



MINUTES

of the meeting of the
EUROPE CONFEDERATION WATERSKI COUNCIL
held in Budapest and via Teams
on Saturday 11th November 2023

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Candido **Moz** *Chairman*
Amanda **Scherer** *Secretary*
Dimos **Alexopoulos**
Aliaksandra **Berazouskaya**
Ricardo **Botas**
Morten **Froulund**
Gavin **Kelly**
Martin **Kolman** *Athlete Representative World Council*

Online:
Hannu **Rintanen**

Apologies for absence:
Stian **Lilleberg** *Treasurer*
Howard **Ramsden** *Africa Confederation Representative*

The meeting commenced at 08:30 CET.
Candido welcomes the WSC to Budapest.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the WSC meeting

The Council agreed to one amendment of the Minutes before approving the Minutes from the WSC meeting November 2022.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Ricardo would like the minutes to be more transparent. Any other matters have been noted and will be discussed in AOB.

4. Homologated Events 2023

Candido informed the Council that 244 events had been registered in 2023. Some of these events were cancelled at a later date and some of these events are still missing dossiers or files and are

not yet finalised. All missing documents must now be submitted for completion. All homologation levels with missing documents were checked and discussed. Fines will be applied according to the Additional Rules for all cancelations of International Events and for late submissions of dossiers and files. Federations will be notified of these fines where applicable. Morten will speak to Dany about dealing with future cancelations of competitions.

5. Titled Events 2023

E&A Open in San Gervasio was the first Titled Event in 2023. The competition was very well organised, ran very smoothly and eyeTrick was used for the Trick Event.

The next Titled Event was the E&A Youth (U14 &U17) Championships held in Seseña, Spain. Candido, who was Chief Judge at this event, informed the Council that these Championships went extremely smoothly without any problems. It was also noted how good the atmosphere was amongst athletes and officials at these Championships. The addition of an air-conditioner in the jury tower was well appreciated by all officials.

The U21 in Baurech on the whole went well but there were some issues with the homologation of the Baurech site. The organisers, the Chief Judge and Homologator will be informed of these issues by letter from the Council. There were also some complications with the organisation of this tournament and some issues arose at the final night party due to "Initiations" of rookie athletes new to the U21 category. This will be discussed in more detail when AdminCom join the WSC during the course of the day.

E&A +35 was well organised and the event ran smoothly with no issues.

The Council then discussed Chief Judge reports and decided that all Chief Judges at future Titled Events must submit a report to the Council. These reports will be posted on Teams for the Council. Future starting speeds for the +35 Finals will be discussed for the Additional Rules.

6. Finance

It was noted that not all webcast sponsor fees have been paid at this time.

Ilaria Buzotta will receive reimbursement for her plane ticket.

Officials who were on the panel at the World Championships need to be asked if they have received their travel grants and or be reminded that they can claim for a travel grant when officiating at a World event. A claim form will be published on the Waterski Europe website.

Information regarding travel grants and claim forms will be published in the next newsletter.

Officials from this year will receive a letter in due course to remind them about claiming for a travel grant.

The Budget for 2024 needs to be discussed and prepared. There are some necessary changes that need to be made for the Budget 2024 which will override current resources for the Budget.

The Council agrees that it is of utmost importance that future travel expenses from officials attending Titled Events must be completely covered. These travel expenses need to be calculated covering travel to the airport, flights, train travel, taxis and parking. The idea of a daily remuneration was also discussed. Gavin and Morten will spend some time now experimenting with past panels to calculate what costs will be entailed to cover all expenses. In the same way, all travel expenses of Council members should be covered for future meetings.

Organisers of Titled Events also need to be supported by the E&A and IWWF.

Calculations and numbers for covering all of these costs and the resulting proposals for the Budget 2024 need to be ready to present to AdminCom by the end of the year.

7. Calendar 2024

The Calendar for 2024 Titled Events was discussed.

