



Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports

MINUTES OF FIRS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

ROME

22nd FEBRUARY 2013

Members in attendance

Sabatino Aracu	FIRS President
Roberto Marotta	FIRS Secretary General and CIC President
Valerie Leftwich	FIRS 1 st Vice President
Fernando Claro	FIRS Vice President (Europe)
Patricia Wallace	FIRS Vice President (Oceania)
Carlos Orlando Ferreira	FIRS Vice President (America)
Wendy Gila	FIRS Vice President (Africa)
Gilbert Portier	CIRILH President
Margaret Brooks	CIPA President
Harro Strucksberg	CIRH President
Laura Morandi	FIRS Vice Secretary General
Kalon Dobbin	Athletes' Representative
FIRS Secretariat Staff	Simona Mercuri
Interpreters	Caterina Noto, Doris Gentile

1. OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

The FIRS President, Mr. Sabatino Aracu, welcomes all participants to Rome, and expresses his bitterness for the tones used during the election campaign.

Last December the FIRS delegation presented the Roller Sports to the IOC Programming Committee, and next May the Roller Sports will be presented to the IOC Executive Board. On such occasion, two or three sports will be selected and subsequently presented to the September Meeting in Buenos Aires where a final choice will be made.

On that occasion, Buenos Aires shall be "invaded and occupied" by thousands of skaters.

The attempt was made to organise the Congress in the best possible way, and the participation of over 50 nations is an evidence of the interest shown by member Federations.

The draft Statutes are the result of the work carried out by the Statutes Commission; they were presented by the Italian Federation, in order to endow the proposal with a legal value.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the EB Meeting held in San Benedetto del Tronto

Mr. Strucksberg asks to eliminate the report included in the minutes, considered as not correct, and to replace it with the report sent to FIRS Secretariat.

A debate takes place on the style to be used when drafting the minutes, which shall not only refer to the reports but also to the opinions expressed and the discussions that took place during the meeting. The proposal to adopt the minutes of the EB meeting held in San Benedetto del Tronto is made by Mr. Marotta and seconded by Mr. Aracu

Votes in favour: 5

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 5

3. Report by the Secretary General

Mr. Marotta communicates the applications for affiliation received by FIRS secretariat, equipped with all the necessary documents:

Benin

Ghana

Poland In line hockey

Serbia

Sweden In line hockey

Trinidad and Tobago

And four applications equipped with the formal documents needed but not containing any Statutes:

Cyprus

Malaysia

Sri Lanka

Turkey

It is proposed to help these Federations by sending the facsimile of Statutes that they might rely upon, and provisionally recognise them without the right to vote until the next Congress.

In the case of the request by the Polish Inline Hockey Federation and Swedish Inline Hockey Federation, Mr. Marotta clarifies that FIRS already has among its member Federations both Poland and Sweden, which were therefore informed about the applications received; no reply was however received.

Ferreira asks for the provisional recognition of Jamaica, having had a direct contact with the President of the Olympic Committee: on 6th August a meeting of ODEPA was held in Jamaica with the participation of 42 Olympic Committees and 12 members of the IOC, including Michael Fennel, who is also the President of the Technical Committee deciding which sports will be included in the Pan-American Games. On that occasion Fennel said he had the right people to establish a Roller Skating Federation; it is very important to help Jamaica in consideration of the prominence that Michael Fennel has within the international Olympic movement. To this end, Ferreira undertakes to communicate the names of those who might manage such federation and help them to draft the Statutes provided that they might be recognised during this Congress.

According to Claro, it is not correct to ratify a Federation that did not comply with the provisions of the Statutes as far as the Affiliation is concerned, and therefore Marotta proposes to wait for the sending of the whole documentation, which will be subsequently sent to the board electronically with an application for provisional affiliation.

Voting:

In favour: all

Against: none

Abstentions: none

Unanimously approved

Marotta subsequently proposes the names of the scrutineers for the Congress of the next day:

Susan Currell

Hervé Lallement

Ignacio Gonzales

whose acceptance will be directly submitted to the Assembly.

