

COMPETITION RULES ***2021-2022***

Competition rules of the Finnish Floorball Federation
1.5.2021 – 30.4.2022

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1. GENERAL

Section 1 Scope of application

These are the competition rules of the Finnish Floorball Federation. They apply to the activities of the Finnish Floorball Federation and its member associations during the 2021–2022 season from 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022.

The rules and their penal provisions must be complied with, as applicable, in the activities of the national team and the persons participating in its activities, as well as in the international competitive activities and friendly matches of the member associations of the Finnish Floorball Federation.

International competitive activities and international player transfers will primarily be governed by the rules and regulations and competition rules of the International Floorball Federation (IFF), unless otherwise required by the IFF regulations.

Section 2 Definitions

In these rules, ‘the federation’ refers to the Finnish Floorball Federation and its executive committee, ‘IFF’ refers to the International Floorball Federation, ‘the region’ refers to the regional activities of the federation, ‘league organiser’ refers to a person or entity appointed by the federation to organise specific leagues or individual tournaments, ‘club’ refers to a member club of the federation and ‘team’ refers to a team of a member club.

Season: The season is 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022.

Game pass: ‘Game pass’ refers to an agreement between a player, referee, official, coach, and match supervisor and the federation that the holder of the pass has, in accordance with these rules, the right to participate in competitions organised by the federation or its region and that the holder of the pass undertakes to comply with these rules and regulations.

Right of representation: ‘Right of representation’ refers to a player’s right to represent a certain team of the club. **Right to play:** ‘Right to play’ refers to the right to participate in an official match as a player.

New player: ‘New player’ refers to a player who has not represented any club or team of an IFF member country during the current or previous season.

Match event: ‘Match event’ refers to a match and/or tournament and a period of time that begins half an hour before the start of a match or tournament and ends half an hour after the end of the match and/or tournament. In addition to the playing area, a match event includes the facilities for the teams, officials, referees and spectators involved in the match and/or tournament, as well as the immediate proximity of the facilities.

Free transfer: ‘Free transfer’ refers to a player’s right, from 1 June to 30 June once a season, to transfer freely to represent any club without the consent of any party other than the receiving club.

Competition manipulation: ‘competition manipulation’ refers to fraudulently influencing the course or outcome of a match or competition.

Main leagues: The main leagues of the federation are the men’s Finnish championship league, or the F-liiga men’s league, the women’s Finnish championship league, or the F-liiga women’s league, and the men’s first division (‘Divari’ in Finnish).

National and regional leagues:

The national leagues of the federation are the following leagues (the age groups of juniors are defined in section 20):

Adults:

F-liiga men’s league
F-liiga women’s league
Men’s first division
Men’s Suomisarja league
Women’s first division
Men’s Suomen Cup (Finnish Cup)
Women’s Suomen Cup (Finnish Cup)

Boys:

P21 Finnish championship league and first division
P18 Finnish championship league and first division
P16 Finnish championship league and first division and their preliminary rounds
P15 national league

Girls:

T21 Finnish championship league and first division
T18 Finnish championship league and first division and their preliminary rounds
T16 Finnish championship league and first division and their preliminary rounds

Other leagues are regional leagues, unless otherwise specified by the federation.

League regulations: The federation annually confirms the seasonal and league-specific league regulations (SarjaM), which are followed in the leagues and competitions defined in the league regulations. League regulations take precedence over all other rules and regulations concerning competitive activities. League regulations may stipulate deviations from the competition rules, and in the event of a conflict between different rules, the league regulations and their interpretations will always prevail.

Section 3 Rules

Participants in the federation's competition and national team activities must undertake to comply with these competition rules, the Rules of the Game, the Code of Sports Ethics and the principle of fair play.

In the F main leagues and other leagues separately determined by the federation, the league regulations of those leagues (SarjaM) take precedence. Other regulations to be observed in the federation's competitive activities are the P21–P15 and T21–T16 joint-team regulations, the P14–P9 and T14–T10 PeliMaaailma and KisaMaaailma (PeliM, KisaM) rules, safety regulations (TurvM), regulations for officials (ToimM), Stats Service rules (TulospM), player transfer regulations (PelaajasiirtoM), refereeing regulations and the interpretations of the travel rules and the Rules of the Game (PeliST) concerning referees.

In the activities of the junior P14–P9 and T14–T10 age groups, the PeliMaaailma and KisaMaaailma rules and related guidelines are primarily followed. The competition rules are secondarily followed to the extent applicable.

The competitive activities of the soveltava salibandy (applied floorball) and senior leagues follow the federation regulations, guidelines and, where applicable, the competition rules concerning those leagues.

Unless otherwise specified by the federation, the rules, regulations and fees of the relevant higher league are applied to qualifying matches. Competitions organised by the region are also conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the region.

Section 4 Authority

The competition rules, league regulations and other regulations and instructions issued on the basis of them are decided by the executive committee of the federation, which confirms them annually and monitors compliance with them. The executive committee of the federation or a body designated by the committee may separately issue more detailed instructions on the application or interpretation of the competition rules, league regulations and the regulations and guidelines issued on the basis of them.

The executive committee of the federation or an institution appointed by the committee will ultimately decide on the interpretation of the various rules, regulations and guidelines and their mutual application.

The executive committee of the federation separately appoints the necessary committees, other institutions and persons to perform various tasks, and informs the clubs accordingly.

Disciplinary matters under these competition rules are handled, and the power to penalise is exercised, by a body or an official appointed by the federation's executive committee or a league organiser or an official appointed by it. In activities organised by the region, such matters are the responsibility of the region's official.

An appeal committee appointed by the federation's general assembly will, as the supreme body, address without delay all appeals related to penalty and disciplinary decisions made on the basis of the competition rules, as well as decisions related to protests.

Section 5 National team activities

The federation decides on the activities of the national teams. The executive committee of the federation or its delegate selects the national team coaches and other employees as well as the players participating in the national team activities. The executive committee confirms separately the members of the national team participating in major competitions.

Participation in the activities of the national team and selection as a member of the official national team always requires the conclusion of a fixed-term written contract with the federation and a commitment to the competition rules of the federation.

Section 6 Personal data, media rights and advertising contracts

Personal information (statistics, names of players) and disciplinary decisions concerning match events and players in the leagues under the authority of the federation are public. Such information is stored, archived and used for various purposes, such as enforcing competition rules and disciplinary decisions. Personal data may be processed, disclosed and published in accordance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) and the Finnish Data Protection Act (1050/2018), the latter of which entered into force on 5 December 2018. The data can also be used for, e.g. news, statistics and research, and for historical and cultural heritage material and the description of such material.

The media rights to all leagues organised by the federation belong to the federation in their entirety. In this context, 'media rights' refers to the streaming of matches (filming, broadcasting and replaying of the broadcasts). The federation concludes all media rights contracts for all the leagues it organises. Clubs always require permission from the federation to use video footage of home matches for commercial purposes. Permits are issued for a maximum of one season at a time.

In the event of overlap or conflict between advertising contracts, the following order of enforcement will apply:

1. Contracts concluded by the IFF
2. Contracts concluded by the federation
3. Contracts concluded by the league organiser
4. Contracts concluded by the organising club
5. Contracts concluded by participating clubs

Section 7 Deadlines

When the due date or the last day of a deadline falls on a regular Saturday; public holiday; Independence Day (6 December); May Day (1 May) or Christmas Eve or Midsummer Eve, the task may be completed on the next working day. However, the above does not apply to game-pass fees.

Section 8 Submission of documents

A document will be deemed to have been received by the federation when it has been received by and is available to the office of the federation or its region. A document sent by post to the federation will be deemed to have been given to the federation on the day when the postal delivery containing the document or the notification of the arrival of the delivery has been given to the federation. The sending of documents to the federation is always at the sender's own risk. Documents can be submitted to the federation by email. In that case, the document is considered to have been received when it is available to the federation on an electronic device in a printable format.

The federation sends documents or notifications by email or post. A document or notification which has been sent by the federation by post or courier to the party concerned or to a person designated by that party will be deemed to have been received by them no later than on the third day after the document has been posted with the provided address. The document must be marked with the date on which it was posted.

2. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Section 9 The ideals and objectives of Fair Play

The federation's competitive activities are based on the ideals and objectives of Fair Play and other ethical values approved by the Finnish Olympic Committee in 2018. By participating in the federation's competitive activities, a person thereby undertakes to uphold the ethical values of sport and the ideals and objectives of Fair Play, which are respect and equal treatment, honesty, openness, fairness, democracy, the promotion of health and wellbeing, responsible training, sustainable development and respect for nature.

Section 10 Responsible financial management

Clubs participating in the federation's competitive activities undertake to conduct their financial administration responsibly in accordance with the law and regulations, as well as other statutes and guidelines.

Each club is responsible for the activities of its teams, officials and players, as well as for their commitment to the rules of the federation and compliance with the federation's rules, regulations and guidelines.

Section 11 Bankruptcy of a club

A club that has been declared bankrupt thereby loses its right to compete in the federation's leagues, and thus loses all its league positions.

The bankruptcy estate may be allowed to continue competitive activities until the end of the season, provided that it undertakes to meet the obligations of the bankrupt club to the federation and to provide a credible guarantee that these obligations will be met.

In other cases, the teams of the bankrupt club will be disqualified from the federation's leagues with immediate effect.

The players of a bankrupt club are free, just as non-contracted players, to transfer to another club under the rules and transfer procedure of the federation without the consent of the bankrupt club or bankruptcy estate, unless the bankruptcy estate undertakes to meet the bankrupt club's obligations and provides a security for this purpose. In the latter case, the players are free to transfer to another club at the end of the season without the consent of the old club or bankruptcy estate.

Section 12 Competition manipulation

It is forbidden to attempt to influence the outcome of regular game time or a match or match events by making an agreement before or during the match. The ethical starting point for competitive activities is that the players, coaches, officials, referees, teams and clubs participating in the match all strive for the best possible performance in the match.

It is the responsibility of each player, coach, other official and referee to inform the federation of any observation indicating an attempt to play a match to a pre-arranged outcome or that a match event is being otherwise manipulated or an attempt is being made to manipulate it.

A player, coach, other official or referee who attempts to play, plays or suggests playing with a view to a pre-arranged outcome or otherwise manipulates or seeks to manipulate a match event or fails to notify the federation of such activity, will be prohibited from competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities for at least one year. If there is reason to suspect that a person has violated this rule, they may be subject to a temporary prohibition on playing or engaging in other floorball-related activities. However, before such a decision is taken, the suspected person must be given the opportunity to be heard.

The club whose team's match result has been agreed in advance or whose match event has been or is attempted to be manipulated may lose its league position and right to compete for the team which the agreement concerns.

Section 13 Prohibition of taking bribes and threatening

A person who promises, offers or gives a gift or other benefit that influences or is intended to influence the referee's actions in or in connection with a match will, for that reason, be prohibited from competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities for at least two years.

A referee who requests, receives or accepts a gift or other benefit for themselves or another person or otherwise attempts to obtain a gift or benefit that will influence or is likely to influence the referee's activities in or in connection with a match will, for that reason, be prohibited from competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities for at least two years.

