



Region EC Wakeboard Boat Council

EC Wakeboard Boat Council Meeting Minutes – Turkey, 4/5 February 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 Turkey. Unfortunately, low numbers are represented at the meeting due to various personal circumstances.

Apologies: Maria Bulgakova (UKR), Paul Johnston (IRE), Alexey Philippov (RUS)
Agreed that exemptions apply to the circumstances of MB, PJ and AP
NE has contacted NS who has responded to say that he is unable to continue with his role on council due to increased work and family commitments. He is withdrawing from his position on Council but wishes to continue to contribute to the work of council and in his role as an International 1 Judge.
We will now move forward to co-opt a Council member to replace NS.

The war situation in Ukraine has continued to impact on the members, MB and AP
It was proposed to Admincom and ratified by Congress that Council will co-opt 2 additional Council members for the foreseeable future. It is critical to ensure that we can have sufficient members working towards achieving the goals of council and there is a significant workload in the coming season.

2. Conflict of Interests

None were declared

3. Minutes of the meeting in London, November 2022, were approved. All minutes need to be updated on the website. LJ to contact Brit and forward the necessary minutes to update the website

4. Admincom and Congress Report – completed and circulated by Nuno.

It has been published and is available to all with the Congress papers.

There was a discussion regarding the Admincom choice of location for meetings, as Turkey was difficult for travel arrangements and members have incurred additional costs.

There was discussion about the spread of our Council meetings throughout the year – November, then Congress in February and then at the Officials seminar – usually held in March / April. It was agreed that to enable planning for the season that these dates were probably the best. It was also felt that to combine a Council meeting with the E&A Championships would be difficult for members also working at the event. Agreed to maintain the current meeting arrangements, including attendance of all council members to Congress in February.

It was noted that E&A Championships Entry fees will be increased by €10 per rider to contribute to the costs of anti-doping, required at E&A events.

5. Administration

Claims – for previous events all have been completed and paid.

Claims – for future events. The due date for claims will be 15 days following the event.

Officials – with the letter of selection, officials will be issued with the claim form and will be informed regarding the deadline for all claims. Claims not submitted within the timeframe will not be paid.

We will request all Federations to send the dates of their Nationals in 2023

All correspondence has been addressed.

No invitations for the officials' panels can be issued until the final dates have been agreed for 2023 events.

6. Seminars

- 2023 Judging seminar –

Bids / Proposals have been received from

Ireland – Dublin

Switzerland – Geneva

Greece - Athens

Council discussed the potential for each bid.

It was agreed that the March 2023 International Officials Seminar will take place in Athens, Greece, from 31st March to 2nd April. This will enable us to accommodate a driving seminar alongside. NE will seek the support of an experienced driver and will manage the driving elements. CH, SD and LJ will manage the judging and scoring.

The Irish Federation will host a seminar out of season, the date to be agreed, however, to make use of available funding this is likely to be in November 2023.

- On-line seminars will continue to be accommodated for National level seminars.

7. Events

- 2023 World Championships

No confirmed dates or location as yet. The aim is still to run the 2023 Wakeboard World Championships in 2023 - if we succeed in reaching agreement with the organiser around a suitable date that does not clash with another major event.

- 2023 Europe & Africa Championships

Work continues with the proposal and efforts to identify a suitable site to hold the E&A Championships in Belgium in July 2023. However, a date and suitable venue has not yet been confirmed. This has been requested as a matter of urgency from the organiser.

The Belgian Federation had set a deadline for the organiser to come back to them with a venue and as yet that has not happened. LJ will continue to keep the Belgian Federation updated with progress. Concern remains around finding a site that will not cause environmental damage.

- 2023 European Malibu Tour Stops
The proposed venues currently are -
Lake Geneva, Switzerland
Cologne, Germany

Potential additional stops – suggestions for Spain and Sicily in September.
LJ will discuss the dates and venues further with Mark Mulholland (Malibu Boats) to firm up the plan. This will be dependent on the confirmation of the E&A Championships dates

- 2023 Mediterranean Games – a proposal is under discussion for this event in 2023 in Greece. All Federations in the Mediterranean will need to be encouraged to consider entry through their National Olympic Committee

8. Business

- Budget for 2023

All outstanding claims have been paid.

The current budget has been forwarded by Dominique. It was confirmed that all outstanding payments have been made.

It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of some of the live stream equipment in order to prepare for the events in 2023.

- Sponsorship strategy

After a lengthy discussion regarding the content of a business strategy it was agreed that CH will formulate a strategy for discussion at our next Council meeting.

