



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD THROUGH VIDEO-CONFERENCE

on 27th MARCH 2020

MEMBERS ATTENDING THE MEETING:

- Sabatino Aracu President
- Roberto Marotta Secretary-General
- Fernando Claro 1st 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
- 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
- Leticia Bufoni Chair of the Athletes' Commission
- Patricia Wallace Anti-doping Manager and chairman of the World Skate Medical Commission

WORLD SKATE STAFF

- Laura Morandi Vice Secretary-General
- Elisabetta Mariani Operations Director
- Francesco Zangarini Sports Director
- Simona Mercuri Communication Manager
- Alessandra Lunadei General Affairs Dpt.
- Francesci D'Urbano Legal Dpt.

INTERPRETERS

- Doris Gentile (World Skate)
- Riccardo Araujo (Fernando Claro)
- Oriol Martí (Carmelo Paniagua)
- Qiang Huang (Guoyong Liu)

Secretary-General Roberto Marotta opens the meeting at 2.07 p.m. 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 President Sabatino Aracu for his opening speech.

President Aracu thanks the attendees for their presence and for their availability to work together in this difficult moment. Covid-19 originally seemed to be a Chinese problem only, whereas it gradually spread in Europe, then in the American Continent and now all over the world. This entailed consequences that were inconceivable a few months ago, not only in our daily lives but also in the sports arena; it is fundamental that everyone receives information on the difficulties affecting our sector.

In recent weeks both the President, the Secretary-General and the staff of World Skate have been constantly committed in several areas to identify possible solutions to the problems ensuing from the pandemic; the President also made several one-to-one calls with many EB members. The day before the EB meeting, a meeting was held with the IOC departments and with Thomas Bach, during which World Skate agreed - together with the other Olympic Federations - on the decisions to be adopted.

This extraordinary EB meeting is convened to provide a general update on the present situation, to share views on the future plans of World Skate, and to try and understand how and when the next Championships have to be organized.

President Aracu underlines how during the meeting it is necessary to talk about the future activities of World Skate: international events such as World and Continental Championships have to be taken into account, but also National Championships that are equally important for our Federations. The best periods for the organization of such events have to be identified. The first proposal by President Aracu is to focus on National Championships, as it would be difficult for Countries and Athletes to organize or participate in Continental and World Championships without having had the possibility to train and practice in their Countries.

The rapid spreading of the virus in Countries that are important for the development of World Skate disciplines, including Italy, France, Spain, Germany, USA, and South America, forces National Federations to cancel already scheduled events, and this means that this year is certainly going to be limitedly profitable for sports. On the other hand, small Countries and Federations that are equally important in our sector will not be left alone.

This year it is impossible to draft a precise event calendar. Before Covid-19 the priority for World Skate was the Olympic discipline of skateboarding, but as you know the Olympic Games were postponed to next year. This entailed heavy consequences for the Organizing Committee, involving the contracts with sponsors and broadcasters, and the apartments of the Olympic Village that were supposed to be sold after 2020. The IOC is however paying the utmost attention to athletes. The precondition for their participation in the Olympic Games is represented by an adequate training, without which they risk jeopardizing a dream they have been pursuing for years.

The same happens for the athletes from the other disciplines of World Skate, which cannot participate in Continental or World Championships without having the chance to be suitably trained.

It is necessary to think and make decisions with a great sense of responsibility and identify the best solutions to be adopted. For this reason, President Aracu specifically addresses World Skate Continental Presidents and underlines that each one is involved in solving everyone's problems.

Another problem affecting World Skate is the non-collection of the fees deriving from the organization of international events, which represent the main financial support of the Federation. Although events are not carried out, the daily expenses have to be incurred, including for instance the staff costs as the staff continues to work in this difficult moment.

President Aracu mentions the WSG that will be held in Argentina in 2021, the meetings in 2019 with the organizers, and in the end the Olympic Games. The Olympic qualification competitions are fundamental to select the best athletes that will participate in the Games, and in this regard the President thanks Gary Ream and the staff of skateboarding, Luca Basilico and Simone Masserini for their daily commitment so that World Skate takes part in the Olympic Games as a protagonist.

They are given the floor to report on the Olympic situation.

GARY REAM agrees with President Aracu on the difficulty to make decisions in this moment, as nobody knows how long the spreading of the virus all over the world will last; for this reason, it is fundamental to involve athletes and ask their opinion about the best possible solution. We were in the middle of the point system, and points will be one year and a half old when the Olympics take place next summer 2021, but it is necessary to look ahead, although it is very difficult to make plans in this moment.

