark	15.		Australia
8.		Norway	16.		Canada

Qualification

WFCQ EUR – Besançon, France: 25th - 27th August 2023

1. Denmark; 2. Italy; 3. Hungary; 4. France

18.3. 3v3 World Championships



The first ever 3v3 WFC was held in Lahti, Finland from 11-12th May 2024, in conjunction with the U19 WFC. A total of 87 matches were played on Saturday and Sunday with over 400 athletes in 44 teams (30 men's teams and 14 women's),

representing 20 countries.

The 3v3 WFC was played using the newly introduced 3v3 WFC regulations, specially designed as an entertainment version of Floorball. Playing on a much smaller court than normal (approx. 20x10m), the teams were allowed a maximum of 10 players - 8 court players + 2 goalkeepers. The match time was 2 x 10 minute periods with a 2 minute intermission. Game time was semi-effective, meaning that the game time was only stopped in connection with a goal, a penalty, a penalty shot, or when there was an unnatural interruption in play called by the referee. Teams had no opportunity for a time-out.



The court was marked with only a small goalkeeper area in which only the goalkeeper was allowed and goalkeepers were allowed to score goals (via the ball going into the opposition goal directly from a throw). Teams were only allowed to play without a goalkeeper during a delayed penalty.

Another modification was that there were no hit-ins. If the ball went out of the field of play then the GK of the team who would usually get the hit-in would take a ball from the ball bag attached to the back of their goal and throw the ball back into play with no stoppage of time.

There were two free-hit spots, both marked on the centre line 2m from the rink, and free-hits were taken from the nearest free-hit spot (not from the place the offence happened) and the opposition had to be 2m away. Penalty shots were taken from a fixed spot 5m from the goal-line. The player did not move with the ball, but rather simply shot the ball at the goal with a hit. A drag, flick, or lifting the ball onto the blade before shooting was not allowed.

The tournament produced many exciting games and new experiences for players, competing against countries that they have never played before. New Zealand had a couple of surprise victories against Czechia and the teams from Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso were popular opponents. Both final matches were won with a penalty shot competition. Finland Blue defeated Sweden 4-3 in the Women's final, and

Latvia 1 beat Sweden 10-9 to take the Men's trophy and their first ever world championship title.

NEW 3v3 WORLD RANKINGS

WOMEN

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|-----|--|-------------|
| 1. |  | Finland | 7. |  | Czechia |
| 2. |  | Sweden | 8. |  | Poland |
| 3. |  | Switzerland | 9. |  | Slovakia |
| 4. |  | Germany | 10. |  | Ukraine |
| 5. |  | Estonia | 11. |  | Netherlands |
| 6. |  | Latvia | 12. |  | Iceland |

MEN

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------|-----|--|---------------|
| 1. |  | Latvia | 11. |  | Spain |
| 2. |  | Sweden | 12. |  | Slovakia |
| 3. |  | Finland | 13. |  | USA |
| 4. |  | Switzerland | 14. |  | Germany |
| 5. |  | Estonia | 15. |  | Ukraine |
| 6. |  | New Zealand | 16. |  | Italy |
| 7. |  | Hungary | 17. |  | Iceland |
| 8. |  | Poland | 18. |  | Netherlands |
| 9. |  | France | 19. |  | Burkina Faso |
| 10. |  | Czechia | 20. |  | Côte d'Ivoire |

18.4. Champions Cup



The IFF Champions Cup is the premier international club championship event, featuring the national league champions, cup winners &/or runners-up, from the CC stakeholder countries, who are also the highest ranked countries in world floorball - Czechia, Finland, Sweden & Switzerland.

A completely new format for the Champions Cup was introduced in 2023 with a home and away series featuring 16 teams in both the men's & women's tournaments. The competition was split into Northern (Finland & Sweden) and Southern (Czechia & Switzerland) conferences for the quarterfinal round. The winners of the quarterfinals progressed to the semi-finals where the pairs were selected by ballot draw. The semi-finals were also played in a home and away format, and then the winners met in a single match final event.

