



# MINUTES

of the meeting of the  
EUROPE CONFEDERATION WATERSKI COUNCIL  
held in London, Radisson SAS, Stansted Airport, GBR  
on Saturday 12th November  
and Sunday 13th November 2022

## 1. Attendance and apologies for absence

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Candido <b>Moz</b>	<i>Chairman</i>
Amanda <b>Scherer</b>	<i>Secretary</i>
Stian <b>Lilleberg</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Dimos <b>Alexopoulos</b>	
Morten <b>Froulund</b>	
Hannu <b>Rintanen</b>	
Ricardo <b>Botas</b>	
Gavin <b>Kelly</b>	
Louis <b>Polome</b>	<i>Africa Confederation Representative</i>
Martin <b>Kolman</b>	<i>Athlete Representative World Council</i>

Apologies for absence:

Aliaksandra **Berazouskaya**

The meeting commenced at 08:30 GMT.

Gavin Kelly and Candido Moz welcomed the European Confederation Waterski Council to London.

The Council also welcomed to London Martin Kolman, Athlete Representative to the World Council. Aliaksandra Berazouskaya was unable to travel to London, but joined the Council Meeting later online.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes of the TC meetings

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The Minutes from the TC meetings were approved.

## 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

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A request was made that the Council itself requires a more detailed version of the Minutes for future reference. It was decided that the more detailed version of the Council Minutes should be uploaded to Teams for the use of Council members alongside with the Minutes which will be published as usual.

#### **4. Microsoft Teams**

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The question has arisen about how the Waterski Council should proceed with Microsoft Teams. Basically asking whether we should continue using it or not. At this time the Council is not utilising Microsoft Teams to its full potential.

Morten gave the Council a basic presentation of what Teams is capable of. How Teams can be used to ease the way the Council communicates with each other, how all Council files and documents can be uploaded and shared and all the abundant possibilities of use once the Council is familiar with the software. The security or safety factor was also discussed. Having all the Councils important documents, correspondence and files saved and shared on one database is extremely valuable in the case of loss, theft or damage. A Teams App is also available. This is a very helpful application as it enables all Council members to be able to download/upload files and have access to all of our documents and correspondence on our mobile devices. The Council agreed that this has obvious advantages over the present situation. However, to enable an efficient and productive use of Teams some training and practise will be necessary. Amanda and Dimos expressed some concern that they are not yet very familiar with the software. Morten has agreed to help all Council members with problems or queries regarding the use of Teams.

On conclusion of this presentation, the Council decided to continue with Microsoft Teams.

The present Waterski Europe email addresses will remain active for the time being. A decision on the future use of these email addresses will be taken at a later date.

#### **5. Homologated Events 2022**

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Candido presented a list of all homologated events 2022. Some of the events had been cancelled during the season and Candido had unfortunately found some events where the level of homologation was not clear or confirmed due to errors occurring on the submitted files. Candido had to pinpoint these errors and then inform the organisers of the problem. These specific events have now been clarified and the homologation level confirmed or changed accordingly.

Resolving any discrepancies with the homologation levels must be completed before the publication of the Ranking Lists. The Ranking Lists October 2022 will be published next week and the homologation levels must be confirmed at this time.

The Federations, of the organisers who submitted files where errors were present, will be informed of the occurring errors and fines will apply.

Further updates and improvements concerning the EMS System should hopefully help prevent this situation happening for future homologated events.

170 events took place in 2022. It was noted that 20 of these, all being in Sweden, were not homologated.

All events that took place in Namibia were classified as normal homologated for 2022.

#### **6. Chief Judge Reports**

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The Chief Judge reports from all Titled Events were presented to the Council.

##### 2022 IWWF E&A +35 Championships

Ioannina Canal - 18/24 July 2022

Gavin, being the Chief Judge at this competition, gave his report to the Council personally.

The general organisation of the championships was very good. There was a problem though that the competition was short of officials. There were not enough judges, one judge was also a skier and no assistant scorer. This was a difficult situation to manage and meant having to judge trick with a panel of 3 rather than the preferred or recommended 5. Gavin made a request, that if this

situation occurs again, judges should not take part as an athlete in the same competition that they are judging at.

The championships were though in general a success even with the obvious limitations.

