

# WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES



**WBC Conference Call  
On 16 May 2021**

Items and Actions	Action due date and person responsible
<p><b>1. ATTENDEES</b></p> <p>Ben Groen - BG Rob Groen - RGROEN Geoff Blaauw - GB Svenja Hempelmann - SH Gustavo Serrano - GS Andy Harris - AH John Cornish - JC Ludo Vrancx - LV Richard Kaufman - RK Claire Mowday - CM Richard Gray - RGRAY Mark Shank - MS Brian Price - BP</p> <p><b>2. VISION</b></p> <p>Junior Officials Development.</p> <p>Part of the focus in developing new officials, is to get skiers in their 20s and 30s into the lead official positions, and to develop those in their teens into Officials positions, with the aim of getting them into the lead Official positions.</p> <p>BG commented – A benefit of developing skiers into Officials, is that they understand the rules in more depth, which in turn makes them a better skier.</p> <p>AH commented – He has attempted officials development in the past and has not been successful with it.</p> <p>GB commented – We can obtain a grant of \$12,000 from the IWWF to put into Officials Development. GB is currently waiting for responses from each Confederation to submit the application to the IWWF.</p> <p>AH commented – Part of the joy of officiating is the comradery in the boat with the other officials. If we were to move to video judging at some point, it would remove this relational part of officiating.</p> <p>JC commented – It is important that we document what is done to develop officials, as this can be looked back on to improve and change in the future.</p>	

### 3. JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

GB Asked – how is Junior Development going.

LV commented – Europe's Juniors are stable, however not growing. Germany has some new Juniors, Belgium has some Juniors, Italy has the most Juniors, there are no Juniors at all in France. Overall, Europe is not in a great position with Junior Development.

GB commented – A lot of work has been done on Junior Development in Australia. One concern is that as the club gets bigger, and the competitions get more serious, we seem to lose the younger skiers.

RGRAY commented – The BWA Junior Development is much more advanced compared to the rest of the World. This may be because the clubs have taken charge of the development of their Juniors.

USA's Junior Development is currently non-existent. As soon as key people stop conducting coaching clinics, the development of the Juniors is lost.

BG commented – Juniors attract Juniors. When you have two or three Juniors at the Ski School, you will automatically attract more Juniors. Work then needs to be done in keeping the skiers as they move through from School to Uni/College.

GB commented – The BWA are about to start running yearly camp for the Juniors, up to 17 years of age. This camp will run at the same time each year.

A separate camp will be run for skiers aged 18-23. This will assist in relationship building, helping the skiers create memories that last a lifetime. As it's a yearly camp, this will keep them coming back each year, which will keep them in the sport.

The camps are run by the Coaches from around Australia and are funded by BWA.

RGRAY commented – Canada is unfortunately in a very different situation to Australia when it comes to funding this kind of event/camp.

GB commented – Retention of the skiers aged 18-23 is extremely important. It is important to attract the Juniors, and then keep them in the sport throughout that age category.

BG commented – Australia has some great role models for the Juniors and those in their late teens, and 20s. Having these role models assists in keeping skiers engaged, with a vision and goals for their future in the sport.

RK commented – For them they are finding junior development tough, due to most skiers skiing on private lakes. When skiers are skiing on public lakes, they attract other people who want to get involved in Barefoot Waterskiing.

There isn't currently a National effort to develop the Juniors. It really is just at a Regional level.

GB commented – Work needs to be done at a Federation level to get camps going for the Juniors.

BG commented – there were 10 new Juniors at the recent Nationals, however only 2 of those Juniors would be looking at skiing at the Worlds in 2 years' time.

GB suggested – All Confederations should put a call out for someone to take on the responsibility of Junior Development in their confederation. This needs to be someone who is able to take charge, inspire others, and make change happen for the sport.

BG commented – He has sent a message to Tina McCauley and will discuss with her what the ABC can do to get involved in Junior Development.

SH commented – they have seen some positive results for Juniors at their Come 'n' Try days.

GS commented – in South America, they only had 2 Juniors at their last event, and both left the competition early. It is clear that more needs to be done to make this enjoyable and engaging for the Juniors.

AH commented – Junior Development in Italy is currently very strong. One of the benefits that they have is funding, as everything is driven by the Federation.

GB commented – a leader of Junior Development is needed for every Federation.

#### **4. IWWF JUNIOR RECOGNITION – Geoff Blaauw**

GB suggested – there could be more recognition for Juniors. One suggestion would be providing Certificates to the skiers from the IWWF when the skiers reach a certain level in each discipline.

SH commented – they are currently doing something quite similar at a National level. Providing Certificates and small medals to Juniors when they reach certain achievements.

GB asked – Should this be considered, or has it been done in the past?

BG commented – What keeps the Juniors in the sport is enjoying skiing with their mates. Spending time, having fun and making memories together.

#### **5. HISTORY – John Cornish**

Currently working on a video from the recent Junior Worlds Tournament.

GS commented – He feels that video competitions are only temporary. He believes in person competition will be back up and running in 2022.

RK commented – As a skier it can be quite costly to attend tournaments, especially where international travel is required. Video tournaments enable those without the financial means, to compete in competitions from home, via video.

#### **6. 2023 JUNIOR OPEN WORLDS – Geoff Blaauw**

GB suggested – With the lack of competitions being run for the juniors in 2020 and 2021, GB suggested that we run an under 21s competition.

BG commented – This could be a good excuse to run a trial under 21s event to see what the response is from the skiers. It may assist in retaining some of the Juniors.

