



*International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation*

## **Wakeboard World Council Minutes**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Milan, Italy

Open Meeting

### **Present:**

Neil Harris Chairman (NH) AUS,

Colin Hart Secretary (CH) GBR,

Janifer Ellis (JE) USA,

Nuno Eca (NE) POR,

Dan Levine (DL) USA,

Jung San Han (HJ) KOR,

Paul Fong (PF) SIN,

Fabrizio Malnati (FM) ECU,

Brenda Harris (BH) AUS,

11.20am

### **APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES**

CH: Move to accept the minutes.

BH took minutes to meeting in Korea and once distributed, only PF and NH replied.

Noted that last meeting minutes were delayed, however once distributed to Council only PF & NH replied, therefore a non reply is a yes. Discussion took place regarding this years minutes and Brenda agreed to take the minutes and distribute them with the assistance of CH.

Motion CH Approved PF

FB: The Council must find a rider representative: from the floor it was suggested that Stewart Mackie from Great Britain be invited. His role should be defined as a Voting member on the council. NH suggested we need to check obligations. Note that rider representative is not an official.

PANAM Council Member Fabrizio Malnati arrived.

11.30am

Elections, NH tabled the issue of elections and was happy to continue, no other council member wanted to take on the role, however CH wanted better communication and would support NH, the position was agreed by all. CH to continue as secretary and was grateful of BH taking the minutes, this was agreed also.

PF: Council needs present slider plans to World Championships' organisers/host country. WWC should inspect them prior to the Worlds. Also suggested limiting independent riders per category, and cited the example of Olympics rules which limit 2 athletes per category to prevent one country from filling up all the podium places

NH: The number of riders for the World Championships was excellent and discussion took place on whether to limit the number of entries per Federation.

It was agreed however to let numbers increase to encourage growth within our sport, especially as we have only just reached this level from the host country.

The starting point would be the host country and limiting the number of entries. It was agreed to leave it as it is.

PF: The council must maintain the promotional value of the event. This issue should be revisited after the next worlds and see what trend is established.

PF: Worlds Protocol - Host federation obligations, IWWF obligations Council need to establish a list of obligations required to host a World Championships. As far as technical - IWWF and council need to establish a chart - BH to Action PF to Action

PF: Judging - we need to devise a chart showing the level of difficulty for each trick. Used mainly as a guide during judging seminars - Action PF

CH: Disagreed with this due to the progression of sport- this may limit progression. Council looked at this in the past as to how to clarify the level of difficulty for categories.

NH: This would be great for upcoming riders to have something to refer to and a definition of handle pass and non handle pass tricks etc. Begin with Open Men /Open Women then revise standard as appropriate.

PF: Not enough information for riders and coaches, this would be an educational document for riders.

NE: This should be an internal document only . We need to clarify position. Careful not to put it into rules . Refer to rider representative to also advise. How style / grabs/ whether tricks landed sketchy or clean - Action NE & WWC Email

NH: Consider mens and women - levels of ability - how to compare one trick against another

NE: WWC needs to develop a judging/scoring guide this should be in judging seminar / Website / Difficulty is the subjective then with Composition and Intensity of trick. So trick list would be for execution only.

NH: Develop an ability chart eg trick X & Y are same ability then trick A & B are similar

NE: This should be part of the judging seminars, on the website, explain subjective nature - Action NE/PF/NH

PF: Riders need a defined criteria

NH/PF: Perhaps within the WWC a technical subcommittee should be formed to handle this

DL: There seems to be a new phenomenon "The Harley and Phillip Syndrome" Because these riders are dominant in the sport the sponsors are not recognising 3rd. 4th and 5th place etc. Perhaps we should revise judging format - Spin to win EXE/COMP/INT is still best format

PF: Disagrees with DL suggestion saying that we stay used allows the Best rider on the day to win. We still want the best riders to win.

CH: Wakesurfing : Kuno has given permission to incorporate the event as a world trophy event. Trophy Event : No Sanctioning event

World Cup & World championships : Sanction fee paid

DL: USA bought to the attention of council that Wakesurf has its own division . USA has established its own division to run.

