



World Skate Ordinary Congress 30th October 2022 - h 10:00 AM Buenos Aires

National Federations attending LIVE:

ANGOLA	GREAT BRITAIN	PORTUGAL
ARGENTINA	GUATEMALA	RUSSIA
AUSTRALIA	HUNGARY	RUSSIA SB
BRAZIL	ITALY	SAN MARINO
BRAZIL SB	MACAO	SENEGAL
CHINESE TAIPEI	MEXICO	SERBIA
COLOMBIA	NETHERLANDS (KNSB)	SLOVAKIA
CROATIA	NEW ZEALAND	SOUTH KOREA
CZECH REP.	PARAGUAY	SPAIN
EL SALVADOR	PHILIPPINES	URUGUAY
FRANCE	POLAND	USA

National Federation attending REMOTELY:

AUSTRIA	GERMANY	NORWAY
BELARUS SB	HONG KONG	PAKISTAN
BENIN	INDIA	SINGAPORE
CANADA SB	IRAN	SLOVENIA
CHINA D.R.	ISRAEL	SOUTH AFRICA
CONGO D.R.	JAPAN	SWEDEN SB
COSTARICA	LATVIA SB	THAILAND
DENMARK	LITHUANIA	ZAMBIA
EGYPT	NAMIBIA	
FINLAND	NORTH MACEDONIA	

Executive Board members attending:

• Sabatino Aracu	President
• Roberto Marotta	Secretary General
• Doris Gentile	Vice Secretary General
• 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
• 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
- Patricia Wallace President Medical Commission (Remotely)
- WORLD SKATE Managers and Staff

AGENDA

1. Declaration of the constitutive and deliberative quorum
2. Appointment of scrutineers
3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress
4. President's report
5. Secretary General's report
6. Proposal of the amendments to the World Skate Statutes to be approved
7. 2021 Financial statement
8. Ratification or withdrawal of memberships
9. Items of general interest duly submitted by Member Federations and/or by the Executive Board within 60 days.
10. Other urgent issues raised after the notification of the agenda of the meeting. Their inclusion shall be subject to the approval of two thirds of the votes.
11. Miscellaneous

The Congress starts at 10.10.

President Aracu opens the Congress by greeting and thanking all the delegates attending in person and those connected remotely for their participation.

Aracu thanks and greets the guests present: Mario Moccia, President of the Argentinian National Olympic Committee, Leandro Larrosa, Director of Digital Engagement and Marketing of the IOC, and Gherardo Werthein, member of IOC Executive Board.

Aracu gives the floor to Mario Moccia, who greets and thanks Aracu and World Skate staff, as well as all the countries present at the World Skate Games. All the sports present at these Games have a considerable potential that will be increasingly developed, especially the "urban sports" that are more and more attractive to young people. Moccia concludes by wishing everyone success and a fantastic stay in Argentina.

Aracu gives the floor to Gherardo Werthein, representative of the IOC.

Werthein greets everyone and expresses the pleasure of welcoming the World Skate family to Argentina with the urban sports and this new vision of sports. This event will produce an important return on the investment made by Argentina, as it happened for the Youth Olympic Games. The impact of skateboarding on the Olympic scene is enormous; since 2018 the importance of going to where "urban" sports are to observe them has been clearly understood: it is a concept that works, and a bright future is certainly ahead of World Skate.

Finally, Werthein praises President Aracu for the extraordinary work he is carrying out and for the close collaboration with the IOC.



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Aracu thanks all the guests and gives the floor to the Secretary General Roberto Marotta for the official opening of the Congress.

1. Declaration of the constitutive and deliberative quorum

Marotta takes the floor and declares that there are 53 National Federations attending: 33 in the room and 20 connected remotely. There are 344 votes available, and they are allocated only to the federations that have fulfilled the accreditation procedures; furthermore, when performing the voting procedures, a quorum based on the number of voters will be taken into account.

