

International Water Ski Federation

World Barefoot Council

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MINUTES OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL
HELD IN WINTER HAVEN, USA ON MONDAY and TUESDAY 6/7 OCTOBER 2003

Present:-

REGION ASIA AUSTRALASIA (AA)

Brian Price (BP) – President: IWSF Region AA Barefoot Council.
Graeme Dwyer (GLD) - President: IWSF World Barefoot Council.
Fred Groen (FG)

REGION EUROPE, AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST (EAME)

Andy Harris (AH) – President: IWSF Region EAME Barefoot Council and Secretary IWSF World Barefoot Council.
Alain Le Gac (ALG)
Candido Moz (CM)

REGION PAN AMERICA (PANAM)

Richard Gray (REG) - President: IWSF Region PanAm Barefoot Council.
Dale Stevens (DS)
Dawn Hartman Farrell (DHF)

In attendance:-

Lee Stone - President: American Barefoot Club (for the whole meeting)
Oscar "Foot" Mann (OM) - Region PanAm Substitute (for part of the meeting)
Geoff Davis (GD) - Region AA Substitute (for part of the meeting)

GLD welcomed everyone to Winter Haven. He advised that Lee Stone had asked if he could be present to familiarise himself with the business of the WBC. GLD thanked the LOC for hosting our meetings and taking care of everyone during our stay.

Some members have to leave to meet tournament commitments so any contentious issues would be voted on with all the voting members present.

- 1 To record attendance and apologies for absence.
 - a) To confirm the voting delegates from the 3 Regions.
The list as above was confirmed as correct. There were 9 valid votes available to be cast at this meeting.
 - 2 Matters arising from the minutes of the 21st meeting in Wallsee.
 - a) Video Tapes from the 2001 World Junior & Senior Championships.
Copies had already been sent to PanAm. FG was reminded that Regions EAME and AA also need copies. FG said he would send them. Action: FG
 - b) Accounts from the 2001 World Junior/Senior Championships.
Agreed that the accounts should include a figure for donations of time and the provision of services from FG and others (if applicable). FG to update and circulate to all WBC members for information. Action: FG
 - c) www.wbc.com
OM agreed to look at the hopeful birth of our dedicated web site. Action: OM
 - 3 Chairman's Comments/Report.
GLD tabled his written report. His main concern was Drug Testing of which there are 2 main issues. Firstly, who is responsible for the cost of conducting the tests? As far as the WBC is concerned, the IWSF should be paying if required. Agreed that GLD take this up with the EB. The second issue concerns the list of banned substances. Agreed that GLD discuss this with the WBC's IWSF Medical Commission Delegate Dr. John Stekelenburg (AUS), who can then liaise with the IWSF Medical Commission. Action: GLD

GLD was grateful for IWSF President Kuno Ritschard's support in securing Congress approval of the reduced sanction fees for Barefoot's World Titled events.

4 To note items for A O U B.

5 EAME Officials Expense's from the 2001 World Junior/Senior Championships.

This matter had not been resolved so GLD requested that the WBC make a ruling on it. NZL refuse to pay the outstanding costs. FG maintained that although there may have been some confusion, it was made quite clear to all officials that if they did not stay on site then they would be responsible for their own accommodation costs and that the LOC would only reimburse them at the same rate as the LOC were being charged by the on-site accommodation providers. There were no exceptions nor were there any special cases.

BP proposed that there can be no more discussion on this item and it must now be closed once and for all. Second: FG. Agreed: 6 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention, 1 not present.

6 2003 World Junior & Senior Championships - Meeting with Chief Judge and LOC Chairman.