NH: WWC is Boat council : other disciplines such as Kite board, Wakesurf and Cable should have their own council. This is something that should be bought to Kuno not the WWC

NE: Perhaps develop a committee, and IWWF investigate if other countries interested in including this discipline into future world championships.

NH/PF: Will discuss issue with Jim Grew at Congress meeting

DL: IWWF has to embrace wakesurfing or risk losing it

NH: Problem with embracing it globally for the council is in AAO region it poses a massive environmental issue

EA Region

Surf in Ocean not that important

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT – Neil Harris**

NH welcomed Fabrizio to the council from PANAM region.

Continuity of council makes a difference to the ongoing effectiveness of the council, however a succession plan needs to be addressed. As council members we need to be careful that we don't grow out of the position, but there also needs to be future involvement of founding members so as to not lose the knowledge. There comes a time when members should step away and allow new members to take the role.

The name change International Waterski and Wakeboard federation has been a positive and well received change. Some federations still have not adopted the change, these are federations dominated by tournament, but in most countries and federations wakeboarding actually has more riders and we have more federation participation than tournament so the name change has been very positive.

We have broken down the barriers of tournament and now have credibility globally.

### **E&A REGIONAL REPORT – Florian Butty**

E&A region has to do a lot of work. Admin : Clear website, calculation programme . We are closer than ever to the world rules.

There are 17 counties in E&A and the council needs to work better together.

The committee is delegating tasks well - E&A are using the new calculation program and that is progressing well.

Future: More international events with 50+ riders

CH: The rules are almost mirroring World rules and so is scoring

FB: E&A are hosting seminars within the region recently Ukraine was a big success with 44 people from 11 Federations

Driving seminar was included thanks to the support of Mastercraft

### **AAO REGIONAL REPORT – Paul Fong**

The Asian market is rapidly growing. Korea has a lot of activity post 2008 AAO Championships which included a World Cup stop. The 2010 Asian Beach Games held in Oman included wakeboarding for the first time..

AAO's growth has extended throughout the Middle East where there has been an increase in wakeboarding activities. Paul advised that he may be step down from World Wakeboard Council to focus on his role as AAO President. The role would see Paul developing the AAO Region to participate in all disciplines across the board at regional and world level.

Looks like Worlds for wakeboarding will be May 2013 will be held in New Zealand if all goes well.

### **PANAM REGIONAL REPORT – Dan Levine & Janifer Ellis**

The region continues to have challenges.

Janifer and Dan acknowledge problems within USA waterski itself.

The ex Director clearly does not understand the heart and soul of wakeboarding as a sport

Jim Grew has done a great job supporting wakeboarding but the ex-director does not.

Kuno Ritschard as IWWF president hears of the disruption and the USA considers that IWWF do not recognise or support the significant contribution that this region has made to the sport of wakeboarding throughout the world. This has caused a breakdown in communication between USA waterski and World council. The solution is on the table as we speak - but USA region feels it has been left to deal with the situation

PANAM request that they can opt to continue under the current situation the way it stands, WWC with its realised success, but USA Region are wanting more recognition.

It appears USA is majorly broken.

JF & DL advise that WWC may be better to build the PANAM region with supporting member federations and allow USA waterski to step away

DL: Advises WWC that he resigned from USA waterski yet remains on the board

The current president is Chris Walker

If Dan walks away then Wakeboarding will fall apart for WWC in USA

USA Waterski / Wakestock/International Grass Roots

PF: USA has a real problem - the Government is what funds the federations. USA one of the few that do not receive government funding

NH: The main focus for WSM is USA based - out of the USA they have nothing to offer. No Insurance and No Funding (IWWF offer both of those operating under recognised federations).

NH: All the council needs to concern itself with is running the World Wakeboard Council, running the World Cup and focusing on what we as a council do best and not getting involved with the internal problems within the USA.

NH: In closing we need to encourage all federations to progress with the name change.

