



World Skate Elective Congress

7th September 2024 - h 10:00 AM

Rome (Italy)

National Federations attending:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ANGOLA | 28. GREAT BRITAIN | 55. POLAND |
| 2. ARGENTINA | 29. GREECE | 56. PORTUGAL |
| 3. AUSTRALIA | 30. GUATEMALA | 57. PUERTO RICO |
| 4. AUSTRIA | 31. GUINEA BISSAU | 58. RWANDA |
| 5. BENIN | 32. GUINEA CONAKRY | 59. SAN MARINO |
| 6. BOLIVIA | 33. HONDURAS | 60. SAUDI ARABIA |
| 7. BRAZIL (CBHP) | 34. HONG KONG, CHINA | 61. SENEGAL |
| 8. BRAZIL (CBSK) | 35. HUNGARY | 62. SLOVAKIA |
| 9. CANADA | 36. INDIA | 63. SLOVENIA |
| 10. CHILE | 37. IRAN | 64. SOUTH AFRICA |
| 11. CHINA | 38. ISRAEL | 65. SPAIN |
| 12. CHINESE TAIPEI | 39. ITALY | 66. SWEDEN |
| 13. COLOMBIA | 40. JAPAN | 67. THAILAND |
| 14. CONGO | 41. KOREA (Rep. of) | 68. UKRAINE |
| 15. COSTARICA | 42. LATVIA | 69. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES |
| 16. CÔTE D'IVOIRE | 43. MACAU | 70. URUGUAY |
| 17. CROATIA | 44. MAURITIUS | 71. USA |
| 18. CUBA | 45. MEXICO | 72. VENEZUELA |
| 19. CZECHIA | 46. MOÇAMBIQUE | |
| 20. DENMARK | 47. MOROCCO | |
| 21. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | 48. NAMIBIA | |
| 22. ECUADOR | 49. NEW ZEALAND | |
| 23. EGYPT | 50. NORWAY | |
| 24. EL SALVADOR | 51. PAKISTAN | |
| 25. FINLAND | 52. PARAGUAY | |
| 26. FRANCE | 53. PERU | |
| 27. GEORGIA | 54. PHILIPPINES | |

Executive Board members attending:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| • Sabatino Aracu | President |
| • Roberto Marotta | Secretary General |
| • Doris Gentile | Vice Secretary General |
| • Karen Doyle | 1 st Vice President and World Skate Oceania Commissioner |
| • 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
- Ellen French Chair Roller Derby Technical Commission
- Olivier Pascal Chair Roller Freestyle Technical Commission
- Weifeng Gu Chair Inline Freestyle Technical Commission
- Siegfried Zistler Chair Downhill Technical Commission
- Patricia Wallace President Medical Commission

- WORLD SKATE Managers and Staff

AGENDA:

1. Opening address by World Skate President
2. Declaration of constitutive and deliberative quorum
3. Appointment of scrutineers
4. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress
5. Ratification and withdrawal of memberships
 - 5.1 Ratification of the provisional memberships
 - a. Botswana Skate Federation (BOTSWANA)
 - b. Skate Maldives (MALDIVES)
 - c. Rwanda Skating Federation (RWANDA)
 - d. South Sudan Skate Federation (SOUTH SUDAN)
 - e. UAE Skate Sports Federation (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)
 - 5.2 Ratification of the new Federative structure of the Federación Deportiva Chilena de Patinaje (CHILE) and the Hellenic Skate Federation (GREECE)
 - 5.3 Ratification of Resolution No. 2/2024 of the Executive Board and confirmation of the withdrawal of membership in relation with Confederação Brasileira de Skateboarding (BRAZIL)
6. New declaration of constitutive and deliberative quorum
7. President's report
8. Secretary General's report
9. Financial report
10. Presentation of candidates and elections for World Skate Presidency and First-Vice Presidency
11. Presentation of candidates and elections for Continental Area Presidency (World Skate Vice-Presidency) and Continental Vice-Presidency
12. Items of general interest duly submitted by Member Federations and/or by the Executive Board within 70 days from the date set for the Congress
 - 12.1 Canada Skateboard, the Finnish Skateboard Association, Brettforbundet and Swe Sports submitted the following items of general interest to be discussed:
 - a. Management of National Federations after the establishment of a single Governing Body per Country;
 - b. Timely publication of a draft of the Minutes from the Previous Congress;
 - c. Term limits for positions within World Skate.



WORLD
SKATE

13. 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.
14. Ratification of the amendments to the By-Laws, already sent to all National Federations on 12th January 2024 and uploaded to the official website
15. Miscellaneous

1. Opening address by the World Skate President

President Aracu thanks the Delegates for attending a particularly important Congress, that takes place in the year of the centenary of World Skate.

He welcomes the President of ASOIF Francesco Ricci Bitti and the President of CONI Giovanni Malagò, and gives the floor to the Vice Secretary General Doris Gentile to read the letter from IOC President Thomas Bach, addressed to all the Delegates of National Federations, in which the IOC President underlines the great success of skateboarding in the Olympic Games and that all National Federations should be proud for the development and the continuous successes of World Skate.

Aracu then gives the floor to Giovanni Malagò.

