



EB MEETING CONFERENCE CALL 18TH MARCH 2021

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Sabatino Aracu - President
- Roberto Marotta - Secretary General
- Nathanael Koty - President of World Skate Africa
- Fernando Claro - 1st Vice President and President of World Skate Europe
- Alberto Herrera Ayala - President of World Skate America
- Yongjung Cai - Secretary General of World Skate Asia
- Karen Doyle - President of World Skate Oceania
- Nicola Genchi - Chairman ATC
- Carmelo Paniagua - Chairman of RHTC
- Fernando Regueiro - Chairman of RBTC
- Andrea Fonzari - Chairman of IHTC
- Sigfried Zistler - Chairman of IATC
- Olivier Pascal - Chairman of RFTC
- Kelvin Koo - Chairman of IFTC
- Jorge Roldan - Chairman of ISTC
- Patricia Wallace - Chair of Sports Medicine Commission

WORLD SKATE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF:

- Elisabetta Mariani
- Francesco Zangarini
- Francesco D'Urbano
- Luca Basilico
- Alessandra Lunadei
- Sergio Sacripanti
- Doris Gentile

Welcome remarks by the Secretary General

The Secretary-General Roberto Marotta opens the meeting by commemorating Vice-Secretary General Laura Morandi who prematurely passed away at the end of January, and recalls her extraordinary work and impeccable professionalism to the service of World Skate.

The Secretary General then states that the quorum is formed and therefore the meeting is validly established.

Approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting

The Minutes of the previous EB meeting are unanimously approved

Speech by the President

President Aracu thanks Secretary-General Marotta for his words in remembrance of Laura Morandi, Vice Secretary-General of World Skate.

This EB meeting is held after the IOC session, that was remarkably important for World Skate because Thomas Bach talked about sports that need to be urban and appealing for young people, and World Skate embodies these sports.

Kit McConnell positively acknowledged the development of the Federation in terms of organization, as well as gender equality. There is the certainty of being in LA in 2028, and probably in Brisbane which is likely to host the Olympic Games in 2032. It is necessary to think about other disciplines to be included in the Olympic Program, and skateboarding in Tokyo will be under the spotlight. A contract is in place with NBC, and skateboarding will open the Olympics with Street and close the Program with Park.

A lot of work is being done with World Skate staff presently including 36 people, and there is the attempt to fill any gap at best.

Several activities are being carried out, such as the World Skate Academy and the establishment World Skate Facilities that will deal with the design and the works of facilities. The requests for facilities after Tokyo will have to be managed by World Skate.

A solidarity fund is also being established, which will include part of the contributions allocated by the IOC to help the countries in need.

There is the strong intention to work with Continental Areas, that have to be strengthened and financially supported in order to grow.

Following the Covid pandemic, a Plan B is being developed to organize the World Championships in the Countries that are ready to organize the event at best.

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The Congress will be postponed after Tokyo2020, as suggested by the IOC, hoping to organize it with all members physically attending the meeting.

The Chairmen of World Skate Commissions will have to be remunerated in the future for their daily work and commitment; in this way, there will be professionals working full time for World Skate.

Approval of the amendments to World Skate By-Laws regarding Anti-Doping

Secretary General Marotta gives the floor to Pat Wallace to describe the amendments to the By-Laws. According to the proposed amendment to the By-Laws, athletes shall acquire the status of “International Athlete” when participating in events sanctioned by World Skate. This provision includes athletes aged 18 and over, competing in World Championships, Olympic Qualifiers or international tours and events organized, recognized or sanctioned by World Skate.

This new definition will provide a scale of imposition of anti-doping rules commensurate with the athletes’ level of competition and will create consistency between the World Skate By-Laws and the World Skate Anti-Doping Rules.

Paragraph 10 - C of the World Skate By-Laws should be amended as follows:

“Athletes shall acquire “International Athlete” status according to the conditions foreseen in the World Skate Anti-Doping Rules, which comply with the WADA Code”.

As regards the independence of the hearing panels, the medical commission also becomes a participant in the hearing panels.

Gary Ream asks to amend “Roller Sports athletes” into “World Skate athletes”. The board approves

VOTING: Unanimously approved

Resolution about the postponement of the Elective Congress, extension/abbreviation of all terms of office, Membership fee, to be submitted to all NFs for their feedback

ARACU underlines that it had been already agreed to postpone the Congress, as after the Olympics it will be possible to take stock of the Games, and wishes to organize the Congress with all members attending in person and to have a strong participation by the IOC.

