



MINUTES OF WORKING MEETING 2013
Hotel Renaissance, Moscow (Russia)
23rd February 2013

Participants:

Erik Sommer (ES)	IISHF President	no vote
Jean-Daniel Muller (JD)	IISHF Vice President	no vote
Ingo Goerke (IG)	IISHF Financial Director	no vote
Piergiovanni Gionchetta (PG)	IISHF Dev. Manager	no vote
Andreas Heidinger (AH)	Austria	with vote (2 votes)
Günther Kornfeld (GK)	Austria	no vote
Tommy Jensen (TJ)	Denmark	with vote (2 votes)
Claes Fréder (CF)	Denmark	no vote
Stefan Brütt (SB)	Germany	with vote (3 votes)
Stefan Gehrig (SG)	Germany	no vote
Dee Dalton (DD)	Great Britain	with vote (2 votes)
Saskia van de Weijer (SW)	The Netherlands	with vote (1 vote)
Igor Kolesov (IK)	Russia	with vote (1 vote)
Tamara Bütikofer (TB)	Switzerland	with vote (3 votes)
Ueli Strueby (US)	Switzerland	no vote
Pavel Levin (PL)	Israel	no vote
Eli Abramovich (EA)	Israel	with vote (2 votes)

1. WELCOME ADDRESS FROM PRESIDENT/PRESENTATION

ES opened the meeting at 9.10 am and welcomed all of the delegates to the Working Meeting in Moscow (Russia) and thanked them all for coming. A general presentation was made by all the persons present.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

IG asked the members if they will agree and confirm the agenda.
=> All agreed (16 votes)

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM 2012 IN STEGERSBACH (AUSTRIA)

All delegates had received the minutes from the previous AGM (Stegersbach). According to point 11.17 IISHF Constitution no objections to the minutes have been sent to the IISHF within two weeks of receipt.

=> All agreed (16 votes) that the Minutes were a true and accurate record.

4. FLASH BACK 2012 / VIEW 2013

ES showed a short presentation.

Flash back 2012

Increase the number of Countries (Canada and Pakistan joined IISHF), Organise IISHF Referees Course (2011 Action), Organise IISHF Technical Directors Course (2011 Action), constitution of a Technical Committee, Experience with new countries/regions.

Highlights 2012

Host more events (Men Invitation Cup, Women European Cup), have more hosting countries, IISHF working groups (Technical Committee), promoting the sport (Twitter and live streaming), expanding with regional structure, providing solutions for countries.

Objectives 2013

Increase the number of member countries (contacts with Hungary and Slovenia have been made), Improve the Title Event candidature process, Organise Title Events in each Age Category, Improve the Quality of Title Events, host more Events (Old Boys Cup), have more hosting countries (Israel and Great Britain sent applications), promote the sport, providing solutions for countries, Organise IISHF Referees Course, Organise IISHF Technical Directors Course, IISHF working groups.

5. MOTIONS TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION

IG: led this section of the meeting and explained the proposed modifications under the following articles. Proposals have been delivered by IISHF Presidium.

=>Article 2.1 correction of the name of our Federation (delete of the "and")

=>Article 2.1 rephrasing

=>Article 5.5 clarification

=>Article 5.6 extension of the temporary membership time.

=>Article 6.1 only the regular members are allowed to vote.

SW: temporary members should also pay a fee for the development of our sport, even if they pay a reduced fee.

IG: this point should be discussed within the Regulations.

=>Article 8.8 clarification of the reference.

=>Article 11.11 clarification on who is allowed to vote.

=>Article 17.7 The sentence doesn't make sense, this can be deleted.

=>Article 20.1 in the case the modifications are accepted, then we must change the date.

6. MOTIONS TO CHANGE THE REGULATIONS

IG: led this section of the meeting and explained the proposed modifications under.

=>Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 clarifications of the gross match penalty, match penalty and game misconduct penalty. A difference will be made between the game misconduct penalty and the match penalty which become more penalised.

=>Article 2.4, 2.5 clarifications.

=>Article 3.4 g change of the sanction regarding alcohol. It would make it easier to sanction in regard of the infraction made.

