

Draft Minutes of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly

Place: Pagedal, Stadskanaal, Netherlands

Date: Saturday 21st September 2013



IWAS
Olympic Village
Gutfmann Road
Aylesbury
Bucks HP21 9PP
UK

T. +44 (0)1296 436179
F. +44 (0)1296 436484
E. info@iwasf.com

www.iwasf.com

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

1.0 Welcome & Opening

Introduction of IWAS Wheelchair Executive Committee (IW FEC) in attendance.

IW FEC: **Chairman:** Alberto Martinez Vassallo (AMV) **Secretary General:** Maura Strange (MS)

Member at Large: Udo Ziegler **IWAS Secretary General:** Karl Vilhelm Nielsen (KVN)

1.1 Opening Address by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Chairman

1.2 Roll Call of Member Nations present

Chairman Alberto Martinez Vassallo announced that with 20 countries in good standing at the date of Sport Assembly, the quorum would need to be 11 (50% +1) He then carried out the roll call of nations.

Nations: *Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and USA*

Observing Nations only (no vote or speaking right) *China, Kazakhstan, Netherlands and South Africa.*

AMV confirmed that a quorum for official business had been reached.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Discussion	AMV confirmed that the agenda had been published and all should have copies, asked if there was anything anyone would like added to the agenda? Nothing to be added
Decision(s)	Moved by Hong Kong and seconded by Canada Motion approved unanimously Accept the agenda as presented and to work from the agenda.

2.0 Minutes of the Previous Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly held in Catania, ITA 2011

Discussion	To approve minutes of previous Sport Assembly. No questions or amendments.
Decision(s)	To receive the minutes as a true record Moved by Brazil and seconded by Hungary One abstention Motion approved Minutes accepted

2.2 Matters arising

Discussion	None – item passed
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3.0 Chairman's Report on Activities & Finances for the Period 2011 to 2013

Discussion	Report by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Chairman, AMV – please see appendix 1 AUT requested the statistics included in the report but prior to 2010. MS agreed that HQ would make these available. CAN expected the minutes of all IW FEC meeting and the motions agreed during those meetings were not included in the report. AMV advised that these are available from IWAS HQ.
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	<p>CAN confirmed they asked IWAS HQ and they stated that no minutes had been received for the last 4 years.</p> <p>AMV confirmed that any that is available will be sent to the nations.</p> <p>AMV also confirmed IWAS HQ is responsible for finances and expenses.</p> <p>CAN questioned why the IWAS financial report was provided to the SA. In the future requested that only the full accounts of IWAS WCF be published.</p> <p>MS confirmed that due to new system at HQ this is the first year this has happened but WCF accounts can be made available.</p>
Decision(s)	<p>AMV moved to have the report accepted, seconded by BRA</p> <p>One abstention</p> <p>Motion approved</p>
Action(s)	<p>HQ to publish report to WCF Sport Assembly page on website.</p> <p>HQ to provide previous statistics to all WCF nations.</p> <p>HQ to provide WCF finances to WCF nations.</p>

4.0 Motions received from member nations and IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee

4.1 To change section 6.1 of IWF Bylaws

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to add 6.1 IWF Executive Committee (IW FEC)</p> <p>NEW: The management of the IWF in between Sport Assemblies is entrusted to an Executive Committee (IW FEC).</p>
Decision(s)	<p>Moved by Canada, seconded by Great Britain</p> <p>One abstention</p> <p>Motion approved</p>
Action(s)	<p>IWF Bylaws to be updated</p>

4.2

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to add 6.3 The immediate former Chairman of the IW FEC has the right to be present at all the IW FEC sessions in an advisory capacity for one year only with no right to vote.</p>
Decision(s)	<p>Moved by Canada, seconded by USA</p> <p>Motion approved unanimously</p>
Action(s)	<p>IWF Bylaws to be updated</p>

