

Floor ball gains international recognition

The sports Floorball is a strange event to Sierra Leoneans, but may no longer be as the Floorball Association of Sierra Leone last month gained an international recognition from the International Floorball Association (IFF).

In a letter forwarded to the national association from IFF secretary general, John Liljelund, it was stated that IFF is overwhelmed to have Sierra Leone as one of its provisional members.

The letter reads: "IFF central board has in its meeting on the 12th of December 2008 approved the Floorball Association of Sierra Leone as a provisional mem-

ber of IFF."

The approval of Sierra Leone to the IFF family has now given them the gateway to participate in the IFF events and also eligible to get supports and advice on developmental issue of the game. The secretary general of Floorball Association of Sierra Leone, Campbell said he is delighted to be part of the international body.

He said the association next drive is to organize courses to educate people about the sports and make the game to be known and become popular in the country. In related development, IFF

has also gain recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which implies the sport is now an Olympic sport and would be staged in feature Olympic Games. Floorball, often referred to as floor hockey, is an indoor team sport, which was developed in the 1970's.

It is a fast paced sport, with no physical contact allowed; it is most popular in areas like Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The game is played indoors on a gym floor, making it a year-round sport at the amateur and professional levels.

The game is played on a rink which size can officially vary from 18-22 meters wide to 36-44 meters long.

The rink is surrounded by 50 cm high enclosed boards with rounded corners. The goals are 160 cm wide and 115 cm high.

Their depth is 65 cm and they are 2.85 meters from the end of the nearest boards. Typical equipment for a floorball player consists of a pair of shorts, a shirt, socks and indoor sport shoes. In addition to that, players are allowed to wear shin guards, eye protectors and protective padding for vital areas. Players, ex-

cept for the goalkeeper, also carry sticks. A floorball player is also known as a 'floorballer'.



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