

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR RUGBY FEDERATION

DRAFT MINUTES - 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the IWRF Board of Directors present:

John Bishop	President
Ken Sowden	Vice President
Eron Main	Chief Executive Officer
Cathy Cadieux	Treasurer
Jens Sauerbier	Athlete Representative
Richard Allcroft	Member at Large
Gary Pate	Member at Large

Absent Members of the IWRF Board of Directors:

Duncan Campbell	Member at Large
-----------------	-----------------

Full Members of the IWRF present:

	Country	Voting Delegate	Additional Delegate
(1)	Argentina	Juan Foa	
(2)	Australia	Jenni Cole	Steve Loader
(3)	Belgium	Marc Vergauwen	
(4)	Brazil	Luiz Claudio Pereira	
(5)	Canada	Laurel Crosby	Gail Hamamoto
(6)	Colombia	Adriana Rincon	
(7)	Denmark	Patrick Andersson	
(8)	Finland	Risto Mort	
(9)	France	Olivier Cusin	
(10)	Germany	Christoph Werner	
(11)	Great Britain	David Pond	
(12)	Indonesia	Rodney Holt	
(13)	Ireland	Teresa Dineen	Lynn Cromie
(14)	Israel	David Weinreb	
(15)	Japan	Kohey Takashima	Kevin Orr
(16)	Korea	Seo Sang-Ok	Ha Yeong Ja
(17)	New Zealand	Nicholas Heyworth	
(18)	Poland	Joanna Bauerfeind	
(19)	South Africa	Clyde Holland	
(20)	Sweden	Britt-Marie Mattson	
(21)	United States	Eric Ingram	Mandy Goff

Full Members represented by proxy:

(22)	Norway	Sweden	
------	--------	--------	--

Full Members absent and excused:

(23)	Austria
(24)	Belgium
(25)	Chile
(26)	Czech Republic
(27)	Georgia
(28)	Ghana
(29)	India
(30)	Italy
(31)	Netherlands
(32)	Russia
(33)	Switzerland
(34)	Thailand

Observers:

Stan Battock	Chair, IWRF Technical Committee
Brad Dubberly	Australian Paralympic Committee
Cherie Harris	Chair, IWRF Development Committee
Kazue Imai	Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee
Kim Yun Ho	Korea Wheelchair Rugby Association
Kathy Newman	Chair, IWRF Competitions Committee
Setsuko Takeshiro	Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation
Greg Ungerer	Chair, IWRF Classification Committee

1.0 Welcome and Call to Order

IWRF President John Bishop called the meeting to order at 13:10 and welcomed all delegates and guests.

2.0 Roll Call

Eron Main conducted the roll call of voting members. He advised that there were 34 members in good standing of IWRF and that the number of members required for quorum was 18.

At the time of the roll, there were 21 IWRF member countries present with one represented by proxy.

Eron advised that a quorum was present and that there were 22 voting members in attendance.

3.0 Approval of the Agenda

John Bishop presented the Agenda for the 2018 General Assembly.

Australia moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. France seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.

4.0 Minutes of the 2016 IWRF General Assembly

John Bishop presented the minutes of the 2016 IWRF General Assembly, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. There were no amendments or corrections proposed.

Canada moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Belgium seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.

5.0 Reports

5.1 President's Report

John Bishop delivered his President's report to the General Assembly.

John noted that this was his final report after eight years serving as IWRF President. In concluding his report he recognized a number of individuals who had contributed to the growth and development of IWRF over the years. He expressed his gratitude to them and to all members of the Wheelchair Rugby family for giving him the opportunity to serve as President.

Following the President's Report, IWRF CEO Eron Main presented an Activity Report summarizing the work and events of IWRF since the 2016 General Assembly.

5.2 Financial Statements

Cathy Cadieux, the Treasurer, presented the financial statements of the IWRF for the financial years 2016 and 2017, as included in the meeting documents. She advised that IWRF had changed its financial reporting from Canadian dollars to US dollars with these reports.

Cathy advised that IWRF was in deficit for both 2016 and 2017 with a total deficit over two years of almost \$63,000. Some of this was expected in 2016 due to the higher expenses and lower revenues of a Paralympic Games year. However IWRF also experienced some unanticipated losses including losses on event travel, where expenses had exceeded travel grants received. The Board will be carefully reviewing IWRF finances and budgets to avoid further losses in 2018 and beyond.

5.3	Zone Reports The reports of the Zones were presented as included in the meeting documents.
5.4	Standing Committee Reports The reports of the Standing Committees were presented as included in the meeting documents.
	<p>Argentina moved that the reports to the 2018 IWRG General Assembly be accepted as presented. Canada seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.</p> <p>Australia moved that the 2016 and 2017 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Sweden seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.</p> <p>Cathy Cadieux recommended to the Assembly that the firm of McCay Duff be appointed as the IWRG auditors for 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>Belgium moved that IWRG appoint the firm McCay Duff as auditors for the 2018 and 2019 financial years. Germany seconded.</p> <p>David Pond (GBR) asked if the auditors provided comments on the financial stability and capacity of IWRG moving forward, in addition to reviewing the financial statements, given that they are performing a financial review and not a complete audit.</p> <p>Cathy responded that the review included a thorough internal questionnaire and detailed review and discussions of the financial situation. She did not find the review to be significantly different from audits that she has been involved in.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. The motion passed with all in favour.</p>
6.	Motions to the General Assembly
6.1	Motions from the Board Eron Main presented a motion from the Board of Directors that the delegation of final approval for all future amendments to the IWRG Classification Rules and Classification Guidelines be transferred to the IWRG Board. The motion was seconded by Norway. Eron provided background on the motion, noting that it is in line with the

IPC Classification Code and brings the Classification Rules into the same change process as the International Rules and Competition Regulations. He noted that there would still be detailed consultations on proposed changes with all members.

