



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FROM 2023!

An annual manifestation of the world's second largest winter sport!

GOAL

The World Championships attracts a larger audience and reaches a greater media interest. The various senior championships are part of a context and is as far as possible carried out in similar ways.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL

In the work with this proposal knowledge, reports, statistics and experience have been obtained from different sources and in different ways. Some examples:

- Regarding the future World Championship tournaments, various proposals from different national federations have been obtained, but also knowledge and ideas from people with solid experience and ambition for renewal.
- Experience from the media's conditions and priorities has been gained.
- The report from Evgeniy Epifanov's and Thony Lindqvist's work with interviews with the teams during the WCS-B in Irkutsk in March 2020.
- Sports in general have a growing competition for the time modern people spend on various leisure activities.

In the ambition to create a larger event of the World Championship tournaments, there is a clear financial incentive. If the audience and media interest increase, the economy will be strengthened for both the national organizer and for FIB. New national organizers may also be interested in arranging future World Championship tournaments.

With a strengthened economy, FIB ensures that investments and development projects can be implemented and secured for the future. There is thus a clear connection between finances, audiences, and the media when we conduct sportingly successful World Championship tournaments. The established nations contribute to a strong economy that enables the nations at the level below to develop.

To shape the proposal, some basic ambitions have emerged:

- Every team participating in WCS-A must be able to become World Champion. Every team participating in WCS-B or WCS-C must be able to advance to a higher level until the next tournament.
- The World Championships will be the annual celebration and a matter for many people! Therefore, we must conduct WCS-A and WCS-B in an equal way regardless of whether the tournaments are played at the same time or not. Nowadays, many cities have several arenas or arenas in nearby cities. Indoor arenas in combination with artificially frozen outdoor courts are available in more and more places.
- The number of matches between the best teams needs to increase. This is necessary in order to attract more spectators to the events both in the stands and in front of TVs and computers. That will of course also increase revenues.
- The WCS-A and WCS-B must be played after the national play offs and the time for the women's WCS must be a planning condition for the national leagues. This is to be able to give the players the opportunity to have a reasonable time for preparation.

- Each team must be guaranteed at least five matches during a WCS tournament. It is mainly in view of the national teams that travel the longest distances.
- A World Championship tournament should include at least one day off from match included in the time schedule. That is for three reasons: 1) The active players get time to recover. 2) Delegates from the member national federations and FIB officials can conduct the FIB Annual Congress. 3) A development day for the B-nations can be arranged.
- A strategic goal for the women's WCS to be held every year should be planned from 2023. The status of the ladies' and men's tournaments will thus be equal.
- Another goal is that the playing time for all the games in senior World Championships should be 2x45 minutes. It is an ambition in the long run. This change can only be implemented when the nations lower than WCS-A can carry out various forms of league games during a larger part of the season, either in the form of national league games or as recurring national team tournaments on rink or full-sized arenas.

UNEVEN MATCH RESULTS

There is a certain difference between the WCS-A, WCS-B and WCS-Women in terms of the number of uneven matches. In the WCS-A, an average of 11.5 goals were scored per match over the last four tournaments. In the WCS-Women and WCS-B, the same number of goals were scored, an average of 5.9 goals per match over the last four tournaments.

The problem with some matches getting uneven results is not unique to bandy. It also often happens in other sports such as ice hockey, handball, basket and not least floorball when a smaller number of large successful nations meet less experienced nations.

To compare the number of uneven results, we count the number of double-digit results in the WCS-A because there were just over 11 goals scored on average per match. In the WCS-B and WCS-Women we take all results where there is a difference of six goals or more because the goal average per match was 5.9. In the last four WCS tournaments for men and women, the WCS-A has been played in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The last four WCS-B has been played in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and 2020 and the women's tournament has been played in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020.

Let's have a look at the proportion of match results with big differences:

2014	WCS-Women - 20 matches, 2 six-goal victories = 10%
2016	WCS-A - 22 matches, 11 double digits = 50%
	WCS-Women - 26 matches, 10 six-goal victories = 38%
2017	WCS-A - 22 matches, 10 double digits = 45%
	WCS-B - 34 matches, 16 six-goal victories = 47%
2018	WCS-A - 22 matches, 11 double digits = 50%
	WCS-B - 22 matches, 7 six-goal victories = 32%
	WCS-Women - 19 matches, 7 six-goal victories = 37%
2019	WCS-A - 20 matches, 9 double digits = 45%
	WCS-B - 38 matches, 17 six-goal victories = 45%
2020	WCS-B - 34 matches, 8 six-goal victories = 24%
	WCS-Women - 23 matches, 6 six-goal victories = 26%

Average WCS-A - 47.5% uneven results
Average WCS-B - 37.0% uneven results
Average WCS-Women - 27.7% uneven results

A simple conclusion is that the number of uneven matches, especially in the WCS-A, needs to be reduced. We must therefore work to ensure that the teams that are moved up to the WCS-A develop and that is the basis for us to also implement a development project for the B- and C-nations and the women teams under the best nations. It will probably increase competition even for the best nations as the matches gets more even. It is therefore good for everyone to develop the smaller men's and women's nations because it is a prerequisite for the entire international bandy to be strengthened, become attractive and engage a larger audience.

THE WCS MEN TOURNAMENTS NEED TO BE PLANNED IN ONE CONTEXT

In 2023, there will probably be 22 or 23 active countries on the men's side. The number of countries that have participated in the tournaments in recent years is 21. On the women's side 8 countries participated in the latest WCS-Women in Norway.

A large majority of the countries in the men's WCS-B says that the forms for the their tournament are good and should be retained as much as possible, but that the teams in the group game need to be ranked based on last year's results. In the analysis of a new WCS approach, several different variants have been studied based on many parameters. There are mainly three issues that have been analysed.

