

## **ADMINCOM MINUTES - Friday 02/02/2024, Paris**

### **0. Practical things.**

Meeting started 14.17 hr.

Patrice welcomes everybody.

Thursday evening : the Moulin Rouge was great.

Friday : official aperitif invitation of the FFSNW with some local politicians invited.

Dinner is free to go, nothing is organized.

Saturday : Congress starts at 9.00 am. Lunch will be buffet style in the restaurant.

Be ready at 17.45 hr. for the bus to go to the boat for a dinner cruise on the Seine.

Lunch on Sunday, needs to be known upfront as normally the restaurant is not open.

Rules harmonization meeting between the two Wakeboard and the Wakesurf groups, still needs to be done. The group still needs to find a time to do this. Maybe tonight after the aperitif.

### **List of presence, absence, apologies.**

#### Present :

= Board member	The President	Patrice Martin
= Board member	The Secr-Gen	Sid Adriaensen
= Board member	The Treasurer	Dominique Lakens Douwes
= Supervisory Board member (Vice-Pres)		Andy Harris
= Supervisory Board member		Morten Froulund
= Supervisory Board member		Ivar Fosse
= Supervisory Board member		Stefano Duranti
= Barefoot Council representative		Ludo Vrancx
= Cableski Council representative		Marie-Anne Persoons
= Disabled Council representative		Dany De Bakker
= Racing Council representative		Chris Rydl
= Wakeboard Boat Council representative		Linda Johnston
= Wakeboard Cable Council representative		Varna Laco
= Waterski Council representative		Gavin Kelly

#### Guests :

= José Antonio Pérez Priego	IWWF President
= Louis Polome	IWWF Secretary-General
= Peter Frei	IWWF Treasurer
= Maria Bulgakova	IWWF Chair Wakesurf Council
= Howard Ramsden	Representative of the African Confederation
= Gill Hill	President's Advisor

#### Apologies :

= Richard Hernaez  
= Nuno d'Eca

## **1. Approval of the minutes of the November 23 Admincom meeting.**

One written remark by Dany De Bakker.

Dany was present at our November meeting as the representative of the Disabled Council.

Ivar Fosse was also present at the November meeting, but only as a Supervisory Board member.

Gavin would prefer the word “disaster” to be replaced by “challenging” in the following paragraph :  
*This year waterski had four good titled events. Two were in FRA, very close to each other.  
One was perfect technically, the other was a disaster, with none of the technical stuff really working ;  
this is no longer acceptable.*

Gavin also would like the minutes to be reviewed by all the Admincom members, before being published to everybody. **No decision taken on this.** Actually the President reviews the minutes before distribution and we don't want to take too long between the meeting and publication of the minutes.

No other remarks, the minutes are approved without further dissent.

## **2. Approval of Board decisions and recommendations.**

### **2.1 Future meetings.**

#### **Spring 2024 - Admincom, Castelldefels, ESP**

= 17/05	Friday	P.m.	Arrival of the Board
= 18/05	Saturday	09.00 h	Board meeting
		14-19 h	Admincom
= 19/05	Sunday	09-19 h	Admincom
= 20/05	Monday	09-11 h	Admincom (lunchtime latest)

Hotel : Ciudad de Castelldefels.

Single room 115,85 €/night.

Double room 148,30 €/night.

Parking 14,52 €/day.

From the airport to the hotel : by train or by taxi ( ± 30 €.).

Cheap restaurants nearby within walking distance.

The Spanish Federation invites the Admincom one evening for dinner.

Do we need the Monday morning ?

As there will be a new Secretary-General, we may need more time to get ourselves organized.

*(Note : Meanwhile the Board has decided that the Admincom members need to be able to be present till Sunday 18.00 h minimum).*

RAC is having the European Cup in AUT that weekend but will have a Council representative present at the meeting.

One weekend later is the GP Formula 1 near Barcelona, so hotels would be more expensive.

Ivar also has a special holiday on 17th, so may not be able to join.

### **November 2024 - Frankfurt, GER**

= 08/11	Friday	p.m.	Arrival of the Board & Councils
= 09/11	Saturday	09.00 h	Board meeting, followed by Council visits
		09-18 h	All Councils
= 10/11	Sunday	09.00 h	Board Council visits (continued)
		09-13 h	Councils ( <i>except racing</i> )
		15-18 h	Admincom
= 11/11	Monday	09-18 h	Admincom
= 12/11	Tuesday	09-11 h	Admincom (lunchtime latest)

Hotel : Linder Sport, close to the Frankfurt international airport.