#### 2022 IWWF E&A Youth (U14 & U17) Championships

Ioannina Canal - 1/7 August 2022

Candido, being the Chief Judge at this competition, gave his report to the council personally. The panel for this competition was full apart from the Assistant Scorer. Christianna Mamali, Assistant Chief Judge, was able to assist the Scorer. The championships went smoothly, but there were too many competitors for this specific site. There were some complications with the lake itself concerning wakes. Live-streaming worked well and the skiers achieved good results. There was also a Final Night event. This event for the Youth Championships had been cancelled in recent years so this was the first event of its kind to take place since then. The Team Captains were given the responsibility of their national teams and the event went well with no incidents. A decision needs to be made about whether the Final Night Event should become a permanent part of the Youth Championships again and if so under which rules and regulations. It needs to be specifically stipulated that the Team Captains are officially responsible for the participants and not the Chief Judge or the organisers.

The Council agreed to the return of Final Night Parties under these conditions for the E&A Youth Championships.

#### 2022 IWWF E&A U21 & Disabled Championships

Fischlham - 31 August/3 September 2022

Morten, being the Chief Judge at this competition, gave his report to the council personally. The competition was very well organised and ran on the whole very smoothly. There was one unfortunate accident that happened in the jump event where the pick up boat did not react immediately. The delay was due to the accident happening on the approach to the ramp. The pick up boat has no view of the skier at this point because the ramp itself is obstructing the view. It was an unfortunate situation, but no harm was caused by the delay.

The competition was in general a very good competition with little to no problems.

#### 2022 IWWF E&A Open Championships

Recetto - 8/11 September 2022

The report from the Chief Judge has not yet been received.

Ricardo, Candido and Hannu were all officiating at this competition as driver, judge and scorer so they were able to give the Council a report from their perspectives.

The competition went very well. The jump event in particular was very successful producing some of the best results of the season. It was mentioned that the list of participants was relatively small. Probably due to the timing of the competition as so many European skiers are in the USA at that time of year. The E&A Open Championships 2023 are taking place later in the season in San Gervasio. It is hoped that because of the later date in September and being straight after ProAm events, that more open skiers will be able to participate.

#### 2022 IWWF World Over-35 Championships

Ski Nautique Club de Bordeaux - 13/18 September 2022

Gavin and Ricardo officiated at the +35 World Championships so were able to give the Council a report from their perspectives.

The Council were informed that there were some problems with the quality of the gate cameras, the lake itself, the course in general and some safety issues with the jump event. The Chief Judge used some co-opted American officials who were on site for some slalom events when there were a number of Appointed Judges available without a clear explanation. This left some Appointed Judges under utilised at times. There were also not enough sanitary facilities on site to cope with the amount of people attending this competition. The medal ceremony took place without a representative from the IWWF.

There was then a discussion about how to deal with or prevent the problems that arise at a competition due to the site and how to help or recommend changes to the organisers to improve their site for future competitions. Also how to help the organisers in advance of competitions to make sure the site has no unforeseen complications during the event. The processes of how waterski sites are approved for competitions at European and World levels were also discussed.

## **7. Finance**

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Aliaksandra joined the Council meeting online.

Candido presented the Council's budget for 2022. The Waterski Council's expenditure and income were explained and discussed.

The budget for 2023 was prepared and discussed. Now that the Council has decided to proceed with Microsoft Teams, Zoom can be cancelled. Other technical costs that have been rendered unnecessary through Teams and EMS will also be cancelled.

Officials grants to help towards travel expenses were then discussed.

Officials going to the World Games were informed before the event that there will be no grants towards travel expenses as it is an IOC event and their expenses should be covered by their respective national olympic committees. The Council however agreed, that as financially possible, these officials should now receive the same travel grant as they would have been entitled to at an E&A Championships.

The Waterski Council is aware of a general problem regarding travel expenses for officials. This problem was outlined in an official letter received from Virginie Sourty and Patrice Martin. The cost of travel has risen dramatically and will continue to rise making long haul flights to and from Europe very expensive. The officials, for example, needing to travel from Europe to South America or the USA for the IWWF World Youth Championships in Chile and World Open Championships in Florida in 2023, will be confronted with very expensive travel costs. A solution must be found to support our officials in covering their travel expenses. The problem will be discussed by the Executive Board on 08.12.2022 and hopefully a solution will be found. Stian was proposed to represent the Waterski Council at this EB meeting. The EB will obviously only find a solution at world level. A discussion followed on whether the WSC should also consider increasing the present travel expense grant in Europe to cover rising travel costs. A decision was not made at this time.

