



EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
18th February 2022 - h 2.00 CET

Members attending

- Sabatino Aracu - President
- Roberto Marotta - Secretary General
- Doris Gentile - Vice Secretary General
- Karen Doyle - 1st Vice President and Commissioner of World Skate Oceania
- Nathanael Koty - Vice President (World Skate Africa)
- Tomas Cai - Vice President (World Skate Asia)
- Alberto Herrera Ayala - Vice President (World Skate America)
- Luis Senica - Vice President (World Skate Europe)
- Carmelo Paniagua - Chairman - Rink Hockey Technical Commission
- Andrea Fonzari - Chairman - Inline Hockey Technical Commission
- Jorge Roldan - Chairman - Inline Speed Skating Technical Commission
- Nicola Genchi - Chairman - Artistic Skating Technical Commission
- Olivier Pascal - Chairman - Roller Freestyle Technical Commission
- Gary Ream - Chairman - Skateboarding Technical Commission
- Helmeri Pirinen - Chairman - Scooter Technical Commission
- Siegfried Zistler - Chairman - Inline Alpine Technical Commission
- Kelvin Koo - Chairman - Inline Freestyle Technical Commission
- Leticia Bufoni - Chair of the Athletes' Commission
- Patricia Wallace - Chair of the Sports Medicine Commission
- Lijuan (Interpreter of Thomas Cai)
- Qiang Huang (Guest)

World Skate Staff

- Francesco D'Urbano
- Niccolò Lais
- Alessandra Lunadei
- Angela Masci
- Simona Mercuri
- Sara Rubinetti
- Sergio Sacripanti
- Francesco Zangarini

1. Opening by World Skate President

President Aracu greets all the participants attending the first EB meeting after the Congress held in Rome in 2021, and introduces the new members: Helmeri Pirinen, Chairman of Scooter Technical Commission, and Doris Gentile, new Vice Secretary General of World Skate.

Aracu welcomes Josh Friedberg, appointed as the Chair of World Skate Paralympic Commission, whose main task is to bring the International Federation to the Paralympic Games of Los Angeles 2028.

The day after there will be the final meeting of the IOC session in Beijing, during which possible updates will be provided on the inclusion of World Skate in the Olympic program for LA 2028. This inclusion does not prevent World Skate from submitting other disciplines to the IOC and to LA28 with a view to their inclusion in the Olympic Program.

The President also informs the EB members that a bridge funding will be allocated from the IOC, allowing World Skate to reach Paris24 in the best possible way. A high-level Olympic qualification pathway is also being organized with 6 stops for street and 6 for park, to be held in the most iconic spots of the cities selected.

Among the several requirements set by the IOC there is also the gender equality, that World Skate has already implemented but which still needs some finetuning.

Aracu concludes his contribution by stating that all National Federations need to have the best coaches, and therefore the training activities through the Academy need to continue and further develop; World Skate will help the Federations experiencing financial difficulties.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta asks to vote on the minutes of the previous EB meeting. Unanimously approved.

3. Ratification of the appointments of the Secretary General and Vice Secretary General (Statutes Art. 11)

The appointments of Secretary General Roberto Marotta and Vice Secretary General Doris Gentile are put to the vote for ratification. Unanimously approved.

4. Ratification of the appointment of Karen Doyle as Commissioner of Oceania.

The appointment of Karen Doyle as Commissioner for Oceania is put to the vote for ratification. Unanimously approved.

5. Ratification of World Skate Technical Commissions

Marotta recalls that all the EB members have received the list of the new Technical Commissions with related new members of each discipline and continental Chairpersons, and submits it to the EB for approval. He also explains that the appointments were made by President Aracu in consultation with the Chairmen of International Technical Commissions.

Aracu adds that during the following days, meetings with all the technical commissions will be organized.

The list of the new Technical Commissions is approved unanimously.



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6. Updates following the IOC Executive Board and IOC Session

Aracu underlines that the most important proposal that World Skate will submit (and that will give great visibility to the Federation) is the inclusion in the Paralympic Games. To this end, the President gives the floor to Josh Friedberg.

Friedberg thanks and says he is honored to participate in the EB meeting as Chair of Paralympic Disciplines. There are several chances to further develop this project that will allow World Skate to further gain popularity.

He shares a video with the EB members, and then underlines how touching and exciting adaptive sports are in consideration of the opportunities given to children affected by cancer or by other diseases.

