

WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES



Zoom Meeting of the WBC

On 29/30 August 2023

Items and Actions

ATTENDEES

Geoff Blaauw (GB)
Mike Molepske (MM)
Mark Shank (MS)
Brian Price (BP)
Ludo Vrancx (LV)
John Cornish (JC)
Rob Groen (RG)
Claire Mowday (CM)
Brem Allen (BA)
Paul Turner (PT)
Ben Groen (BG)
Svenja Hempelmann (SH)
Betsy Gilman (BGIL)
Andy Harris (AH)
Gustavo Serrano (GS)

APOLOGIES

Will Leigh (WL)
Richard Gray (RGRAY)

1. 2024 IWWF OPEN, JUNIOR & U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS REVIEW - JC

Logos have been sent to GB for approval

A sponsorship program has also been sent to GB and is now being distributed.

Working on appointing key officials and creating a schedule.

The response has been very positive from people in the US.

No formal commitment for boats yet, however, no concerns about gaining commitment.

GB - Logos always need to go through the IWWF.

JC – Suggested multiple logo options would be helpful for stationary, merchandise, sponsorship etc.

GB – To be discussed further after the meeting with JC & MS.

GB – Expecting great numbers for this event, including more Europeans than past World Championships.

It's planned that Jump may run for a few days on Lake Gru, with the majority of the event being run on the main Lake.

BGIL – Margaritaville is an RV and Cabana resort which is right on the lake. With great facilities in the Cabanas.

There are around 600 spots in total including the Cabanas.

Lots of activities and facilities available including a large event space where the banquet could be held.

JC – Currently obtaining prices to house all officials and special guests there. Intending on renting 15x golf carts for officials to share for transport to and from the lake.

Polk county would prefer to have the opening ceremonies in Winter Haven.

Intending to host the closing ceremony in the arena that seats up to 500.

Margaritaville would be providing a 'grab'n'go' type breakfast for the officials, and would also be providing a dinner location for the officials in the evenings. Currently waiting on pricing.

City of Auburndale is looking into how they can assist with the Championships.

2. JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT – BGIL

Has met with Svenja and Pete and reached out to Jose Antonio requesting IWWF Funding.

Currently developing squads in each region, and will meet again in October to solidify plans for US' Winter.

Each region will have a different plan for junior development.

Intending on running off the back of the USA Waterski 'Get on the Water' events.

LV – there were 11 Juniors from multiple countries at the European Championships.

There were only 3 Italian juniors which would usually be 10.

PT – England - 3 Juniors went to the Europeans, some others are still in training and not at the level to go to Championships yet.

BA – Canada – Recently ran Nationals with 6 Junior boys, no Junior girls. There are a few Juniors on the boom showing an interest.

BG – US – 14 Juniors at the US Nationals, 2 girls, 12 boys. It was their first Nationals for 6 of those juniors.

Half of them will be eligible to attend another Junior Worlds.

RG – NZ – 2 Juniors. 4 families which have children skiing on the boom. None of them will be at competition level for another 12 months.

BP – AUS – 28 Juniors at recent QLD Training camp from VIC, NSW & QLD. There are more juniors in SA & WA as well.

Pete O'Neill and his crew doing very well with promoting Junior Development.

SH – Struggling to get Junior Boys at the moment. Have a number of Junior Girls.

3. LION & EMS UPDATE - GB

If a club has a business account with PayPal, they are able to receive entry fees through the EMS which will land in the PayPal Business account. The payment is made by the skier through EMS when they enter the tournament.

If there are any questions or you need training, book a zoom call with Peter Frei.

There are fees to use this system which are dependant on your credit card fees in your Federation.

MM – We haven't been able to use the Lion to calculate the overalls, this is currently being worked on.

4. 2025 MASTERS UPDATE – GB

It would be great to see the Masters run in Europe.

LV – Austria have shown interest in hosting the Masters. They are looking into whether they have the financial support.

Italy is another option. There is an election on the last week of September for a new President and Board. We will need to wait until after the election to discuss plans further. We will see their level of support for Barefoot.

AH – Has spoken to Davide who has a beautiful spot and he is interested.

Will be hearing back from both Austria and Italy in October.

AH – The Waterski Tournament note that the candidate that is up for election as President is a wakeboarder, so they are nervous about the new allocation of funding. The Italian Federation looks after surfing as well.

The Barefoot division aren't concerned about the election.

Italy have three suitable straight lakes that would work very well.

GB – A backup option would be to host in the US. If it was not possible to host in Europe, Margaritaville would be the next best option.

5. RULES COMMITTEE – MS

We are currently running the slalom trial.

A lot was learnt at the US Nationals with lots of feedback from skiers. The rules committee will be holding another meeting on the 11th of September to discuss the trial.

The options will be to: Scuttle the trial, extend the trial, or change the rule.

Strong feedback from Oceania that we should extend the trial to the end of the Southern Hemisphere's ski season.

Safety issue arose at US Nationals regarding drones during the jump event.

Timetable for rules committee is that the first draft is sent out on 30 September, final draft is sent out on 30 November, mid-december the council receives the rules to review, on the 1st of January the rules are in effect.

Previously, we've been outside of these times due to late submissions for changes. We are on schedule for this year.

JC – Are the officials involved in the discussion about the Slalom Trial's implementation?

MS – Yes, he's been speaking with the Officials.

JC – Commented that officials seem to have bigger issues with the rules than the skiers do.

SH – European skiers weren't happy that the trial began 1 week before the Europeans, and the feedback was negative about the new rule.

MM – Listening to feedback from other Judges, most problems came from the most advanced skiers.