President Malagò congratulates the presence of so many nations and reminds them how the Salone d'Onore, the hall where the Congress is taking place, is a historic place for the history of Italian Sports. He believes that everyone should feel proud of what World Skate has achieved over the years, with the results obtained by overcoming many obstacles. It all started from a dream by President Aracu, who was supported by everyone and who then led to the splendid results in Tokyo and then Paris.

Aracu gives the floor to Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of ASOIF, of which World Skate is now a full member.

Ricci Bitti thanks for the invitation and congratulates for the splendid work that has allowed the organization of the World Skate Games. ASOIF has rules according to which, with three inclusions in the Olympic Programme, World Skate becomes a Full Member of ASOIF and will enjoy greater consideration at the top levels of IOC. World Skate is an ancient federation - that in fact celebrates its centenary - but it has brought to success a sport loved by young people, and that in Paris filled the stands and Place de la Concorde, where the event took place. The future is therefore bright, but this entails important organizational responsibilities, continuous updates, contacts with broadcasters etc... Ricci Bitti concludes with the best wishes for the success of the Congress and for a future studded with further well-deserved success.

Giovanni Malagò leaves the meeting

Aracu reminds all the Delegates that the Congress is in live streaming, so there is full transparency and dissemination of the event also to those who were unable to attend in person.

He then gives the floor to Secretary General Roberto Marotta, recalling that Marotta has held this role since 1990.

Roberto Marotta takes the floor and, while waiting to receive the quorum, informs that each delegate has received an electronic device to express one's vote: green button to vote in favor,



WORLD
SKATE

yellow to abstain and red to express a vote against. After selecting the color, the OK button shall always be pressed.

2. Declaration of constitutive and deliberative quorum

There are 71 Delegates in the room representing 452 votes; the quorum is there, and if - during the Congress - some delegates leave the room, the deliberative quorum changes accordingly.

He then asks the delegates to turn on the remote control for a check and a test vote.

3. Appointment of scrutineers

The Secretary General proposes the appointment of Norma Narvaez (Paraguay), and Alireza Mahboubi (Iran) as scrutineers.

The assembly is asked to vote on the appointment of these scrutineers

In favor: 394
Against: 14
Abstentions: 18
Non-voters: 26

Approved by majority

4. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress

Marotta underlines that all the National Federations have received the minutes in time, therefore if there are no objections we can move on to voting.

In favour: 424
Against: 1
Abstentions: 23
Non-voters 4

Approved by majority

5. Ratification and withdrawal of memberships

Marotta informs that the vote for the ratification of provisional recognition will take place individually for each Country.

5.1. Ratification of the provisional memberships

Botswana Skating Federation



**WORLD
SKATE**

In favor: 378
Against: 0
Abstentions: 10
Non-voters: 64

Approved by majority

Skate Maldives

In favor: 330
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Non-voters: 122

Rwanda Skating Federation

In favor: 349
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Non-voters : 103

South Sudan Skate Federation

In favor: 360
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Non-voters: 92

UAE Skate Sports Federation

In favor: 414
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Non-voters: 38

5.2. Ratification of the new Federative structure of the Greek and Chilean National Federations

New Structure of the Chilean Federation

In favor: 410
Against: 6
Abstentions: 0
Non-voters: 36

New structure of the Greek Federation

In favor: 402
Against: 0



WORLD
SKATE



Abstentions: 9
Non-voters: 41

Secretary General Roberto Marotta informs that the quorum is modified on the basis of the new countries just recognized.

Aracu intervenes to welcome these countries who have become full members of World Skate.

5.3. Ratification of Resolution No. 2/2024 of the Executive Board and confirmation of the withdrawal of membership in relation with Confederação Brasileira de Skateboarding (BRAZIL)

The Secretary General informs that item 5.3. is withdrawn by the Executive Board through resolution adopted on 5 September following the order of the Court of Lausanne dated 2 September 2024 not to deal with this item until the completion of the arbitration at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The next hearing is scheduled for 26 September 2024.

Marotta continues by summarizing the facts: during the Congress of July 3, 2019 in Barcelona, the amendment to the Statutes were approved, according to which in each Country there shall only be one National Governing Body for all World Skate sports by December 2020, and the EB was given full mandate to execute said resolution. Due to Covid, the deadline was extended to December 2021. At the Buenos Aires Congress of October 30, 2022, said deadline was further extended to December 2023. On January 10, 2024, the EB executed the mandate received from the Congress and took note of the agreements reached in the countries with multiple Federations, deciding to recognize the National Federations that had found an agreement and to indicate the Federations where the agreement had not been found. On January 31, 2024, the Confederação Brasileira de Skateboarding (CBSK) filed an appeal before the Arbitration Court of Lausanne, which asked World Skate to suspend resolution 2/2024 until the arbitration was finalized. On July 6, 2024, World Skate sent the agenda for this Congress including item 5.3., with the ratification by the Congress of the aforementioned resolution 2/2024 adopted by the EB, which decided to withdraw CBSK as a member of World Skate. On September 2, 2024, the Ordinary Court of Lausanne, seized by CBSK, ordered World Skate not to submit item 5.3. to the Congress until the settlement of the arbitration in progress at the CAS and set for discussion on 26 September 2024. Item 5.3. of the agenda is therefore withdrawn.