## **8. Calendar 2023 (EMS)**

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2023 IWWF World Youth Championships  
Lago LOS MORROS, San Bernardo  
5-8 January 2023

2023 IWWF E&A Open Championships  
San Gervasio Bresciano, Brescia  
28-30 July 2023

### 2023 IWWF E&A Youth (U14 & U17) Championships

Botaski - Seseña, Toledo

9-13 August 2023

### 2023 IWWF E&A +35 Championships

Club Omnisport de Jaumard, Le Plan d'Eau

11-17 September 2023

### 2023 IWWF E&A U21 Championships 2023

Organiser still needs to be found

A letter will be sent to all Federations informing them about the missing site or bid for the E&A U21 Championships.

The idea was put forward of maybe combining the U14, U17 and U21 together if a site is not found for the 2023 IWWF E&A U21 Championships.

2023 IWWF World U21 Championships will be held in Mexico.

Dates have to be confirmed and will be in the first half of September.

The specific dates for 2023 IWWF World U21 Championships will be published shortly.

### 2023 IWWF World Open Championships 2023

Sunset Lakes, Groveland, FL

8-15 October 2023

There were some questions about the fact that the 2023 IWWF World Open Championships will be held at the same site in Florida as the last IWWF World Open Championships in 2021. This decision was made and approved by the World Council so the WSC Council do not have the answers to these questions at this time.

The finalised "List of Obligations" for perspective organisers for future IWWF World Open Championships needs to be made more public.

Entry fees and Familiarisation fees will be increased for all 2023 Titled Events.

### 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games

The 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games will be held in Heraklion, Crete. This event will take place September 2-9, 2023. The Waterski Council have appointed Virginie Sourty as technical delegate assisted by Dimos Alexopoulos for this event. The waterski event will take place on a dammed lake around 30km away from the beach at Heraklion. The Greek Federation will be holding a national competition at the site earlier in the 2023 season.

More information regarding the 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games will be published soon.

## 9. EMS

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There are now 59 countries from around the world registered on EMS. This presently includes 23900 athletes, 9000 active users and 3900 officials across 6 different disciplines (Barefoot, Cableski, Disabled, Wakeboard Boat, Wakesurf, Waterski) with cable wakeboard due to follow in 2023.

At European Level 2022:

271 Competitions in total:

- 192 Waterski
- 28 Wakeboard
- 17 Cableski
- 16 Disabled
- 10 Wakesurf
- 7 Barefoot

The next phase of development including Payment of Entry Fees, Intention to Enter, publication of Lists of Participation and further improvements are expected in 2023. 105 amendments or enhancements have already taken place since 2020. Other minor adjustments are still taking place and will continue to do so in the future. The Officials area has been improved offering more information.

Ranking Lists will remain separate from the EMS system.

It was decided that the deadline for publishing the Entry List on EMS for Titled Events will follow the Rulebook. Deadline for the publication of the Entry List is therefore 15 days before the event. Donal has agreed to continue to update the judge database for the E&A region. It is hoped that EMS will be developed further to also include this information for the future.

## 10. Skier of the Year

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The WSC had to nominate Skiers of the year for the IWWF and the E&A Confederation.

### **IWWF**

The WSC nominated with a majority decision:

Female Skier of the Year 2022:

**Regina Jaquess**

Male Skier of the Year 2022:

**Will Asher**

### **E&A Confederation**

The WSC nominated with a majority decision:

Female Skier of the Year 2022:

**Alice Bagnoli**

Male Skier of the Year 2022:

**Will Asher**

## 11. Athletes Commission Report

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Manon Costard, former Athlete Representative for the E&A, resigned earlier this year. Martin Kolman, World Athlete Representative, unfortunately did not have the opportunity to speak with the former Athlete Representative before the Council meeting. Martin expressed his wish to take a more active role as Athlete Representative to the Council.

On a World level, the question about the participation of Russian athletes arose. This was a question referring to an event that occurred outside of Europe this season. A discussion on the matter followed and will be discussed further at the EB.

