

Africa Cup 2018 and Floorball Development Seminar in Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire, 14th - 16th of September 2018

Participants:

Veli Halonen, IFF Operations Manager

Report on present issues

The IFF has been planning to have an international tournament in Africa ever since the first FDS in Cameroon in September 2016. The first idea was to have a tournament where all the African nations could participate, but the costs for travelling are very high in Africa and therefore the reality is that the tournaments need to be organized either in West or East Africa. Naturally everyone in Africa can participate, but the fact is that the teams, which come from the region where the tournament is organized can participate.

The Africa Cup 2018 was played with three women's teams and four men's teams. In the women's tournament the teams were Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali. Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire made it to the final and Burkina Faso eventually took the victory of the first Africa Cup. Men's teams came from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo. Burkina Faso and Nigeria played in the final and Nigeria was the winner of men's Africa Cup 2018.

Even though there were a lot of issues with the organization as such, the outcome of the tournament was only positive. By playing real games and by being able to measure their level the participating nations were really happy of the tournament and they all expressed their will to continue the tournament on annual bases. The question is how to secure the possibility for all IFF members in Africa to participate to an event like this. The financial resources are very limited and therefore the planning should include the possibility to play two tournaments annually, one in West Africa and one in East Africa.

In the longer run the intention is to have the tournament to be similar as the AOFC Cup already is. Organized and ran fully by the African nations.

A one day FDS was carried out the day before the actual tournament took place. The seminar was basic coaching and basic refereeing.

Upcoming meetings and issues

As a very positive outcome of the tournament all those African nations in the region who were involved with the tournament are in the process to apply for the membership in the IFF within 3 to 12 months. The tournament gave them a lot new motivation to move towards to be part of the global Floorball Family.

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

It needs to be decided whether to have just one tournament in Africa or should there be two divided to East and West. The opinion of the African members is naturally in a very big role in this decision and the IFF's role should be a guiding role.

New ideas, etc...