



## EB MEETING CONFERENCE CALL - 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Sabatino Aracu - President
- Roberto Marotta - Secretary General
- Fernando Claro - 1st Vice President and President of World Skate Europe
- Karen Doyle - President of World Skate Oceania
- Alberto Herrera Ayala - President of World Skate America
- Nathanael Koty - President of World Skate Africa
- Guoyong Liu - President of World Skate Asia
- Andrea Fonzari - Chairman of IHTC
- Nicola Genchi - Chairman ATC
- Kelvin Koo - Chairman of IFTC
- Carmelo Paniagua - Chairman of RHTC
- Gary Ream - Chairman of ISC
- Jorge Roldan - Chairman of ISTC
- Sigfried Zistler - Chairman of IATC
- Patricia Wallace - Chair of Sports Medicine Commission

### WORLD SKATE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:

- Luca Basilico
- Francesco D'Urbano
- Doris Gentile
- Alessandra Lunadei
- Florinda Mandosi
- Elisabetta Mariani
- Simona Mercuri
- Angela Masci
- Simone Masserini
- Eleonora Paratore
- Sergio Sacripanti
- Francesco Zangarini

### Speech by the President

President Aracu thanks the participants and underlines that this is the last EB meeting before the Olympic debut of World Skate. We hope in a new beginning after the pandemic; the Street Skateboarding World Championships were held in Rome; unfortunately, the Park Championships could

World Skate | International Federation

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not be held because neither China nor Brazil could host them because of COVID; there was however the Dew Tour in the USA.

On the occasion of a meeting with all the athletes participating in Tokyo2020, Kit McConnell underlined the great visibility that World Skate will have, having considered that our competitions will open and close the Olympic program. Billions of people will watch skateboarding competitions, and Aracu thanks all those that worked to allow this to happen. It is a long-awaited moment, and hopefully World Skate lives up to these expectations. As also mentioned to the IOC, in the last two years several activities were carried out to become an Olympic federation; important broadcasting projects were implemented, such as in Rome with NBC, which also thanked us for the extraordinary product we provided. Aracu expresses his pride for Kit McConnell's words, confirming the positive evolution of World Skate, and the good chances to be confirmed for LA2028 as well.

During the Skateboarding World Championships in Rome, the utmost attention was paid to athletes' health. Spectators participated in a limited number due to the COVID-related provisions, but the 1.500 tickets available were sold in 30 minutes.

A meeting with all the African Countries was also held, and World Skate undertook to train African managers and Secretaries General, so that they may in turn allow the growth of the countries in their Continent. Meetings with each Continent will be organized in the future, in order to analyze the difficulties of the different Areas.

The World Skate Facilities Department was launched, whose main task will be the certification of sports facilities. A letter will be sent to all National Federations, explaining the project.

Another initiative is represented by the E-sports, strongly supported by the IOC and by Thomas Bach. Aracu also thanks the staff of World Skate for the work done.

### **Welcome remarks by the Secretary General**

Roberto Marotta, after assessing the presence of the quorum, moves to the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **Approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting**

Voting: the Minutes of the previous EB meeting are unanimously approved

### **Approval of 2020 Audited Financial Statements**

Marotta describes the main figures of the Financial Statements. The most important items for the revenues are represented by the membership fees of National Federations and the IOC contribution, in addition to the Seminars and the organization of international qualification events to Tokyo2020, totally amounting to 4,049,000 USD.

In consideration of the expenses for promotion, development, antidoping, meetings and staff costs, the total expenses amount to 2,088,0. Net of the exchange rate adjustments, the overall availability amounts to 3,681,000, including the fee for the events in Lima that unfortunately could not be held.

Voting: Unanimously approved.

### **Tokyo 2020 Update and Report on the Olympic Qualifiers**

**BASILICO** takes the floor and recalls how - due to the pandemic - it was not possible to have the season of competitions planned. The Dew Tour event was held, and the agreement for the organization of the Street event in Rome for 5 years was signed.