Candido informed the Council that the IWWF E&A U14 and U17 Youth will be held in Recetto 21st to the 25th August.

IWWF E&A U21 will probably be held in Agrinio, Greece. Date is not yet confirmed.

IWWF World +35 has been cancelled in Greece and will probably be held in Seseña, Spain in September.

Approved IWWF and E&A Titled Events 2024

IWWF U17 World Championships
30.07-04.08 Calgary, Canada

IWWF E&A +35 Championships
14.08-18.08 Seseña, Spain

At this time there is no organiser to host the IWWF E&A Open Championships. Federations need to be informed that there is no host for this event in the hope that an organiser will soon be found.

8. EMS

Event registration worked well in 2023.

ITE through EMS should be ready by March 2024.

Entry Fees should also be payable through EMS by March 2024.

Ranking Lists should be available by January 2024.

Both Ranking Lists will then run parallel in 2024.

Federations must approve all events that are registered. The registration deadline has been reduced from 30 days to 15 days.

There were some issues or problems in EMS where federations were able to make changes to skiers registered for an event after the deadline. These issues must be resolved for 2024.

9. Skier of the Year

The Council voted unanimously that the 2023 E&A Female Skier of the Year will be Giannina Bonnemann Mechler.

The Council voted unanimously that the 2023 E&A Male Skier of the Year will be Joel Poland.

The Council then nominated Erika Lang and Joel Poland with a majority decision to be proposed to the World Council for World Female and Male Skiers of the Year 2023.

10. Athletes Commission report and items

Martin Kolman informed the Council about the recent vote that took place for Athlete Representatives for the various Confederations and the Athletes Commission. Only Skiers who have attended the last 2 World Championships are able to vote. Waterski has in fact 7 representatives all together in the IWWF Athletes Commission. This is due to the fact that 79% of all IWWF athletes are from Waterski.

Martin then informed the WSC that athletes from Russia and Belarus are now able to compete under the IWWF flag.

Martin was unfortunately not able to attend the IOC Athletes Summit this year and the substitute athlete was also not able to attend. This was unfortunate as the IWWF needs to develop specific policies and be prepared, like all other International Sport Federations presently, to deal with issues of fairness, inclusion and non-discrimination for future transgender and non-binary athletes who wish to compete at an IWWF event.

11. World Tournament Council Issues

The World Council has now changed the approval percentage for World records. The previous approval percentage was 51% and has now been amended to greater than 60%. The same approval percentage will also be applied for E&A records.

EyeTrick and the introduction of the system on the whole, usage at competitions and how this has been progressing and received worldwide was discussed. Gavin informed the Council how the British Federation has been introducing the system to their clubs and sites in Britain. Obviously training judges to be familiar with eyeTrick is of utmost importance. The World Council may decide to make further amendments to the rules regarding eyeTrick. These amendments will be based on the experience gathered in practise this year at competitions since eyeTrick was approved by the World Council.

The WSC fully supports eyeTrick and will utilise the system as often as possible.

The deadline for scores to be submitted for the Ranking List is 30 days after the event. Scores not submitted at the latest 30 days after the event will not be updated. This is the responsibility of the Scorer.

12. Additional Rules 2024

The Additional Rules 2024 will be updated after the new World Rules have been approved and published.

13. Administrative Committee Items

The WSC welcomes the Administrative Committee, Patrice, Dominique and Sid, who joined the WSC meeting at 14:40.

Voting powers were discussed.

The substitute for Gavin for AdminCom will be Candido.

The 2024 Calendar was discussed. The WSC informed AdminCom of Italy's bid for the E&A Youth U14/U17 Championships to be held in Recetto 21-25.08.2024. Also that Greece will be bidding for the E&A U21 to be held in Agrinio mid July. The WSC then informed AdminCom that a host for the 2024 E&A Open still needs to be found.

The WSC is preparing the budget for 2024 and explained to AdminCom that the proposed budget will include covering travel expenses for all officials at Titled Events and expenses for WSC members. The proposed budget will be presented to AdminCom in January 2024.