LUCA BASILICO entirely agrees that it is not easy to make decisions in this moment, also considering the efforts put in the qualification system by organizers and athletes and in consideration of the aging of points; this is the reason why having continuous contacts with athletes is so important.

The qualification events started one year ago. Season 1 was completed last September with a total of 5 Street events and 3 Park events. Season 2 has also started, and only one global international event was held with Park and Street at the same time, and two out of the five Continental Championships scheduled, namely in Europe and in Oceania. At the moment all events are suspended. Seven Street events have to be rescheduled, including the World Championships, and four Park events, including the World Championships; furthermore, several efforts are in place to allow Africa to organize its Continental Championship.

During Season 1, 56 countries competed in the qualification system with overall 424 athletes between Park and Street (171 Park, 244 Street). World Skate has worked with seven organizers, five of which are professional companies and two national governing bodies, namely the Russian Federation and Skate Australia.

The relationships with the organizers were good; there were however some difficulties with SLS during most of the Street qualification process events, due to the merger process it undertook. This entailed communication difficulties with them and problems in organizing the events that were initially supposed to take place. 2020 began with the Melbourne event of February being removed from the original date through a unilateral decision by SLS. Now the communication is improving, but due to the coronavirus and related restrictions, the Las Vegas event has been cancelled, and the rest is on hold.

SIMONE MASSERINI informs the members that the dates of the Olympic Games have not been decided yet. The options presently considered include either keeping more or less the same period as this year, or to schedule the games during next spring (April or May) as proposed by some Federations. The IOC will make a final decision in the next three weeks, together with Tokyo Organizing Committee and with the stakeholders involved, and such decision will have an impact on the qualification process of World Skate: if the Olympic Games will be in spring, the entire season 2 needs to be reorganized in a period of six-seven months, whereas if the Games are scheduled for the summer period, 3 additional months will be available. The fields of play in Tokyo are almost entirely completed, but the works have been

interrupted and will be presumably recovered after summer, because the rainy season is about to begin in Japan. The most important thing now is to wait for the IOC decision, and then the schedule will be reorganized and the contacts with all partners and promoters will be resumed, in order to deal with the financial situation as mentioned by President Aracu, presently affected by the lack of event fees. We confidently have to wait for the decision of the IOC, which World Skate hopes will confirm the summer dates for next year.

The floor is then given to WS Continental Presidents.

ALBERTO AYALA expresses some doubts on the scheduling of skateboarding events all over the world. In America all Federations are asking whether the calendar will be set by World Skate, which is the international governing body, or by third-party providers.

ARACU agrees with Ayala and underlines that this is one of the problems shared with the IOC. In this regard, the agreements with the partners are important, because it is very difficult for World Skate to take on its shoulders the burden for everything. It is important to trust private organizers as it happens in many sports, and share with them both risks and responsibilities, like World Skate did with the agreements signed in Lima with the government or with the World Championships in Brazil, where private stakeholders organized an extraordinary event. The Olympic qualification is managed by the IOC, and World Skate has to establish relationships with the organizers so that everything is done perfectly.

FERNANDO CLARO greets all participants and says he fully agrees with President Aracu. In Europe the Championships were not cancelled but suspended, and shares the idea that priority has to be given to National Championships in every Country. As regards the postponement of Continental Championships, the organizers shall remain the same even in different dates. The schedule of Continental Championships has to be drafted by taking into account the dates in which the main Countries organize National Championships.

The only European Championship that is held every two years is Rink Hockey and qualifies to the World Championships that are held in the subsequent years; this year the European Championships were to be held in France, but they were suspended due to the pandemic. The new dates can be decided by the Executive Board upon World Skate Europe's proposal, or they can be proposed by the countries involved; the latter option seems the most reasonable, although non-binding.

Claro proposes 3 dates: December 2020, Easter 2021 or July 2021. Claro ends by congratulating for the postponement of the Olympic Games by the IOC, as this will give athletes more chances to train and be ready for the event.

GUYONG LIU thanks the President for convening the EB meeting. He underlines that the postponement of the Games caused major challenges to all Federations, but he believes that the scheduling of any future event exclusively depends on the spreading of the virus that will affect almost all the Countries and will last for a while; it is therefore necessary to develop a few options and be ready to fight for a long time. Guyong Liu believes that, in consideration of the situation in Europe and America, it is necessary to wait before making decisions, and proposes to reduce the number of skateboarding qualification events as much as possible.