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to add 6.4 In the event of death or resignation of the Chairman, the Secretary General will perform the Chairman's duties provisionally until the next Sport Assembly when the elections of a new President will be organised.</p> <p>GBR asked should the role not be passed to the Vice Chairman.</p> <p>CAN responded by stating the Vice Chairman is appointed by the EC, whereas the Secretary General is elected by the member nations and therefore a more suitable candidate to take on the role in this circumstance.</p> <p>HKG agreed with the rationale but asked for confirmation of the role of the Vice Chairman if the hierarchy is Chairman then Secretary General. Is it still necessary to have a Vice Chairman?</p> <p>CAN confirmed this is a different discussion and not part of the motion.</p> <p>KVN confirmed that any new rules will come into effect after the closure of this Sport Assembly.</p> <p>AMV confirmed that the motion will be as stated.</p>
Decision(s)	<p>Moved by Canada, seconded by USA</p> <p>Three opposed</p> <p>Three abstentions</p> <p>Motion approved</p>
Action(s)	<p>IWF Bylaws to be updated</p>

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to add 6.5 In the event of an IW FEC member's death, resignation or absenteeism for one year, even if apologies were submitted, he/she will be replaced by the candidate who received the greatest number of votes at the Sport Assembly not on the committee.</p> <p>Canada confirmed the rationale was to ensure that all EC members are active for the development of the sport.</p>
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Decision(s)	Moved by Canada, seconded by USA One opposed One abstention Motion approved
Action(s)	IWF Bylaws to be updated

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to add 6.6 To be a candidate to the IWFEA a person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a licence from his Member Organisation • Be at least 21 years of age on the date of the elections • Enjoy the full civic rights of the country to which he belongs • Be able to understand and speak English • Not be the president of a zonal confederation • Not have a national role as a technical director, chief of delegation or team captain. <p>Canada confirmed the rationale for this as currently there are no minimum requirements.</p>
Decision(s)	<p>Moved by Canada, seconded by Italy</p> <p>AMV asked to introduce one amendment that is should state IWAS Member Organisation. CAN questioned if this was required as they are the bylaws of IWAS so should this not be automatic? AMV confirmed should be added for clarity.</p> <p>HKG asked to clarify what is meant by 'licence' as stated in the first point. Adding that he felt that the second and fourth point were discriminative. Accepted that English is the official language of IWAS and WCF but by enforcing this it would eliminate many candidates.</p> <p>CAN stated that the last three points already exist in the current bylaws but were just being brought together for simplicity. Although could remove these points and keep only the first three points of the motions. In regards to the comment about age discrimination, respect should be made to other countries where the right to vote is 21.</p> <p>KVN confirmed that the intentions were understood but it may be complicated to control who has full civic rights in their country. CAN confirmed those with a passport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold a licence from his IWAS Member Organisation 2. Be at least 21 years of age on the date of the elections 3. Hold a valid passport of the country to which he belongs <p>GRE advised these points are in the IWAS bylaws, so why do they need to be added to the WCF bylaws? FRA also agreed with the age discrimination point from HKG POL added that in regards to the point regarding civil rights/passport then the Member Organisations decision of who they want to nominate should be respected. IND believes most countries state the age 18, so should be dependent on the member nation. And full civic rights or passport, similarly it should be the decision on the IWAS Member Organisation. CAN thanked everyone for their comments and suggested withdrawing the motion. ITA agreed to remove their seconding the motion.</p> <p>Motion withdrawn</p>

4.3

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to change 6.8 Commissions</p> <p>The IWFEA will have the following permanent Commissions for the improved development and management of wheelchair fencing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules Commission (<i>changed from Regulations Commission</i>) • Referee Commission • Sports Commission • SEMI Commission (<i>changed from Equipment Commission</i>) • Promotion, Advertising and Publicity Commission • Medical Commission • Disciplinary Commission • Athlete Commission • Coach Commission (<i>new</i>)
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Decision(s)	<p>Moved by Canada, seconded Germany.</p> <p>AMV clarified that these were two different points. The first being the change to two commissions and also the new commission, therefore proposed to separate.</p> <p>No discussion regarding the change of names of the two commissions. Motion approved unanimously</p> <p>Moved by Canada, seconded by Hong Kong To accept the new Coach Commission. BRA asked how the Coach Commission will be appointed. AMV advised that the commission are member appointed. Motion approved unanimously</p>
Action(s)	IWF Bylaws to be updated

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada 6.8.1 To be a candidate to Commissions a person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a licence from his Member Organisation • Be at least 21 years of age on the date of the elections • Enjoy full civic rights of the country to which he belongs • Be able to understand and speak English <p>Canada request to withdraw motion</p>
Decision(s)	Motion withdrawn