SW: wants to keep the word "suspension from the venue"

CF: who should take the responsibility to take the drinking people out of the venue ?

IG: Saskia is right, we should keep the wording, but we want to have the opportunity to make a difference in the sanction that we can give.

CF: who is liable for paying the fines?

IG: the clubs are invoiced through their NMA.

IG: we should prepare a revised proposal on that point.

AH: are the officials (Event director, TD, referees) submitted to the same rule?

IG: IISHF officials are not allowed to drink alcohol and also have to follow that rule

=>Article 3.4 j deletion of the fine, simplification of the TD/Technical staff work.

CF: the player's list should be presented to the Technical staff in the interest of the Tournament that it works easier.

DD: at least the Team Manager should inform the TD / Staff, but a fine is not necessary.

SW: we often have the problem when we start a game, the players on the game sheet aren't the right ones.

IG: it is mentioned in the Tournament Rules, so the deletion is to avoid a contradiction of the Regulations with the Tournament Rules. So now we must know what we want.

SW: want to think about what happens when a team forgets to give the player's list.

ES: there are almost always changes and we should find a solution not to waste time at the beginning of each game.

CF: instead of giving a fine, we could give a penalty to the team (yellow card to the captain). Has been introduced in Denmark and it avoids wasting of time.

=>Article 3.6 d addition of the word "max."

=>Article 3.6 e to protect teams and not sanction them if there is a conflict in the area.

SW: other circumstances should be added (act of God).

IG: it is already included in point 4.1 (Force majeure)

SW: should be reworded as there could be an internal conflict or anything else where the security cannot be guaranteed.

SG: some Governments issue Travel warning, but if a country doesn't, who decides if there is a conflict?

TB: if a Government of a NMA issues a Travel warning, then it could apply to all other NMA

CF: it's the task of each NMA.

DD: could also be done by an insurance

AH: there has never been any Travel warning regarding Israel, but there is an opportunity that Syria sends missiles on Israel.

SW: due to a lack of insurance (because they don't cover), we also should include this point.

IK: went 6 years ago with kids. Every year, something happens in Israel. It was a very good experience to see that security works there. It would be a good idea that IISHF officials go to Israel, so they can experience the security and explain to the members.

TB: the main point is about fines.

IG: maybe the wording is not perfect, but the intention is not to punish the teams that don't want to be endangered.

SG: this rule must apply after the team's confirmation. If there is a travel warning, it's not a sufficient reason to cancel the participation afterwards.

IG: the proposal will be reworded by DD, TB and SG.

=>Article 3.8, 3.9 to make a difference between Team managers that come late and those who don't come.

SW: the fine is too high, we want the teams to take part. The original fine for not being present was 100 Euros, so we should reduce the fine for coming late.

IG: the matter has been discussed within the Presidium and we think that the fines are OK as they are proposed. However, the sentence will be reworded.

=>Article 3.11, 3.12 to avoid teams not to take part to the ceremonies

SW: rising the fine is not the solution.

IG: we have the feedback from teams that told us that if the fine would be higher, they wouldn't leave earlier. Regarding the Opening ceremony, but regarding the Presentation ceremony, everybody knows that there will be one at each Event. That's the reason why we increased much more the second fine.

IG: The Tournament Rules are published in May (in general), so teams don't know if there is an opening ceremony or not.

SW: Tournament Rules should be published earlier.

ES: this could be included in the Application Form.

AH: some teams don't have problems with their travelling, but only don't want to be present at the opening ceremony and that's unacceptable. If they want to show, then they can.

IG: we will announce if there is an opening ceremony (and time) at the same time as we announce the Title Event.

SW: what about if a team comes late?

IG: They are willing to take part, so if they have a good reason to be late it's Force majeure.

=>Article 3.14 without fine, it can happen again.

SW: has a problem with "each week" because it's almost impossible to know quickly where the cup is.

IG: it is only for the European Championships that we have a challenge cup.

=>Article 7.1 c) people are elected, so they cannot be replaced.

SW: what about if many nationalities are involved in a decision that has to be made?

IG: we already have this discussion, we should be aware and fix a rule. As it's part of the Constitution, SW should make a proposal for the next meeting.