The Secretary General asks the Assembly to vote on the inclusion of a new item in the agenda as provided for by art. 7 of the Statutes - as it is a point that was not known at the time the agenda was sent - which concerns a declaration of support to the Executive Board by the Congress for the actions of the Executive Board in its legal defense of the statutory values of World Skate before the CAS.

Marotta invites the Assembly to vote on the inclusion of the said item on the agenda, recalling that, as per the Statutes, a two-thirds majority of votes is required.

The voting procedure opens and the following result is obtained:

In favor: 311
Against: 29
Abstentions: 38

Non-voters: 74

These votes correspond to 82.8% and therefore two thirds of the votes have been reached. The declaration can be included in the agenda.

Marotta then invites the Assembly to vote on the approval of the support to the work of the Executive Board with a simple majority vote.

The delegates from Spain and Portugal ask to take the floor.

SPAIN: Delegate Ignacio Gonzalez considers the World Skate Statute to be the “magna charta” that everyone has to comply with, and as such it must be respected. Article 6 defines the bodies of World Skate, and Article 7 states that the Congress is the supreme authority of World Skate that can modify and approve the Statutes. In the 2019 Congress in Barcelona, the Statutes were amended and in Article 3 it was established that World Skate will recognize only one Federation per Country, and that Countries where there is more than one Federation shall find an agreement to establish a single entity. Finally, in Article 21 a deadline was established to reach this agreement: December 31, 2023. It was also decided that if an agreement was not found, then according to paragraph 4 of Article 3 it would be the exclusive task of the Executive Board to decide which are the recognized Federations.

Therefore, the subsequent steps were nothing more than the implementation of the provisions contained in the Statutes. For this reason the Spanish federation not only fully supports the resolution of the Executive Board, but also invites the other Delegates to explicitly express their support.

PORTUGAL: The delegate of Portugal, José Francisco Ventura Raimundo, sais he does not understand the reason for this discussion: the Congress is sovereign and the decision was included in the Statutes approved by the Assembly in 2019, and also envisaged a transition period until 2023.

The Portuguese Delegate stressed that this decision had already been approved by the Congress and - just as there is only one International Federation that oversees all sports - it is correct that in each country there is only one Federation that governs all the sports of World Skate.

Secretary General Roberto Marotta now gives the floor to President Aracu.

Aracu invites everyone to consider the situation: the Statutes also state that World Skate accepts the CAS as the supreme body of justice; we are having an Assembly that is not entirely in compliance with the Statutes of World Skate because the CAS has not yet made any decision. Aracu asks for a vote of support to the Executive Board that has withdrawn the motion as requested by the CAS and fulfilled its duty, which is also what the Executive Board did in January by executing the mandate conferred by the Assembly.

Marotta then opens the voting procedure on the statement of support to the Executive Board

In favor: 355

Against: 30

Abstentions: 38

Non-voters 35



WORLD
SKATE

Francesco Ricci Bitti asks for the floor to provide a brief contribution.

Ricci Bitti supports and respects the CAS decision, but he invites the Congress to continue the process to enforce the fundamental principle of compliance with the Statutes of an International Federation. In this specific case there was a sort of interference by the CAS in the autonomy of an International Federation, and therefore invites the Assembly to pursue the principle of having an Entity or Body for each Country, as this represents a fundamental principle in the sports organizational model.

7. President's report

President Sabatino Aracu takes the floor and begins his report by stating that having partly amended the agenda to allow the new Federations to vote is a source of pride for him. It is a growth of the World Skate family.

The president hopes that World Skate continues along the pathway of continuous improvement, and wishes that the entire World Skate family becomes stronger. Celebrating the 100th anniversary with the praise of ASOIF and of the International Olympic Committee, also after the positive feedback of the Olympic experience, makes World Skate feel like an highly appreciated Federation.

The World Skate Games were held in China, Spain and Argentina and now Italy; World Skate is a unique International Federation as no other international federation can award so many World Champion titles. The World Skate Games are now being reshaped with with *fun fests* and other initiatives that attract young people.

The Statutes approved in Barcelona state that World Skate shall have a single Federation per Country and this is a reason of strength that also translates into the interest expressed by many countries (like Paraguay and the city of Washington) to organize the World Skate Games.

The strength resides in the fact that a single Governing Body per country gathers all the sports, and those who want to create elements of division do not have the vision of being all together, loving one's sport and each sport enjoying full technical and financial autonomy.

For the first time the Olympic disciplines of skateboarding hold their World Championships within the WSG, gaining strength from the event, but also giving strength to it.

Aracu underlines that the current World Skate Games do not belong to Italy, but to the world, as shown by the people that are working on the event and that come from all over the world. World Skate has to stage a product that becomes attractive and of interest for policy makers and entrepreneurs.

An Economic Impact Study was carried out before these Games by an International Agency recognized by all international institutions; according to such study, the World Skate Games can bring about 200 million Euros to the host country as a return on the initial investment of about 10 to 12 million Euros.

The President recalls in this regard that the Italian Prime Minister attended the first presentation of



**WORLD
SKATE**

the World Skate Games, showing how also the world of politics understood the importance of an event as the World Skate Games.

