



MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
The Hoxton Hotel - Rome - 26th November 2021

Members attending in person

- Sabatino Aracu - President
- Roberto Marotta - Secretary General
- Alberto Herrera Ayala - Vice President (World Skate America)
- Nathanael Koty - Vice President (World Skate Africa)
- Karen Doyle - Commissioner World Skate Oceania
- Nicola Genchi - Chairman - Artistic Technical Commission
- Jorge Roldan - Chairman - Inline Speed Skating Technical Commission
- Sigfried Zistler - Chairman - Roller Alpine and Downhill Technical Commission
- Carmelo Paniagua - Chairman - Rink Hockey Technical Commission
- Andrea Fonzari - Chairman - Inline Hockey Technical Commission
- Olivier Pascal - Chairman - Roller Freestyle Technical Commission
- Fernando Regueiro - Chairman - Roller Derby Technical Commission

Members attending remotely

- Gary Ream - Chairman - Skateboarding Commission
- Kelvin Koo - Chairman - Inline Freestyle Technical Commission
- Patricia Wallace - Chair of the Sports Medicine Commission

World Skate Staff

- Elisabetta Mariani - Operations Director
- Francesco Zangarini - Sports Director
- Simona Mercuri - Communication Director
- Francesco Jacopo D'Urbano - Head of Legal Department
- Alessandra Lunadei - General Affairs
- Sergio Francesco Sacripanti - General Affairs
- Luca Basilico - Skateboarding Manager
- Doris Gentile - Executive Assistant to the President

1. OPENING BY WORLD SKATE PRESIDENT

ARACU welcomes all the participants in the first Meeting after Tokyo2020, representing the last EB

meeting of the four-year period. He shows the Olympic Torch handed over to him in Lausanne by IOC President Thomas Bach as a symbol of World Skate's presence in the Olympic family.

The President thanks everyone for the work of the last few years, which contributed to the growth of the International Federation. A completely new Congress will be held the day after, available via live streaming, with a video contribution from Thomas Bach and the participation of ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti.

Aracu greets and thanks Fernando Claro, First Vice President of World Skate and President of World Skate Europe that has been part of the Executive Board for many years, and Guoyong Liu, President of World Skate Asia, both not standing for re-election in the new term.

World Skate is an Olympic International Federation thanks to skateboarding, but also in consideration of the contribution by the entire movement: Aracu thanks for the important work carried out with the community but underlines that the differences between our disciplines need to be respected.

World Skate is enjoying an increasingly good reputation with Olympic Committees and therefore with the governments from many Countries, and several important brands are approaching not only skateboarding but also the other disciplines of World Skate.

For the first time World Skate is offering an important contribution to all National Federations to participate in the Congress in person and not just remotely.

A Covid protocol was developed and enforced during all the events; Covid tests were performed during all World Championships and World Skate contributed the testing kits in order not to burden the organizations involved. The work in Tokyo, the relations with the Organizing Committee and with the media were extraordinary, and World Skate received the congratulations from the IOC for the way such activities were managed. Four professional and specialized photographers were involved, and a book on the Tokyo Olympics was published and will be distributed during the Congress. World Skate was among the Federations with the greatest success in social media.

6 World Championships were organized: Rome (skateboarding, valid for the Olympic qualification), Roccaraso (Inline Hockey), Bettola (Inline Downhill), Barcelona (Scooter), Asuncion (Artistic) and Ibaguè (Speed), all achieving extraordinary results.

For all this, Aracu thanks the entire staff.

World Skate is not yet sharing the TV rights, but President Bach has promised an important financial support to World Skate. In order to become a permanent Olympic federation, the third inclusion in the Olympic program is needed; in the case of World Skate, this will be the case with Los Angeles 2028, and Los Angeles is supporting skateboarding with great enthusiasm.

World Skate needs to implement a development project involving everyone, including managers, through training courses that help to learn and improve. The Academy will provide courses to train coaches but also managers.

Among future projects, there is the idea of chairmen working full-time for World Skate, by receiving adequate remuneration.

Another important project is the one on *gender equality* particularly appreciated by the IOC; the *Paralympics* represent another important goal, and Josh Friedberg was appointed as the head of the Paralympic commission. The adaptive skateboarding videos sent by Josh are truly touching, and the hope is to participate in Los Angeles28 with the Paralympics as well.

Another important aspect is represented by the facilities; which entail some important areas for improvement; before Tokyo2020, World Skate sent out a brochure for the construction of skateparks to all the cities in the world with over 100,000 inhabitants, to governments, National Olympic Committees and National Federations. Facilities must be carefully crafted, otherwise they cannot be used by professionals; World Skate will also issue the certification/homologation of facilities.

Aracu then reminds all participants that the day after there will be an *election day* with the election of World Skate President and Vice-President, and of Continental Presidents (Vice Presidents of World Skate). These elections need to be considered as an extraordinary teamwork.

According to the Statutes, the continental Chairmen of each discipline are part of the international Technical Commission of such discipline. This must be considered as an epoch-making change.

