



MINUTES

World Skate Executive Board Meeting

5th September 2024

10:00 AM (CET)

Salone D'Onore CONI Rome, Italy

Executive Board members with voting rights attending:

• Sabatino Aracu	President
• Karen Doyle	1 st Vice President and Commissioner of World Skate Oceania
• Luís Sénica	President World Skate Europe
• Alberto Herrera Ayala	President World Skate America
• Nicola Genchi	Chair Artistic Technical Commission
• Andrea Fonzari	Chair Inline Hockey Technical Commission
• Carmelo Paniagua	Chair Rink Hockey Technical Commission
• Gary Ream	Chair Skateboarding Technical Commission
• Jorge Roldan	Chair Speed Technical Commission
• Ellen French	Chair Roller Derby Technical Commission
• Helmeri Pirinen	Chair Scootering Technical Commission
• Olivier Pascal	Chair Roller Freestyle Technical Commission
• Weifeng Gu	Chair Inline Freestyle Technical Commission
• Sigfried Zistler	Chair Downhill Technical Commission

Executive Board members with no voting rights attending:

• Roberto Marotta	Secretary General
• Doris Gentile	Vice Secretary General
• Patricia Wallace	President Medical Commission
• Francesco Zangarini	Sports Director

AGENDA

1. Opening by World Skate President
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting
3. Approval of the Artistic Regulations
4. Updates on the *Confedera(ao Brasi)Ueira de Skate* case
5. Miscellaneous

1. Opening by World Skate President

President Sabatino Aracu opens the meeting by greeting everyone attending, and reminds that this is the last Executive Board meeting before the Elective Congress scheduled for 7 September 2024. Both the EB and the Congress are held during the World Skate Games Italy 2024, which the President hopes will help build an event model able to be marketed worldwide.

World Skate is creating a new, young, and sustainable product that is already enjoying remarkable success and consideration in the media and in the international sports environment. Major countries (including Japan, Australia, the UAE, and the U.S.) are extremely interested in the World Skate Games as they represent a product capable of giving back to any organizing country a return much higher than the amount spent for its organization.

Skateboarding was an extraordinary success in Paris, with the street and park disciplines filling the grandstands at the Place de la Concorde and with exceptional spectators such as Thomas Bach, Tony Estanguet, the mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, and Tony Hawk. Skateboarding, with all its disciplines will also be part of the World Championships during the World Skate Games.

World Skate is committed to bringing other disciplines into the Olympic program and is always in line with the concept of a federation for youth that offers attractive sports to young people.

President Aracu goes on to inform that he will be running again for the Presidency of World Skate.

Secretary General Roberto Marotta takes the floor and informs that the Chairs and all Continental Vice Presidents are present except Thomas Cai. The majority is secured as well as a voting quorum.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous EB Meeting

The minutes of the previous Executive Board are put to a vote.

Votes against 0

Abstained 0

Unanimously approved

3. Approval of the Artistic Regulations

Secretary General Roberto Marotta reports that it was decided not to attach the document to the others in the master file because it was very long.

The floor is open to the participants.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor pointing out that regulations are usually sent out for approval by email, but he believes that no one actually reads them. Therefore, to streamline the process, he proposes to highlight the amendments made so as to allow only for those parts to be read. If this is not done, the risk would be that of approving regulations even though you may not completely agree with them.

Nicola Genchi agrees with Paniagua, and although he has highlighted the changes in his regulations in red, he believes that the part that can interest the Executive Board is the general part that is not of a technical nature because the technical information is understood by and interests only the experts of a given sport. As a result, Genchi proposes that all disciplines should share the regulations' general sections, which can be understood by everyone and on which the EB should have the opportunity to intervene.

Luís Senica believes that the technicalities of regulations are a complex issue and has doubts and questions to ask to better understand some of the changes.

Roberto Marotta takes the floor to say that these comments will be taken into consideration and that a report will be circulated also asking all technical committees to highlight any changes on regulations so that they can be more easily understood.

President Aracu points out that the approval of many regulations of World Skate sports should be decided by mutual agreement, especially at the continental level with innovations in disciplines and calendar strategies.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor in favor of teamwork through exchanges of opinions and comparisons between the various sports. He also says that it would be important to create a medium- and long-term strategic plan.

Nicola Genchi and Andrea Fonzari stress that they have learned a lot from the Paris experience: Genchi says that he pays very close attention to suggestions and even criticism from coaches and wishes to work towards a leaner sport, stressing that changes in regulations will substantially decrease over time.

Andrea Fonzari points out that the Olympics have been a great opportunity for him to exchange many organizational ideas and insights with Nicola Genchi, whose great enthusiasm he deeply appreciates. Fonzari then turns to the Continental presidents urging them to make sure that national federations comply with international regulations.

According to Jorge Roldan, regulations seem to be changing a bit too often, which has a negative impact on continuity because you start working on something but then you're not able to complete it. Minimal changes are not an issue, but with moderation also to show respect to the athletes.

