



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE IWWF CONGRESS HELD ON THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER AT THE MONTECARLO HOTEL, CHAPALA, MEXICO

Please note all reports referred to in these Minutes are contained in the Congress Minutes Binder circulated with these Minutes.

1. Opening of the meeting by the IWWF President

Kuno Ritschard, the IWWF President, welcomed all delegates, committee and council members and visitors to this biennial Congress.

2. To remember those of our friends and colleagues who had passed away since the last Congress

The delegates stood in memory of Stelios Vasilopoulos GRE, Nicolas Papapdimitriou GRE, Gisella Rixen GER, John Hoiles GBR, Rupert Winterl GER, Lesley Bauser RSA, Len Smart RSA, Joyce Williams GBR, Don Llewellyn CAN, Willy Stahle NED, Andy Mapple OBE GBR.

3. Confirmation of the Executive Board decision to appoint Jim Grew as Extraordinary Congress Chairman

The Executive Board had agreed to appoint Jim Grew as Chairman of the Congress, and this was accepted by the delegates with none against.

4. Declaration of the Congress properly convened

Jim Grew confirmed that the convocation for this Congress had been sent to all Affiliated Federations in due time.

5. Appointment of the Scrutineers

It was proposed and agreed that Leon Larson and Sid Adriaensen be the scrutineers.

6. Adoption of the Agenda

It was proposed and seconded that the Agenda as circulated be adopted. **This was accepted unanimously.**

7. Roll call of those present and vote verification

Federation Voting Delegates

Country	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	VOTES
Argentina	Sol ALVAREZ	Javier JULIO	4
Australia	Dave SKILLEN	Russell MORRIS	9
Belarus	Oleg DEVIATOVSKI		5
Belgium	Marie-Anne PERSOONS		4
Brazil	Larry GISLER		2
Canada	Jasmine NORTHCOTT		6
Chile	Martita ARELLANO VELEZ	Waldo MIRANDA DOMEL	7
Colombia	Manuela JARAMILLO	Felipe LEAL	7
Czech Republic	Marie-Anne PERSOONS		3
Dominican Republic	Mario PIGOZZI		2
Ecuador	Martin AVILA ESCOBAR	Larry GISLER	2
Egypt	Karim SOLIMAN		1
France	Patrice MARTIN	Gregory SAINT-GENIES	7
Germany	Guenter KUNT	Sven LEICHSENNING	9
Great Britain	Steve SOPP	Patrick FOLEY-BRICKLEY	9
Greece	Nicky CAINE		4
Hong Kong	Chris HOWARTH		3
Indonesia	Kadir FEBRIANTO		4
Ireland	Des BURKE-KENNEDY		3
Israel	Maoz TAL		6
Italy	Luciano SERAFICA	Alessandro VANOI	8
Japan	Paul FONG		3
Malaysia	Hanifah Yoong YIN FAH	Azzudin ARSHAD	2
Mexico	Antonio PEREZ PRIEGO		7
Monaco	Jean-Michel CAU		2
Namibia	Louis POLOME		1
Netherlands	Marie-Anne PERSOONS		4
New Zealand	Glen WILLIAMS	Ed DONALD	7
Norway	Michael KJELLANDER		6
Peru	Felix LORETO		6
Poland	Marie-Anne PERSOONS		5
Slovak Republic	Marie-Anne PERSOONS		3
Singapore	Paul FONG		3
South Africa	Louis POLOME		5
Spain	Ricardo BOTAS		5
Sweden	Borje BOSTROM		6
Switzerland	Peter FREI	Fred DUPANLOUP	3
Chinese Taipei	CHIUNG-TZU Lucetta Tsia		3
Ukraine	Marie-Anne PERSOONS		5
United States of America	Jeffry ARMSTRONG	Larry DOWNES	8
Total VOTES			189

Executive Board Members

Kuno Ritschard	President
Gillian Hill	Secretary General & Anti-Doping Committee Chair
Chris Howarth	Treasurer & Secretary General Asian Confederation
Jim Grew	Vice President Pan Am Confederation & Disabled Council Chair
Louis Polome	Vice President Africa Confederation
Peter Frei	Vice President Europe Confederation
Ed Donald	Vice President Oceania Confederation
Paul Fong	President Asian Confederation
Alain Amade	President Europe Confederation
Russell Morris	President Oceania Confederation
Peter Person	President Pan Am Confederation
Sid Adriaensen	Secretary General Europe Confederation
Jose Antonio Perez Priego	Secretary General Pan Am Confederation
Richard Gray	Barefoot Council Chair
Marie-Anne Persoons	Cableski Council Chair
Varna Laco	Cable Wakeboard Council Chair
Dusty Schultz	Racing Council Chair
Bob Corson	Tournament Council Chair
Nuno Almeida Eca	Wakeboard Council Chair
Stuart Marston	Athletes Commission
Jean Michel Cau	Coaching & Development Committee Chair
Leon Larson	Environment Committee Chair
Des Burke-Kennedy	Media & Marketing & Hall of Fame Committee Chair
Jeffrey Armstrong	Women and Sport Committee Chair

8. Member Federations

The President announced the new Federation of Nigeria.

