

Annual General Assembly

Virtual AGA

1300 UTC, 6th September 2020

Agenda

1. Reading of Notice of Assembly.
2. Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum.
3. Exclusion/suspension of a Member Association.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. Reading of the Minutes of the last General Assembly and approval thereof.
6. Business arising out of the Minutes.
7. Minute of Remembrance for Friends and Colleagues no longer with us.
8. Report of the President.
9. Report of the Executive Board and Committees.
10. Report of the Auditors
11. Receive the Finance Report, Audited Statement and Discharge to the Board
12. Appointment of the Auditors
13. Presentation of the Budget.
14. Approval of Annual Subscriptions
15. Resolutions.
16. Further business.
17. Elections.
18. Acceptance of a new Member Association.
19. Date and location of next General Assembly.

3. Exclusion / Suspension of a Member Association

Resolution

To suspend the World Curling Federation membership of the Polish Curling Association

6. Business Arising out the Minutes

The Motion regarding the length of games submitted by the Norwegian Curling Federation to the 2019 Annual General Assembly was postponed to the 2020 Annual General Assembly. The motion is attached to these papers.

12. Appointment of Auditors

Resolution

To appoint Mazars as the auditors for the World Curling Federation

14. Approval of Annual Subscriptions

No change is proposed to the rate of the Annual Subscriptions for the 2021/2022 season.

15. Resolutions

a) Adoption of the 2021 World Curling Federation Anti-Doping Rules

Resolution

To adopt the 2021 World Curling Federation Anti-Doping Rules which have been confirmed as being compliant with the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

b) Constitutional Amendments

i) Governance Style

Over the past ten years the role of the Board of the World Curling Federation has been changing from an operational, hands-on approach to a more strategic, directional role.

As part of their work looking at the way the WCF operates and implements its new Forward Plan the Structural Review Group feel it is appropriate to encapsulate this change and the direction the organisation wants to move in within the Governance Style Clause of the Constitution.

The changes define the scope of work of the Board as Strategic, without giving up their duties of oversight and responsibility, whilst delegating the necessary powers and authorities to the staff to deliver the Board's plans.

The Governance style of the World Curling Federation is defined in 1.1 of the Constitution. This is a redlined version showing the current wording changed to the proposed wording.

The following changes are proposed to the wording of the constitution:

1.1. Governance Style

The supreme authority of the World Curling Federation is the General Assembly.

By way of this Constitution and by~~e~~-laws, including amendments from time to time, the General Assembly delegates certain authorities and responsibilities to the Board~~of Directors~~ to ensure the sound operation of the World Curling Federation.

The Board~~of Directors~~, within the limits of this Constitution and by~~e~~-laws, is responsible for the strategic direction of the World Curling Federation and may furtherwill delegate day to day~~such operational~~ authorities and responsibilities as ~~it deems appropriateare required~~ to the WCF Secretary General, in order that~~the~~ the organisation might work with maximum efficiency and effectiveness towards achieving the Strategic Plan put in place by the Board to achieve the Purpose and Aims of the World Curling Federation.

This Board to Executive delegation shall occur in such a manner so as to ensure clear limits of authority and responsibility are established, risks to the organisation, its Members and its people are minimized and the sport of curling grows to its maximum and sustainable potential.

And while the Board~~of Directors~~ is authorised to delegate its authority, it does not in any respect delegate or relinquish accountability for the prudent operation of the World Curling Federation in accordance with its Constitution, by~~e~~-Laws and the laws of the territories in which it operates.

ii) Nominations Committee

The Structural Review Group is proposing a number of changes to the process of elections for the Board of the World Curling Federation. The rationale is to ensure candidates are eligible to stand, to increase the number of candidates by actively seeking people to stand for the Board and by opening up the nomination process.

The Nominations Committee, which will be made up of 3 elected members and 2 appointed members (one appointed by the Board and one by the Athlete Commission), will be responsible for encouraging more candidates for the Board, for recruiting candidates who may help address skills gaps on the Board and providing information to the membership to assist them in the election process.

Additionally, to help improve transparency changes are introduced to announce the votes cast for each candidate at an election and for the retention of ballot papers to allow for any challenge to election results to be heard.

The following changes are proposed to the constitution:

BYE LAW 3

ELECTION OF THE BOARD

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. A call for nominations will be issued to the Member Associations at least one hundred and twenty (120) days in advance of the Assembly at which elections are due to take place.

