

Draft Minutes of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly 2016

Hotel San Ranieri, Pisa Italy
12th November 2016

Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee (IW FEC) members present:

Chairman: Jakub Nowicki (JN)

Vice Chairman: Pal Szekeres (PS)

Secretary General: Udo Ziegler (UZ)

Members at Large: Giampiero Pastore (GP), Gabriela Mayer (GM), Hilary Philbin (HP).

Apologies from: Nelson Tai.

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1 the opening address by the IWAS wheelchair Fencing Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for the delay as some delegates had not arrived. He introduced the IW FEC members present and Karl Vilhelm Nielson (KVN)– Vice President and Secretary General of IWAS ECM who would be assisting in the running of the meeting.

1.2 Roll Call of Member Nations Present.

Discussion	A roll call of the Nations present was carried out by the Chairman (JN), only 15 Nations were present at the wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly (SA) which did not represent a quorum. (see attached roll call) 34 member Nations are in 'good standing' and have current voting rights. The quorum would need a total of 18 members (50% + 1). A proposal from the IWAS EMB was to start the meeting and follow the Agenda. The outcome of the and results of the elections would be sent out to the nations for notification and comment.
Decision(s)	JN moved to have this proposal accepted by the members present. This was agreed unanimously.

(three non- voting personnel were selected to count all votes)

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

Discussion	JN confirmed the Agenda and asked if the Agenda can be adopted
Decision	The proposal for the adoption of the Agenda was agreed unanimously.

2. Minutes of the Previous IWAS wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly 2015

2.1 Adoption of the Previous Minutes of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly held at Paris, 25th October 2015

Discussion	JN asked if the Minutes of the 2015 SA could be approved.
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Decision	The proposal was accepted unanimously by members present.
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2.2 Matters arising from the Paris 2015 SA Minutes.

Discussion	UZ asked the floor if there were any matters arising from these minutes
Decision	There were no matters raised by any members present.

2.2.1 Update on Sabre Distance.

Discussion	<p>UZ asked if there was any feedback from the Nations regarding this issue. AUT asked if anyone had tried the distance? PS – Hungary had tried and found it was successful. France and Germany also had a positive experience. Russia did not have a positive experience. Canada did not see a problem if there was correct distance. Canada suggested that the Coaching Commission should look at the issue.</p> <p>JN proposed that the next IWFEF will form a working group with interested parties to find a solution, after talking to coaches and athletes. The next committee can then vote on the solution, whether to update or not update the Sabre distance</p>
Decision	This proposal was agreed by the members present.

3. IWF Chairman's Report, IWF secretary General Report. IWF financial Report

Financial Report

Discussion	JN asked the CEO of IWAS Charmaine Hooper (CH) to explain the financial report. CH explained the Income and Expenditure for IWAS wheelchair Fencing, including the Grants and Restricted funds. CH explained that the prediction to the end of the year is the Wheelchair Fencing will have a deficit of approximately €4,000. CH explained that most of this deficit was due to additional expenses incurred for Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, such as extra referee flights. UZ asked if there were any questions regarding the financial Report.
Decision	No questions were received from the Members present.

Secretary General Report

Discussion	<p>The Secretary General's Report had previously been circulated to all members.</p> <p>UZ asked if there were any questions about his report.</p>
Decision(s)	No questions were received from Members present

IWF Chairman's Report

Discussion	<p>JN distributed his report to members present just prior to the meeting. JN discussed his report, noting the developments of IWF, requirements and relationship with the IPC, Paralympic Games 2016 and 2020, the FIR/IWAS relationship and ending with personal recommendations and remarks. (see Attached Chairman's Report)</p> <p>JN gave individual thanks to Gabriella Mayer, Peter Brigola and Ingolf Blumowski for their work in IWF and to Elena Belkina (RUS). JN thanked the members of the National Federations.</p> <p>Greece thanked JN for his work with IWF and recognised the work that IWAS HQ and IWAS has done for the sport. JN thanked the IWAS EB.</p>
Decision(s)	No questions were received from Members present

4. Motions received from Member Nations and IWF EC

Motion 4.1

Discussion	<p>Motion 4.1 from the Brazilian Paralympic Committee: "To propose a restructure of World Ranking competition listings. Suggestion that the best 7 World Cups plus the Regional from Each continent within 18 months be used. Rationale: Currently the world Ranking list takes the last 15 competitions rolling. This means that tournaments from 2014 are currently still being used in the ranking." JN – there are suggestions for the new IWFEF to work with the IPC regarding issues and proposals moving forward. JN asked if Brazil can accept that the new IWFEF will work with the IPC for new proposals?</p>
Decision(s)	Brazil will accept this decision.

