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INTERNATIONAL WATER SKI FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL HELD IN SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

1st Session 4th December 1991

Present were:

Ms Gill Hill	Region II	Chairman
Miss Karyn Cromwell	Region I	
Mr. Selwyn Neiman	Region II	
Mr. Charles Ramsey	Region II	Secretary
Mr. Brian Price	Region III	
Mr. Graeme Dwyer	Region III	
Mr. Brian Carroll	Region III	
Mr. Clive Stephen	Region III	Substitute

The Chairman opened the meeting at 0905 thanking Mr. Graeme Dwyer for the excellent accommodation he had made available for the Council.

Apologies had been received from Mr. Chuck Alleger some time ago. Mr. Franz Kirsch faxed that his passport had been lost in transit and he would make every endeavour to attend, but it may not be possible. Mr. Stew McDonald who had said all along he was coming excused himself at the last minute due to expense and ill health. No word had been received from the Region I substitute Mr. Bob Londrigan.

The Council found the situation as regards Region I most regrettable. This was an important meeting that had been arranged and agreed well in advance. Now none of the 3 representatives from the US were present. Had it not been for the presence of Miss Karyn Cromwell, there would not have been a quorum and the delegates would have made this long journey for nothing.

Fear was expressed that absent delegates would want to reopen items decided at this meeting. Mr. Selwyn Neiman moved that subjects dealt with here should not be reopened, however, the Chairman believed we could never preclude future discussion but the point was taken.

The Chairman would make contact with Region I about this problem.

Item 2. Minutes of the last Meeting.

All minutes of all 4 sessions had been approved on the spot during the meeting. Proposed Mr. Selwyn Neiman 2ndd Miss Karyn Cromwell that the minutes be accepted. Passed nem con.

Item 3. Matters arising.

Team medals. The World Executive Board had confirmed their original decision to award team medals to all team members, plus two medals for team officials and one for the Federation. Region II had raised the question of a medal for the reserves. The general feeling was that a reserve who does not ski should not get a medal. All who actually ski should get medals.

The Chairman handed out the medals for Jacksonville to the Australian and US representatives. The EB decision having been made between the Melbourne and Jacksonville Worlds meant Jacksonville would be the first Championships where team medals would be awarded.

Item b. Council composition.

Changes: there were none in Region III representation. Region I was uncertain. Region II has elections in January on which world nominations will depend.

Item 4. Items for Any Other Business and additions to the Agenda.

- Mr. Graeme Dwyer had some items which he would raise at the appropriate moment.
- Mr. Brian Price raised the matter of policy.
- Mr. Selwyn Neiman wished to raise promotion under item 8.
- Mr. Brian Carroll wished to raise the subject of boats under item 8a.
- Ms Gill Hill would discuss reports from each Region.

Item 5. World Executive Board report.

Ms Gill Hill gave an account of the election of the new President of the IWSF. As a result of the course of the Presidential election, there was a move to examine the Statutes for an improved method of voting. Mr. Bill Barlow had circulated a questionnaire on this subject to Federations and many individuals. The Council would try to discuss this informally during their stay.

The chances of water skiing in the Olympics was not good. As for the World Games, there appeared a chance for barefooting and we will write to the Organisers of the 1993 Games in Holland saying we would like to take part.

- Mr. Brian Price voiced objection to the implied requirement in the obligations to wear bibs in the tricks event. However this was indication of the possibility that the Organiser will require it.

The main changes in the Obligations relate to press and publicity. The protocol regarding invited dignitaries and officials has been changed. Social events are detailed.

Chairman emphasised that our task is to provide for the technical side of it.

Environmental issues is a problem engaging attention.

Item 6. Finance.

- The World Executive Board has allocated SwFr3500 each time we have a meeting. It is up to us to decide how this is to be allocated between us. Chairman pointed out that the burden was unequal as some people received Government assistance. It was agreed to apportion the fund according to what people actually had to pay out of pocket.

The judges training film we had decided to make also comes into consideration for IWSF support.

Mr. Brian Price brought up the cost of the Handbook as meriting support. Mr. Selwyn Neiman produced Mr. Phillipe Poyet's history of barefoot and proposed we seek support for its promulgation. We will deal with it under promotion.

Item 7. Bids for World's Championships.

For 1994 there was a possibility from Australia at Liverpool, probably in March/April 1994. This period is the best time to stage it in the Southern hemisphere, but does not necessarily suit the Northern skiers.

