

MINUTES FIR AGM 2016

Saturday 26th November, 9:00 – 12:00

SPORT:PARK Nordwest, Nürnberg/Fürth, Germany

City & Country Club Wienerberg
Gutheil-Schoder-Gasse 7

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Austria/Europe

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Chairs:

FIR-Executive President Kresten Hougaard

FIR Vice-President Graham King

FIR General Secretary Natalie Paul

24 Countries present or voting power allocated with a total of 66 votes:

1. Australia (1), Leigh Sands
2. Austria (4), Dieter Mühl
3. Belgium (5), Hans van Daele
4. Canada (4), votes to France
5. Croatia (1), votes to Austria
6. Czech Republic (3), Svatopluk Rejthar
7. Denmark (5), Graham Cain
8. England (6), Keith Lesser
9. Finland (3), Poku Salo
10. France (2), Cedric Junillon
11. Germany (6), Frank Kleiber
12. Greece (1), votes to Russia
13. Hungary (3), Balazs Valencei
14. Latvia (1), Arturs Zeicevs
15. Netherlands (2), Erik Roelofsen
16. New Zealand (1), Jason Granville
17. Poland (1), Rav Rykowski
18. Romania (1), Radu Ionescu
19. Russia (1), Dmitriy Dubovenko
20. Slovakia (1), Svec Juraj
21. South Africa (1), votes to Czech Republic
22. Sweden (6), Lennart Eklundh
23. Switzerland (6), Graham King
24. Turkey (1), Ersoy Koror

66 out of 83 possible votes were present at the AGM 2016, which is 80% and more than the 50% required for quorum. The AGM can thus take final decisions on all points on the Agenda. For the normal majority (50%) a minimum of 34 votes are needed. For the qualified majority (66.67%) a minimum of 45 votes are needed.

17 Countries not present with a total of 17 votes

1. Armenia (1)
2. Brazil (1)
3. Bulgaria (1)
4. Estonia (1)
5. F.Y.R of Macedonia (1)
6. Ghana (1)
7. Hong-Kong, China (1)
8. India (1)
9. Iraq (1)
10. Ireland (1)
11. Israel (1)
12. Italy (1)
13. Liechtenstein (1)
14. Malaysia (1)
15. Scotland (1)
16. Slovenia (1)
17. USA (1)

Final Agenda

- 1) Welcome note members
- 2) Confirmation of minutes of AGM 2015
- 3) Confirmation of final Financial and Auditor's Report 2015, Amke Fischer (Treasurer)
- 4) Discharge of former 2015 Council, especially the then President Marcel Weigl and Treasurer Lennart Eklundh concerning finances
- 5) Discharge of outgoing 2015 auditors, Stefan Adamsson (Sweden) and Håkan Granberg (Sweden), election of Frank Kleiber (Germany) and Patrick Wartia (Sweden)
- 6) 2016 President & Council Report, Kresten Hougaard
- 7) Finance preview 2016, Amke Fischer, Treasurer
- 8) FIR Council preview 2017, FIR President, Kresten Hougaard
- 9) FIR Board of Arbitration, election of Izzy Tyrrell (Great Britain), to replace outgoing Phil Reid (Scotland)
- 10) Request1a from Racketlon Federation of Austria: No exceptions for new member applications
- 11) Approval of Malta as a new FIR member country
- 12) Expulsion of Scotland as a Member, request by FIR Vice President, Graham King
- 13) Change to frontier of Racketlon Great Britain to include Scotland, request by Keith Lesser, Great Britain
- 14) Change to Rules of Racketlon, request by FIR President, Kresten Hougaard
 - Team event matches may be played to 11, 15 or 21
 - Optional cancellation of 3-minute warm-up period

- 15) Change to Statutes, request by FIR Vice President, Graham King
 - introduction of Passive Membership
 - FIR member countries status review
- 16) Annual 2017 FIR Membership Fee proposal:
 - Active Members unchanged, as defined by the Hagenbach-Bischoff-System (Statutes 7.9.2)
 - non-EU FIR Members (as defined by UEFA) fee reduction of 50%
 - Passive Members: EUR 20
- 17) Requests by FIR Members
 - Request 1b from Racketlon Federation of Austria:
 - exclusion of player participation at FIR tournaments if neither his/her country of nationality, nor of residence has paid their FIR membership fee
 - Request 2 from Racketlon Federation of Austria:
 - tournaments referees shall be provided for ALL elite matches
 - execution of time rules in elite matches 3 min warm up plus on next court in 3 min!
 - clear and strict penalties if rules are not followed!
- 18) Any other business

1) Welcome note, members (Kresten Hougaard)

FIR president Kresten Hougaard welcomed all representatives:

- presentation of agenda → no objections

2) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2015

The minutes of the AGM 2015 held on Friday 27th November 2015 in Prague/Czech Republic were approved unanimously

3) Confirmation of final Financial and Auditor's Report 2015, Amke Fischer (Treasurer)

The final Financial and Auditor's Report 2015 was presented by Amke Fischer and approved unanimously

