



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
**CP FOOTBALL**

# Newsletter

November 2015 3rd edition

## Welcome

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition newsletter of the International Federation of CP Football. 2015 has been a busy and exciting year for CP Football.

Please remember to stay up-to-date with all the latest news, information and developments in CP Football by visiting [www.ifcpf.com](http://www.ifcpf.com) or our range of social media channels detailed at the end of this newsletter.

## New board members



IFCPF is delighted to formally announce the addition to the board of two new members, Dr Annathurai Ranganathan from Malaysia and Mr James Murrihy from Ireland.

Dr Ranganathan is currently the head of Corporate Social Responsibility for the Asian Football Confederation, with a long experience in Football Development. As the Interim Chair of Asia Federation Cerebral Palsy Football, Dr Ranganathan has been key in establishing this new organisation to support the development of CP Football in Asia.

Mr Murrihy, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer with the Irish Sports Council, is a previous member of the Athletes Commission of Paralympics Ireland and board member of People with Disabilities in Clare. Recently selected as Athlete

Representative for IFCPF, Mr Murrihy has enjoyed playing for the Ireland CP Football team from 1995, including three world championships and two Paralympic Games before his final tournament in 2010.

## CPISRA motion to IPC General Assembly

As you are likely already aware, CPISRA has proposed a motion to fill the 23rd slot in the Tokyo 2020 sport programme for consideration at the IPC General Assembly in Mexico City. Effective January 1, 2015, the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF), is the International Federation responsible for Football 7-a-side (newly renamed to CP Football). Our sport's application for inclusion on the Tokyo 2020 sports programme failed because the IPC did not accept the evidence presented in support of our worldwide reach. Of course we were devastated by this news and we immediately commissioned an independent report to prove our sport's worldwide reach, which is available on our website. This report confirms that in the period 2009-2013, there were 29 countries widely and regularly practicing our sport, at the international level or by having annual nation championship tournaments. Since 2012, our worldwide reach has further increased to over 40 countries.

If you support CPISRA's motion, you will give the IPC Governing Board the mandate to reconsider its decision and to review the new evidence we have gathered. It also gives the IPC the opportunity to fully utilize all 23 slots allocated to them for Tokyo 2020.

Inclusion of CP Football in Tokyo 2020 will result in an additional 112 athletes having the opportunity to compete at the Paralympic Games. This benefits more than just the athletes competing during the games. It extends to thousands of athletes who play CP Football in

over 40 countries - because much of their funding is depending upon being part of the Paralympic sports programme. Finally, inclusion of CP Football will add a second ambulatory team sport and the only team sport of ambulatory athletes with motor impairment, providing a balance to the overall sport programme.

## Board Meeting

On the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, IFCPF had a board meeting in Amsterdam with lots of key points for discussion.

Here are some the key agenda points:

- New board members
- 1<sup>st</sup> IFCPF General Assembly
- IFCPF Strategic Plan
- Budget 2015 & 2016
- Financial Policy
- Membership
- IFCPF Development Plan
- Athlete Representation
- IPC General Assembly and CPISRA Motion
- UEFA CSR Report
- Cooperation with CPISRA
- Marketing & Communications
- Tournament Calendar
- Clean-Sports

For further information or to submit any agenda items for future IFCPF board meetings please contact [info@ifcpf.com](mailto:info@ifcpf.com)

## Technical Committee



The IFCPF board have appointed two new members to the Technical Committee, Ismael Sanchez from Spain and Skye Arthur Banning from the USA

At the moment, Mr Sanchez is the International Sport Events Manager for the Catalan Sports Federation of Cerebral Palsy, having organized many international sport events over the last ten

years.

Having a lot of experience in organising tournaments, his specific role in the Technical Committee will be the judgment of bid documents and to assist Local Organizing Committees in the organization of tournaments.

Mr Arthur Banning has been appointed as the new Head of Officiating.

Professionally a professor of Sport Management at Clemson University, He has also officiated in over 200 professional or semi-professional matches in various divisions around the United States. In addition, he has officiated in over 1000 matches in the University soccer divisions (NCAA).

In 2014 he was upgraded as an instructor and was one of only 25 instructors in the United States invited to attend a FIFA Futuro III course designed for the highest level of instructor in the US. In addition, he is also a National Assessor for US Soccer responsible for assessing and mentoring referees in professional matches, or in the semi-professional divisions.

With the appointment of these two very qualified persons IFCPF has made a great step forward in the professionalism of CP Football.

## Chile Workshop



IFCPF, in cooperation with the Americas Paralympic Committee (APC), have organised a CP Football coach education course including an introduction to classification. The course will take place from 17th to 22nd November in Santiago, Chile.

Three course instructors have been appointed by IFCPF. Marcello Sanchez responsible for the classification part of the course. Mr Sanchez is an international senior classifier with experience in many international tournaments such as the 2015 CP Football World Championships and Paralympic Games. René Jurrius from The Netherlands and

Paulo Cruz are responsible for the technical section of the course.

A development tournament has also been organised in the same week, with the participation of the national team of Chile and development teams of Brazil and Argentina.

<http://www.ifcpf.com/development/workshops>

## Classification

The city of Girona (Spain) hosted the Head of Classification meeting from 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> of October, attended by the National Paralympic Committees representatives and the Classification Committee of the International Paralympic Committee. This meeting counted with a very high participation rate, having included a total of 75 attendees from nearly all Paralympic sports and candidate sports, including 25 NPCs. Some representatives from several International Federations were invited by the IPC, and Professor Raúl Reina (IFCPF Hoc) was had the responsibility to explain the actions taken by IFCPF to accomplish the 11 key-factors, monitored by the IPC, in order to approve the inclusion of the CP Football in the Paralympic Games.