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to add 6.8.2 It is desirable that the candidate for various Commissions have specific professional knowledge or criteria as follows:</p> <p>NEW: Refereeing Commission a candidate must be or have been an IWAS referee in at least two weapons during the two years preceding his candidature, or already be a member of the Refereeing Commission (if he is already a referee).</p> <p>NEW: SEMI Commission – have a college degree in engineering or science or is practising as an engineer.</p> <p>NEW: Sports Commission a candidate must have at least two years' experience of organisation and development of competitions.</p> <p>NEW: Medical Commission – have completed the educational requirements for being a Medical Doctor, physiotherapist or an International classifier for the last two years.</p> <p>AMV asked to clarify that as there is not a separate commission for Classifiers; would this be included in the Medical Commission? MS advised that in this new proposed list the Classifiers Commission is missing. Confirming that it is different from the Medical Commission. FRA advised it was his understanding that classifiers are considered International Technical Delegates. CAN confirmed their understanding was that Classifiers would be included in the Medical Commission. Agreeing that if it needed to be amended she would be happy for this. GBR asked for clarification as it appeared that the current WCF bylaws contained inconsistent terminology. For example, in the Permanent Commissions a 'Medical Commission' is mentioned. Although when this commission is explained it is referred to as a 'Classification Commission' despite the fact the bylaws are discussing the same commission. CAN agreed with the inconsistency and that was why had brought forward the motion for the member nations to agree what the commission should be called.</p> <p>HKG asked was it necessary that these requirements have to be stated. It is obvious that everyone would want the correct candidate to take on the role but this would be determined during the interview process. POL agreed with HKG and feels that this would over complicate issues. He felt that the elected EC should be able to agree the best candidate for the role. CAN replied by stating she felt this was not complicating things but offering security to the athletes and sport. IND added that he felt again that the responsibility should be with the member nations and who they nominate for each of the roles and then for the elected EC to select the most appropriate.</p>
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	<p>POL suggested that some commissions required more conditions and some less. Ideally it should be the newly elected EC that decide and put forward for the next Sport Assembly. CAN explained her concern is that currently some of these commission only seem to appear on paper and no one is active in the roles.</p> <p>IND added that he felt the point being made was that the current commissions are not functioning effectively and this needs to be considered.</p> <p>CAN (Donald Royer) suggested that the motion is deposited until the next Sport Assembly so can be reviewed in more detail with a more clear recommendation.</p> <p>HKG agreed with IND and CAN that this should be discussed by the new EC.</p>
Decision(s)	Moved by Canada, seconded by Great Britain Motion deposited
Action(s)	Motion needs to be discussed by IWF Executive Committee

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to deposit the motions 6.8.2 to 6.8.15</p> <p>GBR asked to clarify would this mean the motions would be dealt with immediately by the new EC. Or when the new EC decide for them to be dealt with.</p> <p>KVN confirmed it would be when the new EC wish to deal with them.</p>
Decision(s)	Moved by Canada, seconded by USA One no One abstention Motion approved
Action(s)	Motions 6.8.2 to 6.8.15 to be reviewed by the newly elected EC and reported back to the member nations.

4.4

Discussion	Canada moved that proposed motions 7.3.1 to 7.3.8.5 are dealt with by the newly elected EC.
Decision(s)	Motions withdrawn
Action(s)	Motions 7.3.1 to 7.3.8.5 are to be dealt with by the newly elected EC.

4.5

Discussion	<p>Motion from Canada to amend 8. Operational Regulations Officers</p> <p>Any of the following positions mentioned in chapter 6 shall be automatically vacated under the following conditions:</p> <p>NEW: In the event of any of the following conditions, the officer will be replaced by the Chairman of the IW FEC with the candidate who had not been elected but had received the greatest number of votes at the Sport Assembly.</p>
Decision(s)	Moved by Canada, seconded by GBR No discussion One no Three abstentions Motion approved
Action(s)	IWF Bylaws to be updated

4.6

Discussion	<p>Motion from Germany that bids for IWAS World Cups and Grand Prix's of already existing organisers should be allowed to be entered and to be granted for a period up to four years.</p> <p>HKG agreed with the motion but suggested that the word 'should' be changed to 'would'. GER was happy to accept amendment</p>
Decision(s)	Motion from Germany, seconded by France One abstention Motion approved
Action(s)	Update needs to be done