Meeting rooms for free in the German NOC building within walking distance.

Which leaves a budget for financial assistance with the hotel rooms at 20 € per night per person.

Single room 154 €/night minus 20 = 134 €.

Double room 185 €/night minus (2 x 20) = 145 € or 72,50 €/person.

### **February 2025 - Congress, Rotterdam, NED**

= 30/01	Thursday	p.m.	Arrival of Board & some Council members
= 31/01	Friday	09.00 h	Board meeting
		09-18 h	Some Council meetings (TBC)
		15-19 h	Admincom
= 01/02	Saturday	09.00 h	Congress
		Plus	After the Congress – Admincom (if necessary)
= 03/02	Sunday	08-09 h	Mediterranean sub-confederation (TBC)
		09-13 h	All Councils (TBC)

Delta Hotel, Vlaardingen, near Rotterdam.

Single or Double room = 137,50 € + 5,00 € tourist tax pp.

Nearby airports : Schiphol (Amsterdam) and Rotterdam (The Hague) airport.

Friday night we will visit and old city nearby for some food and drinks.

On Saturday the Board of the NWWB invites you for a dinner cruise in Rotterdam harbour.

The Admincom had its 2023 spring meeting at that place and approved this bid.

We are still looking for a venue for our 2025 Spring Admincom meeting.

It has been a long time since we were in one of the Scandinavian countries.

Patrice will try to get contacts during the weekend.

For the 2025 November meetings, Italy could be a good place.

### **Future 2026 - Congress, Stansted, GBR**

= 05/02	Thursday	p.m.	Arrival of Board & some Council members
= 06/02	Friday	09.00 h	Board meeting
		09-18 h	Some Council meetings (TBC)
		15-19 h	Admincom
= 07/02	Saturday	09.00 h	Congress
			Lunchbreak Council meetings (after elections !)
		Plus	After the Congress – Admincom (if necessary)
= 08/02	Sunday	08-09 h	Mediterranean sub-confederation (TBC)
		09-13 h	All Councils

Radisson Blu Hotel at the Stansted airport.

Single room 125 £/night -- exchange rate with the Euro can fluctuate.

Double room 135 £/night -- exchange rate with the Euro can fluctuate.

Occasion is the 75th anniversary of British waterski and wakeboard.

Bid still to be confirmed by Congress (*Note : done at the Paris Congress*).

### **2.2 The Board met earlier today, and might have some (urgent) items to be dealt with.**

Most items come in later on the agenda.

## **3. Finances.**

### **3.1 All documents but the new budget are on our Congress website – any remarks ?**

= Balance and Profit/Loss accounts (Dominique).

= Compilation report by the Professional Auditor (Sven Van de Velde).

= Report by the Honorary Auditor (Alain Amade).

More expenses as Councils have spent more, which they were entitled to because of carry over budgets from previous years.

Open invoices at 30/11/2023 about 73.000€. Most has been paid meanwhile, only 15k € still open.

Doping control, seems to work OK, income and expenditures in balance.

Medal expenses to be checked. Not 17.637 € ; it should be rather about 9k and another 7k for 2024, which was only invoiced last week.

AOY and watches should not be included.

Dominique thought that the 17k was for both the 2023 and the 2024 medals, but finally was not done till we agreed that the new medals were OK.

Dominique checks with the bookkeeper and indeed, the costs do include some 2022 expenses, as well as the AOY trophies and watches – which results in the 17k € final amount.

So, confirmed that the real costs of the medals for 2023 was only about 9.000 €.

### **3.2 Approval of the 2023-2024 budget.**

See document as presented at the Congress.

Some legal costs as result of the move of the IWWF from GBR to SUI to be budgeted as this move, will necessitate some changes to our Articles of Association.

An extra expenditures budget has been requested by the Waterski Council.

Additional funding for their council is requested as they are indeed generating a lot more income compared to other councils (72% of the competitions listed in EMS are waterski (Cable Wakeboard is not yet included in EMS).