The WSC believes covering the travel costs of officials at Titled Events is of utmost importance. It was noted that 72% of all competitions that take place in the E&A Confederation and in fact the world are waterski competitions. Waterski though has an increasing problem that there are no longer enough officials who are either able or willing to officiate at Titled Events. The WSC strongly believes that helping our officials with their travel expenses could help solve this problem.

The WSC would like or requires more control of the calendar to avoid clashes of important events for example Cash Prize and Pro Tour Events. These event should not collide.

Ricardo then made a proposal for the future regarding the Ranking Lists. His proposal is to split the Ranking Lists into Ranking and Record Capability Ranking.

The WSC informed AdminCom of the vote and the outcome that took place earlier in the meeting for female and male E&A Skiers of the Year 2023. Also about the vote and outcome for nominees for the female and male IWWF Skiers of the year 2023 (see Agenda topic 9).

The WSC gave AdminCom an update on EMS. EMS should be fully functional in the 2024 season. AdminCom then asked how eyeTrick has been progressing since being approved at the beginning of 2023. The WSC gave a full report of how eyeTrick has been functioning at different tournaments and that the Council fully supports eyeTrick and will be utilising the system wherever possible.

The topic of Safeguarding and Initiations at Final Night Parties were then discussed. All Federations need to be reminded of the correct or proper behaviour at these occasions. Federations need to ensure that all their athletes and team members behave appropriately. The IWWF Safeguard Rules will be sent out to all Federations as a reminder for future Titled Events. It was decided that Team Captains must be responsible for their team members. Regarding the complaint about this issue which was received from the British Federation after the E&A U21 Championships, Patrice will contact the British Federation and inform them that all Federations will be receiving information about the correct conduct of team members at future events.

AdminCom informed the WSC that all financial claims must be made by the end of November.

The WSC was then informed a request for the 2026 IWWF E&A U14 and U17 Championships from Seseña, Spain has been received.

The ongoing idea of combining Disabled and Tournament Skiers for the team event was then discussed. Proposals are being made and will be presented to AdminCom and the WSC at a later date.

14. Driver Committee Report

Ricardo informed the Council about the new technology which will allow each individual Driver to access his own data from Sure Path with a password. Ricardo said this technology should be functional very soon.

15. Aliaksandra

Aliaksandra informed the Council how the exams have been progressing. 19 exams have now been taken since the new exams have been available. The feedback for the new exams has been very positive. It was noted that some candidates feel a little pushed for time in the Trick exam.

Aliaksandra then informed the Council that she would like to prepare new exams for D2, H2 and H1 for the 2024 season.

Future applications for exams will be available in the Additional Rules. The applications must be made by the Federations.

Aliaksandra then informed the Council of an Email she had received from the German Federation. The email is informing the Council that a decision had been made recently by the German Federation regarding registration and examinations of candidates wishing to become International Officials. The decision being that all future applicants applying to take exams from Germany must be registered and supervised by Ulf Langrock. The Council agreed on the registration through Ulf Langrock but not on the supervision. Supervision of candidates taking exams can only be carried out by a WSC member or a supervisor approved by the WSC.

Aliaksandra then initiated a discussion on how the Council presently communicates. There were some issues with the Council email addresses which have now been solved. The Council should now use the new email addresses and Teams for all communication. Aliaksandra then asked if the Council members could share and publish more information, for example Around the Buoys

publication dates, panel applications dates and bulletin publications on Teams to simplify the way the Council works together for the future.

16. Gavin

Gavin asked if it could be possible to avoid term time when organising the dates for future U21 Championships.

Gavin then queried about rules concerning training on a competition lake after the competition has begun at a Titled Event. There is some confusion about whether this is actually possible or not. There is no answer and no rule regarding this presently. The World Council will be discussing this to avoid any problems or confusion for future Titled Events and at the same time, Martin will look into how skiers feel about this specific situation.