The Congress will be either in October or in November, and a possible option is to hold it in Buenos Aires, as the NOC and the Ministry of Sports provided strong reassurance in terms of management of the pandemic. World Skate will provide financial support to the Countries in order to participate. Another option is Lausanne, but the President would prefer Buenos Aires also to visit the hosting the World Skate Games in 2022. **He also reminds that all Continental offices and positions are still in force, and during the Congress all Continental elections will be held as well and the offices renewed.**

During the meeting organized the next week, the President will inform the Countries about this decision and will explain the reasons for it, in order to receive their opinion.

VOTING

Unanimously approved

Establishment of World Skate Development Fund and allocation of funds

Aracu explains that not all International Federations have such a program; a part of the funds allocated by the IOC will be used for such Fund. The President would like to have a neutral and person chairing such Fund, with no political involvement whatsoever. The intention is to appoint someone suggested by the IOC and two representatives from World Skate. There shall be someone that knows international cooperation. The Fund will provide financial support to athletes and Cities in need, as it happened last year in the competitions organized in Brazil last year, that helped the construction of a skate park in the favelas of San Paulo. For all these reasons, Aracu asks for the approval by the Executive Board.

VOTING: Unanimously approved

Update on the 2021 Events calendar

The Sports Director Francesco Zangarini takes the floor and reports that some events have to be confirmed, others were cancelled. Events are divided into different groups: World Championships and Olympic Qualification Events for Tokyo 2020, World Championships for Inline Hockey and Speed in Colombia, and Inline Freestyle and Skatecross Championships in China. There are then the Continental and the International events sanctioned by World Skate. There is the hope that Continental Championships are confirmed. The international Camps started in collaboration with PGKA as to Inline Hockey. Zangarini asks to share with World Skate the dates of Continental Championships, as they have to be approved and Continents need to be supported.

ARACU takes the floor and underlines how continental competitions play a strategic role after national competitions, because athletes can more easily move within their Continents. And agreement is being sought with a manufacturer and supplier of COVID tests, in order to allow the participation of athletes in events, including the Olympic qualification competitions.

Skateboarding update (Qualification system, COVID19 contingency plan, Post Tokyo strategies)

Luca BASILICO underlines that in this moment there are continuous evolutions; it was difficult to draft the calendar, but all the options were considered, and the contribution of the athletes' commission was fundamental. The Test Event will be held in Tokyo from May 13th to 15th with Japanese skaters, and in the subsequent week the Dew Tour event will take place in Iowa (USA), awarding important points for Olympic qualification purposes; subsequently, the Street World Championships will be held in Rome in the first week of June. After a week of break, there will be the Park World Championships; several options were considered, but no final decision was taken. Brazil is being considered as an option. A World Skate task force was established to monitor the situation of the pandemic on an ongoing basis; a World Skate Covid policy is also being finalized, with an important section devoted to the Tokyo qualification events.

An infectious diseases manager will be appointed, who will monitor all participants in the events with a *wellness check*. Masks will be compulsory for everyone, exception made for athletes while competing. Everything will be checked and sanitized, including the necessary cleaning in practice sessions and competitions. Martin Karas has worked in close contact with the Dew Tour staff in order to ensure compliance with this policy. The accommodation will be as close as possible to the venue, with dedicated transportation.

A participation percentage had to be defined in order to ensure the validity of the qualification process; an opinion to the IOC was asked, and by March the IOC EB will make a final decision.

At the beginning, 70% was considered, and at the moment such percentage accounts for 85% of top 100 that will have to access the host country with no limitations whatsoever.

Contingency measures are also considered, mainly in case the scheduled events cannot be held. A possible option is that there are athletes that obtain their qualification on the basis of continental championships.

ARACU takes the floor and states that the restrictions adopted by the Chinese government - which had to organize most of World Skate qualification events, including the Park World Championships - led to choose other countries and cities for the events. He underlines that an extraordinary World Championship can certainly be organized in Brazil and in Rome (where the Italian government allocated a sanctioning fee of 1 million dollars).

VOTING on the report by Basilico and on the newly proposed qualification schedule for events in Brazil and Rome.

Approved unanimously

World Skate Academy (update, statistics, future developments)

Francesco ZANGARINI takes the floor to talk about the Academy project, strongly wanted by President Aracu, which includes training courses for judges and referees; the webinars are organized for Artistic Skating, Speed and Rink Hockey, with an extraordinary number of participants and coaches from over 50 countries, speakers from all over the world.

World Skate Infinity (Project overview, Operations plan, future developments)

Francesco D'URBANO talks about the project of the platform that started some years ago, with the aim of managing events through the software, as well as including in the platform the information and data on Federations, judges, and fees. An app is being developed for mobile devices. A company was selected for the development of the platform (Wild Data) that also managed the ranking of Skateboarding.

