

**Minutes of 109th Meeting of the EC Cableski Council
being held in Danubius Hotel, Hungary on 11th/12 November 2023**

Present	Marie-Anne Persoons (MAP) Nicky Caine (NCC) Nigel Talamo (NT) Ulf Langrock (UL) Elena Kunert (EK) Maoz Tal (MT) Joost De Leyer (JDL)	Apologies for non attendance at Sunday meeting due to family commitments
Absent	Or Shinuk (OS)	Believed to be travelling after political unrest
Invited	Michal Mos (MM)	

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were duly approved by MAP and NCC and then signed. MAP & NCC apologized for the fact that the minutes were late being posted on EC website, but it turned out that although they had been circulated they had just not been uploaded!

Teams

MAP had started uploading all the minutes into Teams, minutes numbered from Meeting 60th until 108th had already been uploaded with prior meeting minutes being a “work in progress”! (MAP has since this meeting uploaded all the old/back minutes).

NT had also uploaded documents into Teams, in connection with the World Council, documents such as the World records file.

MAP will email JDL, MT and OS to find out whether they wish to continue with their Teams license as they appear not to be using the programme and every subscription costs money. (JDL and MT confirmed that they now have access to Teams and will be using it in future).

AOB

We had received an email from Martin Graw, who had been due to be Chief Judge at European Championships in Israel, querying some Ladies that had participated at the Waterski Worlds in Orlando as they had been entered as USA individuals. It is believed that all of these Ladies already have their green cards. The reason they had not been named as team members and shown with the AWSA flag rather than with the USA flag is an internal USA issue and not connected to the skiers’ original nationality. Jose Antonio had sent a letter to Martin explaining the exact situation.

Competitions 2023

The European Age Categories/Open had had to be cancelled at short notice due to the “war” in Israel which MT was obviously very disappointed about as so much hard work had gone into the organization. The original budget had been 300K euros. The local municipality had been completely supportive of the competition. MT admitted that his only, original, real, concern had been about the weather!!

The municipality has agreed to run 50K euros over to the following year.

It was noted, that WizzAir were also refunding 120% of the original airfare cost for flights to Tel Aviv that had had to be cancelled, as any other airline company. MM will contact his travel agent to get his refund.

It was agreed that we should try and re-arrange the “2023” Age Categories to be hosted in early 2024 and that there should be a cut-off date. (We are not sure if we need to go to AdminCom to get approval). Dawid Kasek has already offered, very kindly, to take over the “Age Categories” only competition in Sosnowiec, Poland in September 2024.

Also we wish to put on record our thanks, as it was really appreciated, that when the original 2023 Age Categories/Open Championships had been cancelled Poland/Germany/Czech had offered to host it at short notice. Netherlands had also looked into trying to host it and they had the facilities but not the necessary volunteers!

The Israeli Nationals will be held next weekend.

If we can organize another competition in Israel, we think that it should again be the combined Age Categories and Open, in 2025, and MT has suggested either 17/20 September or 22/25 October.

Competitions 2024

At the moment the only competition that has been entered on EMS system is
31May /2 June WBW in Kiefersfelden

World Championships/Matters

At the moment, there are 2 main possibilities for the Worlds to be hosted in 2024.

Australia - at the end of September/beginning of October

Florida – anytime maybe early October

Paul Fong is also looking at possibilities at the Taco Lake near Bangkok Thailand and at the “re-opened” site in Shanghai.

It is thought that all venues would try and incorporate the Worlds with their Confederation Championships (PanAm/ Asian).

Before considering Australia we will need to check that people from Europe will be happy to travel there but thought/hoped they would as most of them are prepared to go to USA. It will be key to have the competition announced and confirmed on the calendar as soon as possible.

Jay Bennett has agreed to start looking into helping to ensure that there is a US team entered at the Cableski World Championships.

If Padiwat Jaemjan(Bom) cannot any longer be a member of the World Council for Asia Pacific, then maybe Chris Rosental should be considered. NT is working on finding this out and is looking into this further.

World Record Certificate

The framed World Record Slalom certificate for Aviv Levy (ISR) 5 buoys @9.5M in Weert which we were hoping to present at Age Categories/Open Championships in Tel Aviv will now be presented at the EC Congress in Paris in February 2024.

JDL has been asked to upload the record information on the teams site, so we have this for future reference.

EMS

Apparently as of April 2024 the Rankings List will be posted on EMS. However so far none of the Council members have been contacted on what should be put on EMS. We hope Peter Frei will be in contact with us soon.

Peter Frei has an EMS query regarding a skier that was registered for both Germany and Netherlands.

Skiers Representative

OS is at the moment "joint" athlete's representative.

Unfortunately, we believe that he had not advised Simon Hermann (the other named representative) that he could not attend this meeting, which we felt was a shame as Simon might have tried to come in his place.

Also, we would have liked to have received a report from OS with feedback from any of his recent initiatives

A question was raised whether if OS is about to retire from competitive ski-ing then can he stay on as skiers' representative? However, it is believed that he can stay for 2 years from whenever his last competition was.

