

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR RUGBY FEDERATION

2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 17th July 2021, 18:00 UTC MINUTES

Members of the IWRF Board of Directors present:

Richard Allcroft (RA)	President
Ken Sowden (KS)	Vice President
Cathy Cadieux (CC)	Treasurer
Jens Sauerbier (JS)	Athlete Representative
Gail Hamamoto (GH)	Member at Large
Steve Loader (SL)	Member at Large
Martin Richard (MR)	Member at Large
Seong Sin Han (SSH)	Independent Director

Absent Members of the IWRF Board of Directors:

None

Present - Steve Griffiths **CEO & Secretary General**

Full Members of the IWRF present:

		<i>Voting Delegate</i>	<i>Additional Delegate</i>
(1)	Australia	Chris Nay	
(2)	Belgium	Frederik Windey	
(3)	Brazil	Luis Claudio Pereira	Samara Seiler
(4)	Canada	Laurel Crosby	
(5)	Colombia	Adriana Rincón González	
(6)	Denmark	Kristian Bak Eriksen	
(7)	Finland	Risto Mört	
(8)	France	Olivier Cuisin	Michel Terrefond
(9)	Germany	Christoph Werner	
(10)	Great Britain	David Pond	Paul Shaw
(11)	Ireland	Teresa Dineen	Nicky Hamill
(12)	Israel	David Weinreb	
(13)	Italy	Nicola Carabba	Francesca Pavone
(14)	Japan	Ryujui Nakatake	
(15)	Korea	Kyungil Choi	
(16)	Netherlands	Joep Pelsser	
(17)	Norway	Erik Baret	
(18)	Poland	Peter Kaluba	
(19)	Russia	Mikail Simakin	Ivan Potekhin

(20)	South Africa	Clyde Holland	Victor Buitendag
(21)	Sweden	Magnus Krossen	
(22)	Switzerland	Martin Wenger	
(23)	USA	Noah Currier	Mandy Goff James Gumbert Jen Allred Mike Klonowski

Full Members - apologies:

(24)	New Zealand
(25)	Austria
(26)	Chile
(27)	Czech Republic
(28)	Spain

Affiliate Members of the IWRF present:

	Uganda	Jairus Wanyera Mukoota	John Greatrex
	Peru		Rodrigo Segura Oliva

Observers:

Kathy Newman	IWRF Competitions Committee
John Timms	IWRF Head of Administration
Alison Bridge	IWRF Office Staff
Aaron Whitehead	IWRF Office Staff
Tom O'Brien	IWRF Office Staff

1.0	Welcome and Call to Order IWRF President RA called the meeting to order at 18.00 UTC and welcomed all delegates and guests. RA introduced the members of the board.
2.0	Moment of Silence RA called for a moments silence in memory of those who lost their lives during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
3.0	Meeting Procedures RA explained the meeting and voting processes to operate in the virtual environment.
4.0	IWRF Domicile and Office Addresses RA indicated that: The International Wheelchair Rugby Federation is domiciled in Switzerland and regarded as an "Association" under Swiss law, with its address being: International Wheelchair Rugby Federation

c/o World Academy of Sport
Switzerland Sàrl
Route Suisse 8A
1163 Etoy

The IWRF operate an administration service which is based in the UK with its address and contact details being:

The IWRF Office
International Wheelchair Rugby Federation
4 Park Square, Newton Chambers Road
Sheffield
S35 2PH
England
Tel: +44 (0) 114 257 3170
E-mail: office@iwrf.com

RA thanked World Academy of Sport for their support in allowing the use of their address and office.

RA also thanked Philippe Vladimir Boss, Linda Cetkovic, BIANCHISCHWALD LLC of the Lausanne office for their assistance relating to the governance review.

<p>5.0</p>	<p>Voting Procedures SG outlined the voting systems for motions and elections in the virtual environment.</p> <p>The Netherlands moved that Steve Griffiths and John Timms be approved as scrutineers necessary for the efficient conduct of the meeting. Poland seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Roll Call</p> <p>SG conducted the roll call of voting members. He advised that there were 28 members in good standing of IWRF and that the number of members required for quorum was 15.</p> <p>At the time of the roll call, there were 19 IWRF full member countries present. SG advised the GA a quorum was present and that there were 19 voting members in attendance.</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Approval of the Agenda</p> <p>RA presented the Agenda for the 2021 General Assembly.</p>