A list of athletes that have changed federation were then presented.

An idea of random homologation checks at competition sites was also discussed.

## 12. Administrative Committee Items

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At 15:30 the WSC welcomed the Office, IWWF European Confederation President, Patrice Martin, Secretary General, Sid Adriaensen and Administrative Committee member, Dominique Lakens Douwes.

Voting Power was discussed and Candido will send the finalised list to the AdminCom this week.

The budget was discussed and checked that all payments due have been made and any other queries regarding the budget were clarified.

The Office was informed that the WSC has nominated Athletes of the Year. These nominations will be announced at the AdminCom meeting taking place Sunday 14th November.

The 2023 Titled Event calendar was discussed. The WSC informed the Office that at this time there is no site, bid or organiser for the IWWF E&A U21 Championships 2023. The Office was also informed that a technical delegate had been found but not yet been confirmed for the 2023 Beach Games to be held in Heraklion 02-09th September. The WSC received the confirmation for Virginie Sourty as technical delegate on Sunday morning.

The WSC expressed their concerns about the IWWF approving and awarding the 2023 IWWF World Open Championships to Sunset Lakes in Florida again. These concerns being that the World Open Championship will thereby be taking place back to back at exactly the same site as the last World Open Championships which were also at Sunset Lakes in 2021. Europe must comply with this decision but would have appreciated more transparency in how the decision was made especially since there was interest from European sites to host these Championships. As the WSC had discussed already earlier, it was confirmed again that the List of Obligations for hosting a World Championships needs to be made more public for future World Championships.

The Office were then informed of the ongoing problem of travel costs for officials and the lack of officials in general at some events this season. Also the amount of hours that officials are now required to officiate at some Titled Events to accommodate for the amount of participants. The Office and AdminCom is obviously already aware of most of these problems. Lengthy discussions followed about how to improve the present situation. It is hoped that the EB will be successful next month in finding some solutions for 2023.

There were some questions about the Pro Tour. This is though a topic primarily for the World Council.

The WSC was then informed that as of 2023, the fees for Titled Events will include an extra 10€ Anti-Doping fee. This is to offer financial support towards the cost of the yearly doping tests at Titled Events according to the IOC rules. The fact that doping tests do not have to take place during the finals which are usually on weekends is not common knowledge. Doping tests are actually allowed to be conducted during the preliminaries which are usually held during the week. This information could be helpful to organisers as fees for testing on weekends are generally more costly than on a week day.

The WSC and the Office then expressed their wish for clean (meaning no sun glasses, hats or sport equipment on the podium) Medal Ceremonies. This is an IOC guideline and the Council and the Office feel that this guideline should be followed at our Titled Events. The importance of sponsorships of the athletes is understood so a compromise needs to be found. A suggestion from Patrice was to have two award ceremonies as is already common place in various other sports. Alpine Skiing, for example, have two ceremonies. One that takes place straight away with sport equipment and sponsors and then a second ceremony for the medals later.

The next Congress will be taking place 4th February in Antalya, Turkey. The WSC will be represented at the Congress by Candido Moz, Stian Lilleberg and Gavin Kelly. The WSC itself will not be holding a meeting in Antalya.



### **13. Officials**

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There were 30 exams which took place during the 2022 season.

All candidates and new officials have been informed of their results and EMS and Hubspot have been updated accordingly.

New exams for Judges, Scorers, Drivers and Homologators will soon be available.

The Officials Seminar 2023 will be held here at the Radisson Blue, Stansted Airport 24th-26th March. It was agreed that financial support from the Council will be given to British Waterski & Wakeboard, BWSW for hosting the Seminar 2023. The question arose of whether to hold a hybrid Seminar or not. It was decided that due to various technical difficulties that offering hybrid entails that this was not a feasible option. The Seminar will be recorded and an online version of the Seminar will be made available at a later date.

There was a discussion about the Moodle platform that is used for the exams and training. The advantages and disadvantages of the platform were discussed. The Council will continue to work with Moodle.

Donal is updating all Officials Activity in 2022.

### **14. World Tournament Council Issues**

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The Council was informed of issues with the World Record certificate. Rule 23.13 Record Administration. There will be changes made and a new record document or certificate will be published. Rule 23.04 will also be adjusted to avoid possible complications.