Friedberg shares a document listing the steps that an International Federation needs to adopt in order to have one of its disciplines recognized by the IPC (International Paralympic Committee):

- Compliance with the WADA code
- Compliance with the compulsory requirements of the IPC
- Being represented in at least 32 Countries and 4 Continents
- Implement the gender equality

Unfortunately, COVID heavily impacted on the process leading to the establishment of such Committee and on the steps to be made to organize World Championships and Olympic qualification events. A meeting is scheduled with the Chief of Paralympic Sport at USOPC Julie Dussliere, which will certainly help.

The program for Paris 2024 is closed, the main goal is therefore Los Angeles 2028.

Toyota is very much interested in supporting Adaptive Skateboarding also in consideration of the World Championships that will be held in USA, and other sponsors will be invited to collaborate. Friedberg appeals to all those that have contacts with the Paralympic world and that are interested in being part of the Committee. The achievements obtained with skateboarding will also be useful for the other disciplines of World Skate.

7. Reports by Continental Areas

Secretary General Roberto Marotta takes the floor to introduce the report on the single Continents that will be made by the relevant Presidents, and starts by giving the floor to the President of the African Continental Area, Nathanaël Koty.

AFRICA

Koty thanks Aracu and World Skate for the extraordinary activity that is being carried out in all the disciplines and, upon request by Marotta, states that currently in Africa there are 21 Member Federations, as well as other federations that have not yet made an agreement with the government but that regularly practice the disciplines of World Skate.

ASIA

Thomas Cai greets all the participants and congratulates World Skate for the work carried out, underlining how Skateboarding will be the leading sport in the next Olympic Games and in the Asian Games 2022. World Skate Asia will push to have more and more disciplines included in Asian Games 2026 in Japan where, for the time being, only skateboarding is included.



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AMERICA

Alberto Herrera Ayala greets all the participants and expresses his satisfaction for the important progresses made and the results obtained: 24 Countries and 28 Member Federations. The important work made last year allowed several Federations to participate in the Pan-American Games thanks to the covering of board and lodging expenses.

Much was done for the development of the 4 main disciplines and for skateboarding. Speed at the Pan-American championships involved 1,450 athletes representing 15 Countries; the Inline Hockey Pan-American championships were held in March with 5 countries; the Artistic Championships in May with 350 athletes from 7 Countries, and in November in Florida the Rink Hockey Pan-American championships with 4 Countries.

Ayala thanks the Sports Director Francesco Zangarini for working on the setting up of the Continental Technical Committee; the Chairmen as well are contributing to the establishment of several internal Committees.

Some activities are being carried out with Zangarini also in the framework of a World Cup and a marathon circuit in Speed, trying to bring speed skating in the streets in order to make it more *urban*; the Pan-American Championships will be organized between August and September this year as a preparation to the WSG: Speed skating in Colombia, artistic skating in Mexico, Inline Hockey in the USA, and a new project is being developed, the Marathons of the Americas.

OCEANIA

Karen Doyle expresses her thanks for the appointment as Oceania Commissioner. She looks forward to welcoming new Federations and is excited about Josh's work since both Australia and New Zealand are very strong in Paralympics. She has high hopes for the Commonwealth Games due to be held in Melbourne in 2026 and reiterates the efforts being made to increase the number of Federations in Oceania.

EUROPE

Luis Senica greets everyone and says he is excited to be part of the World Skate family: there are about 54 countries and 11 technical committees set up and completed. A general *open* work program featuring organizational tasks has been prepared in such a way to be motivating for everyone so as to work together as one family. He wishes to express his special thanks to Sports Director Francesco Zangarini for his very effective cooperation.

Aracu thanks all the Vice Presidents and notes how the Continental Areas are changing; he hopes that active continental offices will be established in the near future.

It is necessary to exchange and transfer experiences so that all continents become equally strong. Special efforts are being devoted to the promotion of the Africa project, which is currently the weakest Continent, hoping that the project will become an example for all. Whatever the Continents produce must remain within their borders, but it is necessary to understand what Continental model to adopt from a fiscal point of view; if there are continental sponsors they will be welcome and an open discussion is needed so as to avoid conflicts with the international sponsors. Invoices will be issued directly from Lausanne.



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8. National federations: process leading to the establishment of one single governing body per country. (Art. 3. 1.-4.)

World Skate requires each Country to have one federation, and therefore in those Countries where there is more than one Federation, a unification process must be undertaken.

Marotta then invites all Vice Presidents and Chairmen to help in this process; to this end, World Skate will write to all the Countries with more than one Federation, asking them to create a single entity encompassing all World Skate disciplines. Starting from the date at which the letter was sent, the Federations concerned will have 90 days to meet and report back to World Skate about the steps they have taken in order to unify into one single Federation. If this does not happen, the World Skate Executive Board will evaluate the situation and make its decision.

