



**Minutes of the Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting  
held via Videoconferencing on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

**EB MEMBERS ATTENDING THE MEETING:**

- Sabatino Aracu                      President
- Roberto Marotta                      Secretary-General
- Fernando Claro                      First Vice President and President World Skate Europe
- Alberto Herrera Ayala              President World Skate America
- Karen Doyle                          President World Skate Oceania
- Guoyong Liu                          President World Skate Asia
- Nathanael Koty                      President World Skate Africa (joins the meeting at 2.55 pm)
- Jorge Roldan                        Chairman Inline Speed Skating Technical Commission
- Nicola Genchi                        Chairman Artistic Skating Technical Commission
- Andrea Fonzari                      Chairman Inline Hockey Technical Commission
- Carmelo Paniagua                  Chairman Rink Hockey Technical Commission
- Siegfried Zistler                    Chairman Inline Alpine Technical Commission
- Gary Ream                            Chairman Skateboarding Commission
- Fernando Regueiro                  Chairman Roller Derby Technical Commission
- Olivier Pascal                        Chairman Roller Freestyle Technical Commission
- Patricia Wallace                      Anti-doping Manager, Chairman of World Skate Medical Commission

**WORLD SKATE STAFF**

- Laura Morandi                      Vice Secretary-General
- Elisabetta Mariani                  Operations Director
- Francesco Zangarini                Sports Director
- Simona Mercuri                      Communication Manager
- Francesco D'Urbano                Legal Department
- Alessandra Lunadei                General Affairs Department
- Simone Masserini                  Tokyo 2020 Project Leader
- Luca Basilico                        Skateboarding Manager
- Martina Aiello                        Operations Department
- Lina Maria Lizcano                Graphics Department
- Sergio Sacripanti                  General Affairs

- Florinda Mandosi      Accounting Department

## INTERPRETERS

- Doris Gentile (World Skate)
- Riccardo Araujo (Fernando Claro)
- Xavier Moyano Vijuesca (Carmelo Paniagua)
- Qiang Huang (Guoyong Liu)

\* \* \*

World Skate Secretary-General Roberto Marotta opens the meeting at 2.07 p.m. (Swiss Time) and checks the online attendance of EB members. All members are attending the meeting, exception made for the President of World Skate Africa, Nathanael Koty.

*Roberto Marotta gives the floor to World Skate President Sabatino Aracu for his opening remarks and communications*

The President welcomes the attendees for joining to the second Executive Board meeting held in the Covid-19 period, and thanks everyone for their efforts in such difficult times. Aracu also thanks the staff of WS for their work, and underlines that the entire staff is participating in the meeting and are available for eventual questions.

During this period, World Skate has had continuous contacts with Countries and Continents, as well as with the IOC, being convinced that after this experience World Skate will be even stronger.

The President underlines the importance of the meeting, during which some important decisions have to be made in different areas such as the calendar and the Olympic qualifications

Several international events had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, including the Olympic Games, and Aracu underlines his appreciation for the national events being currently held in several countries.

The IOC will make its final decision about Paris 2024 Olympic Program next December, and the President strongly believes that Skateboarding will be included in the Games.

The good news is that the IOC granted WS a 2mln \$ financial contribution targeted to Tokyo 2020: 1 million paid in 2020 and 1 to be paid at the beginning of 2021.

The ISU - International Skating Union - asked WS to collaborate with them, showing that the two federations have things in common that can be enhanced.

ASOIF scored World Skate high in terms of good governance; this is the outcome of the important changes introduced, including the amendment to the statutes regarding gender equality.

As far as Dakar is concerned, many activities are ongoing in relation to the Youth Olympic Games, although the IOC expressed some concerns about the organization of the event

A final item to be dealt with is the next Congress of World Skate. In consideration of the change in the 4-year Olympic period due to the postponement of Tokyo 2020, however, the IOC sent a

letter to all Olympic Federations, leaving some discretionary power about when the relevant Congresses are held.