Mr. Selwyn Neiman said South Africa were also thinking about a bid.

Ms Gill Hill gave a review of the preparations for the Worlds in 1992. There were boat offers from 3 companies. A decision will be made in about a month.

The site is not yet decided but it could be Thorpe or Lakeside both in the London area.

Ms Gill Hill speaking on behalf of the BWSF solicited opinions on the best boats for the various disciplines.

It was agreed that future bids should be complete and detailed and include as much information as possible.

Item 8. Working Groups.

It was decided to deal with the matters itemised in full session and only break off into working groups when matters more suitable for close study arose. However, the Handbook definitely needs to be dealt with by a working group.

This group would comprise Mr. Clive Stephen and Mr. Charles Ramsey.

- Technical Obligations. Mr. Brian Price has an extensive treatise on this subject, which would be dealt with by Mr. Graeme Dwyer, Mr. Brian Carroll and GH.

A document should be attached to the Financial Obligations and the text should also go in the Handbook.

Item 8d. Homologation.

The Regions should be trying to have a common system and dossier. However it was agreed that all Regions were meeting the technical requirements and there was little point in insisting on uniformity. It was agreed the Regions should look at the documentation available, and taking it into account, continue to regulate things their own way.

Item 8e. Judging video.

The working group comprising Mr. Selwyn Neiman, Mr. Brian Price and Miss Karyn Cromwell will make a master sheet for every run (of the Worlds tapes). Mr. Selwyn Neiman proposed to use the top group for top judges, and groups B and C for lesser and new judges.

Item 9. Record approval.

Sharon Stekelenburg's claim for 16.6 metres had not been verified due to some discrepancies. More data was available and was to be scrutinised by Charles Ramsey and a decision deferred till after.

A letter from Mr. Stew McDonald forewarning of 18 record claims was listed. It was noted that the claims were from competitions dated last June and later and there was still no paperwork. In the meantime there were still many pending records, and later contenders did not know what record they were challenging. The requirements in the rules had not been complied with at all. Stew has not followed the laid down procedure. The AWSA will be given till Jan 31st 1992 to produce the necessary paperwork for these records, failing which they will lapse. Ms Gill Hill will write a letter to Stew with copy to the AWSA (ABC), Sam Spano and Karyn Cromwell pointing out the shortcoming and pressing for action. It was felt that skiers should be made aware of the Council's problems and what they could do to help. It was agreed to write to all skiers to this effect.

Mr. Selwyn Neiman asked that Region I follow up on the record of a Region II skier made in the USA. Miss Karyn Cromwell undertook to do this.

At the last meeting a records scrutiny committee of 3 was brought into being. This committee is to be a permanent body to whom all applications will be sent after scrutiny by the host Region. Region I will be asked to find a replacement for Mr. Don Mixon on the committee. The rules will be examined and revised to include reference to this committee.

Item 10. World Judges Seminar.

This is intended for the Worlds judges panel, but other judges present are invited to attend, on a non-active basis. Attendance is to be obligatory for the panel judges, voluntary for any others. It is not a briefing for the event. Although concurrent with the Worlds, it is not an Organiser responsibility. The Organiser however is to provide a room and video. The panel judges will be requested to be there in time on Monday - it part of a judge's obligations. A 2 pm start and a 4 hour session was thought suitable. It is to be run by the records committee (Mr. Brian Price and Mr. Selwyn Neiman and ?). The Council is to be present.

The idea was mooted of designating a Chief Driver from those on the panel. He would be responsible for ensuring all drivers are familiar with the site, pull levels, etc. - prior to familiarisation. The Chief Judge would see that it was done.

Item 11. Worlds Standings List.

Mr. Charles Ramsey reported having most of the data in and will get to work on it on his return home. NZL and CAN will check up on their data. The cutoff date is Oct 31st. Data received by the middle of December will be incorporated. Publishing target is January 15th.

Item 12. Interim Standings List.

An interim Standings List will be compiled for Worlds seedings purposes, with a cutoff date of April 30th. It will be published on data received by May 31st. Any results made in the interim will be added to the autumn Standings List and the results used as credentials for individual entries in the Worlds. No changes will be made for results received after the above date. The first page of the updated list for each event will be published, which includes the top 30 or 40 skiers from which the top 8 can be identified.