Although the new format was well received by the clubs, the format still struggled to get media and spectator interest and the costs were higher than expected for the team travel, and far over-budget for the IFF. Several of the National Associations also financially supported the clubs in their participation &/or organisation of home matches, in addition to the stakeholder base payment.

2023/24

Women

Participating clubs: Classic (FIN), TPS (FIN), Pixbo IBK (SWE), Thorengruppen IBK (SWE), Zug United (SUI), Kloten-Dietlikon Jets (SUI), FBC Ostrava (CZE), 1. SC Vitkovice (CZE)

Zug, Jets, Thorengruppen & Pixbo qualified to the semi-finals, with the two Swedish teams facing off in the final match. Pixbo hosted the final but it was Thorengruppen, who were the reigning champions, that took the win, 4-3.

Men

Participating clubs: Classic (FIN), TPS (FIN), Storvreta IBK (SWE), IBF Falun (SWE), SV Wiler-Ersigen (SUI), Floorball Köniz Bern (SUI), Tatran Stresovice (CZE), FbS Bohemians Praha (CZE)

Tatran, Storvreta, Falun & Wiler qualified to the semi-finals, with Tatran & Falun meeting in the final. Tatran hosted the final and won 6-4, becoming the first Czech team to win the Champions Cup, and only the third non-Swedish team to ever win.

2024/25

Women

Participating clubs: Classic (FIN), TPS (FIN), Pixbo IBK (SWE), Thorengruppen IBK (SWE), Zug United (SUI), Kloten-Dietlikon Jets (SUI), Florbal Chodov (CZE), 1. SC Vitkovice (CZE)

Chodov, Vitkovice, Thorengruppen & Pixbo qualified to the semi-finals, The finals to be played in January 2025.

Men

Participating clubs: Nokian KrP (FIN), Esport Oilers (FIN), Storvreta IBK (SWE), Pixbo IBK (SWE), SV Wiler-Ersigen (SUI), Zug United (SUI), Tatran Stresovice (CZE), Florbal MB (CZE)

Wiler, Florbal MB, Pixbo, & Nokia qualified to the semi-finals, The finals to be played in January 2025.

18.5. EuroFloorball Cup & EuroFloorball Challenge

Open for registration to any of the national champions from the IFF European Member Associations ranked 5th and below, the Cup event is played with six women's & six men's teams, each split into 2 groups, playing group games, semi-finals, finals and placement matches. It is usually a 5-day tournament. If more than six teams for either/both genders register, then teams are placed into the Cup or Challenge event based on ranking.



2023: Besançon, France, 23rd - 27th August

In this year only a Men's EuroFloorball Challenge event with seven teams was played. UKS Bankowka Zielonka (POL) and UFC Utrecht (NED) met in the final, with the team from Poland winning 5-2.

FINAL STANDINGS

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. | UKS Bankowka Zielonka (POL) | 5. | Besancon FC (FRA) |
| 2. | UFC Utrecht (NED) | 6. | Les Dahuts du Lac (FRA) |
| 3. | FBC Lemberg (UKR) | 7. | Cambridge FC (GBR) |
| 4. | CDE El Valle (ESP) | | |

2024

In this year both the Cup and Challenge events were cancelled due to the lack of organisers. This has been a continual issue for this event with many of the smaller European league competitions not finishing until May which then gives only a very short lead-in time to find organisers, register teams, and plan the event before the period in which it is scheduled to be played (end of August).

18.6. Africa Floorball Cup

The Africa Floorball Cup is a national team event for Member Associations in Africa. It is currently played using a modified format of 3v3 plus goalkeeper, on a modified size court with the matches played 2 x 15 minutes or 2 x 20 minutes.

Participation in the event is strongly affected by cost. Where it is held and the possibility for teams to travel, sometimes very long distances, has a huge impact. The limited number of available players means that teams often have very few players and it has been the experience that teams can withdraw at the very last minute – even as late as the first day of play. There is a need to encourage better commitment from the participating teams and support them wherever possible to ensure the highest level of participation.