Regarding the Olympics, World Skate must understand what the market requires in order to bring other disciplines into the Olympic programme; this must be done when the time is right, and by keeping up with the times.

World Skate will have to be a protagonist in Los Angeles 2028 - the city of skateboarding, but also of inline skating; there is the idea to organize a massive, open marathon, where everyone may participate, like the one that is being organized in the World Skate Games.

In 2026, World Skate will be part of the Mediterranean Games with the marathon; always in 2026 there will be the Youth Olympics in Dakar.

Another important topic to stress is the Paralympics; a greater effort is needed because 35 countries must hold the National Championships in order to apply for inclusion in the International Paralympic Committee, and this requires a great commitment by all National Governing Bodies.

Another important area is represented by E-Sports, for which the IOC has already decided to hold the Olympic Games. Aracu invites all the Delegates to establish an E-sports department in their National Federations, as e-sports entail an important business.

Aracu underlines that National Federations need to have control of and exercise their guidance on the athletes, and cannot allow them to participate in competitions with no Anti-Doping or international judges recognized by World Skate. It cannot be allowed that someone from the outside - for private interests - damages World Skate; there is a need for unity.

Aracu emphasizes the World Skate Ranking which, as in Tennis, will give the right importance and the right showcase to the athletes from all sports and all disciplines.

National Federations may find themselves in difficult situations, and the International Federation has the duty to help them: in 2019 World Skate had a turnover of 1,406,000 USD; in 2021, despite of COVID, the turnover was 3,500,000 USD; in 2022 it amounted to 4,600,000 USD; in 2023 the turnover was 6,905,000 USD and in 2024 the hope to close the year with over 12 million dollars.

The greatest investment is however the staff that work at the offices in Rome and Lausanne, whom Aracu warmly thanks: from the General Secretariat to all the Departments, 50 staff members coming from all over the world.

Continental Areas are an extension of World Skate, and it is necessary to be closer as a team; specific areas have been established to provide greater autonomy, but decisions must be taken jointly. The continental and world competition calendars must be drafted together with formulas that ensure investments.

World Skate will be great if all the Federations are great: we can no longer allow that countries like Rwanda, affiliated today, have to wait years to reach the levels of countries like France, Italy and others. These countries must be given all the tools to be able to grow: courses for coaches of all disciplines that start from a basic level up to the top, as well as courses for marketing managers for each country.

Aracu concludes his speech by repeating the importance of being united and helping each other,



WORLD
SKATE

because only in this way are we strong and can always be successful.

8. Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta reports on the last two years, which have registered an exponential growth as all the 12 sports have been fully operational; the confirmation of skateboarding in the Olympic Programme of Paris and Los Angeles has mainly involved the secretariat for several administrative aspects; the number of collaborators is 48, that work in 5 main departments. The number of National Federations is 138. There has been an effort to support some National Governing Bodies in the unification process, and support has also been provided to all federations developing all the 12 sports of World Skate.

World Skate membership fees have been transferred to the 5 Continental Areas and shall be used to support the growth of their Countries.

Marotta then turns to the presidents of the national federations, inviting them to take advantage of the interest of the Olympic Committees towards our sports by contacting them and asking for help to support all our sports.

9. Financial report

General Secretary Roberto Marotta refers to the 2023 financial statements previously sent to all National Federations and summarises the main items:

Revenue 2023:

- Affiliation fees: USD 722,000
- IOC Contribution: USD 989,000
- Judges fees etc.: USD 71,000
- Seminars: USD 187,000
- Olympic Qualifier Series: USD 4,246,000

The total revenue on a cash basis is USD 6,905,410

Expenses 2023

- Fees paid to international institutions: USD 102,000
- World Skate Development: USD 383,000
- Organizational costs Paris 2024: USD 97,000
- Seminars: USD 134,000
- Anti-doping: USD 250,000
- Prize money and judging fees: USD 1,737,000
- Staff and consulting expenses: USD 2,419,000
- Operating costs: USD 550,000
- Administrative expenses: USD 188,000



**WORLD
SKATE**

- Communication and website expenses: USD 490,000
- TV production and broadcasting expenses: USD 585,000

The total expenses are equal to 7,926,000 USD which, compared to the above-mentioned revenues, lead to an operating loss for the year 2023 of 1,020,000 USD. However, the cash availability on January 1, 2023 amounted to 1,941,000 USD, to which we must add the revenues due to currency exchanges equal to 347,000, for a total financial availability of 2,288,000 USD from which we must subtract the loss for the year 2023 equal to 1,020,000 and therefore we closed on December 31, 2023 with cash in hand amounting to 1,267,743 USD.

This result was certified by the Auditor of World Skate.

Nobody asked for the floor, and Marotta opens the voting procedure to approve the financial statements.

In favour: 430
 Against: 0
 Abstentions: 1
 Non-voters: 27

10. Presentation of candidates and elections for World Skate Presidency and First Vice Presidency

The Secretary General now moves on to the presentation of the candidates as President and First Vice President of World Skate and gives the floor to Sabatino Aracu, current President and only candidate.

