



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 2020

Due to the Corona COVID-19 pandemic the year 2020 was a year like no other year in IISHF history and we had to cancel all planned IISHF Title Events and postpone them from 2020 to 2021. We managed to transfer all 6 2020 events with the same hosting clubs and overwhelmingly the same teams. In addition, we have secured 3 additional Title Events so that in 2021 all possible 9 international Title Events are scheduled to take place. The IISHF Presidium would like to express its utmost gratefulness to all hosting clubs and all participating teams which accepted to transfer their participation to next year. For the few teams that cancelled their participation in 2020 we managed to ensure them with a 50% reimbursement of their fees in 2020 and with 25% to follow in 2021.

In 2020 two international non-title events (B-events) were organized. One event took place in Assenheim, Germany in Germany in August 2020 with the participation of one select team from the Netherlands. In December 2020 another event took place in Kyiv, Ukraine with the first international participation of the India Men National Team. As with the A-events the IISHF Presidium highly values the commitment of the hosts and teams to our beloved skater hockey. We encourage clubs and teams to organize and participate in B-events wherever the circumstances allow for it.

A year without Title Events has a major impact on the financial situation for IISHF so we offered the best possible solution in 2020 and if events are again cancelled in 2021 we will again handle the situation the best way possible. Whereas in 2020 the pandemic caught us by surprise right after the Annual General Meeting in Moscow the IISHF Presidium has taken significant cost-reduction measures to balance 2020 income deficits arising out of the lack of its core activities, the A-events. Since March 2020 the IISHF Presidium and its officials have replaced all physical with online meetings. In consequence, for example, the AGM 2021 will be conducted online, as a first of its kind. Every crisis also bears chances if change is embraced. The IISHF Presidium looks forward to discussing with all member federations at the AGM 2021 new considerations, such as a conduct of the annual Working Meeting of key IISHF officials and the AGM as online meetings every other year.

At the AGM 2020 it was decided to slightly increase the participation fee for the European Cups in order to pay for the Livestreaming support package provided by IISHF (coverage for both Cups and Championships). This was due to be implemented in 2021 with a total estimated coverage based on the estimated teams at appx. 5.600 Euro. However, since most of the teams participating in Title Events 2021 have had their payment transferred from 2020 to 2021 without having to pay the increased fees, the implementation of the increased IISHF

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Livestreaming support package need be delayed from 2021 to 2021. In the budget for 2021 the IISHF Presidium has allocated 3.000 Euro.

At the AGM 2020 it was decided to engage in activities that will encourage and support hosts and hosting countries for the Title Events in the future. In 2021 it's a great pleasure that after 17 years of absence Great Britain will host with the U19 European Championships in October in Bordon a Title Event again for the first time since 2004. Also, Berlin will see its first European Cup with the German club Spreewölfe hosting the host the Women EC at the end of June 2021.

At the AGM 2020 it was also decided that the IISHF Presidium can present specific projects to be financed by contribution from the NMA's. In this perspective IISHF has made a marketing tender call with the latest deadline 31.12.2020. Only one company has made an offer. At this point of time the IISHF Presidium don't find the justification for an investment of appx. 10-15.000 Euro but would rather ask for the NMA's to involve voluntarily in the marketing and branding work for IISHF.

In 2020 IISHF has established two active working groups with the **IISHF Media and Livestreaming group** headed by André Poddubny focusing on branding the sport much more and to establish a general system for livestreaming and media communication activities. Over a course of 18 online meetings the WG produced a guideline for technical requirements for qualitative livestreaming as well as a draft IISHF Advertising Regulation were developed. A presentation of skater hockey, that includes analytical comparisons with ice and inline hockey, as well as a presentation of the IISHF is still in development but expected to be presented as a first draft in several weeks.

The other working group is the **IISHF ITC+THF Working group** headed by Erik Sommer focusing on updating the ITC / THF systems and integrating it into a new Tournament Platform. We have appointed a new ITC Manager (Simon Price from Great Britain) and two THF Managers (Lorin Chevré from Switzerland and Oleksandr Govorun from Ukraine). Our IISHF officials are represented in the group by the IISHF Officials Manager, Dee Dalton from Great Britain.

The new IISHF Website is available as a Beta-version and currently filled with content and checked on technical issues. We expect it to be going online well before the first planned European Cup as was initially intended in 2020. The new Tournament platform is envisioned to be integrated with the new IISHF website.

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In 2020 the IISHF Presidium has been appointed a Development Officer (Maciej Postek from Austria) and a Women Ambassador (Ronja Dam from Denmark). Maciej devotes his time to highly important but complex development items. He is a member of the Media and Livestreaming WG and elaborates on a potential signing of the WADA Code by IISHF. Ronja was retained to increase active female engagement in skater hockey as players, coaches, referees and officials. The IISHF Presidium encourages all NMAs to nominate officials responsible for development and female engagement. These could cooperate directly with Ronja and Maciej. In addition, there are currently vacant positions for a Communication & Marketing Officer, a Video Manager and a Sponsorship Manager which the IISHF Presidium is looking forward to filling in to aid the development of skater hockey.

We really hope that all the IISHF Title Events 2021 will take place as planned but due to the very uncertain times with the COVID-19 pandemic we can't currently provide an official confirmation of hosting these events in 2021. We are in regular conversation with the hosting clubs and carefully watch the current situation and any development in the IISHF member countries. We will evaluate the situation latest at 31.03.2021 and plan to conduct a video conference with the NMAs of all teams participating at the IISHF Title Events 2021. Please instruct all your teams participating at the IISHF Title Events 2021 not to book any travel and/or accommodation (unless the bookings can be cancelled free of charge) until IISHF has finally confirmed the hosting of the IISHF Title Events 2021.

We plan in 2021 to host more regular video conferences with the NMA's and also invite other relevant persons to take part in order to reach a wider audience and ensure that we are working in close cooperation with all NMA's.

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.

Wishing you all the best and we look forward to seeing many of you soon at the AGM 2021.

On Behalf of the IISHF Presidium

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