Continuing with his report, the Secretary General tackles the subject of the World Games 2013 in Cali: all the sports that in the last 20 years became Olympic sports came from the Programme of these Games. The Organising Committee will provide board and lodging to all the athletes invited, and Federations shall only take care of the travelling expenses only. Thanks to the success of speed skating during the last edition, and to the collaboration with the Colombian Federation, an increase in the number of athletes for this discipline was recorded (90 athletes), many other sports tried to obtain the same results without achieving such goal. 28 countries qualified their athletes, many of which never had the chance of participating in a multi-sports event; it is therefore fundamental that all the 90 qualified athletes are present, otherwise the participation of FIRS in these games would be downsized. Any athlete who is not able to compete or that retired from competitions shall be replaced by another athlete from the same country and with the same athletic level. All the EB members are asked to take care that the interested national federations participate in the event.

4/5. Report by Continental Vice-Presidents and by the Presidents of the Technical Committees.

Claro: see report enclosed (ATT.1)

Wallace: see report enclosed (ATT.2)

Brooks: see report enclosed (ATT.3)

CARS: see report enclosed (ATT.4)

Ferreira reports on the promotion of the Olympic Committee on the Youth Games that will be held in 2018. They are exclusively devoted to youngsters aged between 14 and 18 and the IOC has not yet decided neither the hosting city nor which sports will be included. He considers he might succeed in including roller skating, since the main characteristic of this sport is the fact of being devoted to young people. The competing cities are Medellin and Buenos Aires, both of which are friends of roller skating, and this might be an advantage.

Wallace congratulates the Federation of New Zealand for organizing the excellent artistic skating World Championships 2012. In Australia the official federation Skateaustralia suffers from the competition of another organisation, Victoriaskate, which organises its own competitions and refuses to pay the fees and to officially become affiliated. Skaters coming from other States are invited to participate in their competitions, and also some athletes affiliated to Skateaustralia participated in them. Athletes were penalised, clubs were suspended, but this had as a consequence the affiliation of several members in the new organisation. It was therefore decided to allow their participation in competitions, but in order to participate in international events it is necessary to be members of Skateaustralia. Wallace wishes the regulations of In Line Hockey and Rink Hockey to set a limitation for this phenomenon in order to protect those that belong to

member Federations, and asks for the opinion of the EB. Victoriaskate does not ask for affiliation fees, but this would be impossible for Skate Australia that, being endowed with offices and staff, would risk to be insolvent.

Strucksberg: he refers to the two letters received from Argentina and Mexico, recalling how the application for independent affiliation by a Mexican club was not accepted by the EB, creating a dangerous situation leading to the loss of one federation after the other, with a remarkable economic damage. The same problem happened in Argentina after the World Championship 2011: big problems emerged between the CAP and the Federations of San Juan and Mendoza, which subsequently separated from the Argentine Federation. The President of CAP referred to the regulations of rink hockey to reject the affiliation of such new Federation, since rink hockey is already present in the official federation. The new federation, however, has over 500 members, whereas CAP only 200, and all of them are in Buenos Aires. Strucksberg proposes to set-up a commission in charge of analysing these types of situations and being allowed to read all the legal documents available, and subsequently submitting its opinion to the Executive Board that will then decide whether affiliating the new federation.

Ferreira believes that the issue of Argentina deserves a debate, since what happened is absolutely peculiar, with an entire discipline that separated from the Confederation, whose president is only interested in managing the revenues of Rink Hockey. **Marotta** states that during the last few years he observed several internal fights within national federations; as stated in the Statutes, the task of FIRS is to protect member Federations, and until CAP participates in rink hockey world championships the affiliation of a new Federation may be considered. Argentina has its Statutes and a democratic congress; therefore, until managers own the majority they will deal with national management. It is neither possible to set a precedent, nor to take sides of a manager that opposes one's board.

Aracu and Claro believe that this is an internal problem of Argentina, and FIRS has the precise duty of protecting its Federations without setting precedents.

Portier recalls not to forget the problem of IIHF.