There was no further discussion. The motion passed with 18 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

6.2 Motions from the Members

Motion from Ireland

Eron Main read out the motion from Ireland that when awarding the hosting of all qualifying tournaments, IWRF should seek a host from those already qualified, prior to looking outside.

France seconded the motion.

Teresa Dineen (IRL) spoke to the motion. Ireland feels that preference should be given during bid processes to countries which have already qualified for the event. Selecting a country to host which has not qualified can mean that an otherwise qualified country is not able to attend.

Kathy Newman, Chair of the Competitions Committee, noted that many bids have a short time period for the bid process, sometimes less than six months. IWRF sometimes has trouble getting any bids for an event, so we have put out calls globally. The Committee is working to make the bid process more robust and transparent. The final consideration is always to award to the best bid received.

Christoph Werner (GER) asked what differentiated the three bids for the World Championship Qualification Tournament. Kathy responded that the bids were all very close. In the end the winning bid from Switzerland had a lower registration fee and accommodation that was connected to the competition venue.

Olivier Cusin (FRA) spoke in support of the motion.

Mandy Goff (USA) stated that the quality of the tournament must be the priority. The USA was disappointed with the quality of the 2016 Qualification Tournament and does not want this to be repeated.

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed with 17 in favour, 2 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

Motion from Ireland

The motion from Ireland to introduce quarter finals to the World Championship was withdrawn by the mover in response to advice from the Competitions Committee that they were already investigating this possibility.

Motion from Japan

Eron Main read out the motion from Japan that regulations should be established and specified based on the number of teams in a Zone Championship.

South Africa seconded the motion.

Kevin Orr (JPN) spoke to the motion. He noted that the intent was to establish standard formats that would be fair for all teams. During the 2017 Asia-Oceania Championship, the format that was selected resulted in a disadvantage to two of the teams present when a third team forfeit matches.

Kathy Newman, Chair of the Competitions Committee, stated that the Committee wanted to allow the Technical Delegate for each event to work with the LOC in creating the schedule but retaining flexibility to accommodate different events. Example schedules could be included in the Competition Regulations to make things more clear.

Kevin responded that in the 2017 event, the Technical Delegate had said that the format was selected to give teams more playing time; Japan's position is that at this level the competition is not supposed to be about court time.

Eron Main, CEO, stated that if the motion passed, the Competitions Committee will set up a working group to implement competition formats in consultation with the members.

Nicholas Heyworth (NZL) noted that there are three very different zones so it may not be possible to find a format that works for all. John Bishop responded that this was something for the Competitions Committee to work out. Richard Allcroft noted that the motion did not specify a definitive format but provided an opportunity to go away and consult to reach a good decision.

Kathy Newman said that it was important to recognize that the format for a European Division C Event might be quite different from an Asia-Oceania Zone championship.

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed with 21 in favour and 2 abstentions.

7.0 Elections

John Bishop advised that for the elections, an Elections Chair should be appointed.

Japan moved that Eron Main, IWRP CEO, be appointed as the Elections Chair. Canada seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.

Eron explained the election process. He noted that only members present at the meeting were permitted to vote. Members represented by proxy could not vote. He also noted that elections were decided on a majority of votes cast. If all 21 members present cast a ballot, the required number of votes to be elected is 11.

Eron explained that a vote would be held for all positions, including where there is only a single nominee. Where there are multiple nominees for a position, a majority of votes is required. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate or candidates with the lowest number of votes received will be dropped from the ballot and another voting round will take place. This will continue until a candidate receives a majority.

Eron asked for a motion to appoint tellers for the election.

USA moved that Stan Battock and Kazue Imai be appointed as tellers for the election. Belgium seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.

Election of President

Eron introduced the candidate for President, Richard Allcroft (GBR). Richard made a brief presentation to the members.

At the conclusion of the vote, Eron advised that Richard Allcroft had been elected President with 21 votes.

Election of Vice President

Eron introduced the candidate for Vice President, Ken Sowden (NZL). Ken made a brief presentation to the members.

At the conclusion of the vote, Eron advised that Ken Sowden had been elected Vice President with 16 votes.

Election of Athlete Representative

Eron introduced the candidate for Athlete Representative, Jens Sauerbier (GER). Jens made a brief presentation to the members.

At the conclusion of the vote, Eron advised that Jens Sauerbier had been elected Athlete Representative with 20 votes.

Election of Member at Large

Eron advised that prior to the meeting, Tim Johnson (NZL) had withdrawn his nomination for Member at Large. Eron introduced the remaining four candidates for Member at Large: Gail Hamamoto (CAN); Clyde Holland (SAF); Rodney Holt (INS); and Steve Loader (AUS).

Each candidate was given the opportunity to make a brief presentation to the members.

At the conclusion of the first round of voting, Eron advised that no candidate had received a majority. After receiving the lowest number of votes, Clyde Holland and Rodney Holt were dropped from the ballot.

At the conclusion of the second round of voting, Eron advised that Gail Hamamoto had received a majority with 11 votes and had been elected as Member at Large.

Eron requested a motion to destroy the ballots.

Australia moved that the ballots be destroyed. The USA seconded. The motion passed with all in favour.

With the elections concluded, Eron returned the Chair to the John Bishop, the President of IWRF.

8.0 Closing

John Bishop, the Chairman, thanked the members and attendees for their contributions to the meeting. He congratulated the successful candidates and welcomed the new members to the Board.

The members present thanked John for his work as President and acknowledged his service with a lengthy round of applause.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:40.