



Region EC Wakeboard Boat Council

EC Wakeboard Boat Council Meeting Minutes – Frankfurt 28th April 2022

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

Apologies: Maria Bulgakova (UKR), Paul Johnston (IRE), Alexey Philippov (RUS)

Absence: Nicolas Subjobert (FRA)

1. Nuno welcomed all members to the EC Council meeting in Germany. Apologies were noted as listed above. Having emerged from the covid pandemic, it is now possible to look forward to a busy and exciting year on the water in 2022

2. The short meeting in Moncao in February 2022 was joined by Peter Frei and Jose Perez Priego, with a focus on the promotion of the Event Management System. This resulted in an action plan to push the uptake of the registration of the riders and the purchase of IWWF licenses. It is recognised that we have much to do to ensure that we reach out to all the Federations and riders as this is the only route to the management of events going forward.

3. Conflict of Interests – None were declared

4. Admincom Report.

The next meeting will be held in Antwerp in June.

Issues for discussion are required by 25th May.

The Championship medals list must be sent to Stefano Duranti.

A separate wakesurf committee has been established with Maria Bulgakova as the Chair, with a view to developing and growing the sport and looking towards the creation of a separate Wakesurf Council. The aim is to grow the sport to establish a European Wakesurf Championships.

The group working on this will involve – NE, LJ, SD and PJ

5. Rules

The changes to the rules have been complicated to implement, the timing required synchronization with the World Wakeboard Council decisions and the development and implementation of the changes within the EMS.

The changes will need to be staged over 2022 and further in 2023.

Rules 2022 – additions

Concussion guidance

Safe Sport policy

The deadline for changes to the rules would need to be the first quarter of the year to come into effect in the following January

Agreed there should be changes to the rules every 2 years to create greater stability.

Rules 2023

Proposals for changes will be required by June 2022 – to present to the WWC by July 2022 for decisions.

EMS will require updating of language.

Calculation software and heat system will require updating.

Group – NE, LJ, RM, CC, PJ

6. Administration

Invitations have been issued to all International 1 Judges, Calculators and Drivers for participation in the E&A Championships in Germany 8 to 13 August 2022.

Correspondence – German Federation, Organiser – Alex,

EMS team – Federations and officials

Bulletin – Officials seminar

Bulletin – E&A Championships

Group – LJ, MB

7. Events

- E&A 8th to 13th August 2022 – Cologne, Germany

LAO discussed with the organizer in detail regarding roles and responsibilities

German Federation have delegated the organizing role to Alex Neuwirth.

Each team will have to make their own transport arrangements to and from the site.

Safety requirements have been copied from the rules into the LAO

Covid protocols will be required in conjunction with the local country and government requirements.

Each rider will be allocated 2 tickets for the Eat Play Love Festival.

Opening Ceremony will be held on Tuesday at the end of unofficial familiarization.

Unofficial familiarization will be managed by the official team.

Officials

Chief Judge – Stefano Duranti (ITA)

Asst Chief Judge – Jean Philippe Richonnier (FRA)

Judges – Colin Harte (GBR),

Nuno Eca (POR),

Oskars Kruze (LAT)

Rui Monteiro (POR)

Alexey Philippov – will be replaced on the judging panel

Chief Calculator – Linda Johnston (IRE)

Asst Calculator – Maria Bulgakova (UKR)

Chief Driver – Cyril Cornaro (SUI)

Asst Driver – Jan Kees Speksnijder (NED)

- Euro Tour stops

A guidance checklist will be drawn up for the guidance of potential organisers.

Currently this forms part of the annual Malibu sponsorship contract

2022 events

- June – Geneva, Switzerland

- September - Belgium

- World Championships - 25 to 30th July 2022 – Rieti, Italy

The local organizer is pushing significant publicity and participation.
The 2nd Bulletin is to be published. The location of hotels is a slight issue – given the location of the site and the distance involved.
Dates to bear in mind for the organizing are Wakefest – 23 and 24th in USA.
Asian teams and officials may still have difficulty with travel and quarantine requirements due to the covid requirements

- World Games 2022

In Alabama, USA. Towed by Malibu M220.
Athletes have been nominated, however there have been some withdrawals and replacements have been submitted.
All plans are in place and officials have been nominated.

- FISU 2022

The event in Belarus has been postponed. There is no further information regarding a potential alternative site.
When this becomes available the event will require promotion and invitation of officials

- Online events

Further work will be necessary if we are to encourage participation in online events alongside our physical events. Our previous attempt to run an online event was not widely taken up by riders. Perhaps the rules framework and process will need to be simplified.