6. World Championships

The Secretary General refers to the table included in the folder reiterating what was already decided in San Benedetto del Toronto. As Strucksberg replied that some changes that he introduced are missing, Marotta said that the change was not recorded since the Colombian Federation lodged a complaint on the fact that the organisation of the Rink Hockey World Championships was moved from it, therefore not complying with the provisions under the Statutes. The awarding had been approved by the E.B., and the CIRH - in total autonomy and without any prior consultation – decided to award the organisation of the Championships to Germany. After evaluation the arguments put forward by the Colombian Federation, this EB will decide whether amending the decisions adopted in San Benedetto.

President **Aracu** takes the floor to highlight that the E.B., which should be the supreme body after the Assembly, in most of cases only acknowledges decisions on the World Championships, which often suffer from an absolute lack of organisation and care of the image.

The organisation of Roller Games 2017 was decided in San Benedetto; these are world championships of all disciplines, able to involve 3000-4000 athletes and 10,000 people, but at the moment the E.B. is not able to plan anything since there is no common vision.

The four Technical Committees made decisions without informing the EB, and this is not a matter of Statutes, rather a problem of common sense and fairness; the draft amendments to the Statutes are precisely aimed to this purpose, that is to say to change the daily operativeness. And to have the possibility, on the occasion of the Congress, to evaluate the candidacies for the world championships together with mayors and ministries of sports. The request to Colombia for an unforeseen fee of \$25,000 is an absurdity and an invention.

Strucksberg expresses his bitterness in this regard, clarifying that although knowing the extraordinary organisational skills of Colombia, he was concerned about the fact that Colombia cancelled the organisation of championships on two occasions, in 2007 a sub 20 and in 2010 a women world championship. It was therefore asked Colombia to sign a contract and pay a caution money able to guarantee the expenses for referees and officials. The contract was not signed by any representative of the federation, despite of the several requests, and for this reason the federation was informed it could not be confirmed the awarding of the event due to a lack of confidence.

The regulation of the CIRH obliges to face specific economic situations, and in the past there were problems both in Brazil and Uruguay; it was therefore deemed necessary to ask for a down payment.

Marotta reaffirms that the schedule of awarding was approved by the E.B., and if the CIRH intends to remove the awarding from a country and give it to another one shall ask the EB express its opinion and not to take an autonomous decision.

According to Valerie **Leftwich** all the disciplines ask for a down payment, therefore also Strucksberg is entitled to do so, but Mrs. **Brooks** replies that artistic skating asks for 5,000\$, and therefore does not understand why the CIRH asks for 25,000\$.

Strucksberg insists on the fact that at present it is the Board of the Technical Committee that awards the organisation of world championships, but replies by stating that the Technical Committee may only propose, and the EB approves.

Ferreira intervenes by stating that during his presidency of the Colombian Federation from 1993 to 2008 Colombia never applied for the organisation of World Championships, and asks to change this trend since it also questions his management as President.

Colombia always stood out for the organisation of world championships in all the disciplines, and recently also for Inline hockey; it was the first one that organised Junior championships for speed, artistic and rink hockey.

Marotta reiterates that the decisions adopted in San Benedetto are final, and in the last 20 years the Colombian Federation admirably organised at least 10 world championships without leaving any debts unsettled. Nevertheless, having considered the doubts expressed by Strucksberg, proposes to notify Colombia to pay \$3,000 as caution money within 180 days, and said amount will be used for the settlement of expenses of referees and officials. He also stresses that each technical committee has a weapon at one's disposal to obtain the amounts due, that is to say if a federation – despite of several reminders – does not pay the outstanding fees, its participation in the next world championships will not be accepted.

This subject is further debated, with several contributions concerning the internal problems of the CIRH and the rules on the awarding of World Championships as provided for in the present Statutes.

The proposal made by Marotta is put to the vote, seconded by Ferreira; according to such proposal, a notification shall be sent to the Colombian Federation informing them that they have 180 days at their disposal to pay \$3,000 as a down payment needed for settling the expenses of referees and officials

Votes in favour: 8

Votes against: 1
 Abstentions: 2
 Approved

Strucksberg wishes to have the last word and expresses his disappointment for this decision, being convinced that many of EB members have not fully understood his point.