The future of sports is "*youth urban and sustainable*" according to the IOC, and such definition fully reflects our disciplines. World Skate signed a contract with MediaPro, which will contribute to the

distribution and selling of TV rights, and to the search for sponsors and locations. It is necessary to organize in squares also the events involving sports that are generally performed in sports halls, introducing changes also in traditional disciplines, by modernizing them without being overly anchored to old regulations. For this reason, summits with athletes, managers and policymakers will be necessary to talk about the changes that need to be introduced.

Another sport that will become successful is scooter, which is already part of the World Skate family and that is obtaining important successes, but that in order to become more widespread needs a suitable marketing plan. Aracu acknowledges that World Skate has not deepened such area, and informs the Executive Board members that a new Marketing Director, William (Willy) Saxon-Mills, has been appointed for such position.

World Skate intends to provide a higher contribution to the Olympics by strengthening skateboarding, making it more sustainable for Los Angeles, for the Youth Olympics in Dakar, in addition to Brisbane, where we will rely on the support from Karen Doyle.

Aracu announces the organization of an important skateboarding tour, including competitions to be held in the most iconic locations of important cities all over the world; this project was also presented to NBC, that found it very interesting and exciting.

The main goal in the three-year period leading to Paris is the organization of six stops for street and six for park; a *sanctioning fee* of about one million dollars per stop will be set, in consideration of the high costs for anti-doping (that the IOC considers fundamental and that always has to be performed in World Skate events), the *prize money* to athletes, and a high-level TV production.

Besides top-level events, amateur and demonstrative events need to be organized as well.

Another project includes an *urban series* with roller freestyle, scooter and skateboarding to which adding other sports such as inline freestyle and a roller marathon.

Another important initiative is the one of *e-sports* that have huge turnover and popularity; it is therefore necessary to develop a world championship for all the disciplines of World Skate in e-sports.

In the end, Aracu underlines the importance of e-commerce. The IOC is selling through its website both scooters and skateboards, and World Skate necessarily needs to include among its goals the selling of its products.

Aracu closes his remarks by thanking everyone and reminding the *Election day* scheduled for the day after.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

MAROTTA takes the floor and asks the Executive Board members to vote on the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes are approved unanimously.

3. WORLD SKATE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Secretary General Roberto Marotta explains the idea to directly collect the membership fees through World Skate, and then entirely distribute them to the Continents. The amount to be set shall not be too high, but it needs to reflect the commitment of National Federations considering the presence of 11 disciplines. The proposal is 1,000 USD per year per National Federation. This means that a Continent like Africa with nearly 23 National Federations will collect 23,000 USD (provided that all African Countries pay their membership fees), whereas Oceania will collect very few fees, and in the latter case World Skate will try to provide financial support. Therefore, all Continental Presidents have a vested interest in collecting the membership fees from all National Federations, considering that such fees will help the relevant Continents in developing the various disciplines.

ARACU takes the floor and clarifies that currently two fees are paid, one international and one continental, and that fees are differentiated according to the number of disciplines governed by each national Federation; with this new approach, a single fee will be paid, either a Federation governs one or all World Skate disciplines. For this reason, the Countries with more than one Federation need to find a way to establish a single federation and pay one membership fee.

MAROTTA adds that unifying the amount shall become an incentive for all Federations to promote the

eleven disciplines of World Skate.

Carmelo PANIAGUA takes the floor, and states that - also as President of a National Federation - he positively welcomes this proposal and the fact that international and continental taxes have to be paid; he believes however that the amount is lower than the one paid in the past, but also understands that for some Federations it might be considered as too high. He proposes an amount of 1,500 USD.

ARACU believes that Carmelo Paniagua's opinion is correct, but deems it suitable to start with a lower amount; he asks Nathanael Koty for his opinion.

KOTY takes the floor and says he agrees on 1,000 USD.

The proposal to increase the annual membership fee paid by National Federations to 1,000 USD is therefore unanimously approved.

4. REPORT ON 2021 SPORTING EVENTS

Marotta underlines once again how the most important event was undoubtedly the participation in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, which required an outstanding organizational and administrative commitment. Additionally, six World Championships were organized, for which the Secretary General thanks all the Organizing Countries.

5. CALENDAR 2022

Marotta underlines how - as World Skate continues to grow - it is even more important to receive from all the Continents by the end of each year the calendar of the events intended to be organized. Furthermore, if in 2022 there are already ideas for 2023 or 2024, it is fundamental to notify them immediately, so that the Executive Board includes them in the calendar by also considering the dates of major events such as the World Skate Games, the Asian Games, the World Games etc.

ARACU highlights the importance of the calendar but also of the locations in which events will take place, because there has to be a high qualitative level not only in World Championships but also in Continental Championships.

Marotta gives the floor to Francesco Zangarini, World Skate Sports Director.

ZANGARINI stresses the importance of the annual calendar; it is not possible to think about the events just a few months before the date in which they have to be held, and therefore nobody will be allowed to organize events with a limited amount of time available, as this would be detrimental to the image of World Skate; the next step will be the scheduling of World Championships two years in advance.