Any person who, by threatening violence or any other act, influences or seeks to influence the referee's actions in or in connection with a match will, for that reason, be prohibited from competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities for at least two years.

A person who repeatedly commits or attempts to commit any act specified in this section may be subject to a lifetime prohibition on competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities.

Section 14 Prohibition of betting

Betting on a competition event involving one's own team is prohibited. Those representing a team in some capacity (players, officials, other related persons) may not, either directly or indirectly, place a bet or otherwise participate in or attempt to influence betting on competition events at their own league level or farm team level.

A referee, match supervisor, technical supervisor or match official may not, either directly or indirectly, place a bet or otherwise participate in or attempt to influence betting on a competition event in which they are acting as a referee, match supervisor, technical supervisor or match official. Violation of the rules set out in this section will result in a temporary suspension.

Section 15 Obligation to insure

If the player and their club have agreed that the player receives a taxable salary of at least EUR 11,800 per year or season under the act on accident insurance and pension security for athletes (276/2009), including fringe benefits, the club must provide the player with accident insurance and pension security in accordance with that act.

The club must inform the federation by 31.1. of the number of players covered by the aforementioned act who have represented the club in question.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this section may result in the club and its management being penalised in accordance with these competition rules.

Section 16 Anti-doping regulations

The minimum requirement for participating in competitive activities is that the federation and its member clubs, as well as the players, undertake to comply with the currently applicable floorball anti-doping programme. This programme is based on the Finnish anti-doping code of the Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports (FINCIS), which is based on the World Anti-Doping Code, and the rules of the IFF. All parties must accept the ruling that disciplinary authority over doping violations is exercised by the anti-doping disciplinary board of FINCIS.

All competitors participating in the federation's competition and national team activities, as well as players who have redeemed their game passes, are subject to doping testing both in and out of competition. Contracts between players, coaches and other officials and a club or the federation must comply with the aforementioned anti-doping rules and regulations. Contracts that are being concluded must include an obligation to cooperate with FINCIS in the investigation of suspected doping violations.

Teams at the classified level must provide FINCIS and/or the IFF with information on the team's training venue upon request. Each club must inform its teams, players, coaches and other officials

about the aforementioned floorball anti-doping programme and its content as well as FINCIS' KAMU medicine search service and FINCIS' ILMO service for reporting suspected sports violations. In general, each club must educate its members and the guardians of juniors on compliance with the principles of clean sport and anti-doping regulations.

A person has committed a doping offence if

1. They submit a sample containing a prohibited substance or there is evidence of the use of a prohibited method
2. They use or have attempted to use a prohibited substance or method
3. They refuse to undergo a doping test, fail to attend a scheduled doping test, fail to provide a sample upon receipt of an invitation to a doping test or otherwise evade a doping test
4. They evade doping control by failing to comply with their obligation to report their whereabouts under the aforementioned anti-doping code (test pool athletes)
5. They manipulate or attempt to manipulate doping control or testing
6. They are in possession of a prohibited substance or material or equipment related to a prohibited method
7. They disseminate a prohibited substance or material or equipment related to a prohibited method
8. They provide or attempt to provide an athlete with a prohibited substance or method of any kind in or out of competition
9. They are complicit in a doping violation committed by another person 'Complicity' refers to any encouragement, incitement, aiding, abetting, concealment or other intentional involvement in a doping violation and any attempt to do so
10. They collaborate with an athlete who has been prohibited from engaging in floorball-related activities, any person supporting such an athlete, or any other person subject to the anti-doping code in professional or sporting activities
11. They intimidate or retaliate against a person who has reported suspected doping.

Penalties will always be imposed on any person who commits a doping violation in or out of competition as defined in the Finnish anti-doping code or the IFF Anti-Doping Rules. Action in response to doping violations is taken in accordance with the anti-doping regulations in force at the time. In addition to the disciplinary sanction imposed for doping violations, the final score of the match may also be changed. Penalties are imposed by the anti-doping disciplinary board of FINCIS.

Section 17 Intoxicants, tobacco and comparable substances

At match events under the authority of the federation, the members of participating teams, referees and match officials are prohibited from using snuff, tobacco, alcohol or other intoxicants and from being intoxicated.

Clubs must ensure that sport-related situations, such as victory celebrations, and statements by athletes and management do not convey a misleadingly positive impression of substance or tobacco use or an image of their association with sport.

3. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Section 18 Federation competitions

The official competitions of the federation are the men's, women's, girls' and boys' leagues and the men's and women's Finnish Cup. The executive committee of the federation decides and confirms the competitions and leagues to be organised, as well as the related entry fees and league systems, separately for each year.

Finnish championship title is played for in the following leagues:

- F-liiga men's league
- F-liiga women's league
- P21 Finnish championship league
- P18 Finnish championship league
- P16 Finnish championship league
- T21 Finnish championship league
- T18 Finnish championship league
- T16 Finnish championship league

In addition, the Finnish championship title is played for in separately announced senior and soveltava salibandy (applied floorball) leagues.

Section 19 League format

Unless otherwise specified by the executive committee of the federation, the federation's leagues will be played as tournaments.

The following leagues are played as individual matches:

- F-liiga men's league
- F-liiga women's league
- Men's first division
- Men's Suomisarja league
- Men's second division
- P21 Finnish championship league and first division
- P18 Finnish championship league and first division
- P16 Finnish championship league and first division
- T21 Finnish championship league
- T18 Finnish championship league and first division

In addition, the league groups and matches determined separately by the federation are played as individual matches. Men's and women's Finnish Cups are always played in the manner established annually by the executive committee of the federation; the first rounds are played as tournaments and the final games are played as individual matches.

The P10–P8 and T10–T8 juniors play individual tournaments rather than competitive leagues.

Section 20 Junior leagues and age groups

The junior leagues and age groups are:

Boys:

P21 Juniors (Finnish championship league and first division), which consists of players born in 2001–2003

P18 Juniors (Finnish championship league and first division), which consists of players born in 2004–2005

P16 juniors (Finnish championship league and first division), which consists of players born in 2006

P15 juniors, which consists of players born in 2007

P14 juniors, which consists of players born in 2008

P13 juniors, which consists of players born in 2009

P12 juniors, which consists of players born in 2010

P11 juniors, which consists of players born in 2011

P10 juniors, which consists of players born in 2012

P9 juniors, which consists of players born in 2013

P8 juniors, which consists of players born in 2014

P7 juniors, which consists of players born in 2015

P6 juniors, which consists of players born in 2016 or later

Girls:

T21 Juniors (Finnish championship league and first division), which consists of players born in 2001–2003

T18 juniors, (Finnish championship league and first division), which consists of players born in 2004–2005

T16 juniors, (Finnish championship league and first division), which consists of players born in 2006–2007

T14 juniors, which consists of players born in 2008–2009

T12 juniors, which consists of players born in 2010–2011

T10 juniors, which consists of players born in 2012–2013

T8 juniors, which consists of players born in 2014

T7 juniors, which consists of players born in 2015

T6 juniors that include players born in 2016 or later

Section 21 Order in league

The ranking of the teams is determined by the points achieved. Teams are awarded two points for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss, unless otherwise stipulated by the federation in separately specified leagues.

In the event of a tie in points, the relative success of the teams is determined by:

1. Points scored in matches between the two teams
2. Difference in number of goals in matches between the two teams (goals scored minus goals conceded)
3. Goals scored in matches between the two teams
4. Difference in number of goals in the entire league (goals scored minus goals conceded)
5. Number of goals scored in the entire league
6. A rematch, but only in the case of a rise in the rankings, relegation or ranking among the top three
7. Choice by lot.

In leagues, a point comparison can be used to determine the relative success of the teams, if this has been separately stipulated.

In the comparison of points, the ranking is decided in the following order:

1. Points per match
2. Goal difference per match
3. Goals scored per match
4. Choice by lot

Section 22 Medals

In the men's and women's F-liiga leagues, the three best teams each receive 35 medals, and in the other leagues played for the Finnish championship title, the three best teams each receive 30 medals. The referees of the deciding game of each league played for the Finnish championship title receive commemorative medals.

The two best men's and women's teams in the Finnish Cup will each receive 35 medals. Each of the referees of the Finnish Cup finals will receive commemorative medals.

Section 23 Filling a vacant league position

The team chosen to fill a vacancy in a main league is chosen by the executive committee of the federation, and for other leagues, the decision is made either by the executive committee of the federation or a body designated by it.

Section 24 Withdrawals from a league and exclusion from a league

In the main league, the men's Suomisarja league, the final tournaments of national tournament-format leagues and all matches in the junior national leagues, teams that have withdrawn from one match, and in other leagues, teams that have withdrawn from more than one match, will be disqualified from the league, unless otherwise stipulated by the federation.

A team that is excluded from a league or that has withdrawn from a league must start playing from the lowest league, or from another lower league determined by the federation. If a team is disqualified from a league due to withdrawal from the federation's main league, the men's Suomisarja league, the final tournaments of national leagues or junior national leagues, the team's club will be charged a withdrawal fee equal to the league cancellation fee. In addition, the entry fee will be charged in full. If a team cancels its participation or withdraws from a junior national league, it will not be eligible to participate in any of the federation's leagues for the current season.

Matches played by a team that has been excluded from or has withdrawn from a league will be deemed void. However, if the withdrawal or exclusion has occurred during the last three rounds of a league, the results of those matches will remain in effect.

Section 25 Match programmes and changes to match dates

The federation confirms the dates and venues of official matches. Matches must be played according to the confirmed programme.

At the request of a club, the federation may change the date of the team's league match if more than two players of the team are representing the federation elsewhere on the original match day. Only the dates of matches played in the federation's adult leagues can be changed due to representative duties in the adult national team. Moreover, only the dates of matches played in the federation's junior leagues to which the player belongs due to their age, can be changed due to representative duties in the junior national team.

At the request of a club, the federation may also change the date of a team's league match for some other special reason, in which case the club applying for the change will bear all the costs of the match in question.

The change to a match date must be requested from the federation in writing no later than 30 days before the confirmed match date or within three days of the applicant being informed of the date of the match or the players selected for the national team. The application must state the exact grounds for changing the match date, and it must be accompanied by a comment from the opposing club or an explanation of why no comment has been obtained from that club. A €34 registration fee must be paid for the application, and proof of the payment must be attached to the application.

Section 26 Playing areas, hall reservations and rinks

The playing area must be approved by the federation. The largest possible rink compliant with the rules must be used in the playing area. With the federation's permission, a match may be played in a playing area whose dimensions deviate from those specified in the Rules of the Game.

If necessary, the federation and the team responsible will organise the hall reservations, and the team responsible will organise the rinks for league tournaments. In individual matches, the home team makes the hall reservation and obtains the rink, as well as bears the costs of these.

Section 27 Appointment of the team responsible

For each tournament, the federation will appoint a team responsible. In individual matches, the home team acts as the team responsible.

4. PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Section 28 Club teams

Clubs may enter several teams in the same league. The names of the teams are separated by sequential Roman numerals. During the season, clubs may only have one team in the F-liiga men's league, F-liiga women's league, men's first division, P21 Finnish championship league and P21 first division, including the qualifiers for these leagues. During the same season, clubs may not have a team in both the F-liiga men's league and the men's first division, including the qualifiers for these leagues. During the same season, clubs may not have a team in both the P21 Finnish championship league and the P21 first division, including the qualifiers for these leagues.

