

SEA Games 2015 Floorball Tournament, ITE Collage Central, in Singapore, 10.-14.6.2015

Participants: Tomas Eriksson, IFF President
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Stefan Kratz, IFF Competition Manager and SEA Games Technical Delegate

Report on present issues

1. SEA Games 2015 Floorball in Singapore

Floorball was one of the 36 Official Sports on the program of the 28th SEA Games, organised from the 5th to the 16th of June. Four teams participated in the Men's tournament Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. In the Women's tournament the Philippines didn't get the authorisation from their NOC and did therefore not participate. Indonesian Floorball did not get final approval by KOI and Sport Ministry, even though the Sports Minister of Singapore Lawrence Wong did ask for this, and SINGSOC was carrying with Singapore Floorball all the participation costs.

The tournament was organised in the ITE Collage Central venue, after the late breakdown of the Air-condition-system in the original bigger venue ITE East. The new venue could host a total maximum of 1.200 spectators.

All games was played in front of a really good crowd. The security officers restricted the spectator number to 1.200 spectators, since there had been around 1.700 in the Singapore games. The venue manager made a estimation of over 2.000 spectators in the Men's Final. The tournament organisation worked very well, after a number of small issues before the start of the tournament, mainly due to the change of venue. The main issues was with the SEA Games statistics program and the match clock, partly due to the fact that the company running it didn't know Floorball rules. Another issue was that the venue was not along a way from the MRT, so it was hard for the spectators to reach the venue. The SEA Games didn't stream the matches or have them included in their daily TV high-lights, partly apparently to the change of venue, as there was no direct data-connection to the information centre.

The Event served as a very good promotion for Floorball in the region, as there was a full spectator stands and a queue outside, when the following VIP's visited the tournament: the Singapore Sports Minister, Mr Lawrence Wong, Singapore NOC President, Mr. Tan Chuan-Jin, Singapore Minister of Interior, Singapore Minister of Transportation, Singapore Minister of Defence, Singapore Sport Council CEO and a lot of SEA Games NOC representatives.

2. Meeting with Singapore NOC CEO Mr. Chris Chan

Mr. Chan expressed gratitude for the efforts IFF has taken in supporting the Floorball Event at the SEA Games. Mr. Chan felt that also Mr. Chaiyapak has been pushing a lot for the tournament and supported it by in-rolling Thailand. The fact that Indonesia didn't participate was a result of internal SEA Games politics, not a standpoint against Floorball, as such.

It was quite surprising that Myanmar didn't participate, as they had the sport included in 2013, which was a result of having Singapore agreeing to some arrangements.

In order to be able to get into the SEA Games 2017 in KL/Malaysia, Mr. Chan feels that IFF needs to develop coaches and build teams in the countries.

- Floorball is not on the list of provisional sports at the moment, which was confirmed by Malaysian NOC sec.gen Ms. Beng Choo Low
- The decision for the sports program for SEA Games 2017 will be decided in September 2016, so we have over a year to act.
- The issue in Malaysia is that the MFF has not according to Ms. Beng Choo Low applied for affiliation of the NOC in accordance with the rules.
 - o MFF to re-apply to have all in order, to continue discussions with OCM.
- Mr. Chan proposed that IFF should discuss the issues with Ms. Beng Choo Low and Mr.Sieh Kok Chi, secretary general of Olympic Council of Malaysia and Council member of the SEAGFC, at a later stage.

IFF informed of the planned seminar in Laos and Mr. Chan proposed we should approach also Vietnam to spread the sport. The need for a local league in Singapore was also discussed

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3. *Meeting with Kuhn Siriwat Chaiyapak, Thailand Floorball*

Mr. Siriwat gave a number of explanations for the reasons behind the discussions on the teams participating in the SEA Games and the coming games in Malaysia 2017 and as it now seems in the Philippines in 2019.

In accordance to the SEA Games statutes the LOC/Malaysia can choose the sports they want to have. As Ms. Beng Choo Low has stressed that the problems are that the Malaysian FF has not fulfilled the rules for the NOC affiliation criteria's and therefore needs to re-apply for membership.

Ms. Beng Choo Low saw with their own eyes how good the sport looks and it was not actually bad that Malaysia lost to Singapore, as it would make it important to be able to challenge them again We should use this to our favour.

Presently the KL SEA Games have four hockey disciplines, outdoor and indoor hockey and ice hockey, it would give added value to include Floorball. The possible countries are SIN, MAL, PHI, THL and INA.

Mr. Siriwat can help in Cambodia and he advised us to invite Mr. Kasem from Laos NOC to be invited to the Laos seminar in August.

Mr. Siriwat felt that if we together can find the right business men we can through the hockey introduce the sport in the region, quite quickly

Mr. Siriwat stressed that it would be very important to move ahead with the discussions with Turkmenistan for the Asia Indoor Games, as this is highly important for Floorball – IFF to contact Iran again.

4. *Meeting with Ms. Beng Choo Low, Malaysia NOC*

Ms. Beng Choo Low was in the beginning very critical towards the sport and stressed first that MFF had not applied for Malaysian NOC affiliation. During the discussion it turned to not having fulfilled the criteria's. When we confronted her that the assistant NOC secretary general Mr. Fong, had informed the MFF that the NOC is not accepting new members, the problem was that they had not used the required format and materials. The problem seems to be that, regardless if the application was correctly handled or not, that Malaysian NOC is trying to find a way around, as they find the sport to be Singaporean. The conclusion is that the MFF needs to send in the papers again, re-apply, with a copy to IFF.

It somehow felt that she tried to find excuses as then the sport had a too large number of athletes and she went talking about a demonstration tournament or something similar.

5. *Meeting with Malaysian Floorball Federation, President Mr. Rizal and Mr. Filip Dahlgren*

A general discussion was held on the present situation of the application of the MFF for affiliation in the OCM (Malaysian NOC). The problem is that the Malaysian NOC is not in favour of Floorball.

The requirements for affiliation is, :

- Recognition of the provisional organisations, MFF has 7 provinces out of 14 already approved by province associations MOC.
- Need to run a national league, which MFF is doing
- Need to run a national school tournament, MFF is running regional, but not national

The Next Steps are:

- MFF to send in a new application for OCM with copy to IFF
- MFF try to lobby towards the OCM
- IFF to talk to Mr. Siriwat and Mr. Paul-Erik Höyer, in order to get support.
- A skype meeting in September with MFF to discuss the situation

Malaysia is looking into the participation in the WFC2016 qualifications and the possibility of acting as an organiser in 2016 or 2017.

Upcoming meetings and issues

- MFF to re-apply for the OCM affiliation
- Skype meeting between IFF and MFF in September
- Ask Mr. Siriwat and Mr. Chan for persons to invite for the Floorball seminar in Laos
- Contact Mr. Paul-Erik Höyer and ask him to assist

Issues that need to be discussed or decided upon or taken action upon

- IFF to start planning for the development of the sport in Cambodia and Vietnam
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New ideas, etc...