According to the statutes, WS Congress is to be held within May 2021. If such date is kept, World Skate would miss the opportunity to share with its members the outcome of the Games. Furthermore, there are no certainties about the international situation of Covid-19 next May. The President proposes to postpone the Congress to the period that follows the Olympic Games, namely in September/October next year. If such decision is made, all the Countries have to ratify it as members of World Skate Congress.

The President gives the floor to the Secretary General, in order to deal with the items on the agenda.

### **1. *Approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting***

Only one remark was received about the minutes by Thomas Cai, relating to the amendment to be made the title of Secretary Zhan.

Gary Ream takes the floor and says that the minutes do not include his request made in Barcelona as to receiving a summary of the financial impact of skateboarding on World Skate in terms of income and expenses.

The President draws the attention of EB members on page 13 and 14 of the minutes, showing that Gary Ream's request and Roberto Marotta's reply were included in the document.

The minutes are approved.

### **2. *2020/2021 events calendar***

The President underlines that the change in 2020 calendar due to Covid-19 caused several problems, including financial ones. Besides the Olympic Games, neither the qualification events scheduled for 2020, nor the 2 World Championships for Speed and In-line Hockey in Colombia can be held this year. Artistic Skating World Championships in Paraguay were also part of the calendar, as well as In-Line Freestyle Championships, and they cannot be held in 2020. Several Continental Championships were cancelled as well, such as Rink Hockey.

The President therefore proposes to postpone the entire calendar by one year from 2020 to 2021, as it happened with the Olympic Games. Sabatino Aracu underlines that this is probably the wisest approach that the Federation may adopt, which allows to deal with the Olympic preparation and with some Continental Championships from January to August 2021, and then hold the other International events.

According to this approach, the World Skate Games in Argentina need to be postponed from 2021 to 2022. As regards the WSG in particular, in this moment Latin America is facing the peak of the pandemic; Mario Moccia, the head of the organizing committee and also Secretary-General of the NOC of Argentina, had some meetings with the governments of the cities involved in the WSG, and they proposed to postpone the WSG by one year in order to be in a better condition to organize the Games, also in consideration of the economic situation of Argentina in this moment.

The President proposes to organize the subsequent edition of the WRG in 2024, also on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Federation.

Gary Ream agrees on changing the rotation of the WSG and hold them after the Olympic Games to highlight the Olympians; he considers this as a good marketing aspect.

Guyong Liu underlines that in the minutes of the EB meeting held in March 27<sup>th</sup>, page 4, there is a mistake in his title, as now he is the Vice-President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and not the Secretary General.

Furthermore, in the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 in Barcelona, there is a mistake in the spelling of the city hosting the Asian Cup, called Xi 'An.

Roberto Marotta ensures that the minutes will be amended accordingly.

Fernando Claro fully supports the President about the Calendar. He agrees to change the WSG rotation and to hold them in 2022, as also requested by the Argentinian Olympic Committee. As regards the Continental Championships, they will be held next year, and this postponement allows the countries to attend the Championships and to be in a good situation from both the sports and the financial point of view. As to Europe, the organizers of the events will be the ones in charge of the organization for this year.

Carmelo Paniagua fully supports the President as regards the Calendar and the postponement of events from 2020 to 2021. The present situation was caused by the pandemic, and this is the right solution to be implemented. He also agrees with the postponement of the WSG in 2022, as it is Argentina that asks for it. The postponement of the calendar allows the countries to deal with the Olympic qualification events and to allow the time needed to organize the WSG.

The recommendation is that a clear general calendar is set for the future, so that everyone knows well in advance in which year each event is held.

Andrea Fonzari agrees on the postponement of the Calendar events. He draws the attention of EB Members on the fact that the Inline Hockey Championships scheduled for end of August/beginning of September represented a plan B due to the pandemic, whereas the initial plan was to hold the World Championships at the end of June/beginning of July. He proposes to hold the event as initially scheduled, because this is also what the inline hockey teams prefer.

The President underlines that next year it might be a problem to hold the Inline Hockey championships in July, as the date is just before the Olympic Games. As a matter of respect to the IOC as well as in order to give the event all the attention it deserves, the President proposes to set a date immediately after the Olympic Games, which would also allow the national teams to have sufficient time to get ready to start the national leagues.