It was accepted that there is considerable work involved in the collation and presentation of the videos, adding logos. This is a technical role which will require a suitable skill set to take forward

Group – NE, CH, AP

- Other events

National events could be promoted to encourage international participation and elevate to a 3* level.

Agreed to communicate with all Federations to obtain the dates of all Nationals, the official panels and to offer support with the development of officials and where necessary assist with official roles – to ensure events are properly entered and uploaded on EMS to contribute to the ranking list

Group – LJ, NE, MB, CH, AP, MM, Organisers

8. Officials Seminar -

Plans are in place for the seminar over the coming weekend in Frankfurt and thanks to the German Federation for their organization and hospitality.

The various elements of the framework for hosting the seminar were discussed along with the potential costs – recognizing that this will vary according to the venue. A template document will be drawn up to assist Federations to plan to host the officials' seminars.

Future seminars – Portugal, Ireland, UK, Italy.

Work online continues and the plan is to have the basic rules examination completed and the videos covered prior to attendance at the International seminar.

Some modules have been completed and Nuno showed some examples. There are also modules from waterski and barefoot that we could learn from.

Group – CH, LJ, NE, SD, NS, AP

9. Business

- Finance

The latest account information has been shared by Dominique.

Claims must be made within 2 months deadline of the event in order to accurately track the spending on the account.

An IWWF Business Sport committee is being established and CH will be our rep on this committee. The first meeting will be held soon and CH will report back.

- Cost projection/ Sponsorship/ Malibu Contract

CH will update the specification /profile of our sport and the presentation materials for sharing with businesses to bid for sponsorship.

The addition of some video would add significantly to the profile to create interest for potential sponsors.

The aim of the Hillside event would be to create this exhibition season opening event and would give us a launch pad to raise the profile.

The Malibu contract has been agreed for a working partnership for 3 years and is with the US team for signature. The contract will cover the sport development council fee along with 3 Euro Tour stops each year. These will each be invoiced separately.

Group – CH, NE, LJ, SD

10. Communication / PR/ Social Media

MB was not present at the meeting and following the meeting submitted a written report.

On social media - A facebook page had been created and is available to use for the E&A Championships. This should be used in preparation to publicise the event and build the profile as the championships comes closer. Information/ video can be issued here for the riders.

We need to consider how we get the knowledge and skills we need as we cannot continue to ask people to take on work without payment. This is an area for bringing along younger people – but they will require payment.

We need to consider allocating some budget or requesting budget from Admincom to promote communication and have a solid presentation on the use of social media.

We need to encourage this amongst all riders – as they all use social media.

A broader 'strategy' would need further understanding and development by council.

12. Federations

We have been reaching out to all Federations in relation to the EMS development.

This highlights the importance of improving the communication channels with the people in Federations charged with the responsibility to take forward Wakeboard Boat. It is recognized that the communication is not always reaching the people who need to action it.

A database is required of these key points of contact in order to encourage engagement, for us to promote and grow the sport and respond to requests for support. We wish to encourage as many federations as possible to participate in and to host international events.

Group. – SD, LJ

The Mediterranean Games has a steering committee and SD is our representative.

13. Legal

At any event where there are IWWF officials in attendance there will be an Unsportsmanlike Conduct process developed and implemented. This is currently under discussion.

SD is our representative at this discussion.

14. Athletes Report

A report was submitted by PJ

He has shared the bulletin with riders for the E&A and promoting the busy season back on the water.

The priority is to ensure that all riders know their responsibility to make sure that they have a 'live' profile on EMS and that they or their Federation purchase an IWWF license.

There is an appetite from Federations and riders to have the opportunity to introduce new formats and create more flexibility for events. PJ happy to continue to contribute to this discussion/ working group.

A survey should be developed as a process to get feedback from the riders.

It is important that all riders are proactive in using their social media – Facebook and Instagram to promote the sport and each of the events.

15. IT

A report was submitted by AP.

AP has begun work on developing a structure of a web portal to meet informational and functional tasks

Content creation will be everyone's responsibility on items such as news, calendar dates, council members and communications, online competition scoring, link to the live broadcast, information regarding rules and documents.

- There are options available to use judging apps to enable the judges to record their scores directly from the boat into the scoring program. Each trick should be listed and available to digitally record the rider's run.
- The Rules could be made available on an App for easy access
- The use of a timer on the boat

16. EMS

Ongoing promotion of the EMS and engagement by all Federations, Officials and riders is a priority in order to ensure that all events are run using EMS in 2022.

All Federations will need to submit the results correctly homologated and in a timely manner in order to be incorporated into the ranking system.

17. Relations with other Disciplines

NS was not present and there is no report

18. Coaching / Schools

NS was not present and there is no report

The meeting closed on Sunday 29th April.