8. Adoption of FIRS 2011 consolidated balance sheet and 2013 budget

Marotta communicates that the balance sheet was consolidated by the Auditor of FIRS Luis Alfonso Muñoz, and that the accounts are those already presented and examined in San Benedetto del Tronto.

Wallace underlines that during the last meeting the amount allocated for anti-doping purposes amounted to \$20,000 plus \$2,500 paid by CIRHIL and CIPA. According to the budget, \$10,000 were allocated for 2013, but the programme of out of competition tests was already organised with already incurred expenses of \$11,000 by referring to a total amount of \$20,000.

Marotta states that the utmost attention was always paid to the requests of the Medical Commission, and consequently the amount will be amended accordingly.

In a perspective of higher and higher transparency of FIRS vis-à-vis WADA and IOC, a close collaboration shall be asked to member Federations. They shall ask their athletes for a correct management of their whereabouts, and channel the message according to which the time in which the use of anabolic steroids and stimulants might be overlooked and left unpunished is over.

In this regard, having considered that the cost of out of competition tests is 1,000\$, it is decided that such amount shall be charged to the Federations of athletes who make themselves unavailable. It is also decided that after three out of competition tests not performed within 18 months due to athletes' unavailability, such athletes will be suspended for a period between 1 and 2 years. Federations will therefore be asked to check the correctness of the whereabouts of their athletes.

Marotta asks Pat and Harro, which belong like him to the FIRS Panel, to attend a conference call with an athlete found positive and that will have the chance to express her reasons during the afternoon of the same day at 6 p.m., at the headquarters of FIRS.

Valerie Leftwich takes the floor and underlines that – taking into account the membership fee of \$450.00 to which adding \$100.00 for each discipline performed and multiplying said amount by the number of member federations – the estimated amount of membership fees to be collected is underestimated. Such amount shouldn't be \$30,000 but \$60,000, according to the data contained in the file received, namely according to the countries that in the next day will have the right to vote, plus the disciplines performed. It would be sufficient to recall the defaulting members that, unless they settle their dues, their affiliation will be cancelled.

President **Aracu** takes the floor, and says that the remarks made by Mrs. Leftwich are absolutely instrumental, since as first Vice-President and member of the CIRILH she knows that countries with outstanding dues are regularly allowed to participate in world championships, and fees are not entirely collected also because the CIRILH contributed as well to such situation. Saying that it is not possible to know who paid because FIRS does not officially communicate it shows either incapacity or bad faith. Such information is published in the website of FIRS, and any member of the E.B. has a password to access and verify such information.

The situation here is that anything done by the President must be checked, and what is done by technical committees does not need any control at all. FIRS must draft and submit its balance

sheet, but Technical Committees do not deliver their accounts; the President has to find the money, and Technical Committees spend such money.

Marotta underlines that before the in-line hockey world championship, the secretariat of FIRS sent to President Portier a file summing up the Countries that were and were not up to date with the payment of membership fees. The President replied that it was not his task to collect the fees of FIRS – righteously – but his responsibility included not allowing those in default to participate in the championship.

Voting for the adoption of the 2011 Consolidated Balance Sheet

Votes in favour: all

Votes against: none

Abstentions: none

Approved unanimously

Voting for the Budget 2013:

Votes in favour: all

Votes against: none

Abstentions: none

Approved unanimously

9. Approval of the amendments to the present Statutes of FIRS

Marotta recalls that the present Statutes are lacking in two aspects: the first one concerning the Medical Commission and the second on Athletes' representation. The IOC asked to amend the statutes in these two parts; such changes were introduced, and tomorrow, during the Congress, the ratification of the amendments to the items above will be proposed.

Voting

Votes in favour: all

Votes against: none

Abstentions: none

Approved unanimously

10. Draft new Statutes

Aracu reports that the Statutes Commission met in Rome for two days; Carlos Orlando and Fernando could not participate, whereas Gilbert Portier, Jim Pollard and a legal advisor of the Italian Olympic Committee were present. Some believed that the activity of the Commission still had to be analysed and approved by the E.B., but Aracu decided to present the Statutes through the Italian Federation, so that everything would be regular from the legal viewpoint.

