



# **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

## **BUENOS AIRES - 29 OCTOBER 2022**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members attending:**

- **Sabatino ARACU - President**
- **Roberto MAROTTA - Secretary General**
- **Doris GENTILE - Vice Secretary General**
- **Karen DOYLE - First Vice President and Commissioner of World Skate Oceania**
- **Luís SENICA - Vice President (World Skate Europe)**
- **Alberto HERRERA AYALA - Vice President (World Skate America)**
- **Siegfried ZISTLER - Chair Downhill Technical Commission**
- **Gary REAM - Chair Skateboarding Technical Commission**
- **Fernando REGUEIRO - Chair Roller Derby Technical Commission**
- **Carmelo PANIAGUA - Chair Rink Hockey Technical Commission**
- **Andrea FONZARI - Chair Inline Hockey Technical Commission**
- **Olivier PASCAL - Chair Roller Freestyle Technical Commission**
- **Nicola GENCHI - Chair Artistic Technical Commission**

#### **Members attending REMOTELY:**

- **Yongjun CAI - Vice President (World Skate Asia)**
- **Weifeng GU - Chair of the Inline Freestyle Technical Commission**
- **Patricia Wallace - Manager of the World Skate Medical Commission**

#### **World Skate Managers and Staff.**

# AGENDA

1. Opening by World Skate President
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting
3. Approval of the amendments to the World Skate Statutes
4. Approval of the amendments to the World Skate By-laws
5. Approval of the amendments to the World Skate Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics
6. Miscellaneous

## OPENING BY WORLD SKATE PRESIDENT

President Aracu welcomes the EB members attending in person and those connected via Zoom, and underlines the importance of the slogan “Unity is Strength” which means a lot: united we are strong. The President then thanks the staff, the Chairpersons and the Continental Vice Presidents for the work they carry out every day.

In the first place, Aracu wishes to share with the EB the items that will be included in his report to the Congress the next day.

First of all, a warm thanks to Buenos Aires for hosting the third edition of the WSG, for the first time as an Olympic Federation. A big thanks will also go to the Argentinian government which is experiencing one of the most severe economic crises in its history. In July/August Argentina had given up on organizing the WSG, but thanks to the message by Pope Francis, and most of all thanks to Leandro Larrosa - who spoke with the Argentinian government, the Minister of Sport decided to carry out the organization of the event. The Argentinian government understood that the WSG represent an event with a sustainable *concept*, *i.e.* that the revenues for the organizers are higher than the expenses.

The relations between the CIO and World Skate are excellent: the street skateboarding event in Rome was chosen to start the road to Paris. The IOC ensured the presence of the Olympic Channel and added the image of skateboarding to the signature of IOC emails. This is a strong message that indicates the level of trust to World Skate.

World Skate will be in Paris 2024, Dakar 2026 and LA 2028. Two new sports were submitted by World Skate to Los Angeles for inclusion in the Olympic program: the Roller Marathon and Scootering, and we are working to allow these two sports to be included.

As regards the Paralympics, Aracu underlines that he spoke with Andrew Parsons, the President of IPC (the International Paralympic Committee); being included in the Paralympic Program is not easy and quick endeavor, because it is necessary to have at least 32 National Federations that organize the National Paralympic Championships.



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Aracu continues by recalling that in two years (in 2024) World Skate will become 100 years old, and adequate celebrations must be organized.

World Skate Games 2024: Aracu informs that two applications were submitted: Angola and Italy. Angola has not brought complete documentation, but it is a very reliable federation as shown in the organization of the 2013 Rink Hockey World Championships.

Italy, on the other hand, will present the project the following day during the Congress.

The awarding procedure will take place as in the past: the EB will meet separately for a few minutes and decide who to assign the event to, and then the official announcement will be made during the Congress.

President Aracu introduces two points which are not in the agenda but which are considered very important:

The cancellation of the Skateboarding World Championships in Brazil; the agreement signed by World Skate and CBSK has not been complied with, as shown by the signed documents.

