



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 2023

The year 2023 was the second year after the Corona COVID-19 pandemic where we were back again to regular activities hosting Title Events. We managed to host 5 European Cups and 2 European Championships with 2 events not taking place this time the IISHF U19 European Cup and again the IISHF Veterans Cup. Three countries (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) hosted IISHF Title Events and it was a great pleasure that Austria were again hosting the IISHF U19 European Championships taking place in Amstetten. This was highly appreciated and we will return again here in 2024 this time for the IISHF Men European Championships.

The year 2023 was similar to the previous year 2022 also a difficult year due to the continued international political tension which have a great impact on international relations. IISHF extended at the IISHF AGM 2023 the suspension of Russia from all International activities within IISHF due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine for another year. 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 lead to the cancellation of Zoran Falcons from Israel again from taking part in IISHF Title Events in 2023 and now with the ongoing conflict in Israel their international participation are severely restricted.

The WADA matter was again discussed at the IISHF AGM 2023 since it has special interest for several 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 several requirements to the member federations that has to be met. Following the joint decision at the AGM 2024 neither the application process (by payment of the WADA obligations by any NMAs) nor the establishment of a Working Group has been done by the NMAs.

In 2023 the work has been further developed to transform the IISHF Website and entire IISHF Tournament Tool system from the Sportsengine setup to a better performing platform supported and managed by the entire IISHF Officials group. A special thank here extended to the IISHF IT Director Simon Price and IISHF Officials Manager Dee Dalton for a great effort to ensure that we run the IISHF Title Events the best possible way in close cooperation with the hosting clubs, their NMAs, the IISHF Presidium, IISHF Officials and IISHF Referees.

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In 2023 two IISHF Working Groups were established. The first one for **Title Events** (based on the proposals made by Austria reference point 6 “change of IISHF Regulations” at the IISHF Working Meeting AGM 2023 and reference point “AOB” at the IISHF AGM 2023) and the second one for **Continental Structure** (based on the proposals made by India-reference point 5 “change of IISHF Constitution” at the IISHF Working Meeting AGM 2023 and reference point “AOB” at the IISHF AGM 2023).

No activity has taken place by the NMAs to the working group Continental Structure.

As decided by the “IISHF Working Group 2023 Title Events” (reference is made here to CL 2023-15) for all European Championships:

- Preliminary games should be played as minimum 2 x 20 minutes stopped time.
- First game to start earliest at 09.00 AM.
- Last game to start latest at 19.00 PM.

Thus, to have two IISHF Title Events at the same time there should be at least one rink for each category and the infrastructure should be sufficient to host additional teams and the participating NMAs should be supportive of the approach. If a host wants to have additional games at an IISHF Title Event better alternative options would be to include domestic games and/or friendly international games.

As a general observation IISHF primary focus is on the hosting of IISHF Title Events and the minimum requirements for any European Cup are 8 teams from 3 participating countries and for any European Championship it's 4 participating countries. IISHF are currently relying on the contribution from a limited number of countries and mainly we have tournaments in two countries Germany and Switzerland so we need the other countries such as Austria, Denmark and Great Britain to understand that they also have to host on a regular basis.

For the planned IISHF U19 European Championships scheduled to take place in Lugano (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 maintain the introduced concept of a minimum 4-year plan with minimum 4 different countries hosting regularly and with a minimum of 4 countries taking place every year. This is vital for IISHF and this is also necessary if any NMA intend to restart for example the IISHF Women European Championships or to start any other European Championships for U16, Veterans or Masters.

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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 2023 the following persons: Dee Dalton (IISHF Officials Manager), Claes Fréder (Referee Manager), Lorin Chévre (Deputy IT Director + THF Manager) and Simon Price (Communication Officer, IT Director + 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 2024 and on IISHF Title Events 2024.

On Behalf of the IISHF Presidium

Erik Sommer
IISHF President