MS commented – Considering how challenging it has been for some of these skiers to compete in their prime years, this would be a good opportunity to keep some skiers in the sport, as well as attracting new skiers.

GB commented – Should we consider including skiers up to the age of 24 in this competition? Under 21s may be too restrictive. Should we also consider allowing dual entry for opens skiers?

RGRAY commented – he agrees that dual entry should be open.

BP suggested – age groups should be defined and proposed to the federations to get them on board.

GB confirmed – GB will draft a proposal for the Chairs to circulate to the Federations.

**GB**

**7. JUNIOR FEMALE DEVELOPMENT – Geoff Blaauw**

GB commented – There is a need for more Female mentors to assist in the development of skiers in the Junior Girl category. This needs to be an effort from all Federations.

**8. IWWF MINUTE BADGES – Geoff Blaauw**

GB asked – Should we be arranging Minute Badges to be sent to African Countries? The skiers would submit their videos for minute badges, which would then be posted to them, with their results also posted online.

BG commented – Just as fast as he has gained momentum with this in the past, interest fell off.

Previously the ABC had a website where your name would be published when you earned your minute badge, however once your name was online, there was no further follow through from that.

GB asked – Would Minute Badges work in Africa and South America?

SH commented – She doesn't think will work internationally. Everyone agreed that we would not work further on this proposal.

**9. IWWF FOOTVID21 – Geoff Blaauw**

The IWWF FootVid21 website is now live.

Skiers register online at no cost.

There were some challenges with bank accounts and payment, therefore it was decided that the entry to the event would be free.

Once a skier registers online, they will receive an email with a link where they can upload their video entries.

All entries are to be submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, at which time the video judges will be given the links to judge the videos.

All videos and results will be announced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

RGROEN asked – Some of the NZ skiers want to use their Nationals runs for the comp, GB confirmed that this is permitted.

GB asked – please have the skiers make a note on the video that it is from their Nationals.

**10. ATHLETE'S REP UPDATE – Ben Groen**

There has not been much feedback from skiers at this stage, they just want to find out when the next Worlds will be.

Skiers are keen for the video tournament, however would prefer to be back on the water, skiing with their peers again.

**11. TECH UPDATE – Rob Groen**

No updates.

**12. RULES COMMITTEE – Mark Shank**

Lots of progress has been made with the rules recently, cleaning up certain areas that needed tweaking.

There are still more areas that are currently being worked on, including the concussion protocol.

**13. MASTERS – Mark Shank**

The Masters are on hold at the moment.  
The tournament was proposed for June 2022, however that proposal was rejected and is now being proposed for September-October 2022.

**14. AWARDS COMMITTEE – Claire Mowday**

The Athletes of the Decade and Quarter Century have now been announced.  
There is no confirmation at this stage for when the recipients will be presented with their awards.  
GB confirmed – the awards were posted to Tina McCauley to hold onto at this stage. The US Nationals are likely to be the best place to present the awards.  
CM commented – Everyone please keep Outstanding Service Awards in mind and propose anyone that you feel is a worthy recipient.

**15. IWWF IHOF – Geoff Blaauw**

The selection committee are currently working on nominations. The nominations are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2021.

**16. WEBSITE UPDATE – Richard Gray**

There are now links on the home page of the website that take you to the Leon Scoring Programme, the Rankings list (now house on the IWWF website) and the EMS.  
If you would like access to the excel sheet with the Historical Rankings List, that can still be found on the WBC website.  
If you have a video that you would like on the website, please upload the video to the WBC YouTube page, and that will be linked across to the website.

**17. ADMINISTRATION – Brian Price**

Nothing to report.

**18. EMS UPDATE – Geoff Blaauw**

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING LATE ENTRIES  
If you have a late entry into an event, the skier can still compete.  
You will need to enter the skier into the Leon Programme, and enter the skier with identical details into the EMS.  
When the results are then uploaded to the EMS, that skier's results will sync across as usual.  
BP asked – can someone prepare instructions for the above to be circulated?  
GB confirmed – will organise some instructions to be circulated.  
AH commented – there are some tournament results that have come through on the results page of the EMS that don't include a rankings list.  
GB confirmed – this has been noted and will be addressed.

**GB**

**GB**

**19. IWWF CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

Everyone should be covering this off with their confederations.

**20. GENERAL BUSINESS**

GB update regarding the Open Junior Worlds - There is no current bid on the table. We have had some interest from Australia at this stage.  
A document is being prepared to send to the Victorian Club.

<p>BG asked – are there any updates for the World Games?  GB commented – he has had no discussions regarding this. GB intends to investigate this further and will keep BG updated.  BP commented – the current travel restrictions for Australia are looking to be lifted in mid 2022 at this stage.  AH commented – when possible, he intends to visit Italy and will speak with the Italian Confederation to discuss hosting the Open Junior Worlds.  GB confirmed – the Open Junior Worlds are proposed for 2023. At this stage, discussions will continue with both Australia and Italy until something is definite.  GB confirmed – the 2022 Masters will be in Florida.  After October 2021, we will prepare to run another FootVid tournament in 2022.  Please engage with the site and get people involved in the tournament.  BP asked – will the Open Junior Worlds now be in the odd years and the Masters in the even years?  GB – will clarify this when possible.</p> <p><b>21. MEETING ADJORNED</b></p>	<p><b>AH</b></p> <p><b>GB</b></p> <p><b>GB</b></p>
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