2. Appointment of scrutineers

Marotta appoints the scrutineers: two technical tellers who will monitor the votes remotely and three tellers in the room: Lauro Netto, Elisabetta Bozzano and Lina Maria Lizcano. They will detect the number of votes cast in the room, but the voting procedures will take longer than usual, because the votes cast remotely will have to be added to the votes cast in the room.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress

The Secretary General proposes to move on to item 3 in the agenda: the approval of the minutes of the previous Congress, sent in due time to all the National Federations. Marotta asks if any delegate intends to propose amendments, and as nobody takes the floor, the voting procedure starts.

Mr. Sembrano, the delegate from the Philippines, asks to amend the Spanish version of the minutes of the previous Congress by adding that the Philippines attended the Congress remotely, as written in the English version.

Marotta thanks and assures that the amendment will be made.

In favour: all

Against: none

Abstained: none

The minutes of the previous Congress are unanimously approved.

Marotta gives the floor to President Aracu for his report.

4. President's report

Aracu thanks all the Argentinian authorities for the great efforts made, which have allowed the realization of the World Skate Games that risked not to be organized; World Skate has included sustainable disciplines in the event, and showed to the organizers that the revenues through these Games exceed the amounts spent.

All the National Federations should turn to their national authorities to show how important the economic effects of the World Skate Games can be.

Aracu continues by emphasizing the importance of being together to be stronger, and the intention to organize webinars that contribute to achieve this purpose. It is fundamental to be united and ready to help the Federations that have more problems.

World Skate is thinking about the future. There are two candidates for the 2024 World Skate Games who will present their program during this meeting. And of course Paris 2024, where skateboarding competitions will be held at Place de la Concorde. Skateboarding opened the 2024 Olympic qualifiers with the event in Rome at the Colosseum and was chosen as the signature logo at the bottom of all the emails sent by the IOC.

Other future events include the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal in 2026 where World Skate is working to be present with additional disciplines, as well as Los Angeles 2028, where a proposal was made to include the Roller Marathon and scootering.

Aracu then introduces the topic of the Paralympics which he discussed with Andrew Parsons, President of the International Paralympic Committee, who was very impressed by the performances by adaptive skateboarding athletes. However, there is the need to have 32 National Federations holding the National Paralympic Championships in order to submit a formal application to join the International Paralympic Committee, and Aracu invites all the Federations to do their utmost to achieve this goal, promising the maximum support from World Skate.

The IOC has also invited International Federations to introduce e-sports, and this will help increase the number of members and therefore revenues; Aracu underlines that 55% of FIFA's economic turnover in 2020 was from e-sports. The President invites the Federations to look for experts in this discipline in their own countries and to involve them in the development of e-sports activities.

2024 will represent the 100th anniversary of World Skate - established in 1924 in Montreaux with hockey - and the centenary will be celebrated both in the framework of 2024 WSG and with other events in Montreaux and in other countries. Aracu then expresses his wish to organize a "skate day" for this celebration, a day of the year in which all athletes, amateurs, etc. will go around with their skates, scooters, and skateboards.

Aracu closes by naming the two candidate countries for the WSG 2024: Angola and Italy. Italy has prepared a video that will be broadcast; Angola has not prepared it, but in 2013 they organized

an amazing edition of the Rink Hockey World Cup and this is an extraordinary guarantee. The Executive Board will meet shortly to decide.

Aracu then refers to the establishment of a single national governing body per country, underlining that World Skate will always ensure that each sport keeps its autonomy, in accordance with World Skate Statutes.