Nominations for the election of Board Members shall be made in writing ~~by a Member Association~~ to the Secretary General at least ~~sixty-nine~~ (6090) days in advance of the Assembly at which elections are due to take place. Nominations must be submitted on the official form and signed by the candidate. Nominations may come from individuals, Member Associations, the Board or the Nominations Committee.

- 1.2 All Nominations shall be reviewed by the Nominations Committee who shall ensure the candidate is eligible for election to the Board and shall offer a recommendation to the Membership as to the candidate's suitability for the position.
- 1.32. All Nominations shall be distributed to the Member Associations and their Representatives, with the Agenda forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Assembly.
- 1.3. For each election, any Board Member must be nominated with the approval of his Member Association.
- 1.4. A candidate may only stand for the Vice President position of their Member Association's Zone.

2. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- 2.1 A Nominations Committee shall be set up for the purpose of soliciting and reviewing Nominations for vacancies on the Board.
- 2.2 The Nominations Committee shall be made up of three Elected Members, one Member appointed by the Board and one Member appointed by the Athlete Commission, all Members will have the right to vote. The Secretary General shall attend meetings without the right to vote.
- 2.3 The Nominations Committee shall appoint a Chair from their Members.
- 2.4 No Member of the Nominations Committee shall be eligible to stand for election to the Board whilst serving as a Member of the Nominations Committee.
- 2.5 The Board shall arrange elections for the Elected Members of the Nominations Committee, these may be conducted by electronic or postal ballots with the results announced as soon as possible after the election.
- 2.6 Terms of office shall be for four years, part terms of office shall not count towards the period of service.
- 2.7 Elections shall take place every two years starting in 2020, the two candidates with the highest number of votes in 2020 shall be elected until 2024. The candidate with the third highest number of votes in 2020 shall be elected until 2022. Any vacancy occurring outside the normal election cycle shall be filled by the Board as per clause 2.4.
- 2.8 No Member of the Nominations Committee may serve for a period of more than four years with the exception of the Secretary General. No former Board members may serve on the Nominations Committee.
- 2.9 Both genders must be represented on the Nominations Committee

32. TELLERS

- 32.1. The General Assembly appoints a minimum of two (2) tellers who:
 - 32.1.1. shall be in possession of a sealed envelope containing the Board's casting-vote for the election of the President;

- 32.1.2. shall be in possession of a sealed envelope containing the President's casting-vote of each position except the President;
- 32.1.3. shall count the number of votes in favour of each candidate;
- 32.1.4. shall announce the result of each election, including the number of votes cast for each candidate and the number of spoiled ballot papers or abstentions~~making no reference to the number of votes cast for each candidate~~;
- 32.1.5. shall keep the ballot papers for 101 (one hundred and one) days or until any appeal procedures are finalized before destroying all voting-papers~~shall destroy all voting papers immediately after the end of the elections~~.

Renumber Bye-law 3 clauses 3, 4 and 5 to 4, 5 and 6

c) Proposals relating to The Rules of Curling:

i) Measures in the rule-book (clean-up)

Any measures bigger than 1 metre will be in metres and should have 3 digits after the point.
Any measures smaller than 1 metre will be in millimetres only, no digits after the points.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

ii) Sheet R1 (a)

Under the current rules a sheet of ice should be max. 5.000m (16 ft. 5 inches).
The technical commission has come forward with the request that this should be changed to 4.750m (15 ft. 7 inches). Having the current maximum measurements has never been applied in any WCF event. It also causes more issues for the ice-techs, as it requires extra paths for mopping, scraping etc. and even pebbling 5m consistent is a challenge.

Change R1 (a) to read: The width of the sheet from the inside edges of the side lines is a maximum of **4.750 m. (15 ft. 7 inches).**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

iii) Teams (R3)

Under the current rules a team has an issue if the Skip / Vice-Skip is using the washroom and is not back in time when it is the turn of the other nominated player to deliver their stone(s).

Depending on the venue this could be really challenging and we believe we should leave it at the discretion of the CU to make exceptions in such a case.

Adapt Rule R3 (b) and add: A team that deliberately changes its delivery rotation, or positions, during a game **without special permission of the CU**, will forfeit the game

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

iv) Delivery R5

With the current wording of the rules, a stone could be delivered never holding on to the handle. This is not correct, as it means the electronic handles we are using to detect any hog-line violations are useless if players would deliver a stone pushing the granite all the time.

Therefore we recommend to add to R5:

The curling stone must be delivered using the stone-handle.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

v) Using a whistle at WCF events (R10)

Nowhere in the rules it is written, if a whistle or any other signalling instruments are allowed to be used at WCF competitions.