=>Article 7.2 rewording

=>Article 8.1 precisions regarding temporary members

IG: we want to increase the numbers of member countries.

SW: yes, but there has to be a balance, so a reduction would be a better idea.

US: agrees with the proposal, but an amount of 100 Euros per year would be good.

PG: spoke with people in Spain, they couldn't pay only to see what our sport is. The same problem rises each year with Poland. The NMA doesn't pay and the team of Opole cannot participate because of that. The financial point aborts discussions regarding new members.

SW: how can they participate to Title Events without being obliged to pay any fee?

SG: we are talking about 175 Euros or less, so that shouldn't be a problem. As compromise, we could have the first year for free and the second 175 Euros (half priced)

IK: understands SW and PG, we have to give something (education program) for the money that they pay. But they have to pay something.

CF: there is no country where it's already completely organized (Federation, Championship ...). It's our job to offer them help a development package for the fee that they will have to pay, even if it's reduced.

ES: very good suggestions, but it's what we actually do.

IK: reminds what he had to learn and what his needs were, but had to pay.

PG: some countries don't have a Federation (infrastructure) yet, so players or teams pay for the fees. Paying fees at the beginning is a brake for our development.

IK: we should make criteria

PG: Canada reached criteria but nothing happened. Canada was not the best example.

ES: summarized, a fee is requested and a development program is requested (and shouldn't be for free).

IG: DD, SW and SG will propose another proposition.

SG: it's more important to have a development program than having temporary membership.

=>Article 15.1 13) clarification

=>Article 18.1 to spare time we ask the third place so we have the information and we save a few days and we can finish the ranking.

SB: it could also be interesting to add the fourth place. It would make it easier in the case you would need the information.

ES: the fourth place will be added.

IG: some NMA would have to implement rules or additional games to rank the 3rd and 4th places.

=>Article 18.2 previously in 18.7. To have a logical sequence within the Regulations

=>Article 18.3 change of the procedure. We want the answer that the teams takes part. The consequence of not answering before was that the team would be automatically qualified.

TB: the deadline for the backups is too short.

DD: asks the teams, even if they are listed as backup, to make up their mind, if they would be qualified, if they would participate or not.

SW: if you only inform the first and second placed teams, then the deadline is short. Sooner you inform the teams, longer is the deadline.

SW: if a team doesn't reply, will they be fined?

ES: No, they won't take part.

=>Article 18.5 clarifications

=>Article 18.6 it is very difficult to take control of this matter.

DD: do we allow combination teams to take part to title events?

SW: if the winning team already was a combination team the year before, then we should allow them to participate.

IG: yes, because then we can easily check the players. The proposition will be reworded.

=>Article 18.7 moved to 18.2

=>Article 18.13 changing of the procedure.

=>Article 18.14 writing of a current procedure

SW: that would "kill" the Old Boys Cup

ES: we don't have the problem with Old boys as we have minimum 2 of the teams placed at the previous European Cup (since this is new event the reference is to the Men European Cup).

IG: a European Cup with only two nations or less than 8 teams is not representative.

SW: propose to replace 8 teams with 6 teams.

IG: IISHF keeps the proposal with 8 teams. Delegates will decide which proposal they prefer.

=>Article 18.17 writing of a current procedure, to have a certain level

=>Article 18.19 writing of a current procedure, to have a certain level

=>Article 21 writing adding the wording "and officials"

DD: timekeepers also are officials.

IG: officials are fixed in the Rules of the game. The Technical Committee is asked to control this point and make a proposal. Another rephrased proposal regarding referees should be proposed.

=>Article 17.10 New proposals from Switzerland

CF: a player who received a black card should be banned for both events.

SW: the behaviour is punished, not the fact that he did the infringement to the rules with his club or nation

SG: you never get a black card for nothing, we shouldn't make the difference.

US: in football they don't block suspended players in clubs for their national team.

=>Article 15.1.c.17 New proposals from Switzerland

CF: we need from the referees to be more respectful of hosts. We can ask the referees how they would prefer to travel to host by train, picked up by car.

SW: wants to know in advance how the transfer would be organized.

DD: the most of the referees arrive by plane. Sometimes only two flights a day for a selected destination are available.