DL: The council need to understand how much work Fabrizio, myself and Janifer have done in the region, and yet Peter Pearson the President of PANAM doesn't even know about wakeboard events as he is focused only on waterski.

PANAM Games did not even have wakeboarding included.

NH: Your role is educate the president, develop a plan and continue to get the sport recognised and develop the discipline in the region.

NH: 9 members are allowed onto the PANAM Wakeboard Council

NH & PF: We are going to meet with Peter and discuss this issue with him at the Congress meeting.

We as a council need Peter to become more involved and understand the role of WWC.

FB: Within South America - Argentina and Brazil are not working so closely with IWWF for wakeboard - even though the name change went ahead. President at the federation are waterskiers- they just run with 3 event.

They do not answer my emails.

PF: Why don't you take the initiative and form a Latin American Council under the umbrella of the PANAM council. Similar to the Middle East wakeboard movement.

Argentina want to do the Latin American PANAM Championships.

FB: Who does the reporting to Kuno?

NH: I report to Kuno as AAO chairman, Florian as E&A Chairman.

NH & PF: Establish a new Council within PANAM you can have 9 members.

### **RIDER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

No report.

### **WEBSITE**

CH: Gave members of the Council with a list of requirements for the website, the site was 85% complete with good historic information of World results, World Games and more,

together with rider of the year for each of the years, rules, contacts, information expected from the IWWF Wakeboard . ACTION ALL submit the required information

NE: Wording

NE & CH: Press release on Worlds for distribution - get photos so Des can do distribution.

## **WORLDS UPDATE**

All notifications should be posted on IWWF website.

Entries - Include Colour Scan of passport, with the entry.

Closing deadline - Deadline for Organisers to Build apparatus - Perhaps IWWF charge a bond that if by a certain date the apparatus is not built and approved then either IWWF will ship these from Singapore at organisers expense.

Performance guarantee- Once everything produced then federation receives a refund presented as a Big Cheque at closing ceremony.

Council agrees that IWWF should be in charge of money collection until such time all obligations are met.

Entry fees will be released at end of event.

PF/NH : Within the council have a technical Subcommittee

## **RULES**

4 (rename) CATEGORIES AT THE WAKEBOARD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

add 4(F) Cancellation of a Category - categories with less than three (3) riders may be cancelled or merged with other categories > at the discretion of the world wakeboard council - BH to Action

Change Under 9 Boys/Girls to 9 years and under

Change Boys/Girls to 14 years and under

Junior Men - 18 years and under

<9<BOYS<JUNIOR<OPEN>MASTERS>VETERANS

BH to Action

Masters Men change to 30 & older

Veterans Men change to 40 & over

Remove all dates and replace with the age you were as of 1st January of the current year.

Rule 5 Heats : Open Men : Change wording from 2010 IWWF Wakeboard World Cup to Current wakeboard World Cup Overall Standings - BH to Action

Rule 9 : Motion to increase team numbers from 8 to 10

Vote 6 yes / 2 No / 1 Abstain - BH to Action

Motion Carried - Change in rules

CLOSE MEETING

4.30pm - 12th July 2011

Open Meeting

8.00pm - 15th July 2011

### **Rules Review**

After close of meeting a discussion continued that if team numbers had increased from 8 to 10 then scoring team members should increase from 6 to 8 with 10 Team Members.

PF: Motion to increase team scorers from 6 - 8 with 8 Scorers. CH seconded.

Vote 7 yes / 1 No Motion carried

Rule Changes

Rule 11 a) change 6 to 8

Rule 11 e) Once a category is open then ALL point scores will be considered.

All in favour DELETE existing Rule 11e

Rule 15 Add to rule (Move to Rule 14)

If a rider wishes to request a reride he/she should ask the head judge in the boat, a decision will be made by the majority of the judges in the boat.

NE: Strong belief that if rerides should be granted it will increase the number of handle throws Refer to E&A Rule 5 paragraph 1. NH says disregard this does not need to be clarified any further and its unnecessary (Hostile end to discussion)



Rule 19 DOUBLE UP - Only Junior men and Open Men who qualify for the finals may be given a double up.

