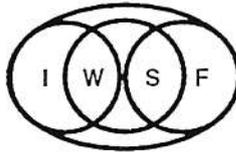


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INTERNATIONAL WATER SKI FEDERATION

WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

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**MINUTES OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE
WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL HELD IN HOUSTON, USA
ON TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY 17/18 AUGUST 1999**

Present:-

REGION ASIA AUSTRALASIA (AA)

Graeme Dwyer (GD) - Chairman IWSF World Barefoot Council.
Brian Price (BP)
Clive Stephen (CS)

REGION EUROPE, AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST (EAME)

Romain Gilot (RG) - Region EAME Chairman
Andy Harris (AH) - Secretary IWSF World Barefoot Council.
Candido Moz (CM)

REGION PAN AMERICA (PANAM)

Oscar "Foot" Mann (OM) - Region PanAm Chairman.
Dale Stevens (DS)
Richard Gray (REG)

In attendance for part of the meeting:-

Sue Carne - Championships Chief Judge (for part of the meeting).
Dawn Farrell - President, American Barefoot Club (for part of the meeting).

Each Region confirmed their voting delegation as above.

The Council were sad to hear of the sudden departure of Don Mixon Snr. In a surprise decision, and for personal reasons, he has resigned from all the positions he holds within ABC, PanAm and WBC. The Council wished Don all the very best and GD will certainly be keeping in touch with him. His service to the Council over the years has been incredible and will not be forgotten. PanAm Council elections are pending so a replacement substitute WBC member for the Pan Am Region will be announced soon. DS is now the third full member of the PanAm delegation.

GD confirmed that he is still in contact with Charles Ramsey who was no longer serving as a member of EAME's WBC delegation. Charles's contribution to Barefoot Water Skiing will never be forgotten. The sport will be forever indebted to him for his service, care and commitment.

AH advised that the agenda was incorrect as it showed an item calling for the approval of the last minutes. This had already been done by Email approval and the minutes had been signed by AH on behalf of the Chairman.

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3. **To deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the 17th meeting in Sydney.**
None.

4. **Chairman's Comments/Report.**

Jump measurement - GD feels that now we have the system firmly established it is now time to think about prohibiting the use of the Johnson system for Standings list homologation. Allowing Johnson measured jumps to be indexed with video measured distances is giving an inaccurate ratings index for top 12/20 lists and standings. It was suggested that we should give 12 months notice from 17 August 1999 for deletion of the Johnson system for standings only. Proposed BP, seconded OM. Agreed by majority - 7 for, 2 against.

It was suggested that we form a Video Jump Working Group to monitor the progress of the systems available. CM would be the EAME member, Tim Failes (AUS) from AA and Brian Heeney (USA) from PanAm.

There was a discussion concerning the addition of a 1 metre bias to all video jump measurements until Johnson is deleted. Proposed DS, 2nd OM. For 3, against 6.

Big support for GD at the next IWSF Executive Board meeting in Milan. He will have his hands full over the Senior Championships sanction fee issue and also the IWSF Drug testing policy.

GD wants to see more involvement and development of digital technology in our Sport. GD needs a name from each region for consultation purposes - not necessarily members of the WBC or Region Councils.

a) **Council members' duties, roles, responsibilities, accountabilities.**

i) **World Standings/Top 12/20 Rankings Lists.**

OM proposed Brian Heeney (USA) for this role. 2nd DS. He's keen to do it and is clearly more than capable. But is he overloaded with other commitments? GD advised that Brent Gallien (NZL) is also available. It was agreed that Brian Heeney would be responsible to the Council for our Top 12/20 listings and World Standings Lists. He will work with the other Region representatives (Chico Cohen - EAME and Brent Gallien - AA). GD to speak with Brian Heeney.

ii) **World Rule Book.**

AH suggested that OM take this over. Confirmed that all rules must have agreement by WBC before going to print. OM would manage all aspects of the rule book including printing and production. AH advised that Franz Kirsch has offered to assist again with the printing and production of the next issue. Franz can handle negotiations with George Blair as well. All agreed unanimously.

iii) **Finance matters.**

BP suggested that we need to be more self-sufficient. Let's look for a sponsor for WBC. CS to put something together. RG to assist. T. B. A from PanAm.

iv) **Records Administration.**

REG agreed to take this over. He is now responsible for handling all aspects of this important role. This means that when a record is broken, all paper-work, video tapes etc. must be sent to REG without delay. The Council were most concerned at the unacceptable delay in the processing of records. When a record is broken please send the tape to another Region promptly. Please do not wait for the next WBC meeting.

v) P P G.