If he wishes to stand down from the Council, then he needs to advise all the other competitors so that they can vote for a replacement.

A voting could be probably be online? It is believed that Waterski have just recently carried out successfully, their voting for their Confederation Representatives. We can talk to Martin Kolman to find out how Waterski had organized the voting system.

It would be ideal if we could have one lady and one man (as confirmed at Executive Board meeting) named as Skiers' Representative (when the discipline grows we would also hope to have representatives from all Confederations) we will try and aim for this.

It was hoped that it might be possible for Skiers Representatives to receive funding from IOC but this was not the case. However, if the Skiers' Representatives are asked to attend a meeting by IWWF there will be funding via IWWF "central fund".

Byelaw 13.1 covers the rule regarding the Athletes Representative.

New Sites

The site at McCormicks (USA) is the perfect size for the new Rixen 2 pylon rig to be installed.

There is also a "Ski Rixen" site run by Britta Schipner located near Fort Lauderdale (USA) which would also be a possibility for the new rig to be installed.

It is believed that the site in Penrith (AUS) is now under new ownership, Nigel is in contact with the owners.

Rixen

We believe that Rixen are now trying to sell "developments" as opposed to just installations.

Wherever the "Master Gold" is first installed (possibly in Austria?) then we should try and send athletes to test the system.

Sea Games/World Games

We will need to ask countries to lobby their local NOC (National Olympic Committee) to allow Waterskiing, Cable 3 event and Wakeboard etc to be included in these Games.

The 2025 World Games are to be held in Chengdu, China but it is believed that none of our divisions/disciplines will be competing. The limitation of number of athletes is not helping us here.

The 2029 World Games are probably going to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany. This would be a perfect occasion to lobby for Cableski to be present. Note that Cable Wakeboard was present at the 2005 World Games in Duisburg.

Rules

We are aware that the “End of Trick Pass” description (TR6.12) needs further clarification.

We believe that 25m is actually too close to the corner.

It is difficult to know/define which are safe/dangerous tricks. Most flips are nearly always executed at either the beginning or the end of the run., as closer to the corner, it is easier to get ‘air’.

We need a rule for all lengths of cable, so best is to have a separate buoy and not refer to a buoy from the slalom course.

Hence it was agreed that we would move the 25m to 30m before the corner. All tricks must be completed by 30M to score. If the skier starts a trick after 30m then they will get the penalty. For a trick to score it must be completed before 30m. Trick started before but not completed until after will receive no score for that trick, but also they will receive no penalty.

Ulf has worked out with Manu how to reduce score by 1,000 points in calculation programme.

It has now been agreed that the “default” mode in Slalom is the alternating mode as we believe that this helps the public to understand our sport easier. We want to try and encourage organizers to use this mode for Titled and Record Capability events.

We have made the ramp rule so that all ramps should be able to fit within the rule! For a few years there were two ramp sizes as we wanted to allow organizers to use the ‘new’ dimensions as set by Waterski, but we also did not want to make organizers change ramps if they already had a ramp. The new dimensions fit both.

WBW

We have received an email from Robin Senge and after much, lengthy discussions we are still finding it very difficult to find a “fair solution” and we are very happy for these exchange of views to continue.

Robin suggested that less than 5 competitions should count towards final WBW calculations and proposes to use only 3 results, but concerns that if the number of competitions that need to be entered is lowered then it might encourage people to travel less and with that there will be even less competitors at competitions. Also if they have one “bad” competition it will have more effect!

Should the scores be worked out as a percentage of World Record/EC Best Scores?

The co-efficients have now been in place for about 4 years. However with the small number of competitors, especially in the women categories, the co-efficients go down very fast and skiers are penalized simply because there are so few or none to compete against. When the Belarus/Russian skiers are allowed to take part again it is acknowledged that it will have a big influence on the scores.

Germans would like a separate list for the different age categories, but as they believe that if the WBW list of skiers becomes smaller then it might cause problems with their Minister of Sport.

To use a certain percentage against World Records to set the co-efficient for the technical level of the competition for the WBW RL was discussed.

If we base the WBW against the Open World Records for all categories, then we will need to work out how to calculate the scores in connection with the different "Age" speeds, but it is believed that this may give a more correct score at the end.

MAP has worked something out, and posted it on Teams for the other council members to look at and think about. The final decision will be made at the next meeting, in Paris, so well in advance of the start of the season.

The Council is very happy for other suggestions to be made!

No other rules needed to be discussed at this meeting.

2022 Athlete of the Year Trophies

We wish that these be given to the skiers themselves so MT will keep them for the moment.

Laura Hillenbrand was voted by the AdminCom , out of all the disciplines, as the overall Athlete of Year and therefore she has a watch to collect in recognition of this award. We need to check that Patrice has it with him in Paris.

Athlete of Year 2023

Several names put forward for Ladies but Men was unanimous

Men	Aviv Levy
Women	Phoenix Baumgardt

We need to try and get some good pictures of them both for the front of the new rulebook!!