Developing a more professional system of registration and organisation, not just for this event but for the African member associations in general, is important for future events. There were problems in 2024 with this event being planned and organised without clear communication from the host country and without the full approval of the IFF.



2023: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 16th - 17th September

The event was played with 3 women's and 6 men's teams. This was the second time that Côte d'Ivoire hosted the event. Although not yet an IFF member, a team from the Moroccan Sport Academy participated in the men's competition.

FINAL STANDINGS

Women: 1. Burkina Faso; 2. Kenya; 3. Côte d'Ivoire

Men: 1. Burkina Faso; 2. Côte d'Ivoire; 3. Kenya; 4. Cameroon; 5. Togo; 6. Morocco (Sport Academy)

2024: Nairobi, Kenya, 14th - 15th September

The number of teams for this event was very limited, with just three men's teams and two women's. The organisers struggled to get a commitment of participation from other African countries and internal issues with the Ugandan federation meant that a club team, rather than the national team participated. Unfortunately, the majority of the event was prepared with basically no communication with the IFF, except to organise a referee pair to attend. The online match reporting system was not used and all results had to be entered manually to the statistics after the event by the IFF staff.

FINAL STANDINGS

Women: 1. Kenya; 2. Tigers Club Uganda

Men: 1. Cameroon; 2. Kenya; 3. Tigers Club Uganda

18.7. Asia Oceania Floorball Confederation Cup

The Asia Oceania Floorball Confederation (AOFC) Cup is a national team event for Member Associations who are part of the AOFC. Traditionally, it has been that in even years it is played for women and in uneven years for Men. With the WFC qualifications being the premier international AOFC event, the AOFC Cup has become more of a development tournament for the AOFC, allowing newer or less prominent floorball countries to compete against development or junior squads from the larger AOFC countries. Only the Men's event was played in 2023. The planned women's tournament for 2024 was cancelled due to a very heavy event schedule coming up for the women in 2025, with four major international events.

2023: Singapore, 9th - 14th October

The Men's AOFC Cup was played with eight teams from six countries, with both Singapore and Malaysia having two teams.

FINAL STANDINGS

1. Thailand; 2. Singapore; 3. Singapore B; 4. Korea; 5. Malaysia; 6. New Zealand; 7. Philippines; 8. Malaysia B

18.7.1. AOFC Club Championship

This was a newly organised event for the first time in 2023. The majority of the planning of the event was done by the host organiser in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, with little official communication with the IFF, AOFC or its member countries. Unlike the European club championships, this was open to any club in the region to register to, and while this is a great initiative, it is important that the IFF and AOFC maintain control over this kind of event in the future to ensure they are planned and organised according to the IFF regulations and event protocols.

2023: Ordos, Inner Mongolia, 7th - 13th September

The Ordos Cup - the 1st AOFC Club Championship was played in the Ordos Sports Center Stadium of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region from September 7 to 13, 2023. It was hosted by the Asia and Oceania Floorball Federation (AOFC), guided by the China Floorball Union (CFU), undertaken by the Sports Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the People's Government of Ordos City, and co-organised by the Education and Sports Bureau of Ordos City and the Inner Mongolia Hockey Association.

Only a men's tournament was played with eight teams from China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Macau, & Hong Kong taking part. The vast majority of media coverage was limited to Chinese channels and due to Chinese internet restrictions live match reporting was not possible.

FINAL STANDINGS

1. SCC Floorball Club (THA); 2. Mars FC (CHN); 3. Garuda FC (INA); 4. LZD-Cahe Union (CHN); 5. UMaK FC (PHI); 6. Marvel Rays FC (MAC); 7. Oriental United (CHN); 8. DDM FC (HKG)

2024: Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, 7th - 14th July

The 'Hohhot Cup' was played with a women's & mixed U18 tournaments. The event was, again, planned by the local organisers with no involvement or communication with the IFF, and was originally promoted as an AOFC Club Championship, but because the event did not meet the IFF criteria for an AOFC Club Championships (as it did not involve the AOFC member association's club champions) it was re-classified to be an International Club Tournament, and not an official IFF event.