The working group responsible is made up of BP, OM and AH. It was agreed that AH would chair the group.

4. b) Frequency of meetings.

It was agreed that we have to meet once a year. It is not possible to conduct any kind of a meeting over the Internet.

5. To note items for A O B.

6. Current Championships.

a) Report from the Chief Judge.

Sue Came firstly thanked the Council for her appointment. We have a fantastic site and 71 skiers are entered. 9 countries are represented in both the Junior and Senior Championships.

Sue requested a ruling on the start order for final rounds. The rule book is unclear and is not delivering the desired outcome. It was agreed that the start order for the final round must be the reverse order of the performances from either the elimination or semi-final round that get the skiers into the final round.

i) Rules for the Extended Pylon.

See item 9(d) below. It was confirmed that we will accept records in all events using the new pylon height.

ii) Use of electronic jump timing at these Championships.

We have the facility here and it was agreed that it can be used as the primary timing mechanism with an official in the boat with a pair of watches to act as back up.

As a clarification concerning independent skiers, add the word "Team" to C403 para. 2 which should now read.....

*"If a **team** skier is qualified to compete in all but one event, he shall be allowed to compete in the remaining event."* Agreed unanimously.

There was a request to allow an intermediate 3rd pylon height option for this tournament only. Agreed unanimously. It should be noted that in future the rules will only show 2 permitted towline anchor positions on the pylon, namely low-pole and high-pole.

There were 3 non seed-score jumpers plus 1 seed-score jumper in the Senior women's division who had requested to ski in the jump event. It was agreed that so long as they can provide written proof of eligibility and proficiency to jump then they can enter the event. Agreed by majority of 8 for, 1 against.

b) Welcome from ABC President Dawn Farrell.

The seriousness of the sanction fee issue was discussed again. There is no way that USA WaterSki/ABC can afford the CHF 10K sanction fee that is requested. Once again, the IWSF EB need to re-address the sanction fee levels. CHF 2K is acceptable for the Seniors.

7. Reports from the Regions.

a) Pan America.

OM is now the Chairman of the Region. The first PA Championships was held this year. The Extended Pylon is a great new initiative. The numbers of skiers competing is now increasing again particularly with kids and women. There is a problem with the limited number of officials but this is being addressed. Johnson Jump measurement has now been banned in the.....

.....PanAm Region. OM apologised for not being available on the Internet for the past few months; he has been renovating his house and his computer had got buried somewhere! He will be back on-line in a few weeks time.

7. b) Europe, Africa & Middle East.

A written report from RG was tabled and is attached to these minutes. The Region is working hard on establishing video jump as the only option for jump measurement. The Meridian Challenge has now replaced the Grand Prix series and has seen a huge increase in the number of competitors competing at International level. These competitions are open to all skiers from the other Regions if they wish to attend - a warm reception is guaranteed!

c) Asia Australasia.

BP tabled a written report on behalf of his Region which is attached to these minutes.

8. Promotion and Development.

a) WBC Web Site.

CS has constructed it and showed a demo version to the Council which was approved and will be going live as soon as CS returns home. CS will insert links to the IWSF site and other Region sites. All members to keep feeding CS with information. Lets get as much information on there and keep it regularly updated please!

b) World Cup.

AH's proposals are great but can only be a reality if a sponsor is found. We need to talk to WakeBoard and see if we can build a combined event. We must be mindful that our sport is quite difficult to relate to the public and this makes it a difficult proposition to sell to sponsors.

c) Establishment of Junior & Senior World Records.

The Council is aware of the IWSF position on this. However, we believe that it is our decision as to whether we establish these records and it was unanimously agreed that we wish to do so. It was further agreed that the best performances in each age division event registered at these Championships will be the first new records.