Welcome from Brent Benoist. The use of a 2nd lake had been achieved for the elimination rounds of the Senior Championships only. It was agreed that we have to use the 2nd site and that Rules C103 and C206 apply. Entries have been finalised at 96 skiers in total for the 2 Championships. No tower dock will be available; it would have been preferred that this be advised in the bulletin. Concern with the jump course run-in; there is a dog-leg into the course so as many buoys as possible should be put in marking the run into the course to prevent the possibility of protests for inconsistent boat path on the approach. We need to appoint some additional officials to cover the 2nd lake. Some may not be Level One qualified; this was agreed for this tournament as the situation was deemed exceptional. FG/AH emphasised the importance of good and positive communication to the Senior division to avoid any possible feeling that their championships were any lesser than the junior championships.

7 Reports from the Regions.

a) Pan America .

REG reported on another great season in PanAm. A new trick record application had been received from Keith St. Onge. Banana George is still skiing at 88 and 8/12's!! Stew McDonald (USA) is very sick and people should try and call him. The Council thanked REG for seeing to it that the WBC was well looked after both prior to and during this tournament.

b) Europe , Africa & Middle East .

AH reported on another good season in his Region. He had asked Rob McGlennon for his resignation from the WBC as Rob had been unable to attend the 3 previous meetings. Getting time off from work was now difficult for Rob. The Council thanked Rob for his contribution to the work of the Council. An excellent competition had been held in Belfast this year which provided great exposure for the Sport. A new initiative for 2003 has seen the EAME Barefoot Council sponsoring 2 Youth Promotion Clinics designed to support both skiers and their coaches. This year's EAME Championships saw an increase in competitors both at Junior and Open level. AH reminded the Council that he would be stepping down as EAME President next January. He hoped that Alain Le Gac would be replacing him.

c) Asia Australasia .

BP reported that the sport is moving forward nicely in his Region again. Some fantastic skiing from several up and coming skiers. A special mention for Brett New (AUS) in jump and his pending record application of 27.4m. A new initiative in the Region was the first Region AA Officials Seminar led by Claire Willard (NZL) which had seen a very positive move forward in bringing new officials into the Sport. Several existing officials had taken their Level One exam and BP had some feedback for OM and AH concerning improvements which he would forward on via email. Action: BP/OM/AH

Special funding had been achieved which was assisting officials to attend seminars and tournaments. The AA Council are continuing to support Japanese Barefooting and it is hoped that JPN will send a team to the next open World championships. The AA Council are excited at the prospect of the 2004 Worlds and thank the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Barefoot Water Ski Association for their support in helping to make it happen. 2 Pro-events, the Renmark Night Jump and X Games (both combined with WakeBoard) are excellent and attract a lot of exposure for the Sport. A new private lake has been dug by FG & Co. in NZL called Lake Inspiration - a fantastic achievement for the Sport over there. Overall, some very encouraging developments coming out of the AA Region.

8 Combined World Championships.

After much thought and discussion, there was a clear consensus (although no formal vote was taken) from the majority of the members present to rescind the decision taken in Wallsee and suspend any further work on this item. The increasing number of competitors in all 3 of our World Championships plus all the extra work that would be involved in running the 3 World tournaments concurrently added up to whole host of problems that render the idea unworkable.

9 WBC Approved Tow-Boats.

The list tabled by AH was approved. BP noted that a boat from AUS is missing and he will send the information to AH so it can be added to the list. Action: BP/AH

10 Ratification of Records.

a) Men's Jump Record Application from Brett New (AUS) - 27.4m.

CM had spent several weeks investigating this application. He tabled all his findings and after explaining the situation and after much deliberation it was clear that this application could only be approved at 26.3m. This was agreed unanimously. GD would go back and just double-check that all the paper-work and video data etc. that had been submitted was correct (GD was sure that it was) and subject to him reporting back, this record application would be completed and approved at 26.3m. Action: GD/REG

b) Men's Jump Record Application from Massimiliano Colosio (ITA) - 26.3m.