18.8. Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games)

The Southeast Asian (SEA) Games is a biennial multi-sport event involving participants from the current 11 Southeast Asian countries (not all of which are IFF Member Associations): Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor, Vietnam. The games are under the regulation of the Southeast Asian Games Federation with supervision by the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia. Floorball was a demonstration sport in Myanmar 2013 and was an official medal sport for the first time in Singapore 2015.

This is an important event for the SEA member associations as they receive support from their National Olympic Committees for their participation and medallists receive significant financial prizes. Unfortunately, the scheduling of the event within the calendar year is not fixed (it is decided by each host country) and so it can often be in conflict with IFF events. Future events will be hosted in significant Floorball countries - Thailand (2025), Malaysia (2027), Singapore (2029), Laos (2031), Philippines (2033).

2023: Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 11th - 16th May

This was the first time that an international floorball event had been played in Cambodia, and with the logistical and organisational expertise assistance of other SEA countries, in particular Singapore and Thailand, they managed to host a very successful event with 5 men's & 5 women's teams participating, including the host country, Cambodia, for the first time.

FINAL STANDINGS

Women: 1. Singapore; 2. Thailand; 3. Philippines; 4. Malaysia; 5. Cambodia

Men: 1. Thailand; 2. Philippines; 3. Singapore; 4. Malaysia; 5. Cambodia

18.9. European Masters Games

The European Masters Games (EMG) is a regional multi-sport event belonging to the International Masters Games Association (IMGS), which is organised every 4 years. It is open to athletes from all around the world, not just Europe, and the event aims to promote physical activity and diverse initiatives that enhance the values of sport.

Tampere, Finland was awarded the 5th edition of the EMG, the first time it had been held in Finland. It took place from 26th June to 9th July 2023 with athletes competing for masters championships in 29 disciplines.

The Floorball tournament was organised in cooperation with the two largest local floorball clubs, Classic and KooVee, from 6th - 8th July. Unfortunately the event did not garner a lot of interest and suffered from low registrations, being played with 4 teams in the Men's 35-40+ category and 5 teams in the Men's 50+.

FINAL STANDINGS

Men's 35+: 1. ProStars 40 (FIN); 2. SKP Falkoni Holesov (CZE); 3. FFTA (AUT); 4. Team Italy

Men's 50+: 1. SC Dalmac (FIN); 2. ProStars 50 (FIN); 3. Bauska (LAT); 4. Pitkäjärven Miesten Palloseura (FIN); 5. Team Austria

18.10. Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

The Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) is a pancontinental multi-sport event held every four years. It is organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and consists of Indoor and martial arts events. AIMAG is the second largest Asian multi-sport event after the Asian Games.

Floorball was included in the AIMAG programme for the first time for AIMAG 2021. Due to Covid-19 this event was rescheduled several times. The final move had the event scheduled to be played in November 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, but a failure to meet budget requirements meant that the event was eventually cancelled. The next AIMAG will be played in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2026 and the IFF and AOFC will need to lobby strongly to secure the inclusion of Floorball again. Although Saudi Arabia is yet to become an IFF member, floorball is already active under the Special Olympics umbrella within the country.

18.11. International weekends

There continue to be five official international weekends each year, in February, April, September, October & November. These are used by National Associations for the hosting of their own international events as well as national team training camps. During 2022, the date by which they need to inform the IFF of such events was reduced from 90 days prior to 30 days. This was continued throughout 2023 but in 2024 was extended to 60 days. Any international tournaments informed within the 60 day period prior to the event incurs a monetary sanction.

The newly introduced age categories of U17 & U23 have appeared in many of the international weekend events as associations start to build their teams in these age groups. Some new regular events that have appeared in the period have been the EuroPower tournaments which have been played for Men, Women, Men U19 & Men U23, as well as the Czitrom András Hungária Kupa which was played in both 2023 & 2024 for both Men & Women. Denmark & Germany have had several events, many of them for their U17 & U19 teams which is a positive cooperation.

