

WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES



International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation

Barefoot

**33rd MEETING OF THE WBC
On 12 & 13 February 2023**

Items and Actions

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2023

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Established.

Brian Price, Rob Groen, Ben Groen, John O'Neill, Peter O'Neill, Svenja Hempelmann, Ludo Vrancx, Geoff Blaauw, Richard Gray, Claire Mowday, Betsy Gilman, Mark Shank & Mike Molepske.

APOLOGIES

Paul Turner

Gustavo Serrano

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Napanee Canada August 2018.

Moved Claire Mowday, Seconded Brian Price.

2022 IWWF MASTERS

- No matters arising.

INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME

- John O'Neill spoke about his role on the HOF Committee
- How people are appointed to this – Roll over
- How committee operates to induct nominees
- Made the point that nominators must check the criteria before making nominations and stick to this.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Schedule for Wednesday/Thursday circulated by Geoff.

LOC CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Peter O'Neill

- We are ready
- Site is all set up
- Boats are ready
- Emphasised the point that they want everyone to have a good time and get on with one another.
- Talked about functions, officials entitlements clarified.

VISION

- Geoff asked everyone to think about their vision, our vision for barefooting in the future.

FOR DISCUSSION ON MONDAY

- World Games: To get in, we must have representation at a high level from federations across the World. X Games format essential to showcase the event.

MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2023

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Established.

Brian Price, Rob Groen, Ben Groen, John O'Neill, Peter O'Neill, Svenja Hempelmann, Ludo Vrancx, Geoff Blaauw, Richard Gray, Claire Mowday, Betsy Gilman, Mark Shank, Mike Molepske, Jose Antonio Perez Priego.

GUESTS

Mark Shank, Mike Molepske, Jose Antonio Perez Priego.

BRIAN PRICE

- Advised that Rob Groen will be the AO Voting Delegate for today.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – GEOFF BLAAUW

- All committee positions are now vacant.
- Committee Chairs are all re-appointed.
- All Chairs to re-appoint their committee members and make changes where needed.

SKIER PARTICIPATION/REGISTRATION – GEOFF BLAAUW

- Discussed that participation has dropped significantly over the last few years since 2018.
- Many European Countries have low numbers of both skiers and officials.
- Comments were made about possibly completing Official accreditation online.
- Discussed that using private lakes can be challenging as some don't allow spectators.
- Discussed combining New Zealand's calendar with Australia's to encourage more participation.

FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – GUSTAVO SERRANO

- We need people specialising in Asia, South America, and Africa.
- Geoff will call for someone to step up as a Chair for the development of these areas and people to step up to form the committee.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT – Svenja Hempelmann

- Thanked Svenja for her work in Junior development.
- Appointed Betsy Gilman as the new Chair of Junior Development.
- Betsy would like Ashleigh Stebbeings to assist with Junior Development.
- Peter O'Neill will oversee Oceania Junior Development.
- Svenja Hempelmann will oversee Europe Junior Development.
- Running a camp every year assists in young skiers coming together.

UNDER 14 DEVELOPMENT

- Brian commented that this should be discussed at a Confederation level.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS – Geoff Blaauw

- There have been no nominations for President's Awards in the past 12 months.
- Discussed that the President's Award recognises those with significant growth and contribution over the past 12 months.

The impact that they've had needs to be able to be recognised by Jose Antonio.

- This is separate to the Outstanding Service Award.
- Any of the WBC can call Geoff and recommend someone for the President's Award.
- There are no official criteria for the President's Award, this said, the award is for those that go above and beyond in their confederation or internationally.

2024 IWWF OPEN, JUNIOR & U23 WORLDS – GEOFF BLAAUW

- Discussed that there may be some ability to have these championships on a sliding scale for the sanction fee.
- Potential location for 2024 is Mexico.

JUNIOR RECOGNITION

- Geoff asked if the clubs do enough to recognise Juniors when they hit jump, tricks or slalom milestones.
- Ben commented that the ABC gave this a go a few years ago. They used a stars/badges system which fell short partly because the skier had to pay for the badge.

WHAT'S WORKING & NOT WORKING

- Geoff commented that the committees that aren't working need more vision, guidance and understanding of the goals.
- Discussed that we need to support the Chair if we are happy with their work.
- If we're not happy with the Chair, we need to replace them.

RULES COMMITTEE – MARK SHANK

- The Masters Rules have already been approved.
 - Three members have been added to the committee, Eric Coryer, Tim Hall & Peter Franks.
 - Discussed that we need to respect the rules committee and what they do.
 - Discussed that a skier should enter all three events, and if they don't qualify for one, they lose their entry fee for that event.
- Geoff asked Mark to take this back to the rules committee to discuss.

U23 DIVISION

- Everyone agreed that they we are continuing with the U23 division.
- Everyone agreed that U23 records will be recorded from this competition moving forward.
- NOTE: Masters Records are now recorded.
- Discussed the old rules forum that is no longer being used.
- If you are wanting a rule change, bring it up with the rules committee.
- Mark commented that once the rules committee have debated, scrutinised and voted upon a rule, the WBC should be accepting, supportive and speaking positively about the rule change.

