

RACC summary – January 2007

1. Report from WFC U19 Women Germany 2006 (enclosure RACC_1)

The last IFF tournament - WFC U19 Women was played with 11 teams in the period from 6th to 12th November 2006 in the east part of Germany in the cities of Naunhof (groups) and Leipzig (play-off). The tournament had the same medalists as two years ago – Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, but the level of play has increased dramatically since Tampere 2004. Details in the enclosure 1

2. EFC qualifications – new system (enclosure RACC_2)

During 2007 the new system for the EFC qualifications starts. It was already decided that there will be two regional qualifications for national champions and one qualification for 2nd best teams from the top 4 countries.

The proposal is to have two regional tournaments, always men and women together and have the regions divided into 2 roughly equal parts based on geography and strength. By doing this the champions from the countries know upfront where they would go and decide upon that information. Men and women from one country will always be in the same tournament.

Details in the enclosure 2

3. WFC – new system with 16 teams (enclosure RACC_3)

With the new WFC system there is a need for preparing how the whole system will work. It was already decided that new system will consist of continental qualification tournaments and a final round with 16 teams. Of these 16 teams, 15 have qualified through continental tournaments and 1 is the organizing country.

The WFC will be played with the new system for men and women only, not for U19 due to costs.

The first WFC 'new style' for men could be played in 2010, based on the CB decision and willingness of the appointed organizer. The first WFC 'new style' for women should start the year after the men.

The WFC final round is preferable played with 4 groups of 4 teams. During the group phase, the teams play each other once (single round). The highest 2 ranked teams play quarter finals, followed by semi-finals and finals. Details of the new system - enclosure 3.

4. RACC tasks (enclosure RACC_4)

As the RC has prepared a committee tasks document, RACC reports about RACC tasks. Enclosure 4.

5. U19 Men 2007 (enclosure RACC_5)

19 teams have registered for the Men's U19 WFC 2007. RACC has prepared a proposal on how to play the tournament. Enclosure 5.

6. Upcoming issues

There are a lot of issues that need to be solved in the near future. RACC is preparing proposals how to handle them.

a) Increasing need for organizers

Today we have 4 events that need to have an organizer every year. 2007 and 2008 we probably will have 2 more due to the new system of the EFC qualifications (enclosure RACC_4).

If the WFC Men and Women is going to change to play offs with 16 teams we will increase the 6 organized events to 13 (5 qualifications in Europe, 1 in Asia and 1 in America). This is a heavily increased number of organizers which is needed every year.

In the near future a change in the U19 system has to come (19 registered teams already in 2007). This will bring more organizers needed. This will be a totally new situation and good preparations are vital.

b) Timeline

RACC is preparing a proposal concerning a more detailed timeline (what should be done when before a tournament). Especially with more tournaments it will be necessary to keep track on preparations and there will also be different timelines for different tournaments.

c) WFC women in 2009

The next WFC 2009 will have to have some kind of qualification. The main aspects which RACC has to work out proposals for are:

- should we have special continental places or just divide the teams on a geographical basis?
- how many places should be open for qualification?

The alternative is to install a C-division but if assuming that the Women's WFC 2011 will be played with qualifications and a play-off with 16 teams it doesn't seem to be a good alternative.

d) Future of WFC U19

RACC will try to prepare a system that already when the countries register there is a plan for how the tournament is going to be played and if qualification is needed. This is depending on the number of teams that will participate.

For Men's U19 2009 and Women's U19 2010 there will probably be enough teams to have one A division and to split B division into two. The main aspects that RACC has to work out proposals for are;

- a system that will attract most countries to participate
- relegation and promotion between A and B and B
- the two B divisions being played at the same time
- same organizer or regional organizers for the B-division

e) Levels of events

When the number of organizers is increasing we probably will have to change the demands of the different tournaments. This means that we have to build organizers regulations (or develop the organizers guidelines) to meet the different demands regarding the tournaments level.

Example of possible levels:

1. Men and Women WFC
2. EFC finals and U19 WFC A division
3. Men and Women WFC Qualifications, U19 B division
4. EFC Qualifications

RACC will cooperate with other IFF bodies on proposal to set levels of demands

f) Rules and interpretations

RACC is not planning any changes regarding the Rules group and timeline to the next rule book 2010, meaning that the same system as the last four years would be used.

Proposal: M Wolmhed head of RG + member from FIN, SUI, SWE in the group and S Kratz from the office. F Suman and T Gilardi acts as a steering committee. The actual work with the next edition of the game rules shall start in January 2008.

Regarding interpretations RACC proposes that the rules group is collecting and working with all questions. All answers are public on the IFF website and a summary of all answers is sent to all federations. A more detailed guideline concerning rules interpretations will be prepared (e.g. only federations can send official answers etc...)

We have seen that countries handle the same issues in different ways and that IFF needs to give guidelines to have the same handling in all countries.

g) Jury instructions/guidelines

With increased number of organizers there will be a need of more people at the different competitions and often they will have to work as Jury alone or with someone in the RC. RACC think instructions/guidelines are necessary for helping the IFF persons in place and also for giving other technical information like traveling, how to dress, etc.