The use of a team name that differs from the registered name of the club must be approved annually by the executive committee of the federation or a body appointed by it. Permission is applied for separately for each year, and always in connection with registration for the league. A registration fee of €85 must be paid for the application, and proof of payment must be attached to the application. The executive committee of the federation may order a team to play under a name other than that provided in the application if the name provided on the application differs from the registered name of the club and if permission to use a different name has not been granted after application.

A team may only participate in one league as well as the Finnish Cup.

When registering for federation competitions, the club's registered domicile on 1.5. determines the league and league level, based on the federation's regional division, for the club's team for the upcoming season.

If the club's registered domicile changes, in the next season, the club will no longer be entitled to the league positions based on the federation's regional division for the old domicile or the corresponding regional division for the new domicile. Instead, the federation will specify the league position and league level in accordance with the regional division for the new domicile.

Section 29 Transfer of league position

In connection with the main leagues, the transfer of a league position from one club to another is decided by the executive committee of the federation. In connection with other leagues, the decision is made by either the executive committee of the federation or another body designated by it. The federation, the executive committee of the federation or a body designated by it may, at their discretion, accept or reject the request for a transfer.

The transfer of a league position must be applied for in writing using the federation's transfer application form. Both clubs applying for the transfer must approve the application. The application must provide reasonable grounds for the transfer of league position and the details of the players involved. In the men's Suomisarja league, a league position transfer will not be granted to a club that already has a team in the Suomisarja league, or if the club's team in question cannot rise to a higher level at the end of the league according to section 28 of these competition rules. In the women's first division, a league position transfer will not be granted for a club that already has a team in the women's first division, or if the club's team in question cannot rise to a higher level at the end of the league season in accordance with section 28 of these competition rules.

Only registered players of the team for which the league transfer is being sought may transfer with the change of league position. The consent of the players to their transfer must be indicated in the application.

An application for a transfer to a place in the main league, the men's Suomisarja league, the men's second division, the P21 Finnish championship league or the women's first division must be submitted when registering for participation in the league. In connection with the registration, it must also be stated whether the registration will nonetheless be valid if the application for transfer of a league position is rejected.

For other league levels, transfer applications must be submitted between 1 May and 23 May. However, transfer applications for P14 and T14 and junior age groups younger than those must be submitted between 1 May and 16 June.

A registration fee of €1,100 must be paid for a position in the main league. A registration fee of €450 must be paid for other adult league position transfers and €150 for a junior league position transfer. Proof of payment of the fee must be attached to the application. The application will not be processed if it is not accompanied by proof of the registration fee's payment. The fee also covers the cost of registration for the transfer of the designated players along with the league position. For a player who has been transferred along with a league position, a new player transfer application may be submitted no earlier than 1 November.

Section 30 Registration

Clubs must submit their teams to federation competitions by the deadline specified by the federation. Registration is carried out as required by the federation in the electronic registration system on the federation's website using club codes. When registering teams for a league, the club must designate a contact person of at least 18 years of age for each team. The same person can act as a contact person for up to five teams. Each contact person must have a personal email address that is used by that person alone.

In leagues in which the league level and position are based on the team's success in competitions during the previous season, teams are registered for the league level in question. When registering, the club may, for a justified reason, apply for a league position at a lower level than what the team would be entitled to based on its success in competitions during the previous season. The federation, the executive committee of the federation or a body designated by it may either accept or reject the request at its discretion.

If the team has not been entered in a federation competition by the deadline in the manner specified by the federation, the federation has the right to exclude the team from the competition and to assign another team to the resulting vacant position. If the federation accepts a registration after the deadline, the club will be charged an increased entry fee. The executive committee of the federation separately determines the entry fees for competitions, the increases in entry fees and the due dates of entry fees.

If the club has not paid its due payments and/or fines to the federation by the due date, the federation has the right to refuse to register the club and to deny it the right to participate in the league, and to offer the resulting vacancy to another club. Continuation leagues are extensions of preliminary rounds, i.e. part of the same league. The leagues after the qualifiers and the preliminary rounds of the P21–15 and T21–16 national leagues are extensions of the same leagues.

Section 31 Cancellation of participation

If a club wishes to cancel its participation in a league, it must notify the federation of this in writing. If a team that has been entered in a federation competition cancels its participation, the federation has the right to charge it for the entry fees and cancellation fee for the entire league. Cancellation notices received by 4 pm on the Monday before the start of the league will be treated as cancellations, whereas any later notifications will be treated as withdrawals from the league.

Cancellation fees:

1. In the F-liiga and the men's first division, 4 x the entry fee, the entry fee will be charged in full
2. In the men's Suomisarja league, 2 x the entry fee, the entry fee will be charged in full
3. In the women's first division and the men's third division, a cancellation fee of €200 will be charged for cancellations by 1 June, and the entry fee will be refunded. A fee of €1,000 will be charged for cancellations between 2 June and 15 August, and the entry fee will be

charged in full. A fee of €2,000 will be charged for cancellations after 15 August, and the entry fee will be charged in full

4. In the men's second division and the P21 Finnish championship league, a fee of €1,500 will be charged for cancellations by 15 August, and the entry fee will be charged in full For cancellations after 15 August, the cancellation fee is €3,000 and the entry fee will be charged in full
5. In the junior preliminary rounds for the national leagues, Finnish championship qualifiers, Finnish championship league and first division, a fee of €2,000 will be charged for cancellations and the entry fee will be charged in full
6. For cancellation of participation in the finals of national leagues played in the form of tournaments or junior elimination rounds, a cancellation fee of €2,000 will be charged
7. For cancellations concerning junior national league (P21 and P18) qualifiers in regional leagues, a cancellation fee of €500 will be charged and the entry fee will be charged in full
8. P14–P9 and T14–T10 in junior leagues
 - For cancellations by 15 September, a cancellation fee of €170 will be charged and the entry fee will be refunded
 - For cancellations after 15 September, a cancellation fee of €170 will be charged and the entry fee will be charged in full
9. Finnish Cup
 - Cancellations by 31 July: €170, and the entry fee will be refunded
 - Cancellations after 31 July: €500, and the entry fee will be charged in full
10. Other leagues:
 - Cancellations by 31 July: €170, and the entry fee will be refunded
 - Cancellations by 31 August: €350, and the entry fee will be refunded
 - Cancellations after 31 August: €500, and the entry fee will be charged in full

5. OFFICIAL MATCH EVENTS

Section 32 General

Matches under the authority of the IFF, the federation or the region are official matches. In the event of overlaps, the order of priority of matches will be as follows:

1. IFF match/tournament
2. F-liiga
3. Men's first division
4. P21 Finnish championship and T21 Finnish championship
5. Men's Suomisarja league
6. Other junior Finnish championship leagues and first divisions played as individual matches by age group
7. Men's second division
8. Other federation tournaments and matches

The matches and tournaments organised by IFF and the federation take a higher priority than the matches and tournaments organised by clubs and other entities.

Section 33 Organisation of matches

In tournaments, the team responsible is in charge of match arrangements, whereas at individual matches, the home team is in charge of them.

The organising team must

1. Provide the federation with a confirmation of the hall reservation and time in writing, unless the hall reservation has been made by the federation
2. Provide the participating teams, in a timely manner, with information on the venue, its location and transport connections
3. Arrange the delivery of a rink and goal cages to the venue and their removal
4. Arrange the construction and dismantling of the rink
5. Keep the rink in a suitable condition for play
6. Clearly mark the goal areas, goal lines, goalkeeper areas, face-off dots, centre spot, centre line and substitution zones
7. Indicate the dressing and washing facilities for the teams with doorplates
8. Indicate the changing and washing facilities for referees
9. Clearly indicate the spectators' stands to the spectators
10. Prominently display the match schedule, match results and league status
11. Provide substitution benches with seating and rubbish bins, penalty benches with seating and officials with a table and chairs
12. Provide officials with a scoreboard, stopwatch and rulebook.
13. The area between the substitution zones is considered to be the officials' area in the match, and if the substitution benches are located on a different side of the playing area than the officials' table, an area the size of the substitution zones on both sides of the playing area will be considered the officials' area.
14. Reserve enough balls for the match or tournament
15. Provide matches with officials and bear the related expenses
16. Comply with the safety regulations of the federation in match arrangements
17. Perform any other tasks required by the federation

Section 34 Officials

For each match, the team responsible must appoint qualified officials over the age of 15, and at least one of them must have completed the federation's training for officials. The federation issues an official's licence to those who have completed the federation's training for officials.

If necessary, the referees must check the official's licences of the officials before the start of the match. A person who has been suspended may not act as an official.

There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of five officials at individual matches, and a minimum of two and a maximum of five at tournament matches. The match secretary must be marked in the match record.

A person who has not been entered in the match record may not enter the officials' area during the match.

The federation nominates a head official for each match in the F-liiga playoffs and elimination rounds. The federation nominates a head official for men's first division matches, the P21 Finnish championship leagues and T21 Finnish championship league playoffs when there are four teams remaining, and for the Finnish Cup when there are no more than four teams remaining, or at other times as the federation deems appropriate.

When the official is appointed by the federation, the home team must pay the official an official's fee in accordance with these competition rules and reimburse the official's travel expenses in accordance with the travel rules for referees. The federation will issue more detailed regulations for officials separately.

Section 35 Match line-up

The team must record the match line-up via the federation's Palvelusivusto website in accordance with the Stats Service regulations for tournament matches no later than 30 minutes before the start time of the match. In the case of individual matches, this must be done no later than two hours before the start time of the match.

The match line-up must include:

1. The officials
2. The surname and first name of each player and their respective player number
3. The team captain and goalkeepers
4. Farm players
5. Y players
6. R players

For separately determined leagues where a printed match record is used, the federation issues separate regulations and guidelines for the match line-up and its delivery.

Section 36 Match record

For official matches, the electronic match record on the federation's Palvelusivusto website must be completed. The match record must also be completed for the known parts of matches that have been withdrawn from. In addition to these rules, the match record is to be maintained in accordance with the federation's Stats Service and regulations for officials.

A player who has not been entered in the match record may not play, and a team official who has not been entered in the match record may not take part in the match activities. Only persons entered in the record are allowed on the team's substitution bench. If a team participating in a match has not had players in the match record or on the playing area in accordance with section 41 of these competition rules, the team will be deemed to have withdrawn from the match as stipulated in section 41 of these rules.

If one or both referees are absent, the absence of a referee and the name of the absent referee must be marked in the comment column of the match record. The match referee is responsible for making the entry. If both referees are absent from the match, the officials are responsible for making the necessary entries in the match record.

A referee will inspect and approve the match record. The referees are responsible for ensuring that the winner of the match or, in the event of a draw, the draw, match goals, final score and match penalties are entered correctly in the match record.

For separately determined leagues where a printed match record is used, the federation issues separate regulations and guidelines for completing and maintaining the match record.

