

**INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR RUGBY FEDERATION**

**2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Richmond, BC - June 19, 2012**

**Present:**

*IWRF Board of Directors:*

John Bishop, President  
Ken Sowden, Vice President  
Cathy Cadieux, Treasurer  
John Bishop, Member at Large  
Duncan Campbell, Member at Large  
Terry Vinyard, Member at Large  
Eron Main, Secretary General

*Member Country Representatives*

<i>Country</i>	<i>Voting Delegate</i>	<i>Additional Delegate</i>
Argentina	Eduardo Mayr	
Australia	Terry Vinyard	
Belgium	Marc Vergauwen	Tim Decler
Brazil	Luiz Pereira	
Canada	Gail Hamamoto	
Colombia	Brian Sheridan	Juan Pablo Salazar
Denmark	Britt-Marie Mattson <i>proxy</i>	
France	Olivier Cusin	Adrian Chalain
Great Britain	David Pond	Richard Allcroft
Ireland	David Pond <i>proxy</i>	
Japan	Yasuo Shiozawa	Mayumi Shiozawa
Korea	Seo-Sang-Ok	
New Zealand	Ken Sowden	
Norway	Erik Baret	Gunnhild Bottolfson
Poland	Richard Allcroft <i>proxy</i>	
South Africa	Clyde Holland	
Sweden	Britt-Marie Mattson	
Switzerland	[Name not legible]	
United States	Many Goff	Gary Pate

*Apologies:*

Joke Beekman, Member at Large  
Ross Morrison, Athlete Representative  
Austria  
China  
Czech Republic  
Finland  
Germany  
Italy  
Mexico  
Netherlands

ITEM	DISCUSSION
1.0	<p><b>Welcome and Call to Order</b></p> <p>John called the meeting to order at 9:15 and welcomed all the delegates. He introduced the Board of Directors. John noted that Joke Beekman was retiring from the Board after many years of service and offered his thanks for on behalf of IWRF her contributions.</p>
2.0	<p><b>Roll Call</b></p> <p>Eron conducted the roll call of voting member. At the time of the meeting there were 27 IWRF member countries. Quorum is 50% plus one, or 15 countries. At the time of the roll call, representatives from 15 member countries were present in the room, along with three members represented by proxies, for a total of 18 voting delegates. Eron noted that a quorum was present.</p> <p><i>(Note to the minutes: Subsequent to the roll call, the delegate from Korea arrived at which time 19 voting delegates were present.)</i></p>
3.0	<p><b>Approval of the Agenda</b></p> <p>Sweden moved that the Agenda for the 2012 IWRF General Assembly be adopted as presented. New Zealand seconded.</p> <p><b>ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION PASSED.</b></p>

ITEM	DISCUSSION
4.0	<p data-bbox="334 268 992 304"><b>Minutes of the 2010 IWRF General Assembly</b></p> <p data-bbox="334 342 1354 415">The minutes of the 2010 IWRF General Assembly were presented to the General Assembly.</p> <p data-bbox="334 491 1354 564">Belgium moved that the Minutes of the 2010 IWRF General Assembly be approved as presented. Colombia seconded.</p> <p data-bbox="334 602 829 638"><b>ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION PASSED.</b></p>
5.0	<p data-bbox="334 716 448 751"><b>Reports</b></p> <p data-bbox="334 789 667 825"><b>5.1 Board of Directors</b></p> <p data-bbox="334 863 1354 936">Eron presented the report of the Board of Directors, as included in the meeting documents.</p> <p data-bbox="334 974 708 1010"><b>5.2 Financial Statements</b></p> <p data-bbox="334 1047 1289 1083">Cathy presented the IWRF Financial statements for 2010 and 2011.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1121 1435 1194">Denmark moved that the 2010 financial statements of the IWRF be accepted as presented. New Zealand seconded.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1232 829 1268"><b>ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p data-bbox="334 1306 1338 1379">Switzerland moved that the 2011 financial statements of the IWRF be accepted as presented. France seconded.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1417 829 1453"><b>ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p data-bbox="334 1491 1419 1635">Cathy recommended the appointment of McKay Duff as auditors. They have conducted the 2010 and 2011 financial reviews for IWRF; they are based in Ottawa where our bank accounts are; and they are familiar with audit practices for sport organizations.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1673 1419 1747">Colombia moved that McKay Duff be appointed as auditors for the IWRF for the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years. Belgium seconded.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1785 829 1820"><b>ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION PASSED.</b></p>