	<p>Ireland moved that the Agenda be approved as presented. Netherlands seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.</p>
8.0	<p>Minutes of the 2018 IWRG General Assembly</p> <p>RA presented the minutes of the 2018 IWRG General Assembly, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. There were no amendments or corrections proposed.</p> <p>Ireland moved that the Minutes be approved as presented. Belgium seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.</p> <p>RA indicated that as a result of Swiss legal advice in the future draft minutes will be circulated within 10 days after the GA and Members will be given a 10-day period starting from the circulation of the minutes to formulate any objections.</p> <p>Following this, the minutes will be taken as approved. RA noted that this wouldn't preclude discussions or any matters arising from taking place at the next GA.</p>
9.0	<p>Reports</p>
9.1	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>SG explained that the reports from the President, CEO and the departments were included in a document titled "2020 in Review". The 2018 and 2019 accounts were also in the document together with the accounts for 2020 to be reviewed.</p> <p>SG asked if there were any questions.</p> <p>Peter Kaluba (Poland) asked questions related to: The coaching development programme, the IWRG contractual relationship between Sport2Sport (the IWRG commercial consultants) and four questions related to the financial reports. He indicated that written responses to his questions would ensure that the business of the General Assembly could continue.</p> <p>SG thanked him for his consideration and indicated that written responses would be provided.</p>
9.2	<p>Financial Statements</p>

	<p>Cathy Cadieux, the Treasurer, presented the reviewed financial statements of the IWRF for the financial years 2018 and 2019. Other than the questions raised in 9.1, no other discussion took place.</p> <p>The 2020 financial statements were also presented due to the GA being postponed from last year. Cathy Cadieux noted that these were not required to be reviewed by McCay Duff but would be formally reviewed along with the 2021 statements and presented at the next GA.</p> <p>David Pond (Great Britain) thanked Cathy Cadieux for her outstanding service and commitment to the IWRF over a 19-year period.</p>
9.3	<p>RA then submitted a motion to accept the reports as presented. This motion is only to acknowledge receipt of the reports and does not imply agreement with or acceptance of any comments or recommendations contained in any of the reports and does not bind the Board or the IWRF to any course of action suggested in any of the reports.</p> <p>Canada moved that the reports to the 2021 IWRF General Assembly be accepted as presented. Germany seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with all in favour.</p>
9.4	<p>Cathy Cadieux recommended to the Assembly that the firm of McCay Duff be appointed as the IWRF auditors for 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>Great Britain moved that IWRF appoint the firm McCay Duff as auditors for the 2020 and 2021 financial years. France seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed with all in favour.</p>
10.	Motions to the General Assembly
10.1 (a)	Motions from the Board - Motion 1 Organisation name change SG indicated that the IWRF Board proposed that the Association's name "International Wheelchair Rugby Federation" be amended to " World Wheelchair Rugby " and the corresponding acronym " WWR ": <ul style="list-style-type: none">• that it should be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF; and• that it should come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The proposal to change the name of the organisation was moved by Canada and seconded by Norway.</p>

	<p>There was no further discussion. There were 19 votes in favour, none against, with no abstentions. The motion required 66% of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (b)	<p>Board Director Appointment - Motion 2</p> <p>SG indicated that the board proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the number of Directors on the IWRF Board be increased by one position; and• Seong Sin Han be appointed to fill that position on the Board for a term of office deemed to have started from the date of co-option on 28th January 2021.• It should come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The motion to confirm Seong Sin Han as a Director was moved the Netherlands and seconded by Norway.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 17 votes in favour, none against with 2 abstentions. The motion required 66% of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2. (c)	<p>Statutes - Motion 3</p> <p>SG indicated that the board proposed that the amended Statutes of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be adopted by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF to supersede and repeal the Statutes of the IWRF previously approved by the IWRF General Assembly on 19th September 2010; and• should come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The motion to adopt the revised Statutes as presented to the membership was moved by the Netherlands and seconded by Great Britain.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 15 votes in favour, 2 against with 2 abstentions. The motion required 66% of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (d)	<p>Board of Directors - Motion 4</p>

SG indicated that the board proposed that the revised Bylaw 1 of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):

- be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF to replace the IWRF Bylaw 1 previously published on 16th March 2017; and
- to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021.

The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 1 as presented to the membership was moved by the Netherlands and seconded by Ireland.

There was no further discussion. There were 17 votes in favour, none against with 1 abstention. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.

10.2 (e)

Membership - Motion 5

SG indicated that the board proposed that the revised Bylaw 2 of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):

- be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF to replace the IWRF Bylaw 2 previously published in December 2015; and
- to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021.

The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 2 as presented to the membership was moved by the Netherlands and seconded by Norway.

There was no further discussion. There were 16 votes in favour, 1 against with 1 abstention. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.

10.2 (f)

Members Meetings - Motion 6

SG indicated that the board proposed that the revised Bylaw 3 of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):

- be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF to replace the IWRF Bylaw 3 previously published in June 2010; and
 - to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021.
-

