



**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (CALL CONFERENCE)
30th APRIL 2019 - 2:00 p.m.
World Skate Office - Viale Tiziano 74 Rome**

MINUTES

MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS ATTENDING THE MEETING:

1. Sabatino Aracu
2. Fernando Claro
3. Karen Doyle
4. Guoyong Liu (Mrs Zhang Na acting on his behalf)
5. Olivier Pascal
6. Siegfried Zistler
7. Fernando Regueiro
8. Kelvin Koo
9. Andrea Fonzari
10. Gary Ream
11. Jorge Roldan
12. Nicola Genchi

MEMBERS WITH VOTING RIGHTS NOT ATTENDING THE MEETING:

1. Alberto Herrera Ayala
2. Nathanael Koty
3. Carmelo Paniagua
4. Leticia Bufoni

MEMBERS WITH NO VOTING RIGHTS ATTENDING THE MEETING:

1. Roberto Marotta
2. Laura Morandi
3. Patricia Wallace

Also attending the meeting:

1. Elisabetta Mariani - World Skate Operations Director
2. Francesco Zangarini - World Skate Sports Director
4. Caterina Noto - World Skate Sports Department
5. Doris Gentile - Interpreter

- Quorum required: 9 - Quorum reached: 12
- Deliberative quorum: 7

President Aracu opens the meeting by apologizing because the Executive Board meetings were not held as frequently as desired, but the last period has been characterized by several commitments

aimed to the development of the Federation, and recalls that the Olympic goal of Paris 2024 was attained, and that the goal of Los Angeles 2028 is likely to become reality as well.

In wishing that EB meetings are held more often, President Aracu thanks Patricia Wallace for her role so far as Commissioner of Oceania and for her activity as Chair Of the Medical Commission, and greets Karen Doyle, recently appointed, which participates in an EB Meeting for the first time.

President Aracu also thanks Alberto Lastrucci, who has worked for many years as Chairman of Inline Hockey and was forced to leave his assignment for health problems. President Aracu welcomes Andrea Fonzari replacing Alberto Lastrucci, and Kelvin Koo replacing Eddie Chua as the Chairman of the Inline Freestyle Technical Commission.

Items included in the agenda:

1. World Skate Games 2021

Aracu informs the EB members that - despite of a period of slowing down of negotiations with Argentina, due to their commitment in the organization of YOG 2018 - Argentina filed a formal application to organize the event, equipped with the supporting letters by the Argentinian Ministry of Sports, by the Governors of Buenos Aires and San Juan, and underlines that this project has the support of Mario Moccia, the Secretary General of the Argentinian Olympic Committee.

At 2.11 p.m. Jorge Roldan joins the meeting via call conference.

Fernando Claro takes the floor and expresses his conviction that Argentina is the right location for WSG 2021, in consideration of the fact that San Juan is a very important city for rink hockey, and that after the organization of WSG in Asia in 2017 and in Europe this year, it is right and fair that in 2021 the event takes place in the American continent.

President Aracu believes it is correct to trust Argentina and invites the Chairmen attending the meeting to enter into contact with the organizers in order to inspect the sports venues, bearing in mind the need to organize an event complying with the standards set by World Skate; in this regard, President Aracu seizes the opportunity to thank the staff of World Skate, which with their constant work contribute to the best possible organization of events.

The voting is held for entrusting Argentina with the organization of World Skate Games 2021.

Voting: unanimously approved

2. Statutes

Before moving on to the analysis of the Statutes, President Aracu says that the drafting of a completely new document was needed because the Statutes presently in force are no longer in line with the structure and the changing needs of the Federation, and that the new text was drafted also according to the indications of ASOIF.

The document is a draft; the Congress has therefore the task to approve the final version of the Statutes, after the eventual changes deemed necessary.

The new Draft Statutes are a modern document, based on the Good *governance* principle, and containing different elements aimed to prove to ASOIF and to the IOC that World Skate deserves to be an Olympic Federation.

The new draft Statutes contain a list of all the disciplines governed by World Skate. The discipline included at the top of the list is skateboarding because it is an Olympic discipline.

These Statutes contain three pivotal aspects:

First aspect: One single Federation per Country, acting as *governing body* of all disciplines

Aracu underlines how World Skate is an International Federation gathering a large number of Federations acting in turn as *governing body* of several disciplines. In some Countries, however, there are several Federations governing more than one discipline. It is necessary to have a single point of reference in each Country and for this reason, in case more than one Federation is established in the same Country, they shall work together to establish a single *governing body* over a period of two years, although keeping the organizational independence for one's discipline.

