



## INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

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**To:  
IFF Member Association's  
Secretary Generals  
Competition Managers  
Referee Managers**

The IFF Referee Committee has given instructions how to proceed with the issue of the goalkeepers' face masks. The original letter, which was sent all to you is also visible below.

The checking will be carried out in national series and also in the upcoming IFF events.

Procedure:

The referees will check before the games that the goalkeepers' face masks (both playing and substituting goalkeepers) are according to IFF material regulations and if they are not, then the referees shall report that to the national association, but not penalize the goalkeepers. In IFF events the reports shall be sent to the competition jury according to the IFF competition rules and regulations.

The actual checking would be best to have one hour before the beginning of the game in order to avoid any distractions just before the beginning of the game. The national associations are to inform the teams and the clubs well in advance and in the IFF tournaments the information will be delivered in the first Technical Meeting.

If the goalkeepers have face masks which will not fulfil the IFF requirements, the goalkeepers are urged to change the face masks to ones, which will fulfil the IFF material regulations requirements.

The purpose is to be as proactive as possible in order to be able to avoid all kind of unnecessary conflicts between the players, teams, national associations and referees.

The goalkeepers have time to change their helmets to the approved ones until the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2015.

After that the goalkeepers who still use unapproved face masks will be penalized according to the IFF Rules of the Game 613.1 and the consequence is Match Penalty one!

Klaus Koskela

IFF Referee Committee Chairman

b.d Veli Halonen



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**The original letter, which was sent earlier can be found below.**

The International Floorball Federation Central Board has in its meeting in Hanasaari, Finland on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August discussed the worrying situation of the use of non-approved Goalkeeper Face mask grills.

Based on a number of complaints from the Floorball manufacturers, concerning the fact that there are a significant number of non-approved and actually quite dangerous Face mask grills used by the Floorball goalkeepers in use in the National and International matches organized by the IFF and its Member Associations.

In accordance with the IFF Game Rules 2014 and the IFF Material Regulation 2014 all goalkeepers face mask grills produced after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2014, shall have an embossed IFF marking on a plate included on the grill. As a large number of the goalkeepers in our sport still uses older grills, they are therefore still without this IFF marking, which makes it hard to distinguish which grills are in accordance with the rules and which are not.

There is a problem, that a number of grills used have holes much bigger than the allowed 70 x 8 mm openings, allowing a gauge to enter a maximum of 30 mm. These measurements have been in force for a number of years. Such big openings could be a real risk for the goalkeeper's eye if the blade would hit there. In order for the Floorball Community to be able to solve this pressing problem in a proactive and smooth way, which also can have a larger effect on the Floorball Material Industry, we would like to advise the National Associations that they are requested to ensure that all goalkeepers are using correct face mask grills, as it places the players in grave danger and place the manufacturers in an unequal situation, when someone are following the IFF Rules, but others not.

We would from the IFF, like to propose that the National Associations would adopt a policy during the autumn of 2015 to positively and proactively inform the teams playing in the series organized by the National Associations and the referees that any grill without an IFF marking may not have larger openings than 70 mm in any direction, as these are not allowed to be used in any official game.

In order to avoid unnecessary problems in the field of play, the IFF proposes to introduce a system where the referees would check the face masks before the start of the game and inform the goalkeepers the requirements and advise them to change the grill to an approved one for the next games. IFF would advise the referees not give penalties in accordance with the Game Rules to start with, but to try to proactively make the goalkeepers change the grills to correct ones. The IFF will in its own Events enforce this procedure in all Friendly International Matches, the Champions Cup and the EuroFloorball Cup and only in the 10<sup>th</sup> Women's World Floorball Championships start to use the measures provided in the Game Rules.