Marotta then asks the EB for a vote of approval to move this procedure forward; it is necessary for countries to have a single Federation also to be granted economic subsidies by ministries and NOCs. The autonomy of each discipline should be guaranteed, but with one president and one secretary-general.

Aracu points out that the most difficult problems are to be found in Europe and in America and gives the example of the American Water Sports Federation where the different disciplines are autonomous but stay under one umbrella.

There are two major realities-Brazil and the USA, which are the strongest in the world in the discipline of skateboarding-with separate federations for this discipline; World Skate does not want and should not create problems, so a resolution will be made to arrive at the best solution to the problem.

There are two important realities to be taken into consideration and precisely Brazil and the USA, which are the strongest Countries in the world in the discipline of skateboarding, with separate federations for this discipline; World Skate does not want and must not create problems, so a resolution will be made to arrive at the best possible solution to the problem.

Vice Secretary General Doris Gentile reads the resolution.

Gary Ream takes the floor, confirming that Brazil and the United States have and will have many difficulties in this process: there will certainly be problems and resistance. There are difficult obstacles to overcome that have to do with the governance of the Olympic committees.

Aracu believes Gary's statement is correct and plans to personally reach out also to the respective Olympic Committees. Bringing together multiple disciplines under one single federation allows a Federation that has only one discipline to acquire more leverage.

Marotta puts the resolution to the vote.

Since there are no other contributions, Marotta goes on to the next Agenda item.

9. Evaluation of possible Regional Organizations

President Aracu takes the floor and claims he was the one to put forth this proposal because there is no doubt that there are geographical areas in the world that need special attention:



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- in South America there is ODESUR, an important organization that experiences different problems that are completely different from those North America is facing. ODESUR organizes important competitions, but should not be in conflict with the other areas of World Skate;
- the Mediterranean area, which embraces three continents;
- the Southeast Asian area;
- the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) where former Soviet countries closely linked to Russia are to be found. They are used to organizing their own Games.

World Skate will appoint the heads of these organizations, and such appointments will be ratified by the EB. Aracu's proposal is to recognize the following areas:

- South America
- Mediterranean area
- Southeast Asia
- CIS

The presidents of the above areas will not act autonomously but in compliance with World Skate guidelines.

Herrera takes the floor and asks what the *modus operandi* of these sub-organizations will be since creating a regional presidency and then an administrative body in another area could create conflict. Herrera believes that appointing a director to work in a consistent and integral manner might be a better option.

Aracu points out that Odesur, as it stands today, calls on each sports federation to create its own South American federation which puts World Skate in a situation of strong conflict.

If it is the World Skate Executive Board that appoints the heads of these organizations, it means it can remove them from office if they are non-compliant. It would be better to have a person reporting to World Skate than having to deal with presidents and secretaries elected as if there were independent federations, as it is the case today.

The same thing applies to the Mediterranean area that will have to coordinate with Luis Senica Nathanael Koty and Thomas Cai because that area encompasses three Continents.

Aracu concludes by repeating that the softest approach is to appoint them.

Luis Senica asks for the floor and says he agrees with Aracu: he believes that we should not risk fractionalization and finds it correct to convene such Presidents once a year to agree on the event calendars.

Alberto Herrera, Carmelo Paniagua and Thomas Cai deliver short interventions and state they agree with what President Aracu said, stressing the importance of following organizational guidelines that avoid confusion, given the different realities existing in each Continent.

This resolution is put to the vote and carried s unanimously.

10. **Report on Anti Doping activity and updates by World Skate Medical Commission**

Before giving the floor to Patricia Wallace, President Aracu reminds everyone of the important agreement signed with the ITA and requested by the IOC.



Patricia Wallace introduces the World Skate Medical Commission and its members:

- Roger Steins
- Egbert Schulze
- Rodrigo Stenger
- Scott Kleimann

She says she hopes that soon she will be able to welcome new members to the Committee to be able to prevent injuries and provide psychological support to athletes. It is crucial that athletes receive as much information as possible so as not to test positive simply because they do not know the regulations thoroughly.

Dr. Stenger and Dr. Steins attended several IOC courses, and Pat thanks World Skate for giving them such an opportunity.

The other Committee members have all attended ITA and WADA online webinars. Pat-along with Angela Masci-has participated in ADEL online courses and all Sport Integrity Australia courses. She has also been involved in policy drafting for the 2021 WADA Code with support from the World Skate Legal team.

Compared to when this first started back in 1990, the efforts to comply with WADA provisions have become more and more challenging, with issues that sometimes are more of a legal than a medical nature and this is why Pat wishes to express her sincerest thanks to Angela Masci and Francesco D'Urbano for their legal support.

