

## **IFF ParaFloorball Function status report 2011**

The IFF ParaFloorball Function was established by the IFF Central Board in December 2010 in order to coordinate and cooperate with the different international organisations that have Floorball for disabled on their program.

### **1. ParaFloorball Function Mission and Values**

The Rationale of the IFF Strategy states that the International Floorball Federation (IFF) is the sole international organisation for all forms of Floorball, regardless of how it is being played. The IFF's mission is to promote, develop and most of all nurse and service our stakeholders and to spread the knowledge based on the principle of unity, equality and solidarity and to deal with all questions relating to World Floorball.

The ParaFloorball Function follows the IFF mission and its core mission is to promote Floorball played by disabled persons. The purpose of the IFF ParaFloorball Function is to coordinate and promote the activities of the different versions of Floorball played by disabled persons, so that everyone can play.

IFF ParaFloorball Function emphasizes the values of tolerance, diversity and equality supporting the equal possibility for disabled persons to enjoy Floorball.

### **2. ParaFloorball Function Vision and Goals**

The vision is to develop Floorball for disabled both in quality and quantity with the ultimate vision of having Floorball for disabled entering a multisport event, like Paralympics and Special Olympics World Games in the future.

The goal is to increase the awareness of Floorball for disabled in the IFF member associations and in the International Sport world in general and to further develop the different forms of disabled floorball being played in cooperation with the international organisations for disabled athletes and the IFF member associations.

### **3. Cooperation with Disabled Sports Organisations**

The IFF currently cooperates with two international organisations that have floorball on their program, the International Committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey (ICEWH) and Special Olympics (SO). In addition the IFF has been contacted by the International Wheelchair Floorball Federation (IWFF). The IWFF also wishes to start cooperation with the IFF.

#### **3.1 International Committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey**

##### **ICEWH information:**

ICEWH is a sport section of the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation, IWAS, and is the International head committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey (EWH).

##### **Electric Wheelchair Hockey (EWH):**

Electric Wheelchair Hockey is a sport for people in electric wheelchairs. EWH is played on an area approximately the size of a basketball court with a surrounding rink. Five players (4+1) are on the court at any time, but a team may have 5 substitute players. A team should have two players with 'T – Sticks' (a T

shaped stick attached to the wheelchair of players who are not able to hold the stick in the hand, because of limited muscle power) but at least one must be the goalie. The ICEWH goal is to be in the program of the Paralympics.

At the moment 11 countries are participating in the ICEWH Events, like World- and European Championships and the sport has some activities in 14 countries: *Germany, Netherlands, Finland, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Australia, Czech Republic, Spain, Slovenia, Estonia, Croatia and Canada.*

#### **IFF & ICEWH cooperation:**

The first meeting was held in 2007 and the cooperation has increased since the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in November 2010. The ICEWH and IFF has agreed upon improving the communication between the organisations. The ICEWH's has requested that Electric Wheelchair Hockey would be included in IFF events as a promotional sport and to have Electric Wheelchair Hockey information included on the IFF ParaFloorball website. In addition the ICEWH has asked for help in questions regarding interpretation of Floorball rules.

During WFC 2010 EWH was a demonstration sport during the championship and the aim is now to have EWH as a demonstration sport in the U 19 WFC 2011 and in other future IFF events. The IFF has also assisted the ICEWH in rule interpretations.

#### **Challenges:**

The EWH sport is cooperating with both field hockey and floorball. The sport is played with Floorball equipment but the name "hockey" refers more to field hockey. The ICEWH has not yet made a final decision of being having their identity totally in Floorball or Field hockey. In some of the EWH countries, where field hockey is a big sport the Electric Wheelchair Hockey is cooperating with the national field hockey organisation.

There is also another version of Electric Wheelchair Hockey played mostly in Norway and Sweden and does not have an international head organisation. This version only includes players that play with T-sticks and is played with a specially designed chair.

### **3.2 Special Olympics**

#### **Special Olympics (SO) information:**

SO was founded in USA in 1968 and the SO Head office in Washington and the SO Europe central office is in Dublin. Special Olympics is recognised by the IOC. SO it is the largest sports organisation for persons with Intellectual Disability with 3,6 million officially registered athletes and 0,5 million coaches in 180 countries in all Regions of the World. SO includes 32 different sports, 26 summer sports, 6 winter sports.

#### **SO Floorball:**

SO Floorball 3 versus 3 + goalies. Floorball is the youngest sport within Special Olympics. The first floorball seminar in Denmark 2008 and the first European tournament was played in Austria in November 2010 with 10 teams from 7 countries. The aim of SO Floorball is to become a demonstration sport in the SO Winter and/or Summer World Games. The first chance would be in the Winter Games 2013 (Korea) and the next in Summer Games 2014 (Brussels).

Some extent of SO Floorball activity is at the moment in 15 countries: *Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, GB, Greece, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine.*

**IFF & SO cooperation:**

The first meeting with SO Europe was held in March 2011. The discussions have started to have more SO Floorball information included in the IFF information channels and to include SO Floorball into the IFF Events as a demonstration sport. The SO Europe also wished the IFF to sign their proclamation in the near future. The status of the cooperation is being continuously discussed.

**Challenges:**

There is a problem that SO Floorball lacks the information of the number of registered players although there are a lot of players in many countries. As the Special Olympics is very big in North America it would be important also to demonstrate that Floorball is a big potential sport in especially the US.

### **3.3 International Wheelchair Floorball Federation (IWFF)**

**International Wheelchair Floorball Federation information (IWFF):**

Manual wheelchair has been played quite much in some countries, but the International Wheelchair Floorball Federation is not yet an officially founded international organisation. The aim is to establish the International organisation in August 2011. During that meeting the goal is to fix a date for the first European Championships to be played in Czech Republic 2012. The ultimate goal of the IWFF is to become a member of the International Paralympic Committee in the future.

**Wheelchair Floorball:**

Manual wheelchair floorball is played with approximately the same rules as floorball and with IFF certified equipment. The first tournament for teams was played in 2007 and the first tournament for national teams was played in 2010. The aim for 2011 is to play the Czech Wheel Open as a part of Czech Open in August 2011, participate in the Paragames Breda in September 2011 and play a friendly match CZE-SUI in the end of September.

Wheelchair Floorball with the same rules is currently played in eight countries: *Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland, Belgium and Switzerland.* Other contacts are: *Slovenia, Croatia, Italy* and Canada.

**IFF & IWFF cooperation:**

There has not yet been any official meeting between the IFF and the IWFF, but the IWFF has expressed that they would like to have stronger cooperation with the IFF. The IWFF hopes to help in finding contacts to handicapped players in the IFF member associations. IWFF further looks for IFF reference for the organisation and acceptance of using the IFF lookalike logo for the organisation as well as visibility on the IFF webpage under ParaFloorball and an exhibition match during the Men's World Floorball Championships 2012 in Switzerland. The IWFF wants to invite IFF delegates to the international tournament in Prague, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Challenges:**

This sport is not yet officially founded as a Federation or recognised by any handicap head organisation. The IFF need to decide about the following actions and then contact the IWFF.