



**MINUTES  
of the WCF Executive Board Teams Meeting #33  
on 19 October 2023**

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### **Attendees**

#### **Executive Board**

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Graham Prouse (GPR)	Vice-President
Hugh Millikin (HMI)	Vice-President
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Toyo Ogawa (TOG)	Director
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Kim Forge (KFO)	Director
Jill Officer (JOF)	Athlete Commission Chair

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	WCF Projects Officer/Minute taker

The meeting started at 13:00 CET.

#### **President's Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and quickly summarized his recent activities as follows:

#### **141<sup>st</sup> IOC Session in Mumbai**

- Attended by BWE and CGR
- Discussion took place on the possibility of changing Olympic Charter to extend President Bach's term of office
- There were lots of presentations about winter games. Gangwon is pretty much on track. Milan/Cortina have announced that the Sliding Center will not be built in Cortina but will be moved elsewhere. That removes two IFs from Cortina which means that more hotel rooms will now be available in Cortina. However, it could also be negative as there will now be less activity in Cortina.
- There was discussion on what are the places that are truly viable to host Olympic Winter Games. Looking at climate change and considering the IOC principle that host

cities should not build arenas just for the OWG it is a pretty small pool of sites. In future Olympic Winter Games might rotate between various sites.

- There is the idea of a double award for 2030 and 2034 and eventually all AIOWF members issued a statement in support of such a double award.
- There was a big presentation from the LA games. Five new sports will be introduced including four team sports (baseball/softball, cricket, flag football, lacrosse) and squash. The current quota for the summer games is 10,500 athletes.
- Eight new IOC members were inducted (4 male and 4 female) and there is continued commitment to gender balance. Among those eight new IOC members there are two IF members who are: Ms Petra Sörling, President of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and Mr Jae Youl Kim, President of the International Skating Union (ISU)
- The most positive thing was the interactions we had with other winter sports, there is lots of camaraderie.
- AIOWF will change its name to WOF – Winter Olympic Federations.
- A meeting took place with Kit McConnell during which the WCF's funding request was discussed. The conversation was positive. A follow-up meeting will take place in November in Lausanne.

BWE will become Board Member of Sport Accord.

#### **Approval of previous minutes**

The minutes had been distributed in advance.

**To approve the minutes of the Board meetings held at the Annual Congress in Seoul, KOR was**

*moved by RNI  
seconded by KFO  
and unanimously approved*

CGR advised that it was the plan to set up a share point which will give the Board access to all minutes.

#### **Conflict of Interest**

No changes. Once the appointment of BWE to Sport Accord becomes official it will be added then.

#### **Zonal Engagement**

A paper from RNI and HLI outlining the proposed approach to engagement with the Zones for the remainder of this calendar year had been distributed in advance.

The Board felt that in general the approach as outlined in the above letter was fine. RNI was confident that the Stakeholder Engagement paper could be sent out prior to the ECC. When sending out the information to the MAs the letter should not say 'The Zonal meeting will be on (\*\*\*\*\*)' – instead it should say: 'Member Engagement meetings will follow in November'.

## **Big Ideas Update**

### Commercial

A project agreement has been finalised and signed with Rock Solid, work is now ongoing with the potential pilot MAs (Chinese Taipei and India)

A business case for the adoption of a comprehensive Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is being finalised, the initial costs for this will be shared with Rock Solid and should be offset by the income generated by the project and in subsequent years generate additional income for the WCF. It is expected that a proposal will be ready for the next Board meeting.

OTT Platform – following the issues with Recast, we have investigated a number of possible platforms who could deliver a dedicated OTT Platform for the WCF. The list has been narrowed down to two companies Stream AMG, who have worked with FIS in delivering a platform for their content in North America and Infront who have developed a comprehensive platform for hockey called Home of Hockey. The current plan is to continue to use Recast for the next two events and then be in a position to move to a new platform ahead of the World Championships if this is felt to be the right move.

CGR explained that both platforms (Stream AMG and Infront) would give the opportunity for pay-per-game, pay-per event or pay-per-season. It would become more WCF's platform instead of WCF using someone else's platform.

### Athlete and Events

JOF and Rob Gordon attended the IOC Athlete Forum in Lausanne and there are plans for an Athlete Commission meeting in Scotland following the ECC. A report from the Athlete Forum and an update on the AC plans will be presented to the next Board meeting.

### Re-branding

We Play have nearly completed the development of the brand book, the next priority is design of the website so we are ready to move forward with the new brand in the new year.

JOF asked how the AC could have involvement regarding an athlete section on the website. CGR advised that Rob Gordon should contact the Chris Hamilton for further information.

### Stakeholder Engagement

This group continues to meet and has reviewed the information received from Congress and has prepared a report to go back to the MAs to indicate what messages were received. The next stage is to try and refine the ideas for the Member Groups and the Advisory Council taking into account the feedback.

### Data and Digital

The WMxCC was the first event delivered using the new relationship with Curlit with them providing directly the scoring and results service on the WCF website. This should simplify the

process and reduce the time spent waiting for uploads. The look and feel of this will be completely integrated into the WCF site as part of the redesign.

*Facilities*

WAS are finalising the Go To Market plans for the facility strategy for the Board to consider in more detail.

In terms of the Easy Curling or Get into Curling facility project developed by David Sik, his first pilot in Ostrava looks like it will be fully funded and will not need any financial support from the WCF. We continue to work with David to turn his concept into a programme that could be open to applications from other cities in CZE or from other MAs.

The meeting closed at 14:00 CET.