Still talking about the Artistic regulations, Sigi Zistler remarks that all changes have been highlighted, and this decision was very well received by everyone. It is important for the national federations to be kept in the know about these changes so that any critical issues can be brought back to the attention of the Executive Board.

Zistler goes on to talk about the minimum age of athletes, a topic that has already been discussed many times, and believes that there should be just one age for all, considering, for example, the age of some participants in skateboarding.

Zistler then addresses the issue of refugee athletes who should be part as a category of the World Skate Games because there are so many of them in some nations.

President Aracu states that common sense must always prevail. If there are refugees, you have to try and adopt a rule to allow them to participate, in line with what the IOC does.

Going back to the question of changes to the regulations, President Aracu says that one should not only think about technique but also about the importance of streets and places where competitions might take place since often the iconic location of a city attracts more than the technical perfection of a racecourse or track.

World Skate has 3 means of locomotion- skates, skateboards and scooters. It is important to have facilities that are usable by multiple disciplines because the product is more desirable and marketable. Summits should be held in the future to discuss all these aspects together, like the event Rink Hockey organized.

The Secretary General puts the approval of the Artistic Skating Regulations to a vote.

Votes against 0

Abstained 0

Unanimously approved

4. Updates on the Confederação Brasileira de Skate case

President Aracu takes the floor and says that this will be the most sensitive issue at the Congress. Last January, the Assembly asked the Executive Board to decide which federation should be maintained.

The Statutes read that only the Congress decides on the exclusion of a Federation, and the Congress, relying on the article in the Statutes that states that each country should have only one recognized Federation, deferred to the Executive Board, as it should, the decision on which Federation should stay.

Following the appeal of CBSK to the CAS, World Skate has been under all kinds of attacks, from the media as well. The Court of Arbitration for Sport has asked to suspend the resolution to

withdraw CBSK membership, pending the hearing on September 26. As a result, World Skate had to convene the Congress with two Federations from a single Country, which goes against the provisions of World Skate Statutes. However, World Skate recognizes the authority of the Court as the higher legal body, and therefore has accepted the request.

Our legal counsel suggests that no changes or decisions be made until Sept. 26. The object of CBSK's appeal is based on the non-acceptance of the Executive Board's decision to withdraw CBSK membership, but the Executive Board only fulfilled its obligations as mandated by the Assembly during the 2019 Congress.

President Aracu believes that a softer approach would be more effective, rather than asking the Assembly again for a final decision that might be perceived as aimed at punishing a particular individual and he concludes by saying that he will ask the Assembly for a vote of confidence and appreciation on the work of the Executive Board, which has only done its duty.

Roberto Marotta takes the floor and asks everyone to speak up and show they are aware of what has been discussed, because it is a critical issue: our Statutes provide for the recognition of only one Federation per country, and the Federations have had years to establish a single National Federation per country while maintaining the technical, sporting, and economic autonomy of individual sports. Many federations understood and united, even with the support of their respective Olympic Committees that understood the importance of the request World Skate was making. There were great problems, but it is true that there was great support from the Olympic Committee in the United States, which was perhaps the country with the most complex situation. The issue of the Brazilian federation is to be traced back to the question of the Federation's office of the president and management of the financial resources. The deadline for finding a solution was December 31, 2023, but unfortunately, Brazil appealed to the Court of Arbitration, which to date has not yet been decided. The Court order was to have World Skate suspend the measure of setting up a single governing body for Brazil until the ruling of the Court. Therefore, the Executive Board will withdraw item 5.3. of the Congress agenda to abide by the Court of Arbitration's order.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor to say that he understands the situation, but he's concerned about what comes after, that is, what will happen if the Court rules in favor of Brazil as to the matter of the two federations.

Francesco D'Urbano, head of the Legal Department, takes the floor to reassure all participants that what worries Carmelo Paniagua cannot happen because World Skate does not have in its Statutes a set deadline for the lodging of an appeal with the Court and therefore the general term of 21 days, which expired on January 31, applies. CBSK is the only entity that lodged an appeal against the one federation per country.

President Aracu thinks that the Court might decide that the matter should be resolved by the Assembly rather than by the Executive Board. If this happens, an Assembly will be convened online.

Alberto Herrera says he would like to understand better what obligations World Skate has with respect to the Court, whether any decision should be implemented immediately, and whether World Skate would have to abide by the CAS ruling or, rather, should it be considered as a suggestion.

Francesco D'Urbano replies explaining that CAS is a Court of Arbitration and not a state court. The parties concerned voluntarily refer to it and the Court does not issue an executive order. The CAS provisional measure could be brought to an ordinary court, which in turn could issue an actual order. Right now, the Lausanne court has ordered World Skate to wait for the CAS to reach a decision before taking further action.

Gary Ream takes the floor asking about any updates on Canada. General Secretary Roberto Marotta reports that Canada, along with other federations, asked to be allowed to make a presentation to the Congress.