RULES COMMITTEE – MARK SHANK

- Brian commented that the specifications for Level 1 and 2 Judges are virtually the same in the rule book.
- Mark commented that the officials committee suggested if a Level 2 judge is appointed, completes the training, and undertakes the position they should be elevated to level 1 after officiating at a World Championships.
- Mark agreed that Judges' requirements to achieve level 1 need to be discussed and clarified in the rules.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE – MIKE MOLEPSKE

- Discussed that European Judges Accreditation could easily be done through zoom. This could work for areas like Canada and Mexico as well.
- Ben recommended that whoever is doing the accreditation with the judge, should judge the video themselves first.

PANAM – BETSY GILMAN

- Discussed that Betsy is currently holding the Chair position until a permanent replacement is found.
- Discussed that subject to bids, PanAm may be the host for the next two Worlds, which will be a benefit for the Juniors.
- Discussed the possibility of a future Worlds being held in Europe. It may be a long time before this could happen.

OCEANIA – BRIAN PRICE

- Brian Congratulated both Claire and Oscar.
Claire Mowday was inducted into the Oceania Hall of Fame.
Oscar Mann was inducted into the IWWF Hall of Fame.
- Discussed that the rule book states that records must be kept for all divisions.
- Confirmed that there will be a change to the rule book to specify Masters & U23 records.

EA – LUDO VRANCX

- Ludo no comments, no questions.

ADMINISTRATION – BRIAN PRICE

- Brian commented that everyone will receive the updated PPG once the changes have been made.
- Richard suggested a hyperlink be inserted where the PPG refers to the Technical Rules and vice versa.

AWARDS – CLAIRE MOWDAY

- Claire no comments, no questions.

IWWF IHOF – GEOFF BLAAUW

- Geoff will set a date for Andy Harris' IHOF Induction by the end of March.
- Discussed that Nominations for the IHOF DO NOT come from the Awards Committee.
- If you would like to nominate someone for the IHOF, you can simply call someone on the IHOF committee and give them the name.
- Discussed the nomination process.

2023 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – CLAIRE MOWDAY

- Discussed that everyone needs to be thinking about potential candidates.
- Nominations will be called for around the middle of the year and will be closing in November.
- Confirmed that the AOTY Award is an annual award.
- Reminder that AOTY is strictly an Opens Division performance-based award.

RECORD REVIEWS COMMITTEE – GEOFF BLAAUW

- Discussed that when record submissions are made, all details need to be thorough, and processes followed strictly.
- Geoff commented that he will send out the records list to everyone.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE – MIKE MOLEPSKE

- Commented that all officials throughout the world are current with their quizzes.
- All the officials at this tournament completed their quizzes before the tournament.
- It's great to see some younger officials coming through.

CURRENT TOURNAMENT – MIKE MOLEPSKE

- Discussed details of the current tournament.
- Discussed that there are some great new officials coming through.

ATHLETES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – BEN GROEN

- Discussed that we need to get skiers more educated and have them raise issues with us before they are issues.
- Ben commented that he is actively looking for a replacement for himself.
- Brett Swanbom is coming on board to assist Ben.

HISTORY COMMITTEE – JOHN CORNISH

- Richard commented that John is doing well keeping records up to date online.
- Brian commented that the access to the AO Records needs to be simplified.
- Richard will recognise John for his work with a letter of thanks.

TECHNOLOGY & SYSTEMS COMMITTEE – ROB GROEN

- Rob commented that he needs more IT minded people on the committee to help keep them up to date with technology.
- Discussed that a goal of his to have no judges in the boat.
- Discussed some of the technology that Waterski are using.
- Rob commented that he has a link for a new program which he is planning on sending to the council to view.

SAFETY – GEOFF BLAAUW

- Nothing to report.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT – BEN GROEN

- Oscar commented that Betsy will be auctioning his brand-new wetsuit on his behalf, to raise money for Junior Development.
- Discussed the US's 'Get on the water' event.
- Discussed that each Federation needs to take responsibility for their Junior Development.
- Jose commented that the IWWF budget for Junior Development, and that this needs to be applied for.
- Betsy and Svenja will oversee this application to the IWWF and communicate with each Federation for their acquittal.
- Discussed that setting regular camps are very beneficial for Juniors & U23s.
- Betsy commented that they run grass roots tournaments in the US, to attract skiers who haven't competed before.
- Rob commented that NZ hold something similar, with no entry fees, and no need to have been previously registered with the club.
- Geoff commented that Victoria rotates the role of State President frequently. The benefits are that everyone has done the job and understands how much work is required.
- Geoff commented on the process that Victoria use to rotate the role of State President.
- Everyone agreed that we all need to lighten up.
- Betsy will get together with the Junior Development committee to discuss goals and a vision for the future.