We recommend to add a new paragraph as R10 (d) saying: **A whistle or another signalling instrument can be used in case of medical reason and after consultation and written approval from the WCF.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

vi) Stick curling rules R10

The stick curling rules need adapted so that they only cover Wheelchair Curling and a separate document with recommendations for stick-curling being published for all MAs.

Therefore we would need to delete in point (e) the sub-points iii, iv and v).

At the same time we would like to allow wheelchair curlers to use any of the 4 sticks a team is allowed to bring to the ice – and therefore would like to reword sub-point (ii) to make that clear.

(e) The use of a delivery stick shall be restricted as follows:

- (i) The delivery stick may not be used in any WCF competition or qualifying event, except wheelchair events.
- (ii) Players choosing to deliver with a delivery stick must use **that device a delivery stick** for the delivery of all their stones during the entire game.
- (iii) **For non-wheelchair curling: The stone must be delivered along a straight line from the hack to the intended target.**
- (iv) **For non-wheelchair curling: The stone must be clearly released from the delivery stick before either foot of the player delivering the stone has reached the tee line at the delivery end. A stone is in play, and considered delivered, when it reaches the hog line at the delivery end.**
- (v) **For non-wheelchair curling: If a stick delivery violation occurs, the delivered stone shall be removed from play, and any displaced stones shall be replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.**
- (vi) A delivery stick shall not convey any mechanical advantage other than acting as an extension of the arm/hand.
- (vii) All delivery sticks must conform to the Wheelchair Curling Policy.

(viii) For the use of a delivery stick in non-wheelchair curling competitions, refer to the WCF Recommendations for Delivery Sticks in Recreational Play document.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

vii) Scoring R11 (i)

The rule says what happens if a team is not ready to start a game at the designated time. Currently we only give minutes (1-15 and 15-30 min.). Which rule would have to be applied if a team shows up exactly at 15:00.

We therefore recommend to clarify rule R11 (i) with adding exact times:

- (i) If the delay of the start of play is 01:00-14:59 minutes (01:00-09:59 minutes for Mixed Doubles), then the non-offending team receives one point, and will have choice of first or second stone in the first end of actual play; one end is considered completed.
- (ii) If the delay of the start of play is 15:00-29:59 minutes (10:00-19:59 minutes for Mixed Doubles), then the non-offending team receives one additional point, and choice of first or second stone in the first end of actual play; two ends are considered completed.
- (iii) If play has not started at 30:00 minutes (20:00 minutes for Mixed Doubles), then the non-offending team is declared the winner by forfeit.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

viii) Interrupted Games (R12)

It was felt that implementing the current rule is not always fair to the teams involved.

The recommendation is to change rule R12 to say:

If for any reason, a game is interrupted, the game recommences where play was stopped in case there is no ice-maintenance required. In the case that the stones need to be removed (agreement between CIT, CU and TD), then the end is replayed.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

ix) Mixed Doubles FGZ R15 (e)

The current rule of the FGZ in Mixed Doubles is not very clear and not worded in line with the FGZ for all other games. It can be understood that the delivered stone can also not roll out, which is not the intention of the rule.

We therefore recommend to reword R15 (e) to read: If, prior to the delivery of the fourth stone of an end, a delivered stone causes, either directly or indirectly, any previous delivered or placed stone to be moved to an out-of-play position, the delivered stone shall be removed from play and any displaced stone(s) shall be replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

x) Participating Teams (C2)

In the current rule book under subpoint (g) it currently reads:

To be eligible to play in the World Wheelchair Curling Championships (WWhCC) and qualifying events, a player **must have substantial demonstrable impairments in leg/gait function and use a wheelchair for daily mobility, or qualify within the eligibility criteria.**

This is different wording than in the actual Classification rules.

To avoid having different wordings between the rule book and the Classification rules, we recommend changing rule C2 (g) to read:

To be eligible to play in the World Wheelchair Curling Championships (WWhCC) and qualifying events, **a player must fulfil the eligibility criteria as per the WCF Classification rules.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xii) Equipment (C3)

In points (h) and (i) we mention WCF Equipment Standards and standards for Competition Equipment, which are non-existing.

The term used in the documents we have published is: Statement of Principles for Competition Equipment.

Also, the following terms should be used "Specifications for Sweeping Devices" and the "Approved Code List" if we refer to any of those documents.

Our recommendation is to **change the names in the rule book to be in line with the names the documents have.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xiii) Pre-Game practice (C4)

Rule C4 (b) currently says: The time and duration of the pre-game practice is given at the Team Meeting. It is felt that the standard amounts could be added, as they do not change from event to event.