Section 37 Team officials

Team officials, including coaches, must be at least 15 years of age. The matches of teams must be attended by a team official who has been entered in the match record and is at least 18 years of age. The coach entered in the team's match record must have a valid main-league, adult, youth or coach pass for the F-liiga, men's first division, men's Suomisarja league and men's second division, and for the P21–P11 and T21–T12 junior leagues. If the team coach does not have a valid game pass or coach pass for the leagues in question, the club may be fined.

Section 38 Equipment

Only sticks, stick parts, balls, rinks, goal cages, goalkeeper's face masks and goggles that are approved and marked by the IFF may be used in official matches.

In official matches, field players born on or after 1 January 1999 must wear goggles approved and marked by the IFF.

Section 39 Uniforms

In leagues played as individual matches, the teams' field players must wear the exact same uniform, which is distinguishable from that of the other team. In addition, in these leagues, the field players must wear knee socks. In other leagues, the uniforms must be distinguishable from those of the other team, and the players may wear ankle socks. Field players are not allowed to wear long trousers at any league level, and when shin guards are used, they must be worn under the knee socks.

If there is a risk of confusion between the uniforms of the teams, the referee has the right to require the away team to change to more distinctive uniforms. Game numbers must stand out clearly on the shirts.

Game numbers on the front of the shirt are mandatory in leagues played as individual matches. In other leagues, they are recommended.

If a player's uniform and equipment do not comply with the rules, the referee has the right to ban that player from participating in the game until changes have been made so that their uniform and equipment comply with the rules.

Section 40 Game time

Game time begins with a face-off or free shot once the referee blows the whistle. In case of ambiguity related to timekeeping during the game time, the referee of the match determines the valid game time after asking or checking the matter with the officials. This decision of the referee may not be appealed against. The game time ends when the time specified in the rules has expired.

In case of doubt regarding the end of a match, the referee of the match decides when the game time ends. This decision of the referee may be appealed against.

In the matches of official competitions, the regular game time is:

1. 3 x 20 minutes of effective game time in the main leagues and related qualifiers, in the individual matches and finals of the Finnish Cup, as well as in the men's Suomisarja league, the men's second division, the P21, P18, P16, T21 and T18 Finnish championship league, the P21, P18, P16 and T18 first division, and all the playoffs of the junior Finnish championships leagues.
2. 3 x 15 minutes of effective game time in leagues separately designated by the federation.
3. 3 x 15 minutes, of which the last three minutes of the third period are effective game time, in other leagues and qualifiers and in Finnish Cup tournament matches, unless otherwise specified by the federation.

If the winner must be decided during the match and the regular game time ends in a draw, the winner is decided by playing extra time. In that case, the match ends as soon as the first approved goal is scored. The duration of extra time is 20 minutes for matches with three 20-minute periods, and 10 minutes for other matches. If no goals are scored during the extra time, the winner will be decided through a penalty shoot-out in accordance with the league regulations for individual matches, and in the main leagues, in accordance with the league regulations for main leagues. Extra time is played either as running or effective time, depending on the regular game time played.

In the men's Suomisarja league, the men's second division, the P21, P18, P16, T21 and T18 Finnish championship leagues, the P21, P18, P16 and T18 first divisions and other separately determined leagues, extra time of five minutes will be played during the regular season if the regular game time of the match ends in a draw. In that case, the match ends as soon as the first approved goal is scored. If no goal is scored during the extra time, the winning team will be decided by a penalty shoot-out.

The length of the intermission is 12 minutes for individual matches and 2 minutes for tournament matches. In tournaments, teams do not change ends between periods.

More detailed provisions on time measurement and the start and end of game time are given in the regulations for officials.

Section 41 Withdrawal from a match

A team is considered to have withdrawn from a match if five field players and a goalkeeper dressed in accordance with the rules have not been marked in the match record before the start of the game time.

A team is considered to have withdrawn from the match if the team does not have five field players and a goalkeeper dressed in accordance with the rules, who have been marked in the match record, in the playing area before the start of the game time or, at the latest, five minutes after the confirmed official start time of the match. If the match begins late, the aforementioned five-minute period will be counted from the moment when the conditions for the start of the match are met and the referee has requested the teams to enter the playing area after the official start time of the match. (This situation is referred to as *withdrawal*).

A team is also considered to have withdrawn from the match if the club notifies the federation in advance, and by 12 noon on the weekday before the match, that its team will withdraw from the match, not attend the match at all or not have five field players and a goalkeeper dressed in accordance with the rules before five minutes have elapsed since the start time of the match and if all other necessary conditions for starting the match have been met. (Withdrawal from a match in this manner is referred to as *advance withdrawal* or *withdrawing in advance*).

The federation has a duty to provide information about advance withdrawal without delay to the referees of the match and to the opposing team, after which these parties are no longer obligated to attend the venue for the match in question.

When a club or team withdraws from a match, the opposing team will be declared winner with a score of 5–0 or some other result determined by the executive committee of the federation, or a body designated by it, that does not benefit the withdrawing team.

The withdrawing team must pay a withdrawal fee to the federation. The provisions of section 24 of these competition rules also apply to withdrawals.

In the case of advance withdrawals from leagues played in the form of tournaments, the withdrawal fee is €350 for each match that is withdrawn from, and for other withdrawals in leagues played in the form of tournaments, the fee is €400 for each match that is withdrawn from. In the case of advance withdrawals in the women's first division and men's third division, the withdrawal fee is €700 for each match that is withdrawn from, and in other cases, the fee is €800 for each match that is withdrawn from. For F juniors, the maximum withdrawal fee is €340/tournament. If a team is disqualified from a league, the team's club will be charged a withdrawal fee of €2,000 in the case of finals in national leagues played in the form of tournaments, qualifying matches or junior elimination rounds. In the case of individual matches, the withdrawal fee is €2,500 for each match that is withdrawn from, of which the withdrawing team must pay the opposing team €1,700. In addition, the withdrawing team must reimburse the referee and official expenses.

The official's fee is determined in accordance with section 61 of these rules.

The federation may, for a compelling reason, exempt the club or team from the requirement to pay the withdrawal fee in full or in part. In the case of advance withdrawals, the club or team may be released from the requirement to pay compensation if no damage or loss has been caused to the federation, or if the federation considers the withdrawal fee to be an adequate sanction and the imposition of a requirement for compensation to be unreasonable in the case in question.

Section 42 Stopping a match

The referee is obliged to stop the match if the match cannot, in their opinion, be continued in accordance with the rules. If the match is stopped, the referee must record provide the match record with the reason why they think that the conditions for continuing the match are not met and file a referee report on the matter with the federation. In that case, the final score will be, at the federation's discretion, either the score at the time when the match was stopped or some other result determined by the federation. If necessary, the federation may order the stopped match to be continued from the situation that was in progress when match was stopped, with the same remaining game time and with the line-ups that had been marked in the match record when the match was stopped. The federation may also order the match to be played again.

In leagues played in the form of tournaments, with the exception of the P14–P9 and T14–T10 leagues, the match must be stopped if the goal difference between the teams reaches 12 goals. In the P14–P11 and T14–T12 leagues, the match will be stopped if it has been played for 30 minutes or more and the goal difference between the teams is 12 goals or more. The result of the match will be deemed to be the score at the time when the match was stopped.

6. OTHER MATCHES AND EVENTS

Section 43 Friendly matches

Clubs are free to agree on friendly matches. When the teams of the federation's member clubs play a friendly match and a referee approved by the federation acts as the referee for the match, both teams must provide the referee with a list of the team's players and officials before the start of the match. The name of the club and team playing in the friendly match and the person in charge must be entered in the player list.

A friendly match organised by a member club of the federation, the referee for which has been approved by the federation, must be played in accordance with the federation's penalty-related regulations and Rules of the Game. In such cases, the federation may exercise disciplinary authority over the players, official, club and referee who took part in the friendly match. The referee of the match and the other parties to it have the right to report on the match and related events to the federation.

Section 44 International matches

To participate in an international main league tournament, the club must apply for permission from the federation in accordance with the IFF rules.

The application must be submitted to the federation no later than three weeks before the start of the tournament. The federation must be informed in writing of participation in any other international tournament before the match event. This must be done using the form provided by the federation. The participating team must state the names of the players and officials involved in the match, the tournament, the venue and the time of the match and, if possible, the opposing team.

The federation must be informed in writing of the organisation of an international tournament before the match event takes place. This must be done using the form provided by the federation. The organiser must indicate the time, venue, participating clubs and teams for the tournament.

7. RULES APPLYING TO PLAYERS

Section 45 Game pass

Each player participating in a competition organised by the federation or the region must have a valid game pass entitling them to play in the league in question. By redeeming a game pass, the player agrees to abide by these competition rules and all the provisions and guidelines set out in them. The federation provides more detailed instructions on redeeming a game pass and game pass classifications on its website www.salibandy.fi.

Each natural person participating in the activities of the federation has the right to redeem a game pass from the federation. Game passes are redeemed by accepting the game-pass terms and conditions of the federation, paying the game pass fees confirmed by the executive committee of the federation and entering the game pass information in the federation's game pass register.

A game pass comes into force as soon as the applicable fee has been paid correctly and the information on the said pass has been registered in the federation's game pass register. Game passes are valid until 31 July 2022.

Players are obligated to keep their game pass with them at match events and present it to the referee on request. A game pass payment receipt showing the player's name and the time of payment can be used as a substitute for the game pass until the pass has been submitted to the player.

In the case of the federation's leagues (excluding the main leagues and the P14–P9 and T14–T10 leagues) the referee is obliged, at a team captain's request, to check the validity (the identity of the player and their inclusion in the match line-up) of the game pass of up to two of the team's players during the match. The request for checking the validity of the passes and the result of the check must always be marked in the match record. If a player is unable to prove their identity during the check or if they attempt to avoid the check, this will be regarded as the use of a player not marked in the match record. If the first request for an identity check is unfounded, the second request for a check will not be approved. An unfounded identity check request will be construed as unsportsmanlike conduct, punishable in accordance with the Rules of the Game.

Referees are obliged to report any irregularities they notice to the federation.

If a player participating in a match does not have a valid and paid-for game pass in the club in question and/or the right to represent the team in which the player is participating in the match, the team to which the player belongs will be treated as stipulated in section 65 of these competition rules.

Section 46 Sports insurance

All players playing in the federation's main league and all junior-age players, regardless of league level, must have valid sports insurance covering accidents in floorball and related competitive activities. At other league levels, comprehensive insurance coverage for floorball and related competitive activities is recommended.

Either an insured or uninsured game pass can be obtained from the online service of the federation. Players playing in main leagues and junior-age players can only obtain an uninsured game pass if they have a valid sports insurance equivalent to the game pass insurance.

When redeeming an uninsured game pass, junior-age players and players playing in main leagues must provide the details (insurance company and insurance number) of their personal insurance policy covering floorball and related competitive activities and undertake to ensure that the insurance cover remains valid throughout the season. The correctness of the information provided is the responsibility of the player who redeemed the game pass if the player is over the age of 18, and the responsibility of a parent or guardian if the player is under 18.

If a player who has participated in a main-league match or a junior-league match does not have a valid sports insurance covering floorball, the club to which that player's team belongs may be fined.