SG: we still to have a rule ruling the transfer of the officials.

CF: if I arrive by plane and must take the train to go to the venue, the train station must be within the airport.

SG: the main thing is how long a referee or an official has to wait until the transfer is done.

IG: we could modify the time officials can wait and allow train transfers.

SW: the most important is to be on time for departure.

DD: I had good experiences with the host communication of Givisiez.

IG: very different points of view. Let's discuss together (TB, DD, SG, US and IG) and find a compromise that could be acceptable for everybody.

=>Article 9.4 New proposals from Austria

AH: explains the Austrian proposition.

SB: it's a good idea, but what would happen if we only have 4 or 5 countries? In the past years, some NMA's did not come to the Championships due to financial reasons.

SW: this year the Netherlands had to cancel their participation to the Championships due to financial reasons, so adding costs to participate is not possible and not acceptable. A solution with hosting Championships that would then be mandatory every 5 years would then help to save money.

TB: it's a good idea but not in that way. The host NMA doesn't have the travel costs, so they could sponsor the host.

GK: explains the second Austrian proposal regarding hosting Championships each alternate year.

IG: it is very interesting. A feedback from every country is requested:

SG: we already talked about this matter a few years ago, and Germany is strictly against this proposal. For U19, you will not give one age group to participate to such an event due to the age limit. We would now consider accepting for Men.

SW: no, for the same reasons as SG mentioned (Cups). Regarding Championships, there will be a lack of motivation of the players/clubs if they don't have the opportunity to play internationally.

DD: same opinion as SG.

TB: the proposal is nearly similar to last year's Swiss proposal. Would agree for both events if the games would be played completely (3x 20 minutes). Not completely sure for U19.

GK: The problem regarding U19 could be solved by allowing older players to play.

ES: we would then have to change the whole rules.

AH: nobody asked about solutions to find more hosts.

TJ: clearly against this proposal. Every year for each age category is needed.

EA: same opinion as SG. What about if we want to host and nobody wants to come? Should we pay to participate and not have the opportunity to host to save money?

IK: we should alternate U19 and Men, so agrees to the proposition.

PG: the young categories must have the priority and they should have an event each year.

AH: wants to revise the proposal: each 2 years for men and each year for U19.

IG: if we agree for men, we could change the modus in extending by one day and play longer games.

SG: is the "costs proposal" also splitted for men and juniors?

IG: U19 each year, if we ask NMA's to pay up to 2000 Euros more, then it would make it very difficult for some NMA's. Finding hosts for the Men competitions is less difficult than other competitions.

SW: we should also list the rest of the costs for a hosting club. The Austrian proposal doesn't solve the problem. The Netherlands have been sponsored for hosting the U19 in 2011, this proposal would add more costs.

TJ: if we do Championships, will the Netherlands come each time?

SW: no

AH: Austrian budget is 25000 Euro for both teams each year. We can guarantee to participate if we only have one event a year, but not both events each year.

SW: there is no guarantee for us, but it would be possible if we have the budget.

7. MOTIONS TO CHANGE THE RULES OF THE GAME

SG: led this section of the meeting and explained the work of the Technical Committee

SW: we discussed that a goal of that committee was not to implement rule changes every year.

SG: nothing is written in the rules, but sometimes rule changes have to be made. The proposed modifications under:

=> Article 6.2 Pre-game warm-up it's part of the game and should be included in the rules.

TB: what about if a team is delayed?

SG: will probably be implemented next year as there is no incidence for international events

SW: why do we put that in our rulebook as it has no incidence? Each NMA can handle this matter on his own. It makes more exceptions to the rulebook 1:1.

SG: the rulebook should cover a maximum of elements of how our sport is played.

=> Article 7.1.5 Clarification.

=> Article 7.15.7 explanation of where the face-offs should be done.

SW: implementing this rule means that the penalized team is twice penalized. It also is complicating the rules for "nothing".

SG: it would avoid that teams makes fouls to "kill" the advantage of the opponent.

=> Article 8.6.1 Clarification. Avoids the referee a hard judgment.

=> Article 8.10.8-8.10.9 Clarification in order to have the penalty written on the game sheet.

=> Article 8.11. Implemented this year, but voted last year.