Change rule C4 (b) to read:

The duration of the pre-game practice is normally 7 min. for Mixed Doubles and 9 min. for any other event. The start-time of the pre-game practice will be communicated at the Team Meeting.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xiii) Coach interaction with teams (C6)

We believe there is no reason why we do not allow coaches to talk with their teams during all the breaks between ends.

We therefore recommend to change rule C6 j(i) to say: **Teams can communicate with their coach, the alternate player or any other team official during those breaks if the venue layout allows.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xiv) Last Stone Draw – Mixed Teams (C8)

In a Mixed Teams competition, if a team is given special permission to play the whole competition with 3 players, the current LSD rule does not work. The current rule says: the LSD stone requirements of the missing player are shared equitably amongst the other players. In a mixed team event where before each game both genders have to play one stone each, it does not work to also share the LSD stones of the missing player equitably amongst all the other players (C8-d-(ii)).

We believe that the main point is, that all players fulfil the minimum requirement, but if for one game both male or both female deliver the LSD stones, does not really matter.

Therefore, we recommend to change rule C8(b) and remove the sentence about Mixed curling.

In Mixed curling each gender must deliver one stone, but the team selects the sweepers independent of their gender.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes:

Supported by the Athlete Commission – no recommendation

xv) LSD (C8)

The current rule for LSDs does not state the minimum number of players who have to be on-ice so that the LSD stones are valid.

We recommend to add to the rule C8 (b): **In Mixed Doubles a minimum of 2 players must be on the ice, and in all other events a minimum of 3 players must be on the ice. If that is not the case, the LSD stones would be recorded with the maximum distance.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xvi) Team Ranking C9

See separate document.

xvii) Qualification System - Americas Challenge

In the entire rule-book the Americas Challenge is the only event where we list the. This is not practical for the operational part and to be consistent along all events, we ask that those dates are removed.

Remove all dates and the timetable from the Americas Challenge (page 59 and 60).

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xviii) Wheelchair Mixed Doubles

Add a new discipline to the WCF competitions calendar – Wheelchair Curling Mixed Doubles.
The details of the proposed rules are distributed in a separate document.

If accepted, we also need to add the WWhMDCC to Rule C2(g) where we talk about classification.

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xix) Participating Teams C2 (i)

As per the rules today, all players and at least one coach had to attend the team meeting or they would lose the LSFE in their first game. We have trialled last season to change that to fewer people and it did not result in any issues during the event.

We therefore would like to change rule C2 (i) to say:

All players and their coach must attend the Team Meeting.

One player and one team official must attend the Team Meeting. When a team has no team official(s) registered, two players have to attend the meeting. Should a team have an accredited translator, that person is allowed to join as well. Failure to do so, without approval of the Chief Umpire, results in the forfeit of the last stone advantage for that team in its first game. **Only the team players, one coach, a Team Leader, and a translator if necessary, are allowed to attend.**

Recommendation:

Supported by the C&R Commission – yes; Supported by the Athlete Commission – yes

xx) Combining the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge

Following the feedback from the WCF Members Webinar on the possible merger of the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge the following proposal is made

1. That from season 2022/23 the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships and the Americas Challenge shall be replaced by a Pan-Continental Curling Championships (PCCC)
2. The PCCC will be open to entries from Member Associations in the current WCF Pacific-Asia and Americas Zones
3. The PCCC will be used to determine the qualifiers for the World Men's and World Women's Curling Championships and the World Qualification Event (WQE)
4. The top MA in the Americas Zone will no longer receive direct entry into the World Championship,
5. Those MA's hosting the World Championship will still have to participate in the ECC or PCCC to be eligible to take up their positions in the World Championships
6. The PCCC will initially be made up of two divisions, an A Division of eight teams and a B Division of the remaining entries

d) Rule Changes proposed by the Member Associations (See attached letters)

- i) Swedish Curling Association – Change to Dress Code regarding hats.**
- ii) CBDG – Introduction of an Americas Curling Championships**

17. Elections

Vice-President (Pacific-Asia)

Hugh Millikin (AUS)

Director (Position 3)

Cathrine Lindahl (SWE)

Kim Forge (AUS)

18. Acceptance of a New Member Association

To approve the change of membership status from Conditional to Provisional Members for the following Member Associations

Curling Federation of India

Dominican Skating and Winter Sports Federation

Kuwait Winter Games Club

19. Future Meetings

Open Meetings for Member Associations will be held venue and timing TBC

The 2021 Annual Congress will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia - Open Meetings 9th and 10th September, Annual General Assembly 11th September 2021.