Mr. Graeme Dwyer proposed an interim Standings List every year for southern hemisphere Federations who saw their scores outdated by the autumn listing cutoff. This had consequences for their State support. This proposal was not agreed, and further research would take place before a decision.

Item 13. Skiers Ratings, and proof thereof.

The use of ratings books is necessary to prove performances claimed. The Standings List was considered a satisfactory basis for seedings in the absence of a ratings book. Countries not using ratings books should be asked to do so.

Item 14. Junior World Championships.

The Council agreed that this subject is the future of the sport. This is the key to development. Ms Gill Hill thought the Italian Federation was a good organisation to approach to get it going as they had a traditional interest in juniors and the financial means to exploit it. She undertook to make this approach. The Juniors Championships would be held every 2 years in uneven years, alternating with the Worlds. It would of course be open to bidding in the same way as the Worlds. NZL expressed interest. The World Executive Board would be approached with a request to let us run the first 2 years at a small sanction fee to get Championships going.

The qualifying age would be that the junior had not reached the age of 17 by the 1st of January of the year of the Championships. It would be a 3 event Championships with jump counting in the overall. Teams would comprise 4 skiers, with a maximum of 3 of any one sex. 3 to score for the team. The same speed limit for jump would apply as in the World Rules. The same ratings would be applied as entry requirements. In view of the smaller entry anticipated (40-50) there could be a smaller panel of judges, perhaps 6 boat judges.

Item 15. Long Service Awards.

Mr. Brian Price advanced that several people should be honoured while their long and outstanding service was still fresh in peoples' minds, for such things are soon forgotten. The Council agreed criteria and would make the first presentations at the 1992 Worlds to the people agreed on.

Item 16. Working Groups.

Item 16a Rules

- backtracking. It was agreed that the backtrack should get the same partial score as a sit or fall.
- A new system of partial slalom scoring. Mr. Charles Ramsey explained the Region II proposal. It was felt it was an improvement, and would be tried out this weekend. Subsequently the Council approved the implementation.
It would be introduced with immediate effect.

- If the skier does a 180 before starting crossings and then fell, he should get the opportunity to do the same way pass on the return. The Council preferred that the skier should get a free chance on the return pass if he scores zero on the first pass, for whatever reason. Agreed.

- Reverse direction. At present this may only be before the course. Mr. Brian Price wants the direction of the pass to be determined by the position of the skier when he starts, instead of at the 1st course buoy. After considering the implications the Council expressed no feeling for this one and so there would be no change.

Mr. Graeme Dwyer thought one Timer could not be invariably accurate, and a record could be lost through timing.

Automatic timing is a solution but expensive. Mr. Graeme Dwyer thought the judge or judges should work only on the speedo.

Proposed Mr. Selwyn Neiman that we stay with what we have and at the Worlds we use electronic timing as the main system with hand timing as backup. Agreed.

- placement of shore judges. Mr. Graeme Dwyer proposed the adoption the Region II proposal . Two judges at the 60m buoy are responsible for the water from the ramp to the 60 m buoy, the ramp judges responsible from the start of course buoy to the ramp.

- Jump bias. Mr. Graeme Dwyer was not convinced jump bias made the difference claimed. Mr. Charles Ramsey and Mr. Graeme Dwyer would get together and study the analysis.

- Finals only to count for the results for the finalists. This was a Region II proposal. Most sports were this way.

Proposed Mr. Selwyn Neiman 2ndd Mr. Graeme Dwyer, that the event result for the finalists would depend solely on their final round scores. For the motion 6, against 1. Motion carried. This was a 2/3rds majority and so the rule comes into effect after 60 days and thus is in effect for the Worlds.

The Chairman at this point announced that in view of the time, 1835, we would recess and reconvene the following day at 0900.



2ND SESSION 5TH DECEMBER 1991.

The meeting reconvened for the 2nd session at 0930.
The attendance was the same as at session 1.

Item 16a continued.

- trivia. The small changes that await a reprint. A file had been prepared by Mr. Charles Ramsey intended for the 1992 meeting. Members were requested to digest it in the meantime.

- scoring in the boat. Mr. Graeme Dwyer wanted it as a study item. In the meantime we should produce unofficial scores for the public.

Mr. Selwyn Neiman was a strong advocate from many viewpoints. It helps advance judging standards by self examination. He suggested we take slalom as a starting point - there was less calculation. It was agreed to do it unofficially with the aim of upgrading the system with experience.

