

Minutes General Assembly 2024



Date:	19 November 2024 at 13:00 UTC (14:00 local time)
Subject:	Minutes of the 2024 General Assembly
Location:	Clarion Hotel, Prague, Czechia (held fully in-person)
	Richard Allcroft (RA), [President] <i>Chair of the 2024 GA</i> , (GBR)
	Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca (JS), [Vice President], (COL)
	Gail Hamamoto (GH), [Member at Large], (CAN)
WWR Board Directors (incumbent):	Steve Loader (SL), [Member at Large], (AUS)
	Martin Richard (MR), [Member at Large], (CAN)
	Seong Sin Han (SSH), [Independent Appointed Director], (SUI)
	Jen Braem (JB), [Director for Finance and Risk Management], (CAN)
	Shae Graham (SG), [Athlete Representative], (AUS)
	None received from Member Nations.
Apologies / Absent:	Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca (JS), [Vice President], (COL)
	Shae Graham (SG), [Athlete Representative], (AUS)
	Kathy Newman (KN), [Head of Competitions and Development] (CAN)
	John Timms (JT), [Operations Manager], (GBR)
	Tim Johnson (TJ), [Head of Competitions], (NZL)
WWR Staff	Stan Battock (SB), [Head of Technical], (AUS)
	Rob Tarr (RT), [Head of Coaching], (GBR)
	Jacques Erasmus (JE), [Head of Classification], (RSA)
	Alison Bridge (AB), [Head of Administration] (GBR)
	Joe Elliott (JEI), [WWR Office], (GBR)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- The President welcomed everyone to the WWR General Assembly (GA) and opened the meeting.
- The President recognised the Board Directors present in the room and the following individuals from the WWR Office: John Timms, Alison Bridge, and Joe Elliott.
- The President thanked the Hotel and the LOC and recognised Rugbymania on their 25th anniversary.
- Radka Kučírková (CZE) said “the LOC are happy to invite everyone and are grateful they could make this happen. They are happy for it to be in person so everyone can speak to each other. We might put a bid for 2026 European Division B, and will be cooperating more for developing female participation and coaching.” Radka then thanked everyone in the room.

Minutes

General Assembly 2024



- Where required and to meet the formalities of the GA, John Timms (JT) was appointed to act as Secretary-General.
- JT provided an outline of the GA and general housekeeping.

The President noted that the Minutes will reflect WWR's current domicile and administration set up. World Wheelchair Rugby is domiciled in Switzerland and regarded as an "Association" under Swiss law, with its address being:

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

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

The WWR Office
Canon Medical Arena
Workshop Road, Sheffield, S9 3TL, England
Tel: +44 (0) 114 257 3170
E-mail: office@worldwheelchair.rugby

2. Roll Call

There are 28 Full Members of WWR, and a quorum requires the attendance of 15 Full Members (50% +1). The Roll Call was taken and there were sixteen (16) Full Members of WWR present.

Sweden had been authorised to act as a "proxy" on behalf of Finland. Therefore, the total number of votes may reflect this.

The President declared the meeting quorate.

Full Members:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Wheelchair Rugby Australia | Brad Dubberley |
| 2. Associação Brasileira De Rugby Em Cadeira De Rodas Oliveira Souza | Jose Higino |
| 3. Wheelchair Rugby Canada | Kathy Newman |
| 4. Czech Wheelchair Rugby Association | David Lukes |
| 5. Parasport Denmark Nygaard | Torben Hahn |
| 6. Federation Francaise Handisport | Michel Terrefond |
| 7. NPC Germany | Nadine Bieneck |
| 8. Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby | Jason Brisbane |
| 9. Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation | Yuto Kuris |
| 10. Korea Wheelchair Rugby Association | Sang Ok, Seo |
| 11. Gehandicaptensport Nederland | Joep Pelsser |
| 12. New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby | Cherie Harris |
| 13. Norges Rugbyforbund | Erik Baret |
| 14. Polish Wheelchair Rugby Federation | Jaroslav Malec |
| 15. Swedish Parasport Federation and Swedish Paralympic Committee | Carina Forslund |
| 16. USA Wheelchair Rugby | Jen Allred |

Affiliate Members:

Wheelchair Rugby Kenya
FPDD Portuguese Sport Federation For People With Disabilities

Milare Ronald
Carlota Cunha

Associate Members:

Chinese Taipei Wheelchair Rugby Association

Lin Chin Cheng

The President and appointed scrutineers ensure the validity of all voting at the GA including procedures, motions and elections.

MOTION TO APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

To approve John Timms, Alison Bridge, Joe Elliott, Stanley Battock and Jacques Erasmus as scrutineers for all voting at this General Assembly.