The following Federations had been accepted as Associate Members – Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan.

The following Federations had lapsed due to non-payment - Maldives, Qatar, Mauritius, Chad, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Barbados

The acceptance of Nigeria as a new Federation was approved unanimously.

9. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from the following:

Andres Botero	Emeritus President
Depy Papadimitriou	International Relations.
Thomas Lin	Vice President Asian Confederation
Jerome Bauser	President Africa Confederation
Jan Thurgar	Secretary General Oceania Confederation
Martin Schmidt	Secretary General Africa Confederation
Ageliki Andriopoulou	Athletes Commission Chair
Uwe Goldstein	Cable Development Committee Chair



Jeff Smith	Anti Doping Hearing Panel Chair
Jerry Luiting	Show Ski Committee Chair
Phil Chase	University Commission Chair
Aubrey Sheena	Hall of Fame member

10. Adoption of the 2013 Extraordinary Congress and Congress Minutes from Santiago, Chile

The adoption of the 2013 Extraordinary Congress and Congress Minutes was approved unanimously.

11. Ratification of the 2013-15 Executive Board decisions

A paper covering all these decisions was circulated to the voting delegates upon registration at the Congress.

2013

Postal Ballot #1 – 2013 Athletes of the Year

Regina Jaquess (USA) Tournament and Nate Smith (USA) Tournament were voted IWWF Athletes of the Year 2013.

2014

Postal Ballot #1a – 2015 World Racing Championships

The 2015 World Racing Championships were awarded to New Zealand.

Postal Ballot #2 – 2014 World Cableski Championships

The 2014 World Cableski Championships were awarded to Germany.

Postal Ballot #3 – 2015 World Disabled Championships

The 2015 World Disabled Championships were awarded to the USA.

Postal Ballot #4 – IWWF Anti-Doping Rules

The completely revised (required by WADA) IWWF Anti-Doping Rules were approved.

Postal Ballot #5 – 2015 World U21 Championships

The 2015 World Under 21 Championships were awarded to Spain.

Postal Ballot #6 – Athlete of the Year 2014

Ashleigh STEBBEINGS (AUS) Barefoot and Alexander VASKO (SVK) Cableski were voted IWWF Athletes of the Year.

Decisions taken at the EB Meeting held on 12th and 13th September 2014

- Agreed to form a working party to review the IWWF Management Structure, size of the EB, Bureau, etc.
- Agreed to support the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace by advertising the date in advance and asking Federations to support it.
- Agreed that each Council be required to submit participation information for all of their Championships each year.



- Agreed on changes to the IWWF Hall of Fame Rules to allow nominations from individuals and Federations.
- Agreed to prepare additional versions of the IWWF logo artwork to give a logo for all Confederations to use.
- The EB recommends that each Federation establish a Women and Sport Committee to maintain at least 20% female participation both on the water and in administrative positions in line with the IOC recommendations.
- Agreed, following legal advice, to sign a short-term trial contract with IMG to help improve IWWF's worldwide image and following.
- Following the increase in size of the EB, agreed to reduce the travel grants to EB members to attend meetings.

The above 15 Executive Board decisions taken in 2013 and 2014 were approved by the Congress unanimously.

2015

Postal Ballot #8 – IWWF Rules of Eligibility

The revised (and clarified) Rules of Eligibility for Athletes were approved by the EB.

Postal Ballot #9 – 2017 World Racing Championships

The 2017 World Racing Championships were awarded to the USA.

Postal Ballot #10– 2016 World Barefoot Championships

The 2016 World Barefoot Championships were awarded to the USA.

Postal Ballot #11 – 2016 World Cable Wakeboard Championships

The 2016 World Cable Wakeboard Championships were awarded to Mexico.

Postal Ballot #12 – 2015 World Tournament Championships – change of venue

Following the inability of the Italian Federation to host the 2015 World Championships according to the LAO, the EB voted to change the venue to Mexico, with a change of date to November 2015.