*The Acknowledgment with the amount of the organization fees signed by the private company and by the president of CBSK Eduardo Musa is shown on the Video and read.*

A request for a further delay of the payment was submitted last 15<sup>th</sup> August, but no payment was subsequently made. CBSK also intended to use its scoring system and TV broadcasting, therefore not complying with the agreements previously made. CBSK probably thought that World Skate would not give up on the World Championships, but this would have meant for the International Federation to spend 7/800,000 USD, an amount that World Skate cannot afford.

CBSK received state contributions, and its President Eduardo Musa made statements detrimental to World Skate, with the subsequent decision of the Prosecutor to intervene. Aracu regrets that not all the Executive Board members were unanimously condemning this situation.

The IOC as well asked to be informed, showing that they are fully aware of the situation.

Merger of Federations: during the Congress, some important changes to the statutes will be presented, and in case multiple federations are established in a country, a choice shall be made on which federation will be the governing body of *all* World Skate sports. The Olympic charter says that NOCs must recognize the federations that the International Federation indicates to them. Therefore, World Skate will have more and more responsibility to monitor what happens in the federations.

The sports within World Skate have and will continue to have their own autonomy, although inside of a single federation.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor to find out whether the document shown has been signed by CBSK, and the answer is yes.

Events calendar: the calendar is being defined: the 2022 Skateboarding World Championships will take place in the United Arab Emirates in January 2023; A 3 year + 3 year deal for skateboarding events has been concluded with the Emirates.

Other events will be confirmed according to the financial and organizational guarantees provided by the organizers (such as San Juan).

A high prize money for the events is guaranteed by World Skate, and athletes will always receive it quickly.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor again, recalling that 2024 will be the year of the centenary of the International Federation and informing that he has received a request from Switzerland to organize a Rink Hockey event in Montreaux, the city in which the federation was established.

The President underlines that something will certainly be organized for this anniversary.

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta takes the floor and before proceeding with the other points on the agenda, he acknowledges the absence of Jorge Roldan and Helmeri Pirinen due to the start of competitions, whereas Nathanael Koty is absent because - as a candidate to the presidential elections in the Republic of Benin - he was not authorized to leave the country. Marotta also underlines the absence of Leticia Bufoni who unfortunately has never participated in EB meetings; the Secretary General hopes that the athletes will soon have a new representative.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS EB MEETING:**

The minutes of the previous meeting are put to the vote.

Unanimously approved.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WORLD SKATE STATUTES**

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta wishes to dwell on some more relevant details.

Art1.2: The list of sports under the umbrella of World Skate has been simplified by eliminating the word “discipline”, a term that will be included in the framework of each sport.

- Skateboarding
- Artistic
- Speed
- Downhill
- Freestyle
- Inline hockey
- Rink hockey
- Roller Derby
- Scootering

The Responsibility for the organization of electric and virtual sports has also been included.



Art.16: The names of the technical commissions were drafted based on the identification of the 9 sports.

An important issue is represented by the headquarters of World Skate, currently located in Lausanne also thanks to the tax advantages granted by the Canton de Vaud. This advantage imposes however a novelty that did not exist before, namely the Executive Board members shall work free of charge, only receiving reimbursement of expenses and *per diem contributions*. Clarifications have been requested: the Canton of de Vaud guarantees a total tax exemption since in the event of total dissolution or transfer to another country, the entire assets of World Skate shall be allocated to a non-profit organizations in Switzerland. These two clauses are very binding now and for whoever comes later.

The Canton of de Vaud asks to approve these amendments to the Statutes under a transitional rule pending until confirmation of the requests presented by World Skate.

President Aracu intervenes underlining that the Statutes must adapt to what World Skate will do in the future. According to the provisions of the Canton de Vaud, each member of the Executive Board can only work on a voluntary basis. There have been meetings for months to reach an agreement.

The transitional provisions that will be submitted for approval shall only be valid if the Canton de Vaud accepts World Skate's requests.

Roberto Marotta asks if everyone has read the amendments to the Statutes and if anyone has comments on these two main changes: the grouping of sports and disciplines into nine sports and the headquarters in Lausanne by keeping the tax exemption.