Mr. Brian Price proposed a system of provisional scores - they cannot be challenged i.e. no protests. The Scorer may make changes later.

Mr. Graeme Dwyer proposed that the cameraman could be upgraded to give a running commentary. - a combined commentator and cameraman.

Mr. Selwyn Neiman related the system innovated in Region II of having the TV boat run alongside which was very popular with the media.

Mr. Graeme Dwyer thought this would have to be sold to the skiers.

Mr. Charles Ramsey from experience saw no problem.

- number of skiers in a team. This is to be thought about and put on future agenda.

- rope specs. Mr. Brian Price said the rules needed updating. The requirements should not be so strict that it limits suppliers too much. Small stretch was the most important quality for ski rope.

Mr. Graeme Dwyer said in AUS poly E is used and in his opinion this was the minimum acceptable specification. this was agreed this was the minimum acceptable for the Worlds. If a better rope showed up, the way should be clear to accept it. Mr. Graeme Dwyer will come up with a formula for the rule book.

- Submitted tricks list. There was no feeling for this and it was not pursued.

- Limiting turns in a pass. There was no feeling for this.

- hand on the water in the backwards position in a pair of toe turns. It was not universally understood that this disqualifies the turn. It was agreed that C1612 c) shall include :"clear of the handle and the water."

- torn wet or dry suit. If this happens on the first pass the skier must be able to get to and don a reserve suit. The Council ruled that the Safety Director and the Chief Judge have enough discretionary powers under Rule 8.01 to allow the skier to replace the wet/drysuit in genuine cases of hardship.

- injury time. It was proposed to increase the recovery time for slalom and tricks to that for jump. There were doubts about abuse by skiers to get better water, but Mr. Graeme Dwyer thought the 3

- minutes should be granted for slalom and tricks at the discretion of the event judges.
- Add to C806, "At the discretion of the event judges the skier may be granted up to 3 minutes from the time the towboat returns to pick him up to recover from a heavy fall between passes "
- boat trimming. Mr. Clive Stephen said it was known that boat trimming affects the characteristics of the wake, and therefore change of trim during the event should be prohibited. Mr. Graeme Dwyer said that with a certain boat an increased speed comes at the cost of wake quality. It was agreed that the trim will not be touched or changed once the homologator has set it for the required speed and optimum wake.
- the speed on signal should also be given for jump.
- C1505 & C1605, Add "If a requested speed that is above 72 kph is not possible, the skier shall...". Requested speeds up to 72 must be given.

Item 17. Tow boat approval.

Ms Gill Hill will circulate the IWSF world boat approval document. It may need adapting to barefoot. Mr. Graeme Dwyer will produce the Australian approval technical standards - adapted from the US standard.

The meeting at this point broke up into working groups to continue discussion of the Rules, Handbook and Technical Obligations.

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3RD SESSION 4TH DECEMBER 1991

The meeting reconvened for the 3rd session.
The attendance was the same as at session 1.

Worlds Panel

The Chairman expressed disappointment that Regions I & III had not submitted their full lists of proposed officials. However, the purpose of this part of the meeting was to establish the major positions and sufficient information was to hand for this.

The Council discussed the various nominations and agreed the names which should be submitted to the President of the IWSF.

Chairman thought we should nominate a Chief Driver. Mr. Selwyn Neiman thought this would give drivers a feeling of being equal in the panel. The choice of Chief Driver would await the final nominations from Regions I & III.

The Chairman would pass on the recommendations of the Council to the World President.

Item 15. Long Service Award

The Council agreed the following criteria. An award in the form of a plaque for outstanding contribution to the sport of Barefoot Water Skiing at international level.

Criteria:

1. The award to granted by the World Barefoot Council.
2. A detailed resume must be submitted by the nominating Federation or Region.
3. The candidate must have contributed to the sport on both a Federation and International level.
4. A minimum of 10 years of active involvement in the sport is required.

The Council agreed the names of the first recipients which would be awarded during the 1992 World Championships.

Archives. A discussion on the objects and artifacts of interest ensued. The location should be the Hall of Fame. KC undertook to make the contact with Carole Lowe and seek her help. In the meantime Council members were asked to start collecting memorabilia.

Promotion.

The Council agreed it was of critical importance to get more Federations involved. Regions I & II are in areas where there are not so many Federations in existence. Mr. Graeme Dwyer plans a trip to Singapore and will give a demonstration and try to form some organisation before he leaves.