9. Rule Book Items/Proposals/Considerations.

a) Clarification of the rules of entry to the Junior & Senior Championships.

i) Under rule C1806 (a) 2. and C403.

It was agreed that all skiers who are listed in the Top 12/20 can enter World Championships regardless of whether they qualify under C403. This rule change/exception is made in the interests of the promotion and development of the Junior and Senior divisions.

b) Time for a re-print?

Agreed. OM will have a definitive draft ready for the next meeting. AH to send everything he has on rules to OM. The Council acknowledged that we are now in a position to offer the rule book in an electronic format via the web site. The next issue would be printed as before, but this may well be the last hard copy issue.

c) Independents in the overall.

Proposed AH. 2nd CM. To include independents in the overall subject to the overall rules pertaining to that championship. 8 for, 1 against. C503 (g) needs to be changed and OM will oblige. OM will go right through the rule book and check for any other effects from the implementation of this new rule.

It was confirmed that in the open World Championships, normal overall conditions must apply in both the men's and women's divisions. A proposal from the PanAm Region to allow.....

.....skiers with scores in one or two events only to figure in the overall was defeated by majority of 3 for and 6 against.

9. **d) Rules for the Extended Pylon.**

i) To confirm the maximum pylon height.

The tow-line anchor point heights for the boat pylon were agreed unanimously as follows:-

Low = 0.65m - 1.20m

High = 2.00m - 2.25m

ii) Use of Extended Pylon for World Record Homologation.

This was agreed as per the Email issued on 13 July 1999.

iii) Should skier instructions include height of tow-line on pylon?

Agreed as **Yes**.

iv) Is there a default position for the tow line on the pylon.

Agreed that there is **no definitive default position**. The "default" position of the towline on the pylon is the position where the rope is attached when the boat returns to the dock in readiness to take the next skier. Therefore, the rope will always be in a pre-determined [from the previous skier's instructions] "default" position. It is up to the skier to tell the jury which position they want the line attached to. Judges should check with the skier if they do not include this in their instructions. OM to write a rule for these requirements.

v) To agree that the rope height option is available in all events.

Agreed as **Yes**.

vi) Can you change the rope height between passes?

Agreed as **Yes**.

vii) Can you change the rope height on a reride pass?

Agreed as **No**.

viii) Consideration of the effects on other rules.

OM will check this through carefully and make any adjustments if required.

e) Age limit for Senior Women.

BP proposed that we reduce this to 32. No second for this proposal.

f) Records Ratification/Verification Procedure.

i) Slalom and tricks.

EAME's proposals included reviewing at normal video speed only, no use of freeze frame and approval by the panel of the competition where the record is set. None of these proposals found favour with the Council.

It was agreed that we should make the present system work. There was no excuse for the delay in the approval of a record. It should take a maximum of 3 - 4 weeks from the time the tape is received. It was agreed that we only require 2 out of the 3 review panel members to agree, not all 3. The minority has the right of appeal to the WBC Chairman if necessary. REG agreed to take over the administration of all WBC Records.

ii) Jump.

DS has a system for approval of video jump records which he will circulate to all members via the Internet.

9. **g) Judging of the Jump Event.**

AH proposed we just have one judge in the boat and delete the shore judges. This was agreed unanimously. Agreed that Level 3 minimum can be used for Boat judge for World Record Capability. AH further proposed the deletion of the rule requiring the skier to ride out past the 75m buoy. So long as the judge is satisfied that the skier is in stable BSP after the jump then there is no need to disallow if the skier does not make it past the ride-out buoy. It was agreed to defer any decision on this proposal until the next meeting. In the meantime all members should go back to their countries and try out the proposed new m.o.

h) The "No Advantage" rule.

AH proposed and CM seconded that we introduce a rule that forbids the penalising of a skier if he/she performs an involuntary action [such as touching the water surface with the hand, unintentional bumming of the ramp] provided that in doing so the skier does not advantageously influence in any way the action being performed. AH said that this would make our sport and our judging more "skier friendly." It would be a new "philosophy" for judging. He and CM felt that some of our rules are too restrictive and infer a negative attitude from the judging and the rules. All members to think more on this and come back with thoughts and comments. This item to be left on the table for the next meeting.

i) Reverse somersaults and Tricks in general.

