



I n t e r n a t i o n a l I n l i n e S k a t e r H o c k e y F e d e r a t i o n

IISHF Office

Chemin du Soleil 3, 2604 La Huetten, Switzerland.

IISHF Presidium Report for the year 2022

The year 2022 was the first year after the Corona COVID-19 pandemic where we were back to regular activities hosting Title Events. We managed to host 6 European Cups and 2 European Championships and the only event not to take place was the IISHF Veterans Cup. Four countries (Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland) hosted IISHF Title Events and it was a great pleasure that Great Britain for the first time in 18 years since 2004 hosted an IISHF Title Event again with the IISHF U19 European Championships taking place in Bordon. This was highly appreciated. In 2022 also the same four countries (Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland) each won IISHF Title Events and here it was a special achievement for Great Britain to win their second IISHF European Championships with their win at home at the mentioned IISHF U19 European Championships following on their first IISHF European Championships at the first IISHF Men European Championships in 1997 in Kaarst, Germany.

2022 was also a difficult year. IISHF had to suspend Russia from all International activities within IISHF due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The suspension of Russia will be in effect until further notice. For Ukraine the ongoing war with Russia prohibited in practice them from taking part also in IISHF Title Events both with their skater hockey teams and with their IISHF Officials and Referees. In addition the aftermath of the Corona COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of Zoran Falcons from Israel from taking part in IISHF Title Events in 2022 and in the end of 2022 problems obtaining the needed visa approvals prohibited India from taking part in the IISHF Open Men European Championships in Duisburg, Germany.

Nonetheless a special thank you to the IISHF IT-Director Oleksandr Govorun and his team to work from home in Ukraine during very difficult circumstances assisting with the IT infrastructure behind the IISHF website ensuring that the IISHF Communication before, during and after IISHF Title Events were executed the best way possible.

In 2022 a number of challenges has been in focus. The WADA matter has been discussed since it has special interest for a number of our member countries but at the same time membership of WADA requires a substantial initial investment and annual payment that has to be handled and financed before it's relevant to go any further. In addition there are also a number of requirements to the member federations that has to be met.

In addition there was also a lot of tensions between NMA's especially at the IISHF AGM 2022 mainly directed to the WADA question that has led to unnecessary official verbal aggressive statements which has led to the need for IISHF to condemn any form of negative and/or

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aggressive communication by its NMA directed against any other member of the international skater hockey community, be it during a meeting, a broadcast, a website or social media site (see IISHF Communication Letter 2022-05 published on 24th of March, 2022). In addition IISHF has issued an IISHF Code of Conduct. The Policy becomes an official agreement between IISHF and all IISHF officers/officials. The purpose of this Policy is to give all IISHF individuals a clear understanding of what expectations IISHF individuals must meet including rules and procedures.

For the IISHF Title Events in 2022 IISHF started to use Sportsengine as the primary tool for the website and event management. There were however some major challenges for the IISHF Officials to deliver the required performance at the IISHF Title Events so quickly during the year a combination of Sportsengine and the already known THF system was used. This is not a perfect situation and IISHF will seek to improve the performance of the systems used but until a better solution has been first beta tested and then implemented then IISHF will continue to use a combination of Sportsengine and the THF system and only implement changes when approved by the IISHF Presidium.

For 2023 IISHF will consider any needed changes for the IISHF IT-infrastructure and will ensure that whatever solution is selected it will be a solution that the IISHF officials and the hosting clubs will be able to work with to the benefit of everyone.

After one year of usage of the new IISHF website, the IISHF issued its first ever report on communication results in September 2022. It showed growth in users, views and interactions over the used communication platforms (website, facebook, Instagram, twitter) thanks to the work of the Communications Department. The results for the full year 2022 will be presented at the AGM and then published. For the 2023 Title Events the integration of these communication efforts with the Tournaments Department as well as their funding is yet to be decided.

In 2022 two IISHF Working Groups chaired by Vice President André Poddubny were active. The IISHF Working Group on the development of an Infrastructure Guideline conducted six meetings from June to December 2022 in which 9 experts from 5 countries actively took part. The preliminary results will be presented at the AGM 2023. The IISHF Working Group on Female Skater Hockey Development conducted six meetings from May to December 2022 in which 12 experts from 7 countries actively took part. The results will be presented at the AGM 2023. The work group will not continue in 2023.

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In 2023 we will have 5 European Cups taking place hosted by two countries (Germany and Switzerland). It's a major challenge if we don't have more National Member Associations hosting Title Events and in 2023 for that reason both the IISHF U19 European and Veterans European Cup will not take place since we had no hosting clubs applying for those events. For the European Championships it's a great pleasure that Austria again will host IISHF Title Events with the IISHF U19 European Championships taking place in Amstetten. For the IISHF Men European Championships scheduled to take place in Givisiez, Switzerland it's still at this moment unsure if it will take place since we need a minimum of 4 participating countries. This is a major challenge for IISHF if we don't manage to implement the concept of a 4 year plan with 4 different countries hosting regularly and with a minimum of 4 countries taking place every year.

We would like again to extend a special thank you to the National Member Associations that have taken active part in the IISHF Technical Group (working group on Rules) especially the work done by Claes Fréder from Denmark and Stefan Gehrig from Germany. We would also like to take the time to express a special thank you to all of our National Member Associations for your strong support to the IISHF and hope that we can continue to work together to promote the sport we enjoy so much.

Also a special thank to the all the appointed persons working active for IISHF ensuring that our IISHF Title Events take place. This involved in 2022 the following persons: Dee Dalton (IISHF Officials Manager), Claes Fréder (Referee Manager), Oleksandr Govorun (IT Director), Viola Lorenz (Communication Officer), Lorin Chèvre (THF Manager), Maciej Postek (Development Officer) and Simon Price (ITC Manager). Without your vital contribution IISHF couldn't manage to host IISHF Title Events.

Wishing you all the best and we look forward to seeing many of you soon at the AGM 2023.

On Behalf of the IISHF Presidium

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