



## ***Region EC Wakeboard Boat Council***

### **EC Wakeboard Boat Council Meeting Minutes – Athens, 30/31 March 2023**

**Present:** Nuno Eca (POR), Linda Johnston (IRE), Colin Hart (GBR), Stefano Duranti (ITA),

1. Nuno welcomed all members to the EC Council meeting in Athens.

**Apologies:** Maria Bulgakova (UKR), Paul Johnston (IRE), Alexey Philippov (RUS) AP still has no permit of residence after more than one year since he first asked for it and is unable to travel outside Portugal, although he continues to report back to NE on his responsibilities and is very eager to be able to have the opportunity to travel again and join our meetings.

PJ - It has been agreed that the athletes' representative is not required to attend all meetings, 1 year, that can be rotating, so the representative understands the structure and meets the different people involved in our sport (other council members, federations, etc)

MB – this is the 4<sup>th</sup> absence in a row from our meetings. Travel is complicated and this is understood given the circumstances in Ukraine. However, this has also made it difficult for Maria to be engaged in any activity concerning Wakeboard. NE stated that Wakesurf must be a priority for MB which is not only totally understandable but also very necessary. As the Chair of both the European and the World Wakesurf committees, MB has the responsibility to grow Wakesurf and to take this opportunity to develop European and World Championships, which will take a lot of time.

MB has been a member of the Wakeboard Boat Council for many years and has made a significant contribution, however, with this new responsibility and the need to focus on the development of Wakesurf, there is concern that to do both is asking a lot of 1 person.

NE proposed that he will write to MB inviting her to fully transfer to Wakesurf where her time commitment is required. We will continue to invite MB to all international Wakeboard events in her capacity as an official.

Theodosis Dimopoulos (GRE) will join the Council meeting today as he will become a co-opted member of Council replacing Nicolas Subjobert, who resigned last year.

Further additional Council members are being considered for taking vacant positions in our council.

### **2. Conflict of Interests**

None were declared

**3. Minutes** of the last meeting in Turkey, February 2022, were approved.

#### **4. Admincom**

There was a discussion at the last Admincom meeting regarding our council composition, where we have a member from Ukraine and one other from Russia. We were given the opportunity, if necessary, to coopt 2 extra members, due to the inactivity of some members due to the war.

Medals – new medals have been selected by Admincom, that will allow for using any medals that are not given in a determined year.

2024 is election year for Admincom positions and if any members of Wakeboard Boat council are being considered for positions the EC will fully support their election.

#### **5. Administration**

All claims for previous events all have been completed and paid.

Invitations for the officials' panels will be issued as soon as the final dates have been agreed for 2023 events.

#### **6. 2023 Officials Seminars**

- 31 March to 2 April 2023 in Athens, Greece.

24 participants have registered - 7 drivers, 4 scorers and 13 judges

All preparations are in place, and we hope for a successful seminar

The Driving seminar will be tutored by Nuno and Buby Caimi

Drivers will sit a theory exam and will be practically assessed at the seminar and then the top 2/3 will be invited to an international event to drive at official familiarisation where they can be formally qualified at an international level.

SD has drawn up a draft contract for the seminar to be signed by the EC and the host Federation.

- The seminar over the weekend will be filmed for editing and uploading for on-line seminars

- The online platform will be pursued. Seminars can continue to be accommodated for National level seminars to the level of 3\* National chief judge

The Irish Federation has made a bid to host a seminar later in 2023 to make use of available funding. Contact will be made with the Chair to arrange a suitable date when the date of the World Championships has been agreed.

#### **7. Events**

- 2023 Europe & Africa Championships

Work continues with the proposal to hold the E&A Championships in Belgium in 2023. Confirmation has been requested as a matter of urgency from the organiser- a meeting with the local water authority will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. A decision will be made by the end of next week 7<sup>th</sup> April. LJ has kept the Belgian Federation updated with progress. When the outcome is known a communication will be sent to all Federations.

- 2023 European Malibu Tour Stops - proposed venues -

Cologne, Germany – 24<sup>th</sup> July

Lake Geneva, Switzerland

Club La Baietta, Sicily – end September - tbc

- 2023 World Championships

The Intention remains to hold the event in 2023 in Thailand in December 2023, or in Mexico in October/ November 2023.