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	<p><b>5.3 Zones</b></p> <p>The three Zone reports were presented as included in the meeting documents.</p> <p><b>5.4 Standing Committees</b></p> <p>The reports of the Classification Committee, Competitions Committee, Development Committee, and Technical Committee were presented as included in the meeting documents.</p> <p>Sweden moved that the reports be received as presented. Canada seconded.</p> <p><b>ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION PASSED.</b></p>
6.0	<p><b>Motions to the General Assembly</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Motions from the Board</b></p> <p><b>MOTION 1</b></p> <p>MOVED THAT IWRF the attached IWRF Strategic Plan 2011-2014 be adopted by IWRF.</p> <p>Motion made by the IWRF Board of Directors.</p> <p>Seconded by Australia.</p> <p>John explained the process of development of the new Strategic Plan; this follows on from the 2006 - 2010 Strategic Plan that led to IWRF becoming independent of IWAS. John acknowledged the invaluable support of the International Rugby Board in developing this plan and thanked Steve Griffiths of IRB for his guidance.</p> <p>Great Britain commented that there will need to be clarity in defining the roles of IWRF and the member national governing bodies in delivering on the strategic plan. There are differences in capacities across NGBs, some are able to progress quickly and others will need more support. IWRF should recognize the capacity that exists in the members and use it. We need to be realistic about what IWRF as an organization can accomplish with its current resources.</p>

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	<p>John acknowledged these concerns and noted that IWRF is looking at the resources it can and should devote to implementing the plan.</p> <p><b>17 IN FAVOUR. 1 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p><b>6.2 Motions from the Standing Committees</b></p> <p><b>MOTION 2</b></p> <p>MOVED THAT the attached changes be made to Section 6.1.2 of the IWRF Classification Manual, 3rd Edition (2012), to be effective immediately following the conclusion of the 2012 Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Motion made by the IWRF Classification Committee.</p> <p>Seconded by Canada.</p> <p>Japan expressed concerns over athletes with changing functional abilities. It should take at least three years post injury to gain a Permanent status. Some Zones have more opportunities than others to have athletes classified, so some athletes can progress to P status more quickly. Is it possible to set a minimum number of years to achieve P status, e.g. five years.</p> <p>Eron noted that the IPC Classification Code requires that we have a clear and equitable process to progress to P status. Five years would be considered too long for most athletes. There is the possibility of a Chief Classifier protest if a P status athlete is found to have gained or lost function affecting sport class. In addition, if the athletes function is not stable the classification panel can keep Review status in place.</p> <p><b>16 IN FAVOUR. 1 OPPOSED. 1 ABSTENTION. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION 3</b></p> <p>Motion made by the IWRF Classification Committee.</p> <p>MOVED THAT attached changes be made to Section 7.3 of the IWRF Classification Manual, 3rd Edition (2012), to be effective immediately following the conclusion of the 2012 Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Seconded by Switzerland.</p> <p><b>17 IN FAVOUR. 2 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.</b></p>

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	<p data-bbox="332 268 792 304"><b>6.3 Motions from the Members</b></p> <p data-bbox="332 342 480 378"><b>MOTION 4</b></p> <p data-bbox="332 415 706 451">Motion made by Australia.</p> <p data-bbox="332 489 1382 562">MOVED THAT IWRF amend the International Rules (Art. 84) to change the spot of inbound to where the ball was hit out of bounds.</p> <p data-bbox="332 600 716 636">Seconded by New Zealand.</p> <p data-bbox="332 674 1401 709">Stan noted that the Technical Committee had no comment on this motion.</p> <p data-bbox="332 747 1234 783"><b>17 IN FAVOUR. 1 OPPOSED. 1 ABSTENTION. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p data-bbox="332 821 480 856"><b>MOTION 5</b></p> <p data-bbox="332 894 706 930">Motion made by Australia.</p> <p data-bbox="332 968 1396 1115">MOVED THAT the IWRF International Rules be amended to include an unsportsmanlike foul. This rule would cover infractions that were deemed by the referee as less severe than a flagrant, but more severe than a common foul</p> <p data-bbox="332 1152 646 1188">Seconded by Belgium.</p> <p data-bbox="332 1226 1430 1373">Stan noted that the Technical Committee was opposed to this motion. There is a concern that this will be used in place of the flagrant foul leading to no flagrant fouls being called. The Committee wants to review all sanctions and make a comprehensive recommendation in the future.</p> <p data-bbox="332 1411 1401 1484">Ross noted that athletes are concerned with an increase in dangerous play and that any reduction in flagrant fouls called could make this worse.</p> <p data-bbox="332 1522 1250 1558"><b>6 IN FAVOUR. 11 OPPOSED. 2 ABSTENTIONS. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p data-bbox="332 1596 480 1631"><b>MOTION 6</b></p> <p data-bbox="332 1669 706 1705">Motion made by Australia.</p> <p data-bbox="332 1743 1406 1890">MOVED THAT from 2015; IWRF move away from Zone Championships to different qualifying events based off current IWRF World Rankings. Results at these qualifying events will determine World Rankings and Qualification to Major Events i.e., Paralympics. These events could possibly also have a</p>