As regards Park, all the possible solutions were taken into consideration; advanced negotiations were in place with Brazil, but the COVID situation has not allowed to organize the World Championships for Park. The Dew Tour (with competition for both Street and Park) was held despite of the uninterrupted rain for 5 days. The Street World Championships in Rome saw the involvement of World Skate in all the activities, starting from the construction of the Field of Play in a stunning scenario. The skatepark will continue to be available for use for some months.

The team of World Skate showed top-level skills, and organized a great event in a very short period of time.

Basilico then presents the Olympic athletes: 25 countries in the two disciplines, with the age bracket ranging between 12 and 46 years, underlining the important difference between minimum and maximum age. Over 50% of athletes are aged over 25, and the youngest athletes are women. The demographic data by Country show that Brazil, Japan and USA are the Countries that reached the maximum number of athletes that may obtain the qualification to the Olympics (12). The global distribution shows the prevalence of the American and European continents, a good representation of Asia, and then Oceania and Africa. In Africa it is still necessary to work a lot to allow a greater participation of athletes in the Games. As regards Park, 18 Countries are represented for a young and new discipline, with a minimum age of 12 and a maximum age of 46; the number of athletes aged less than 15 is twice as much as higher than Street (4). Only Brazil and USA have the maximum number of participants, followed by Japan. Europe and America have a rather similar number, and a participation slightly higher in Oceania. A meeting is scheduled with the Olympic athletes also aimed at describing the operational difficulties that will need to be managed in Tokyo. All the information will be published soon.

### **2021 World Skate Elective Congress**

President Aracu says that the Congress was postponed and that will be held after Tokyo. The initial idea was to organize it in Argentina, but this was not possible in consideration of the strong pandemic still affecting the Country. African and Asian countries as well are in a situation of difficulty. Europe is therefore the most reassuring continent. One option is Paris, in order to allow World Skate to be the first Olympic Federation holding its Congress in the city of the next Olympic Games. The other option is Rome. The most suitable date is November 27<sup>th</sup>. A financial contribution will be given to the Countries for their travel expenses, with the goal of having the highest possible participation. The Congress will be summoned with the date only, and subsequently the location will be confirmed.

MAROTTA takes the floor and underlines that - since this procedure is outside of the ordinary - it is necessary to vote.

Gary Ream underlines that 25<sup>th</sup> November is an important celebration in the USA and it is not sure whether - in consideration of the restrictions in place - flights can be easily found.

Karen Doyle states that the Australian borders are likely to remain closed until the beginning of next year, with a compulsory quarantine once back to the country.

Aracu highlights that the Congress will be hybrid, also allowing remote participation and voting for those that will not be able to participate in person.

Voting: unanimously approved the summoning of the Congress for Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### **2021 Events calendar (2021 World Championships)**

Aracu underlines that the World Championships for Speed, Inline Hockey, and Artistic Skating have to be held.

The news from Southamerica is not reassuring, because the pandemic is very widespread, especially in Colombia. In Paraguay a good protocol is in place, but it is important to pay the utmost attention to the athletes from all over the world.

In Rome, covid tests were administered to all participants, and not cases were recorded; Aracu expresses some doubts for Colombia in particular, because the country has neither signed the contract nor fulfilled the administrative commitments. A 5-day ultimatum will therefore be imposed for getting the contract signed and the fees paid, otherwise another Country will be identified to host the Championships.

AYALA takes the floor, and thanks for the opportunity given to him. Since February, Pan American championships have been organized with 18 countries and 1,500 athletes participating for 10 days during the pandemic peak. At the moment there is a very strong third pandemic wave, but in 3/4 weeks there will be a decline. There was a social unrest that impacted on these infections because the security protocols were not complied with. However, there is the will to take on full responsibility: there is a letter sent by the ministry of sports, and some additional options are being evaluated: if the event is not feasible in the north coast, it might be done in the city of Ibagué where a speed track is already available, and there is the possibility to organize the Street competition. The President of the Colombian Federation is willing to sign the contract, and Ayala recalls that he himself had signed it at the time of the request. Colombia intends to keep its commitments and World Skate must rest assured that they will respond positively to all requests. The various protocols are being organized; the authorities want official communications, but the pandemic peaks, the clashes, the demonstrations, etc. have caused delays so now there is the need to receive the official communication from the Ministry of Sport to start the organization. Finally, Ayala underlines the great work that has been done internally to be ready and provides his personal guarantee, hoping that the pandemic will begin to decline in the next three weeks.

