



## INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

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### Appendix 24

#### IFF ParaFloorball Function status report December 2013

The cooperation between the different international ParaFloorball organisations has continued to increase and below the latest activities are described.

The IFF now cooperates with three international organisations that have floorball on their program, the International Committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey (ICEWH) and Special Olympics (SO) and the Manual Wheelchair Floorball organisation.

The most official cooperation is currently with the Special Olympics and in December 2011 the IFF and SO signed a Proclamation.

#### Special Olympics

Special Olympics was founded in USA in 1968 and the SO Head office in Washington and the SO Europe central office is in Dublin. Special Olympics is recognised by the IOC and is the largest sports organisation for persons with Intellectual Disability, including 4,2 million athletes from 183 countries.

Special Olympics and Paralympics are two separate organisations, both approved by the IOC. Special Olympics does not focus only on the competitions whereas the Paralympics focusing more on the elite. The Special Olympics do want to give everyone an opportunity to participate and also supports the intellectually disabled athletes in other ways.

Special Olympics activities take place in more than 180 countries and the official status of SO floorball is a win-win situation. Special Olympics will have a new team sport that is very well suited for intellectually disabled players and floorball gaining a foothold in many new countries that might not hear talk of the sport before.

#### Status update:

- Continuous communication with the Special Olympics organisations, SOEE and SOI, who are adding floorball to their programs, materials etc. The IFF will assist in providing information and education materials that can be adapted for the SO Floorball use.
- SO Floorball is currently being played with 3 players and goalies in the World Games, but the 5 vs 5 version is also played in some countries.
- SO Floorball was a demonstration sport in SO World Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea 2013, which was a successful event and now the aim is to become an official sport.
- SO demonstration matches have been played in all major IFF events (WFC 2010, WFC 2011, WFC 2012, CC 2013 and WFC 2013).
- The SOI Medical Advisory Committee has evaluated the safety of floorball and approved floorball as sport to be recommended as an official SO sport in November 2013
- The SOI Sports Rules Advisory Committee will decide about the final approval for SO Floorball to become an official sport in January 2014. If approved SO floorball is included as the 2<sup>nd</sup> team sport in the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.



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- Many IFF MAs have started to cooperate with the national SO organisation (France, Israel, Ireland, Jamaica). SO Ireland has for example bought two rinks from Swerink.
- IFF is continuously updating the SO information added to the IFF channels: IFF ParaFloorball web page, own SO Floorball web page and facebook, Youtube and flickr.

### **SO World Games**

The 1SO World Winter Games is a multi-sport event for athletes with intellectual disability and take place every four years (altering with SO Summer Games). In addition to floorball the SO athletes compete in eight sports including Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding, Snow Shoeing and Speed Skating.

### **International Committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey**

ICEWH is a sport section of the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation, IWAS, and is the International head committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey (EWH). Electric wheelchair floorball is also known as EI – hockey. This sport is suitable for severely handicapped players, some of which use a normal floorball sticks and the other a so-called T- sticks on the front of the wheelchair. The sport is currently played in 15 countries.

This sport was already developed in the 1970s, when floorball was not yet an established international sport, so the sport was called hockey and in some countries the sport cooperates with field hockey. More floorball regulations have constantly been added to the ICEWH regulations and the sport is played with floorball equipment.

### **Status update:**

- The sport is currently played in 15 countries and is close to reaching the IPC criteria of 18 countries on 3 continents.
- There is a challenge get Canada and USA to enter the events, as they are using more ice hockey-like rules. Also for example Norway and Sweden play with own rules and have not yet played in ICEWH events.
- ICEWH classification criteria that meet the IPC requirements have been launched and the criteria will for the first time be used in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Championships played in Germany, August 4-11. 2014.
- EWH Floorball exhibition matches have continuously been played in the IFF events (WFC 2011, WFC 2012 and WFC 2103)
- There is still not an official partnership agreement between the IFF and ICEWH, the last meeting was held at the WFC 2012 and there is continuous cooperation. A challenge for this sport has been to determine which sport to identify and cooperate with, floorball or field hockey
- More ICEWH and EWH information and promotion has been added to the different IFF channels: IFF ParaFloorball web site, own ICEWH web site, flickr, facebook and YouTube.

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