Second aspect: *Election day*

An important novelty within the draft Statutes concerns the election of high-ranking Federation officials during a single Congress. The main objective is to establish an *election day* during which electing not only the President and the First Vice President of World Skate, but also Continental Presidents. In this way the electoral mandate is uniformed, and becomes the same for all

Furthermore, in compliance with the gender equality principle - particularly important for the IOC - in case a man is elected as President of World Skate, the Vice President shall be a woman. And vice versa.

Claro says he agrees with the general principle of *gender equality*, but he does not agree with the fact that this has to be an obligation. Aracu underlines that considering this principle only as a recommendation would limit its efficacy and implementation. He shares the idea that these important mandates must be held by skilled persons, irrespectively of their gender; in this moment however this is the main trend and everyone shall comply with it.

It is in any case an issue that we need to analyze in detail until the Congress next July.

Third aspect: Continental Chairmen are automatically part of International technical commissions

Another important aspect is represented by the Continental Chairmen of the different disciplines, appointed by Continental Chairmen that automatically become members of the International technical commissions of each discipline; this will entail an exchange of ideas and opinions among Presidents and Chairmen, and will be extremely constructive.

Projects, ideas and eventual needs that Continental Chairmen identify in Continental Federations will be debated in this way within the International Commission of each discipline.

The eventual collaborators of technical commissions are entirely decided by Continental Chairmen in agreement with Continental Chairmen.

President Aracu underlines how this represents an important change, and any decision takes place at the same time all over the world, although adjusted to continental problems.

Continents have total autonomy in Continental Championships, but World Skate may and shall provide its contribution so that the organization of events is of a high level. President Aracu underlines that often Continental Championships are of a poor quality, and this is detrimental to the image of World Skate.



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Aracu underlines that Federations presently pay a membership fee to World Skate and one to the Continental World Skate; by sharing the revenues deriving from the fees, Continental Federations would receive an important financial support; President Aracu also hypothesizes that with the passing of time the amount of the fees might increase and be entirely allocated to Continental Federations, therefore providing them with a higher economic strength.

As regards Africa, for instance, for the time being there isn't a Chairman able to provide support to the international technical commission; in this regard, the President of the African Federation - with the support of the International Chairman - shall make the endeavor to identify someone able to further develop one's skills and represent one's discipline in the African Continent.

Presently the international Chairmen don't know how to make a substantial impact in Africa; more dialogue will therefore be needed between them and Continental Presidents and Chairmen.

President Aracu invites Continental Presidents to organize frequent meetings with the Presidents of their national federations with the purpose to identify the best approaches to obtain progresses and improvements; consequently, there will be more continental meetings and more occasions for development.

President Aracu's words are followed by several positive comments such as Fernando Claro's, who congratulates for the work carried out and expresses his idea according to which the inclusion of a continental chairman in the international technical commission is an important step forward, as in this way each commission will follow a single and standardized approach; Sigi Zistler considers the above as a good opportunity for allowing the growth of Continental Federations.

Zhang Na, representing Guoyong Liu, agrees with the approach above, but fears that continental Presidents might lose their power; she also believes that it is necessary to monitor and supervise the eligibility of continental representatives.

President Aracu says that there will certainly be more dialogue, more exchange of ideas, and Continental Presidents shall be able - if necessary - to represent World Skate on his behalf.

Team work is fundamental, as shown for instance by what President Aracu and Gary Ream have done together, allowing athletes from the four corners of the world (and not just to the best ones) to participate in the World Championships organized by Street League in Rio de Janeiro, with the participation of athletes from 42 Countries and from the 5 Continents.

As regards the doubts expressed by Zhang Na, Aracu recalls that through the enforcement of the By-Laws and of the Code of Ethics it is possible to have the highest possible transparency on candidates. These two documents will be sent to the EB members by the end of May, and their adoption only pertains to the powers of the Executive Board, and not of the Congress. The By-Laws and the Code of Ethics were also drafted on the basis of the exchange of communications between our Legal Department and the IOC and ASOIF.

Nicola Genchi further expresses his support to the idea of including continental Chairmen in the International Commission; he underlines that in his Artistic Commission there are Annick Tavernier, Chairman of the Artistic Commission of the American Continent, and Norio Iwakata Chairman of the Asian Continent. In these two continents any activity has become easier thanks to the collaboration with National Federations and Continental Presidents.

Karen Doyle believes that these changes are important for a Continent as Oceania, because working in close contact with International Technical Commissions allows to hope that federations will be established in other Countries of her Continent.



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Fernando Regueiro asks for clarifications relating to the procedures to be adopted in case a sport is not represented at a Continental level - therefore in case a continental commission does not exist - and about the future of the already existing commissions. His doubts are clearly understood by the Sports Director Francesco Zangarini, who believes that the support of continental areas is fundamental for the promotion of all the disciplines; in this regard President Aracu states that in case in a Continent there is already a body that works well, it can obviously be used.

