



INTERNATIONAL FLOORBALL FEDERATION (IFF)

*Recognised by the IOC
Ordinary member of SportAccord*

Appendix 25 a

Report ICEWH and IFF meeting on June 8th in Pajulahti, Finland

Participants

Anja Wouters, ICEWH Technical Delegate EC2012 & ICEWH Executive Member
Saila Luumi, ICEWH Executive Member
Merita Bruun, IFF

IFF & ICEWH cooperation

The ICEWH is very pleased with the IFF cooperation and feels that it is good to have a contact person answering questions within the IFF. The ICEWH also feels that the sharing of events with demonstration matches, the own web page on the IFF website, the possibility to use the IFF social media channels based on agreements like Youtube and Flickr are great advantages and helps to promote the sport within the international floorball world.

ICEWH updates

Classification system

A new classification system has been launched and research has been done on the new four class system. This means that the teams can use 11 maximum points on the field, which the nations decided in the Sport Assembly 2012. Classification system is required for a Paralympic status and needs to be based on scientific research. Cooperation started with IPC to get more research as now the research relies on EWH sport experts and their own expertise (medical doctors, physiotherapists and technical members).

Further items in the Sports Assembly

- To increase the amount of official international events: the nations have decided not to increase the number of official competitions yet, but continue with the current Qualification Tournaments.
- State of affairs cooperation with IFF and FIH to be discussed. The participating nations are to decide. The name of the sport is not yet on the table, but will be something to discuss in the future.

Development & Potential new countries

Europe

Slovenia was participating in the European Championships for the first time. ICEWH puts efforts in developing the sport in Estonia and the aim is to organise a friendship game against Finland and also contact the Estonian floorball association. Also France, Austria and Great Britain would be interesting countries and ICEWH & IFF shall look for possible IFF events organised in the country.

Sweden, Denmark and Norway

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Denmark is participating in the ICEWH championships, but ICEWH still lacks the participation from Norway and Sweden where a different version of the sport is played. The sport in these countries is played with specially designed low wooden chairs and there are only T-stick players on the field, 3 against 3. This sport does not have any international federation and thus does not have a big potential to grow.

The ICEWH shall with the help of IFF try to promote the EWH sport in both Norway and Sweden. The first goal would be to introduce the sport in Sweden and the possibility to organise demonstration matches where persons from the Swedish organisation for disabled sports would be invited will be investigated. The first step would be to get the disabled athletes in electric wheelchairs and the right persons in Sweden and Norway to even know the sport.

Asia & Oceania

There is a need to grow the sport outside Europe as well, in Asia and Oceania to start with as now only Australia is participating in the World Championships. There might be some activity in Japan and New Zealand.

North America

North America is still a challenge as there are teams, but they are playing power hockey with a few different rules. The rules that differ are the high balls (only allowed in power hockey), the offside rule (only in power hockey) and the interference rule (not allowed in power hockey) and an important element in EWH (especially for the T-stick players). A solution is not yet found as the EWH contacts in North America have been very keen in cooperating and replying to any questions. ICEWH hopes to send EWH teams to places where power hockey is played (for example Vancouver, Toronto and Minneapolis).

Contacts to International Sport Organisations

IWAS (International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation)

The ICEWH has received the full IWAS status, as agreed at the General Assembly of IWAS in Dec 2011 in Sharjah. The criteria for full recognition are for example to have 11 countries on three continents. ICEWH has this if North America and Canada are counted in. IWAS full recognition will bring some financial benefits and status benefits for the ICEWH and the EWH member countries.

IWAS World Games

The IWAS organises regular multisport events called the IWAS World Games. One of the aims is also to get into the IWAS Games and the ICEWH is looking for a demo possibility. The next possibility is the IWAS World Games in Alicante, Spain in May 2013. The ICEWH and IFF will look for possible floorball partners in Spain.

IPC (International Paralympic Committee)

The ultimate goal is to become a Paralympic sport and participate in the Paralympics. The member requirements of IPC are: to have at least 18 nations on at least three continents, to organise international competitions, the members to organise national championships.

The ICEWH will apply for the recognition in 2012 as they now have the full IWAS status and because IWAS has indicated that application through IWAS is possible, because the IWAS is a member organisation of IPC.



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Next ICEWH events

2014 World Championships

- ICEWH is looking for an organiser. Czech Republic, Germany and Netherlands have showed interest, but cannot yet guarantee the financial and organisational part. ICEWH will postpone the deadline for bids. The 8th placed team from EC 2012 falls off as Australia has a spot. If Canada or USA likes to come in, one American nation has a spot, meaning that the 7th place European team will fall off.

2013 IWAS World Games

- Investigate the possibility to be a demonstration sport. This depends on the cooperation with the local organiser and if they meet with the requirements, like flat floor, time and audience.

2015 Qualification Tournament for EC2016

- Nations which will not participate in the World Championships 2014 will be allocated.
- Will be open for new nations to take part and get a place on the World Ranking List, for example America or Canada.
- The Sport Assembly has decided to continue with this QT system.

Challenges

North America, Canada, Asia & Oceania, Sweden and Norway, Estonia, France, Austria and Great Britain.

Electric Wheelchair Football (FIPFA) is also developing fast and a real competitor, as it has the same aim group. The sport is easy to organise and played with a big football, which needs to be bumped with a pusher in front of the wheelchair, 4 versus 4. The sport is slow with a goal of 5m width on the back line. The ball is hard to control when bumping it with the chairs. With no boards around the field the ball is out quite often. Electric Wheelchair Football might not have the same sport quality as the EWH sport, but has already gained more nations and players than ICEWH and has the IPC recognition. If chosen by the IPC it might be harder for the EWH to get in. On the other hand the sport might open doors for more sports played in electric wheelchairs.

Future cooperation with IFF

Demonstration & Promotion

The ICEWH and IFF will investigate the possibility to organise a demonstration match during the Men's World Floorball Championships Dec. 2012 (Switzerland) and also look for other ways to gain more visibility, like ICEWH players to hand out best player awards etc.

The ICEWH and IFF will investigate the possibility to organise demonstration matches during the Men's U19 World Championships in Hamburg in May 2013.

The IFF will also inform the ICEWH about other possible demonstration options especially if there are events organised in Sweden, Norway, France, Austria, Great Britain, North America, Canada or Asia.



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IFF to keep the ICEWH webpage up to date and the ICEWH to provide the information that needs to be updated. IFF and ICEWH to agree upon the use of the IFF communication channels also during the future ICEWH events.

Development

The IFF will assist the ICEWH to get in contact with the right persons in the IFF Member Associations and try also to assist in getting the contact information to the Swedish Organisation for Disabled Sports. Contacts needed:

- Switzerland (WFC contact). Saila Luumi to connect with Daniel Kasser to connect and Frank Haberstetter (local EWH)
- Sweden (SHIF)
- Estonia (Estonian Floorball Union)
- Spain (contacts in Alicante for possible IWAS demonstration)
- Germany (MU19 WFC 2013 contact). Saila Luumi to connect with LOC and Utz (local EWH)