Aracu does not add anything to what he has already said, but recalls that World Skate follows *gender equality* and therefore its Vice President candidate is Karen Doyle.

Daniel Ventura, President of the Argentine Confederation, asks for the floor and wishes to present a motion to the assembly regarding the election of the President: the great work carried out by Sabatino Aracu, the EB and his entire team has led to the great growth of World Skate and therefore Ventura proposes the election of Sabatino Aracu and Karen Doyle not through a vote but by acclamation.

Marotta asks if there are opinions against this voting system and gives the floor to the delegate from India, Naresh Kumar, who requests it.

The Indian delegate agreed with this vote by acclamation and congratulated Sabatino Aracu.

The Philippine delegate, Carl Irving Sambrano, now takes the floor and declares his support for the two candidacies that he considers as the father and mother of World Skate and asks to also listen to the words of Karen Doyle.

Karen Doyle takes the floor and reminds the Delegates that she has been involved in roller sports for forty years, and knows many of those attending the Congress. She fully supports the line of President Aracu and the Executive Board and will do everything she can to show the world that World Skate is a united international federation.



**WORLD
SKATE**

Mariotta thanks Karen Doyle and moves on to the vote by acclamation.

Long applause

Sabatino Aracu and Karen Doyle are elected President and First Vice President of World Skate, respectively.

11. Presentation of candidates and elections for Continental Area Presidency (World Skate Vice-Presidency) and Continental Vice-Presidency

Secretary General Roberto Marotta takes the floor again and moves on to presenting the candidates for each continental area.

WORLD SKATE AFRICA

The candidate for the African Continent Nathanaël Koty takes the floor and recalls that a few years ago he took the path to develop all disciplines and sports in Africa and believes that together we must fight for the future of sport; he thanks President Aracu for the support and for the support always shown that has helped Africa in the effort to grow more and more in the development of sports. For this reason he asks to renew the trust in him and in his Vice President Awa Fall.

Marotta clarifies that there is only one candidate for Africa and opens the voting for the presidency and vice-presidency in Africa. The two candidates are:

- **Nathanaël Koty (Benin) - President**
Awa Fall (Senegal) - Vice President

Result:

In favour: 54 votes
Abstentions: 4 votes

Mounir Messari Gloubou, the Moroccan delegate, said he was unable to vote because his electronic device did not work. He did not see his position of abstention.

The Moroccan delegate is explained that in the election it is only possible to vote by clicking on the candidate or candidates, or not to vote. In this specific case, therefore, his abstention - selected by pressing the yellow button - was not recorded as such but among the "non-voters".

WORLD SKATE AMERICA

The Secretary General reports that in the case of the American continent, there are two candidacies;

- **Alberto Herrera Ayala (Colombia) with Vice Presidential candidate Marisol Castro of Ecuador**
- **Moacyr Neuenschwander Junior (Brazil) with Vice President candidate Lorena Veiluva of Paraguay**

Alberto Herrera takes the floor to recall that the strategy undertaken since 2015 has proven to be a successful strategy; together with Marisol Castro, an important development program for all disciplines has been carried out. With the support of the Presidents of the Federations of the American continent, this work has borne fruit not only in South America and the Caribbean but also in North America; the recognition of new federations has also been supported thanks to the help of the Olympic Committees, a fundamental support for the growth of the sport. Herrera recalls that when he was elected in 2015, there were only 8 countries that were involved in roller sports, today there are 17 National Governing Bodies, with an increase from 4 or 5 countries that usually won medals to over 10 countries that may win world titles. Inline hockey has reached 15 countries that practice it, and current activities include the development of urban sports such as skateboarding.

Herrera concludes by saying that their proposal is that of an ongoing development to support all the sports, with the goal of also having more sports resources in the future.

Marotta gives the floor to Moacyr Neuenschwander Junior to present his candidacy.

Moacyr Neuenschwander Junior recalls that his federation, CBHP, has been affiliated to World Skate for 81 years, with 3 sports at the beginning, that have now increased to 10. 160 Brazilian athletes will participate in the WSG Italia 2024, in addition to all the coaches and delegates. In the American continent roller sports have made great steps forward, with many international events in the three so-called sub-continent. Through the Pan-American Confederation, there is the interest of holding events in other countries of the continent.

Moacyr believes that the collaboration with other countries and with the Technical Commissions is fundamental for the development and spreading of World Skate sports and disciplines, by also giving coaches the opportunity to contribute.

Marotta gives the floor to the representative of Guatemala who asks how many votes the American continent has.

A screen showing the votes of the continents is projected on the video and the American continent has 149 votes. Technical instructions on the voting system are then given.

Voting results:

- Alberto Herrera Ayala (Colombia) - President VOTES: 125
Marisol Castro (Ecuador) - Vice President
- Moacyr Neuenschwander Junior (Brazil) - President VOTES: 24
Lorena Veiluva (Paraguay) - Vice President
- Abstentions VOTES: 0
- Non-voters VOTES: 0



WORLD
SKATE

WORLD SKATE ASIA

Secretary General Roberto Marotta moves on to the vote for the Asian Area and reports that there is only one candidacy:

- **Huang Qiang (China) with Vice President Kim Young Soon (South Korea)**

Marotta gives the floor to Huang Qiang.