4.7

Discussion	<p>Motion from Germany that bids for IWF World Cups should be allowed to enter and to be granted with an approval by IW FEC earlier than in the year before the World Cup.</p> <p>CAN agreed with the motion but advised that the current rules states the calendar should be</p>
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	approved and sent out by the 3 rd of June the previous year.
Decision(s)	Motion from Germany, seconded by France One no One abstention Motion approved
Action(s)	

4.8

Discussion	<p>Motion from Germany that referees for World Championships have to be selected and nominated by Referee Commission of IW FEC.</p> <p>CAN asked GER to add for the Paralympic Games also. AMV advised that the Paralympic Games are determined by the IPC, proposals can be made to them but the final division is theirs.</p> <p>HKG suggested adding to the motion that referees should be nominated by the Referee Commission and approved by the IW FEC.</p> <p>GER advised that there is a very similar motion from the Referees Commission and request their own motion to be withdrawn.</p>
Decision(s)	Motion withdrawn

4.9

Discussion	<p>Motion from Russia who suggest adding a new wheelchair fencing discipline – women sabre – 36 months prior the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro 2016.</p> <p>GBR advised although they were keen to support additional female competition she wanted to know what would be the impact on the other medal competitions. AMV confirmed that the IPC request to know how many athletes and nations participate in various events. Currently there are not many that compete in women sabre. HUN agreed women's and category C events should be supported, but it will obviously have an effect on the medal events at Rio. Stating that first it should be promoted at National level and then lobbied for.</p> <p>AMV confirmed that this is not a decision for IWAS and WCF, but there is now ranking for the event.</p> <p>USA asked if this is approved whose responsibility it would be to carry this forward. MS confirmed the power is in the nations, a strong lobby by increasing the entries and collecting the data. Adding that for the summer Paralympic Games programme it is a competition between disciplines, for Women's Sabre to be included, another event would be lost. So first the event must grow.</p> <p>HKG stated it was his understanding that all athlete numbers and medal events for Rio were now fixed. Suggested instead to make a friendly amendment to this motion that all nations should encourage to include Sabre Women.</p> <p>POL agreed with this point adding that the newly elected EC should also help promote the discipline by requesting the events be included in competitions. RUS agreed to include motion 4.10 with this motion.</p>
Decision(s)	<p>Motion from Russia, seconded by Poland With friendly amendment to include that IW FEC will encourage Nations and Organising Committee to promote these events (Women's Sabre, Men's Foil and Epee Category C). Motion approved unanimously</p>
Action(s)	Update to be recorded

4.10

Discussion	<p>Motion from Russia who suggest adding a new wheelchair fencing discipline – men foil and epee Category C – 36 months prior to the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.</p> <p>RUS agreed to accept friendly amendment from HKG in motion 4.9 for this motion also.</p>
Decision(s)	See 4.9

4.11

Discussion	Motion from Russia suggesting publishing the official international events calendar for the forthcoming year no later than October of the current year.
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	CAN advised that since the rules state the calendar should be approved by the 1 st June it would take no longer than a month to prepare so could therefore be published 1 st September. RUS agreed the earlier the better. AMV confirmed motion for amendment to date, approved unanimously
Decision(s)	Motion from Russia, seconded Germany Motion approved unanimously
Action(s)	

4.12

Discussion	Motion from Russia suggesting publishing the World Cup Winners of the year no later than December of the current year. AMV confirmed that currently there are no rules on this matter although this is all completed automatically via the website system.
Decision(s)	Motion from Russia, seconded by Canada Motion approved unanimously
Action(s)	

4.13

Discussion	Motion from Russia suggesting allowing women of Category C to fence together with men Category C at the official international tournaments till that moment when they could be separated. GER understood competitions could be run better with more athletes in the same discipline and would be an opportunity to promote, but felt that it would not provide a professional view by combining the two. HUN agreed with the motion as felt it would help promote women's category C. POL advised to clarify that the motion was not to agree a new category of men and women to be combined. Only that should it be required then women can compete with men. IND agreed it would help promote the implication of category C. GER added that this is fine in some circumstances but for higher levels of competition the presentation of the sport needs to be considered. POL added that it would be a long time before category C would be included in the Paralympic Games so still agreed would be a good development opportunity. HUN suggested that this should only be the case for World Cups and not World Championships or Regional Championships. CAN suggested recommending to coaches and classifiers if women can fight with men.
Decision(s)	Motion from Russia, seconded by USA One no Six abstentions Motion approved
Action(s)	