4) Discharge of former 2015 Council (Kresten Hougaard)

- Kresten Hougaard thanked the FIR Council which was in force until 31.12.2015
- Following the approval of the final 2015 Financial and Auditor's report, all 2015 Council members (in particular Marcel Weigl and Lennart Eklundh, who were responsible for all FIR finances at the time) were unanimously given a full discharge

5) Discharge of outgoing 2015 Auditors, election of new Auditors (Kresten Hougaard)

- Kresten Hougaard thanked the outgoing FIR Auditors for the period up until 2015
- The auditors (Stefan Adamsson and Håkan Granberg (both from Sweden), were unanimously given a full discharge
- The new auditors Frank Kleiber (Germany) and Patrick Wartia (Sweden) were elected unanimously

6) Presidents and Council Report 2016 (Kresten Hougaard)

FIR president Kresten Hougaard presented his report:

- More council members involved in FIR responsibilities, expanded from 9 to 13
- Looked for a new seat for the federation
- Cleaned up on economics, cutting expenses to the bone and with more focus on up-to-date bookkeeping
- Bid for EU project; rejected another time; possible third try planned
- Worked on non-EU countries (USA, India, Pakistan, Thailand); India: tournament planned for end of 2017, Frank Kleiber asks everyone to spread the information
- World Tour 2017: new tournament on Lanzarote, new Champions League system, Canada SWT (IWT in 2016), Antwerp IWT (Challenger in 2016)
- Champions League held on 2 weekends (Swedish and German Open), 8 team captains, draft and pick of players in January
- European Champs: time schedule published; retention of this concept for following years depends on applications (deadline end of June 2017)
- Gave up on SportAccord for now, instead founded Sport Recognized, SRE
- Worked on new and much improved website to implement more quality content
- Sponsorship for Champions League under discussion
- Tournament Software: new filters introduced for age categories
- Improving delegate work, new Delegates recruited for 2017
- Regulations updated with new format for National Team Event, and also for Champions League, both effective from 2017. Revised prize money distribution from 2017. Various smaller improvements, clarification and fine-tuning.

7) Finance preview 2016 (Amke Fischer)

- Income: 38 kEUR, Costs: 30 kEUR; no income on sponsorship → improvement for 2017
- expected Result: approx. 7 kEUR surplus to be carried forward to following year

8) Council Preview 2017 (Kresten Hougaard)

- New seat for federation, FIR has been asked to leave Austria
- New website
- EU Project, third try
- Strategy and development of SRE
- Get more countries outside of EU on the Racketlon map
- Work on finding hosts for the World Champs 2018 starts immediately
- Social Media: implementation on new website, monthly top 10 ranking updates
- Tournament Software issues: correct new filters, implement Champions League
- Champions League in new format
- Delegate quality and consistency improvement

9) FIR Board of Arbitration Election (Kresten Hougaard)

- Kresten Hougaard explained the duties of the FIR Board of Arbitration (BoA)
- Kresten Hougaard thanked the outgoing member Phil Reid (Scotland) and the remaining BoA members Zoltan Albert (Hungary) and Volker Sach (Germany)
- Izzy Tyrrell (Great Britain) was unanimously approved to join in the FIR BoA as Phil Reid's replacement

10) Request from Racketlon Federation of Austria (Graham King)

- Dieter Mühl presented request 1a from Austria: No exceptions for new member applications
- New countries shall only be accepted by FIR if they are officially registered in their country
- Dissenting opinions were voiced that it is more important to get more countries involved and not to introduce unnecessary bureaucratic barriers
- After a discussion the request was rejected unanimously

11) Approval of new FIR members (Kresten Hougaard)

- Kresten Hougaard reported that Malta has completed all registration formalities
- Malta was unanimously welcomed as a new FIR member nation

12) Expulsion of Scotland as a FIR member (Graham King)

- Graham King reported that the Scotland Racketlon Federation President resigned and asked FIR to no longer be recorded as the contact person. No successor has been nominated to FIR to date
- Scotland has not paid their 2016 fees despite receiving two warnings from FIR
- FIR emailed all known players recorded as having Scottish nationality or residence. Despite several responses of enthusiasm for Racketlon, no-one was prepared to take over the organisation
- Racketlon Great Britain has offered to organise Racketlon in Scotland if its Racketlon geographical frontier is extended to include Scotland. A request from Racketlon Great Britain to take over organisation of Racketlon within Scotland was rejected by the Scottish President before he resigned
- Expulsion of Scotland as a FIR member was approved unanimously
- Scotland will be removed from FIR homepage by the FIR General Secretary, Natalie Paul

13) Request from Racketlon Great Britain to include Scotland (Graham King)

- Graham King commented that the statutes 4.4 allow the AGM to approve different Racketlon frontiers than those recognised politically
- Keith Lesser briefly presented Racketlon Great Britain's plans for organising Racketlon in Scotland and adding tournaments/events in Scotland to the annual programme
- The extension of Racketlon Great Britain's frontier to include Scotland was approved unanimously

14) Change to Rules of Racketlon (Kresten Hougaard)