The Council would like more budget for e.g. travel money for officials to go to titled events.

It is believed that reimbursement of travel would help to get more officials coming. In addition the Council feels that its members should not have to pay their travel after all the work they do.

Shortage on the Waterski Council budget is in the area of 45k.

Gavin is explaining why they need all this. If however we are going towards the proposal as made by the Waterski council, it will not take long until the Confederation is bankrupt as other councils will start asking similar budgets!!!

The Board puts the following points to the Admincom for consideration :

*Whatever gets decided : the same system ought to apply to all divisions.*

*Ideas and suggestions:*

\* *Cablewakeboard charges 40 €/competitor towards the officials travel.*

*Waterski charges only 20 €. By doubling this to 40 € the Council would gain 8.200 €.*

\* *Webcast Pro events costs 6.500 €. Pro events ought to bring in money instead of costing.*

\* *Site inspection : to be charged to the potential organizer.*

\* *Raising the income from the homologation fees.*

\* *Seminar meeting room : usually we can get meeting rooms for free because of the number of guests at the hotel. If not : charge the participants a bit.*

Agreed that the yearly 3.000 € basic grant has been there for some time and that Waterski may be allowed to get more as they are indeed generating more income. Waterski agrees that what they are asking is the optimal scenario but that this may not be feasible.

Outcome of the discussion, the 3k basic budget, which is the amount for a long time already, will be reviewed. Other potential sources of income or different income systems, need to be considered and looked at by the Council. Cable Wakeboard and Wakeboard Boat do indeed have a lot more extra income compared to the number of competitions Waterski is organizing.

Could someone in charge of sponsoring (in the IWWF ?) help to generate income ?

### **3.3 Appointment of the Professional and Honorary auditor for the 2023-2024 financial year.**

Sven Van De Velde will remain our Professional Auditor.

Alain Amade would like to quit as Honorary auditor. In the group nobody is immediately putting himself forward, so this will be asked again at the Congress.

### **3.4 Appointment of the Financial Committee for the 2023-2024 financial year.**

According to our Articles of Association this is an item that needs to get mentioned in the Congress minutes. The Financial Committee consists of the Professional and the Honorary Auditor.

This is a Congress issue, depending on the outcome of who will become the Honorary Auditor.

## **4. Preparation of tomorrow's Congress.**

### **4.1 Chairperson.**

The Admincom will propose Andy Harris.

### **4.2 Lists of deceased, apologies, special guests, honorary members present, etc.**

The meeting reviews the list and will add/modify during Congress as people show up.

### **4.3 Appointment of scrutineers.**

To show complete impartiality :

Karen McClintock (Panam Confederation) & Louis Polome (African Confederation).

### **4.4 Elections – list of candidates – procedure.**

- = Only one round (speeding up things ; all candidates go for only one position).
- = Sid has prepared voting slips which will indicate the number of votes each full federation has.
- = The scrutineers to check the number of votes on each voting slip when handing them out.
- = As explained by Sid, Article 23 under the new Articles of Association requires that you need more than 50% of the expressed votes to get elected.

Gavin does express his disappointment that there are no new names on the list, meaning no new people are entering. This is indeed understood, the issue is believed to be a combination, of cost, travel and time.

### **4.5 Verification of list of Titled Events 2024 & beyond.**

This is an internal Admincom work document which is under constant review.

The latest update is used for our office website calendar.

The official calendar is shown in the EMS.

#### Some notes :

2024 Cable Worlds : JAPP is looking for AUS - Sydney site.

Having the BLR team allowed to participate would be a great added value for this competition.

2024 E&A Racing : the intention to bid from Eguzon will not go forward.

RAC has a potential alternative in AUT, but the cost could be close to 40k just to get the water. Still looking for other possibilities and also looking for solutions regarding the insurance of the participants (especially GBR).

The University Championships will not get organized anymore under the FISU umbrella.

NZL is interested for waterski (3 event) only. Site will be downtown Auckland NZL.

Still need to work out the details on setting rules.

The 2025 Waterski U21 Worlds and European Open are on the same weekend.

If possible this should be reviewed.

The 2025 Waterski Open Worlds. JAPP still looking for hosts, either the 'old' or the 'new' model. Mulwala (AUS) and Chicago (USA) are potentials. JAPP however would prefer to go to Europe.