Postal Ballot #13 – Changes to the Definition of Eligible Athletes - Byelaws 11.2, 13.1 and 13.1.2.

The proposals for changes to these Byelaws were approved by the EB.

Postal Ballot #14 – Further Changes to Byelaw 11.2

The further proposals for changes to this Byelaw were approved by the EB.

EB DECISIONS FROM THE NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING IN MEXICO

- IWWF Appeals panel of 5 reconfirmed: Jeff Smith, Datuk Lee, Jim McClintock, Aubrey Sheena, Silvia Terraciano.
- IWWF Safety Manual updated.
- Des Burke-Kennedy re-elected for a two-year term as Hall of Fame Committee Chair.
- The Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration on women in sport was signed.
- Addition of a Media/Social Media protocol as an addendum to the LAO with an updated corresponding section in the LAO.

- All Confederations to appoint Media Managers by February 1st 2016.
- Tournament Council to produce a placement based Rankings List by the 2016 Executive Board meeting.
- The Bureau to investigate reducing the cost of hosting the EB for potential Tournament Open World Championship organisers.
- IWWF Updated 4-year plan – see separate document.
- Agreed that Candidates for President, Secretary General or Treasurer, officially nominated by their Federation, will be added to the Bureau as invited non-voting members for a maximum of one year before the next Congress election to become familiar with the day to day business of the IWWF.
- Appointment of Executive Director: The group appointed by the EB in September 2014 has now received a total of 15 applications from 14 countries. It is the group's firm belief that the names of the applicants remain confidential.
- The intention of the group is to have the position of Executive Director in place by 1st April 2016.

The above 19 Executive Board decisions were approved by the Congress unanimously.

12. Report from the IWWF President

The written report of the President was accepted unanimously.

13. Report from the Secretary General

The written report of the Secretary General was accepted unanimously. The Congress also recorded its thanks to Andrea Landau in the IWWF office.

14. Financial Items – Report of the Treasurer

The complete report from the Treasurer and copies of all the accounts and papers presented are attached to these Minutes in the reports binder.

14.1. Approval of the Accounts to December 31, 2013

Proposed by Ireland, seconded by Belgium and *approved unanimously.*

14.2. Approval of the Accounts to December 31, 2014

Proposed by Dusty Schulz, seconded by Australia and *approved unanimously.*

14.3. Adoption of the Reporting Accountant's report (2013 and 2014)

Accepted unanimously

14.4. Review 2015 financials

The review provided was accepted by the Congress.

14.5. Budget for the years 2016 and 2017

Proposed by Chris Howarth, seconded by Ecuador and *approved unanimously.*

14.6. Appointment of the Reporting Accountant (RSM Tenon Ltd)

Approved unanimously.

15. Reports from the 5 Confederation Presidents

The five written reports from the Presidents of the Confederations were accepted unanimously.

16. Reports from the Council Chairs

16.1. Barefoot

Richard Gray had nothing to add to his written report.

16.2. Cable Ski

Marie-Anne Persoons had nothing to add to her written report.

16.3. Disabled

Jim Grew had nothing to add to his written report.

16.4. Racing

Dusty Schulz had nothing to add to his written report.

16.5. Tournament

Bob Corson had nothing to add to his written report.

16.6. Wakeboard Boat

Nuno Eca apologised for his report being late, but he had just finished an excellent World Wakeboard Championships here in Mexico. His written report was handed out to the delegates at registration.

The council continued to gather more information on wake surfing and would report to the National Federations as soon as possible.

16.7. Wakeboard Cable

Varna Laco had nothing further to add to her written report.

The reports of the Council Chairs were accepted by the Congress.

17. Reports from the Commissions and Committees

17.1. Athletes Commission

Ageliki Andriopoulou was retiring from the Athletes Commission as she was very close to having her second baby. Unfortunately she had not submitted a report.

17.2. Anti-Doping

Gillian Hill had nothing to add to her written report.

17.3. Cable Development

Uwe Goldstein had submitted his written report.

Marie-Anne Persoons, speaking on behalf of the Polish Federation, made the following statement:

Poland is a very strong country in Cableski and Cable 3-event and is disappointed not to have Cable in the World Games. The organizers of the World Games in Wroclaw did not want to include Cable as there is no Cable setup existing at present in the area of Wroclaw. This however should not be an excuse as Cable installations nowadays can be set up even on a temporary basis and the Cable group believes that this can be done without extra costs to the organizers.