As Phoenix is Under 19 we will need her parents' permission for her image to be used.

2024 Seminar/Spring Meeting

The Waterski Seminar will be in Athens but we as we decided to have the Cableski Seminar only every second year we don't think that we should have a joint seminar with them, but we could have our meeting on the same weekend as many of the Council will be there anyway. It was decided that we could have a meeting on Thursday afternoon/Friday morning and then attend the Waterski seminar for the rest of the weekend.

Congress Meeting

It was agreed that our meeting on the Congress weekend would be on Sunday morning, finishing at lunchtime.

Homologation Fees

The Fees to be charged were agreed:

Austria	100 euros
Germany	200 euros
Poland	100 euros
Slovakia	200 euros

600 euros in total.

Officials

First Class officials will always be 3-event officials, but it is possible for Second Class officials only to be 2 events officials.

For Normal/ Record Capability events it is possible for the Chief Judge to be a 2nd Class judge. The Chief Judge does not need to judge tricks but for them to judge them they will need to be a 1st Class Judge in case of an RC event.

The theoretical exam can be taken over 2 years, but the practical exam has to be passed in the same time frame.

National "WBW" events can be just one JC3 judge but an International WBW needs at least 3 judges.

If 3 National Judges are recommended, then if necessary they can only be one duplication for the maximum of 2 positions.

The next review Officials will take place as at 1st January 2024.

For new officials it would be great to see the exams entered on our teams site, so we all can see easily who sat the exam and for what function.

Feedback from Executive Board Meeting in Orlando

The Youth Olympics in 2026 is scheduled to be in Dakar which we are hoping to be included in!!

Richard (Rixen) had given a very good demonstration of the new "rig" manufacture.

Geoff Blaauw had discussed a competition that had been demonstrated in Australia it was new format of 4 events and consisted of 2 passes Barefoot/2 passes Slalom/2 passes show ski/2 passes wakeboard.

E sports were discussed, as this will be an Olympic sport in 2024 !!!

Wakesurf was to become a Council instead of a Committee (this apparently had been agreed with a couple of votes against).

Hall of Fame – Geoff Blaauw advised that Cable 3 event had made the most comprehensive paperwork that the selectors had received and passed on his congratulations! Hopefully the person we have nominated will be successful!! We have 2 more years before Cable 3 event next award so we need to start working on our next nominations as soon as possible.

Budget

Invoices are needed from MT for running the website and from Maor Achrak for looking after the social media.

After the meeting MAP and NCC discussed making a small payment to Michal Mos, and it was agreed by the full Council that we would send a contribution to travel expenses, to him as he has attended all our meetings this year as an advisor and we really appreciated his time and input.

Bureau

Then Patrice/Sid and Dominique joined our meeting.

Sigita Rosovaitė has requested that she will no longer represent Lithuania and will switch to represent Germany. Rules of eligibility were explained. An email was forwarded to Patrice by Ulf. This matter was to be discussed with Louis Polome and Paul Fong. It was advised that Sigita would be able to ski for Germany from May 2024.

Recommendation, that if we run the 2023 Age Categories in 2024, to have separate events as believed it would be complicated if run together. Maybe we should consider having it on the same week but run 2 separate competitions, or go for two consecutive weeks at the same location. This should save some costs if everyone only have to travel once. The skiers at the “re-arranged” championships can win the title but no “records” can be set.

We wish to look into possibly hosting a “Masters” as the sanctions, for Belarus/Russians athletes, only apply to Titled events. Confirmed that unfortunately Poland would not be able to organize such a competition but their athletes would be able to compete.

If such a competition was arranged then no “country” flags will be shown. Maybe, we could use some of the development fund to start this series?

However, we should give priority to finding hosts for Titled events before trying to find a venue for a “Cableski Masters” but we could still publicize that we are looking for a host.

This “Masters” if held, it was agreed that it could be an invitational. It also it might be able to be called “World Trophy”, but we have to ask IWWF permission! Agreed that there will be no flags but the athletes will still need to ask IWWF permission to compete.

If we decide to go ahead we need to set rules for this event.

As this event will not be a “Titled” event then none of the sanction fee money will go to either EC or IWWF but it would be possible that some of the monies to come to our council.

We need to find an organizer, agree the name of the event, decide the names of the skiers we are considering asking and agree the rules.

Succession Planning

Sid is up for re-election as Secretary General in 2024 but he is thinking of standing down and MAP will probably stand to replace him which means she can no longer be our President.

MAP suggested that we also look for a person to be co-opted, to replace her on the Council, preferably someone who is involved mainly in Cable and not involved in Waterski as well.

There will be elections for all Councils again in 2 years’ time when we all need to be voted for again if we decide to re-stand.

AdminCom

It was agreed that our substitute to represent Cable 3 event on the AdminCom will be Ulf Langrock.

Voting Powers

MAP will send her the Voting Power to Sid. She has a spreadsheet in connection with the Voting Powers which she updates every year.

MAP then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and looked forward to meeting up again in Paris in February 2024.