Debby Pugh had been to Korea on Guinness Book of Records sponsored affair. An information booklet was need to explain the sport to people in other countries. Mr. Dwyer agreed to put together something on how to form a barefoot club and this would be incorporated with a brief history of the sport and a World directory for publication.

The Council decided the barefoot history of Phillipe Poyet was worthy of distribution, but regretted they could not fund such.

Chairman also brought up the funding of the standings. The rule book has been promised by George Blair.

Mr. Brian Carroll said a major international company was ready to be approached. Mr. Graeme Dwyer itemised ways of cooperating with the manufacturer's promotional efforts. Initial approach will be by letter to the proper people. Mr. Brian Carroll knows who is in involved. It is likely to be a long term relationship.

Expenses. Further to the item raised earlier regarding expenses offered by the WEB, the Council agreed that such expenses would be payable only to full members of the Council. Substitutes would be re-imbursed only when they acted as full members in the absence of one. Mr. Stephen questioned the exact status of the substitutes and this was explained.

Toe turns. A clarification had been put together in not very legal language. Mr. Brian Price thought it should be in the rule book. The rule was rephrased to be more suitable and will go in rule C1612. The following text was agreed as an addition to C1612.

In back to front toe turns:

- a) The hands must be completely clear of the handle and the water during the turn.
- b) No other part of the body than the supporting foot shall touch the water during the rotation. The supporting foot must be on the water and facing forward at the conclusion of the turn, and a touch down or sit down after this point shall not disallow the trick.
- c) if the skier falls back before recognition of BSP then he must stand up again in a toehold position before the trick is considered completed or can be paid. The skier has one attempt only to stand up.
- d) a fall round or roll over as a means of achieving the turn will not be accepted.

Requirements for the panel for a World record. Members are to gather data and ideas on what the panel complement should be. The Chairman undertook to do this prior to our next meeting.

Mr. Brian Price produced official evaluation forms. A set will be circulated to other Regions in an endeavour to promote common standards throughout the world.

Mr. Selwyn Neiman and Mr. Brian Price has brought the fuzzy area of agreement on video judging down to a narrow band and made master sheets for the judges training video. Slalom B still has to be done and the set will be finalised by January. Video whiteout of spray was recognised, but it was the same for everybody who assessed and judged the tape. Mr. Brian Price said looking at the film and improving his standard, he felt the judge should take the same professional approach to the sport as the skier does and take all measures to improve and maintain his skills.

4th Session of the World Barefoot Council meetings

Held at the conclusion of the Australian competition. All present as at previous sessions.

- Slalom Scoring

The decision was confined to amend the slalom scoring rule as per Mr. Ramseys' proposals. Opinion was favourable and experience in the boat was positive on ease and accuracy. This decision was unanimous and therefore takes effect immediately.

- Records

The jump record of Sharon Stekelenburg was recalculated and validated. Mr. Dwyer was able to certify the qualification and ability of the panel to the satisfaction of the Council, and the record of 16.6m was approved.

A jump record application of 26.3m by John Kretchman (USA) at the current International was recalculated and verified and was approved by the Council.

- Jury qualifications for records

The Council will address the question of the qualifications of the jury for a world record. The only word on the subject is the rule that judges at a World Championships must be 1st Class and thus records made at a Worlds will be certified by 1st Class Judges. The question now was what the qualifications of judges should be for a record made at other competitions. The Council will discuss this further at their next meetings.

- Jump overall bias

The 6 metre bias for jump overall had been discussed ad nauseam throughout the week of meetings and the conclusion arrived at was that it served no essential purpose in the present barefoot context and should therefore be discontinued. This decision was unanimous and therefore takes effect immediately.

The Council also made it clear that they did not wish to see falls in jumping calculated to give a distance. This was misleading to the public and could lead to serious errors. No angles should be called through to the computer for falls unless specifically requested by the computer operator or the Chief Judge for calibration purposes.

The Chairman in closing the meeting thanked Mr. Graeme Dwyer for the excellent accommodation and hospitality, and congratulated the members on a successful and expeditious meeting.

The Council agreed to meet on the following occasions during the World Championships:-

- Monday 31st August at 1000 hours
- Judging Seminar - Monday 31st August at 1400 hours
- Tuesday 1st September at 0900 hours
- Monday 7th September at 0900 hours

Gillian Hill
Chairman

Charles Ramsey
Secretary

The original language of these Minutes is English.