World Games in Chengdu, CHN, 7-17 August 2025.

Wake Cable, Wakesurf and Wake Boat. Looking also to add Cable 3-event.

No boats on fossil energy are allowed on the lake. Electric wake boat !

The cable installation still has to be installed.

#### **4.6 List of presentations.**

One new Honorary Member – Francine Lion. As she has been presented by the Waterski Council, Candido Moz will do the presentation.

AOY 2023 : Giannina Bonnemann (GER) and Joel Poland (GBR) – both from Waterski

#### **4.7 Remarks to any of the documents shown on our Congress website ?**

All documents are on the website.

Safe Sport will be dealt with by Karen McClintock – as part of AOB.

Other items under AOB will be Wakesurf and Show Ski.

= Wakesurf becoming a Council : which federations are willing to send someone ?

= Show Ski becoming a commission : same question.

New presentations, not already on Sid's laptop, need first to get technically checked by Morten who will show them.

## **5. A.O.B.**

### **5.01 Medals – plates - AOY Trophies - AOY Presents.**

There will be more medals for 2024 as we will have also the DIS Championships and the postponed 2023 CAB juniors amongst others.

The not used 2023 medals for Cableski will probably be used in 2025.

Lanyards will be maroon instead of blue to indicate another year.

Wording (water ski (two words, now one word) has been corrected on the medals as well.

Dominique has brought the plates and distributes them amongst the Councils depending on the number of E&A Titled Event they have this year.

Sid has brought EC flags and distributes them amongst the Councils depending on the number of E&A Titled Event they have this year.

AOY trophies, new design proposed by Varna, looks good and is a little cheaper than what we pay now. Agreed to continue with the new design.

The Secretary-General to thank Franz Kuhn for his involvement over the years.

Watches for the overall AOY will be done again. Dominique will check if one of them has been AOY in the recent past, if so, she will organize something else.

### **5.02 The EC Wakesurf Committee becoming a Council ?**

We did invite Maria Bulgakova (IWWF & EC Wakesurf Chair) to attend this Admincom meeting. Our position : first committee, then Council ; first Council then EC Championships. See also guideline 12 – Councils & Commissions.

If Wakesurf (or Show Ski )becomes a council, we will have to change Bye-Law 1.3.

Members of a Commission or Council need to be confirmed officially by the person's federation.

At this moment the Commission consists of Maria and two members.

The Italian member (Simona) will be replaced by Morema Gotti.

It is believed that there were more Wakesurf events than what has been recorded on EMS as not all competition have been submitted. It is felt by Maria that the sport is growing continuously. Several events though were just on national basis only.

Looking at having a Europeans, hopefully together with Wakeboard Boat.

Maria will organize an international seminar, to make sure everybody understands how competitions are being held.

The Committee is working similar to a Council.

Should we make some sort of transfer system, and give the committee more means, e.g. a small budget ? At present Wakesurf does not yet meet the requirements to become a Council (minimum eight countries and 60 athletes participating in a demonstration event).

We need to make sure this is solid activity and continues. The worlds will show how far they are. Admincom has to submit a proposal to become a Council to the Congress.

The sentiment at present is more in favour to have Wakesurf stay at least one more year as a commission, and help them to prepare meeting the criteria.

### **5.03 An EC Show Ski Commission ?**

EC does not yet have a Show Ski commission. Lieven Hardy BEL, who is part of the IWWF Show Ski Council, asked to become a Commission. However so far we only know from two countries (BEL and GER) to be interested in forming a council. To be checked at Congress.

We will communicate this back to Lieven, so he needs to do more homework.

### **5.04 Any evolution in the stance of the IWWF regarding BLR/RUS ?**

No changes since August 2023.

Participation of officials and athletes is allowed under the IWWF flag for non-titled events.

Applications need to go via IWWF. Participants need to sign that they are not supporting the war.

What happened at the Waterski Open worlds, where skiers participated as USA but on the podium where not with the USA flag ?

IWWF automatically put you as member of the new federation as soon as the process of changing countries is done.

Both skiers fully complied to the rules of eligibility, so were considered USA members.

But USA water ski did not agree that these athletes would be selected for the Panam Games as that would bring a lot of money to these athletes.



It is believed these athletes changed nationality to escape the sanctions applying to BLR now, not just because they moved from one to another country.