Qiang greets everyone, feeling honored to be present at the Congress; he remembers that he started as Secretary of the Chinese Roller Sports Association and then witnessed the growth and development of World Skate. An important moment was in 2014 when speed skating debuted in the Olympic world and two years later in 2016 skateboarding became an Olympic sport. In 2017, China hosted the first edition of the Roller Games with 10 sports, and now roller sports have been included in the Asian Games and also in the Southeast Asian Games.

Many cities in China have embraced roller sports, becoming points of reference for skaters. Eastern China organizes three very popular events every year that are also an economic driver. In Beidaihe, on May 1st, tens of thousands of skaters come to the city and move in the streets; this also brings a great economic boost for the city. Next year, the Speed World Championships will be held in Beidaihe. In recent years, the federations have grown from 18 to 43, reflecting the joint effort deployed, and Qiang thanks all the delegates for the support and affection they have shown him and declares himself enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with Mrs. Kim Young Soon who was Mayor of Seoul and worked for the roller skating federation in Korea. Qiang is certain that he can develop the various sports, as well as organize seminars supported by the technical committees.

Iran's delegate, Majid Honarjo, takes the floor to ask for World Skate's support also for the Middle Eastern countries that are represented by Federations affiliated to World Skate; this could help them to be more united and active members in the World Skate family.

The Secretary General takes the floor and opens the voting session.

Voting results:

- Huang Qiang (China) - President
Kim Young Soon (South Korea) - Vice President VOTES: 77

WORLD SKATE EUROPE

Secretary General Roberto Marotta gives the floor to **Luis Seníca (Portugal), the only candidate for the European Continent together with Irmelin Otten (Germany) as Vice President.**

Seníca feels honored for the candidacy and considers his team stronger than the previous candidacy; the team is united in the effort to spread World Skate sports more and more in the European continent.

The Spanish delegate, Ignacio González, asks to speak and proposes, given the sole candidacy and excellent management of Luis Seníca and Irmelin Otten in recent years, that the election be by acclamation.



WORLD
SKATE

The Italian delegate, Marika Kullmann, asks for the floor, and seconds the request made by the Spanish delegate regarding the election by acclamation of Luis Seníca as President and Irmelin Otten as Vice President of the European Confederation.

Since there are no votes against, the vote is by acclamation.

Long applause

Sabatino Aracu takes the floor and thanks everyone and congratulates the newly elected members, asking for more diplomacy and fewer fractures in the Continents; the President hopes that in every Continent there is always more cohesion and collaboration.

12. Items of general interest duly submitted by Member Federations and/or by the Executive Board within 70 days from the date set for the Congress

Marotta takes the floor to examine the requests received for consideration during the Congress, but not subject to a vote because they are not amendments to the Statute as they were not submitted within the deadlines set.

Marotta informs that he will read the proposals and then open the discussion; the following remarks were received from Sweden, Canada and Norway:

12.1 Canada Skateboard, the Finnish Skateboard Association, Brettforbundet and Swe Sports submitted the following items of general interest to be discussed:

- a) Management of National Federations after the establishment of a single Governing Body per Country;
- b) Timely publication of a draft of the Minutes from the Previous Congress;
- c) Term limits for positions within World Skate.

The first item is tackled, namely the proposal to create a single national federation not be implemented where there are multiple federations.

The Spanish delegate, Ignacio González, takes the floor and repeats what he had already said, underlining that there is no point in going back to what was established by the Barcelona Congress.

The Secretary General of the Norwegian Federation, Bijora Sardarian, takes the floor. She understands the idea of a single governing body but this idea can be harmful because each sport must have its own voice and each federation must act for the good of its athletes. In Norway, the recognition of each sport is done through the contribution of 5,000 EUR for each sport and, therefore, in the case of 12 disciplines in a single federation, it would involve a contribution of 60,000 EUR. In 2017 they acquired a new brand identity to emphasize the beauty of their disciplines. Freedom is their primary value and this establishment of one single governing body is interpreted as taking away that freedom. Norwegian athletes live with these fears, and that this decision will lead to fragmentation. The delegate then emphasizes that the great success of World Skate and of the World Skate



WORLD
SKATE

Games was also achieved thanks to changes over the years that have not been mandatory. The delegate asks the Assembly to reconsider the decision taken because the costs of the establishment of one single federation are much higher than the advantages. Norway does not need a single governing body to demonstrate that it is united and World Skate should not have the power to decide how a national federation is organized.

The delegate of Portugal, José Raimundo, takes the floor and says he supports what Spain said. The strength of World Skate is the union of all sports and disciplines, therefore the proposal must be rejected.

Canada's delegate, Hagan McCreath, takes the floor and says that Canada Skateboard has always worked alongside World Skate and in 2023 an agreement was reached between the various Canadian governing bodies, designating Canada Skateboarding as the sole governing body, demonstrating that it has collaborative strength by supporting athletes from all sports with the support of the federal government and the Olympic Committee. Sport Canada is Canada Skateboard's primary supporter, but stated that it will not recognize an umbrella federation that includes multiple sports; therefore, creating a single governing body could lead to it no longer receiving the necessary resources.

