



November 21, 2017

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## **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games – Sport Programme**

Dear Mr. Padberg

On behalf of the board of the International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF), I am writing this letter to accompany our completed 'Declaration of Intent to Apply for the Inclusion of a Sport or Discipline' for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The Vision of IFCPF is to achieve **"Global recognition for Cerebral Palsy Football as a dynamic World Class Paralympic Sport"**

Our Mission is that **"We inspire, support and enable individuals with Cerebral Palsy or a related Neurological condition around the World to participate in Cerebral Palsy Football in order to reach their full potential."**

In delivering our Vision and Mission, the way in which we work is led by our 3 key Values outlined below:

**Unity** - *It is our responsibility to foster unity within the Cerebral Palsy Football World and to use Cerebral Palsy Football to promote solidarity, regardless of gender, ethnic background, faith or culture*

**Trust** - *We must strive to deliver Cerebral Palsy Football of the highest quality and as the best possible experience, be it as a player, as a spectator, or as a major cultural and social enabler throughout the World*

**Excellence** - *Just like the game we govern, we model fair play, tolerance, sportsmanship and transparency*

### **Excellence**

The Paralympic Games has been recognised as the pinnacle of the CP Football (Football 7-a-side) competition programme since its first inclusion in the 1984 Stoke Mandeville and New York Paralympic Games. IFCPF World Championships and Regional Championships form the qualification events for the Paralympic Games, ensuring that the world's best national teams and athletes compete at the highest level of our sport.

All information for IFCPF sanctioned tournaments is accessible through the IFCPF website, where our Tournament Tool links tournament records and results, live social media feeds, classification and players profiles, along with the latest news stories.

A key part of the work of IFCPF is to ensure that our competition programme and pathways provide a regular offer to all countries, in all regions, at all levels. The levels of our pathway are outlined below:

- **Participation** – Increasing CP Football grassroots participation opportunities within a country
- **National** – Annual National Championships held within a country with representative teams
- **Development** – First step and low cost international competition opportunities, including qualification tournaments and sub-regional competitions.
- **Regional** – Sanctioned IFCPF Regional Championships
- **World** – IFCPF World Championships, IFCPF World Cup and Paralympic Games

In addition to the different levels of our competition programme, IFCPF have competitive opportunities for female players and youth players.

Embedded in our 'Laws of the Game' and 'Tournament Regulations', we support our members to stimulate growth in participation through flexibility to adapt some of our rules and play mixed gender within National Championships and Development level competitions.

Football is an integral part of global society and, as arguably the world's most popular sport, a great spectator sport as it is so simple and easy to understand; there are very few rules in football compared to other sports.

As a fast-paced, dynamic sport that keeps people on the edge of their seats; tough tackles, athletic saves and spectacular goals are just a few of the reasons so many people call it the beautiful game.

## **Integrity**

The 2015 IFCPF Anti-Doping Rules are compliant with the 2015 WADA Code, as confirmed by WADA on 21 July 2015. In May 2017 IFCPF completed and submitted the WADA Code Compliance Questionnaire, maintaining an up-to-date and robust approach to 'clean-sports'.

Since our formation in 2015, IFCPF have had an established Registered Testing Pool (RTP) of 10 players and now operate an out-of-competition testing programme with all athlete whereabouts registered through the WADA ADAMS system.

IFCPF conduct in-competition testing at all IFCPF sanctioned tournaments, including Regional Championships, World Championships, World Cup and Paralympic Games.

We have a history of 'clean-sports' which our federation and members are proud of and committed to, resulting in no positive results received in any doping test for CP Football.

Since 2013, IFCPF's classification research programme has been working towards the creation of a robust and evidence-based classification system and set of rules.

IFCPF were delighted to be awarded the Classification Research Grant by the IPC on 2 October 2017 to conduct further research and strengthen the evidence on which are rules are based. Engagement with key stakeholders, particularly our members and their athletes, has helped us to ensure that our classification rules are sport-specific, minimising the impact of impairment of the outcome of competition and thus creating a fairer sport for all.

CP Football as a sport provides opportunity for 3 of the 10 eligible impairments for Paralympic sport, with clear guidance in our classification rules about the impairment criteria. For this impairment group, CP Football is the only ambulant teams sport recognised by the IPC and therefore important in providing a balanced competition programme.

Our online Classification Database provides an easily accessible, yet securely stored, central place for all classification records and documentation. The front section of this database is public, providing player profiles for all who participate in IFCPF sanctioned competitions.

Working in line with the IPC Medical Code and FIFA guidelines, through our 'IFCPF Governance Assessment Framework' we ensure there are clear policies for health and safety which are regularly reviewed and updated. Working to instil and maintain exemplary governance practices, our 'IFCPF Governance Assessment Framework' covers the areas of: *'Compliance with external Bodies, Policies and Codes', 'Organisation', 'Membership', 'Leadership', 'Accounting and Finance', 'Marketing and Communications', 'Sport', 'Officiating', 'Classification', 'Clean-Sports (Anti-Doping)', 'Medical' and 'Athletes'*.