President Aracu proposes to decide only on the postponement of the events to 2021, and to organize individual talks in the subsequent days with the Chairmen of each discipline in order to set the precise dates.

The President entrusts the Communication Department to disclose such information and strategy.

Nathanael Koty, President of World Skate Africa, joins the meeting at 2.55 pm

### **3. Approval of 2019 Financial Statement and 2020-2021 Budget**

As regards the financial situation, the President underlines that an important leap forward was made as compared to the past. Whilst in 2017 and 2018 the income amounted to USD 1,851,000 and USD 1,916,000, respectively, in 2019 the total income amounted to USD 4,755,318 - therefore it has more than doubled.

Such result, also considering that no financial support was received from the IOC, is of absolute importance also from the political standpoint.

The financial statement includes a new item, "Facilities". The Federation, in fact, was in charge of designing, constructing and type-approving a facility in Doha; this is important for the future strategy of World Skate, as it would allow the Federation to be in charge of the construction of high-level facilities for the different disciplines, and be able to derive an income from such activity.

The President underlines that the profit for 2019 amounts to 527,157\$, so the year was positive.

President Aracu gives the floor to Secretary General Roberto Marotta to describe the Financial Statements in detail.

Secretary-General Marotta describes the different items of the Financial Statements, already sent to Executive Board Members via e-mail, and underlines that the registration fees for the events in all the 10 disciplines represented the main revenues for World Skate, and amount to 782,727\$.

The cash in hand as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was 1,403,290.56\$, and one year later, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, the financial availability of World Skate amounted to 1,930,448.23\$.

The Secretary General ends his contribution on the Financial Statement, and remains at the participants' disposal in case further clarifications are needed.

President Aracu highlights that the Financial Statements were audited, and that the Audit Certification was sent to all members.

President Aracu also underlines that the sound financial situation of World Skate allows to be autonomous in the difficult times caused by Covid-19.

The Financial Statements are approved.

The President then presents the budget and explains that it is rather peculiar, as it includes a best-case scenario and a worst-case scenario, depending on the pandemic.

As to the income, in the best-case scenario, all events are held, and related sanctioning fees are collected.

In such case, the budgeted income would be over 7 million dollars.

In the worst-case scenario, on the contrary, in case no sanctioning fees are collected, and no events are held, the budgeted income would amount to 764,000 dollars.

As regards the expenses, a similar approach is adopted, and two different options are considered, depending on the pandemic.

The only item that remains the same within the budget is "Staff and consultants".

The President proposes to approve the budget by also adding \$1 million that represents the IOC contribution, and to increase the anti-doping amount to \$100,000.

A budget for 2021 is also added. It takes into account the organization of Olympic qualification events in Lima (Peru), as well as in the United Arab Emirates, currently being negotiated. In the latter case, World Skate would be entirely in charge of the organization of the event.

The Secretary General takes the floor to highlight that the International Federation has such an important budget also because all the elected and appointed managers of World Skate, including the President and the Secretary-General, receive no remuneration at all for their work, and therefore all the financial resources are allocated to sports activities.

Marotta underlines that the budget does not yet include the IOC contribution, because such contribution was received the day before and the budget could not be amended.

Aracu highlights that the income of 2021 budget also has to include \$1 additional million, representing the remaining part of the IOC contribution that will be paid next year.

The President also stresses that the goal of World Skate is to allocate some contributions to the Continents, targeted to the promotion of sports, and to increase the number of Countries that are member of World Skate.

The 2019 financial statements and the 2020-2021 budget are approved (the latter with the amendment of the IOC contribution and the anti-doping expenses).

The President asks the Executive Board members to keep the information about the IOC contribution confidential, as a meeting with the IOC is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>, where the strategic approach on how to disclose such information will be defined.

Confidentiality also needs to be kept on the new dates of World Championships, as they are not yet official.

#### **4. *Tokyo 2020 amended version of the Skateboarding Qualification System approved by the IOC***

Luca Basilico takes the floor to clarify that the process has been set in motion again, and that the decisions made during the previous Executive Board meeting are enforced.