To avoid more issues with AWSA and discussions, it was agreed that they would have the AWSA flag behind them instead of the USA flag.

AWSA meanwhile has changed its rules. So now in order to be able to ski for the USA, you have to be full citizen of USA not just have the green card.

It has clearly been communicated that this has been a one-time only exception. If a federation selects someone, they should be seen as a full member of their team.

Note that this is an issue just for these skiers as they are very high ranked skiers and AWSA skiers would be pushed back in favour for these skiers.

#### **5.05 Random draw for the two extra events where doping testing will take place in 2024.**

Draw of organizers – which disciplines will have to organize doping control ?

Apparently WADA is pushing rather for out of competition testing instead of in-competition testing.

For this year we stick with the obligation to have testing at the Open Waterski, WAK Cable and WAK Boat Championships and try to focus more on out of competition testing.

The doping testing system/procedure to be further discussed with Gary Probst.

#### **5.06 Transgender athletes.**

To make it easy, we should follow the IWWF rules.

Other, more advanced sports are also being caught. Support and advise from the IOC is requested.

Aquatics just created a group “others” or better “inclusive” in addition to Women and Men.

Lorenzo Benassa, chair of the IWWF Medical Commission, is looking into this.

And so is Stefano from a legal point of view.

We need a policy in place before a situation arises. And that could be sooner than later.

Patrice says that at the Wakeboard Cable Worlds later this year in France, a transgender person is likely to participate.

#### **5.07 Initiation rites.**

See the document prepared by Andy.

These initiation rites rules should also have a reference to the safe sport rules as they are being prepared and will be explained at the Congress by Karen McClintock.

The text should be part of the guidelines (06.2 – Closing Ceremony) and also be part of the LAO.

After discussion it has been agreed that some corrections are needed.

Andy will make the necessary changes.

#### **5.08 Event cancellation insurance.**

See document prepared by Stefano – attached.

New policy needed as a result of last minute cancellation happening outside our control (blue algae in Belgium, war in Israel). The insurance proposed should help to reimburse for costs made when the competition is cancelled out of our control.

This will become part of the LAO. To be approved by tomorrow’s Congress.

Ivar is working on an offer with the insurance company.

### **5.09 Which IWWF regulations need either to be applied or to be referred to in the EC rules ?**

The draft text, made by Andy and Stefano, is to just refer to the IWWF Articles in the Bye-Laws. Some interpretation of the law in US is different from European law interpretation, so just referring and put “where applicable”. This should allow some flexibility in interpretation.

To be inserted as a foreword or preface to the EC Articles & Bye-laws concerning Discipline & Appeals:

These rules refer to the legal discipline rules contained in Arts. 17 & 18 of the IWWF Bye-laws, approved by the IWWF Executive board on 21 July 2023, where applicable.

To be inserted as a foreword or preface to the EC Articles & Bye-laws concerning Code of Conduct & Ethics:

These rules refer to the legal discipline rules contained in the IWWF Code of Conduct & Ethics, approved by the IWWF Executive board on 21 July 2023, where applicable

### **5.10 In future having ‘Council Honorary Members’ and ‘EC Honorary Members’ ?**

With the discussion about the Honorary membership of Francine Lion, the idea came up to introduce honorary membership specific to a council.

The distinction would be this :

An EC Honorary Member should have been active in our organization as an elected member.

A Council Honorary Member is determined by the relevant Council.

However we need to find a different name for this, not just “Honorary Member”.

Andy is going to look for a good ‘title’ for this - commendation, emeritus, .... ?

The discussion goes into, “do we really need this extra category?”.

Will this new category not just lower the “honor” of being a Honorary Member ?

Let’s think about a name and this will help to decide if yes/no we need this ‘in-between’ category.

### **5.11 Teams.**

Morten – Teams system.

New domain name and new e-mail with Teams.

This topic will be moved to our Spring Admincom meeting.

We are running out of time and Patrice closes the meeting, reminding all that there will be a short **Admincom meeting after the end of the Congress.**

The exact time and venue will be announced at the end of the Congress.

All Admincom members are requested to attend this meeting.

Agenda

1. Urgent matters – mostly depending on the Congress outcome.
2. Items to be carried over to our next meeting for lack of time now.