The Canadian delegate then asks for the possibility of an amendment to resolution 3/2024, a revision of art. 1c to change the name of the federation to Skate Canada which would prevent them from obtaining global recognition as the sole governing body for Canada. The name change would have no impact on the fulfillment of World Skate's objectives and therefore the delegate declares himself against the name change.

On behalf of the federation, he then asks for an amendment to the resolution based on World Skate Code of Conduct, namely the need for transparency, responsibility and sustainability. Asking to change one's name can be seen as asking delegates to take an action that is a conflict of interest and autonomy of national federations.

The Canadian delegate Hagan McCreath concludes that no action should be taken against Canada Skateboarding over the name issue and asks the President to approve the above and therefore make an amendment to resolution 3/24 regarding item 1c.

Finland's delegate, Lauri Vassinen, asks for the floor and thanks the President for the work done in all sports. Finland expresses its support to what was expressed by Canada and Norway.

Awa Fall takes the floor and congratulates Nathanaël Koty on his election. Africa can be competitive with other nations in the world. There are many challenges in Africa but the opportunities are even greater and as vice president Awa Fall is committed to working hard to make Africa shine on the international stage.

The delegate from Bolivia, Enrique Rosales Terceros, takes the floor and declares that he supports the position of Spain and Portugal because there is no way to go back on the decisions adopted by the Congress. This would cause the risk of a division into several federations and therefore invites everyone to support what World Skate has done on the mandate of the Congress.



WORLD
SKATE

The Moroccan delegate, Mounir Messari Gloubou, takes the floor and congratulates the continental presidents; from Argentina in 2019 to today in 2024 there have been no events in Africa and therefore he asks to be informed of the program that the president intends to carry out on the continent.

The delegate from Sweden, Katharina Sterner, takes the floor and declares that she supports Norway and Canada and while respecting the Statutes, she declares that we must also learn from other International Federations. If a single federation were to represent all roller sports, millions of Euros would be lost for a decision taken years ago. This is an important process for Sweden; changes must be made but we need to understand that these are not the same everywhere. She asks to be open to discussion so that the problems of each country are fully understood.

President Aracu takes the floor and says that it is very positive that many delegates have taken the floor. When it comes to the Statutes, however, World Skate has reflected for years on the idea of having a single federation per country without imposing which model to follow to achieve this goal. If there were on average 10 federations in each country, we would have a Congress with about 1400 delegates, losing credibility in front of the IOC.

World Skate said that where no agreement is found, new Statutes must be drafted defining the technical and financial autonomy of each sport. This does not mean that one sport will prevail over another. The Chairs of Technical Commissions, who are part of the Executive Board, are autonomous in their choices and decisions, but they meet to agree on common guidelines coordinated by the sports director Francesco Zangarini. The strength of World Skate is diversity with a single love: the wheels.

If World Skate sees episodes of bullying or violence from one discipline to another, it will have the power to withdraw the affiliation.

The Executive Board will discuss the name change as requested by the Canadian delegate, because if a federation risks restrictions due to the choice of the name, World Skate will have to adapt to what is requested by that country, but an inclusive name must be sought to avoid internal divisions. As long as these values exist, the President declares that he will be present.

As regards the intervention of the Moroccan delegate, President Aracu agrees on the importance of an Africa project for which meetings have begun, but there are many difficulties in working for Africa and for this reason we must all work together.

President Ricci Bitti understands the issue of a single federation but believes that there is a misunderstanding: we are talking about models and at an international level a single representation is needed to be able to work; federations can be inspired by very old federations such as skiing, cycling, swimming and other ones. The desire to find an agreement is needed because the pyramid of sports is very difficult; agreements are needed. Within the individual countries there are different factors that can be studied and analyzed to find the right solutions but at an international level a single representation is needed.

Marotta takes the floor and warns that, with regards to points 2, 3 and 4, the assurance of having a number of delegates who have more votes within World Skate because they come



WORLD
SKATE

from skateboarding will be submitted to the attention of the Executive Board and subsequently to the Assembly.

Another point is to send the minutes of the Congress to all the federations more quickly. It must be taken into account that the minutes are drawn up after developing the recordings.

The fourth point concerns the limit on the number of mandates of World Skate members, and the Executive Board will also make an assessment on this aspect.

The delegate from Norway, Bijora Sardarian, asks and takes the floor and cites as an example the international ski federation and the great conflict that has occurred with the snowboard federation and this has created fragmentation in the world championships. Now Norway is a member of the ski federation and the snowboarding federation is a world federation. Both federations have delegates in the technical committee, proof that there are many ways to solve the problems of voting.

Norway's delegate continues and believes that we need to talk about a more democratic future for World Skate and in some areas we could do better by making sure that communication can be more immediate to ensure transparency. The minutes of the Congress arrive shortly before the next Congress and this is too long. Also, there are no terms for the leadership mandates and this certainly provides stability, but it is also important to include new ideas and perspectives. One solution could be to send the minutes within a month and set the limits of the mandates at two mandates and four years.