- **Russia, Poland, Latvia and Turkey left the AGM, and so their votes must be counted as abstentions according to Austrian law of associations. This was not known during the AGM at the time, and their absence was mistakenly counted as reducing the majorities required for approval.**
- Kresten Hougaard presented the change of rules to allow team event matches to be played to 11,15 or 21
- Requests to play to 11,15 or 21 shall be handed in with the tournament's World Tour application and approved by the FIR Council
- The changes of rules regarding playing to 11,15 or 21 were confirmed by 60 votes for and 5 abstentions
- Kresten Hougaard presented the change of rules to allow the optional cancellation of the 3-minute warm-up period, with the justification that it would reduce overall match time and reduce the strain on tournament volunteers to ensure compliance
- Arguments were raised against cancellation of the warm-up period that it could lead to an increased risk of injury, especially amongst the seniors classes, when time is not allowed to warm up different muscle groups not used in the previous sport before; this applies especially when players need to wait to play because of lack of court availability
- After a discussion the AGM participants came to the conclusion that both FIR and the tournament director have to agree on the cancellation of the 3-minute warm-up period, and that it would apply to the whole tournament, not individual classes
- The voting on the change of rules to optionally cancel the warm-up period was 41 votes for, 13 votes against, 11 abstentions, which did not meet the 45 votes required for a 2/3 majority i.e. the request was officially rejected. This decision was unfortunately contrary to the belief at the AGM, that a majority approval was given

15) Change to Statutes, request by FIR Vice President Graham King

- Ca. 1/3 of all member countries have not paid their 2016 membership fee, which is not only unfair in that they get the same benefits as compliant FIR members who pay their fees on time, but also results in a high amount of effort for several Council members to address the issue
- Further, it was pointed out, that the "value for money" for the very small or relatively inactive countries is proportionately less than it is for the larger, more active countries
- The proposal to introduce a Passive membership seeks to redress this imbalance by making "light" membership more affordable
 - country pays a reduced annual fee
 - country president can name a maximum of three players per year who may participate in international FIR Racketlon events
 - country not allowed to hold FIR international tournaments
- The changes to the FIR statutes to allow Passive membership were approved unanimously (with 5 abstentions)
- A request from Racketlon Federation of Switzerland to disallow Passive members from voting at the AGM was also presented and discussed
- Voting rights for passive members were rejected unanimously (with 5 abstentions)

16) Annual 2017 FIR Membership Fee proposal (Graham King)

- It was proposed:
- - Active membership fees (based on the voting power as defined by the Hagenbach-Bischoff system in the FIR Statutes) remains unchanged at EUR 100 per vote
- - Active non European (as defined by UEFA; ie Russia, Israel and Turkey are considered part of "Europe") members shall receive a fee reduction of 50% to reflect that they currently receive fewer benefits than European countries
- - Passive membership fee shall be EUR 20
- Various questions were raised and discussed, without agreeing any change to the proposal:
 - reducing the Active membership fee per vote for all countries
 - reducing the Active membership fees for countries with more votes
 - increasing the membership fees
- The proposed fees were approved unanimously (with 5 abstentions)
- Whether the voting rights for non-European members should be aligned to their reduced fees and also be reduced by 50% will be submitted for vote at the next AGM

17) Request by FIR members

- Request 1b from Racketlon Federation of Austria: Exclusion of player participation at FIR tournaments if neither his/her country of nationality, nor of residence has paid their FIR membership fee
- It was pointed out that the Regulations define the player's eligibility to be dependent on the status of his country of nationality/residence, which he cannot always know or easily influence. The request of RFA can be implemented by suspending countries who do not pay their membership fees after two warnings (as required by the statutes), with subsequent expulsion at the following AGM for persistent offenders
- After much discussion by various members, the AGM detailed the RFA proposal as:
 - countries currently in default shall be, as a once-off action, converted to Passive membership, backdated to 1.1.2016, and their outstanding membership fee adjusted accordingly
 - country membership invoices for 2017 will be issued in 2016 to be due by end of January 2017
 - FIR Council to decide how to proceed with countries in default on 1st February, suspending any members as deemed appropriate as per above
 - participation at FIR tournaments for players in above-named cases will be prevented
- The detailed version of the RFA proposal was approved unanimously (with 5 abstentions)
- Request 2 from Austria: Tournament referees for all elite matches; execution of time rules in elite matches; 3 minutes warm up plus on next court in 3 minutes; clear and strict penalties if rules are not followed
- After a short discussion, the AGM participants came to the conclusion that an implementation of this request is hard to do and rejected the proposal unanimously (with 5 abstentions)
- Observance of the rules shall be communicated to all players by the delegate and the tournament director and included in the next FIR Newsletter

18) Any other Business

- A working group for moving the seat of the federation shall be formed.
- Promotion of the sport Racketlon by the players themselves should be improved and will be addressed within the next FIR Newsletter

Minutes taken by General Secretary Natalie Paul and confirmed by Graham King

FIR AGM 2017: At the 2017 European Championships