Section 47 Right of representation

Each club is responsible for ensuring that its players have the right of representation, and that each player can represent the club and team in question.

The right of representation requires that the player has transferred to the club and its team in accordance with the player transfer regulations set out in section 8 of these competition rules.

The player's right of representation consists of the right to represent, by participating in the match, the club and team to which the player has been transferred on the basis of a notification or application, or where the player is present for the first time after their redemption of their game pass.

Unless otherwise agreed between the federation and the IFF, a player's right of representation may be valid only in one club and team of an IFF member country at a time. A player is allowed to represent only one team in the Finnish Cup.

If a player who has participated in a match or who has been entered in the match record has not had a right of representation constituted in accordance with these competition rules, the team to which the player belongs will be treated as provided in section 65 of these competition rules.

Section 48 Right of representation of junior players born between 2001 and 2007

In addition to the provisions of section 47 regarding the player's right of representation, in the case of junior players born between 2001 and 2007, the provisions of this section and the joint-team regulations of P21–P15 and T21–T16 juniors also apply. The right of representation of D–G juniors are set out in the rules of PeliMaaailma, KisaMaaailma and KerhoMaaailma. Junior leagues and age groups are defined in section 20 of these rules. Junior players are only allowed to play in one club and one team for each age group and league level.

During the same day, a junior player may play in no more than two teams or age groups that the player has the right of junior players to represent in accordance with section 48 of these competition rules.

Girls are allowed to play on both boys' and girls' teams. When girls play on a boys' team, the age group regulations for boys will be applied in such a way that the girls are not more than one year above the age for the corresponding league for boys.

In addition to being allowed to play in their own age group, juniors born in 2007 or earlier are allowed to play in older junior age groups, in one team in each age group, and also in one adult team of their own gender for each league level.

Restrictions:

A player who has played in P21 first division qualifiers cannot be represented on any P21 Finnish championship league team before 1 December.

Playing in P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues on two different teams of a club in the same junior age group:

In the P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues, it is possible for a player to play in two different teams of the club for which they hold a game pass in the same junior age group. This is possible until 1 February. One of the teams must play in a junior national league, and the other in a regional competition league. A player is granted the right to play for a regional league team no earlier than the third day after they have played in a national league. A player is granted the right to play for a national league team the day after they have played in a regional league. A player may only play on another team in the age group after 1 February. The player will be signed to the team on which they play the first match after 1 February.

Y-notification:

In the P18–P15 and T21–T16 leagues, a club may make a written notification to the federation of the use of a player who is at most one year older than the age for the leagues in a particular junior team. Such a player is referred to as a ‘Y player’, and the notification is referred to as a ‘Y notification’. A maximum of four Y players may be designated to the same team during the same season. Of the Y players, a team may use a maximum of one goalkeeper and two field players in the same match. A player for which a Y notification has been made, is allowed to play in their club only on the junior team to which they have been designated for the same season. A Y player is also allowed to play with their club in the men’s third to sixth-division teams or in the women’s first to fourth-division teams. In the T21 league, up to four Y players may be named to a team and the team may use all of them in the same match.

Goalkeepers may play in teams of their own age group, teams above their age, and as Y players in teams one year younger than them for the whole season (including on the same day in another team or age group).

Restrictions (Y players may not be used):

-In the P18, P16, P15 and T18–T16 leagues, the club is not permitted to report an R player (i.e., a player with the right to simultaneously represent two teams) as a Y player.

-In the P18, P16, P15, T18 and T16 national leagues

-A player who has played in the F-liiga may not be named a Y player, and a Y player may not play in the F-liiga.

The Y notification must be submitted to the federation by 21 September. The Y notification must have been submitted to the federation before the player plays their first match as a Y player. A Y notification about a player who has not played in the current season can be made at any time during the season. The Y notification is season specific, and it must be made on the form provided by the federation. When a Y player is transferred through a player transfer, the Y player entitlement of that player thereby ends, at the same time and without separate notice.

Exemption procedure:

Exemptions relating to the right of representation, playing or matches may be applied for children or adolescents with special needs. An exemption application concerning the right of representation and the related reasons must be submitted to the federation by 21 September. A registration fee of €30 must be paid to the federation for the exemption application. An approved exemption is only granted for a specific season, and it must be applied for on the form provided by the federation.

Right of simultaneous representation:

A junior player born between 2001 and 2007 may simultaneously represent two clubs, i.e., play as an R player. A Y player and a farm player cannot be entitled to simultaneous representation, and the player can only have simultaneous representation for one club at a time. Simultaneous representation must be reported via the Palvelusivusto website using the form provided by the federation and in accordance with the federation's procedure. The basic details of the player and both clubs must be included in the notification. When registering a notification, the clubs must have the approval of the player or a parent or guardian in the case of an underage player. Both clubs must confirm the notification via the Palvelusivusto website.

The right of simultaneous representation can be obtained by:

1. A junior player to represent an adult team of another club that is at a different league level than the adult team of their own club. Throughout the period of validity of the right of simultaneous representation, the player may only represent the adult team for which they have been granted that right.
2. A junior player selected to represent one or more junior teams of another club if that player's club does not have a team in the federation league to which the notification of the right of simultaneous representation applies. One of the teams must play in a junior national league, and the other in a regional competition league. A player may only play under simultaneous representation in one team in each age group. A maximum of six players with a right of simultaneous representation may be nominated to the same junior team. All of these players may be entered into the same match line-up.

An R player is granted the right to play on a regional league team no earlier than the third day after they have played in a national league. An R player is granted the right to play on a national league team the day after they have played in a regional league. An R player may only play on a team in the other league after 1 February. The R player will be signed to the team on which they play their first match after 1 February.

Simultaneous representation can be announced between 6 August and 1 February. One player is allowed to have a right of simultaneous representation no more than twice during a season. A registration fee of €20 will be charged by the federation for notifications of the right of simultaneous representation, and the registrations must be submitted to the federation by 21 September. Subsequent notifications are subject to a registration fee, the amount of which depends on the league for which the notification is made.

Main leagues 120 €

Other adult leagues 65 €

P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues 45 €

Simultaneous representation may be discontinued by means of notification until 1 February. Notice of termination must be submitted on the form provided by the federation. The notification form must also include the basic details of both the player and the club in which the player had a right of representation at the time of applying for a right of simultaneous representation. The federation will charge a registration fee of €20 for termination of the right of simultaneous representation.

The right of simultaneous representation takes effect as soon as the notification has been submitted to the federation. The federation provides information on simultaneous representation rights on its website www.salibandy.fi.

The termination of the right of simultaneous representation will take effect as soon as the notification has been submitted to the federation. The federation provides information on the termination of simultaneous representation rights on its website www.salibandy.fi. When a R player is transferred through a player transfer, that player's right of simultaneous representation thereby ends at the same time and without separate notice.

If a disagreement arises during the season between the clubs about an R player being allowed to play, the position of the club in which the player would have the right of representation without the right of simultaneous representation will be followed. The right of simultaneous representation expires on 30 April. At that time, the club's rights related to the player will be reinstated for the club according to that player's permanent right of representation.

The federation has the right to revoke the right of simultaneous representation if it comes to light that the notification contains incorrect information. In addition to this, the applicable penalties imposed by the federation will be enforced. For more information on match record entries, see section 36 of these rules and the regulations for officials (ToimM).

Joint team of P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues:

The joint team of the P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues consists of players from two different clubs, and the joint team can participate in the league activities of the P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues. A joint team cannot participate in the P21 Finnish championship league or in the P21 first division.

Clubs apply for a joint team contract using a form provided by the federation, and the federation will either accept or reject the application. The application for a joint team contract for a national league must be submitted to the federation no later than 15 May, and applications for a joint team contract for a regional league must be submitted to the federation no later than 14 June. The federation will charge a registration fee of €300 for applications for joint team contracts. An approved joint team contract is valid for one league season.

More detailed provisions on the role of clubs that have joint teams and the players' right of representation are provided in the joint-team regulations for the P21–P15 and T21–T16 leagues.

Section 49 Uncertainties concerning the right of representation

Clubs and players undertake to accept that, at the written request of the club or player, the federation has the right to determine and decide in a binding manner to which club or team the player's right of representation applies under these competition rules. The federation has the right to suspend a player until the issue or ambiguity regarding the right of representation has been resolved.

A request for clarification of the right of representation must be made within one month of the approval of the player transfer. The clubs involved and the player must be given the opportunity to be heard before the matter is resolved.

Any party making a claim related to a right of representation or its transfer must prove their claim. The federation will make its decision based on the written explanations provided to it. The federation will only resolve the issue regarding the right of representation in a manner that binds the federation and the parties concerned. The federation will not settle any other dispute between the parties, and any subsequent outcome related to the dispute in question will not affect the decision of the federation regarding the right of representation or the measures taken on the basis of that decision. The parties will not be entitled to claim or receive compensation from the federation for any damage or loss they may suffer as a result of a decision made by the federation concerning a right of representation.

The federation's decision concerning the case is final and cannot be appealed. The federation will charge a fee of €50 from the participating clubs and €17 from the player in question if the parties have not reached an agreement before the decision is made and have not notified the federation in writing about this agreement. The fee must be paid before the request for clarification is made, and proof of payment must be attached to the request.

Section 50 Right to play

Each club is responsible for ensuring that the players on its teams have a right to play in matches. A player has a right to play when:

1. They have a right of representation in accordance with sections 47 and 48 of these rules
2. They have a valid game pass entitling them to play in the league in question
3. They are not prohibited from playing, competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities
4. They have been entered in the match record.

The referee has the right to request the check of the game passes and identities of one or more players before, during and after the match. If proof of identity cannot be shown immediately after the match at the latest, a referee report including the player's game pass number must be filed. The lack of a right to play must always be recorded in the match record, and a referee report on the matter must always be filed with the federation. The federation checks the validity of game passes. If a player cannot present a valid game pass during the check, their club will be fined €15 for each missing game pass.

8. PLAYER TRANSFERS

Section 51 Right to change clubs

New players are free to transfer to any club and team without restrictions.

Players other than new players may transfer to a particular club and team as provided in these rules and the player transfer regulations. The right to represent a club and a team belonging to a club can only be granted if the transfer has taken place in accordance with these rules and the player transfer regulations.

For a player transferring from one club to another club and one of its teams, a player transfer application must always be submitted to the federation in accordance with section 53 of these competition rules.

Players have the right to change club and represent a different club and team, provided that the transfer is a free transfer or that the club in which the player has the right of representation gives its written consent to the transfer.

The federation may, for a particularly compelling reason, accept the transfer of a junior player even without the consent of the old club if the player and the new club submit a well-reasoned written application to the federation. If there are particularly compelling reasons that require consideration, the reasonableness of the transfer and the perspective of both the player and the old club must be taken into account. The factors influencing reasonableness include the player's age, the actions of the parties in relation to what has been assumed or promised, the player's opportunities to participate in floorball activities, and the financial and sport-related preconditions of the old club to continue the current season.