Jorge Roldan expresses his skepticism, believing that it is necessary to face the truth, namely that in Continents such as Africa and Oceania it is difficult to work with Federations; he believes these projects are wonderful in theory, but difficult to implement in practice. In Africa, for instance, there is a very low level in Speed, and Federations should have more money to be spent for the development of disciplines. But this does not happen.

President Aracu understands these doubts but underlines the need to be positive, to speak with Continent on a daily basis, by intervening to replace any reference person in each discipline that shows one's unsuitability in having such role.

World Skate was different ten years ago, but in a few years' time, with this management and type of approach, has become a federation that is certainly not wealthy but endowed with a sound organization.

World Skate presently has a secretariat that is ready on a daily basis to meet any need; in the future any Continent may have one's office and organizational structure. If necessary, experts will be appointed for specific sectors. Chairmen as well are becoming managers of their disciplines. Thinking of concentrating all the decision-making power in a single place is a big error.

Zhang Na underlines that in Asia Roller Derby and Alpine are starting to develop only now, and in China, for instance, the Hockey Commission deals with three disciplines: Rink Hockey, Inline Hockey and Roller Derby; for this reason, joint commissions of similar disciplines might be established.

President Aracu understands, but reiterates that a commission for each discipline is desirable.

Gary Ream says he needs to analyze the previous Statutes as well and to compare them with the new draft, because he believes that nothing is said about *rebranding*, something that all national Federations should do on the basis of the model of Continental and International World Skate. Furthermore, he would like to better understand how to behave in those Countries that have more than one federation and that shall establish a single one, and also what to do with the Federations that are not represented in World Skate, but that try to improve their level.

Aracu underlines that the Statutes do not provide for the obligation to make a *rebranding* in all the countries, although it would be beautiful to succeed in doing it.

As regards the need to have a single *governing body* per Country, it is necessary to allow countries like USA and Canada to find an agreement to establish a single federation with an approach allowing each and every discipline to be independent. It is necessary to pay attention not to destroy the balances that have been found. Some Countries already found an agreement and unified their Federations.

Secretary General Marotta takes the floor to say that in the last few years several amendments to the Statutes were made, and on this occasion the effort was made to try and draft Statutes able to meet the several needs of Countries, and also to take World Skate to the future. A huge development was achieved in the last five years. He believes that these Statutes shall be taken to the Congress to succeed in obtaining further progress, and invites all members to send their suggestions about the Statutes.

Olivier Pascal says that with this amendment to the Statutes the Continents will have more strength and technical commissions can further rely on them. From the technical point of view his commission with Roller Freestyle and Scooter is growing a lot, with a higher and higher number of *riders*. The technical Commission has the task to push more and more federations to recognize this discipline, and hopes that with these changes it is possible to rely on continental organizations.

Regueiro believes it is necessary that all the Federations practicing disciplines governed by World Skate shall recognize World Skate, because many associations have not yet done it, or support other organizations.

President Aracu answers by referring to the example of Roll Ball, a discipline that is very widespread in India and Pakistan, which wants to keep its autonomy but in doing so it is not recognized by GAISF; for this reason GAISF asked Roll Ball to join World Skate, in order to obtain an official recognition.

As regards the *rebranding* of Federations on the basis of the model of World Skate, President Aracu believes that a first step might be done in those countries in which federations have to join forces to establish a single *governing body*. He however understands that some years are needed in order to fully implement this approach everywhere, also in consideration of what Zheng Na said, that is to say that in countries like China there can be bureaucratic and administrative difficulties as they need to comply with their guidelines.

The voting procedure on the approval of the Statutes begins:

Votes in favor: 11

Abstentions: 1, Gary Ream

Before closing the meeting, President Aracu gives the floor to Patricia Wallace to refer to the policy on transgender athletes.

Pat Wallace says that Brazil allowed a boy to compete in girl's category, but the South-American Artistic Commission decided not to recognize such participation. The IOC asked one month ago if World Skate had such policy, and she sent the one drafted in the past.

The only thing that the IOC decided to change is the level of testosterone in a transgender male/female athlete. What really matters is that the level of hormones is in line with the thresholds recommended; these athletes do not need any surgery; they only have to indicate in which gender they intend to compete and comply with the medical provisions in force. The Executive Board has therefore to recognize the right of transgender athletes to compete.

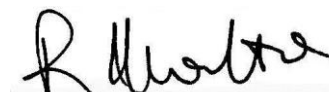
Aracu proposes to approve the general principle for the time being; when Pat sends the documents, an electronic vote will be cast.

The call conference ends at 4.50 p.m.

Rome, 30th April 2019



Sabatino Aracu



Roberto Marotta