The Council suggested that for all types of records there should be a time deadline issued for the record to be announced and the according files to be sent to the Council for approval.

The World Council has received a report from Donal Connolly. EyeTrick Development, Testing and Tournament Usage in 2022. The report was also made available to the WSC Europe. Gavin Kelly, being one of the judges testing the system during 2022 season, was able to give the Council his personal feedback. Judges will require differing amount of time to adjust or retrain to this way of judging trick, but once accomplished eyeTrick is able to produce scores at a much faster rate than the present way of judging tricks. There were concerns that results using eyeTrick would differ from results using the traditional method of judging. In fact both ways of judging produced very similar scores this season. This became apparent testing eyeTrick at tournaments in 2022 and also rejudging the trick events of past World Championships and comparing the results. The general feedback from skiers, judges and organisers who had the opportunity of testing eyeTrick has also been very positive. EyeTrick will now be presented to the World Council. The WSC will proceed with eyeTrick after the World Council has made a decision.

### **15. Additional Rules 2023**

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There was a suggestion to change the Normal Homologated maximum scores for the Ranking List. Rule 24 in the Additional Rules. Candido will make a proposal for the change and a decision will be made by the Council at a later time.

A suggestion was also made referring to Rule 14.04 Chief Judge & Appointed Officials. In the case of a judging panel that is not complete, that the officiating judges should not participate in the same competition that they are judging at.

The Council then had a discussion about our Titled Events in Europe and how to alleviate some of the problems that have developed with the growing number of participants in particular at the Youth and Senior events. Adding a day to these specific tournaments could be a solution.



## 16. Driver Committee Report

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After some discussion about the present situation and some of the difficulties that the Drivers Committee has been confronted with it was decided that some changes needed to be made. The Council decided that appointing a single representative to the European Drivers Committee who can communicate directly with the World Drivers Commission would simplify matters. The Council agreed to appoint Ricardo Botas as the interim representative for Europe. The members of the present Drivers Committee will be informed of this change.

Changing the Drivers Committee is possible at this time as the Council has been newly elected this year.

The WSC has received a request from the World Drivers Commission. The request is about a wider publication of Sure Path data. Presently only Will Bush and Donal Connolly have access to the data. The Council decided that only the World Drivers Commission and individual drivers should have access to this data. Individual drivers should only be able to access their own data.

The Council has also received an evaluation survey of all level 1 drivers worldwide which has been created through using driver evaluation from top skiers worldwide. The Council received at the same time and from the same source, a request to use this survey when selecting drivers for the World Championships. The WSC decided unanimously against using the provided survey to select drivers for the World Championships as the Council agrees that the evaluation survey in question is based on athlete preference rather than actual data and is subjective rather than really reflecting a drivers capabilities. There are also some very good lesser known drivers who would be at an obvious disadvantage if a survey of this kind was used.

## 17. Any Other Business

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Best Placed List, List of Champions 2022 and E&A Records will be updated.

The former Council website which is basically now out of use will be closed.

Hannu shared all WSC Facebook Page activities so far for this year.

There were then discussions on whether to reactivate the AdminCom 4 year plan or not. It was decided that this can only be productive if actually used and followed and needs to be discussed at AdminCom. Gavin agreed to discuss the 4 year plan at the AdminCom meeting taking place directly after the Council meeting.

It was then clarified which Council members were or will be responsible for which duties and tasks. A list of these duties can be found on Teams. New to this list at this time will be that Martin has kindly agreed to help with the homologation exams and Dimos agreed to be in charge of all deadlines.

As with the 4 year plan, obviously all ongoing or prevailing tasks, duties or problems must be dealt with first before setting future goals, but the importance of trying to stay or think ahead must still be considered.

The WSC was then informed of an alternative software available for jump, trick timing and gate bouys. This software is called Chip Sand Softwares and is available free of charge on the AWSA website.

The Council were informed that an alternative or substitute for the World Council needs to be nominated. The WSC nominated Aliaksandra Berazouskaya.

The Council received a request from the French Federation to combine the team results for the E&A Open and Disabled Championships. The request has been sent on to the Disabled Council before a final decision will be made but the WSC believe that this is difficult to realise due to the low numbers of participants in the Disabled Championships.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:00 GMT.

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**Secretary**

Amanda Scherer

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**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.