

MINUTES

FIR Council Meeting

Saturday 24th February 2018, 20:00 – 22:30
Continuation Sunday 25th February 2018, 12:00 – 13:00
Hyllie Sportscenter, Malmö, Sweden

City & Country Club Wienerberg
Gutheil-Schoder-Gasse 7

A - 1100 Vienna
Austria/Europe

Tel: +43/1/66123/7007

Present:

Kresten Hougaard, FIR President (Denmark)
Graham King, Vice-President Tournament Software (Switzerland) (initial meeting only)
Poku Salo, Vice-President Rankings Officer (Finland)
Anna-Klara Ahlmer, Social Media Officer (Sweden)
Amke Fischer, Treasurer (Germany) (initial meeting only)
Radu Ionescu, Recognition Officer (Romania)
Duncan Stahl, Marketing Officer (Great Britain)
Natalie Paul, General Secretary (Germany)

Absent:

Marcel Weigl, Vice-President EU Projects (Austria)
Richard Middleton, Head of Delegates (Great Britain)
Patrick Laplante Jr, Non-European Country Development (Canada)
Hans van Daele, Rules Officer (Belgium)
Kirsten Kaptein, World Tour Officer (Netherlands)

Agenda Council Meeting:

1. 2018 AGM – Council re-election, new Board of Arbitration (Kresten)
2. Finance / Budget 2018 (Amke)
3. European Project, Sport Accord/GAISF, SRE (Radu)
4. New member applications (Graham)
5. FIR seat of registration (Kresten/Graham)
6. Website (Kresten)
7. Rule changes, discussion points: (Graham)
 - a. The Head Referee *“takes all final decisions concerning the games, scoring and so forth”*. How should he interact with the FIR Delegate?
Should w/o's be forced when one of the players is late for match, even if

- both players still want to play (risk that other players might be disadvantaged)
- b. Should FIR allow TD's to do live draw (GAISF concerned of risk of faking)?
 - c. Any tightening of clothing regulations?
 - d. New "approved balls list" for 2018?
 - e. Should First Timers events receive ranking points?
8. Open Action Items from last meeting
-

Saturday, 24th February,

1. 2018 AGM – Council re-election, new Board of Arbitration (Kresten Hougaard)

- Kresten Hougaard will step down as FIR President
 - Patrick Laplante Jr. will step down from FIR Council
 - suggestion from Duncan Stahl to changes in FIR structure:
 - "President or Ambassador" of the FIR (exact title tbc): figurehead, a high profile current or ex sportsman / sportswoman, with a significant and active social media presence. Required to post (to their social media channels) once or twice a month about Racketlon and attend one Racketlon Event per year (exact level of commitment tbc)
 - "CEO" (exact title tbc): running the sport / FIR affairs, including General Secretary work + current president work + to lead strategic thinking and development of the sport. The role would be significant and should receive a salary (amount tbc).
 - Crucial to have someone working, even part-time, that is paid by the FIR in order to create ACCOUNTABILITY. The Council should define specific goals, priorities and a timeline for the "CEO" to deliver to. It's no longer viable to have the key leadership position of the FIR as purely a voluntary position. No accountability = no real progress possible. Budget for this position needs to be created by a re-allocation of existing FIR costs within the FIR budget.
- Kresten and Duncan to brainstorm and present to Council for further discussion
- will probably require a vote at AGM

2. Finance / Budget 2018 (Amke Fischer)

- financial report from Amke noted and accepted by the Council

- cost of transporting banners and flags between tournaments can be reduced by having more copies of them (banners only in general format, not separate ones for IWT, SWT and World Champs). Council voted unanimously to approve. → Radu to order banners almost free of charge; Duncan to send layout to Radu

- the suggestion that the cost of FIR subsidising tournaments for the waiving of Council member tournament registration fees could be reduced by asking Council members to pay was once again put to the Council for vote:

- “No-Change”: 2 votes with the reasoning:

- Council members have never to date had to pay for tournament registration
- the cost to FIR of subsidising the TD’s is completely covered by the EUR 3 increase in player registration fees (from EUR12 to EUR 15), which was specifically for this purpose
- the FIR 2018 budget balances without having to save this cost
- there is no suggestion on the table what the money saved should be used for
- this issue was raised in a previous Council meeting and it was overwhelmingly voted against it, as the FIR Council decided to encourage Council members to participate in tournaments

- “Council to pay full tournament registration costs”: 0 votes, with reasoning:

- other players might feel it is unfair to offer Council members an advantage
- it would help reduce Tournament Directors costs
- it would save FIR EUR 3000

- “Council to pay 50% tournament registration costs”: 4 votes with reasoning:

- compromise

- abstained: 1 vote

As this agenda item was not announced prior to calling the meeting, collection of the votes of the remaining Council members is needed → Kresten

3. European Project, Sport Accord/GAISF, SRE (Radu Ionescu)

- EU project: Radu reports that the chances to receive funding for an EU Sport project are much higher if one was partner in project before; suggestion therefore:

- AANS – Access for ALL NEW Sports: participate as coordinator
- ALBA: participate as partner

- Radu presented both projects detailed before the Council members voted:

- “participate in both projects”: 4 votes
- “participate only in ALBA”: 0 votes
- “participate in none of them”: 0 votes
- abstaining: 3

On the second part of the Council meeting on Sunday, the Council withdraw after further discussions their support for the EU projects due to personal liability according to Austrian laws.

After the meeting, further clarification was done between Marcel Weigl and Kresten Hougaard with the decision that FIR will go this year only in the project where it is partner, not applicant.

-SRE: efforts to be continued; Marcel to take next steps to contact other federations (ITTF, BWF, ITF) and ask for letter of acceptance to support FIRs application for becoming a member of Sport Accord

4. New member applications (Graham King)

- new application from Singapore
- potentially new member: Thailand
- how strict are the criteria for accepting new members?
- acceptance criteria must apply to all members, new and existing → Graham to send a list of criteria to Council for review
- all new members to be approved at AGM

5. FIR seat of registration (Kresten Hougaard/Graham King)

- Graham in contact with Belgium, Netherlands, Germany as possible new seats of registration
- choice of seat of registration also linked to the election of a new president/CEO at the AGM
- Switzerland and GB not possible if FIR applies for or wins an EU project
- selecting and effecting a new seat of registration is a significant amount of work
- Radu proposed to put this activity on hold until the status of the 2018 EU project is clear. If FIR is again not successful, then Switzerland would be the obvious choice for a new seat of registration, as very many other sports federations are based there

6. Website (Kresten Hougaard)

- deadline to go online: 1st April
- last things to be implemented: Duncan to change video in British Racketlon homepage and send to Emil
- Natalie to advertise new homepage on recent homepage before 1st April

Sunday, 25th February,

7. Rule changes, discussion points:

- not all points discussed, as Graham was playing a match and unable to attend
- insurance waiver: rules were revised per 15.2.2018 to indicate that reliability for insurance when participating in tournaments lies with the players: Graham requested TournamentSoftware to include a waiver in player online registration, but their recommendation was to include the appropriate text under the "Regulations" section of TournamentPlanner. Graham to supply recommended text to TD's
- formal change in "Players and draw Regulations": mistake in the headline 4.4; "FIR does Olympic Draws" → change to: "Tournament Director does Olympic draws" (now completed)

8. Other

- decision of a Tournament Director to allow a player to participate in one of his matches despite being significantly late, and without fully considering the consequences to other players, discussed at Council level → Tournament Director to be informed to refund entrance fee of one affected player (now completed)
- Behaviour of one player discussed at Council level → warning issued, counting for 12 months; if another warning issued within these 12 months, this player will be banned from international tournaments for 12 months (now completed)

9. Open Items from last Council Meeting in Vienna

1. members in default to be kept on list, but their players to be blocked from FIR tournaments
--- Radu to contact Armenia, Bulgaria, Macedonia re. payment
--- Graham to contact Brazil. (Ireland has since paid. Malaysia has asked to be deactivated for now)
--- Marcel to try to find a new contact in Italy.
2. Kresten to look for new seat as soon as possible (see point 5 above).
3. 2018 new World Tour logos and FIR logo → Duncan
4. introduction of "+45 B" category → vote at AGM. TournamentSoftware estimate costs at around EUR 500 (Graham)
5. presentation of statistics → Hans
6. Sponsorship Officer: still open → Kresten to produce profile of open position and Natalie to publish on racketlon.net
7. Ambassadors: Duncan to write a proposal and to contact professional athletes need something specific to support e.g. Junior Project?
8. age classes → Graham to prepare information for a full Council discussion later this year

9. Letters of support from ITTF, WTF, WSF, WBF. Natalie /Graham to search through RFA server when transferring it to FIR for possible contacts

Council Meeting minutes taken by General Secretary Natalie Paul and confirmed by Graham King and Kresten Hougaard.