A club that disputes the free transfer of a player may, subject to a well-reasoned written application to the federation, have the matter of a right of representation resolved by the federation in accordance with section 49 of these competition rules. A request for clarification must be made within one month of the transfer being approved. The application must be accompanied by a statement as to whether a settlement has been sought.

Section 52 Transfer period

The transfer period for the season starts on 1 June and ends on 15 January. Free transfer applications (i.e., applications for player transfers made without the consent of the old club) must be made by 30 June. For players born in 2012 and after, there is no deadline for transfer periods during the season. The transfer of a player born between 2008 and 2011 can be accepted for these leagues or age groups after the end of the transfer period if the transfer is due to a move from one locality to another. In the case of older age groups or leagues, no player transfers for the same period can be made after the end of the transfer period.

If a player has not played in a federation league during the current season, player transfers can be made in all leagues after the end of the transfer period until the end of the season.

Section 53 Transfer procedure

A player can be transferred by submitting a player transfer application to the federation via the federation's electronic player transfer system at www.salibandy.fi in accordance with separate player transfer regulations. The transfer procedure uses club IDs given to member clubs, which function as electronic signatures for approval of transfers by clubs.

When a player transfer application has been approved, the player's right to represent the new club or team takes effect three days after all the conditions in the application have been met in accordance with the transfer regulations (for example, a transfer made on 1 October takes effect on 4 October). No player transfer will take effect until 10 July. A player may no longer represent their old club or team once the transfer registration fee has been paid.

If a player has not played in a federation league during the current season, the player's right to represent a new club or team will take effect immediately when all the requirements in the application transfer regulations have been met in accordance with section 52 of these rules.

For players born in 2012 and 2013, a transfer application is only made if the player changes club during the season after redeeming their game pass.

Penalties may be imposed for providing incorrect information in a player transfer application, and the application may be rejected. A player transfer application for a junior player will be rejected if no proof of payment of training compensation has been sent to the federation. A player transfer application that is otherwise substantially incomplete or unclear may be dismissed.

The federation has the right to refuse a transfer if the player or the new club has undisputed obligations, either to the federation or another club in connection with previous transfers or a player contract, or if there is some other obstacle to the transfer in accordance with these competition rules. The federation may accept the transfer of the player conditionally.

The federation announces approved player transfers on its website (www.salibandy.fi). No separate confirmation will be sent regarding the approved transfer. If a player transfer application is rejected or dismissed by the federation or if the transfer is denied or accompanied by conditions, the club that made the application must be notified immediately. The federation will, by 11 July, provide a list of approved transfers that have been applied for without the consent of the old club. The list will be made available on the federation's website at www.salibandy.fi.

If a long-term failure or defect occurs in the federation's electronic player transfer system, a replacement system will be used for player transfers in accordance with the player transfer regulations.

Section 54 Training compensation

Training compensation is paid to the club where the player last had the right to represent a team during the previous season (this club is referred to as the ‘training club’). If the transferring player has had a game pass in the training club and has played junior matches in their training club in the federation’s competitions, the new club must pay the training club compensation for that player for the seasons in question. Seasons entitling to training compensation do not include the seasons during which the player has played in the P12–P6 or T12–T6 age groups. The obligation also applies to transfers that do not require the consent of the old club.

A club’s obligation to pay the training compensation to the training club remains in force until the end of the current season. However, a training club may not claim training compensation a second time if it has agreed to a transfer entitling it to training compensation without having claimed that compensation.

If the clubs have not agreed on a lower amount of training compensation, the amount is determined according to the number of previous seasons as follows:

Training compensation category 1

In the F-liiga men’s league

1. 2 seasons 500 €
2. 3 or more seasons 750 €

Training compensation category 2

In the F-liiga women’s league, the men’s first division, men’s Suomisarja league and P21 Finnish championship league

1. 2 seasons 380 €
2. 3 or more seasons 500 €

Training compensation category 3

Men’s second division, women’s first division, P21 first division and T21 Finnish championship

1. 2 seasons 130 €
2. 3 or more seasons 250 €

If training compensation must be paid for a player, it must be paid in full before the player plays their first match in the new club or team.

If a player transfers or plays in the middle of a season in matches belonging to a higher training compensation category than the one for which the training compensation was originally paid, the full difference between the training compensation categories must be paid to the training club before the player plays their first match at a league level belonging to a higher compensation category.

No training compensation needs to be paid if:

1. The player was born in 1999 or earlier and played in the old club
2. The player was born in 2009 or after
3. The old and the new club agree that no payment needs to be made
4. A player transfers from one club to another with a league position that is being transferred
5. The player is new or can be considered equivalent to a new player

The federation may intervene in the failure to fulfil the obligations set out in this section only if the club in whose team the player had the right of representation during the previous season or most recently notifies the federation in writing.

The notification must be made within 14 days of the date on which the non-compliance occurred or was first noticed.

The notification must provide precise details regarding both the player and the match in which that player participated. The federation will charge a fee of €50 for processing the notification, and proof of payment of the fee must be attached to the notification. The notification will not be processed if the payment has not been made by the deadline.

If, as a result of being notified in this manner, the federation finds that a club has failed to fulfil its obligations under this section of the competition rules, the infringement will result in a fine of €170 and a doubling of the amount of training compensation to be paid. In addition, the club that failed to pay the training compensation must reimburse the old club to the amount of €50.

Section 55 Registration fee

The federation will charge a registration fee of €38 for adult transfer applications and a fee of €20 for junior player transfer applications submitted to the federation by 31 August. Registration fees in accordance with section 29 of these rules will be charged in connection with the transfer of a league position. All applications submitted later than 31 August will be subject to a registration fee, the amount of which will be as follows:

Transfers between clubs:

Adults in main leagues 150 €

Adults in other adult leagues 90 €

Juniors:

Born in 2001–2007 60 €

Born in 2008–2011 25 €

Born in 2012–2015 0 €

Intra-club transfers:

Adults 55 €

Born in 2001–2007 35 €

Born in 2008–2011 12 €

Born in 2012–2015 0 €

If the transfer of a junior-age player is due to the player moving to another locality, the federation may grant an exemption from the registration fee upon application.

Section 56 Conclusion of a farm contract

The two clubs can enter into a so-called farm contract between their adult teams. A farm contract can also be an internal contract of the club.

Farm contracts are subject to approval in writing by the federation for each season separately. The application can be made by a club that is party to the farm contract. The application must reach the federation no later than 21 September. The federation will charge a registration fee of €700 for approving a farm contract, and proof of payment of the fee must be attached to the application.

When concluding men's league farm contracts, at least one of the teams must be in second-division or a higher league. When concluding women's league farm contracts, at least one of the teams must be in the F-liiga women's league or women's first-division league. The farm teams are not allowed to play at the same league level.

A team can only be party to one farm contract at a time.

Although the parties are free to agree on the duration of the farm contract, the federation can only accept a farm contract for one season at a time. The federation makes a decision on the approval of the farm contract by 21 September.

The farm contract enters into force as soon as the parties to the farm contract have been informed of the approval of the farm contract.

Section 57 Effects of a farm contract

A maximum of 12 players from the farm contract teams may be included in the farm contract, and the players may be transferred between teams until 1 February of the same season without a registration fee.

A player who is prohibited from playing, competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities in either farm league cannot be added to the farm contract during the period of the ban.

The club must notify the federation in writing whenever a player is added to a farm contract. Players cannot be removed from a farm contract during the contract period.

The right of representation of a junior farm contract player in junior matches remains in effect throughout the farm contract period in the club and team to which the right of representation applied when the player was designated to the farm contract. A player who has been granted a right of simultaneous representation may not be added to a farm contract.

If a farm player transfers to a team that is not a party to the farm contract during the farm contract period, they cannot be replaced in the farm contract with a new player, and the effects of the farm contract regarding that player will thereby lapse.

A player added to a farm contract can only play on one of the farm teams after 1 February. The player will be signed to the team on which they play the first match after 1 February.

At the end of the season, the right of representation of each designated player returns to the farm team that had that right at the beginning of the season.

A player is permitted to represent a farm team at a lower league level no earlier than the third day after they have played a match on a farm team at a higher league level (e.g., playing at a higher level on 1 October, allowed to play at a lower level on 4 October). An exception to this is a farm player who was born in 1998 or later, who is permitted to represent a farm team at a lower league level no earlier than the day after they have played a match on a farm team at a higher league level. A player is permitted to represent a farm team at a higher league level no earlier than the day after they have played a match on a farm team at a lower league level.

If farm teams participate in the Finnish Cup, farm players may only play in one of the teams in the Cup. In a Finnish Cup match, a player's right of representation must apply to the team in question on the day of the match, as stated earlier in this section.

9. REFEREE ACTIVITIES

Section 58 General

The federation annually trains, approves and categories referees and match supervisors who have the right to participate in matches that are under the authority of the federation.

In order to be approved, referees must be at least 12 years of age. The referee, match supervisor and technical supervisor must have a valid referee's or player's game pass before matches can be assigned to them.

Referees approved by the federation who are entitled to a referee's licence have the right to redeem the federation's free pass for referees for a fee of €40.

The referee is accountable for their actions to the executive committee of the federation. The referee must follow the rules, regulations and guidelines of the federation. The referee must act in accordance with generally accepted ethical principles (fairness, honesty, impartiality, independence, responsibility, openness, tolerance, equality and support for growth). The referee will not be liable for any injury, property damage or other damage suffered by a player, an official, a spectator or other participant in a match event, nor for any injury, property damage or other damage suffered by an individual, club, company, the federation, or any

other organisation as a result of the referee's actions or decisions or normal conduct of the game, or as a result of the referee's normal actions in refereeing a match. The match event-related decisions made by the referee during the match are final.

The federation approves the match supervisors and technical supervisors who have the right to observe matches that are under the authority of the federation. In the matches, the match supervisors act as representatives of the federation, referee coaches and supervisors of match-related conditions. The technical supervisors act as representatives of the federation and as supervisors of match-related conditions during matches. The match supervisor and the technical supervisor must follow the guidelines of the federation.

Section 59 Appointments

The federation appoints referees, match supervisors, technical supervisors, mentors and head officials for matches under its authority. The procedures for appointments are specified in the refereeing regulations.

Two impartial referees will be assigned to each match. Referees must be notified of the task at least seven (7) days before the match, and in the case of playoffs, qualifying matches and continuation league matches, at least two (2) days before the match.

Information about the task is considered to have been brought to the referee's attention in time when it has been released on the public information channel of the federation or an agreed partner at least seven (7) days before the match, and in the case of semifinal, qualifying and continuation league matches, at least two (2) days before the match, or when the information has been delivered within a specified period to the referee via the electronic system used for the appointment of referees.

A referee whose relationship with a participating team could jeopardise their impartiality must not be assigned to the match. The same restriction applies to any person whom the referee assigned to the match enlists as their substitute. More detailed information on disqualifying conditions regarding referees and match supervisors is given in the refereeing regulations.

If an appointed referee is prevented from attending a match, they must find a substitute for themselves. A substitute of at least the same level must be sought for a referee, and the replacement of a referee must not entail any additional costs for the federation or clubs.

If a match or matches to which a referee, match supervisor, technical supervisor, mentor or head official has been appointed is cancelled or not played for some other reason, those persons will be entitled to full compensation if the cancellation occurs within two days of the date on which the match was due to take place.