The Committee has also received a 43-page questionnaire to be filled out for compliance with the WADA code, a challenging job that will require a serious effort. To reply to many of the questions in the document, help will have to be provided by the national federations, which will have to facilitate a wide range of data.

A total of 181 tests were carried out, 17% of which during competitions, only 1 tested positive for marijuana. Wallace thanks the host federations that supported the entire anti-doping activity. The Medical Commission is also looking for alternative sources to curb training programs-related costs. As to WADA compliance, a very important role is played by the programs conducted by national federations through NADO. All coaches must be aware of the dangers of doping, and must believe in the work being done. In this regard Pat wishes to commend World Skate Academy for introducing two training sessions on anti-doping and injury prevention in inline speed skating.

Aracu thanks Pat and celebrates the volunteer spirit inspiring all the doctors and hopes that soon he'll be able to recognize their role also from an economic point of view.

11. 2022 Events

President Aracu takes the floor to update the Executive Board about the 2022 sports events.

WORLD SKATE GAMES

On March 6, he will travel to Argentina with an official delegation to see for himself how the organization of the event is progressing. The situation in Argentina is difficult, but fortunately we can count on Sergio Uñac, number two of the Peronist party and governor of San Juan as President of the LOC, the Minister of Sports, and Mario Moccia WSG Director and President of Argentina's NOC.



PRO TOUR SKATEBOARDING AND URBAN SERIES

The SB Pro Tour will be the crown jewel of World Skate in the coming years and the Urban Series will be the world cup of some disciplines.

A totally urban image with a 4/5 day event that will tour the world with vert skateboarding, scooter, maybe roller freestyle and inline freestyle and a final with roller marathon. This is being developed together with Leandro Larrosa, Director of Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games, who will organize the next Youth Olympic Games in Senegal.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor and points out that although allowances must be made for Argentina's economic and pandemic difficulties, nevertheless it must be said that time is now very tight and therefore it will be of the greatest importance to receive a report by World Skate delegation as soon as it returns from Buenos Aires. Many Federations are pressing to know whether this event is going to be organized and an answer is due as soon as possible. However, this situation of uncertainty should make us all reflect on events as big as this, which entail major organizational difficulties and because of all of this, there could be ground to decide on planning such events every four years or design them anew so to be more cost-effective and less cumbersome to organize.

Regarding the skateboarding tour, Paniagua believes that this is an extraordinary event, but asks that World Skate inform the Federation of the country where the tour will stop ahead of making contacts with any private companies.

President Aracu responds by saying that the dates for the World Skate Games in Argentina have long been set and are well known to all the Continents; the events will be spread out between Buenos Aires and San Juan, but while the venue has already been established for some disciplines, it is still in the process of being decided for others.

The problem regards the urban sports that San Juan would like to host, but surely Buenos Aires is a more suitable venue in terms of international attention.

Media Pro is the Spanish partner for the tour, which is trying to secure television production for World Skate in many countries around the world. Media Pro is only concerned about the commercial aspects and does not take anything away from the federations.

Much has been said about a US\$1 million for each tour stop. It may seem like a huge amount, but it has to include a total of US\$ 250,000 *prize money*, anti-doping expenses which are equally sponsored by World Skate as well as a high-quality television production. Needless to say that the host federation will also be involved.

Luis Senica takes the floor to express his enthusiasm about the tour that he considers a fantastic idea and in line with the spirit of the time. He says he's ready to help in any way.

About Argentina, he attaches the greatest importance to the economic aspect rather than to the sports issue. He's already talking with the Portuguese government to plan the economic aspects of next year's sporting events, but the government is not willing to commit until more is about Argentina. This is a big problem because it prevents the necessary facilities from being built. Senica comments that in the future a strategy must be developed in order to be stronger and more organized.

Aracu acknowledges the economic problem for the Federations and says that discussion is needed on whether to consider holding the World Skate Games every four years.



WORLD
SKATE

12. Budget

Secretary General Roberto Marotta takes the floor and reminds all participants that the budget to be discussed is the cash budget not concerning amounts that can either be collected and spent in 2022.

REVENUE: \$8,740,000 are expected for the Olympic qualification events hoping that goal be fulfilled. Then we have the 2022 WSGs with expected revenues of 1,200,000: the total projected revenue is \$11,000,000, much also depends on the relationship with the IOC in agreement with whom the World Skate events will be sold.