Rule 20- this should change to but not limited to

Delete this section and add : At World Championships organisers should advise what type of apparatus is approved by WWC and this should be added to the bulletin.

Organisers are encouraged to use obstacles of structural integrity, safe in design and adequate and secure floatation device.

BH - delete the types of apparatus

Rule 22 move to front of d remove word Obstacle at the beginning of rule d include the wording each rider shall receive one obstacle and one wake fall only

SEE ATTACHED New rules with amendments

### **SCORING SYSTEM**

FB has been working on a new scoring system developed by Emmanuel Lion. JE said that the system must be tested by all experienced WWC calculators prior to being approved

The system takes results and creates ranking.

It's in place in E&A but still needs testing (eg many 1st place riders world wide how do we determine the rank of one federation champion over another )

No special software required

SQL Database

Program can see placement from judges etc

### **WORLD RANKING**

CH and NE would like to introduce World ranking system

NH: Who would maintain the ranking list - lots of work involved and the what do we do with it, CH expressed it was an expectation of the WWC as a World Sporting Committee.

If we create ranking in different hemisphere with different events then how accurate will the information be. If its too subjective what will be the benchmark? How do you define a champion from one country against another country? Do we weight federation championships by entries?

If we introduce a global ranking then we must have riders participating in the same events or we will have to go back to points.

All federations would / must adapt the same rules and eliminate or control subjectiveness

CH: Its great that we opened this discussion however we need to discuss this in more detail but seems like we have a good starting point.

## **SUCCESSION PLAN**

We need to consider succession plan for the continuing growth of wakeboarding. NH enjoys the position and has many roles within IWWF.

The role must see someone that works well with the IWWF Boss or President. Failure to get along is disasterous.

NH was groomed for the role by CH and now needs to begin grooming the next person who wants to take on the role in the future when NH steps down.

NE said that he is proactive and would like to learn and develop and possibly take on the role in the future.

If we can define the roles, in policy book, within the council more clearly then that would make it easier for future.

Colin Hart, Neil Harris and Paul Fong to receive 10 year service awards for their contribution to the sport of wakeboarding.

Until now the council has been driven by the original founding members Neil Harris, Colin Hart and Paul Fong

Character - Needs strong person

## **SAFETY MANUAL**

BH: Recommendation - guidelines for safety of events.

Risk Assessment

PF: Preventative policy

PF: Refer to Executive board

Organisational Chart

## **JUDGING SEMINARS**

E&A has a good team of Judges, the international trainers are CH and NE, as does AAO for training at seminars with NH and PF as trainers

CH: A detailed list of officials from E&A are on the new website but other regions need to submit as per the sheet of requirements, therefore a World wide list would be available online.

We are failing in PANAM in judging. NH has run many clinics but we cannot hold judges because they are not running events and we lose the knowledge

PANAM need to broaden throughout Latin America (follow model of AAO)

WWC need to adopt standard syllabus with common syllabus for Judging, calculating, driving, proficiency.

JE: The World judges need unity. IWWF approves the syllabus and then this filters through

## **REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

EA - 11-18 February 2012 South Africa

PANAM - nothing scheduled

World Games 2013 - Columbia (Selection Criteria)

AAO To Be Advised

## **WORLD CUP EVENTS**

1 Sarawak

1 China

CH: Expressed disappointment at the lack of presence of some World Cup riders at the World Championships - they have earned a lot of prize money on the IWWF World Tour and its disrespectful of them not to come to the Worlds. Having riders selected for the World Cup that do not show their support to a World Championship is not fair on those showing support, credibility will be lost if not careful.

PF & NH: World Cup selectors. We feel the same and this year riders who have attended the world championships will be rewarded for their support. Its difficult not to take the pro

riders attendance personally. We do want the top riders at the world championships even though there is no prize money so we will change the importance of World championships for the future

Meeting closed at 11.30 pm