Unanimously approved.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WORLD SKATE BY-LAWS**

Marotta thanks the staff for the work done; all these changes will mean a further development of sports and National Federations. There are no main differences; the word Chairman has been replaced by Chair; On page 99 an invitation - to be interpreted as a pressing request - is made to all National Federations to give quality to the events.

President Aracu underlines the importance of this latter point: events must have safety standards for athletes; anti-doping controls must always be performed, and athletes must be evaluated by professional judges. This means to organize seminars for judges. So many rules entail asking the organizers for a financial commitment that not everyone can afford. It is also important to monitor the sponsors that - based on their own interests - may try to manipulate the results of competitions. It is necessary to explain to athletes that the International Federation acts in their best interest, trying to avoid "private" world championships that jeopardize their image and the image of sports. This is the reason why it is necessary to clearly define any organizational aspect.

Roberto Marotta therefore invites the Executive Board members to carefully read the document available.

Unanimously approved



## **APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WORLD SKATE CODE OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHIC**

Marotta highlights that World Skate has been developing this code since 2019; in this case as well there are small lexical changes highlighted with different colors.

Unanimously approved.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Marotta makes a clarification about the By Laws, and the new list of sports and disciplines is shown on the screen.

Aracu recalls that each sport practiced corresponds to a vote to be attributed to National Federations. Downhill sports, for example, have been united to encourage a single event with all the disciplines within such sport, and thus making it more interesting from the organizational point of view.

Aracu recommends that the Continental Championships have the same quality as the World Championships.

Marotta announces two important events for the subsequent next year, so that the Continental Areas can arrange their calendars accordingly, and reminds that by the end of November of each year World Skate needs to receive the calendars for the following year.

The Asian Games will take place from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup> and the Pan American Games from October 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair of Artistic Skating, Nicola Genchi, notifies that the dates of the Artistic Skating Championships in Colombia have been changed and will be from September 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, because Artistic skating will be part of the Asian Games' competitions on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Marotta proposes the provisional recognition of two National Federations: Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, which will be brought to ratification the following day, together with the already recognized Fiji.

Unanimously approved

Luca Basilico asks to take the floor to underline the great work done to close contracts relating to the organization of skateboarding events.

Luis Seníca underlines that the planning of continental events should be improved, as well as that it is difficult to have a Continental and a World Event in the same year, due to the financial difficulties that Countries are experiencing. There must be very precise continental guidelines to avoid complex organizational problems and misunderstandings. There are people or countries that organize events without asking for World Skate's permission, as it happened with the rink hockey tournament organized by Catalonia. The message that everything can be done without respecting the rules must not be accepted, as the credibility of the Federation is at stake.

Aracu thanks Seníca and underlines that more strength must be given to continental championships, and that is why the quality of events must be high.

As regards what happened in Catalonia, Aracu underlines that a province cannot organize a tournament without the national and international authorization. This time there were no consequences, but such things shall not happen again.

Senica underlines that many federations have limited financial availability, and some important National Federations asked for payment extensions.

The proposal to alternate the World Championships with the Continental Championships can work as long as World Skate is not accused of not doing enough international activities. Another issue to be solved is whether it is better to organize the World Skate Games every two or four years.

Karen Doyle asks to speak about the World Championships and the World Skate Games, and underlines that in her opinion after the centenary the World Skate Games shouldn't be held during an Olympic year, because it is a very burdensome activity for everyone. Many National Federations have no government support: in the post-pandemic era there is a more limited financial availability, and they are often forced to choose which event to attend. In 2026 the Commonwealth Games will be held in Victoria and Karen Doyle reports that she tried to have skateboarding and roller marathon included, but unfortunately the feedback was negative. There is still much work to be done.

Paniagua takes the floor and states that he totally agrees with Luis Senica and believes that even if significant changes are approved today, in the future an analysis on some specific issues should be carried out. It is a difficult time; many Federations, including the Spanish one, are unable to participate in all events every year. Paniagua believes it is necessary to organize a short and long-term calendar, and have a global vision of sport.