PANIAGUA agrees on the duty to draft a timely calendar; continents have to send their calendars four years in advance, not just one year.

6. OLYMPIC GAMES: TOKYO 2020 REPORT

Aracu gives the floor to Luca Basilico for a short report on Tokyo 2020.

BASILICO thanks for the trust and underlines how wonderful the Tokyo event was, shared with all National Federations in the best possible way in consideration of the difficult situation caused by the Covid pandemic. World Skate capitalized on the lesson learnt in Tokyo, and understood the high level reached and how well it had worked. 26 Countries represented the 5 Continents: 13 Countries from Europe, 7 from America, 4 from Asia, 1 from Africa and 1 from Oceania. 12 Countries representing 4 Continents competed in the finals, and this sent a very strong message.

For sure, a better balance needs to be reached especially in Africa, and time and means are needed to achieve such target. The medals won were distributed as follows: 5 Japan, 3 Brazil, 2 USA 1 Australia and 1 Great Britain. The goal was to represent skateboarding at best, and it is possible to say that everything was organized at best. Everybody enjoyed a high-quality skateboarding competition, and the entire community enjoyed an unprecedented event. There was huge coverage in social media, extraordinary results in terms of attendance in competitions, 66 million visualizations in Park, slightly less in Street: unprecedented figures in this sport. Things are changing for the best, and the work for Paris has already started. A photographic book was published about Tokyo, which will be offered to all the delegates the day after during the Congress.

7. WORLD SKATE FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

ARACU shows some slides already sent to all Federations, portraying some skateboarding facilities: the one built in Rome for the World Championships, the skatepark in Tokyo and the skatepark in Doha, the latter entirely designed and built by World Skate, which hosted the Asian Beach Games. In the specific case of Doha, World Skate earned 150,000USD, and this explains how profitable this activity can become.

8. WORLD SKATE ACADEMY

The folder contains figures describing the high level of participation in the webinars for artistic, especially in terms of number of coaches. Good results were also obtained in the other disciplines.

Aracu gives the floor to Nicola Genchi

GENCHI highlights that - as compared to the figures shown in the document - the number of coaches is much higher because many of them participated in more than one seminar by investing in their training. Several small countries with less organized Federations are following the advice received on how to structure their coaches by dividing them according to their levels and skills. Genchi also thanks the World Skate staff involved in the work of the Academy; a beautiful although committing activity, carried out with great professionalism.

Marotta gives the floor to Carmelo PANIAGUA that underlines the importance of the Academy; Artistic had the highest number of participants, but also the Speed seminars were successful. The first step was important, and he believes it is necessary to plan 2022 by considering the need to grant such coaches an international title to participate in international events. The experience was extremely positive; some technical aspects can be improved, but this will happen on a step-by-step basis.

ZANGARINI takes the floor and adds that these numbers are the result of three years of work in artistic, whereas in the other disciplines one course only was organized. He therefore thanks the Chairmen and most of all the people that worked day and night to hold such courses. There are five or six World Skate staff members that only work for the Academy. At the beginning of next year, other disciplines will be part of the courses, such as Inline freestyle, Inline hockey, Skateboarding (with open courses), Roller Freestyle and Scooter.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

MAROTTA moves on to the last item in the Agenda, and briefly sums up the report sent by Patricia Wallace, the Chair of World Skate Medicine Commission.

The Sports Medicine Commission also includes Egbert Schulze (Germania), Scott Kleimann (USA), Rodrigo Stenger (Argentina) and Roger Steins (Netherlands). The work of the Commission was carried out also through the fundamental support received to comply with all the rules in force as regards antidoping in case of positive tests. A particular thanks goes to World Skate staff, Caterina Noto, Angela Masci and Francesco D'Urbano. The Commission participated in many seminars organized by WADA by taking into account the changes in the WADA code in 2021 and the list of prohibited medicines for 2022. 187 tests were performed in 2021, 20% of which were *out of competition*. Blood tests (particularly expensive) were also performed. Pat Wallace thanks all the collaborators and asks for the utmost commitment by National Federations in this area.

ARACU underlines that as from next year some controls will be directly managed by ITA (International Testing Agency), the agency recommended by the IOC.

MAROTTA moves on to the next item, namely the provisional recognition of the Federation of Vietnam, that sent all the necessary documents.

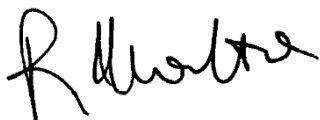
Such recognition is unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

Marotta gives the floor to Aracu that recalls how the Statutes provide for the possibility to appoint honorary members. There are people that worked hard, and one of them is Fernando Claro, for 15 years Vice President of World Skate Europe and in the last few years - after the passing of - Ricardo Grin, First Vice President. Aracu would like to propose such appointment as honorary member to the Congress.

The Executive Board approves unanimously.

Aracu greets all participants - both attending in person and remotely.
The meeting ends at 1.00 pm

The Secretary General



Roberto Marotta

The President



Sabatino Aracu

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