



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

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Ordinary member of SportAccord

Appendix 19

EQUALITY FUNCTION REPORT

April 2012

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WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Several of the smaller Member Associations have shown good efforts in increasing the level of women's participation and in developing their competitions for women. It is very encouraging to see this growth and it is a very important development towards these smaller countries meeting the proposed IFF Licence System requirements.

France:

- Have just held their first ever Women's Championships.
- The teams included players from many different clubs who combined together into three regional teams.
- The competition ran from February – April and was won by the northern team – Valkyries
- The French Floorball Federation commented:

Beyond this victory by the northern ladies, the French Floorball Federation is extremely proud of the incredible enthusiasm and spirit that all participants expressed on and off the field. It is yet another evidence of floorball development in France, and the Women Commission is now looking at the expansion of the competition with additional players, teams and matches for next season. 2012-2013 shall also be an important season with the launch of national selection project.

Spain:

- Held their Women's National Championships in Madrid, 21-22 April.
- Five teams participated and the winner was CUF Leganés and runner-up was UHK Madrid

Australia:

- Australian Floorball Open was held 12-15 April. Although this is not a 'National Championships' it is, for now, the only annual competition that involves all of the highest level players.
- The Women's division this year had 8 teams – the most ever.

SEMINAR in Karlstad, Sweden during EFT

There was a meeting held between the participating nations of the Women's EFT tournament in Karlstad, Sweden to discuss the development of girl's floorball within each country.

Participants:

Sweden: Mr Emil Persson + one more

Finland: Arja Kilpeläinen, Eeva Welling, Ismo Haaponiemi

Switzerland: Mr Oliver Bachofen

Czech Republic: Mr Martin Musil and Mr Tomas Frank

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange ideas about what initiatives they have put in place and how to increase participation, not only of players, but also of coaches, referees and other officials. Each country was asked to present information about:

- Current situation of girl floorball in own country: quantity, quality etc
- Main tasks in girl floorball, or possible vision/strategy for the issue, how you see the future (domestic and internationally)
- Main challenges in girl floorball (domestic and internationally)
- Ongoing projects for developing girl floorball, if they exist, or do you have any plans how to deal with this issue

IFF has asked to receive a summary of the meeting discussions as well as a copy of the materials presented by each nation.

There were some problems in the communication between the organisers of this meeting and the IFF. Those responsible within the IFF for the Equality Function were only advised of the meeting at the very last minute, however, steps have been taken to improve future communications between each of the representatives from the Top 4 countries and the IFF in regards to their girl participation programs.

The initiative is great and we hope that in the future we will find ways to open the possibility to other nations to receive materials and also to be invited to the meetings. We should use all possible occasions to exchange experience. With the materials that the IFF receives from this meeting, and with further discussions with these nations, we hope to be able to produce some material that could be distributed to the smaller Member Associations to help them develop their own initiatives and participation programs.

RC & EQUALITY MEETING PROGRESS

Further to the combined RC & Equality Function officers meeting in St Gallen, Switzerland last December, there has been some progress made on increasing the number of female referees. Singapore is preparing two new female referee pairs for the next proposal round in August – as outlined in the Referees Committee report.

This is a good step forward, however, there still needs to be more progress, especially in the Top 4 countries, in regards of their female referee numbers.