Gavin asked about making amendments to the Additional Rules regarding +35 Finals starting speeds. This was already noted during the discussion about Titled Events 2023 and will be looked into after the new World Rules have been approved.

Safeguarding and Initiations have been discussed already during Titled Events and again with AdminCom.

Gavin gave the WSC an update about the medals for the 2024 Titled Events. On the whole the new medals from this year were received with positive feedback.

Gavin gave the Council an update about AdminCom items and topics. These items, where applicable, were then discussed with AdminCom when AdminCom joined the WSC meeting at 14:40 (Agenda topic 13).

The Council then discussed the newsletter "Around the Buoys". It was suggested that in the next publication, Gavin should include asking officials to submit any situations or out of the ordinary circumstances that officials experienced at competitions and events this year. These submitted situations will then be discussed at the seminar in Athens 2024.

17. AOB

Ricardo informed the Council of some difficult situations he has experienced this season with Sure Path. The system is reliable on satellites and always having a connection. Ricardo has been at competitions where he is convinced that Sure Path was not working probably because of problems with satellites and black outs. Ricardo fully supports Sure Path but believes due to the satellite reliability that the system will always be slightly susceptible to problems or issues if there is a temporary black out with the satellites. Ricardo suggested or his advice would be, to avoid any problems or issues of this kind in the future, that end course cameras and videos should always be used simultaneously as a back up.

There are also some issues with Sure Path when using floating courses.

Ricardo suggested that buoy homologation tolerances should be lowered to reflect the strict tolerance levels already imposed on the drivers. This decision should be made by the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee members were then discussed. Donal will no longer be on the Technical Committee. The WSC believes James should only be a technical adviser to avoid any conflicts of interest. Morten will send out emails to all present and proposed Technical Committee members to verify or confirm their participation as members. Also to inform the Committee to check homologation tolerances and to prepare new H1 and H2 exams.

Candido then informed the WSC about an issue which occurred this season in Austria. All correspondence between all concerned and documentation of the issue were shown to the council and discussed. The issue being a problem with the rope release during the trick event. The skier and releaser involved will receive an advisory email from the WSC regarding this issue.

The slalom buoy rule 8.08 was then discussed. Ricardo believes the rule 8.08 regarding “Riding Over” the buoy needs to be modified for more clarification. Ricardo informed the Council about several situations that have arisen this season involving this rule which he believes could be avoided with more clarification. Also how many video challenges that should be allowed for this was discussed. These are world level issues and will be discussed by the World Council.

Candido informed the WSC about the new rule regarding the Boat Path Measurement System (BPMS) for the jump event. Explaining the 3 parts of the measurement system, Path, Cut, Flight, which will give the cumulative deviation. The rule will be explained and clarified in the World Rules 2024.

The Council then discussed the maximum length of time that a single driver should drive for at an event. The drivers are under enormous pressure especially for Titled Events and the WSC believes a driver should not drive for too many hours without a break.

A request was received from Britain asking about current entry fees and if it would be possible to change entry fees to reflect if the skier is participating in one, two or three events. The entry fees presently do not differentiate between Individuals or 3 Event Skiers. The entry fee is the same for every skier regardless of one, two or three events. The Council discussed this and decided for many reasons that entry fees must remain as they are.

A request was received about committing to an event schedule after the ITE deadline. The idea being to accommodate single event skiers. Single event skiers sometimes experience longer breaks of a day or days in between skiing at a Titled Event. Committing to a schedule after the ITE deadline would enable the single event skiers to plan more efficiently. The WSC has noted the request.

A request from Pierre from Canada has been received regarding rules for the +35 Championships. His queries and requests mostly involve the +70 category and are requests for the World Council and not the WSC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 17:00 CET 11th November.

Secretary
Amanda Scherer

Chairman
Candido Moz

Original text: English

The Minutes are subject to approval at the next Meeting.

Federations please note: The Minutes are sent to all International Officials. Please pass on any relevant information to your National Officials.