Aracu talks about the *Confederação Brasileira de Skateboarding (CBSK)*, which he considers a negative chapter in the relations between World Skate and its Federations; World Skate was forced to communicate the cancellation of the World Championships due to the inadequate behavior of the above-mentioned Brazilian Federation and its managers. The President underlines that when an agreement is signed it must be fully enforced, as a handshake should be enough between World Skate and its Federations. Trust was given to a Federation that didn't honor a signed agreement. CBSK asked for more time, and additional time was granted, but in the end World Skate would have to contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to make these Championships happen, which World Skate cannot afford. Aracu concludes by stating that he felt compelled to explain to all the attendees why the 2022 Skateboarding Championships were not held, and that the 2022 World Championships will take place in January 2023.

Brazil as a nation is of paramount importance, and other events will certainly be organized with more reliable people.

5. Secretary General's report

Marotta continues with his report: currently, 144 national federations are affiliated to World Skate, the latter being one of the largest International Federations among the ones recognized by the IOC. Thanks to the high number of sports represented, the number of affiliated athletes is very high. World Skate has 34 staff members, that are always at the disposal of all the Federations.

Regarding the issue of the establishment of a single national governing body per country, four federations have already found an agreement to establish a single National Federation: South Africa, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Belarus; others have a process underway. The goal is to establish a single entity per nation, which does not mean losing one's technical or financial autonomy.

The concept of technical and financial autonomy is particularly reaffirmed for skateboarding, the only Olympic discipline, confirming that all the resources received nationally and internationally for such sport will remain in the framework of skateboarding.

Marotta continues by recalling that with COVID many sporting competitions were cancelled, and this caused a reduction in revenues for World Skate, as shown in the financial statements 2021. One last information relates to Paralympics: there is the need to reach the number of 32 National Federations with Paralympic activities in order to be eligible for submitting the application to join the International Paralympic Committee. To date, only six National Federations have

communicated their intention to organize Paralympic championships, and Marotta invites all federations to undertake these activities.

Marotta thus concludes his report and gives the floor to Aracu.

Off the agenda: Candidacies for the World Skate Games 2024

Aracu thanks the staff of World Skate for their work and moves on to the presentation of the candidacies for the 2024 WSG, informing participants during the coffee break, the EB will meet to decide on the awarding of the event.

Aracu then gives the floor to the representatives of the Italian Federation that are invited on stage for their presentation: the Senior Vice President Mrs. Marika Kullmann and the Director General Mr. Angelo Iezzi.

Kullmann greets on behalf of the Italian Federation and recalls that 2024 will represent the hundredth anniversary of World Skate, and quotes the Latin motto adopted by the IOC "*Citius, Altius, Fortius*" to which the word "*Comuniter*" (meaning together) was added, and underlines that this is the spirit that will animate the Italian organization. The 2024 edition of the World Skate Games aims to be devoted to young people who come together under the sign of culture and fair play.

Angelo Iezzi takes the floor and announces that the Italian Federation will be joined by "Sport e Salute", a state body and partner of the Italian government on innovation and development of sports at 360 degrees. The Italian Federation will be involved with its central departments and its national network: 100 local branches, over 1,000 clubs and 70,000 members. Primary national companies will support the event.

Kullmann recalls the historical, artistic, and cultural heritage of Italy: Rome will be the center of the event, hosting the urban sports, and other cities will be involved. The proposed period runs from 31st August (shortly after the end of Paris2024) to mid-September, which is also an ideal period for the weather conditions.

Iezzi says that the World Skate Games in Italy will leave a concrete legacy to citizens and young people that support urban sports, with the renovation of the existing facilities: the economic sustainability will be an essential goal and a landmark for the next organizers of the WSG.

Marotta announces a 15-minute coffee break and invites EB members to meet in a separate room to decide the awarding of WSG 2024.

Upon returning from the coffee break, the Secretary General invites the President to announce the name of the nation chosen to host the 2024 edition of the WSG.

Aracu takes the floor and announces that the country chosen for 2024 is Italy, and the organization of the WSG for 2026 is proposed to Angola.

6. Proposal of the amendments to the World Skate Statutes to be approved

Marotta analyzes the proposed amendments to World Skate Statutes. Everyone received the draft within the deadline set, and the Secretary General announces that he will only mention the main amendments, with the approval covering article by article.