MAROTTA underlines the importance of this new data management approach, developed to keep up with present times

New affiliations

Barbados and Zambia submitted all the affiliation documents

VOTING: unanimously approved

Ratification of the Skate Cross, Inline Hockey and Inline Speed Skating Rulebooks

The three rulebooks were sent to the Executive Board, and need to be ratified by the EB.

VOTING: Unanimously approved

Miscellaneous

VICE-PRESIDENTS

CLARO maintains that - having considered the present situation - it is very difficult to make plans for the different disciplines, and this situation is frustrating for young people. He believes that as the situation improves, some competitions need to be organized. All the activities have to be organized with World Skate, speaking with a single voice.

KOTY thanks all the EB members for their commitment in the spreading of skateboarding. Many African Countries are limiting the sports activities: although there are 12 disciplines officially recognized by World Skate, some African leaders are not contributing to the development of all of them, and this is unacceptable. KOTY also highlights a big problem in Congo between two Federations.

On March 22 World Skate Africa met and adopted some measures against Jack Lopusa. A strong final decision needs to be made. Then there is Senegal, managed by Awa Fall, that is developing another type of activity, the Roller Ball. Senegal is not acting in line with the African Confederation and does not participate in continental Championships and congratulated for boycotting the Rink Hockey championships (together with Douda Bah).

Cameroon managed several false visas to come to Europe. Several emails are sent to destabilize our sports.

Koty states that it is very difficult - due to the Covid pandemic - to organize a congress and get the visa to travel; therefore, the African elective congress will be held in Africa.

Koty asks for financial support, because many African countries do not pay their fees.

World Skate and World Skate Africa shall join forces to solve these problems: all the African Countries have to participate in the African Championships, and therefore Koty asks World Skate to intervene.

MAROTTA underlines that there is full understanding of the difficulty in managing sports activities in Africa.

Many Countries fight for personal positions instead of working for the promotion of sports. Continental meetings need to be held in order to restore positive relations among African countries. **The election of the President of World Skate Africa needs however to be held in the framework of World Skate elective Congress in compliance with the Statutes, and World Skate will do anything possible to allow Africa Countries to participate.**

AYALA greets all EB members and underlines the difficulties encountered in working with the Federations because of the pandemic. 5 national events are scheduled in Colombia by the end of 2021. 17 Countries participated in February in Speed Pan-American Championships. 1,400 athletes participated in the nations cup in the different categories. Next December there will be - jointly organized with the Colombian Federation - the Pan-American championships for Scooter, Roller and Inline Freestyle, for which support will be given to the delegations attending the event. This week there will be the Inline Hockey Pan-American Championships with the participation of USA, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia. In April the Pan-American Artistic Championships are scheduled, organized with the support of the Ecuadorian Federation; all the countries will participate, exception made for Chile that is having problems with the pandemic. World Skate America is trying to keep the sports spirit alive in the various countries by enforcing the Covid-related safety measures in order to have zero-contagions events. Colombia is also being supported in the organization of Inline Hockey and Speed World Championships in Cartagena, scheduled for the end of August-beginning of September. In all these events, the presence of the relevant Chairmen will be necessary. An attempt is also made to organize in September in Florida the Rink Hockey Pan-American Championships. Training sessions are being resumed, hoping for a continuous development of all the disciplines.

YONGJUNG CAI expresses his trust towards World Skate and the future, stating that for the time being it is very difficult to organize events in China, but that all the events are postponed after the Olympic Games in Tokyo. They will do anything possible to promote World Skate activities. There are cities like Shanghai that are willing to construct venues to promote the disciplines of World Skate and to organize events. The Asian Games will be held after Tokyo2020. The national championships will be held.

KAREN DOYLE reminds that there are only two Countries in Oceania that are member of World Skate, and the government decided to close national borders and prevent them from organizing the Continental Championships for the second consecutive year. In Australia there are very strict rules, and national championships were cancelled. Artistic skating competitions are scheduled for July, Speed for September. Something was organized in New Zealand, although with very strict limitations. Karen Doyle therefore asks to exempt the Oceania Federations from the Rink Hockey competition qualifications that will take place in September 2022 in the Asian Championships, as the date is close to the World Skate Games and many athletes would have no sufficient financial resources to go both to Asia and South America. Karen Doyle therefore asks the EB Members to take this issue into consideration.

ARACU invites the EB to pay attention to the words of Vice Presidents and their efforts. He thanks Claro for the balanced organization in Europe, and does not envy Koty for his difficulties - that President Aracu fully understands. In the Pan-American continent it is necessary to work together, otherwise the goals cannot be achieved. Asia needs to support the development of all its Countries, and not just China.