The actions taken by the IFCPF, as Professor Reina explained, were: the inclusion of the rulebook in the IFCPF website; the establishment of the classification purpose according to the IPC's standards; the different research steps conducted to gain the required evidence-classification; the processes that have been carried out in the last two years to improve the class profiles; and finally, the project designed to develop the future classifier training and accreditation courses.



Right after of the Head of Classification meeting, Girona also hosted the VISTA Conference 6<sup>th</sup> edition from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October, where two oral presentations focused on CP Football classification were presented. Firstly, professor Reina presented the work entitled "*Improving reliability and validity of current classification methods for athletes in classes T35-T38 (IPC Athletics) and FT5-FT8 (CP Football)*"; work produced in cooperation with professor Sean Tweedy from University of Queensland (Australia). Some results belonging to an Agitos Project led by professor Reina were also presented to the audience, which has the aim to develop measurable and objective criteria, which could be incorporated into the current class profiles in order to improve the reliability of the classifiers decision-making. One of the main outcomes of this project is to develop a reliable check list that can assist during the required observation process and thereby improve the classifiers decision-making for the cut points between FT5 vs FT8, FT6 vs FT8 and FT7 vs FT8.

Secondly, Maria Campayo (PhD student of professor Reina) at Miguel Hernández University of Elche (Spain), presented the work entitled "*Reliability of a Test Battery for Evidence-Based Classification in Cerebral Palsy Football*". The results from this project show that a high reliability was founded, indicating that the battery of test presented in this work, are able to rank players. This outcomes evidence that those test should be considered as assessment tools for CP football players, as well as to the CP football classification process. Thus, the proposed battery tests could help in getting evidence-based classification in CP football.



## Athlete Interview

In his new role as Athlete Representative, James Murrelhy spoke to a current member of the Ireland CP Football team to find out more about the experience of a current player and the Road to Rio



**Joe Markey - Ireland**

**Age:** 28      **Home:** Clontibert, Monaghan

**Profession and educational background:**  
Bachelors degree in Business, Four APA exams (Banking qualifications), Business Credit Analyst Bank of Ireland

**Playing Position:** Centre midfield, although nowadays I am not aloud pass the halfway line.

**Playing Career:** 13 years, 69 full international Caps & 17 goals.

**What got you started in CP Football?**  
I had an appointment in the CRC in Clontraf when I was 15, I seen a poster on the wall I phoned the number and was told the current squad was at the Euros in Ukraine , I knew after that phone call I wanted to get involved.

**What is your biggest accomplishment in football?**  
European Medalist 2010.

**What one or two things do you currently do in your training that is key to your success?**  
The drills set out in training and the coaching staff. We try to replicate match tempo in every aspect of training so when it comes to tournament football were sharp and ready.

**Do you have any personal routine that you follow on match day?**

I try to relax as much as possible on Match day by listening to music, chilling out with the lads, A High Level of concentration is required during a match. Avoid unnecessary exercise. Hydrate & eat well.

**What would be your ultimate achievement?**  
To Medal in Rio

**What are your plans between now and Rio 2016 next year?**

To leave nothing to chance, prepare right in terms of Strength & Conditioning, Mobility, Diet, Recovery and of Course the Football.

**What is your biggest challenge, and what do you do to manage this challenge?**

The next game, in football that's anyone's biggest challenge. I never look too far ahead of our first Match. Carry out the tactics set out, be 100% honest and be willing to take responsibly. You'll not go far wrong.

**What is your diet like?**

Like any other athlete that competes at a high level. To perform well you must also refuel well

**What was the best advice you were ever given?**

I was once told when you start to feel exhausted in a game and you think you can't go anymore, it's the same as a fuel light going off in the car it's only a warning sign there's still 20 miles left in the tank.

**Do you have a saying or motto that you live your life by?**

Leave nothing behind just go out and do it.

**Where do you draw your inspiration from?** This squad is full of talented players so our current squad inspires me as I feel now we can achieve more.



## Tournaments



### 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games:

3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (Singapore)

<http://www.ifcpf.com/tournaments/view/25>

## Marketing & Communication

IFCPF would like to request that all members send a notification to IFCPF of all matches and tournaments of national teams, national youth teams, and national championships organised in your country. It is of great importance for tournament and match management, as well as to demonstrate to the IPC, our member countries and football enthusiasts, all CP Football activities worldwide.

A template match report can be found in the library section or our website here: <http://www.ifcpf.com/library>

Written match reports and photos should also be included so that IFCPF can make an announcement of the event on the IFCPF website and social media.

Updates will be shared during the game if applicable. Match reports, written reports and photos will be published immediately on the website.

This process is necessary to collect all the information regarding CP Football activities worldwide. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## Social Media

IFCPF uses a range of media and social media to promote CP Football and the great work of all our members. Please remember to share your news items, posts and promotional materials with IFCPF so we can continue to support you.

Some of our main social media channels:

	<a href="#">/ifcpf</a>
	<a href="#">@ifcpf</a>
	<a href="#">ifcpf</a>
	<a href="#">CP Football</a>
	<a href="#">International Federation of CP Football</a>
	<a href="#">ifcpf</a>
	<a href="#">CP Football</a>
	<a href="#">ifcpf</a>

IFCPF use TeamApp where you can access our website, social media channels, and receive notifications direct to your device with the latest news.



Our TeamApp can be accessed at <https://ifcpf.teamapp.com> or download TeamApp on your smartphone or tablet and search for 'ifcpf'.