Luís Seníca voices his concerns. He thanks D'Urbano for his clear explanation but asks whether there is a possibility of CBSK maintaining its autonomy. Francesco D'Urbano - referring to other National Federations in the same situation - responds that this is not possible because no appeal

was filed in time; it would only be possible if World Skate changed its position towards the other federations. Some Federations have understood and have acted accordingly, others are biding their time, hoping that if Brazil were to win, things would change for them as well. If CAS were to rule that it was up to the Assembly and not to the EB to decide on Brazil, a new Assembly would be convened online, as suggested by the president, to resolve the issue.

Carmelo Paniagua remarks that if the Court does not rule in favor of World Skate, the Congress will have to decide once and for all by summoning an extraordinary Assembly.

Karen Doyle takes the floor to recall the discussions we had in 2019 and the decisions made. Now, in 2024, it would be absurd to continue discussing items that have already been decided, pointing out that if not for COVID, the deadline would have been 2020. The Federations have had three more years to comply, and it is sad to have to keep discussing this.

President Aracu confirms that he will ask the Assembly for a vote of confidence on what the Executive Board has done because the will of the Assembly is important.

Gary Ream wonders why we cannot have Federations each representing one sport. Karen Doyle reminds him that in 2019 a vote was cast precisely to have one federation representing all sports in a country. President Aracu adds that having 12 federations representing our sports in each country would negate the role of World Skate.

Olivier Pascal takes the floor to thank World Skate and all the presidents for their commitment to bringing other sports to the Olympics. He is very happy that for freestyle since there are 295 athletes already registered in 3 different disciplines and it is the first time that such a high number has been reached with 40% of women. Pascal, whom World Skate has entrusted with the development of events worldwide, points out the negative impact Brazil is having on the organization of new events, some of which got canceled because of this situation, and this goes to the detriment of the young.

5. Miscellaneous

Marotta says that the communication received in June 2024 regarding a request to be submitted to the Assembly signed by Sweden, Finland, Canada, Norway and Slovenia must be discussed.

The points raised by these Federations include their request to not go ahead with the merging of National Federations; to ensure the participation of delegates from Olympic sports (in this regard, the Secretary General points out that when there is only one federation, it is clear that this happens); to send the minutes of the previous Congress more quickly; and to set in the Statutes a maximum number of terms (equal to 2) the President and the EB can serve.

D'Urbano points out that these are not amendment requests because they failed to be submitted within the time set by our Statutes, so they will be topics for discussion, but not subject to a vote.

President Aracu believes that many Federations have term limits, but there are pros and cons and he wonders why people should be forced into making this choice. Often enough developing and consolidating a strong relationship with top authorities takes many years of work, as in his own case with the IOC, with which he gained more consideration many years after first being elected President. Also, on the age limit of 70 that the IOC has set, President Aracu disagrees.

Carmelo Paniagua states that he is against a limit on the terms of office and adds that in this specific case, the National Federations have not explained why they want it.

Luís Seníca says that we are not thinking of a single sport or discipline and believes that the General Assembly should be able to decide whether a person is working well or should be replaced.

Nicola Genchi goes back to what Olivier Pascal said and comments that he is very happy about the number of countries that will participate in the World Artistic Championships during the World Skate Games - 41 nations is an unparalleled record number for Artistic Skating and thanks World Skate for the work they are doing for Artistic Skating in the World Skate Games.

Carmelo Paniagua says that he stayed in Paris for 15 days for the NOC and seeing all that he saw made him very envious and hopes that one day he too could have such a stage. Rink Hockey will

have 66 teams in the World Skate Games and that is quite a number.

Andrea Fonzari also speaks of a record figure with 76 teams, a result attained before.

Sport director Francesco Zangarini thanks the technical committees for their work and thanks the World Skate staff and all departments for the tremendous work that is being done. Zangarini also wishes to express his appreciation for the many new ideas that are coming up in all sports.

As to the World Skate Games, Andrea Fonzari asks if the two-year rule will be continued and if there are already any bids for the next editions.

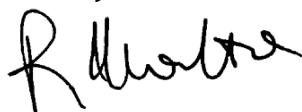
President Aracu thanks Francesco and exalts the great teamwork behind the whole event. About the scheduling of the World Skate Games, discussions are underway to decide whether to hold them every two or four years. Several cities are already stepping forward to hold them in 2026. The point is to understand what the real interest in this event is. Choosing the year is something special; the Olympic year is important, but there is nothing besides the Olympics, so offering something young and urban could be a point in World Skate's favor.

Marotta adds that in any case a decision on whether the event is to be held every two or four years has to be made within the year, because it takes a long time to organize the games.

In closing the meeting, President Aracu renews the invitation to the gala reception to celebrate 100 years of World Skate.

The meeting ends at 12:50 p.m.

Roberto Marotta
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
President

