

**Americas Development and WFCQ Americas
Colorado Springs, USA, 08.-13.02.2016**

Participants: Veli Halonen, IFF
John Liljelund, IFF

**Report on
present issues**

1. General

The Americas WFCQ was organised by the USFbA at the US Olympic Training Centre in Colorado Springs, in the training venue of the basketball. The venue and services were exquisite with everything with-in a walking distance for both teams, referees and the IFF. In connection to the WFCQ the LOC also organised the Rocky Mountains Floorball Cup, which had teams from San Francisco, Texas, Denver, Colorado Springs and some combined teams. The LOC performed an excellent job and the teams were happy.

In the WFCQ everything worked very well and the main organiser Mr. Anders Buvarp made an excellent job together with the USFbA leadership. Jamaica only participated with some six field players and a goalie, as there had been some issues on Jamaica with players from the Special Olympics club, which in the end didn't participate. USA and Canada qualified for the WFC.

The rink and goals sent by IFF had got caught in the US Customs, as it was difficult for the customs to define what products the Floorball rink is!
The event was therefore played in an Variform Nexxt rink, which unfortunately was unmarked.

The LOC was very pleased with everything related to the organisation and started to ask about the possibilities to organise a U19 WFC in Colorado Springs in the future, for example the U19 WFC 2019. Mr. Buvarp was asked to contact Mr. Kratz in this question.

2. Floorball Colombia (Mr. José Fernando Gomez Rueda)

Mr. Rueda visited the WFCQ and participated in the coaching seminar. After the initial seminar organised by Mr. Per Emilion last year the club in Santander have continued playing.

In order to be able to form a regional organisation you need two-three clubs. There are a total of 33 regions in Colombia. To form a national federation you need three accredited regional federations.

Based on the seminar there are three regions, where there are activities in three regions. In Sanander (José Gomez Rueda) the club is now seeking the official registration of the regional sports department. It has been difficult to get this, as Floorball is a new sport in Colombia. The expectation is to have an approved regional federation by the end of the year.

Mr. Gomez Rueda will support the organisation and registration in the regions of Guajira (North) and North Santander. In addition there are contacts to Bogota. The estimation is that the National federation could be registered in the next 12-18 months.
It was agreed that as soon as the first regional federation is approved, they could apply for IFF membership as Floorball Colombia, by the end of the year.

Report on present issues (cont.)

A possible Development Seminar and meetings with the NOC could be held in October/November in Colombia.

Colombia needs more Floorball materials and IFF will at least provide more Floorball materials to Mr. Rueda for example during the Rio Olympics, where he will participate as a volunteer.

It was discussed that Mr. Rueda could act as some kind of a coordinator for spreading the sport in Central and South America.

3. *Jamaica Floorball Association (Mr. Jason Daye)*

The development of the JFA has been seriously affected by the fact that it has been difficult to commit volunteers to work for the Association. It has been difficult to find the right persons. All wants to get a lot from the Association, but is not willing to invest in it.

Presently there are two strong clubs, the Maroons and the Kingston Patriots and then a number of maybe 5-6 more loosely organised clubs/groups. There is a problem when all wants to play, but there is no continuation and no volunteers. The venues are still an issue, but JFA has started working with the Kingston University and may use their venue for practise.

There has been some issues with the Special Olympics Jamaica/Victor L. Brown. It is a bit unclear how the process has developed, but the issue is that there has been some problems with allowing players from the Special Olympics club to join the Jamaican national team for the WFCQ, where Jamaica played with only six field players. Apparently Mr. Brown has also used the name of the JFA when taking his club to the Canada Cup. It goes without saying that any club can't use the name of a federation, without the specific permission. IFF will follow up this issue with the JFA and Mr. Brown.

Mr. Day is to discuss a payment plan for the membership fees to the IFF with Mr. Kratz during March. As soon as the JFA can have eight working member clubs, it should be no problem to pay the IFF fees.

The preparations for the U19 WFC are proceeding well.

4. *United States Floorball Association (Mr. Calle Karlsson & Mr. David Nilsson)*

IFF thanked the USFbA and Mr. Buvarp for a well organised event in Colorado Springs. At the moment USFbA is discussing the cooperation with the North Texas Floorball Association and is considering to have a Floorball Association in each State to be a member of the USFbA.

It was agreed that Mr. David Nilsson will be in contact with the Birmingham TWG2021 organisers on a continuous basis. Apparently the preparations for the event will only start in 2017, but we need to be active already now.

There has been some issues with the Gretzky Hockey School, which could have negative effect on the sport in north America. IFF will try to discuss with Exel/Jukka Aro to clarify the situation-

5. *Venezuela Floorball Federation (Federacion Venezolana de Floorball - FVFL)*

The FVFL has started activities in Venezuela and has now contacted IFF asking for support. IFF has contacted them to start the discussions.

Mr. Rueda will also contact them to see what needs they might have.

Upcoming meetings and issues

- IFF to write to JFA and the Special Olympic Jamaica to ask about the reasons for the late withdraw of players.(PiL)
 - IFF to contact Artekno to discuss the issue with the unmarked Variform rink (PiL)
-

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

- Ask Mr. Rueda for the official contact details for Colombia to be included on the list of other countries. (VH)
 - Write a letter to the Venezuela
 - Discuss with Exel/Jaakko Aro about the Exel cooperation with Gretzky Hockey School (PiL)
 - Organise a follow-up meeting concerning the Birmingham World Games in May.
-

New ideas, etc...

-