For an individual match, the use of a substitute must be authorised by the federation.

The federation will appoint match supervisors, technical supervisors, mentors and head officials for matches under the authority of the federation in accordance with these rules and as required.

Section 60 Absence of a referee

If neither of the referees appointed for the match arrives at the match venue, the available options are, in the following order:

1. A referee who is present, who has completed a refereeing course organised by the federation and has refereed in at least at the same league level will referee the match together with a colleague of their choice.
2. An official or the captain of the team responsible selects the referees, except in the case of individual matches.

If only one of the appointed referees is present, they will select as their pair a referee who has completed a refereeing course organised by the federation, or a referee who has refereed in a league of at least the same level, or, failing that, another referee who has completed a refereeing course organised by the federation.

If necessary, the referee appointed for a match may act as the sole referee for that match. The absence of a referee must always be marked in the match record.

Section 61 Fees and their determination

Match referees are entitled to a fee and reimbursement of expenses as specified by the federation in the travel rules concerning referees. The official or head official appointed by the federation is entitled to a fee and the reimbursement of expenses separately laid down by the federation in the travel rules concerning referees.

In the case of individual matches, the home team pays the fees and reimburses the expenses of both referees and pays the fees and reimburses the expenses of the official or head official who have been appointed by the federation. The exceptions to this include the main leagues, in the case of which the fees are paid and expenses reimbursed in accordance with the league regulations concerning the main leagues.

In tournament-format matches, one of the playing teams pays the referee's fee of one referee, and the other team pays the referee's fee of the other referee. In league matches played as a tournament, the federation is responsible for the referees' expenses.

If a referee acts alone in a match for which two referees had been appointed, that referee is entitled to double the referee's fee for that match. If the other team does not arrive at the venue (i.e., if they withdraw from the match), the referee is entitled to the full referee's fee for that match.

If a tournament-format match becomes an individual match, the referee's fee and the official's fee will be 1.5 times the fee of a tournament-format match.

If a referee is appointed as the sole referee for a match, the referee's fee will be 1.75 times the basic referee's fee for the league.

Fees and payment system:

Referee's fees, official's fees and expenses are paid through the federation's electronic payment system on the basis of invoicing by the referee or official. For the payment of fees and expenses, the referee or official must enter the required information in accordance with the federation's instructions into the electronic payment system and submit their tax information and other necessary information in accordance with the federation's instructions. If a referee refuses to provide their information or provides false information, they will not be paid any fees or expenses and will be deemed negligent of their duties as a referee.

In the event of a long-term (i.e., lasts for several weeks) serious fault or other defect in the electronic payment system, the referee's fees and expenses may exceptionally be paid in cash before the match by order of the federation. When a referee is paid in cash before a match, they must provide the payer with an appropriately completed receipt for the referee's fee, and the payer must provide the referee with an appropriately completed receipt indicating the withholding of tax. This procedure is only temporary, and it must be discontinued as soon as the fault in the electronic system has been rectified.

F-liiga men's league

Regular season 230 €

Quarterfinal 230 €

Semifinal and bronze match 250 €

Final 270 €

F-liiga women's league

Regular season 150 €

Quarterfinal 150 €

Semifinal and bronze match 180 €

Final 190 €

Men's first division

Regular season 165 €

Quarterfinal 165 €

Semifinal 195 €

Final 230 €

Finnish Cup

Tournaments 41 €

Men, individual matches 96 €

Men, quarterfinal and semifinal 135 €

Men, final 210 €

Men, regional final 95 €

Women, individual matches 76 €

Women, quarterfinal and semifinal 120 €

Women, final 160 €

Women's minor final 75 €

Women, regional final 75 €

Other adult leagues

Men, Suomisarja league 130 €

Men, second division 96 €

Men, third division (3 x 15 min effective) 61 €

Men, fourth, fifth and sixth division 36 €

Women, first division (3 x 15 min effective) 62 €

Women, second division (3 x 15 min effective) 54 €

Women, third and fourth division 36 €

Playoffs/qualifying matches for advancing in a league + €5/referee (task)

Junior leagues

P21 Finnish championship league (3 x 20 min effective) 96 €

P21–P15 and T21–T16 (3 x 20 min effective) 76 €

P21–P15 and T21–T16 (3 x 15 min effective) 54 €

P21–P15 and T21–T16 (3 x 15 min running) 36 €

T16 and P15 nationals 3 x 15 min (running) 45 €

P14–P9 and T14–T10 (3 x 15 min running) 26 €

P14–P9 and T14–T10 (2 x 15 min running) 20 €

Finnish championship playoffs + €5/referee (task)

Other leagues

Seniors (3 x 15 min running) 36 €

Seniors (2 x 15 min running) 28 €

Special groups (3 x 15 min running) 36 €

Special groups (2 x 15 min running) 28 €

Match supervisor

Main league final match 100 €

Main league semi-final and bronze match 90 €

Main league individual match 80 €

Other individual match 70 €

Tournament-format match (3 x 15 min effective) 50 €

Tournament-format match (3 x 15 min running) 40 €

Tournament-format match (2 x 15 min) 20 €

Finnish Cup final match 100 €

Technical supervisor

F-liiga men's league 50 €

Mentor referee

Mentoring match 10 €

Head officials

Head official's fee (3 x 20 min) 44 €

Head official's fee (3 x 15 min) 36 €

Referees' weekday supplement

Weekday supplement (added to the fee and paid only once for each match) €20/€40

Payment of the weekday supplement requires that

1. The total time spent by the referee on matches and travel on weekdays (Mon–Fri) exceeds 6/10 hours, and the distance between the referee's home and the venue is at least 50/100 km. For a weekday supplement of €40, both conditions (10 hours and 100 km) must be met, *or*
2. a) If the referee returns home from the match venue on a weekday (Mon–Fri, not public holidays) between 2 am and 9 am and the distance between their home and the venue is at least 50 km, they are entitled to a weekday supplement of €20.
b) If the referee returns home from the match venue on a weekday (Mon–Fri, not public holidays) between 9 am and 12 noon and the distance between their home and the venue is at least 100 km, they are entitled to a weekday supplement of €40.

10. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, OFFENCES AND PROTESTS***Section 62 Discipline and violations***

The federation may impose a penalty on anyone who, either intentionally or negligently:

1. Violates the IFF rules, these competition rules or other rules of the federation, the rules of the league organiser, or any regulations, guidelines or decisions issued under the aforementioned rules, or rules related to doping.
2. Misleads or attempts to mislead public authorities, the IFF, the federation or bodies appointed by them.
3. Behaves dangerously, inappropriately or in an unsportsmanlike, racist or illegal manner during a competition or related training, outside the actual match event, in response to decisions made about the competition or otherwise in activities organised by the federation or one of its members or engages in sexual harassment or other gender-related abuse in activities organised by the federation or one of its members.
4. Violates the physical integrity of the referees, threatens the referees or behaves in a threatening manner towards the referees during a competition or related training, outside the actual match event or in response to decisions made about the competition. The severity of a penalty is increased when the act has been directed at a referee.
5. Fails to provide the authorities with the required reports or fails to fulfil its obligations related to the taxation of operations and an athlete or the insurance of an athlete.
6. Violates their contract with the federation.

Section 63 General provisions on penalties

A fine can only be imposed on a club. If the fine is not paid within one month of the date of notification, the club may be barred from competitive activities.

The federation may order the offending club or team to pay compensation for any financial losses they have caused. Suspension includes a ban on participating in the match event as the team's player or official.

A suspension must be carried out in the competition and league in which the offence was committed.

During a match event, a suspended person may not enter the areas reserved for teams, match officials or referees. This means that a suspended person may only enter the areas intended for the spectators. A player or an official may not act as an official in a match from which they are suspended.

The ban on acting as an official includes the ban on participating in a match event as a representative or an official of a club or team, as well as the ban on acting as a referee or an official in matches under the authority of the federation or the IFF. A person banned from acting as an official is may not enter the areas reserved for teams, match officials or referees during a match event. This means that a suspended person may only enter the areas intended for the spectators.

Suspension includes both a ban on playing and acting as an official. The suspension will remain in force in all leagues until the penalty has been enforced.

In addition to the prohibition on competing, **the prohibition on engaging in other floorball-related activities** also includes a ban on representing one of the federation's member clubs and their teams, participating in competitions organised by the club, coaching for a salary or other compensation, coaching players with a game pass and acting in an administrative capacity in a club under the authority of the federation.

A lifetime prohibition on competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities or on playing and acting as an official may only be imposed for compelling reasons or due to a violation involving bribery.

The responsibility for supervision of compliance with the ban on playing and acting as an official, as well as with the prohibition on competing and engaging in other floorball-related activities, lies with the punished team. Violation of the rule will result in additional penalties.

A ban on appointment as a referee includes a ban on participating in match events that are under the authority of the federation or the IFF as a referee or match supervisor.

Section 64 Disciplinary sanctions and penalties

The revocation of a person's membership is provided for in section 19 of the statutes of the federation. Other types of penalties include:

1. Warning
2. Fine
3. Ban on playing for a specified number of matches or a specific period
4. Temporary or lifetime ban on acting as an official
5. Suspension for a fixed period or for life
6. Penalties for negligence on the part of the team responsible
7. Penalties for negligence on the part of a referee
8. Suspension of refereeing rights for a specified period
9. Ban on appointment as a referee for a specific period
10. Downgrading of a referee's classification
11. Invalidation of a match result and possible replay of the match
12. Declaration of a team's loss with a match result determined by the federation that does not benefit the offending team
13. Deduction of points from a team
14. Exclusion of a team from a competition
15. Loss of league position
16. Prohibition on engaging in other floorball-related activities for a specified period or for life

In the event that a referee is absent, an obligation is imposed in accordance with section 36 of these competition rules on the referee who is present to enter the absent referee's absence in the match record. Failure to do so will always result in the imposition of a penalty on the referee in question for the neglect of their duties. Failure to comply with the referee's obligations regarding the inspection of the match record stipulated in section 36 and the absence of the referee's game pass may result in a penalty for neglect of the referee's duties and/or other sanctions to be specified by the federation. No explanation is requested separately concerning the absence.

The penalty for negligence on the part of a referee is €50. The federation may, upon written request, exempt a referee from paying a penalty for negligence if there is a particularly compelling reason for doing so.

If match penalty 3 (PR3) is imposed on a player or team official according to the Rules of the Game, their club will automatically be fined €100.

The federation has the right to overturn the imposed match penalty (PR2 or PR3) if the penalty is the result of a rule violation by the referee.

Section 65 Players without the right of representation or the right to play

A team that has used a player who has no right of representation or right to play in a match will be deemed to have lost the match in which the player in question has played or has been marked in the match record.

In such a case, the team in question must be deemed to have lost the match with a score of 5–0 or some other result determined by the federation that does not benefit the team that has used the player who has no right of representation or right to play. In addition, the team's club will be fined. If both teams have used players in a match who did not have the required right of representation or the right to play, the final score of the match will be set to 0–0, and neither team will receive points for the match.