This had been set last week at the 2003 European Championships. CM had all the information to hand but as the system used for measurement was the Boetcher System, the WBC would be unable to verify it here. There was also a problem with the video tape (possibly caused by prolonged exposure to the sunlight) which CM said could render the application questionable. It was therefore agreed that CM has 60 days to try and "recover" the footage on the tape. AH highlighted the fact that the WBC has no way of verifying record applications set using the Boetcher System (you need the system to check any applications). CM advised the Bob Corson (President of the World Tournament Council) has the system in his home. Bob lives close to DS who offered to receive the data from CM and take it to Bob for verification. This was agreed. Action: CM/DS/REG

c) DVD Project Update.

REG had obtained some quotes which came in at circa. US\$10K. He is looking for a sponsor and would prepare a detailed budget for GLD to submit to the IWSF for consideration as they could also help us with the costs. Action: REG

d) Current World Records Portfolio.

The current portfolio was ratified by the Council and REG was thanked for his excellent work. Our World Records are now always up to date and REG has a good workable system in place. REG wished to thank both BP and AH for their support in making the new system work..

11 IWSF Executive Board Meeting & Congress held in September 2003.

a) GLD to report.

Due to ill health, GLD could not attend. Regrettably, his report had arrived too late to be tabled at the Congress or EB Meetings.

b) Nominations from Barefoot for IWSF Athletes of the Year Awards (m/f).

BP asked what the Terms of Reference for these nominations were. AH would find out and report back. It was thought that nominations should be based on performances and achievements set in 2003 only. The WBC would agree our nominations by email once the exact TOR is known. Action: AH/All members.

c) Letter of Agreement for World Titled Events.

There is so much in the full LOA that is not applicable to Barefoot. We want to share the information from previously agreed LOA's so that a working group (made up of the originators of the submitted LOA's) can create an LOA template which only has the information relevant to Barefoot contained in it. This would make the bidding process much easier. Action: BP/DHF

12 W B C Officials Division.

Regrettably, there has not been much response to this initiative from either Region PanAm or Region EAME. BP had therefore decided to drop the idea and this was agreed unanimously. We therefore return to the system where each Region is responsible for the development of its own officials up to and including World Level. The WBC Level One exam remains the required standard for boat judges and has to be passed before any judge is appointed to a World Championships panel.

13 P P G and Rule Book Items.

- a) Decisions on proposed rule changes submitted by skiers at the last World Championships.
- i) Revise the rotation rule: Rejected by 6:3
 - ii) Taking the handle early when completing a toe-front: agreed that an early grab gets the imperfect score, BUT the skier must have come to front BSP before taking the handle i.e. the 180 degree rotation must be complete. Agreed unanimously.
 - iii) Knee Ski Start: approved in principle subject to video/live review when points will be allocated.
 - iv) Backwards one hand wave and reverse: more discussion needed on this and review again at next meeting.
 - v) Pre-Cursory Tricks: Rejected unanimously.
 - vi) Toe Negative/Positive: Rejected 6:3.
 - vii) Knee ski trick review points proposal: Rejected 6:3.
 - viii) Officials Briefing: the Council were surprised to learn that skiers were not aware that we have always had briefings/seminars for all officials which included the use of video if necessary prior to the start of all World Championships.
 - ix) Use the same judges for each event round: approved in principal but at CJ's discretion and only when feasible.
 - x) No members of skier's family officiating in the boat when a member of their family is skiing: Rejected unanimously.

Where necessary, the applicable changes above would be incorporated into the new rule book. Action: OM/AH

- b) Proposal to reduce the size of Worlds Officials Panel.
This item was withdrawn but not dismissed as an option when a tournament (either Open or Junior/Senior) is held on a single-lake site, when the panel can be reduced to 6 judges and 2 drivers. It was agreed however, that for all future World Championships only 2 calculators/scorers were needed. The rule book would be amended where necessary. Action: OM
- c) One foot turn trick descriptions.
Judges need to ensure that when they downgrade a one foot turn, and then score a 2 foot turn in the same direction they must clearly mark their sheet accordingly so that the skier is scored correctly. Particular care must be taken regarding the direction of rotation of both tricks.