4.14

Discussion	Motion from IW FEC Referee Commission that Zonal and World Championships official IWAS Referees will be nominated by the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (IWF) Referee Commission. AMV confirmed that the friendly amendment would state at the end 'and approved by IW FEC'. And instead of Zonal it would be Regional.
Decision(s)	Motion from IW FEC, seconded by Germany One abstention Motion approved
Action(s)	

5.0 Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

Discussion	AMV confirmed included in his report. The new EC will discuss with the IPC. CAN asked why the number of athletes for Rio were only 88 compared to 105 for London. AMV confirmed the initial proposal from the IPC for London was also 88 and this was increased. He went onto confirm that the EC will make a proposal to the IPC to have this number increased. GBR asked if it was known what the 2 team events were. AMV confirmed not known.
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6.0 Calendar 2014 to 2018

Discussion	AMV confirmed 'draft' calendar – see appendix 2 HKG gave presentation for the Hong Kong Grand Prix, December 2013
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7.0 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Elections

Discussion	KVN advised the nations that the nomination for Pal Szekeres (PS) was received two days past the final date. Asked the nations to consider accepting the later nomination. PS apologised to the nations for this, but explained there had been a delay receiving confirmation from his member organisation completing his letter of support.
Decision(s)	Motion from France to accept late nomination, seconded by Hong Kong One abstention Motion approved
Action(s)	PS added to the voting role

Discussion	Motion from Canada to accept the tellers to count the votes, Mr Bob Paterson and Mr Stig Person.
Decision(s)	Motion from Canada, seconded by Hong Kong Motion approved unanimously
Action(s)	Votes to be counted by Mr Bob Paterson and Mr Stig Person.

Discussion	KVN confirmed that each candidate had the opportunity to give a 2 minutes presentation before the nations voted. Election of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Chairman Three nominations Mr Alberto Martinez Vassallo (ESP), Ms Gabriela Mayer (CAN), Mr Jakub Nowicki (POL).
Decision(s)	KVN confirmed that 11 (50%+1) votes were required to be re-elected. If no-one has 11 votes a revote would happen with the person with the lowest votes dropped out. Round One votes Martinez – 4 votes Mayer – 8 votes Nowicki – 8 votes Round Two votes Mayer – 7 votes Nowicki – 12 votes (Martinez – 1 vote which is void as not in the second round) Mr Jakub Nowicki is elected

Discussion	Motion from Hong Kong to officially thank Mr Alberto Martinez Vassallo for all of his hard work over the past 20 years as chairman for Wheelchair Fencing.
Decision(s)	Motion from Hong Kong, seconded by Canada Motion approved unanimously
Action(s)	

Discussion	Election of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Secretary General Two nominations Mr Udo Ziegler (GER), Ms Gabriela Mayer (CAN).
Decision(s)	BP confirmed that 11 votes were required to be elected. Mayer – 9 votes Ziegler – 11 votes Mr Udo Ziegler is elected
Action(s)	

Discussion	Elections of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Member at Large KVN confirmed it will be the 5 nominees with the highest votes that are elected. And following the new change in the bylaws the 6 th nominee would be the first reserve. Seven nominees Gabriela Mayer (CAN), Jonathon Moss (USA), Giampiero Pastore (ITA), Hilary Phibin (GBR),
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	Nelson Tai (HKG), Pal Szekeres (HUN). Nomination from Udo Ziegler removed as elected SG.
Decision(s)	<p>Round One votes</p> <p>Mayer – 15votes – elected</p> <p>Moss – 11votes</p> <p>Pastore – 11votes</p> <p>Philbin – 15votes – elected</p> <p>Tai – 15votes – elected</p> <p>Szekeres – 11votes</p> <p>Round Two votes (up to 2 crosses)</p> <p>Moss – 9 votes (first reserve)</p> <p>Pastore – 12 votes – elected</p> <p>Szekeres – 12 votes – elected</p>
Action(s)	

Closing remarks and any other business

Discussion	KVN asked for any other business – there was none.
Decision(s)	<p>Motion from Canada to officially close the meeting, seconded by Austria</p> <p>Motion approved unanimously</p>
Action(s)	KVN officially closed the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly 2013.