



MINUTES

Extraordinary World Skate Executive Board Meeting 25th February 2025 2:00 PM (CET)

Conference call

Executive Board members with voting rights attending:

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| ● Sabatino Aracu | President |
| ● Karen Doyle | 1 st Vice President and Commissioner of WSK Oceania |
| ● Luís Sénica | Vice President WSK and President WSK Europe |
| ● Alberto Herrera Ayala | Vice President WSK and President WSK America |
| ● Huang Qiang | Vice President WSK and President WSK Asia |
| ● Nathanael Koty | Vice President WSK and President WSK Africa |
| ● Nicola Genchi | Chair Artistic Technical Commission |
| ● Andrea Fonzari | Chair Inline Hockey Technical Commission |
| ● Carmelo Paniagua | Chair Rink Hockey Technical Commission |
| ● Leticia Bufoni | Chair Skateboarding Technical Commission |
| ● Marco Cardoso | Chair Speed Technical Commission |
| ● Shelby Grimnes | Chair Scootering Technical Commission |
| ● Weifeng Gu | Chair Freestyle Technical Commission |
| ● Ellen French | Chair Roller Derby Technical Commission |
| ● Jana Hermle-Börsig | 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 the President and official introduction of the new Executive Board Members
2. Ratification of the appointments of the Secretary General and Vice Secretary General
3. Approval of the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 5 September 2024
4. Ratification of the appointment of Karen Doyle as Commissioner of Oceania
5. Ratification of World Skate Technical Commissions
6. Updates on the events scheduled for 2025 and beyond
7. World Skate Games 2026
8. Approval of World Skate 2025 annual budget
9. World Skate Medical Report 2024
10. Approval of the following Regulations:
 - 10.1. Skate Cross (amendments)
 - 10.2. Speed (amendments)
 - 10.3. World Skate Marathon Tour (amendments)
 - 10.4. Track Series World Final (new)
 - 10.5. Skate Cross World Cup
 - 10.6. Skate Cross World Ranking
 - 10.7. Scootering
 - 10.8. Roller Freestyle
11. Miscellaneous

1. Opening by the President and official introduction of the new Executive Board Members

President Sabatino Aracu, having verified that the majority of Executive Board members are present and that the meeting has been duly convened, declares the Executive Board validly constituted and able to deliberate on the items on the agenda.

The President welcomes all Executive Board members, particularly the newly appointed members: Huang Qiang, who, after many years with World Skate, takes on the role of President of World Skate Asia, succeeding Thomas Cai. The President thanks Cai for his valuable contributions; Marco Cardoso, appointed Chair of Speed, noted for his creative and innovative involvement with World Skate; Jana Hermle-Boersig, appointed Chair of Downhill, replacing Siegfried Zistler, who will continue to serve in the Technical Commission; Shelby Grimes, appointed Chair of Scootering; Leticia Bufoni, Olympic athlete, appointed Chair of Skateboarding.

President Aracu highlights that, with the appointment of three new female chairs, who now join Karen Doyle, First Vice President and Commissioner of World Skate Oceania, and Ellen French, Chair of Roller Derby, World Skate is making significant progress in gender equality and inclusive leadership. This reflects a modern and forward-thinking approach.

He then outlines the meeting's agenda, noting World Skate's substantial growth. The organization currently has (excluding Executive Board members) approximately 50 highly qualified professionals. He proudly declares 2024 to be a landmark year—marking both the International Federation's centenary and its second Olympic appearance at the Paris2024 Games. According to an official IOC statement, skateboarding was among the top four sports in Paris in terms of online and social media engagement. This success affirms World Skate's commitment to developing urban disciplines to maximize reach and visibility.

President Aracu also discusses the 2024 **World Skate Games Italia**, hosted across four Italian regions, from North to South, establishing a new model for a spread-out and integrated world championship. World Skate Games Italia, the most prestigious event in the history of the sport, achieved unprecedented media coverage focusing on the urban aspect that characterizes many roller sports and was praised by IOC President Thomas Bach. The success of World Skate Games Italia can also be measured by the many bids submitted, including that of Paraguay, whose government would like to host the 2026 edition. The President stresses that the World Skate Games offer an excellent platform for host countries to engage youth and promote sustainable, urban events.

An official report confirmed the 2024 event's extraordinary impact: €439 million for the host country against an investment of just €15 million. These figures underscore the rising global appeal of roller sports and the strong return on investment World Skate events can offer.