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	<p>relegation system so teams can climb the IWRF World Rankings off their own performances.</p> <p>The motion did not receive a second.</p> <p><b>MOTION 7</b></p> <p>Motion made by Australia.</p> <p>MOVED THAT IWRF increase the number of participating teams to more than 12 at an IWRF World Championships from 2018.</p> <p>Seconded by New Zealand.</p> <p>The Competitions Committee expressed varying opinions on this motion. While an increase in numbers is a good opportunity for countries to participate in more competitions, there are concerns that a larger tournament will be a barrier to obtaining bids to host.</p> <p>The Board noted that the competitions system as a whole is being reviewed and cautioned about changing one element in isolation.</p> <p>Colombia expressed support for the motion and said it would be positive for development.</p> <p>Canada stated that while they supported development and more competitive opportunities, the World Championship is an elite event and should be restricted in size based on the depth of the competitive field. IWRF can and should find other ways to create competition opportunities for more countries.</p> <p>Great Britain noted that development is important, and IWRF should look at other competitions and structures to allow countries to progress to the elite level.</p> <p>Australia supported the motion and stated that the boost members get by being able to attend Worlds would promote development.</p> <p>Korea expressed support for the motion. They are preparing for Asian Para Games in 2014 and want to host an Asia Cup in 2013, and want to support more competitive opportunities.</p> <p>Duncan noted that in IRB, there are 117 member unions and 20 countries at their World Cup. The Competitions Committee is working to address the</p>

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	<p>need for competitive opportunities in other ways.</p> <p>New Zealand noted that it is up to the members to decide this. They noted that in most countries there is financial support to attend Worlds but not Zonal championships.</p> <p>Following the discussion, John restated the motion and called the question.</p> <p><b>10 IN FAVOUR. 6 OPPOSED. 3 ABSTENTIONS. MOTION PASSED.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION 8</b></p> <p>Motion made by Canada.</p> <p>MOVED THAT all future competitions of the IWRF be designated "STICKUM FREE"events.</p> <p>Stickum Free is defined as no spray, pine tar or goop on the gloves or tires and no reverse taping. All chairs must enter the tournament with clean rims, tires and casters and remain clean throughout the tournament. The penalty for not adhering to this rule will be the same as that for an illegal chair</p> <p>Seconded by Norway.</p> <p>Canada spoke on their motion, noting that the intent is to reduce damage and cleaning costs in venues, allowing wheelchair rugby events to have better access including to new venues where playing surfaces have restriction on the use of harsh cleaners.</p> <p>It was noted that handball uses similar substances and does not have these issues. Eron noted that handball is not always played on a hardwood surface like wheelchair rugby.</p> <p>Ross noted that players do not support this motion, they are concerned it will affect performance.</p> <p>Japan also noted that this could affect the performance of players.</p> <p>Cathy noted that we need to find venues for competitions. If doors are closing, our players cannot play in world-class facilities. This will also impact performance.</p> <p>Japan noted that the Canada Cup was going to be stickum free and we</p>



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	<p>could assess after that if performance was affected.</p> <p>Colombia asked why the sport was having to adapt to the venues and not the other way around.</p> <p>Great Britain suggested we look at technical and other solutions, including different types of product.</p> <p>Stan suggested IWRF look at the ball design, to find a ball with a surface that has better handling characteristics that might not need stickum.</p> <p>Following the discussion, John restated the motion and called the question.</p> <p><b>3 IN FAVOUR. 12 OPPOSED. 3 ABSTENTIONS. MOTION FAILED.</b></p>
7.0	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>John advised that Eron as the IWRF Nominations Chair would explain the election process.</p> <p>Eron advised that there were three positions open for election: one position for the IWRF Treasurer and two positions for Members at Large. At the close of nominations, one nomination for Treasurer had been received for Cathy Cadieux (CAN), and two nominations for Member at Large had been received, for Richard Allcroft (GBR) and Terry Vinyard (AUS).</p> <p>In accordance with the IWRF Elections Bylaw, where there is the same number of candidates as there are positions available, a vote is still held to confirm the nominees.</p> <p>Ballots were distributed, marked, and returned.</p> <p>Eron reported that all nominees had been confirmed in their positions.</p> <p>Eron thanked the members and returned the meeting to John.</p>
8.0	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p>John thanked the members for their contributions to the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.</p>