

## Floorball Development Seminar in Douala Cameroon, 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of September 2016

### Participants:

Veli Halonen, IFF Operations Coordinator

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### Report on present issues

There were originally ten African nations registered for the seminar, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Uganda, Benin, Central Africa, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo and South Africa. Ugandan and South African representatives were not able to come due to travel problems.

The seminar started with a press conference on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am organized by the Cameroon Floorball Association. Six media representatives were invited, but 16 showed up including the Cameroon national TV. From the Cameroonian side the seminar was organized by the **Mrs. Manong Mouga Yvette**, the President of the Cameroon Floorball Association and by **Mr. Chalry Priso**, the Secretary General of the Cameroon Floorball Association.

There were eventually around 40 participants divided to two blocks, coaching and refereeing. None of the participants had any experience of Floorball. They had not played nor refereed any games before the seminar. The IFF educators, **Mr. Juerg Kihm**, **Mr. Ronny Brännbacka** and **Mr. Veli Halonen** decided that the seminar will be carried out with the basic principles of the game. In coaching mainly concentrating on the stick handling and basic role of each player. The education for coaching block took mostly place in the venue with practical exercises.

The referee block education concentrated on the basic rules and what is allowed for the players and what is not. Basic movement and positioning patterns were also practiced in the venue during the fun games, which were played both on Friday and Saturday.

The participants were motivated and eager to learn. There were slight language issues due to the fact that most of the participants speak French as their mother tongue. Translation was needed during the seminar, but it worked out even though it's naturally more time consuming, when the translation is needed.

There were also some issues with the schedules. It seemed to be hard for the participants to understand the importance of following the schedule and be on time for the lectures.

The feedback from the participants was mainly positive with the average of 4,1 in coaching and 4,1 in refereeing as well. Towards the end of the seminar the participants got more and more active and wanted to be part of the education and discussions.

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### Upcoming meetings and issues

- On Saturday there was a joint meeting between the IFF representative Mr. Halonen and delegates from all participating countries: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Republic of Central Africa and Rwanda.

Mr. Halonen presented the delegates the idea of IFF that African IFF member associations would organize an African Championships during the spring 2017. The playing mode would be 3 vs 3 and goalkeepers in a smaller field, for example 24 m x 12 m. The reason to have smaller teams is mainly to save costs for the participating teams. The tournament would last one to two days. The IFF would provide the infrastructure, such as rink, goals and also the referees. The LOC will make the reservations for the venue, accommodation with the teams and help the participating teams with the travel arrangements. All participating teams still to cover their own costs.

The African member associations need to decide and agree together, which nation would be hosting the championship. There are some criteria for the organizer, which were mutually agreed. It's important that the place where the championship will be organized needs to be easy to access in travel wise, relatively cheap accommodation and lodging.

There were only two IFF member associations in the meeting, but creating national associations are in process in Chad, Rwanda, Benin and in the Republic of Central Africa. According to their own information, some should be able to apply the membership of IFF already during the first half of 2017.

It was also discussed that the African associations would check the possibility to produce rinks and goals with moderate costs locally. The official rinks are relatively expensive and therefore challenging for the national associations to purchase.

Each One-Teach One was also discussed and the IFF member associations will mentor those nations who are just starting Floorball in their own countries. The associations need further to inform the IFF of the mentor/mentee pairs and about the joint projects they will carry out in the near future.

The African member associations of the IFF are also running a project called "Floorball for Africa". The purpose of the project is that the existing African members of the IFF will help those countries and associations, which are not yet members of the IFF, nor have a national association yet.

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

- The IFF African member associations need to agree together, with the help of the IFF where to organize the African Championship. The decisions should be taken during the autumn 2016, latest by the end of November 2016.

Mr. Halonen to send notes of the meeting to all participating nations and to all IFF African member associations in order to start the process for the championship. The e-mail will be sent out by 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.

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**New ideas,  
etc...**