=> Article 8.14 Clarification. Slight change in the infringement.

SW: we will have discussion on "what is the goalcrease".

SG: the goalkeeper may be out of the goal crease and doesn't have the opportunity to do something to avoid a goal.

=> Article 8.18.4-8.19.4 give the opportunity to penalize late coming teams.

SW: we first have to warn the team in some rules, so why don't we warn the team first?

SG: it's timekeepers duty to warn teams to be ready to start the game.

SW: would prefer giving a misconduct penalty instead of a minor penalty.

ES: this proposal will be voted separately. SW will propose an alternative.

CF: explains the Danish proposal (delaying the game)

SW: having players waiting behind the goal is part of the game.

SG: it doesn't happen that much. If you implement this rule, then you should implement a "reset" rule that says when the player is allowed again to stop behind the goal. I don't see the need of this rule.

8. TITLE EVENTS 2013 – 2015

ES: presented the current hosts for Title Events 2013 and the events scheduled for 2014. One application has been received for 2014 (Great Britain for hosting the U19 European Championships). Germany showed an interest in hosting the Men European Championships.

ES: presented an overview of the feedback we received at our Title Events during the last 6 years.

ES: presented an overview of the teams' performances during the last 6 years.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IISHF Rules exemptions

ES: reminds the delegates to communicate the differences between IISHF Rulebook and domestic rulebooks. So far, only 5 countries communicated (D, CH, A, DK, NL).

Delegates explain what are their differences regarding the rules.

Other NMA's are requested to give an answer.

TB: the Swiss rules expert should have given an answer.

IK: only exception is the non-use of the black card.

IISHF BISHA Survey

ES: makes a summary of the answers received regarding the Survey. NMA's asked not to publish the results.

IISHF Development report

PG: have several contacts with France (25% chance to become member) and Spain – only men teams - (the interest is there, but as soon that you mention the financial aspect, the interest decreases). NMA's should also help us growing, it would be a benefit for us all. PG also showed a presentation regarding his view of the development program.

IK: has contacts with Ukraine and Belarus.

AH: has contacts with Hungary and Slovenia as they both have teams playing in Austria.

ES: the contact informations should be communicated to PG for further action.

PG: will make some documentation that we could give the potential new countries.

Other

EA: we are very disappointed that most of the countries declined the invitation for the U16 European Cup. It could help if delegates could speak to the clubs to explain the situation. Would it be different if ever Canada would host an Event? The main point is not the costs, but the fear.

DD: we couldn't get any insurance covering. If it would have been adults, then it could have been slightly different. Accompaniants are responsible of the kids.

EA: we understand it looks dangerous in regard to what is explained in newspapers, but it's not dangerous.

SW: if Canada has been more serious, we would have taken in account this situation differently. If we have to travel to Pakistan, it would also be very expensive.

EA: we spend each year a lot of money for travelling to the tournaments for 3 age categories.

ES: it is a challenge and it takes time to be prepared to travel to different countries.

SG: the main reason for German teams was the fear. Hosting an AGM in Israel would be a sign that it's not dangerous to go to Israel.

IK: if everybody goes to Israel for an Israel, it would be a first step.

US: I have no power on the clubs. They decide by themselves if they want to participate or not. It wouldn't be the same thing for Championships. Organize a European Championships would be a second step.

EA: why most of the Cups are in June?

ES: hosts decide when they want to host.

SW: is there a deadline to announce tournaments?

ES: this year's Men championships have been announced one year before.

SW: why are the championships hosted from September to October.

ES: a majority of NMA's decided so.

IK: we invited last year teams for a Tournament. Only 3 teams from Israel came and we did some games together. It would be great if we could host each year such a tournament, but with more clubs from different countries. I'm trying to build and grow our federation. Teams from different countries are kindly invited to participate to the Moscow B-Tournament (Minnows).

TB: for this year it could be too late. Budgets are done for this year.

SW: we should try, some teams may be interested.

The Working Meeting was closed at 5.30 pm.

Moscow, 23.02.2013

Signed by
Erik Sommer
IISHF President

Signed by
Jean-Daniel Muller
IISHF Vice President (recording minutes)