U23 DIVISION

- Discussed whether to run an U23 teams' event.
- Determined that all U23's will now be classed as Federation Representatives.
- At this point, for the next Worlds (Open, Jr & U23), there will be no team event for U23.
- Discussed that we would not have qualifying scores for U23 at this stage.

IWWF PRESIDENT JOSE ANTONIO PEREZ PRIEGO

- Jose discussed that the IWWF contract with FISU has lapsed and is not likely to be re-instated.
- Discussed the possibility of running our own version of the UNI Games with a different name.
- Discussed the achievements of the IWWF in 2022 and plans for 2023.
- Commented that the IWWF launched their new website in October 2022.
- Commented that they are very pleased with the changes to the IHOF.
- Discussed that the IWWF are making big efforts and commitments to being more environmentally conscious.
- Competitions are going to be paperless as soon as possible.
- Made a note for everyone that the EMS can be used for Grass Roots and similar tournaments. A licence is only required for Rankings List tournaments.

IWWF COUNCIL MEETING RE PROPOSED FUNDING OF OFFICIALS

- Discussed that Cable & Wakeboard have established funding to assist the Officials with their costs to attend Tournaments.
- There is a proposal to increase entry fees to help officials with their costs to travel to events.
- Confirmed that we would all think on this individually and discuss it at the next meeting.

ATHLETE'S FORUM

Skiers present: Kimberly Smit, Brett Swanbom, Ben Groen, William Lee.

What can we do better for the skiers?

- Discussed that the U23 division is great for keeping Juniors in the sport.
- Discussed the different yearly and tournament fees for each Federation and discovered that Australia's are significantly higher than others.
- Commented that U23s need to be shown the value of the competition to be able to justify the cost and time off work/study.
- Discussed whether changes should be made to ensure all skiers ski at least two rounds.
- Discussed the need to do more advertising to Juniors and U23s, particularly to Women, to get more of them involved in Barefooting.
- Discussed the fact that some younger skiers and women fear the prospect of taking a hit.
- Discussed the possibility of running a woman only event.
- Discussed the benefits of running medal presentations after every finals round immediately and determined that we'd do that where possible.
- Discussed whether elimination is beneficial or if it would be better to have more skiers in each round.
- Discussed whether the Junior Qualifying scores should potentially be used for U23 as well.
- Discussed that there needs to be a clear pathway for those wanting to enter the sport.
- Discussed ideas on how to make Barefoot tournaments more entertaining for spectators.

- Betsy commented that they are about to try a new event called the Wakefest Challenge.

SANCTION FEES

- Discussed whether we should write to the EB to reduce the sanction fees for the Opens & Juniors and increase for the Masters to bring it back into balance.
Current sanction fees: \$5,000 for Masters, \$5,000 for Juniors and \$17,000 for the Opens.
- Jose commented that the sanction fees that the IWWF charge are usually the result of a suggestion from the Council. This is the only income that the IWWF receive.

2025 IWWF MASTERS

To be held in September 2025

- Ben and Betsy are looking to put in a bid for the Southern Region of the US.
- Geoff commented that we may need to also pay a sanction fee on the U23s potentially post the next Championships.
- Jose confirmed that the licence fee doesn't reduce the sanction fee, it is in addition.

2024 OPEN, JUNIOR & U23 WORLDS

- Geoff commented that in his opinion, Mexico is very likely to be hosting this event.
- Geoff also commented that Mexico is also interested in hosting the 2025 Masters.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Discussed calculating overalls. Betsy will email Jose Antonio about how to do this.
- Betsy commented that the US Coaches were concerned why they weren't contacted about the night jump vote.
- Geoff confirmed that it was a poll of the top 10 skiers. No one else. The results of which were emailed to the Council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN POSITION

- Geoff commented that he will only be Chair for this term, between now and the 2024 Open, Junior & U23 Worlds.
- Betsy commented that Tina McCauley may be a good candidate.
- Discussed that whoever is going to be Chair next, should be Secretary for the next 2 years to learn the role.
- Council voted in agreement that Geoff will continue as Chair for now.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ACTIONS

1. All Chairs to re-appoint their committee members and make changes where needed.
2. Regarding skiers entry fees and qualification (refer to page 3 of the minutes), Geoff asked Mark to take this back to the rules committee to discuss.
3. Mark agreed that Judges' requirements to achieve level 1 need to be discussed and clarified in the rules.
4. Mark confirmed that there will be a change to the rule book to specify Masters & U23 records.
5. Geoff will set a date for Andy Harris' IHOF Induction by the end of March.
6. Geoff commented that he will send out the records list to everyone.
7. Access to the AO Records to be simplified.
8. Richard will recognise John for his work with a letter of thanks.
9. Betsy and Svenja will apply to the IWWF for funding for Junior Development and will oversee communicating with each Federation for their acquittal.
10. Betsy will get together with the Junior Development team to discuss goals and a vision for the future.