

IFF RACC Meeting, Prague, August 14th - 16th, 2009

Participants: Filip Suman - RACC Chairman
Martin Wolmhed - RACC Vice Chairman
Marek Budzinski - RACC Member
Andris Dzenis - RACC Member
Heidi Leb - RACC Member
Sani Mohd Salim - RACC Member
Ari Vehniäinen - RACC Member
Jan Jirovsky – Jury member
Michael Lachenmeier – Jury member
Kaarina Salomaa - IFF office
Stefan Kratz – IFF office

Report on present issues

1) Opening

Filip Suman greeted welcome and opened the meeting.

2) Goals of the meeting

Main goals of the meeting which were presented by Filip Suman were:

Preparation for the leading IFF tournaments during season 2009/2010
Detail discussion about present IFF competitions together with setting their potential development

3) Basic documents

Basic materials which were used for the meeting were:

Tasks for RACC approved by IFF CB
The IFF License system
IFF Competition structure
IFF Competition calendar
IFF Competition time-line
History and evolution of IFF events
Description of WFC system
Description of U19 WFC system
Description of EFC system
Jury guidelines

4) Jury at IFF tournaments

The discussion was held mainly to:

Introduce the internal “Jury guideline” material
Explain how to handle special situations during tournaments
Set basics of consistency in Jury attitude at IFF events

During discussion few practical issues were noted:

The question of making a guideline for the concluding jury report was raised.
A guideline for hanging flags is needed.
Office was given the task to ask for national anthems (short version) from all Associations to store and to send to organizers (or make them downloadable from the web site).

Report on present issues

5) IFF tournaments

A) WFC

At the start Martin Wolmhed presented in detail the history of WFC system, its evolution and present system.

A discussion was held about present system of WFC with views on effect of the new system. All participants were asked to present their ideas on the question – What the new system will bring. Following was mentioned:

All continents present at the final tournament

Big differences – big results are expected

Top teams will have less important matches – uneven group matches

Quicker way to the final round – if somebody misses for any reason they don't have to restart from the bottom of C division.

System can be expensive for the countries which will play both qualification and final round (if qualifying). There are nations that lose government funds if they don't qualify to the final round.

More real matches are played at the same cost

Easier for the organizer with the final tournament since there are only 16 teams

Opportunity for the weaker teams to play against stronger teams

Increase of pressure for referees at qualifications

Big challenge for the final round organizer to sell tickets/have spectators in the group matches

Easier to handle the tournament (the complete) for organizers

Due to the quarterfinals (one match) a bigger chance of surprise and “weaker” team to go the semifinal

Continental qualification can be transferred into continental championships (especially outside Europe)

A big chance for smaller countries to organize and “sell” to public an IFF event

More jury members needed

More pressure on the IFF

Quota systems motivate countries to find more countries from their continent

Almost the same teams will qualify for the final round

Cheaper possibility to play WFC qualification

Easier system of WFC (similar to other sports) will be easier to sell to the public

For the future there are still only a few countries able to organize the final round for Men

More organizers of qualifications – more experience for federations

Questions which were raised for future discussion:

All should qualify for the future, except from the organizer?

8 direct qualified teams bring no highlight for many teams (7 or 9 is much better)– where should the line for direct qualified be placed?

Idea of all participating teams to play-off, or version of #1 is qualified to quarterfinals and 2nd versus 3rd qualifying for the quarterfinals

Playing schedule – how to build?

Intermediate groups? – before play-off – basketball, volleyball and handball style

Length of the tournament – is it possible to add a day or two?

Problem of quarterfinals – timing, TV, arenas

What to do if we miss organizers

Organize a workshop for organizers

How to solve if a qualified team withdraws? Who takes an empty spot?

Effect which should be evaluated by Office:

8 teams will not be known until February which is later than before

Special regulations needed for qualification – organizers, also competition?

Ballot should be done after the qualification when it concerns the possibility the teams that “could choose” an opponent in groups

More workload at the same time

Start to print calendar of IFF events

Below the line:

Opportunity for the continental officials and referees to be involved in the qualifications

Report on present issues

B) U19 WFC

At the start Ari Vehniäinen presented in detail the history of WFC U19 system, its evolution and present system.