- 1) Should there be 6 or 8 teams in WCS-A?
- 2) Should there be 6 or 8 teams in WCS-B?
- 3) Should a cohesive WCS for the A and B nations be played in 7 divisions with 3 teams in each? This is a proposal submitted by Russia.

A summary of the different options looks like this:

6 TEAMS

A WCS where a tournament consists of 6 teams comprises eight days, for example Sunday-Sunday including one day off. Each team is guaranteed 5 matches. It is doubtful whether the WCS will reach its highest status if the number of countries is as few as 6. A crucial problem is the current different balance of power. Three teams in WCS-A are traditionally stronger than the others (Russia, Sweden, Finland), at least two teams among the other three (Kazakhstan, Norway, USA) plays at a lower level. The promoted team from WCS-B plays in the lowest level among the six teams. There is a risk that one team will be constantly moved between WCS-A and WCS-B as the WCS-B has another even lower level.

8 TEAMS

All teams meet each other in single or double matches. A tournament with single meetings includes eight days, including one day off, Sunday-Sunday. The team is guaranteed 5 matches. Fewer uneven matches in two pools than in a single series in one pool. A tournament with double meetings in the Round Robin stage is played over ten days including one day off. The exciting thing about double meetings is that the best crowd-pleasing teams get to meet several times. It benefits our ambition to create greater audience and media interest. The team is guaranteed in that option 7 matches.

21 TEAMS DIVIDED INTO 7 DIVISIONS WITH 3 TEAMS IN EACH

A quite innovative idea from Russia to carry out a cohesive WCS event. The costs are significantly reduced as the event covers only 7 days.

However, there are a couple of crucial problems with this proposal. Only three teams can become World Champion, namely the teams in the first division. All teams are guaranteed only 4 matches. That is too few for countries with long journeys to participate. The teams that place first and third in each division are guaranteed 5 matches, but the teams that come second in six of the divisions are only allowed to play 4 Round Robin games.

When all facts, views and knowledge are weighed together, I believe that this proposal best achieves our goals and ambitions with future World Championship tournaments.

A COHESANT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WCS-A AND WCS-B IN 4 POOLS!

A joint A and B tournament with double meetings in the Round Robin stage is played over 10 days, including a day off for all teams. The top two teams in both pools in the WCS-A and WCS-B gets an extra day off before the semi-finals.

This form for WCS-A and WCS-B also provides flexibility in time and space. When the tournaments are decided in a place where there is an indoor arena and several outdoor arenas, both tournaments can be arranged at the same time. In other places with different conditions, the tournaments can be played on different dates and places. We can gather everything during a big event and make a clear impression in the region where the tournament is decided. The focus on audience and media will be significantly greater than before. The proposal corresponds to all the basic ambitions that are formulated. Each one of the eight teams in WCS-A can become World Champion. Each team is guaranteed at least 7 matches. It is suggested that the World Championship be played from Friday the first week to Sunday the second week. The WCS-A is divided into a ranked A-pool and B-pool and WCS-B is divided in the same way. The pools are ranked based on the results of the previous WCS. This is to get as even matches as possible already in the Round Robin stage.

One team from WCS-A becomes World Champion and one team is moved down to WCS-B for the next year. One team from WCS-B wins the group and is moved up to WCS-A. The last team in WCS-B is moved down to the following year's WCS-C.

By playing both the tournaments after the national league finals, all teams, including WCS-B-teams, get full access to their national team players. The WCS-B-nations have not had this before. It is another way to create serious, optimal and equal conditions.

The matches in WCS-A and B are carried out in the same way with equivalent game programs. Each team only plays one match per day. It is a wish of all nations.

WCS-A always plays indoors and WCS-B on a nearby artificial arena unless two indoor arenas are within a reasonable distance. It can be in the same city if the hotel capacity is sufficient. Otherwise in a nearby city with its own hotel capacity. Here, different forms may be possible based on local conditions, but access to an indoor arena and an artificially frozen outdoor arena is a minimum requirement.

The best teams in the world meet twice in the pool stage and a third time in the final or semi-final. It creates a greater audience interest.

The playing times are arranged so that WCS-A plays the pool matches at 10.00, 13.00, 16.00 and 19.00. The WCS-B plays at 9.00, 11.30, 14.00 and 16.30. All participants can then be present at the evening match in WCS-A every day when the tournaments are played on nearby places.

All matches in WCS-A are played 2x45 mins. The group games in WCS-B are played 2x30 mins, but all matches on the final weekend, Friday-Sunday, are played 2x45 min.

The WCS-Women is held in the same way as WCS-A in a tournament with 8 teams in 2 pools where the teams are ranked based on the results from last year's tournament. In 2020, WCS-Women contained 8 teams in two pools of 5 and 3 teams, respectively. If the number of women's teams continues to increase in the future, implementation needs to be reviewed.

From the season 2022–2023, a WCS-C should also be held for men. Which teams participate there will be clear after the WCS-A and B in 2022. A C-tournament can be held at the appropriate time during or at the end of the season. It can be a playoff on a big ice or on a hockey rink. WCS-C can also be held in different geographical pools. It all depends on geography, the number of teams and the quality of them. A WCS-C-tournament will probably be able to have at least 4-6 teams.

When the FIB-decision is made, the conditions should be communicated to all member countries and externally on the FIB's website no later than the end of January 2022 so that the WCS in Syktyvkar 2022 can be arranged in a way so that the new form of the World Championships can be implemented in 2023.

Attached

is an example of a time schedule but see the name of the teams as fictitious.

(This proposal has been developed by Kjell Anderstedt on behalf of FIB).