Proposer: Norway
Seconder: Netherlands
In favour: 17
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
The motion was passed

3. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION

That the Agenda, as circulated be adopted. The order of business will follow the adopted agenda.

Proposer: New Zealand
Seconder: Australia
In favour: 17
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
The motion was passed

4. Minutes of the 2022 General Assembly

The President noted the 2022 minutes had been circulated in advance; they are taken as read as no objection or point of issue was raised. In accordance with para. 11.1 of Bylaws 3, they were circulated within 10 days after the GA and gave Members a 10-day period starting from the circulation of the minutes to formulate their objections.

MOTION

That the 2022 WWR GA Minutes be accepted.

Proposer: Great Britain
Secunder: Norway
In favour: 17
Against: 0
Abstention: 0
The motion was passed

Matters arising from the minutes that are not covered by any other item on the agenda may be discussed at this point.

The President asked if anyone has any matters arising from the 2022 minutes?
None were raised.

5. The Annual Review

a. Annual Report

The President noted the Annual Review covers the years of 2022 and 2023 and provides an overview of activity that has taken place. If anyone has any questions, then please raise your hand. If the author of the report is available, they will be able to either answer your question or get back to you outside of the meeting.

b. Financial Statements 2022 and 2023

The President invited Jen Braem to present the Financial Statements.

Yuto Kuris (JPN) asked "looking at revenue and expenses in 2022, what was the reason for the decrease in spending in 2023?"

Jen Braem responded, "Revenue was increased and driven by the International Rugby World Cup entry fees, the decrease in expenses was due to a CEO salary not being required."

Yuto acknowledged the costs are not included in competitions expenses.

The President then requested the following motions to be considered by the GA.

MOTION

To accept the reports and financial statements 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 WWR to any course of action suggested in any of the reports.

Proposer: Brazil
Secunder: USA
In favour: 17
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
The motion was passed.

MOTION

Motion The Board move that the firm of McKay Duff be appointed as auditors for WWR to review financial statements.

Proposer: New Zealand

Seconder: Poland

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed.

MOTION

The GA grant discharge to the WWR Board and to the auditors to carry out duties with regard to financial statements and reports.

Proposer: Canada

Seconder: Great Britain

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed.

6. Motions from the Board and National Member Organisations

There were no Board Motions or Applications for Membership.

The President provided a further outline of the formalities:

- In order for the motion to be discussed, the proposer will confirm their intention to submit a motion. A seconder will then be required before the motion can be discussed.
- There was only one motion from Czechia who will have the opportunity to speak.
- On completion, the position of the Board will be presented.
- The General Assembly can then comment.
- On completion, Czechia will then have the opportunity to comment should they wish to do so.
- A vote on the motion will then take place.
- Discussion should take place respecting WWRs values particularly in relation to integrity and respect.

MEMBER MOTION 1 (from Czechia)

1. *WWR Calendar - to include into the calendar all wheelchair rugby tournaments - with invitation and results which would be available anytime. Tournaments would be distinguished as WWR Licenced tournaments and others.*
2. *To have the same Referee T-Shirts for all referees all over the world.*
3. *New website.*

The President explained that the Board position had been provided. There are some really good points but noted these are more operational comments and are things WWR would like to

address outside the meeting. Some have had explanation since the motion was submitted, the referee shirts for example which are now available to purchase on the WWR website. The Board's position was taken as read.

Radka Kučírková (CZE) said "tournaments should be in one place on website, so the world can go there to see all tournaments worldwide and all the results from the tournaments. It must be prepared with a system so people can see everything. The calendar doesn't show all competitions at current. If the government want to see the money spent, they will look on the official WWR website. Almost no one is registering tournaments. Previous tournaments disappear from website, previous tournaments section on the website does not work. Data such as this may need to be provided for bids etc. so the calendar should be more visible on the website."

Nadine Bieneck (GER) agreed with Radka, and said "better information around tournaments would be helpful on the website and all channels."

Paul Hunter (CAN) asked for clarification on whether this is for local or national or international wheelchair rugby tournaments?

Radka Kučírková (CZE) said "the best way would be if ALL tournaments were in one place. International tournaments should be there including club tournaments."

The President thanked Radka.

Radka Kučírková (CZE) said "we wanted all referees to have all same t shirts, but WWR have now provided this on website."

Jose Higino Oliveira Souza (BRA) asked "are the Referee T-Shirts for all tournaments or just international?"

John Timms explained "you can have your own [referee shirt], the t shirts that have been made available for referees are not mandatory. Officials wanted referee shirts, so they were all wearing the same at tournaments around the world. It is just there for people to obtain if they want to."