Although it is perhaps too late for 2017, it would still be great to try to have a Cable event at the World Games as a demonstration sport.

For future World Games, IWWF should do its utmost to have Cable Wakeboard included (even if it is not Cable 3-event) as this is the discipline with which the IWWF has the best chance to ever enter into the Olympic Games. Not having a Cable in the organizing city at the time the World Games are assigned should not be a show-stopper.

17.4. Development

Jean Michel Cau had nothing to add to his written report.

17.5. Environment

Leon Larson had nothing to add to his written report.

17.6. Hall of Fame

Des Burke Kennedy thanked the organisers for an excellent Hall of Fame ceremony the previous night.

17.7. Media + Marketing

Des Burke Kennedy had little to add to his written report other than to say that, at some time in the future, it may be necessary to make a “political” decision to find a way to get quicker results from the trick event.

17.8. Medical

Lorenzo Benassa had nothing to add to his written report.

17.9. Show Ski

Gerry Luiting’s written report had been circulated to all Federations.

17.10. Women in Sport

Jeffry Armstrong had nothing further to add to her written report.

17.11. World University Water Ski

The written report of Phil Chase had been circulated to all Federations.

Kuno Ritschard added that the 2016 FISU World University Championships would be held in Akita, JAP. It was important for Federations to realise that entries to this event, run by the International University Federation, could only be done by National University Federations. As a result, it is important for National Federations with qualified athletes to get in touch with their National University Federations.

The reports of the Committee Chairs were accepted by the Congress.

18. Election of IWWF Vice Presidents from each Confederation

The following candidates were elected for 2 years.

Africa	Louis Polome
Asia	Thomas Lin
Europe	Peter Frei
Oceania	Ed Donald
PanAm	Jeffry Armstrong

At this stage in the meeting, two detailed, enjoyable and informative presentations were made:

- The 2016 World University Championships in Akita, Japan
- The 2019 World Tournament Championships in Putrajaya, Malaysia

19. Future world events

The Calendar of titled events has been distributed and is also attached with these Minutes.

The bid from the Malaysian Federation to stage the 2019 World Championships was approved by the Congress unanimously. The dates would be 12th – 19th August 2019.

It was noted that the World Junior Championships, due to be held in January 2017, were being moved forward to December 2016. There were no comments on this change.

However, subsequent to the Congress after pressure from some Federations, the date was moved back to 5th to 8th January 2017.

The President was still seeking hosts for the 2016 World 35+ Tournament Championships and the 2016 World Cableski Championships.

The 2016 World Cable Wakeboard Championships would be held in Mexico.

The 2016 World Barefoot Championships would be held in the USA.

20. World Cup

This item had been covered in the President's written report.

21. Bye-law changes

The following Bye-law changes were proposed by the USA, seconded by Belgium and approved unanimously.

TEXT AS IT WILL APPEAR IN BYE-LAWS – changes shown in RED



Bye-law 11.2 Composition & Voting

Each Council shall have nine (9) voting members and up to **five (5)** alternates from the five Continental Confederations. Three (3) plus one (1) alternate **each** from Asia and Oceania, three (3) plus one (1) alternate **each** from Europe and Africa and three (3) plus one (1) alternate from the Americas with a recommendation that there should be at least one voting member or alternate from each of the five Continental Confederations. **In the case that a voting Council member cannot attend a meeting, he should be replaced by an alternate from his Confederation if possible.**

No more than two (2) of these nine (9) voting members shall come from the same federation.

As set out in Byelaw 13.1, the IWWF Athletes Commission shall appoint one member to each Council unless at least one elite athlete as defined **by Byelaw 13.1.2** is already among the nine voting members.

Councils have the authority to appoint one other voting member if they feel it necessary for the work of the council.

This will give a maximum of eleven (11) voting members.

There shall be no proxy voting.

Except where stated otherwise in the divisional Technical Rules, all voting shall be determined by simple majority.

As set out in Byelaw 13.1, the Athletes Commission shall also appoint an Alternate member unless at least two elite athletes as defined by **Byelaw 13.1.2** are already among the nine voting members.

Alternate members may attend meetings and shall have voice but no vote unless replacing an absent member.

A Council Chairman may invite such individuals with voice and no vote to attend all or part of a meeting as may be necessary to fulfil the functions of the Council.

Bye-law 13.1 Athletes Commission

The Athletes Commission will consist of nine (9) athletes, three (3) from the Tournament division **(from different Confederations)**, one (1) each from the Barefoot, Boat Wakeboard, Cable Ski, Cable Wakeboard, Disabled and Racing disciplines.

