



SECRETARY GENERAL REPORT – Europe Confederation Meeting – November 2022

Since the beginning of the year, eight virtual Bureau Meetings were held dealing with a range of issues. Two Executive Board Meetings were also held with the recent one just two weeks ago.

In addition, a number of resolutions were taken through six Postal Ballots votes.

A list of the main topics that have crossed my desk are listed below:

- Freddie Winter disciplinary action and the various issues that ensued. This is still an ongoing issue and we expect a resolution before the end of the year. Our bylaws and internal procedures are currently under review to adequately respond to these situations.
- Athletes and official requests to change federations following the Russia / Belarus / Ukraine conflict.
- Review of the IWWF Safety Manual (available on the web).
- Tidy up a number of IWWF documents (Concussion protocol, Hospitality guidelines, Eligibility Rules, etc..)
- Have set up initial discussions with Bird and Bird in the UK to assist us with any legal matters.
- Various exchanges of correspondence with the IWWF Councils and the various Confederations.
- Virtual meeting with the IOC. This is an annual meeting and inclusion in future Olympic Games is unlikely for our sport. We are however pushing for inclusion in the 2026 YOG in Dakar.
- Monitoring the issues involving Russia / Belarus / Ukraine athletes / officials and international sport participations. As you all know, in March we decided to follow the IOC recommendation to suspend athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus from participating in any of our sanctioned events. This suspension is still in full force across all our sport disciplines.

We had a few setbacks in terms of participation in multi-sport events: our sport will not be considered as part of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028. ANOC (Association of National Olympic Committees) announced that waterski will not be included in Beach Games in Bali 2023. In addition, we will not participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games in El Salvador 2023 and the scheduled FISU championships in Minsk Belarus were cancelled by FISU following the IOC recommendations on Russia and Belarus because of the invasion to Ukraine.

Despite that, the World Games in Birmingham were a great success for our sport (both in Waterski and Wakeboard). Saturday's finals were sold out thanks to the large number of supporters in the area. We are well positioned to continue to be an important part of the World Games where we are looking to get more disciplines invited. The Sud-American Games held in Asunción, Paraguay were also a great success. The IWWF 2-Tower Cable Wakeboard World Cup recently held in Aarhus, Denmark was also a great event (<https://youtu.be/ktTBj1mKUtl>)

We are also set to participate next year in the Mediterranean Beach Games in Greece and the Pan American Games in Santiago de Chile

The calendar for IWWF events for 2023 and 2024 is pretty busy and we are looking for an exciting season ahead of us. A summary can be found on the IWWF webpage at <https://iwwf.sport/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/IWWF-World-Titled-Events-2022-to-2024-PF271022.pdf>

We are also looking at how and when we could possibly have a face-to-face Executive Board Meeting which is long overdue. Initial discussions indicate that it could be held in the Middle East toward the end of Q1 2023.

Louis Polomé
Secretary General