Motion 4.2

Discussion	<p>Motion 4.2 From the Brazilian Paralympic Committee: "End to obligation to participate in three (3) international competitions as an IWAS eligibility to enter the Regional Championships, to directly qualify for the Paralympics. Rationale: Currently 90% of the championships take place in Europe." JN explained that for a Regional Championships anyone can enter. He understood however that this was a reference to the qualification for the Paralympic games. This matter can only be decided by the IPC and must come under future discussions between the new IWFEF and the IPC. JN asked if the proposal as above for the future IWFEF to work with the IPC can be accepted?</p>
Decision(s)	Brazil accepts that the new IWFEF will work with the IPC on these issues.

Motion 4.3

Discussion	<p>Motion 4.3 by the Brazilian Paralympic Committee: “Paralympic Qualification criteria should be changed to allow automatic qualification for an athlete who has won a regional championship in two weapons. Rationale: The system is currently unfair, to exclude two weapon winners” JN explained that this is also a decision of the IPC and moved for the decision as for 4.1 and 4.2</p>
Decision(s)	Brazil accepted this decision.

Motion 4.4

Discussion	<p>Motion 4.4 Hong Kong Paralympic Committee: “The slot allocation of individual and team events for the Paralympic Games should be distributed separately. Rationale: The existing slot allocation method has limited the number of athletes to participate in the PG especially the team event. Separating the slot allocations can allow more top athletes to participate.” JN explained that the committee cannot vote about this.</p>
Decision(s)	The IWFEF agrees with the motion but this will be discussed with the IPC

Motion 4.5

Discussion	<p>Motion 4.5 IWFEF : To increase the number of IWFEF Members at Large to facilitate the position of Treasurer. Rationale: IWF should have a Treasurer to oversee the budget and for financial accountability.</p>
Decision(s)	The motion was accepted with a vote of 13 for and two against.

Motion 4.6

Discussion	<p>Motion 4.6 IWFEF: To give the IWFEF the authority to co-opt additional non-voting Committee Members as necessary. Rationale: the IWFEF should have the authority to co-opt individuals if the situation so requires. JN explained that for example it is in the interests of the IWFEF to have a member from the Classification commission present in the EC.</p>
Decision(s)	The motion was accepted with a unanimous vote in favour.

5. Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Feedback

Discussion	UZ asked if there were any questions from the floor. No questions from the floor. UZ informed the Members present that there had been many challenges in preparation for the Games including the qualification system; financial challenges and venue changes also discussed. UZ thanked Mirani Fernandes for all her hard work for Rio 2016.
Decision(s)	IWFEC will be working hard with the IPC to make improvements especially in the qualification system.

6. IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Calendar for 2017- 2018

Discussion	JN explained the calendar for 2017-2018 and asked all nations to regularly check the calendar. A possible World Championship competition will be decided soon.
Decision(s)	

7. Elections of IWAS wheelchair Fencing Executive committee.

Chairman

Discussion	JN asked KVN to take over the Chair of the meeting and to organise the election process. Election for Chairman: PS was asked to make his presentation to state why he should be elected as the IWF Chairman. PS gave a power point presentation giving his views for the future of wheelchair fencing, his mission statement and his proposal for the EC members. PS thanked the members present
Decision(s)	KVN proposed that as there was only one candidate for each position that a secret ballot was not necessary and a show of hands with the voting slip was acceptable, these being counted by the official counters. This was acceptable to the Members present. Votes for 14. Pal Szekeres voted as the new IWF Chairman.

Secretary General

Discussion	KVN explained that there was only one candidate; Udo Ziegler for the position of Secretary General and called for a vote by show of hands as before.
Decision(s)	Votes for: 15 Udo Ziegler voted as the new IWF Secretary General

Members at Large

Discussion	KVN informed the Members that Peter Brigola and Nikolai Bezyazchny had withdrawn their nominations prior to the Sport Assembly. This left 6 nominations for 6 places: Jakub Nowicki, Giampiero Pastore, Pascal Godet, Peter Huggins, Valber Nazareth and Ksenia Ovsyannikova. Members were asked if they would accept for all 6 members to be voted en masse. This voting procedure was accepted by all members present.
Decision(s)	Members voted en masse for all 6 Member at Large positions. Votes for 15. All members at large accepted

8. any Other Business

KVN asked the President of IWAS, Paul DePace (PdP) and the CEO of IWAS, Charmaine Hooper to make some presentations. Paul DePace thanked Members and the organising committee of the Pisa world Cup competition. PdP made presentations and gave thanks and appreciation to IWFEF members who have served on the committee for several years and will not be standing again.

The following were presented with Certificates of Appreciation:

Gabriela Mayer

Hilary Philbin

Nelson Tai (in his absence)

No other business from Members of IWFEF

9. Closing Remarks

The new IWFEF Chairman PS, thanked KVN and all the previous Committee members. PS promised to work hard for the Committee and to make regular contact with all EC members for discussions. PS asked the Member Nations for any comments to be sent to the EC for discussion topics.

UZ thanked the Members for their confidence in them. He informed the Members that the IWFEF will start discussions with the IPC for medal event for Tokyo, in September 2017. Women Sabre events need to take place in WF events next year so that the IPC can see that we are making progress with this weapon event.

End of Meeting.