Joep Pelsser (NED) said "these are all reasonable ideas, but it is difficult to vote on a motion that has three separate topics. Also, the website changes will come at a cost but is encouraged."

The President agreed and noted motions should be submitted with one topic in future.

The President said "We have discussed a review of website in existing structure – including home page. We are trying to find ways to change this."

The President closed discussion and went to a vote.

The President then moved the Motion for election. The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Czechia

Secunder: Poland

In favour: 15

Against: 2

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed as a simple majority of more than 50% +1 was obtained.

7. Elections

MOTION

That Richard Allcroft be appointed Elections Chair.

Proxy voting will not be permitted during elections.

The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Netherlands

Seconder: Japan

In favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed as a simple majority of more than 50% +1 was obtained.

There are FOUR positions on the board due for election – Vice President, 2 Directors at Large and the Athlete Representative. All nominations received were from Members in good standing and the WWR Nominations Committee have not raised any comments for the General Assembly.

The President noted Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca and Seamus O’Fatharta will be standing for Vice President. There are two positions for Directors at Large with three candidates - Martin Richard, Stephen Loader, and Seamus O’Fatharta.

The President then moved into the elections.

The President explained Seamus O’Fatharta (IRL) was supposed to arrive but as he is not well, he will not be in attendance. This is the only information provided.

Election for the position of “Vice President”

The President noted the election for this position will be for a four-year term.

The President then moved to a vote.

16 votes cast, 10 for Juan Pablo, 5 for Seamus O’Fatharta, 1 for neither. Juan Pablo was successfully voted in for the next four years as WWR Vice President.

Election for the position of “Member at Large”

Candidate: Martin Richard presented for the position of “Member at large”

Candidate: Stephen Loader presented for the position of “Member at large”

Richard noted Seamus had not provided any text or video for presentation.

Yuto Kuris (JPN) asked for confirmation, “before voting, the information provided said there were 4 candidates?”

The President confirmed there are only 3 candidates for this position.

JT explained the elections procedure for 3 candidates but 2 positions.

Paul Hunter (CAN) asked for further clarification on the procedure.

The President explained there are 3 people standing for Director at Large, but the first vote is for only one position. If there is a majority vote, that individual will be voted in. The second vote will only involve 2 candidates, for the second position.

The President moved to a vote for the first position.

There were 9 votes for Stephen Loader, 7 votes for Martin Richard, and 0 votes for Seamus O’Fatharta. Therefore, Stephen Loader was successfully voted in for the next four years as “Director at Large”.

The President moved to a vote for the second position.

There was 1 vote for Seamus O’Fatharta, and 15 votes for Martin Richard, therefore Martin Richard was successfully voted in for the next four years as “Director at Large”.

The President congratulated Stephen and Martin on a successful election.

Election for the position of “Athlete Representative”

Richard explained there is only one candidate for this position.

Brad Dubberley (AUS) presented on behalf of Shae Graham.

Richard noted the election for this position will be for a four-year term.

The President then moved to a vote.

There were 16 votes for Shae Graham, therefore Shae Graham was successfully voted in for the next four years as “Athlete Representative”.

The President called for a motion to destroy the ballot papers at the conclusion of the elections.

MOTION

To destroy all ballot papers.

Proposer: New Zealand

Seconder: Brazil

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed.

8.Strategic Planning – Membership Consultation

The President noted that a strategic consultation was on the Agenda. We have two facilitators to work with the membership in the room. The two facilitators will present some of the outcomes and feedback from the membership survey circulated recently. The strategic consultation with the membership will then be used to help shape the Board and Heads of Working Groups meeting tomorrow (Wednesday 20th of November).

Thanks to World Rugby for providing the two facilitators.


A big thank you to the Membership for giving their time at this important meeting.

9. Closing

The WWR President then formally closed the meeting on the 19 November 2024 at 14:10 UTC (15:10 local time)

The WWR Board Directors in position following conclusion of the meeting.	Richard Allcroft [President] (RA), GBR
	Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca [Vice President] (JS), COL
	Gail Hamamoto (GH), [Member at large], CAN
	Martin Richard (MR) [Member at large], CAN
	Stephen Loader (SL), [Member at large], AUS
	Seong Sin Han (SSH), [Independent Appointed Director], SUI
	Jen Braem (JB) [Appointed Director for Finance and Risk Management], CAN
	Shae Graham (SG) [Athlete Representative], AUS

As per WWR Bylaw 3 and following the designated time that allowed the Membership to comment on the Minutes, these are now provided as the final version.

Name	Richard Allcroft OBE	
Position	WWR President	
Date	6 th January 2025	