	<p>The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 3 as presented to the membership was moved by the Netherlands and seconded by Sweden.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 18 votes in favour, none against with 1 abstention. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (g)	<p>Elections Procedures - Motion 7</p> <p>SG indicated that the board proposed that the revised Bylaw 4 of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF to replace the IWRF Bylaw 4 previously published in June 2010; and• to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 4 as presented to the membership was moved by the Canada and seconded by Ireland.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 14 votes in favour, 1 against with 3 abstentions. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (h)	<p>Working Groups - Motion 8</p> <p>SG indicated that the board proposed that the revised Bylaw 5 of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF to replace the IWRF Bylaw 5 previously published in June 2010; and• to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 5 as presented to the membership was moved by the Sweden and seconded by Norway.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 16 votes in favour, 1 against with no abstentions. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (i)	<p>Standing Committees - Motion 9</p> <p>SG indicated that the board proposed that new Bylaw 6 - “Standing Committees” - of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF; and• to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 6 as presented to the membership was moved by the Canada and seconded by France.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 15 votes in favour, 1 against with 1 abstention. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (j)	Councils - Motion 10 <p>SG indicated that the board proposed that new Bylaw 7 - “Councils” - of the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) linked to this Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members of the IWRF; and• to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>The motion to adopt the revised Bylaw 7 as presented to the membership was moved by the Norway and seconded by Brazil.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 14 votes in favour, 1 against with 1 abstention. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was carried.</p>
10.2 (k)	Organisation name change - Motion 11 <p>SG indicated that the board proposed to amend the Association’s Statutes to reflect the new organisational name: “World Wheelchair Rugby”; and the corresponding acronym “WWR”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be confirmed and approved by the General Assembly of the Full Members; and• to come into force at the close of the General Assembly meeting on 17th July 2021. <p>SG proposed that as the name change had been approved unanimously in Motion 1 that once moved and seconded that the motion be carried providing there were no objections.</p>

	<p>The motion to adopt the revised organisational name into the Statutes as presented to the membership was moved by Sweden and seconded by the Netherlands.</p> <p>There being no objections from the voting membership the motion was carried unanimously.</p>
10.3	<p>Motions from the Members</p> <p><u>Motion from USA</u></p> <p>Board Director's Expenses</p> <p>“A motion that officers of the Board of Directors be responsible for their own transportation and housing to officially called Board of Directors meetings should they choose to attend in person”.</p> <p>The USA requested that they amended the motion. RA agreed as he felt it had the intention and effect of modifying the motion.</p> <p>The USA amended the motion to read:</p> <p>A motion that officers of the Board of Directors for the IWRF when possible, meet virtually as a first option and second to use monies outside the IWRF budget if in person is required to attend meetings.</p> <p>The USA had moved the motion and it was seconded by Poland.</p> <p>Both USA and Poland indicated that any revenues saved from reducing face to face meetings could be better spent on development and competition activities.</p> <p>There was no further discussion. There were 5 votes in favour, 13 against with no abstentions. The motion required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore the motion was NOT carried.</p> <p>Two motions that had been submitted by the USA were withdrawn by them as the proposer. Therefore, no discussion took place.</p>
11.0	<p>Elections</p> <p>As the elections did not include the President, then he could act as the "Elections Chair". Poland moved the motion, Ireland seconded and there were no objections. RA assumed the role of Elections Chair.</p> <p>RA indicated that there were three positions on the board due for election - 2 Members at Large and the Treasurer. There were two nominations for the Members at Large and no nominations for Treasurer</p>

Election of Member at Large

Steve Loader had been appointed to the board after the 2018 General Assembly (12th August 2018). He gave a brief summary of his extensive work in sports and what he had undertaken since being a board member.

The meeting moved a vote. There were 15 votes in favour, 1 against with 3 abstentions. This required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore Steve Loader was duly elected to the board.

Election of Member at Large

Martin Richard had been appointed to the board on the 17th March 2020. He gave a brief summary of his extensive work in sports, his NPC role and expertise in Marketing and Communications.

The meeting moved a vote. There were 15 votes in favour, none against with 1 abstention. This required 50%+1 of the voting members in favour and therefore Martin Richard was duly elected to the board.

The President indicated that the voting papers should be destroyed. The Netherlands moved the motion, seconded by Ireland and there were no objections. The motion was passed, all in favour.

Treasurer

RA indicated that there had been no nominations for the role of treasurer and that an appointment would be facilitated in accordance with the revised Statutes.

At this stage, the President introduced a video paying tribute to Cathy Cadieux who was retiring from the Board and her role as Treasurer. He thanked her for her commitment over a 19-year period.

<p>12.00</p>	<p>WWR Logo SG introduced a video which showed the new logo for World Wheelchair Rugby and explained that it was based on a wheelchair rugby athletes' movement around a court. He also indicated there were a number of assets that would become available after the formal launch in August 2021.</p>
<p>13.00</p>	<p>WWR - International Wheelchair Rugby Cup SG announced that International Wheelchair Rugby Cup would be hosted at the Rugby World Cup in France in 2023. The RWC host France 2023 would be the Local Organising Committee. Teams taking part will be France and the seven top seeded teams. He also indicated an entry fee and travel to France would be the only team costs. He indicated this was</p>

a new era and it was envisaged that this would continue the relationship with World Rugby and future Rugby World Cup hosts.

14.00

Closing

RA thanked the members and attendees for their contributions to the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21:50 UTC.

S.V. Griffiths

26 October 2021

Steve Griffiths
WWR CEO/Secretary General

RA Allcroft

28/10/21

Richard Allcroft
WWR President