

Coaching Seminar in Beijing, China – 9th June – 10th June 2007

The Floorball Coaching Seminar held in Beijing was attended by 25 participants mainly being teachers from the following schools:

- Beijing University
- Tsinghua University
- The Physical Education and Sports College of Beijing Normal University
- China Agriculture University
- Renmin University
- Beihang Univeristy
- Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunication
- Beijing Sports University
- Yew Cheung International School
- British School of Beijing
- Yuying School
- High School of Beijing University

Other participants include floorball enthusiasts, inline and ice hockey players looking to try out something new.

The seminar was conducted by 2 SFA/AOFC members – Emily Koh and Lily Suriani Tan.

As current materials at hand were mostly based in English, with only the Youth Starter Kit in Mandarin, most of the activities were conducted in the gymnasium and thus making it a very “hands-on” learning experience for the participants.

Participants learnt the basics of Floorball with much ease and with some of them having background in hockey or in stick-balls games, Floorball techniques came very much naturally to them. Most participants had no problems in picking up the skills and applying them during the game play sessions.

Skills that the participants learnt include:

- Dribbling
- Passing
- Shooting
- Juggling
- Attacking
- Defending
- Rules of the Game
- Basic Refereeing Knowledge

Based on feedback from the participants, it is concluded that they have garnered sufficient knowledge on Floorball to be able to go back to their respective schools/clubs and pass on their skills.

Problems to address

1. Lack of Materials

As noted earlier on, there is a lack in materials catering to the non English speaking community. Perhaps IFF could be able to have more materials translated so as to further promote Floorball.

2. Flight Availability

Although this is not the fault of IFF, Singaporean instructors had problems getting tickets for the flight as it was the traveling peak season in Singapore. It would be good for course conductors to be informed a month before the date of seminar so as to facilitate the booking of flight tickets efficiently.

3. Availability of Equipment

At the Beijing seminar, there were not enough sticks to go around. As participants were mainly right handers, there were not enough left sticks for their usage. Participants had to resort to using the right sticks (mostly for left handers' usage) while holding it in a right handers' way. If possible, IFF or host country's equipment sponsor could ensure that there will be sufficient sticks to go around.

Another form of equipment that was lacking was the Goalkeeper's attire. On the first day of seminar, there was no goalie equipment at all. It was only made available after instructor's request and we had to borrow them from the hosting school itself.

Future Plans

As Floorball enthusiasts in Beijing have stated that they are very much keen to start up Floorball in their schools, IFF could help them by conducting more of such seminars and also help in the provision of equipment.

Currently, the local equipment sponsors have already made available sponsorship contracts to 6 universities. It is a good start there but with more support, perhaps the sport will be able to reach out to more than just 6 schools.

To gain more interest in people's attention in Floorball, IFF if able to, should have exhibition matches in countries seeking to spread Floorball in their home town. With such exhibition matches, it will serve as a "wow" factor and inspire more people to take up the sport.