REG had re-worded the one-foot turn trick description to make it clearer. The text was agreed and should be included in the PPG right away. OM to check all other related trick descriptions and update any text as necessary. Action: OM
- d) Start order placement breaker for semi-final and final rounds.
It was agreed that the current rules as per C209 are fine and no amendments are necessary.
- e) 10 second pass.
REG suggested the Council think about this for the future. The Council disagreed!
- f) One Judge in the boat at World Championships.
Lack of officials means we could have a problem staffing events in future so this item should be considered. There were several benefits: reduced costs, better wake and better speed. A further discussion ensued on using 2 judges with one judge making the decisions and the other judge there as a back-up. AH advised the EAME position on this and how "One-Judge" had been successful in EAME for a number of years; it works well but the casualty is less opportunity for officials to make it to titled event panels. It was agreed that we need to modify the rules so that we can go to a One-Judge system in the boat at World and Region titled events if we need to. However, it was stressed that the only reason the "One-Judge" system should be employed at a World or Region Championship is when the minimum boat speed cannot be achieved under rule C1101(a). Action: OM
- g) eJudging Sheets using PDA's.
More forward thinking for 2030 from REG. Some members of the Council asked what a PDA was! CM advised that the idea wasn't beyond the realms of possibility and some tests had already been carried out in the Tournament division but without success. If a system could be developed that worked then the benefits were obvious.

h) Proposal to increase junior team size from 4 to 6.

It was agreed that we leave this item on the table for discussion again at the next meeting along with the whole subject of the number of competitors eligible to enter a World Championships. It was felt that increasing the team size could be a disadvantage to some of the EAME Federations as not all of them are able to field full teams in any of the World Championship divisions. Nevertheless, in view of the feelings concerning a combined Worlds (per item 8 above) CM and AH wished to make a proposal on behalf of the EAME Delegation for the Council to consider between now and the next meeting which also addressed the issue of the number of independent skiers who qualify for the semi-final rounds:-

"To Increase the size of the Junior and Senior Teams from 4 to 6. Use the best 3 scores for the Junior and Senior Team Overall (i.e. the same as the open/elite rules)."

Furthermore, in all 3 World Championships (Open/Junior/Senior)...

"In addition to the N team skiers, the top 5 independent skiers placed above the first N skiers on the elimination round results list shall qualify to go in to the semi-finals."

This proposal found favour with all those members present and it was agreed to take this proposal back home and discuss this again at the next meeting.

i) 10 rule book queries from Region AA.

- i) Pregnant skiers: the decision to ski is entirely a matter for the individual concerned.
- ii) Jump helmets: for legal reasons, the WBC cannot recommend any particular type or make of helmet, nor can it endorse any type or approval rating. C805 is clear enough and any skier who uses a helmet that fails in this regard can be prevented from skiing in the jump event.
- iii) Trick downgrade shorthand: *b* or *-* is the recommended annotation that should be used.
- iv) Downgrade score for the one foot 180 tumbleturn where the legs do not go the full 180 degrees: proposed that it be changed to 50 points from the present 25. Agreed by majority 5:4.
- v) Score for back toe-touch: the current score of 100 points was reduced to 75. Agreed by majority 7:2. Action: AH
- vi) Last trick in time rule C1608(c): agreed that the skier can ask (between passes) the provisionally last scored trick. This is purely a service to the skier and misinformation is no reason for the granting of a re-ride later on. Action: OM
- vii) Time allowed to replace jump helmet: agreed to clarify C806 by inserting the clarification listed in the ABC Rule Book (ABC Rule A1404). Action: OM/AH
- viii) C1503(b): agreed that OM should reword for the possibility of a skier starting backwards and then hanging on after falling and then doing the remainder of the pass in the fwds position. The skier could then make his second pass in fwds position and score 25% of lower scoring pass as if he had made 2 fwds passes. Action: OM
- ix) Overall scoring to 2 decimal places: it was confirmed that we already do this but C505 needs to be amended so that it's clearly stipulated as a rule requirement. Action: OM
- x) Proposal to award joint medal winners i.e. 2 joint gold medals. There was no second for this motion so the proposal was withdrawn.
- xi) Proposal from EAME to amend C1411, C1511 and C1611: deleting all the rules currently in place and breaking any tie for an event medal (or trophy) place with a simple run-off between the 2 tied skiers. Agreed unanimously. OM to re-word the rules concerned ASAP. Action: OM

j) Senior Age limit (PanAm).