ART.1: The name of the nine sports has changed as follows:

- Skateboarding
- Speed
- Artistic
- Inline hockey
- Rink hockey
- Downhill
- Freestyle
- Derby
- Scootering

The various disciplines falling within these sports are listed in the By-Laws; this clustering is necessary for the organization of the events, and mostly for infrastructures and facilities. Article 1 was amended by adding to the e- sports also deal with the "electric sports", as in scootering for example there are sporting events devoted to electric scooters.

Marotta invites the delegates (both attending in person and remotely) to vote.

Moacjr Neuenschwander intervenes to ask if reference can be made to electronic instead of electric sports; Marotta replies that World Skate has adopted what was communicated by the IOC.

In favour: all

Against: none

Abstained: none

Unanimously approved.

ART.2: Minor lexical changes are made.

In favour: all

Against: none

Abstained: none

Unanimously approved.

Art.3: Minor lexical changes are made.

In favour: all

Against: none

Abstained: none

Unanimously approved.

Art.4

In favour: all

Against: none

Abstained: none

Unanimously approved.

Katarina Sterne from Sweden takes the floor and asks to check each time the votes cast remotely. Marotta replies that technicians check each time the votes cast remotely and inform him accordingly. He then gives the floor to Elijah Zgambo who thanks but believes that the procedures were too fast, risking not to be clear.

Marotta replies he will ask the staff to provide clearer information.

The floor then goes to Majid Honarjo from Iran, who claims he has not received enough information about the voting procedure.

Marotta shows again the voting procedures through the screen and explains to click on the green icon to approve, on the white icon to abstain, and on the red icon to vote against.

Marotta continues with the vote on ART. 6

In favour: 85%

Approved by majority.

ART.7

In favour: 81%

Approved by majority.

Katarina Stern takes the floor and suggests to start over from art. 2, because many countries attending the Congress remotely did not vote correctly.

Marotta therefore decides to restart and asks to vote on art. 2:

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

ART.3

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

Marotta asks those who vote remotely to show their votes until the next voting begins.

ART.4

Votes in favor 97%.

Approved by majority.

ART.6

Unanimously approved in the room. Electronic vote in favor 99%. Approved by majority.

ART.7

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

Luka Markic takes the floor and proposes to vote together all the articles of the Statutes; Marotta replies that this is not allowed as the amendments to the Statutes must be voted article by article.

ART.8

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

ART.9

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

ART. 10

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

Marotta declares that art. 11,12, and 13 are not subject to voting as they are unchanged.

ART.14

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

ART.15

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

Marotta gives the floor to the delegate from the Philippines who thanks and underlines that he is part of the skateboarding working group; according to the Statutes, he believes that it should be considered a technical commission.

Marotta replies that the working group is considered as part of a technical commission as clearly specified by point 9 which is read in full.

President Aracu takes the floor and explains that Commissions include a representation from all the Continents, and the Technical Commission has the right to appoint people to carry out specific technical roles.

The Executive Board is considering the possibility to organize the World Championships one year and the Continental Championships the subsequent year, as World Skate must also be involved in the Continental Championships, to convey a strong message.

ART. 16

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

ART.17

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote

ART.18

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote

ART.19

Approved by majority with 98.14%.

ART.20

Approved by majority with 97.67%.

ART.21

This article concerns the decisions adopted with the Swiss government, from which World Skate receives support in the form of tax exemption and financial benefits; according to the Swiss Law, if a Federation like World Skate decides to leave the Country, it must leave all its assets in Switzerland and donate them to a charity.

The Swiss Law also states that all the members of the Executive Board cannot receive wages for their work; World Skate is negotiating but there is no deal yet on this matter.

Marotta specifies that art. 21 is therefore subject to a transitional rule and will be enforced only after the approval by the Canton de Vaud of the already agreed but not yet formalized rules.

