

IFF Meetings with CFF, CFD, Kisakallio China, GASG, CIHA Beijing, China 21st to 23rd of May 2018

Participants: John Liljelund IFF Secretary General

Report on present issues

1. Present situation with CFF

After that CFF informed that they are not in position to organise the IFF U19 WFC 2020, IFF started to gather information about the situation of CFF. It became quite clear that the CFF is working on two different lines, one to achieve political approval for an independent Floorball Association, instead of being a secondary tier organisation under the aegis of the China Ice Hockey Association (CIHA). This activity is driven by Harbin and Shanghai is working with spreading the sport and organising leagues.

There has been some development, but not as fast as expected. There are around 50 schools in Harbin and some 60 in Shanghai playing floorball and CFF is running a league of 6 teams last season. CFF is also building a national youth competition in cooperation with the Sports Administration. There are some 22 universities playing floorball regularly.

In addition, the problematic situation with China Floorball Development/Shanghai Floorball Association, has caused a lot of problems for CFF. IFF had an agreement with CFD, before the CFF was founded by the Chinese sport administration. CFD has allegedly made accusations against the legality of the CFF.

Based on this and the reports IFF received from Floorball manufacturers, Kisakallio Sport Institute and others, it was necessary to organise a trip to Beijing.

2. China Floorball Federation/Mr. Shao, secretary general & Mr. Ching SJ

Both CFD and Kisakallio China among others, have indicated that CFF doesn't have the necessary legal authorisation to act as the IFF member, as CFF is in China registered at the Ministry of Civil Affairs as Harbin Floorball Federation. IFF has with the application received an explanation that the General Administration of Sport in China (GASC) and the Chinese Ice Hockey Association has authorised CFF as a 2nd tier organisation under the aegis of CFF.

The problem for CFF, is that as they are not an official own organisation, they can't get governmental support and are not able to develop the sport as quickly as they would have wished. CFF has also received a lot of opposition from already existing floorball groups in China, this has not helped the situation and therefore China sent a very unexperienced team from the Harbin Sports university to the WFCQ in Korea in 2018. CFF will provide information of their legal situation and answer the allegations for wrongly using the name of CFF

The finances and the political situation are the main reasons for the withdrawal of organisation of the U19 WFC 2020. It was agreed that CFF will hand in a letter of explanation for withdrawal.

When IFF approved CFF as a provisional member the requirements were that they will apart from the national recognition, build the league system and unify the different Floorball groups.

3. China Floorball Development/Shanghai Floorball Association/Rockwind – Ms. Chen Xin

Ms. Chen Xin expressed that CFD has refused to work with CFF, due to the fact that they are afraid that CFF is illegal and it could make their situation problematic. CFD was of the opinion that CFF has been using an official CFF stamp, without the proper authorisation, which is a criminal offence in China. CFF has been able to prove that they are organised under the aegis of CIHA.

The Rockwind Floorball brand has had issues with the marking of their Floorball sticks but failed to comply with the rules. In order to avoid having to withdraw all the wrongly marked sticks Rockwind must apply for an exemption for this from IFF/RISE. IFF has agreed with Rockwind, that if CFD participates proactively in the unification of Floorball in China, IFF will now only charge the first part of the sanction now in May.

IFF – CFF Meetings, REPORT

4. *Kisakallio China/Mr. Guo*

IFF has originally entered into an agreement with the Kisakallio Sports Institute, so that they can build a Coach Education system (Level 1-3) for the CFF. Kisakallio China is executing Coach educations in China.

Mr. Guo is well connected in the Chinese Sports organisations and thinks the problem is that Floorball is not an Olympic Sport and that CFF is not been approved by GASC as an official sport and therefore not being registered by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. As there are no possibilities to organise own operations, without the accreditation of a 2nd tier organisation or an own registration. Also KKC has been reluctant to work with CFF, as they have heard the same rumours of their legal status.

KKC is willing to work together to find a generic solution for Floorball in China, based on the present CFF membership of IFF.

5. *Ministry of Civil Affairs/ Mr. Woo*

In accordance to Chinese law, an organisation can only be a National Association in Sports, if they are approved as an official sport by GASC, then the registration will happen automatically. The other option is to use the present solution to organise the National Association, under the aegis of for example the China Ice Hockey Association, as the China Ice Hockey Association Floorball Branch.

Presently there are the following Floorball associations registered in China Harbin FF, Shanghai Floorball Association and Hainan Floorball Association. In addition there are 5 clubs officially registered.

The recommendation of the Mr. Woo was to seek for the approval of GASC or reconfirm the legal position under the CIHA or a similar organisation.

6. *Meeting with City of Harbin Secretary general Mr. Zhing*

IFF met with the group of politicians from the City of Harbin and the persons behind the CFF, including the former vice president of CHIA Mr. Zhu Chengyi.

It was concluded that the CIHA President Mr. Cao will confirm the status of CFF as being organised under the CIHA, as a 2nd tier organisation.

The problem is that in accordance with Chinese law there can only be 99 official sports in China and if one new is included one has to be removed. The CFF is planning to start regional leagues in 2018-2019 and making a Master Plan of how to organise Floorball in China, under the CIHA.

7. *Meeting with CIHA President Mr. Cao*

Mr. Cao is also the headmaster of the Beijing Sports university and high ranked party member. Mr. Cao confirmed that CIHA will give the authorisation to CFF for their legal position as the Chinese Floorball Federation, under CIHA.

He also informed that someone had gone to the Civil Administration to try to register a Chinese Floorball Association, but the CIHA had not accepted this as CFF is already under CIHA. Also, the Chinese Bandy Federation is similar organised under CIHA.

It was agreed that Mr. Cao, who's main interest is to develop Ice Hockey in China will visit Harbin to learn how Floorball support and develop Ice Hockey players.

8. *Meeting between IFF, CFF, KKC and CFD/SHA*

The aim of the meeting was to find a way of how to unite the different Floorball organisations and get them to work together. All organisations present agreed that CFF has the legal position as the 2nd tier organisation under CIHA.

The different issues related to the present position of CFF was discussed, but in the end the meeting agreed to find a compromise to have an officially legally recognised National Floorball Association within the next 6-12 months. The aim is to build a Floorball Alliance, which would work with both political issues on the national level, spreading the sport and organising leagues and series on a National, Provincial and Local level.

The three organisations will work together as equals

As a conclusion, it is easy to say that there are a lot of interests towards the financial part of floorball in China, but the muscles to actually work with the spreading is limited. Too much focus on the business.

Upcoming meetings and issues

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

- CFF to provide a letter of explanation of the withdrawal of organisation of the U19 WFC 2020
 - CFF provide information of the legal status of CFF and answer the allegations of wrong use of the CFF name
 - Provide an updated information of registered and recreational players
 - CFF to provide the authorisation of the CIHA for the legal status of CFF
 - Rockwind to apply for the exemption for the Rockwind sticks
 - Rockwind to pay the first part of the sanction fee until the 15th of June.
 - IFF to approve the exemption and invoice the administration fee from Rockwind
 - The CFF will report on development in August.
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New ideas, etc...