## **Diversity**

Female football continues to grow in popularity, with more and more women and girls playing across the world and throughout the varying formats of football. Following the great success of the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games for female football, this is beginning to be positively reflected in the development of Female CP Football for the future of the Paralympic Games programme.

Female representation on the IFCPF Board and all committees (Technical, Classification, Medical/Anti-Doping) is providing a voice for female players and wider stakeholders to influence and drive the direction of IFCPF's work in providing a gender balance of equal opportunity.

Development programmes aimed at the grassroots, increasing competition opportunities for female players at all levels of the game and communication around female football is bringing positive results. Our focused Female CP Football development work means that female players have more opportunities than ever to enjoy the game of CP Football alike their male counterparts.

Implementing new rules to allow CP Football to be played mixed gender at participation, National Championships and Development level, is bringing new female players into the game throughout our membership.

Our 'Female CP Football Development Grants' are currently supporting dedicated programmes in five countries (England, Kenya, South Africa, Spain and Trinidad & Tobago) across three IPC regions (Africa, Americas and Europe) to create female specific opportunities.

We are working to establish a 'Female CP Football Working Group' which will provide engagement, feedback, ideas and proposals to our Technical Director and IFCPF Board.

At the 2018 CPISRA World Games, both a development camp and competition are being offered to IFCPF and CPISRA members to support the growth of international competition for female players. Competition will take place through a small-sided-game format of 4v4, and provide a world level tournament for international female players alongside the 2018 IFCPF World Cup U19.

IFCPF feel it is our responsibility to provide a pathway for anyone with cerebral palsy (hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis) to access the sport of football, including those Athletes with High Support Needs. As part of our partnership with the Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA), we are working together to develop the format of Frame Football which is an adapted version of football created to support the specific needs of athletes who require the use frames or rollators to ambulate on a day to day basis.

Frame Football has been developed to support the physical development and physiotherapy of young people with cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities, providing a new format of the game between Powerchair Football and CP Football. Current programmes in England, the Netherlands, Malta and Malaysia are demonstrating that Frame Football helps to provide a

complete football offer for players in lower CP classes, supporting the physical development of some to progress onto CP Football opportunities.

## **Universality**

Through our development, communication and engagement of our members, our current data for the 2014-2017 period demonstrates that over 63 countries have a CP Football participation programme, in all 5 IPC regions.

IFCPF have developed a 'Worldwide Reach Tracker' to collect and collate all evidence of participation at every level of our sport. Active in all 5 IPC regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania), our current data shows that over 28 IPC member nations meet the Worldwide Reach criteria, with more than 15 holding National Championships every year.

## **Sustainability**

IFCPF's Technical Development Plan has been developed and shared with our membership to lead the development of our sport for the period 2016 to 2019. This plan has strategic objectives around 'Participation', 'Competition', 'Workforce', 'Officials', 'Classification' and 'Athlete Development'.

As part of our ongoing governance updates and reviews, we are currently writing a new strategic plan which will be shared through the further phases of this application process.

IFCPF could not have achieved all that it has, and have the future aspirations we have, if it were not for the strong partnerships we have developed. CP Football has been part of the 'UEFA Football Social Responsibility's' 'Football For All programme' since 2012, with a partnership stretching back to 2007 when UEFA recognised the importance of CP Football through a dedicated development grant.

Also recognised by the Asian Football Confederation as a leading format of football for people with an impairment, IFCPF have an MOU with AFC around the development of CP Football across Asia which has already supported the 2017 ASEAN Para Games and CP Football workshops delivered in India and Malaysia during 2017.

As football is so easy to start playing, all you need is a ball, 2 goals and some team mates to play with. To get started many people create goalposts from pieces of clothing or marks on the ground and a ball can even be made of plastic bags and string. This understanding and approach to football at the early participation level makes it affordable and feasible for new countries to develop CP Football programmes and give people their first step into Paralympic sport.

At the pinnacle of the sport, this easy, low-cost approach is also true in the staging of competition at the Paralympic Games. Utilising existing football facilities which are available in nearly every country of the world, and always re-used from the Olympic Games programme, CP Football does not require the construction of purpose-built venues or high cost installations. Additionally, our sport supports low operational and running costs due to the simplistic nature of the game and focus on the sport.

We would like to thank you for your support so far during the application process and we look forward to further showcasing CP Football as a world class Paralympic sport.

For any question relating to our application please contact Mr. Sam Turner, IFCPF Secretary General at [sturner@ifcpf.com](mailto:sturner@ifcpf.com) or +44 (0) 7931 996681.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH Evers', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Jan-Hein Evers  
**PRESIDENT**