

### Visit with the I.R. Iran Floorball Association (IFA), in Tehran, Iran 11.-14.04.2011

**Participants:** John Liljelund, IFF

---

#### **1. Background**

- The Iran Physical Education Organisation and the Iran Federation of Sport Associations (IFSA) started to look for new sports in 2008, supported by the Iran IOC. After a number of analyses they found Floorball to be potential for Iran.
- The IFA is organised under the IFSA, in which there are 14 other national sport federations as members. The IFSA is acting as a Sports Confederation for the sports that have not yet the status of Federations and then belong to the NOC. The President Mr. Ramenzali Davalo is the former Iran Field Hockey federation secretary general and has good connections in Iran sports. IFA is sponsored by a local businessman Mr. Ansari.
- IFA has started to play the sport with 15-17 year olds in the high schools in Tehran region and will spread the sport into ten other provinces and are now participating in the ISF World School Championships in Plzen, Czech Republic.
- In the future the IFA is planning to participate in the FISU World University Championships in 2012 or 2014. The plans to start participation in the AOFC Events will follow after 2012.

#### **2. Meeting with Iran NOC**

- The meeting was organised with Mr. Mahmoud Khosravivafa, vice president of the Iran NOC, who also is the President of the Iran NPC.
- The NOC stressed that the Iran government has invested in facilities for sport and finds Floorball to have a number of positive elements for the Iranian sports field.
- I introduced the activities of IFF and also expressed the ParaFloorball part.
- NOC will support the development of Floorball in Iran and look for possibilities to host different kind of Events.
- Iran is looking for a leadership role in West Asia and is very willing to organise events. There is a visa-free island called Quiche where a number of international events have been organised.
- NOC/NPC asked for more information and rules about Electric Wheelchair hockey and Manual Wheelchair Floorball.

#### **3. The Iran School Team**

- I participated in the trainings of the Iran school team which consisted of around 25-30 boys in the age of 11-18. I gave some initial advice to the three coaches, who all have a field hockey background.
- The level of the players was fairly good, but you could clearly see the base in field hockey and it will take some time to teach the players to really play Floorball.
- The team will have it though in the ISF Championships in Plzen, but they are very enthusiastic of their participation.

#### **4. Meeting with Teheran Municipality Director for Sports**

- The IFA had organised a meeting with the Tehran Municipality's Director of Sports Mr. Aghamir, whose organisation is responsible for the Sport for All segment in Iran.
  - The aim of the meeting was to describe the benefits of recreational Floorball for the City officials and I explained the success of Floorball in the working places.
  - The Physical Education officer, who has a experience of the working place sport organisation TAFISA, was very positive towards the sport, since he and Mr. Aghamir both had participated in the IOC Sports for All congress in Jyväskylä, Finland in 2010.
  - The Municipality was positive and will consider introducing Floorball in the 23 regions in Tehran, in co-operation with the IFA.
-

### Report on present issues cont.

#### 5. *Meeting with Ministry of Science, Physical Education Department*

- The meeting was organised ad hoc, with the General Director of the Physical Education Dr. Keshtidar, who is responsible for all physical education in the Iranian Universities.
- The Ministry of Science is willing to look at a possibility to introduce Floorball as a sport in the National and governmental Universities. If the sport is successful the Ministry will consider to introduce it also to the Open Universities.
- The Ministry of Science will prepare a MOU with the IFA, to start Floorball first as a recreational sport and then move forward to a competition level between Universities.
- The possibility of participating in the World University Championships is interesting for the Ministry of Science.

#### 6. *Meeting with the Iran Federation for Sport Associations*

- The meeting was with the President of the IFSA Mr. Alipour, who in his capacity of the patron for introduction of new sports in Iran, has the task to control and evaluate the development of IFA.
- The IFSA has the responsibility of 14 sports (Air sports, Baseball, Softball, Cricket, Sepankraw, Rugby, Water-ski, Dragon boat, Dart, Bodybuilding, Dance, Ski and now Floorball).
- The task of IFSA is to support the associations so that they can develop and become federations under the NOC. The required steps are:
  - Perform the special tasks set for the association, developing the sport
  - Forming committees and spreading the sport
  - Organising National and Regional Championships
  - Educate Coaches and Referees
  - Win a medal in an international Event (regional, Asian or World)
    - This was stressed by a number of persons
- The IFSA will support participation in international events, but there are certain requirements:
  - Good performance and participation in the event
- The IFSA is very interested to act as a hub for Floorball in West Asia. Requires some support from IFF, mainly material, education, rink (is being sent).
- IFSA is very interested to organise additional clinics and eventually a Floorball Development Seminar.

#### 7. *Meeting with Iran Floorball Association CB*

- In a number of discussions with Mr. Davalo and Mr. Ansari the development of the IFA was discussed. IFA is trying to employ a European coach and have received 12 applications (8 CZE, 1 SVK, 1 SWE and 1 BEL), based on the news on IFF's web-page.
- There have been discussions that Pixbo's coach will come to coach the School team in May.
- IFF will rent a rink for the IFA for 2011 – 2014. The practical preparations for shipping the rink have started. The pro forma invoice has been made and a first version of the agreement is given to IFA.
- It was agreed that IFA will apply for an IFF Event for 2013/2014 in the visa free island Quiche.
- IFA is importing a total of 15 sets of equipment from Unihoc/Renew, to start the process. IFA will still need some equipment during 2011-2012.

#### 8. *Floorball Coach Workshop*

- The workshop was hosted by the IFSA and organised in the Iran Olympic Academy, in an excellent venue. Physical education teachers from 10 regions were chosen to participate and they are expected to start coaching teams and educating more coaches.
- The workshop consisted of 6 hours of lectures and four hours of practical training. A total of 17 female and 26 male participants took an active part.
- The level of the participants was above average and they learned fast.
- The IFSA asked for a continuation for such workshops.

### **Upcoming meetings and issues**

- 
- 

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

- Send the Electric Wheelchair rules to Iran NPC and the ICWEH contact information.
  - Discuss possibility for Iran to organise the APAC in 2013 or 2014
  - Check possibility to organise a second Clinique for coaches and referees in end of 2011 or beginning of 2012.
- 

### **Upcoming meetings and issues**

- Organise IFF Events (Floorball Development Seminars/APAC on the island of Quiche in 2012 – 2014
- Write a Project Paper for the Sports for All Congress in 2011.
- Invite Mr. Alipour (IFSA) for the General Assembly in 2012