CH will compile information around the following to share with Council

- All services and benefits that we can offer
- All packages that we can offer – giving a choice of levels of sponsorship
- International level events – opportunities
- National level events – opportunities
- European Tour – VIP areas
- Championships – VIP areas
- Council
- Branding – posters / banners / live streaming

- Malibu Contract

The Malibu contract is still with the US team for signature, it is hoped that this can be addressed as soon as possible. MM is seeking to finalise the contract, unfortunately this is not yet formally in place.

The partnership relationship set off on a good footing in 2022, with good planning, good service and good creativity and ideas for the future partnership. We are now seeking planning confirmation for 2023 and into 2024.

NE has been reaching out to MM to discuss the 2023 plan and the live stream requirements.

Agreed to seek a zoom call with MM, NE, CH and LJ to seek clarity regards working relationships and the plan for 2023.

CH advised that we now require a promotional package for seeking additional sponsorship avenues. CH has requested the drone/ video footage from the 2022 events to use it for promotion with potential sponsors. We may need to provide for some funds to engage someone with the expertise to create a short promotional

video. CH has approached 35 companies to seek engagement. CH suggested that the business/events group – NE, LJ and CH should travel to the Dusseldorf Boat show to promote visibility and offer the opportunity to seek meetings and engage with potential partners. Agreed that this would be a priority in 2024.

9. 2023 Rules

Some minor amendments to the wording of the rules for 2023 were agreed and some additional proposals will be presented to the World Council for agreement by NE.

- Calculator – will be re-named Scorer to come in line with other disciplines
 - The rules for Officials section will be checked for accuracy by SD
 - Formats – additional options to be written into the rules
 - Heat System – additional systems to be developed eg. Head to Head
 - Ranking Rules – 5 events will count towards ranking points. The Co-efficient for the ranking needs to be adjusted. Given the outcome of the application of the ranking rules in 2022, it is clear that there is an imbalance that needs to be addressed. It was agreed that the points from 2* events should be reduced from a co-efficient of 3 to 2
 - The time frame for the closing of registration
 - The rules for Official Familiarisation will remain as amended for the E&A 2022
- NE and LJ will produce the 2023 Rules

10. Communication

MB was unable to be present and therefore no report was delivered

We agreed to split this area to ensure the actions are covered

Agreed to add general communication matters to Administration to be covered by LJ as Secretary

11. Social Media/ PR

Agreed to combine the PR and social media and this will be aligned with the business remit to be managed by CH. As a priority we need to seek some knowledgeable and interested people within the Federations to assist with creating and publishing content.

NE spoke about the need for a seasonal strategy and an off-season strategy to define and manage the level and patterns of posting. As this is closely aligned with the business area, it was agreed that CH would take responsibility for this area.

During the season we should be seeking to have weekly visibility with promotion of our sponsors and our official partners – eg. Boat, clothes, food, car

The PR strategy will also include the media coverage and use of logos and the promotion of our image. CH will work on formulating guidelines / templates that will assist potential organisers to understand the specifics of what is required for press releases. The aim will be to achieve consistency in how the media is managed and how our profile is presented.

12. Federations

SD reported that there is no further update on the database. SD will continue to reach out to Federations to engage with them and grow Wakeboard Boat

13. Legal

SD reported an incident with a rider at a Cable event. This was reported and taken through the Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Disciplinary procedure.

14. Athletes Report

PJ was not present at this meeting – (as agreed not required to attend all meetings)
There is an agreed process of re-election to this role which will be undertaken at a future E&A Championships.

15. IT

Website - NE and AP are working on a structure for the website. It will be shared with Council to review and define what we want for the content.

Online seminars – work continues to develop video presentations of the rules teaching. Aim to have this completed by the end of February 2023

Judging App – we will continue to pursue the development of an App for the judges to enable them to input the scores directly to their mobiles while in the boat, and this will be monitored by the scorer

16. EMS

The registration of events has increased significantly as Federations are becoming more familiar with the need to use EMS. It seems that knowledge and engagement with EMS is growing well, and Peter Frei and his team are willing to provide any support and information as required.

The EMS now contains the wakeboard ranking list. The principle was to have this as an ongoing rolling ranking list – updating week on week. However, currently this is presented only as a yearly ranking performance. Work will continue on this. Given the outcome of the application of the ranking rules in 2022, there is an imbalance that needs to be addressed. This was discussed and it was agreed that the points from 2* events should be reduced from a co-efficient of 3 to 2. Nuno will request this amendment from Peter Frei

17. Relations with other Disciplines

NE has reviewed the rules from all the other disciplines to identify similarities and

A contract has been agreed to create a new software system for the input of scores. This was an urgent requirement for Cable wakeboard, and we will need to adapt and request additional functionality where necessary. The timeframe for delivery of the contract is the end of April 2023.

18. Coaching / Schools

NE has taken over this area and is gathering as many standards as possible from Federations to try to create a model to achieve a consistent approach to coaching across Europe.