EAME delegation proposed and seconded the introduction of the reverse wake and reverse wake to wake flip. Discussion: Certain skiers have voiced their concerns about somersaults to members of the Council. They feel the points values need re-evaluating as the skill level requirement is lower compared to higher skill level tricks like turns and line steps.

It was agreed that a complete trick points review is required. General agreement that points for somersaults need to be looked at carefully especially if we introduce reverses. GD suggested that we review the limitation on multiple turns again; 4 is too restrictive and if we increase the point values as well it could see the return of what are great tricks to see skiers performing.

It was agreed that CM, GD and ??? (PanAm) would form the working group to look at all these items as a package with DS acting as "info. central." They must consult within their Region, with skiers and other Council members. They will come back with definitive proposals at our next meeting in August 2000 where decisions will be taken for implementation when we re-print the rule book.

j) Problem with mandatory shut-down buoy.

70 metres is too much room. Reduce to 50 metres approx. which would be trialled at these championships. C1301 (b) 3. needs re-wording. Boat must be brought to a stop in a safe manner. Drivers must move the throttle to neutral with a smooth action unless in an emergency.

k) Clarification of C 1610 (b).

The statement "whole trick" is defined as the trick action which must begin and end in BSP. Some tricks carry bonus actions e.g. tumbleturns to one; these bonus actions are to be treated as separate from the whole trick and judged and scored as bonuses. They do not form part of the whole trick.

l) Downgrading failed wake-to-wake tricks.

It was confirmed that a **wake-to-wake trick can down-grade to a wake trick.** It was also confirmed that a **wake trick cannot down-grade to a surface trick.**

9. **m) Clarification of rule C 209 (b).**

It was confirmed that the start order for the final round must be the reverse order of the performances from either the elimination or semi-final round that get the skiers into the final round.

n) Definitive ruling on the scoring of tricks (Best sequence rule).

When scoring a trick run, the scorers must use the sequence of tricks that gives the skier the highest possible score within that sequence or group of tricks. E.g. a positional turn performed immediately prior to a 180 degree tik-tok sequence can be ignored providing that the positional turn complies with the rotational rules under C1612 (i) 2. This rule is intended but is not written in the current rule book. It is effective immediately and will be written into the new rule book when it is published.

10. **PPG.**

a) Procedure for voting by Email.

GD said we need to be very careful using Email for voting and he will only use it if an urgent decision has to be made. BP felt that we should have some sort of procedure in place and the following was agreed.

- Only the chairman can call for an Email vote.
- The Chairman only will control the process.
- There must be a response from all 9 members. Please advise GD if you are going to be off-line for any length of time.

b) Cut-off scores for inclusion in World Standings/Rankings Lists.

AH proposed the deletion of the cut-off which was agreed unanimously. Provided the score is homologated then it can be included in our Top 12/20 Rankings and World Standings.

11. **WBC Officials Division.**

a) WBC Judges Training Tape.

OM tabled the new judges tape from PanAm. This now needs to be scored and a set of master sheets prepared. OM to get a master copy for AH and BP in PAL format. OM/AH/BP will then consult and agree on the master sheet scores. Deadline for completion is 30 October 1999.

b) World Officials Seminar - Feedback.

BP tabled his suggested officials' evaluation forms which would be circulated via the PPG.

It was clear that we need to arrange a full one day seminar prior to the next Worlds. The judging standard is still not good enough. AH proposed that we ask that the LOC in Fergus Falls make available a facility to allow us to make this happen. It will mean mandatory attendance for the appointed panel and obviously any other officials and skiers who may wish to attend will be more than welcome.

12. **Calendar items.**

a) 2000 World Championships - Fergus Falls, USA

i) Nominations for Senior Officials.

CS proposed Claire Willard AA (NZL) for the position of Chief Judge and tabled her excellent c.v. in support of the proposal. The EAME delegation proposed Romain Gilot as Chief Judge. A c.v. from Romain was also received.