53% of the World standings list is over 35 years old. Proposal from PanAm to raise the age limit from 35 to 40. No second. Proposal withdrawn.

k) PPG - Consolidation of Rules within the Official Rule Book.

Agreed that this should happen straightaway. It was proposed and seconded that we run the book electronically only from now on with an annual publication date of January 1 each year. The book would be valid for one year and then updated again. An addenda to be listed on the last page of each issue so that changes can be identified quickly. A discussion concerning whether the trick descriptions should be included in the rule book followed with the outcome being that they stay in the PPG for now as they are not rules as such. No formal vote was taken on this point but there was a clear consensus from the members present that this should be the direction in which we should go for now. Action: OM/AH

AH advised that he had been approached with an offer to reprint the rule book again. All it would cost is the paper. He had requested a costing and would report back by email when it was received. Action: AH

l) Expiration of time for protests/calculation errors.

Motion withdrawn.

m) "Max" type Events - Standardisation of Rules.

It was agreed that nothing formal should be published by the WBC for these type of events. However, the WBC was very supportive of them and wishes to see them running alongside the traditional format of our Sport where possible. If anything, there should be as few "rules" as possible; the main intention of these events being the showcasing of our sport in a new and exciting format for the public via TV, the Press and the spectators that are present.

n) Formalising "Max" Events into a World Cup Series.

See item (m) above.

o) Use of "Perfect Pass" speed control in Barefoot Tournaments.

Agreed in principle that we should begin trials using it. PanAm will do so and report back. Action: PanAm BFC

14 Calendar items.

a) 2004 World Championships - AUS

Appointment of Officials: Chief Judge: Dale Stevens (USA), Homologator: Oscar "Foot" Mann (USA), Chief Scorer: Lesley Bauser (RSA) - to be confirmed. All 3 Regions to notify their nominations URGENTLY. Action: ALL

Excellent presentation of Bulletin One and associated brochures detailing information. BP is the LOC Chairman.

b) 2005 World Junior & Senior Championships - RSA

Site inspection report from AH tabled including photographs. All looked good and everyone was excited about going to RSA in 2005. The RSA Federation and the RSA Barefoot Association were thanked for their bid which had already been approved. There was one query concerning the final night banquet which had to be paid for. AH said we all accept the additional insurance surcharges levied by the USA and AUS federations when we attend their World Championships, so it is unfair to challenge the RSA Federation who wish to make a small charge for the banquet in order to balance their books. AH reminded everyone that due to the very weak RSA currency (SA Rand) it is very cheap for visiting teams, whilst it's hugely expensive for the RSA team to travel outside their country. AH was asked to get a copy of the full bid from the IWSF and distribute it around the Council for their information. Action: AH

c) 2005 World Games.

Site inspection report from AH tabled. Backwash is a problem and an alternate site is being considered. The local club can install a backwash prevention system if needed but ultimately, this decision rests with the German Federation.

d) 2006 World Championships.

DHF reported that it will most likely be on the West Coast of the USA. Likely dates were end August/early September. Malibu Inboard boats were being considered. Nothing is firm yet but AH would be working with DHF to get something more definite in the "pot" by the end of this year. Action: DHF/AH

e) 2007 World Junior & Senior Championships.