2. Ratification of the appointments of the Secretary General and Vice Secretary General

Moving on to the second item, the President ratifies the appointments of Secretary General Roberto Marotta and Vice Secretary General Doris Gentile. Secretary General

Roberto Marotta is asked to proceed to the next item.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 5 September 2024

Secretary General Roberto Marotta thanks the President and requests Executive Board members to vote on the agenda item following proposed amendments. The minutes of the previous Executive Board are put to a vote.

Votes

against 0

Abstained 0

Unanimously approved

The President invites the newly appointed Executive Board members to speak starting with Leticia Bufoni, the new chair of Skateboarding, who expresses gratitude and commitment to World Skate. Jana Hermle-Boersig, Shelby Grimes, Marco Cardoso, and Huang Qiang echo her sentiments.

Secretary General Roberto Marotta regrets the absence of Amalia Brodka, who has full voting rights, and emphasizes her importance in representing athletes globally.

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

Secretary General Roberto Marotta moves on to the fourth item on the agenda and confirms the Executive Board has ratified the appointment of Karen Doyle as Commissioner of World Skate Oceania, recognizing her efforts in expanding National Federations in Oceania.

5. Ratification of World Skate Technical Commissions

Secretary General Roberto Marotta moves on to the fifth item on the agenda and asks Deputy Secretary General Doris Gentile to present the composition of the Technical Commissions. Since all Executive Board members were informed beforehand, no further comments are made, and Secretary General Roberto Marotta confirms the Executive Board has ratified the appointment of World Skate Technical Commissions.

6. Updates on the events scheduled for 2025 and beyond

President Aracu moves on to item 6 on the agenda and illustrates the calendar of 2025 events. The floor goes to Sports Director Francesco Zangarini, who highlights, among all other events, the 2025 World Skateboarding Championship, to be held in Washington DC.

Zangarini also emphasizes that many events are taking place in Asia, as part of a very diverse program of activities leading to the next World Skate Games.

At 2.33 PM (CET) Leticia Bufoni, Chair of Skateboarding Technical Commission leaves the meeting.

Andrea Fonzari, chair of Inline Hockey Technical Commission, raises concerns about the absence of Continental Championships, particularly for Inline Hockey. Sports Director Zangarini clarifies that only Intercontinental events were listed for brevity, omitting the many Continental Championships scheduled for each discipline.

President Aracu takes the floor and expresses his appreciation for Chair Fonzari's pertinent comment. He believes continental championships should be considered an integral part of the collaboration between continents, making it a collective commitment and participatory effort. The President thanks Sports Director Zangarini for his coordination work.

Following President Aracu's comment, Secretary General Roberto Marotta replies to Chair Fonzari, affirming the importance of Continental Championships, especially as qualification pathways for World Championships.

7. World Skate Games 2026

In item 7, President Aracu presents the Paraguay bid for the 2026 World Skate. He asks the members of the Executive Board to express their views on the bid, praising Paraguay for providing strong guarantees also thanks to a very solid institutional support.

The bid was formally submitted during a meeting in Lausanne with Paraguayan President Santiago Peña, Sports Minister César Ramírez, and National Olympic Committee President Camilo Pérez López Moreira.

President Aracu believes that Paraguay represents an opportunity to host an event that could be spread across the entire country, following the successful example set by Italy in 2024 with a strong impact in terms of sports resonance, political support and tourism. The President invites the Executive Board members to speak their minds and puts the bid to the vote.

Carmelo Paniagua, Chair of Rink Hockey, supports the bid but emphasizes the need for adequate facilities especially for certain disciplines, such as Rink Hockey. President Aracu thanks Paniagua for his comment and informs the Executive Board that, if the bid is accepted, site inspections will be conducted by World Skate technical experts with a view to verifying the suitability and feasibility for the 2026 World Skate Games.

The bid for World Skate Games 2026 in Paraguay is put to a vote.

Votes
against 0
Abstained 0
Unanimously approved

8. Approval of World Skate 2025 annual budget

Item 8 addresses the 2025 budget, and is presented by Secretary General Roberto Marotta, who highlights that assets and liabilities balance out, which proves sound financial management and ensures stability and peace of mind. Secretary General Roberto Marotta informs the Executive Board that a contingency fund has been set up to cover expenses related to the cancellation of the Championships in Peru due to COVID-19. An additional risk fund has also been set up to mitigate any shortfalls in revenue.

President Aracu takes the floor, stressing the importance of contingency funds to ensure maximum project sustainability along the pathway leading to Los Angeles 2028, where broadcasting rights revenue will be distributed following World Skate's third Olympic participation. Secretary General Roberto Marotta asks the Executive Board to vote on the 2025 budget.

Votes
against 0
Abstained 0
Unanimously approved

At 3.15 PM (CET) Jana Hermle-Börsig, Chair of Downhill Technical Commission leaves the meeting.