Article 21 is put to the vote.

Approved by majority with 98.52%.

Marotta declares the vote on the amendments to the Statute concluded and moves on to the next item of the agenda.

7. 2021 Financial statement

The 2021 financial statements are included in the folder and Marotta quickly summarizes the main figures: revenues in 2021 amounted to 3,581,567 USD, expenses to 4,915,726, therefore with a minus of 1,334,159 caused by the decrease in the number of events due to COVID.

The net income as at 01/01/2021 was equal to 3,681,579 and therefore the net assets as of December 31st amounted to 2,368,774.

The financial statement was formally certified by the auditor of World Skate and sent to the Canton de Vaud authorities to ensure tax exemption.

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

8. Ratification or withdrawal of memberships

Following the approval by the Executive Board, Marotta ratifies the application by the following countries to become member of World Skate:

- Lebanon
- Saudi Arabia

The Federations of Fiji Islands and Slovakia are definitively recognized having received provisional recognition from the Executive Board.

Voting for the final ratification of the above:

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

11. Miscellaneous

The next vote is cast on the ratification of the By-Laws already approved by the EB.

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote

Ratification of the Code of Ethics

Unanimously approved in the room. Unanimously approved through the electronic vote.

Marotta then communicates that one of the items in the Miscellaneous is the report by the Medical Commission: Patricia Wallace is then given the floor for a brief report.

Wallace takes the floor to inform on the educational facilities for athletes arranged during the WSG. She believes it is important to put some emphasis on the desks where athletes can express their ideas and concerns. She believes it is important to focus on education related to anti-doping, and given the complexity of such topic, Wallace believes it is important to organize educational anti-doping sessions. During competitions there is always an anti-doping delegate available to brief the athletes. It is also extremely important for WADA that athletes are not imposed sanctions for not knowing the rules. Wallace expresses her availability to answer to questions or emails to better clarify any aspect of this matter.

Marotta gives the floor to José Acevedo, President of the Colombian Federation, for the presentation of the 2023 World Artistic Championships.

Acevedo greets all the participants in the Congress and thanks World Skate for the trust placed in Colombia. Great events have been organized in Colombia, always respecting the rules, and he invites all the delegates to Colombia (Ibaguè) from 19 to 30 September 2023, where everyone will be welcomed by kind and friendly people. Colombia has a lot of experience in the organization of events, and received government support.

Marotta asks if anyone is willing to take the floor.

The delegate from the Brazilian Federation CBSK takes the floor and makes some considerations on behalf of Brazil. He underlines how CBSK and World Skate have been partners for many years, and it is very sad to see the present situation. He believes that the Brazilian Federation is doing anything possible, and states that after saying that we must be united, President Aracu said he intends to hold events in Brazil without CBSK. He underlines the interesting conversation he had the day before with the team of World Skate, while an unexpected attitude emerged in the congress.

Aracu underlines that the CBSK delegate represents the Brazilian Federation with full rights and with a calm and fair attitude, and being a lawyer he has the duty to defend the representatives of the Brazilian federation. Aracu indicates that this is not the first time that World Skate has had problems with the same group of organizers. He recalls that in 2019, on the occasion of the Park World Championships in São Paulo, the International Federation had decided not to receive from the organizers a part of the amount owed to World Skate, and to donate 97,000 USD for the construction of a skatepark in a *favela* of São Paulo, also in agreement with the Brazilian government (World Skate has the documents proving such agreement). But the facility was not built, and the money was not given to the International Federation.

Aracu therefore points out that on the occasion of the 2022 World Championships in Brazil, World Skate had communicated the event to the world, but the organizers did not comply with the agreements made, and this is the reason why now it is difficult to think of working with them



again. The relationship with CBSK will always be there, of course. Aracu hopes that a single National Federation will soon be established, and hopes not to see any more CBSK executives writing "no merge" while the International Federation says Stronger Together.