The President recalls the training activities organized for judges; they are fundamental, as it happens in all sports in which the scores depend on judges.

Luca Basilico underlines that ongoing activities include continuous relations with organizers, National Federations and athletes. The Athletes Commission has been instrumental in gathering athletes' ideas and inputs to improve the environment of World Skate competitions.

The competition rules and the procedures enforced in official competitions are being streamlined, with the aim to provide the best possible experience to the skateboarders that are entering the qualification events.

Within a couple of weeks, the final competition rules will be submitted to the Executive Board members.

Gary Ream agrees with Luca Basilico on the difficulty of planning ahead, and adds that the biggest change in the document presented is to have 4 events instead of 5, because as the pandemic evolves around the world, all the countries are having different problems.

As regards the Congress, next spring the focus will be on the Olympic qualification events, and it would be difficult to have the right time for the Congress, so it is a good move to postpone the congress to the fall.

President Aracu thanks Gary Ream and agrees that the best idea as regards the Congress is to hold it in autumn 2021, because with the Olympic qualification events it would be difficult to suitably focus on it. Furthermore, if the Olympic Games are postponed due to the pandemic, it would be hard to think to organize the Congress for the same reason. The alternative would be an on-line congress, but that option would be against the true nature of the Congress, which represents an opportunity for the entire World Skate world to meet in person.

The President underlines that the two options for the Congress are either next spring 2021, before the Olympics, or next autumn 2021, immediately after the Olympic Games, and asks the Executive Board members to make a general decision on the period in which holding the Congress, to be subsequently notified to the Countries for ratification.

Gary Ream says that the final decision about the Olympic Games will probably be made within March next year; if the Games do not take place, it might be possible to call the Congress for a date within summer 2021.

President Aracu agrees with Gary Ream, and proposes to notify to the Countries that if the Olympic Games are held, then the Congress will take place after the Olympics, otherwise a different decision will have to be made.

Carmelo Paniagua agrees with Gary Ream, and believes that the best thing to do is to see what happens with the pandemic and with the Olympic Games; things change rapidly, so the wait-and-see approach is the most suitable one in this moment, because nobody knows how things will evolve.

The President proposes to make a decision about the Congress after the summer, and underlines that the positive thing is that the Executive Board has started to talk about it.

Nathanael Koty takes the floor and asks about World Skate plans for Africa, besides asking for immediate support.

President Aracu replies that Africa is fundamental for the IOC and obviously for World Skate. A Committee in charge of dealing with the Olympic Solidarity was established, and is managed by qualified staff. Several projects supporting Africa are being developed and will be submitted to apply for international funds from the United Nations, the Olympic Solidarity and private Sponsors.

Furthermore, the Sports Department managed by Francesco Zangarini is supporting the World Skate Academy in training coaches all over the world. Any country can ask for such support, which is provided free of charge; promising athletes may be involved in specific projects aimed to support them.

President Aracu underlines however that World Skate Africa needs, in turn, to be more active and develop and submit projects in order to receive such support.

The President seizes the opportunity to say that the organization within World Skate Africa needs to be improved, as sometimes it is even difficult to contact them, not to mention that often several weeks are needed to receive a reply to emails or proposals.

President Aracu tells Mr. Koty that if practical support is needed, such as for instance a Secretary in charge of promptly dealing with daily matters, then the President is available to help to find the right person working full-time in the office of World Skate Africa, and World Skate will pay his/her wage.

Nathanael Koty thanks President Aracu.

Fernando Claro takes the floor and, with respect to the Congress, says that if a decision is made today, it would in any case depend on the evolution of the pandemic. He believes that the Congress should be held after the Olympic Games, the main reason being that if any changes take place within the teams of World Skate, then the new people would not be fully aware of all the details linked to the Olympics, and this would be a risk. On the contrary, in case the Olympic Games are not held, it is possible to change the situation. Fernando Claro believes however that a statement about the congress needs to be made.

President Aracu states that the position of Executive Board members about the Congress is rather the same, namely to hold it after the Olympic Games; some members are only considering to take a couple of months before making a final decision, with the purpose to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and to gather some additional information.