In Oceania it is important that the NOCs of all the small countries as well know the disciplines of World Skate. The continental championships were considered as compulsory for the Rink Hockey qualifications in the World Skate Games, but Aracu believes that in this period of COVID it would be necessary to depart from this rule. Aracu therefore asks Marotta to vote on this derogation proposed in agreement with Carmelo Paniagua.

OLIVIER PASCAL underlines the increase in the number of participants in each competition around the world, especially among women. A financial support to athletes was provided through FISE with a contribution of 15,000 Euro. Webinars for coaches are being organized with the Sports Department of World Skate.

GARY REAM states that the pandemic allowed everyone to take some time to think; he congratulates Luca for the updates.

NICOLA GENCHI says he did anything possible to keep Artistic Skating alive during the pandemic, and for this reason he welcomed the project of the Academy. After the seminars in Rome in 2018, in Orlando in 2019 and in Lisbon in 2020 were very successful, and the same happened with the webinars held through the Academy, with around 3,000 attendances, that will continue until the end of April. He is glad to underline that the staff arranged 350 videos, 200 hours of training; over 33 Countries participated, and now there are 300 participants in the three levels, and as from May, 51 judges will take the examination and get the certification. We have 262 judges all over the world, and all this would not be possible without World Skate. And extraordinary work was carried out, with no breaks, no weekends, and working day and night. An app was also developed to help coaches to organize their competition program.

KELVIN KOO underlines the promotion of inline freestyle by trying to develop it in several countries, as well as the development of several apps to help competitions. Due to the COVID pandemic, World Skate was asked to postpone the championships that had to take place in Shanghai from August to October. The first skate cross camp will be postponed as well, and there will be extraordinary championships as soon as Covid disappears. The draft of the new regulation is ready; it includes some finetuning in some parts, and the improvement of the point system.

PANIAGUA says that in 2020 the activity was impacted by COVID, and that much focus was placed on revising the regulations. Both judges and coaches participated in the webinars of the Academy, and two continental championships will be organized for the qualification to the World Skate Games. The evolution of the pandemic is fundamental to understand how to proceed.

REGUEIRO says that Roller Derby is a contact sport, and therefore the pandemic had a huge impact on it and all events were cancelled. Some teams that had recovered training sessions were criticized. Some clubs announced they will not go back to competitions; many teams have no chances to remain alive. Several groups are active in different Countries to promote World Skate; there will be a monitoring activity to see what will happen with events by monitoring the levels of participation in the different Countries.

ZISTLER states that it has been a terrible season without international events; something was held in Slovakia, Serbia and Czech Republic. A videoconference is organized with the Countries, and Zangarini was asked to participate to share the competition plans. A bidding process will hopefully be launched for the World Cup; there are already 6 World Championships in Slovenia, Serbia, Czech Republic and Spain. He also intends to work on the rulebooks in order to update them.

The Academy is a great idea for Alpine judges as well.

ROLDAN says that the activity is slowly recovering; the information gathered from all over the world shows that training sessions are in place, and this is already important. The Academy included webinars for Speed judges and coaches, and this is fundamental for this sport.

FONZARI thanks President Aracu for his support, and the staff of the Sports Department. The Rulebook for 2021 was completed, and the discipline will be included in the Pan-American Games as announced by President Ayala. As regards the World Championships of Cartagena, the presence of all the Countries cannot be guaranteed, but anything possible will be done to have the majority of countries.

ARACU underlines how the Chairmen represent the points of strength of World Skate disciplines. It is important for them to have collaborators, and hopefully in the future they will receive a remuneration for their work. It is necessary to renew each and every discipline (not all of them do it); immediately after the Congress, a summit for each discipline will be organized, involving coaches, athletes, journalists, media representatives and other stakeholders, in order to give a new momentum to all the disciplines.

He underlines that the three key words for the future are: urban, sustainable and youth

MAROTTA thanks all participants for their contributions, and asks to vote for the temporary suspension of the rule according to which the participation in Continental championships is compulsory to then participate in the World Skate Games.

The World Skate Games will therefore be open to all

VOTING: Unanimously approved

PANIAGUA asks to organize once yearly a meeting with National Federations or with the managers of the disciplines, as it is important to have their feedbacks.

REGUEIRO asks if the work presented by Luca may also be presented for the other disciplines; this would allow to create some protocols.

MAROTTA thanks the staff and gives the floor back to Aracu.

ARACU joins Marotta in thanking the staff, and underlines that an important investment is made in the human capital in order to improve.

A meeting with all National Federations will be held in the subsequent week.

The meeting ends at 5.50 p.m.



Roberto Marotta
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
President