In 2023-24 there were a total of 397 international matches hosted by Member Associations:

2023 = 221

2024 = 185

Compared with the last reporting period figure of 227 matches (2021-2022) this is a very positive increase and shows a good recovery after a Covid-19 affected period.

19. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

All players wanting to transfer from one Member Association to another, must apply for an International Transfer. The IFF Office is responsible for handling and approving the transfers, of which there are six different categories:

- International Transfer
- Express International Transfer
- Temporary Transfer
- Intercontinental Visitor transfer
- Student Overseas Transfer
- Intermediate Student transfer

In 2023, the IFF recorded a total number of 726 International Transfers among which the majority were ordinary International Transfers (633). 75 were the Intercontinental Visitor Transfers, 14 Student Transfers and 4 Temporary Play transfers.

In 2024 there have been, until 12th November 2024, a total number of 629 International transfers, the majority of which have been ordinary International Transfers (529), 71 International Visitor Transfers, 15 Student Transfers and 4 Temporary transfers.

20. FINANCE

During the last two years, the volume of the IFF economy has been in line with the budgeted income. We are still low on sponsors, marketing and material income, the latter still not at the same level as it was before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the implementation of the IFF License system 2.0, the IFF has continued to do a lot of work with the Member Associations to reduce the number of debts to the IFF, and for those with large debts pay-off plans have been made and followed-up. This has also been part of a clear effort to not compromise their participation in upcoming IFF events. In accordance with the License System, since the registration of the WFC 2022 no country can register while having debts to the IFF, unless there is a pay-off plan made and followed. Starting with the registrations to the 2024 WFCs, the participation fee must be paid by the registration date to be eligible to participate. This has worked fairly well but efforts are still needed to get all Associations in line with this directive.

To secure sound development the IFF still needs to find ways to increase the external financing, which primarily comes from the TV/live streaming and sponsors, especially from outside the Floorball market.

The Financial Regulations were updated in both 2023 & 2024.

21. ADMINISTRATION

As the IFF has grown in respect of the number of members, tasks and competitions, the need to have a larger number of staff has also constantly increased. For many years now, the IFF administration has worked at the far limit of its existing resources, especially with the growing number of events.

As there is a constant need for more resources in the field of competition and development, the IFF has

needed to increase the number of the employees and start to use as much outside work force as possible within the limits of the available financial resources.

The role of Mr. Juerg Kihm was changed in September 2024 and he is now responsible for the streaming on the IFF App and the coordination of that work. At the same time Ms. Mari Myllärinen has taken the overall responsibility for the IFF Media department.

Mr. Frederik Dilger was employed as the program coordinator for the Fit4Future programme, which is the continuation of the Czech Floorball federation Erasmus+ Fit4Future member federation development project. Mr. Dilger works 80 % for the IFF and the Fit4Future programme and is jointly financed by the EFT countries. Ms. Blanka Benyo worked as a IFF trainee in the field of communication, competition and office tasks during the period of the 1st of September 2023 to 31st of May, 2024, and became a full-time employee as office coordinator from the beginning of September 2024.

Full-time employees:

Mr. John Liljelund, Secretary General
Mr. Stefan Kratz, Competition Manager
Ms. Sarah Mitchell, Events Manager
Mr. Veli Halonen, Operations Manager
Mr. Tero Kalsta, Sales & Sustainability Manager
Ms. Mari Myllärinen, Communications Specialist
Ms. Monika Kraus, Competition Specialist
Mr. James Varecka, Anti-Doping & Media coordinator
Ms. Blanka Benyo, Office coordinator (from 01.09.2024)

Part-time employees:

Mr. Frederik Dilger, Fit4Future Programme coordinator (80% from 01.04.2024)
Mr. Juerg Kihm, Digital & IFF App Manager (reduced to 20% from 01.09.2024)

22. CLOSING REMARKS

The IFF Central Board would like to sincerely thank all Member Associations and their officials, as well as all committee and working group members, sponsors, the great number of volunteers who have helped IFF in different ways, and of course the office staff, for the tremendous work done in order to develop floorball from all possible aspects.