



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

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APPENDIX 29

IFF ParaFloorball status report May 2014

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. In 2014 IFF received the information that Special Olympics Floorball is recognised as an official Special Olympics sport.

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.

So Floorball countries (at least 24 official): Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Gibraltar, Hungary, Ireland, (Isle of Man), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, (Maryland), Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.

More potential countries participated at floorball demonstrations: Australia, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Timor Leste, Thailand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela.

Status update:

- SO Floorball was recognised as the 8th official Special Olympics Winter World Games sport. SO Floorball will be played as an Official sport in the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Graz and Schladming in Styria, Austria.
- The biggest SO Floorball tournament (16 countries) was played in Liechtenstein & Austria and a SO Floorball seminar with 18 participants was held in connection with the tournament in cooperation with IFF & SO Europe.



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- MFA held a floorball demo at the Special Olympics Asia & Pacific Conference with 24 countries taking part.
- SO demonstration matches have been played in all major IFF events (WFC 2010, WFC 2011, WFC 2012, CC 2013 and WFC 2013). The next step is to organise a demo at the WFC 2014.

SO World Games

The SO 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 seven 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.

The 3rd World Championship is played in Munich, Germany, August 4-11 with eight teams in two groups.

Status update:

- The sport is played in at least 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 3rd World Championships played in Germany, 2014. IFF has received an invitation to attend the event.
- 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.

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The International Committee was established in 2012 and after that the sport has evolved rapidly and is currently played in seven countries. The sport has been played twice in the Para Games Breda, 2011 (4 teams) and 2013 (7 teams), a multisport event approved by IPC.

Status update:

- ICWF have a new project manager: Henriette van Aalderen (henriette.van.aalderen(at)knhb.nl.)
- The club tournament, Prague Wheel Open, will be played in August 2014
- Seven teams played in the 2013 edition of the Paragames Breda and the sport will also enter this event in 2015
- The aim is to organise the first World Championships in 2014 in Czech Republic
- ICWF also aims to become a member of IWAS in 2014-2015
- ICWF needs a classification system and common rules
- Demonstration matches have been played in IFF Events (WFC 2013) and the plan is to have matches in WFC 2014.