Another issue was caused by a skier that jumps over the wake.

BG – There are mixed emotions from the skiers. Europeans had mixed feelings. Those who are skiing clean aren't happy that those who aren't skiing clean will be keeping up with them regarding credits.

Those who are involved in officiating are feeling more positive than those who aren't.

MM – Majority of the skiers, this rule made it easier to judge. Overall, the scores were higher, and there were less issues with the scoring.

AH – From a judging perspective, Andy has used the new rule on an outboard wake and it made the job of judging really easy. Inboard wakes would be more challenging.

BG – At the US Nationals, she found the rule made it a lot easier to judge.

MS – Reviewing feedback from many federations together with evidence of score sheets and videos.

LV – Suggested adding two people from Europe to the rules committee, and advised that he has already spoken to two candidates who are interested.

MS – Has requested for more representation from Europe in the past. Will need to look at reducing the current committee to be able to take on extra members. Deeply interested in bringing on more members from Europe.

GB – The expectations of those on the rules committee is that they need to be able to give feedback on how the rule is written and how it will be comprehended, they need to be able to officiate at a high level, and they cannot have a conflict of interest. It's unacceptable to have people with a conflict of interest in the rules committee as everything they say would be questioned.

MS – Has had a level of frustration with the level of activity of some of the committee members. Will have higher expectations of committee members in the future.

MS – The original slalom trial was supposed to end 1 September. Strong feedback from those in the Southern Hemisphere that this should be extended through to the end of their ski season. This will be discussed at the meeting on 11 September.

6. ATHLETE'S REP – BG

The biggest discussion amongst the skiers at the moment is surrounding the slalom trial.

There's a lot of positivity following the Worlds that has taken place and excitement that there is another Worlds booked in and fast approaching.

For the younger skiers, the excitement is back because of the social side of the tournaments and the opportunity to travel across the world and see their friends again.

The states will see a lot of Juniors moving into the U23's over the coming year.
The next Worlds should see around 10-15% more skiers than the last.

7. AWARDS COMMITTEE – CM

AOTY is back this year, dates have tentatively been set:
Nominations need to be submitted to CM & GB by the 18th of November and these will then be submitted to the AOTY committee for discussion and selection which will take place by the 1st of December, to be then submitted to the IWWF in the first week of December.

The nomination forms are on the website.

OSA needs to be pushed for the next Worlds so that we have some nominations coming through from all Federations. We would really like to recognise those who fit the criteria.

CM will send the Council the criteria for AOTY & OSA and the dates.

BP – Asked GB if there are Barefoot Nominations for the IHOF.

GB – Cannot comment on Barefoot IHOF Nominations as the Chair of the IHOF it is a conflict of interest.

JC – As a member of the Barefoot Selection Committee, he confirms that there are nominations.

GB – Noted that currently, any skiers who are retired and inducted into the IHOF, cannot come out of retirement and ski in the open division without losing their award.

8. FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT – GS

GB – the committee needs reps from Europe and Africa.

BG – Cable Ski took a lot of Barefooters in South Africa. A lot of those skiers don't Cable Ski or Barefoot anymore.

9. SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY – RG

Important to collect all technology that we can from around the World to be used at the next Worlds.

MS – Any feedback on Safe Drone use for the rules committee can be sent directly to MS.

GB – Will provide a document that he has seen about safe drone use.

MS – At the US Nationals, a drone came into the line of sight of a driver and skier and the skier fell as they got to the jump.

MM – New York City Police Force are banning drones and are taking them down if they see them.

It is not safe to have people flying personal drones at competitions.

MS – Already working on rules surrounding drone use at tournaments.

BGIL – USA Waterski have a drone safety policy on usawaterski.org.

10. WEBSITE – GB

First person to contact if you see any issues on the website is RGRAY, however, if you could also CC GB, we are involved in making a lot of the adjustments and providing them to RGRAY.

AH – The news link takes you to a page of coding at the moment, this has already been raised with RGRAY
RGRAY to address the News page of the website.
Masters record history needs to be recorded. John Cornish to assist with gathering these records.

RG – Asked if Oceania, PANAM and European records can be included in the WBC website.

JC – This would need to be compiled into a PDF and be sent to RGRAY to post on the website.

GB – All Federations seem to run slightly different divisions and age groups, which could be confusing when we are looking at records from each of them.

BP – Currently it's up to each Federation to have their records on their own websites.

GB – Records and where to find them online is an issue to be addressed and discussed further and a solution provided at the next meeting.

GB - Regarding the new slalom rule, any slalom record that is broken during this rule's trial needs to be submitted to the records committee to be held as pending subject to a rule change.

Masters records will be recorded in history on the WBC website.

11. ADMINISTRATION - BP

Currently tidying up the final document for circulation.

A new document will be out by 31 December 2023.

12. CONFEDERATION UPDATES

EUROPE – LV

The Europeans had 44 Skiers from 7 countries. Scandinavia will be back next year, Finland weren't there, no skiers from France attended.

Last week was combined Nationals with 32 skiers. Several new judges and aspiring new judges were taken in the boat as well. Council intend to run a clinic in France next year. The French are organising two clinics per year.

OCEANIA – BP

By-annual general meeting is set for 2 October. All positions on the council are up for election. Hoping a number of current members re-nominate.

NZ had their AGM recently. Ryan Groen has stayed on as president, John McTaggart is the new secretary.

PANAM – BGIL

US Nationals have just taken place which were very successful at BP's. Likely to have the Nationals there again next year.

Spending a lot of time on Junior Development.

Working with John Cornish on the Worlds.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nothing to note.

MEETING ADJORNED