The main change concerns the Elective Congress, during which not only the President and the Vice-President would be elected, but also the persons in charge of the Technical Committees. The congresses of the Continental Confederations remain autonomous. This change entails that the persons in charge of the Technical Committees continue to structurally deal with their disciplines, whereas the EB acquires more decision-making power and more administrative strength. A second fundamental item is the repetition of roles: each one will be called to choose which one exercising.

Some countries proposed a variation according to which the President would stand as candidate in the elections with a list containing the names of the persons in charge of the technical committees to be elected in one's team.

Both proposals are valid, the important thing is that all the representatives are elected during the same assembly.

If the EB is available to find an agreement on this item and present it tomorrow during the congress as one single amendment to the present Statutes, the Italian Federation is ready to withdraw its proposal.

Claro expresses his sadness for the insults made by persons linked to the Roller Sports. Each one has to provide one's contribution to make FIRS more modern; he could not be present in the meeting of the Statutes Commission, and wishes to provide his contribution by proposing a possible alternative to the proposal of the Italian Federation for which it is not necessary that this EB expresses its opinion, but it is a topic that may be debated tomorrow during the assembly, and all the countries will have the chance of asking for amendments. With this proposal, the president stands as candidate with his/her team also including the chairman of the technical committees and the first vice president; the idea is that the elected President might rely upon the unity of an entire team and on the support of the members of his/her group. This proposal might be considered either positively or negatively, but its aim is that of collaborating and not that of acting in contraposition.

Marotta reiterates that during the next day the assembly will be called to evaluate the proposal of the Italian federation article by article. A second proposal representing a compromise was put forward by President Aracu, according to which a single amendment to the present Statutes is proposed, entailing the change in the part in which the chairman of the 4 technical committees that are presently elected by their assemblies are instead elected during the elective congress, by an assembly made up of the Presidents of member Federations. Finally, the Portuguese Federation makes its proposal.

Ferreira wishes to make a short digression. FIRS is made up of four federations represented by the technical committees. For many years, during the world speed championships, President Aracu was almost unknown and people considered Marotta as the President of FIRS. FIRS is not a monolithic federation, and this is a problem that must be analysed and solved; there are 5 different financial statements, and this is an error. The world federation needs a reorganisation, either with the proposal made by Aracu or with the proposal put forward by Claro. He personally did not like that the proposal was made by the Italian federation, since it had to be put forward by the Executive Board.

At the moment the President has no decision-making power; he advisedly states that if the Colombian federation is successful is because the President governs, proposes, implements, evaluates, spends, etc...

He however believes that the Presidents of the Technical Committees, democratically elected for 4 years, shall be granted such right.

During the subsequent debate, it is highlighted that the decision had been made according to which the proposal developed by the Statutes Commission had to go back to the EB for approval, which did not happen; some members attending the meeting like Jim Pollard at the beginning said they were in favour, but subsequently changed their mind. The fact that the proposal was subsequently presented by the Italian Federation was a ploy to chose the shortest way and not to give the EB the chance of expressing its opinion. **Aracu** wishes to clarify that the proposal was put forward by the Italian Federation only in order to give a legal value to it, as it is provided for by the statutes.

Marotta informs that the meeting has to be closed, and since no agreement on this item can be found, the Congress shall adopt the necessary decisions during the subsequent day.

Miscellaneous:

Gila asks to ratify the name of the African Confederation of Roller Sports, and not Roller Skating, since this is how it has been called for many years.

Strucksberg after checking once again the Statutes and assessing that there is no reference to the fact that the EB might take a decision on World Championships, states that if the decision made is not reconsidered, he will file a written protest to the Congress. He also says that he has been working in this sport for 40 years, and that he made several requests without receiving any answers

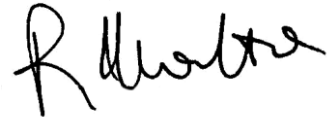
Aracu answers by stating that he is celebrating his 50 years in roller skate without ever offending anyone; he maybe had some excesses for which apologises, but writing offences and circulating them all over the world is another story.

By wishing all members a fruitful work, President Aracu closes the meeting.

The meeting ends at 13h00.



Sabatino Aracu
President



Roberto Marotta
Secretary General