By email ballot, the Commission members shall elect from amongst its members one (1) athlete to serve as chair for a two year term at the conclusion of all the world championships taking place in the odd year.

The Athletes Commission shall also appoint from amongst its members two (2) representatives, preferably from different disciplines and different genders, to the Executive Board.

The three Tournament athletes on the Commission shall appoint one representative to the Tournament Council as a voting member **with the other two athletes serving as alternates.**

Each of the athletes representing the six other Councils shall serve as the representative on his Council or appoint another athlete meeting the same eligibility requirements to that position **unless at least one elite athlete as defined by Byelaw 13.1.2 is already among the nine voting members.**

They shall be voting members and serve as representatives for a two-year term.

Each of the athletes representing the six other Councils shall also appoint an alternate member unless at least two elite athletes as defined by Byelaw 13.1.2 are already among the nine voting members.

Bye-law 13.1.2 Definition of an Elite Athlete

Elite athletes must be:

- 1. members of an Affiliated Federation of the IWWF; and**
- 2. have competed in**
 - (a) at least one of the three (3) Open World Championships in their sport division previous to the one held during their sport division election year; or**
 - (b) the Open World Championships in their sport division during the sport division election year; or**
 - (c) a World Cup during the previous four (4) years before their sport division election year; or**
 - (d) a World Cup during their sport division election year.**

22. The Four Year Plan

The updated 4 year plan was handed out to each delegate upon registration for the Congress. *There were no specific comments, and the plan was accepted by the Congress.* A copy is attached with these Minutes.

23. IWWF Eligibility Rules approval

A copy of the revised Eligibility Rules had been circulated with the agenda, and a further copy was handed to the delegates at the Congress.

The approval of these rules was proposed by France, seconded by Belgium and approved unanimously.

24. Items presented by National Federations

No items had been presented.

25. Next World Congress

The next World Congress would be announced once the venue for the 2017 World Championships had been finalised.

Patrice Martin (FRA) suggested that the EB start considering sharing the burden of hosting the EB meetings and Congress at other World Championships. The Tournament Open organisers take on a

huge financial burden with the current LAO. Kuno said the Executive Board had already started this discussion.

26. A.O.B.

26.1. World Championships Tournament Schedule

Ricardo Botas (ESP) said that there had been many problems with the schedule at this World Championships that had made the situation for the athletes very unpleasant. This concerned the timing of the Congress in relation to the tournament competition schedule. He asked if the Congress could be scheduled at another time, separate from the actual competition. The athletes did not understand the importance of the Congress, especially when it impacted their ski schedule.

Patrice Martin (FRA) said that both the skiing and the Congress are equally important. It is just a question of scheduling.

The original schedule for this World Championships had clearly stated that skiing could not commence on Thursday until 1330 allowing the Congress to run from 0800 to 1230 as announced over a year ago. Unfortunately, this had not been adhered to due to poor on-site communication which gave rise to the problems.

Some suggested that IWWF start the Congress later in the day – around 1600 – with skiing finishing at 1500. The Congress could then run on into the evening with no impact on the skiers.

It was accepted that further consideration was needed on this issue, and the EB would take this forward.

26.2. Women and Sport

Referring to the recommendation from the Women and Sport Committee for Federations to form a committee to encourage more women into our sport, Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) said that, on the water, women are well represented. However, at the boardroom level, it was different; and the IWWF needs more women in administrative positions. However, Federations should not just appoint women to their committees for the sake of numbers. It was important to appoint the right people for the right job, regardless of gender.

26.3. The current World Championships

Alessandro Vanoi (ITA) thanked the Mexican Federation for taking on the organisation of this World Championships at short notice. The Italian Federation apologised that they had not been able to fulfil their obligation to organise this tournament due to circumstances outside of their control.

26.4. Alain Amade

Alain said that being French he had at heart the philosophy of Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite which was the French motto. He felt our sport was becoming too elitist, too technical and was no longer accessible to all. He urged IWWF to remember the fundamental principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity which should apply to all sport.

26.5. World Games 2021

Kuno announced that the 2021 World Games would take place in Birmingham, USA.



There being no further business, Congress Chairman Jim Grew thanked the Mexican Federation and the organisers for providing the Congress venue. He thanked the delegates for their attention to the business at hand and for being well prepared.

Jim Grew declared the Congress formally closed.

IWWF President, Kuno Ritschard thanked Jim Grew for chairing this Congress.

He was pleased to see so many delegates present.

END