He understands that World Skate intends to organize the highest possible number of events, but the period is particularly difficult, and in his capacity as the Secretary-General of the Chinese Olympic Committee he intends to share with the Executive Board how China is dealing with the virus.

The virus broke out in China, but now it is under control. None of the Olympic athletes was affected by the virus, but now it is necessary to prevent it from coming from outside of the country. Guoyong Liu

offers his support to World Skate, to the other Federations and to the athletes that are eventually in need and ask for it. Qualification events can only be organized when the virus is under control, otherwise it would be a hazard for athletes. The risk is that events are organized in very bad conditions, and the Federations at that point would be in a difficult situation. The health of athletes must be World Skate's priority. In case skateboarding qualification events can be organized, China might be the first country to organize them. The rumors from the IOC indicate that the possible dates for the Games will be April or May. Guoyong Liu hopes that communication between World Skate and National Federations continues through videoconferencing systems and is available to share the information from the Chinese Olympic Committee.

ARACU congratulates Guoyong Liu for his appointment as Secretary-General of the Chinese Olympic Committee, which is one of the most important ones in the world. As regards the Olympic qualifications, the IOC has stopped them until the end of May, and the dates of the Games are not yet known; for this reason, it is important to keep in touch. President Aracu agrees with Liu on the fact that the health of athletes comes first, and thanks Patricia Wallace who has continuous contacts with World Skate, the IOC Medical Commission, WADA, that are working to safeguard athletes.

It is necessary to define with the IOC the qualification criteria because everything has to be reorganized. China has the priority in consideration of the agreement with the government that remains in force, but it will hardly be possible to organize something before September/October because athletes have to be in a good shape to perform at best. In 2020 the skateboarding World Championships will be organized - if the virus allows - in October 2020 and will be valid for the Olympic qualification.

Gary Ream, Luca Basilico and Simone Masserini will have daily contacts with the IOC to understand what the best dates for the organisation of events can be, and the other events will be scheduled according to the new dates of the games. The first part of 2021 will also be available to organize events.

President Aracu agrees with Gary Ream that athletes have to be involved in the qualification system and that events must be approved by the World Health Organisation.

President Aracu asks the other EB members whether they agree on giving priority to organize national championships and possibly World Championships in 2020.

KAREN DOYLE says that as soon as the new Olympic Games' date is set, the qualification system shall be reviewed accordingly, and she agrees with Gary Ream that it has to be developed in consultation with athletes. They need time to be fit and in good shape after the months of lockdown and inactivity. Several events had been scheduled in Season 2 for Street in particular. Australia succeeded in organizing Street and Park national Championships, and Karen Doyle thanks Luca Basilico for helping to organize the Oceania Continental Championships. The extraordinary activity carried out by World Skate allowed the highest participation of athletes, particularly after the fizzling out SLS Melbourne and the difficulties with SLS that did not provide a clear picture of the situation to governmental partners. Karen asks, once the new dates of the Olympics are set, so reconsider the number of qualification events, whose number is very high at the moment for the limited period of time available, and this is not the best thing for athletes from the financial and the physical standpoint.

CARMELO PANIAGUA understands the difficulties in rescheduling future national and international competitions. He agrees with President Aracu that until the date of the Olympic Games is set, and until the pandemic is over, nothing can be scheduled. He asks if the structure of competitions will change, or if it remains as organized in the beginning.

Aracu believes that the structure of competitions has to change. The events that have to be organized this year certainly include the one in China and the World Championships. The IOC decision on the dates is fundamental, because the qualification events vary a lot depending on whether the Olympic Games are held next spring or next summer, and we jointly have to define the best solutions for World Skate.

President Aracu summarizes the guidelines adopted as far as skateboarding is concerned: Once the new date of the Olympic Games is set, the new schedule of events is drafted and submitted to the IOC. All sports activities are stopped until the end of May, and the President believes that no international events will be organized until the end of the summer. The Secretary-General will send a communication to all National Federations inviting them to organize National Championships as soon as the physical conditions of athletes allow, possibly by the end of summer. Subsequently, an assessment is going to be made on whether the World Championships can be held.

After dealing with skateboarding, the President moves on to the next item in the agenda.

As regards the other disciplines, the situation is similar to what was said about skateboarding. Some World Championships were already postponed: the in Inline Hockey e di Speed World Championships were to be held in Colombia at the end of June; they were postponed to September but there is no certainty about whether they can be organized. Artistic skating World Championships are scheduled for next October in Asunción, Paraguay, and the Inline freestyle World Championships in Shanghai, China, next November, but for the time being there is no certainty about whether they will be held.