9. World Skate Medical Report 2024

Secretary General Roberto Marotta moves on to item 9 on the agenda and asks Patricia Wallace, Chair of the Medical Commission, to present the 2024 Medical Report. Chair Wallace thanks him and shares her comments on the report, highlighting how the anti-doping program has grown and urging National Federations to raise awareness and actively promote educational programs for athletes and coaches. In this regard, she announces a webinar on March 12 for athletes and coaches. Patricia Wallace also proposes to take into account the setting up of adequate medical coverage also for high-risk sports, such as scootering, skateboarding, and freestyle, believing that a \$100,000 risk capital would be sufficient.

Since there are no other comments, Secretary General Marotta proceeds to Item 10 on the agenda.

10. Approval of the following Regulations: Skate Cross (amendments), Speed (amendments), World Skate Marathon Tour (amendments), Track Series World Final (new), Skate Cross World Cup, Skate Cross World Ranking, Scootering, Roller Freestyle

In item ten, eight new Regulations are presented with changes clearly highlighted to make it easier for the Executive Board to analyze them. President Aracu comments on the Regulations and invites all chairs to embrace their roles by virtue of an appointment that is based first and foremost on the trust in their skills and knowledge. In this spirit, the President asks all Chairs to accept changes, if any, that are sometimes more political than technical, as it was the case with Artistic Chair Nicola Genchi, Speed Chair Marco Cardoso, or Roller Derby Chair Ellen French. Main reference is made to suggestions and changes that support the technical realization of a global strategic vision.

Carmelo Paniagua, President of Rink Hockey, takes the floor and suggests that, once approved by the Executive Board, all Regulations be sent to the Federation's technical officials, so that any necessary adjustments or modifications can be made with due expertise at the technical level.

Luis Senica, President of World Skate Europe, agrees with Paniagua and expresses the hope for a greater exchange of expertise to foster broader alignment of goals, despite the diversity of disciplines.

Secretary General Roberto Marotta thanks President Paniagua and President Senica for their pertinent comments and invites the Executive Board to proceed with the vote on the Regulations, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Statutes.

The following technical Regulations: Skate Cross (amendments), Speed (amendments), World Skate Marathon Tour (amendments), Track Series World Final (new), Skate Cross World Cup, Skate Cross World Ranking, Scootering, Roller Freestyle are put to a vote for approval.

Votes

against 0

Abstained 0

Unanimously approved, also following the suggestions made by Carmelo Paniagua and Luis Senica.

President Aracu takes the floor and acknowledges the diversity of our sports, urging those present to prioritize universality over details, simplicity being more appealing to the general public than technicalities.

Secretary General Roberto Marotta moves on to item 11 on the agenda and invites those present to share any topics they may want to discuss.

Luis Senica raises two points. First, he relays a request from Carlotta Giussani, Head of Funding EOC EU Office, regarding Safeguarding representation within World Skate Europe. Senica reports that the European Commission is working with more than 20 national and European Olympic committees and two International Federations to strengthen mechanisms for preventing and combating all forms of abuse, violence, and discrimination in sport. As this is a crucial issue in Europe at this time, Senica asks whether a Safeguarding representative already exists and, if not, suggests that either World Skate appoints a representative or allow World Skate Europe to appoint one in conjunction with the European Commission.

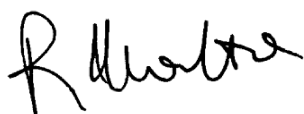
Senica also wishes to express his gratitude for World Skate's commitment to the global development of skateboarding, believing that the organisation of continental competitions is essential to strengthening the image of this sport, particularly in Europe. To this end, he announces his willingness to create the necessary conditions for the organisation of a European competition.

President Aracu takes the floor and voices his support for President Senica's suggestions. He hopes that all National Federations will be able to set up a Safeguarding Commission and refers to the case of the Italian Federation, whose Safeguarding Commission is chaired by a magistrate and staffed with psychologists and lawyers. He also informs those present that WSK's legal department, represented by Angela Masci, is overseeing these processes and encourages all those present to appoint authoritative individuals who could be recommended to the European Commission.

Before closing the Executive Board meeting, President Aracu informs the Board about a webinar on skateboarding development strategies - supported by the Olympic Solidarity - that will be held on 6 March. He emphasizes the importance of the World Skate Academy as a tool for ongoing high-level education. He thanks all EB members once again and wishes everyone success in their work, expressing his hope to meet again in person soon.

The meeting ends at 3.25 PM (CET)

Roberto Marotta
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
President