ARACU thanks and underlines the Colombia has always been trustworthy. It is necessary to stay in touch, but the contract must be signed and the administrative obligations fulfilled. Federations want and need to know what will happen in order to buy air tickets; he proposes another week to make a final decision.

PANIAGUA takes the floor and underlines that Colombia's tradition in sports events has always been fantastic. However there is a reality that cannot be underestimated: Latin America is in a bad situation with the pandemic, and an event of such magnitude with many athletes is really complex, also considering that the protocols must be respected 100%; there are two months left and the athletes need to know if the events will take place. Paniagua believes it is very difficult for these events to take place in Latin America, because no one can guarantee participation in these situations. The Tokyo Olympics as well will be with no spectators.

AYALA responds by saying that Colombia started to organize the World Championships last year; meetings were held with World Skate and the Colombian Federation, the facilities have been inspected also by the chairmen.

He reaffirms that events were carried out with the participation of 1,500 young athletes for 10 days by respecting the protocol measures. World Skate has developed an important protocol and Colombia has been working since last year and continues to work with hundreds of athletes according to the provisions of the Ministry of Health, which approved the organization of sports events throughout the country.

ROLDAN intervenes to say that the news arriving in Europe does not correctly represent the reality. Today, for example, there is an event with 150 children, held in a context of maximum safety. The protests have been reduced, there is the America's Cup which takes place in countries with many more infections than those of Colombia; people's fears are understood, but there is the possibility of offering the required security.

ARACU is certain that it is not a problem with the image of Colombia which always organizes splendid events. However, the administrative situation must be clarified immediately. Aracu therefore wishes to hear Fonzari and Genchi for the other two disciplines.

FONZARI thanks Herrera and Jorge for their words; he shares what Carmelo Paniagua said, since the Federation has to guarantee the safety of athletes; the feeling is that of dealing with all the real difficulties of South America, without prejudice to Colombia. Many countries such as Oceania, Canada

and the Czech Republic will not participate due to internal regulations, and these are the top federations in Inline Hockey.

GENCHI thanks everyone and says he has been in contact with the Paraguayan LOC which sent a very clear protocol, also taking out insurance to ensure any positive cases. Artistic skating would lose many athletes if a World Cup was not held for the second consecutive year; Genchi understands the nations that will not participate, but we must also think about sport and we cannot afford not to hold the world championships for the second consecutive year. Surely Australia will not participate, but there is no news on the other countries.

ARACU stresses that canceling the World Cup would be a great defeat, which we cannot afford; other countries should be found as an alternative to South America. World Skate is ready to finance the Covid tests to make the World Championships. It is clear that team sports suffer more, and we regret that the strongest countries in Inline Hockey do not participate, but the World Championships must be done.

AYALA reiterates his willingness to take responsibility for complying with commitments and organizing a great championship.

ROLDAN adds that the protocols of the Ministry of Health were sent, and Colombia wants to fulfill them.

FONZARI asks to immediately inform the Federations as soon as a decision is made.

ARACU concludes by saying that countries cannot be asked to bear the costs of swabs, and World Skate may provide its contribution, although the local healthcare also has to take on its tasks.

#### **Suspension of World Skate recognition of Malta**

Marotta informs EB members that World Skate acknowledges the non-acceptance by the Olympic Committee of the recognition of this Federation; therefore, a provisional recognition only is granted, in order to allow the participation in events.