A discussion was held about present system of WFC with discussion about advantages and disadvantages of present system. All participants were asked to present their ideas on the question – What are the advantages and disadvantages of present system and which are the ways of possible future development. Following was mentioned:

Advantages of present system

More economical than the adult system

It's a good system for the present number of participants

Everybody are used to this system

Flexibility – still room for some more teams

The system is very good for the girls with limited number of teams

Good experience for organizers – preparation for bigger IFF events

The present system with the B-division allows direct qualification for teams in the B-division

Disadvantages of present system

High costs for non-European teams

The system is limited in the end– no C-division shall be installed

Problem with number of spots for the qualification

The differences in quality between different age groups is a disadvantage in the current system

Little differences between the weaker teams in the A-division and the good teams in the B-division – small chance to change place

Small number of matches for the participating teams in case you are not part of the play-off - boys

No chance for every player to win a gold medal – the position is based on previous results of older players

Possible future evolution of WFCU19

1) Present system (4 spots for qualification for B division)

2) Keep the system with A and B-division and install a C-division

3) Play a smaller final round with 10 teams and continental B-divisions (or qualifications)

4) The adult system with 16 teams in the final round

Advantages and Disadvantages of all potential system were discussed. A potential change which should be proposed earliest for 2013 or 2015 need to be discussed with other bodies of IFF, more federations etc..

Question of timing (raised by federations)

Office will check possibility of one week earlier or three weeks later.

Below the line

Question of age limit – is 15 for U19 to high? (15 is the same for adult WFC and U19 WFC)

C) EFC

At the start Filip Suman presented in detail the history of EFC system, its evolution and present system.

A discussion was held about present system of WFC with discussion about advantages and disadvantages of present system. All participants were asked to present their ideas on the question – What are the advantages and disadvantages of present system and which are the ways of possible future development. Following was mentioned:

Advantages of present system

2nd best teams from the top 4 can qualify to the final round – additional quality for EFC
Good balance between the interest of the top countries and the rest of Europe
Shortest and smallest possible final round tournament
Men and women together
System of qualification with east and west division
The Qualification system has raised the number of participants

Disadvantages of present system

Cost for participating teams
Seems to be not attractive enough for some teams
Hard to calculate costs for organizers qualification
High entrance fee and costs for participating teams not going for medals
2nd best teams from Top 4 to qualify
Some “weaker” teams in the final round

Possible future evolution of EFC

Keep the present system of qualifications with preparation to increase a number of Q to three – when there will be more than 16 teams in one category
Increase attractiveness for top teams by:
- prize money (money for the winner should cover the cost of the participation?) – Division of 17500 EUR was discussed (winner - 10000, 2nd - 5000, 3rd - 2500) (prize money for the winner of a qualification was also discussed)
- wider TV broadcasting
- discussion about title of the tournament – it should have word “champion” in the title

Other potential systems or ideas were mentioned:

- totally change the concept of the tournament (16 teams for final tournament)
- play the EFC as a cup
- most of new systems would need even more finances
- allow participation of non champions (not only 2nd team) if the champion is not able to participate

Actions to be proposed for IFF CB:

- install a prize money for EFC if IFF budget permits
- organize a work shop with the top teams about future of EFC

6) Other Issues

Information about the Rule system (4-year calendar) was given.

7) Closing of the meeting

Upcoming meetings and issues

Issues that need to be discussed or decided upon or taken action upon

Actions to be proposed for IFF CB:

- install a prize money for EFC if IFF budget permits
- organize a work shop with the top teams about future of EFC

Tasks for the office

to ask for national anthems (short version) from all Associations to store and to send to organizers (or make them downloadable from the web site).

Office to check the possibility of one week earlier or three weeks later for the U19 WFC.

Evaluate the effects of:

8 teams will not be known until February which is later than before

Special regulations needed for qualification – organizers, also competition?

Ballot should be done after the qualification when it concerns the possibility the teams that “could choose” an opponent in groups

More workload at the same time

Start to print calendar of IFF events

New ideas, etc...