The final score of the match may only be changed in accordance with the provisions of this section if the violation has come to light within 45 days of the match or within three working days of the end of the regular season, preliminary round or continuation league, or the junior national qualifying league. In the case of individual playoff matches, qualifying matches or Finnish Cup matches, the final score of the match may only be changed in accordance with the provisions of this section if the violation has come to light within three working days of the match.

Section 66 Commencement and handling of disciplinary matters

Disciplinary proceedings may be instituted on the basis of a referee report, a protest, a report of a violation or any other valid reason that has been brought to the attention of the federation.

The penalty provisions of the regulations of each respective league will be followed in addition to these regulations.

Documents submitted to the incorrect body must be forwarded by that body to the competent body without delay.

Following the referee report or report of a violation, a response must be sought without delay from the party concerned. In addition, where appropriate, a statement is to be sought from others whom the federation deems necessary to be heard.

In connection with a request for a response and statement from the party concerned, that party must be informed of when, within what period of time and in what manner the response is to be submitted. The response and the statement must be submitted by the deadline. If submitted late, the matter may be settled without taking them into account. A reasonable time must be allowed for the response and the statement to be made relative to the circumstances and the urgency of the matter. The response and statement may be requested through the club concerned. However, no reply or statement will be sought in disciplinary proceedings handled by an official belonging to the federation, except when the case has been referred to a disciplinary body for processing.

The refereeing committee must be asked for a statement before a referee's classification can be downgraded.

In addition, the disciplinary body may, at its discretion, obtain any additional information necessary for the handling of the disciplinary matter or that is otherwise necessary.

The disciplinary body must keep a list of violation reports; protests; requests for responses, statements and opinions; penalties and appeals, as well as the decisions taken on the basis of these. Suspected doping violations are handled by the anti-doping disciplinary board of FINCIS. The decisions of the anti-doping disciplinary board and the related consequences will be implemented by the executive committee of the federation as such, without further action.

An official appointed by the federation will deal with disciplinary matters in the following cases:

1. Withdrawals and exclusions from leagues
2. Violations other than those referred to in section 65 of these competition rules in response to a protest
3. Reports concerning match penalty 3 (PR 3) stipulated in the Rules of the Game when, in addition to the one-match ban automatically following match penalty 3 (PR 3) stipulated in the Rules of the Game, there is no reason to impose a suspension from more than two matches or a ban on competing or playing for a maximum of one month.
4. Other referee reports that do not give rise to penalties or for which there is no reason to impose a suspension from more than three matches, a temporary ban on competing or playing for one month or a temporary ban on refereeing and a fine of up to €100.
5. Fines of up to €100 for negligence on the part of the team responsible.
6. Fines for negligence on the part of referees.
7. Ban on appointment as a referee for a specific period.

An official of the federation will inform the disciplinary body of any disciplinary matters dealt with by the federation. The disciplinary body will issue more detailed instructions on the disciplinary matters to be handled by officials. The disciplinary body may, at its discretion, also take up the aforementioned disciplinary matter.

Section 67 Referee report and match supervisor report

Referee report:

The referee report is a statement and explanation provided to the federation by a referee alone, or by the referees of the match together or separately, and a description of the matters relating to the match or match event.

The report must be drawn up impartially and truthfully, and it must give an account of and describe the matter and events as observed and understood by the referee at the time of the event. In addition to the account, the report must state the reason (e.g., a violation of the rules) and justification. However, the report must not include any irrelevant details or take any position on possible disciplinary measures. In any case, the referee must not make any attempt in the report to guide the decision-making of the federation or disciplinary body in the matter.

Referees have a duty to draw up a referee report in the cases specified in these competition rules and the league regulations as well as in other regulations and guidelines of the federation. The referee must also draw up a referee report on any other non-minor deficiencies, offences or other actions contrary to the rules related to the match or match event which come to the attention of the referee, and in cases where the referee deems it necessary or considers appropriate to be investigated in disciplinary proceedings.

The report must be submitted to the federation no later than the first working day following the match. The federation has the exclusive right of action as the proper party in matters brought to the attention of the federation through a referee report. More detailed instructions on preparing a referee report are given in the training materials for referees.

Match supervisor's report:

Match supervisors have a duty to compile a match supervisor's report similarly to the referee report.

The match supervisor's report must be drawn up in accordance with the same rules and within the same time limits as the referee report. More detailed instructions on the preparation of match supervisor's reports are given in the training materials for match supervisors.

Section 68 Report of a violation

A request for disciplinary action must be made to the federation, or an official or a disciplinary body designated by it, in the case of a match-related matter that concerns a player, referee, match supervisor or other party to the match who considers that their rights have been infringed in the match. The exceptions to this are the matters specified in sections 50 and 65 of these competition rules.

A detailed report of the violation, containing the associated demands and reasoning, must be submitted to the federation no later than on the first working day after the match. The fee for processing the report is €200. Proof of payment of the fee must be attached to the report.

Referees and match supervisors are exempt from the report processing fee. If no penalty or additional penalty is imposed on the basis of a report submitted by a referee or match supervisor, a processing fee of €200 will be imposed on the referee or match supervisor in arrears unless new information that substantially affects the justifications for the report becomes available during the time when the report is being processed.

If the disciplinary body deems the reported violation to have taken place and decides on that basis to impose a penalty on the offender who is the subject of the report, the processing fee will be refunded. The report or the requirements set out in it will not be in any way binding on the federation or disciplinary body in deciding on the matter. The final score of a match cannot be changed on the basis of this section of these competition rules.

Section 69 Decisions in disciplinary matters and matters regarding protests

A disciplinary body or an official must send the final decision taken by them in the case and the decision taken by them in the case of a protest against the party concerned by email or post within five working days of the decision being taken.

The decision must state how the dissatisfied party must proceed in making an appeal. A decision concerning a player may be communicated through the player's club. A decision to be submitted to a member association of the federation may be sent to the address indicated by the club or to the chairperson or secretary of the member association.

Section 70 Appeals

The penalised party, the person who reported the violation in accordance with section 68 of these rules, and the parties to the protest are entitled to appeal against the decision of the disciplinary body appointed by the federation. The appeal can be made to the board of appeal appointed by the general assembly of the federation.

The executive committee of the federation decides on appeals against decisions made in accordance with the competition rules that concern matters other than disciplinary matters or protests. Appeals to the executive committee of the federation are subject to the appeal procedure under this section of the competition rules.

An appeal always requires permission for further handling of the case when seeking to overturn a decision through appeal.

Authorisation for further handling will be granted if: there is reason to suspect the correctness of the decision; it is not possible to assess the correctness of the decision without granting authorisation for further handling of the case; the granting of authorisation is important for the application of the case to other similar cases and there is some other compelling reason for granting such authorisation.

Authorisation for further handling of a case will not be granted under the first condition listed above if the appeal is brought solely on the ground that the evidence presented has been incorrectly assessed, and there are no reasonable grounds for disputing the decision.

If no authorisation for further handling of the case is granted, the solution already arrived at will remain in force.

An application for further handling of the case and the accompanying reasons depending on the nature of the case in question must be submitted in writing to the board of appeal or the executive committee of the federation within one week of the date of notification. If the appellant has been unable to comply with the time limit for a valid reason, the board of appeal or the executive committee of the federation may grant a new time limit of up to one week for an application for further handling of the case and appeal against the decision on the basis of a request made without delay after the impediment has ceased to exist.

The federation charges a fee of €50 for appeals. Proof of payment of the fee must be attached to the appeal documents. The application will not be processed if the proof of payment of the processing fee is not attached to the application. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is successful. The decision of the board of appeal or the executive committee of the federation is final.

The board of appeal or the executive committee of the federation will make its decisions on the basis of written material, including audio and video recordings and telephone and video communications.

The matter of dismissal of a member is handled by the executive committee of the federation. However, in matters concerning the dismissal of a member, an appeal may be made in accordance with section 19 of the federation's statutes at the next meeting of the council of the federation. The party concerned must be informed of the decision given on the appeal in the manner stated above.

Section 71 Enforcement and lapses

The penalty imposed and any other decision made by the federation will be enforceable notwithstanding any appeal. However, the board of appeal of the federation may order the enforcement of a penalty to be suspended before the case is decided. The implementation of other decisions is decided by the executive committee of the federation.

The penalty must be enforced without delay after notification of it has been given. Bans on competing and suspensions must be enforced immediately from the first match following the notification.

A temporary ban on competing, playing or acting as an official is valid at all league levels and in all competitions at the same time.

A numerical ban on competing or suspension must be enforced in the competition and league in which the offence was committed, and it is valid in the competitions and leagues for which the penalty was imposed.

If a penalty includes a prohibition on competing or engaging in other floorball-related activities or a ban on playing or acting as an official and at least two years have elapsed since the imposition of the ban, the executive committee of the federation may, for a particularly compelling reason, order the penalty to lapse on application.

Section 72 Protests

A protest is a statement made by a party to the match and a demand for the invalidation or alteration of the match result due to a violation, non-compliance or incorrect application concerning a match or match conditions or the right of representation or right to play when it has, or may have, affected the match and its final score. According to section 58 of these competition rules, the decisions made by the referee in a match are final. As a general rule, protests to such decisions cannot lead to a rematch. However, the federation may order a rematch if the referee has made a decision in the match that violated the rules.

Only the parties to the match have the right to protest. The protest must be addressed to the federation.

A protest concerning the circumstances of the match must be communicated to the referee and the officials within five minutes of the final whistle of the match being blown. The referee must mark the protest in the match record before it can be approved. If the entry is missing, the protest will not be processed.

A protest concerning the circumstances must be communicated to the referee and the officials and marked in the match record before the match record is approved. The protesting party must pay the protest fee to the federation no later than on the first working day following the entry of the protest in the match record. Such a payment must be made whenever a protest is marked in the match record. The protest fee is €170, and it will be refunded if the protest is approved. The protest fee may also be refunded for a justified reason when the protest is rejected or left unaddressed. The protest will not be addressed if the protest fee has not been paid by the deadline.

A protest entered in the match record and the reasons for it must be submitted in writing to the federation no later than at 4 pm on the third working day after the match, and they must be accompanied by proof of payment of the protest fee. Protests submitted late will not be addressed.

A protest concerning the right of representation or the right to play need not be marked in the match record, but it must be submitted to the federation no later than 4 pm on the fifth working day after the match. The protest must be accompanied by proof of payment of the protest fee. The protest will not be addressed if the protest fee has not been paid by the deadline.

The handling of a protest will also follow the procedures for the handling of disciplinary cases.

Section 73 Decisions on protests

The final score of the match will stand until the protest has been addressed and the matter is resolved.

The federation may order a replay of the match due to the protest.

The federation may also declare the protesting team to be the winner, in which case the final score will be 5–0 or some other result determined by the federation that does not benefit the opposing team.

If the winning team's protest is approved, the final score of the match will stand, unless the federation decides on another final score that is more favourable to the team that filed the protest.

The federation may also approve the protest of the losing team or the team that played to a draw while at the same time allowing the final score to stand.

If a protest is filed that a team has used a player who did not have the right of representation or the right to play at the time of the match or that an official who was subject to a ban on competing participated in the match, the team in question must be declared to have lost the match.

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