Voting: Unanimously approved

#### **Ratification of Inline Alpine Rulebook**

Ratification of Inline Alpine Regulations

Voting: Unanimously approved

#### **Ratification of Inline Freestyle World Ranking**

Ratification of Inline Freestyle World Ranking

Voting: Unanimously approved

#### **Derogation to the minimum number of teams in 2021 Rink Hockey European Championships**

ARACU informs that there is a request to decrease the minimum number of countries participating in the European Rink Hockey Championships. As from next year, seminars will be held to modernize all the disciplines. Hockey is an important sport, but it has fallen behind by 50 years, because always the same countries participate in the events. There are countries that have not held the National Championships and are asking not to play the European Championship; this is not correct for those countries that have organized their own Championships with a lot of efforts. He proposes to accept even 4 countries only,

although the regulations say 5, in order to guarantee the organization of a Continental Championship. He therefore asks to derogate from this provision.

PANIAGUA agrees with Aracu and is surprised that some Countries that have not organized the Hockey national championships organize the championships for other sports; this derogation is important because those that organize Continental championships need to have the certainty that the highest number of Countries participate. It was decided to change the national calendars to organize in November a Continental championship to support these Countries; Paniagua hopes to have at least 8 Countries. The Commission is working to listen to the opinions of all the protagonists and improve the discipline.

Marotta asks to vote on such derogation

Voting: unanimously approved.

#### **Appointment of Josh Friedberg as Chairman of the World Skate Paralympic Commission**

ARACU talks about an important novelty, a great opportunity that may lead World Skate to become a Paralympic Federation as well; Skateboarding is truly appealing in the Paralympics, and in Los Angeles2028 we have the chance to be Paralympic as well. World Skate is lucky to have Josh, who is passionate about this sector, is Californian and knows everyone in this world; is the best person right now to become the Chairperson of the Paralympic Commission not only for skateboarding, but also for all the disciplines.

MAROTTA asks to vote on the ratification of the appointment of Josh Friedberg

Voting: unanimously approved

#### **Miscellaneous**

MAROTTA announces that World Skate has received from WADA the recognition as a federation that complies with all the rules. For this achievement we should thank Pat Wallace, who continues to collaborate with World Skate. However, everyone's collaboration is required in organizing the events. Continental championships cannot be organized without asking Pat for the protocols and without abiding by the regulations of WADA, which otherwise impose sanctions on World Skate.

The procedures are strict and there is a risk of very expensive fines. He therefore urges the organizers of Continental Championships to consult Pat Wallace before making any decision regarding anti-doping

ARACU adds that World Skate is seen as an Olympic and emerging Federation and therefore under the WADA spotlight; it is necessary to be very careful. For example, WADA did not allow World Skate to do the Vert World Championships in Russia because it was disqualified for doping until 2022.

PANIAGUA announces that in Spain they are working with e-sports in four different ways and this brings many sponsors and public. Many skateparks are being built and an agreement was signed with the Spanish association of municipalities which provides for joint activities with the Federation for national and international events.

Karen apologizes for the problems of quarantine, travel shortages, etc. It is possible that Brisbane is confirmed in the next IOC session as the city for the 2032 Olympics, and it's nice to hear about Paralympics.

ARACU recalls the Scooter World Championships which will be held in Barcelona on 25/26 September. The discipline became part of World Skate in Barcelona in 2019 during the Roller Games. World Skate



must have control over this discipline in all the countries and a letter has to be sent to the Federations, asking them to pay attention to this sport and related athletes.

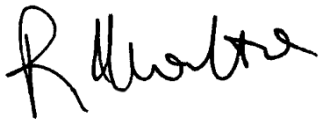
Before closing the meeting Aracu underlines that Tokyo is near, and he is already thinking about how to control the growth of World Skate after the Olympic Games. During the IOC session, Thomas Bach said that the sport of the future is young, urban and sustainable, like our sport.

In Tokyo World Skate will be protagonist, and all the athletes have to follow the rules of the International Federation, which is their home. They have to understand that they shall not to give in to private companies' enticements.

Our Tour will be important; World Skate has a 4-year contract with Rome, but other stops have to be organized in other cities.

Aracu thanks once again all the participants.

The Executive Board meeting ends at 4.30 p.m.



Roberto Marotta  
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu  
President