



EPFA Congress 2014  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July



## EPFA Congress Agenda

Sunday 20 July 2014

Time 10.00am (local time)

### Meeting Minutes

#### **NOPF Attendees**

France, Belgium, England, Ireland, Denmark, Switzerland.

Italy (via Skype)

#### **EPFA/FIPFA attendees**

Nico Dubes (ND), Sam Bull (SB), Nicky Baker (via Skype), Adam McEvoy (AM), Julie Milan (JM), Ricky Stevenson (RS), Martin Bevan (MB), Herve Delattre (HD), Barb Peacock (BP).

#### **Welcome & Introduction's**

ND welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Thanked Donal Byrne and AIPF for hosting and organising. High standard has been set for future events.

Introduced Adam McEvoy, recruited to support EPFA communications during events and as a Country liaison going forward.

#### **Commission Updates**

**Sports Dept: Sam Bull** – NC14 has been best powerchair football event to date. Highlighted accommodation, opening ceremony, scheduling and communications as huge positives. Thanked AIPF and FAI for their huge efforts.

*Areas to improve:* pre-event communications to countries and timeframes prior to event. Also improvements required in receiving information from playing countries. Countries were asked to stick to deadlines in order to make competition organisation easier.

Classifiers for the Nations Cup have been costly due to lack of European classifiers. It is EPFA's aim, working alongside the International classifiers, to increase these numbers for future European events.

An online evaluations will be sent to all members within the team delegations for their opinions. The Director of Sport will also sit down with hosts to review event as a whole. The event budget will also be examined to gain better idea of competition costs and the bid documents will be updated



improved with more specificity to make things clearer for future applicants. Event regulations will also be examined.

### **Referee training strategy – Martin Bevan**

MB feels standard is improving and NC14 has showed this.

*Aim in Europe:* team of national referees. Head referee for each country. Events for Austria & Italy. Countries wanting to improve refereeing to speak to MB or ND. FAI example of referee development and creation of head of referees in Ireland. Head referee to deliver a course in Cork. Better referees = better standard of football.

ND highlighted example of referee exchange in France. EPFA will support other countries who want to do something similar.

### **Technology and equipment discussion**

Senan raised topic. Commercial concerns for EPFA members and Health & Safety of chair. Call for EPFA principles.

ND – EPFA waiting for technical commission from FIPFA. FIPFA document in creation and need to provide information. Difficulty in regulations as timing around requirements wasn't helpful.

HD – same debate when Invacare created storm 15 years ago. Invacare Europe partnership with FIPFA for 15 years. 3-4 years discussion around reduced risk of breakdown for chairs. Never expanded this outside of Europe. This led to other chairs from other countries being developed. PSS add elements to a frame to create strikeforce.

Invacare Europe came to u18's to discuss future development. Invacare aware of situation know what PSS do.

RS – when laws created only specification was based on the guard/attachment. PCF needs to evolve rules. H&S most important. Within current laws Strikeforce in breach of law 4. No mods to chair in Brazil. Comment in writing sent for changes required for chair to be within laws. Tech spec not looked at in past as no need to. FIPFA have technical commission lead but not communicating. Results will be announced before World Cup. Advises national federations to wait for update for international competitions. At national level decisions are up to national federation.

MB – replace tech committee lead if they are not in communication.

RT - Focus on chair development takes sport further away from Paralympics. Constitution is for all players, not for majority.

Denmark – Invacare charge €20,000 for Storm 3. Strikeforce is €10,000.

Belgium – Strikeforce bridges gap between PF1 and 2 so they are more equal.

SB – develop technology or players? Technology route – no need for players. Not about their skill.

**Action: EPFA to urge FIPFA for clarification on the future of technology, especially playing chairs.**

## UEFA PARTNERSHIP

EPFA are supported by UEFA for five years from 2012-17 to develop powerchair football across Europe, securing €50,000 per year for this. Within programme there are also targets around training staff, both coaches and referees as well as social development. EPFA have been asked to become member of UEFA commission.

Targets have been set at working with 25 countries by 2017. Currently EPFA engage with 13, having started with just 6. Italy are set to become the next EPFA affiliated country.

EPFA are beginning a development programme on media and finance to increase visibility in other countries across Europe. EPFA are also planning on working with UEFA to contact all national football federations to highlight EPFA's existence in order to help potential new countries, as well as current EPFA affiliated nations. ND has also been in contact with Croatia and Bulgaria. Plans also include movement into northern Europe and Scandinavia.

EPFA are also set to work with UEFA around Euro 2016 to further promote powerchair football. Aiming to link with CAFE football re accessibility.

Currently UEFA are EPFA's only partner. EPFA aim to continue partnership post 2017. Although resources are limited EPFA will continue to build as professional a development programme as possible. EPFA aim to secure another sponsor for continued future development.

## FINANCE

Document to be sent. July to July. €5,000 left in account. Costs for officials for Nations Cup are to be paid.

Development trip to Spain: €15,000 spend. Country receive balls, guards and posts to enable players to develop. Request from Austria to send officials for development tournament in Oct. EPFA are looking into this.

## Election of Officer of EPFA – conducted by an Exco member Administrative and Financial Commission Director

Position is currently Vacant. Contact ND if you are interested.

## FIPFA Update

Document from HD attached.

## FIPFA WC 2015 Update

Brazil were the only country to bid. A site visit took place in April 2014, linking into the COPA Cup that took place. At the playing venue only one court was suitable. Other venues were sourced as alternatives. Other challenges included access and transport and as a result Brazil are unable to host WC as a result. 4<sup>th</sup> July – EOI letter sent. 5 countries expressed interest. Discussions ongoing as to whether event is 10 or 12 team tournament.

WC could run up to Aug 2016. FIPFA congress 21/7/14.

## EPFA future competitions schedule

Future programme option: if WC moves to 2016, EPFA aim to run a development event in 2015. Plans for the event to be supported by refereeing and classification training. More established nations can send staff for CPD for their country.

2015/2019 – 4 year cycle of events, aiming to parallel the running game. In between World Cups and Nations Cup EPFA aim to run Champions Cup competitions for teams in different countries.

(EPFA to send letter of intention to participate?)

Countries all agreed that if WC runs in 2015 they are still keen to attend a club competition if one can be organised.

## EPFA Event Plans Development trips

3 planned for 2015: Italy in September. Bulgaria, Croatia and northern Europe are being explored. Referee, classification and youth events in discussion. Promote staff exchanges between clubs/countries

Areas include:

- a. Friendly tournaments
- b. Exchanges between clubs/countries
- c. Youth events

## Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.