EXPENDITURE: \$6,000,000 are projected again for the qualifying events and substantial expenses for staff compensations amounting to \$1,620,000 because the World Skate staff is now made up of approx. 30 units. Then we have TV productions and projects that make expenditure rise to \$11,600,000 with a budget loss of ca.\$608,000. However, available cash amounts to \$2,560,000 that will allow a positive result by \$2,000,000.

We should remember also a fee paid some time ago by Peru, for which we may encounter some difficulties because the government wants to step back from its commitment about the organization of the events.

ARACU takes the floor to remind all participants that Lima was to host a major event in 2020 which should have generated \$2,500,000 of which \$1,800,000 was paid to carry out several actions, such as promoting the event itself. Due to COVID nothing was organized and a dispute arose that lawyers are now at work to settle. World Skate spent more than \$300,000 to redo the park thus it would be nice to be able to hold the event in Lima, but the litigation is underway and it has to be budgeted.

Aracu concludes by saying that after Paris he hopes the budget will include substantial amounts due to TV rights.

World Skate is negotiating with the IOC to hold the Olympic Urban Qualifiers (for which the IOC has offered \$3,000,000) during the last three months before Paris. World Skate has asked for \$6,000,000, but further discussions with the IOC are necessary to make them understand that some aspects are not in line with the federations' organizational needs.

Marotta puts the budget to the vote It is approved unanimously.

13. Miscellaneous

WORLD GAMES 2022

After congratulating the entire World Skate team for the excellent work done in bringing skateboarding to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and on the initiative taken to get to the Paralympic Games, Carmelo Paniagua asks about the organization in Birmingham since many Federations are expressing difficulties in bringing their athletes.



WORLD
SKATE

Marotta responds by saying that the qualifications are based on the results of the previous year's championships, thus the lists are already available. Federations will have to deal with travel expenses. There are difficulties in the Speed discipline because Birmingham will not build a new track and therefore both Francesco Zangarini and Jorge Roldan went visit the site to verify that the *urban* space chosen is appropriate for speed competitions, hoping to maintain the same number of medals.

E-COMMERCE / E-SPORTS

E-COMMERCE: President Aracu informs all participants about the work carried out by a team of experts to launch e-commerce in 1-2 years' time . That could allow World Skate to sell sports equipment or clothing under its own brand; this could become an important budget item aside from being a widespread system.

E-SPORTS: The IOC recommends we work on this. The idea is to be able to have an area where to hold the e-sports World Skate championships during the WSG in Buenos Aires.

A letter addressed to all national federations will be sent out in the next few days asking to hold e-sports national championships.

In Italy, CONI, Italy's NOC, has convened all the federations urging them to host e- championships alongside the traditional ones.

RINK HOCKEY

Aracu informs the participants that in Europe a rink hockey organization is being created outside World Skate. It all started with a British citizen of Australian origin - Kos Galtos.

Luis Senica points out that thanks to the good offices of Orlando Panza, contacts were made with Germany, Switzerland and Great Britain to make sure that everything is in compliance with the rules. Switzerland says it has no problems, Germany has requested support that was included in the regulations. The opposite happened with Galtos: although he said he complied with the regulations, he was involved in the other organization. World Skate Europe wrote to the English federation urging the rules and regulations to be respected and complied with, because everything has been done. Now much depends on Galtos' behavior.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor and says that Galtos is working in Spain. He came to Barcelona and spoke with him, offering his and Luis Senica's full cooperation as president of World Skate Europe. Paniagua also asked if he could talk to countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and others in order to help them, but despite receiving an assurance to that effect, nothing has happened. It is therefore necessary to take action.

President Aracu agrees with Carmelo and reiterates that Galtos is a major representative and needs to be stopped by issuing a written warning that will be circulated to all European nations where rink hockey is played. In its letter, World Skate disavows this organization, its competitions and regulations and reiterates that the only competition circuit is that pertains to World Skate. Aracu believes that a warning is to be made threatening the adoption of sanctions.

Senica thinks it is necessary to take a strong stand. Galtos maintains that nothing is illegal from a regulatory standpoint; it should be reiterated that Galtos has failed to keep his word, and to comply with the regulations. He is a person with no ideas, who wants to go on its own. Although a communication was sent out to all European federations practicing hockey promising the



WORLD
SKATE

establishment of a development committee to achieve a strong European hockey, the UK Federation has not answered. As a result, a firm stand must be taken.

Karen Doyle says that the problem also exists in Oceania where there are people following Galtos and therefore it is important to send an official communication to all Countries.

Aracu thanks all and everyone for their work and voices his appreciation for the constant and daily commitment of all the staff.

The meeting ends at 5:30 p.m.



Roberto Marotta
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
President



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