The Spanish delegate asks and takes the floor and believes that the second proposal (more votes for delegates representing skateboarding) is neither fair nor democratic, because it means giving greater recognition to a sport. According to the current Statutes, all disciplines have the same number of votes and it is not clear why a discipline should have a privileged treatment. The most democratic thing is the same recognition for each discipline. Regarding the minutes, the Spanish delegate believes that the reception times do not affect the democracy of the international federation. The limit of mandates is a controversial issue with pros and cons, but at the moment he opposes it, recognizing the good work done so far.

Aracu takes the floor thanking the Norwegian delegate for the frankness of her words. On the limits of the mandates the President declares that he would have no problem in setting them, given his age, but warns that to create good relations for example with the IOC, years and years of work are needed and he, elected in 2005, began to have intense and fruitful relations in 2017, therefore after 12 years. Sometimes experience is useful, but criticism is always important if constructive and must lead to a comparison.

Aracu declares himself not against limiting mandates, while he does not agree with the age limit because he believes that if a person demonstrates he/she has the right skills it is right that such person can work.

As regards the multiple votes, Aracu understands the motivation behind the request. In a hypothetical scenario, each National Federation might also have only one vote, so that everyone has the same weight in the Assembly. But the multiple vote was established not for this political reason, but rather to encourage countries to do as many activities as



WORLD
SKATE

possible and to develop and carry forward a greater number of disciplines.

Regarding the minutes of Congresses, Aracu emphasizes that circulating the minutes of a Congress before their approval could lead to the dissemination - even through the press - of an unofficial and perhaps incorrect version. The minutes of a Congress, in fact, are valid only if they receive the approval of the following Congress. He therefore proposes that they can also be sent within two months, but with the wording "draft" of minutes, to prevent them from circulating in the press or elsewhere.

14. Ratification of the amendments to the By-Laws, already sent to all National Federations on 12th January 2024 and uploaded to the official website

General Secretary Roberto Marotta refers to the small lexical changes present in the Bylaws that all federations have received.

Before moving on to the vote, the delegate from Brazil (CBSK), Mr. Eduardo Musa, asks and takes the floor. He asks how this authorization can be given and asks the Chair of Skateboarding Gary Ream to know his point of view. He agrees that World Skate has the right to organize Olympic competitions but preventing federations from organizing international events could take the soul out of sport.

Gary Ream states that he does not fully understand the topic of the question and the delegate Eduardo Musa reiterates that it concerns international skateboarding events to be organized with prior authorization from World Skate.

Gary Ream believes that there should be no interference from World Skate with other organizations in the world because athletes should be free to choose which events to participate in. Everyone present should understand that the culture of skateboarding is unique in the world and different from others, it is only close to that of snowboarding and surfing. He personally considers skateboarding a single brand that has influence and popularity among all the young people in the world. Snowboarding has its problems because of its association with skiing.

Aracu takes the floor and emphasizes that if freedom means doing what you want then we are talking about anarchy; according to some theory, there can be ten World Championships if everyone is free to organize them and replies to the delegate of CBSK, who says not to talk about the official World Championships, that many athletes have participated in international events that were called World Championships without having the right.

We forget about the prize money that World Skate gives in the current World Championships to skateboarding which amounts to half a million dollars and that no other discipline has contested because today's market is like this.

The IOC asks World Skate to protect the athletes and not to let them participate in events where there is no anti-doping and international judges recognized by World Skate itself; athletes must be protected from personal interests that would put the competitions and the credibility of the international federation at risk. It is a question of deciding whether or not to be part of the World Skate family, if you want to do other Championships you do not do the World Skate Championships.



WORLD
SKATE

The delegate from Australia, Caitlin Honey, takes the floor: having international events does not mean having World Championships and therefore asks if it is possible to organize them with different names, because Australia is often far from everything and it is very expensive to send athletes around the world and therefore there is a desire to organize private events that allow athletes to participate. The delegate from Australia then asks if it is a question of naming the event.

Aracu states that World Skate is happy and ready to help those who want to organize events as long as they have recognized judges and anti-doping. World Skate does not prohibit anyone from organizing events as long as they comply with its principles and regulations.

The delegate from Chile, Marcelo Urrutia, who is working hard in skateboarding with annual championships that help athletes improve by recognizing their culture and way of behaving, asks and takes the floor; athletes are sometimes called to participate in private events about which nothing is known because there is no register, a calendar of all the events. Athletes are not prohibited from participating but an annual calendar of events is necessary; last year two athletes were chosen for Olympic participation because they had important sponsors.

Roberto Marotta takes the floor and puts the ratification of the Bylaws amendments to the vote again.

Voting result:

In favour: 333

Against: 16

Abstentions: 58

Non-voters: 51

15. Miscellaneous

Marotta gives the floor to a Ukrainian athlete who wishes to read a letter of thanks to World Skate from the president of the Ukrainian Federation of Roller Sports, Oleksandr Symonenko.

Reading the letter

President Aracu takes the floor for the closing remarks: the president reiterates the importance of family unity and being together. All the material of the World Championships that will take place these days will be available to everyone to take example, improve, and be able to organize at high levels.

With a final request for a selfie with all the delegates, President Aracu ends the Congress.

The Congress closes at 2.30 pm

The Secretary General
Roberto Marotta

The President
Sabatino Aracu



WORLD
SKATE