The decision to cancel the event in Brazil was a difficult and painful one, but Aracu invites to consider that World Skate could not have afforded to disburse USD 800,000 to hold the event.

World Skate implements a very careful economic policy, as demonstrated by the financial report read by Marotta. Aracu underlines that World Skate was naïve in the case of the event in Brazil, but it is a lesson learnt. The hope is that CBSK recovers at best and finds adequate solutions; the Brazilian community is fantastic, and World Skate will always be close to them.

Marotta gives the floor to the Iranian delegate, who thanks the President, the Secretary General and the EB for their time and efforts. He mentions an event during a speed competition. The flag of Iran was hung upside down, which is disrespectful, and asks the authorities if anything can be done to remedy this. He proposes to have many more meetings in the future, and asks to provide accommodation to athletes during international competitions.

Aracu apologizes for the flag but there was no bad faith on the part of the Argentinian organizers. Improving communication is certainly in the interest of the World Skate.

The delegate from Canada delegate asks for the floor.

He thanks and greets all the participants, and follows-up to the President's words on the establishment of a single national governing body per country issue to underline that skateboarding has been very active since 1924 and is now an Olympic sport. He believes that every sport has to keep not only its economic and technical autonomy, but also its cultural one; this is very important for skateboarders, and they are concerned about the impact the establishment of a single national governing body per country may have on the skateboarding community. Communication was often difficult. More opportunities are needed to debate and work together on many aspects, but everyone has a unique culture. He thanks for the extra time allowed to find a solution and hopes that this will be possible by the end of the following year as requested, but problems need to be highlighted and underlined.

Aracu replies and assures that all the cultures of the various sports have been respected: as a matter of fact, it would be a great mistake to destroy the culture of any sport, and World Skate will monitor carefully. He also stresses that situations vary from country to country, and that is why one-to-one meetings are important.

Aracu, however, underlines that it is important to avoid the trap of thinking that one can be better off alone, because only by remaining united it is possible to become stronger. Each with one's own autonomy.

Yasser Eshami, president of the Egyptian Federation asks for the floor.

Eshami thanks and welcomes the new federations. He invites President Aracu to convene regular meetings with national federations every six months. He also recalls the African Skate Games which will be held in the first week of September.

Aracu agrees to intensify the meetings, and underlines that Africa has great potential.

Mohammad Ishaq from Pakistan asks for the floor.

He thanks and greets all participants and wishes to announce a new president and general secretary. He also underlines that a no-profit skateboarding organization has come to Pakistan, but Ishaq doesn't know if it has the International Federation's approval.

Aracu replies by saying that the association he is referring to is Skateistan, a no-profit association also recognized by the IOC which operates in developing countries, so there is nothing to be concerned about.

The delegate from Finland, Lauri Vassinen, asks for the floor.

He thanks everyone for the meeting and follows up on what his Canadian colleague said about communication: he complains about "one-to-one" meetings because like-minded people have to get together, discuss in groups or webinars, learning from each other.

Aracu replies that the "one to one" meetings had been proposed because problems are often different. The visions or even the laws in force in the different countries are sometimes different, and this is the reason for proposing one-to-one meetings.

The President of the French federation, Boris Darlet, asks for the floor.

He says that many improvements were made thanks to the Olympics, which allowed federations to grow according to the market. He wishes to reassure that in France, at the Olympics, everything will be done to achieve very high results.

Marotta takes the floor to inform about the availability of a light lunch at the hotel and passes the floor to President Aracu for the closing remarks.

Aracu thanks all the participants, expressing the wish to meet again soon. He thanks the staff of World Skate, the Argentinian LOC, the Executive Board, and the interpreters. In the end, he recalls the motto "Unity is strength".

The Congress ends at 1.50 p.m.

The Secretary General
Roberto Marotta



The President
Sabatino Aracu