## **5. *Appointment of World Skate Prosecutor***

President Aracu clarifies that the Prosecutor is not a Judge, because according to World Skate Statutes, the “Panel of Judges” is represented by the Executive Board. The appointment of a Prosecutor was however requested by ASOIF and included in the amended Statutes. The task of the Prosecutor mainly entails the bringing of a charge against someone on the basis of evidence and documents, and the Executive Board makes a final decision on such charge.

The name proposed for such mandate is Giuseppe Francesco Bonacci, a Swiss-Italian lawyer, expert in International Law, whose remuneration is also very cost-effective.

The appointment of the Prosecutor is unanimously approved.

## **6. *Ratification of Rink Hockey Regulations***

Carmelo Paniagua explains that together with the support of World Skate Legal Counsel Francesco D’Urbano, some minor changes were introduced to the Rink Hockey regulations in order to adapt them to the reality and the needs of competitions; furthermore, some operational solutions were included, to be implemented on the occasion of continental and international competitions. The mild changes introduced comply with the statutes of World Skate.

The new Rink Hockey Regulations are approved unanimously.

## **7. *Ratification of Roller Freestyle Regulations***

Roller Freestyle regulations are also ratified, and the President thanks World Skate Legal Department and the Sports Department for their efforts in checking the consistency and the correctness of the document.

President Aracu proposes to organize in the future the States General of all the disciplines of World Skate, in order to gather all the stakeholders involved, including coaches and managers, as well as specialized journalists, to identify possible changes aimed at modernizing the disciplines.



## **8. Approval of the amendments to World Skate Anti-Doping Rules**

The President gives the floor to Patricia Wallace, and thanks her for her extraordinary contribution to World Skate in terms of anti-doping activities.

Patricia Wallace thanks the Executive Board for the readjustment of the anti-doping budget.

She subsequently provides thorough description of the new Anti-Doping Code that will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. One of the main aspects of such code is that World Skate shall be responsible for conducting all aspects of Doping Controls. Doping Control or Anti-Doping Education may be delegated by World Skate to a Third Party, such as the International Testing Agency (ITA), required to perform such tasks in compliance with the Code, the International Standards, and the Anti-Doping Rules. World Skate may delegate its adjudication responsibilities and Results Management to the CAS Anti-Doping Division. The Hearing Panels appointed must consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of 7 members in office for 3 years, and being operationally independent from world skate.

The Anti-Doping Code applies to International-Level Athletes. To this end, a clear definition of International-Level Athletes is made within the Code.

Patricia Wallace underlines that the 2021 Code ascribes fundamental importance to planning, especially for education, risk assessment and testing, which must all be interrelated. The Planning documents have to be submitted to WADA at the beginning of each calendar year.

World Skate must ensure that all Continental Areas, National Federations, other affiliated organizations and athletes are in compliance with World Skate Anti-Doping rules.

Patrice Wallace highlights that the In-line Roller Freestyle regulations do not contain such anti-doping rules, and therefore need to be included.

President Aracu acknowledges the extraordinary importance of such code, and underlines that - as it happens with complex and well-structured approaches - the costs will probably be high; for this reason, the President asks the staff of World Skate, starting from the Secretary-General, to make a cost assessment linked to the implementation of such code.

Patricia Wallace underlines that if anti-doping education is performed correctly, no violations are made.

The amendments to World Skate Anti-Doping Rules are approved unanimously.

## **9. New affiliations**

Myanmar submitted its application for affiliation. Their disciplines include Inline Freestyle, Roller Freestyle, Skateboarding, and Speed Skating.

With Myanmar, the total number of affiliated Federations is presently 136.

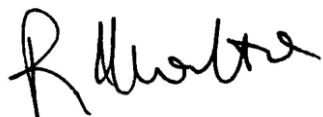
## **10. Miscellaneous**

None of the attendees asks for the floor.

President Aracu invites all Executive Board members to continue to have close contacts and share information.

In the end, the President thanks all Executive Board members and the Staff of World Skate for attending the meeting.

The meeting is closed at 4.23 p.m.



Secretary General



President