Paniagua underlines that in all the countries there are non-recognized organizations that are not easy to control. The Spanish laws on these issues are vague and everyone can do anything even without the authorization of the national or international federation. Paniagua says he heard about the event in Catalonia, which was however done without his authorization and without even receiving an

information about it. It was a tournament of political claims, because the Spanish government allows two sports, pelota and surfing, to compete with the autonomous federations at an international level.

President Aracu underlines the importance of alternating championships. Such a change cannot be made immediately but it is possible to start in 2025 with the Continental Championships only, and then 2026 with the World Skate Games, to then decide whether the next ones will be in 2028 or 2030.

Nicola Genchi says he entirely agrees on alternating the European and World championships. Genchi recalls the organization of a World Cup that brought about 900 skaters to competitions over four stops, obtaining a good level of interest and positive options for the future.

Senica agrees with the idea of alternating events but not immediately, and launches an idea: each manager with his own team and the sports director may develop a plan for one's sport and submit it to the EB in due time.

Marotta asks for a vote on the skateboarding competition rules.

Approved unanimously.

Marotta then gives the floor to Pat Wallace, President of the Medical Commission.





Pat Wallace refers to the report already sent to all EB members. As regards the anti-doping controls, the number of tests had to be increased. During the current event in Argentina there will be two ambassadors of the international testing agency at the Africa pavilion and in Porto Maidero, and they will be available to answer to questions.

There is a great interest in the International Olympic Committee on athletes' injuries, and the Medical Commission has developed a form to report injuries sustained and the effect these injuries have had on athletes. A good job has been done with the WADA agency in Argentina.

*The Secretary General provides some practical communications relating to the opening ceremony which will take place in the evening, preceded by a cocktail at the hotel.*

Roberto Marotta also asks the other Chairs for their opinions on the issue of alternating championships.

Fonzari, Chair of Inline Hockey, says he is in favor in order to have a better organization, but also believes that this may impact on the preparation of athletes, because in his sport in America North American countries do not participate in continental events and in Africa Inline Hockey is developed in Namibia only. In the latter case, a possible solution would be the participation of a single country in the Continental Championships of another continent, for example Europe. The two Oceanian nations (Australia and New Zealand) should have the option to participate in the Asian Continental championships.

Roberto Marotta summarizes Fonzari's proposal: in case the number of Federations in a Continent is not sufficient to allow the organization of a Continental Championship, Federations need to be given the opportunity to participate in the Continental Championship of another Continent.

The Secretary General then recalls that for some National Federations in developing countries, the annual participation in the World Championships gives them the possibility to receive funds. On the other hand, for the Federations that manage all the disciplines and participate in the related World Championships may have financial difficulties.

Carmelo Paniagua underlines that if the World Skate Games continue to be held every two years, it will be very difficult to find entities willing to organize them, and there will be disciplines, such as rink hockey, whose World Championships can never be organized because they are already included in the World Skate Games.

Siegfried Zistler intervenes stating that given the difference in the disciplines, the decision should be left open.

According to Nicola Genchi, all youth categories will have the possibility to make at least one continental championship and one world championship.

*Juan Jorge Chica, the Secretary of Sports of San Juan, joins the meeting.*

Aracu introduces Jorge Chica, who is working to turn San Juan into a temple of skateboarding in addition to rink hockey.

Chica greets and thanks for trusting Argentina, which is going through a very difficult moment. At the beginning the situation was different, but then the pandemic, the war and many economic

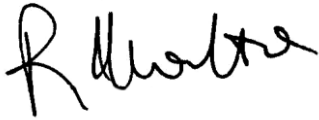




problems have jeopardized the organization of these Games. The province of San Juan is an excellence in sports-related policies; the Governor is very interested and 8 out of 10 inhabitants practice skateboarding and urban sports thanks also to the existing infrastructures.

Aracu thanks and underlines that the Executive Board meeting was very proactive and interesting.

The meeting ends at 12.30.



Roberto Marotta



Sabatino Aracu



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