



MINUTES FROM THE FIB RULES & REFEREE COMMITTEE (RRC) MEETING

Date: 31 May 2023

Place: Online

Egil Larsen (NOR)
Roman Popikov (RUS)
Pär Billsmon (SWE)
Kevin Bowen (USA)

Not present:
Petri Kuusela (FIN)

DISCUSSIONS:

- Currently Petri Kuuseka (Finland) is only an observer, and not a voting member. Therefore Finland has no official representative in the RRC, and will need to nominate someone to become a member of the RRC very soon.
- Going forward the RRC will need to consider the economic impact of referee selection for international tournaments. This season, we used the old method of selecting referees that were then nominated by their home federations. Unfortunately, because of the current economic conditions, the old system did not account for the current financial constraints. Going forward RRC will need to make a proposal for referees that will then be sent to the Secretary General for feedback and approval before we send out any referee nominations.

PROPOSALS TO WORK TOWARDS IN OUR THREE-YEAR PLAN:

- **MISCONDUCTS:** Implement full-time penalties for misconducts. This has been implemented in Sweden for one season with great success. By doing this, teams will self-police their problem players more. For example, Sweden went from 50 misconducts last to year to around 15 this year. Players and coaches all liked this. Russia has been focusing on misconducts, and could perhaps test this new rule out during the Russian Cup. RRC would like to send a proposal to make all misconducts a full-time penalty to the TC for their consideration.

- FEMALE REFEREES: Norway, Finland, Russia and USA all need to work toward getting more female referees for international bandy. Sweden currently has the most with 9. Russia has 4. The USA has 2. Finland and Norway must work harder to develop female referees. The USA will help develop additional female referees this summer during their female rink bandy season.
- AGE RESTRICTION: A proposal to remove the age limit from rules. It's discriminatory. Current age limit is 50, as 55 was never approved. There should be no age restriction – your ability and fitness should determine if you can still referee. Each home federation should determine if their older referees are still qualified to referee, and if they are not – keep them out of the tournament. An opposing view considers younger referees who might be prevented from getting into games held by older referees. For now, however – our RRC proposal is to raise the age limit to 55.
- WRITTEN RULES TEST: This past season, we tested out eliminating the written rules test in the A-group in favor of a discussion among the international referees about specific rule situations they might encounter. The theory here is that international A-group referees know the rules – so it's important to discuss the application of those rules in unique areas of the game. The A-group supervisors and referees had a favorable response to this discussion this year.
- RULEBOOK: Update the rulebook. Possibly work off of the revised format currently used in the Swedish rulebook. Books could be published digitally – so not printed. Sweden has simplified their rule book and has taken away many of the comments. They've also added a comprehensive table of comments. It's on their website and can be accessed via cellphone.

PREVIOUSLY NOTED:

- WC MEN'S A is allowed to have 17 players on their roster, but WC WOMEN'S A can only have 16 players. Both Men and Women should have a the same (equal) rule – same number of players allowed on their rosters.

Next meeting will be online again – date & time (TBD).

End of meeting. Notes: Kevin Bowen