A communication will be issued from the IWWF to inform Federations.

- 2023 Mediterranean Games – 3 to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Greece.

All Federations in the Mediterranean will need to be encouraged to make the entries through their National Olympic Committee. SD is working on this across Federations to promote the event. The rules for the wakeboard event were clarified with the Chair of the Mediterranean Games Committee.

## **8. Business**

- Budget for 2023 – updated has been requested from Dominique

- Sponsorship strategy – following discussion around the elements of this TD will work with CH on this strategy, including a list of all the services and products we should be able to deliver, in order to create different packages for potential sponsors  
Timescale for a draft end of April

- Malibu Contract

The Malibu contract is still with the US team for signature for a long time, it is hoped that this can be addressed as soon as possible. Mark Mulholland is seeking to finalize the contract, unfortunately this is not yet formally in place. We will further push this to be dealt with as soon as possible.

## **9. 2023 Rules**

The amendments to the wording of the rules for 2023 will be presented to the World Council for agreement by NE within the next 2/3 weeks.

The options for different formats will be written for the next update – NE

## **10. Communication**

LJ and NE will prepare a news item with information regarding the events for 2023

## **11. Social Media / PR**

This is now combined with the business remit, so a new list of areas will be presented by NE with the person in charge.

TD will work with CH on these development areas and together they will reach out to riders and Federations who can support social media development

Season strategy – upcoming events / results / lifestyle of riders

Off season strategy – communication regarding council members, seminars, awards, etc

We will need 2 documents: a guideline to help define what we pretend all involved to do and that explains our needs in terms production of content, in order to achieve consistent and coherent content and a template, to be filled by all participants, that will make it a lot easier to achieve the consistency on all our posts.

Agreed by 30<sup>th</sup> April a draft version will be shared with Council – CH & TD

## **12. Federations**

SD will provide an update on the Federation database by the end of next week. The Federation contacts will be shared with LJ for communication.

## **13. Legal**

Nothing to report.

## **14. Athletes Report**

Nothing to report.

## **15. IT/ Website**

NE shared the strategy and the division of workload in Council

Website development is an area we still need to focus and have operational.

TD shared work that he had completed previously for the Greek wakeboard community and agreed to take on responsibility to help AP for the website creation. We also considered the Wakeboard UK website, and we will seek to have some help from Jeremy Nevill to further develop the structure of our website.

Live streaming materials – NE is sourcing the items required to enable us to manage live streaming ourselves. Purchase has already been agreed.

Judging App – work is ongoing with students working for the council through a college project to develop a new scoring program and the integration of the scoring from the judges in the boat using a mobile device.

Stage 1 judges input scores - scorer to monitor / control

Stage 2 use a judging app to write the run by clicks of the app with trick details

Stage 3 the goal is to create a database of runs using the app. This will provide the ability to predict the next trick of the rider using AI.

## **16. EMS**

There has been a significant improvement in the using of the EMS by Federations.

There are a few issues arising as we continue to use the system and need to develop it further.

The current 2023 Ranking list – does not take into account the points achieved by riders in 2022. According to our rules it should carry these points forward.

Agreed to send an Email to Peter Frei –

1. To request the points from 2022 to count towards 60% for riders in 2023
2. A correction is required to the ranking rules 2\* events have a co-efficient of 2 rather than 3 and this needs to be applied to all events since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023
3. The download export file from EMS of all the riders for an event should also download the rider ranking
4. The riders that transfer divisions should be ranked according to the ranking rules
5. Heat system changes required will need to be requested.
6. To request an entry limit on each of the categories to assist the event organizers. (This was a request by the Austrian Federation, in order to encourage younger ages participation and limiting O30, O40 and O50 to overlimit the event max capacity

### **17. Relations with other Disciplines**

There has been a delay with the contract to produce the new software for the cable council. The first deadline, according to the contract was end of March, now it has been moved to end of April – we await an update on progress, but in the meantime, we will develop our own system, to make sure we have a development that fills our needs.

### **18. Coaching / Schools**

There isn't much development at this stage for the coaching development. NE will produce a document defining the proposed levels of coaches and schools, by the end of April.