There were 2 bids being worked up: Lake Inspiration, NZL and Perth, Western Australia. Action: GD/FG

f) 2008 World Championships - EAME

Nothing firm yet. It was hoped that ITA may be interested and CM would discuss this with the FISN on his return home. Action: CM

15 Any other Urgent Business.

- a) Petition from EAME Skiers (and others) concerning Ron Scarpa (USA) being banned from skiing in the 2004 World Championships.

AH tabled a petition which he had been presented with at the EAME Championships the weekend before. The WBC is very concerned at the decision of the ABC not to endorse the entry of Ron Scarpa to compete as an independent skier in the 2004 Open World Titles. The WBC respectfully asks the ABC to reconsider. Agreed unanimously that GLD writes urgently requesting the ABC Board to re-open the discussions and review their decision. URGENT ACTION: GLD

- b) Sanger Wake Definition.

The PanAm Council played an excellent DVD which gave a good image and allowed a definitive view of where the crest of the wake is. Agreed that this be shown to all the Team Managers and Officials during their briefing(s) from the Chief Judge.

- c) IWSF Budget Items.

BP would like to apply for the funding of a trip to Japan to continue the work already started there in developing our Sport. This was agreed and BP was asked to submit a budget to GLD who would then take it to the IWSF Executive Board. Action: BP

REG's DVD Project had already been discussed (see item 10 (c) above).

- d) IWSF Accounts.

GLD will source the latest accounts and investigate any questionable issues therein. Action: GLD

- e) C501 a/b.

C501 a/b is clarified on page 4 of the PPG and has been for several years.

- f) Distribution of IWSF Bylaws/Constitution.

GLD has copies of the latest editions and would circulate them to all members by email on his return home. Action: GLD

- g) New Federations.

All Regions should keep working on increasing the number of participating Federations in our Sport. AA is continuing to establish JPN. In EAME, various people are courting HUN, ISR, TUR and GRE and now FIN. PanAm are still looking at South American possibilities but in the current political climate, it is difficult. Action: ALL

- h) World Endurance Competition.

"Banana" George Blair (USA) had approached AH concerning the establishment of a World Endurance Championship. The WBC would appreciate seeing the rules and AH was asked to get them from George and circulate for discussion at the next meeting. Action: AH

- i) Back toe-up.

Some skiers have developed an intriguing way of doing this start. The skier starts in forwards toe-up position, manoeuvres to a position outside the wake and then rolls over on to his front and then executes the back toe-hold stand up. AH and several other members thought that this was not correct and merely allowing it because the rule book doesn't say you can't perform the start this way is not reason enough to permit what some considered was not the intention of, nor within the spirit of the rules. As some skiers intend doing this start in these championships, it was agreed by majority to maintain the status quo for now and score the start trick if performed this way. The problem is that we have no start-trick descriptions in the PPG and this should be fixed ASAP and then discussed again at the next meeting. Action: OM/AH

j) Tower.

Provision of a tower is currently optional in the Rule book. FG requested that it be made mandatory. This was not agreed. It was emphasised that tower specifications must be noted in all bulletins per the supplementary obligations for hosting a World titled event which are detailed in the PPG.

16 Date of next meeting.

a) Frequency of meetings (REG).

REG thought that we only need to meet at every elite (open) World Championship. This was not agreed and it was felt that we should indeed meet once a year at both the Open and Junior/Senior Worlds. Due to the preferred dates chosen by the Southern Hemisphere countries when hosting World titles, this means that we could have as much as an 18 month gap between meetings. Conversely, it also meant that there can be a very short gap between meetings as is the case now between this meeting and the next.

It was agreed that we do need to meet at the next World Championships but as the time period between meetings is short, our next meeting can be spread over a couple of evenings during Championship week and the agenda kept short. This would also accommodate the EAME Delegation who would not be arriving until the Wednesday of the Championships due to them having to attend their Election Congress in Berlin the weekend before the start of the 2004 Worlds.

There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.



Signed _____
Secretary

These minutes were approved by the World Barefoot Council on 19 November 2003 and have been signed by the Secretary on behalf of the President.

Original text: English