It was agreed by majority of 8 for, 1 against that Romain Gilot would be recommended as the Chief Judge appointment.

BP wished to be considered as Chief Scorer. RG proposed that BP be recommended as the Chief Scorer appointment. There were no other nominations so this was agreed.

GD invited nominations for the Homologator appointment from PanAm which should be submitted as quickly as possible.

12. b) To re-consider one Combined Junior/Senior/Open World Championship.

CS wished to re-discuss this again. Since our last meeting there had been more questions as to the feasibility of this idea. It was agreed to talk some more about this again in each Region and report back. REG, CS and RG to investigate. Deadline for a definitive response from this working group is 29 Feb 2000.

c) 2001 World Junior & Senior Championships.

NZL are very keen but have major problems in meeting the obligations. CS will get their full list of concerns to GD prior to EB meeting in Milan where he can seek the exceptions to the obligations that are necessary.

REG was asked to see if Canada may be interested and report back either way to AH and GD.

d) 2001 World Games - Japan

Nothing to report except that the games are scheduled to run in August 2001. GD is planning to visit Akita soon and will report back by the end of October.

e) 2002 World Championships.

AH reported that GBR are considering it again but as usual, the cost means that a substantial sponsor must be secured first. The site would be Thorpe Park which was probably one of the best water ski arenas in the World! An exciting challenge but GBR's efforts are at a very early stage. Other Federations should feel free to bid if they wish.

f) 2003 World Junior & Senior Championships.

AUS are interested and are looking at prospective sponsors.

h) 2004 World Championships.

No bids or known interest at present.

13. Ratification of Records.

- a) Sharon Dodgson (AUS) - Slalom, 16.8 points, 1998**
- b) Nadine De Villiers (RSA) - Slalom, 16.5 points, 1998**
- c) Nadine De Villiers (RSA) - Slalom, 17.0 points, 1999**
- d) Nadine De Villiers (RSA) - Slalom, 17.2 points, 1999**
- e) Nadine De Villiers (RSA) - Tricks, 3250 points, 1999**

Regrettably, there was no PAL format video machine available for us to use so the above items could not be processed. Items (a) through (e) above have been handed to REG who will expedite in the next few weeks. GD was disappointed that EAME had waited so long to get items (c) through (e) to another Region for review. AH declared his amazement at the delay on items (a) and (b).

This is not the way our skiers should be treated and the Records Review Committee must ensure that applications are processed promptly. REG said he would ensure that a prompt response to all the applications would be forthcoming. It was noted that in some cases, paper-work and videos were slow in reaching the RRC so the delays were not always down to them.

12. f) **Keith St. Onge (USA) - Jump, 25.8m, 1998**

Ratified and approved at 25.8m. REG to order certificate from Franz Kirsch.

13. g) **Brett New (AUS) - Jump, 26.4m 1999**

Ratified and approved at 26.1m. REG to order certificate from Franz Kirsch.

14. **Any other Business.**

Maximum Jump Speed - increase to 72 kph.

This was proposed by the PanAm Region as was accepted subject to a review by each Region first. Date for a definitive decision will be at the next Worlds in Fergus Falls.

Unofficial invitation to all qualified officials to attend World Championships.

It was agreed that all future Championship bulletins should include an open invitation to all non-appointed qualified officials. It was emphasised that there would be no increased burden placed on the organiser in any way shape or form to accommodate, feed or provide any facilities for any non-appointed official who decided to come and assist in the running of a tournament.

Chief Judge's assessment of Officials functioning at World Championships.

It was agreed that all Chief Judges reports must now contain an assessment report on each appointed official (and non-appointed if applicable).

Sun glasses worn by skiers whilst skiing.

The Council approve provided the glasses are manufactured using all-plastic components including the lenses. Glasses manufactured using metallic arms and/or frames and/or glass lenses are not permitted for obvious safety reasons.

15. **Date of next meeting.**

August 2000 in Fergus Falls. Exact dates to be advised nearer the time.

Signed



Secretary

These minutes were approved by the World Barefoot Council on 19 October 1999 and have been signed by the Secretary on behalf of the Chairman.

Original text: English