A major problem is represented by Continental Championships, especially as regards rink hockey, because they are held every two years and qualify to the World Championships. Fernando Claro proposed as possible dates December 2020, or the Easter week 2021 or June 2021. Next November 2021 there will be the World Skate Games in Argentina. Another aspect to be considered is that Hockey is managed by the Leagues, with related contracts with sponsors and televisions, which make it difficult to stop competitions to organize the championships. A possible solution is to organize the Continental and World Championships in the same year.

The Rink Hockey event in Montreux is the most ancient of our Federation, as it has been organized for over 100 years. It is important to preserve this tradition.

As regards the Continental Championships, Aracu underlines that for all the disciplines the best idea would be to hold them in the same period.

President Aracu underlines that the priority is to focus on National Championships, followed by World Championships, and Continental Championships.

NICOLA GENCHI takes the floor and underlines the difficult situation of Artistic Skating, which already had to cancel several events including the World Cup. National Championships have to be held to determine the qualification for World Championships; athletes need a long time to reach the necessary preparation for the competitions, so good National Championships are preliminary to good World Championships.

FERNANDO CLARO believes that the Rink Hockey European Championships may be held in June 2021. The French Federation is organizing the event and agrees with such date. Claro agrees that it would be negative to cancel the Montreux event, but it is necessary to remember that in 2021 there would be 3 large events. He proposes to involve the Federations in the decision-making process. National Championships must remain the priority.

ALBERTO AYALA agrees that the priority is represented by national events, to be considered also as a preparation to have good teams at the World Championships. As regards the Hockey and Speed World Championships scheduled for September in Colombia, we need to see if the conditions are there to hold them, or if their postponement becomes necessary.

The scheduled Pan-American Championships include Rink Hockey in November in Florida and Inline Speed in December in Colombia, which would take place after the World Championships. The Artistic Pan-American Championship scheduled for next August in Guayaquil is going to be postponed to the end of the year. The approach adopted is to schedule national championships, try to organize the World Championships, and possibly the Continental ones, by keeping a constant contact with World Skate.

CARMELO PANIAGUA takes the floor in his capacity as both Chairman of Rink Hockey and President of the Spanish Federation. He agrees that priority has to be given to National Championships; it is going to be difficult to make the qualification to World Championships, and national federations have to be free to decide in which competitions they intend to participate.

As Chairman of Rink Hockey, Paniagua agrees to hold the European Championships in France in 2021, but believes that the tournament in Montreux is among the most important ones in the world, and he would like to leave it in the calendar of competitions. A possible solution for the calendar might be Montreux in April, the European Championships in June, and the World Skate Games in Argentina in November. In the end, Paniagua asks Herrera for information about the Pan-American Championship in Florida next November, that he never heard about.

FERNANDO CLARO takes the floor to rectify the date of Continental Rink Hockey Championships, which will be in July and not in June as previously stated.

ARACU says that it depends on the Olympic dates, as it would not be fair towards the IOC to hold World Championships during the Olympic Games. For this reason, the organizers have to be flexible and avoid overlapping the events. As to the Montreux event, 2021 would indeed be a burdensome year for rink hockey with three international events, but it is also true that 2020 entails a lot of savings as due to the events cancelled and/or postponed.

Aracu provides some updates about the World Skate Games. He has continuous contacts with the organizing committee in Buenos Aires and San Juan, as well as with the mayors of the two cities. The fact that the Secretary-General of the Argentinian Olympic Committee, Mario Moccia, personally supports us is a guarantee. For Argentina this represents the most important event of 2021. World Skate is trying to turn this event into an "*urban*" event, because organizing events in the main squares of important cities represents something absolutely appealing. In Argentina competitions will take place at the city center: Skateboarding, Inline freestyle, Roller freestyle. Speed competitions will be held at the rink of the Vicente Lopez municipality, showing the IOC that the legacy of the Youth Olympics is used again for international competitions. A conference call will be held in April with Argentina, with the participation of Chairmen and of the Organizing Committee of Buenos Aires.

President Aracu asks if all EB Members agree on the strategy adopted for the future in line with the IOC, namely to give precedence to the organization of National Championships and subsequently World Championships.

As no objections are raised, President Aracu underlines the importance of communication through conference calls, which will be increasingly used in the future to share views and talk about different subjects, including the financial and organizational ones. As soon as the IOC decides the dates for the Olympic Games, a communication will be sent to all EB members.

President Aracu closes the meeting at 4.40 p.m.



Roberto Marotta
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
President

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