

WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES



Zoom Meeting of the WBC

On 12 February 2024

Items and Actions

ATTENDEES

Brian Price – BP
Claire Mowday – CM
Geoff Davis – GD
Rob Groen – RG
Lyn Blaauw – LB
Mark Shank – MS
Richard Gray – RGRAY
Gustave Serrano – GS
Paul Turner – PT
Andy Harris – AH
Svenja Hemplemann – SH
Ludo Vrancx – LV
John Cornish – JC
Geoff Blaauw – GB

APOLOGIES

William Leigh
Betsy Gilman

1. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Previous Minutes confirm Claire Mowday and confirmed by all

2. 2024 IWWF OPEN, JUNIOR & U23 WORLDS REVIEW AND UPDATE - JC

- Website was launched last week: <https://2024barefootworlds.com/>
- Bulletin #1 is now available on the IWWF Website – [2024 IWWF World Open, Junior & Under 23 Barefoot Championships – IWWF](#)
- Tournament Merchandise will be online very soon for advance sales
- There will be a VIP reception for WBC Delegates, the Officials, and other dignitaries at the opening ceremony at Lake Silver in Winter Haven, Florida.
- Banquet plans are coming together. Planning to have a casual social event each evening, with activities planned to end approximately 9:30pm-10:00pm.
- A legends night is being planned for Thursday evening 10 Oct and the LOC will welcome legends from all over the world.
- The Auburndale City Festival and Touch-a-truck events are scheduled to be in the park on Saturday 12 Oct.

- Site plans and details are coming together. Plans are 'work in progress' for other major events (Disabled and Wakeboarding) the week before and the week after the Barefoot Worlds.
- LB noted that there are no officials' photos on the Bulletin. JC confirmed that the officials have been requested to provide their photos, and LB advised that she would reach out to the officials.
- **GB Reminded everyone that there will be 2 rounds for Under 23 and Juniors and 3 rounds in the Open division at the 2024 Worlds. So, all age groups have the 1st and 2nd rounds with the opens having a 3rd round as their final.**

CHIEF JUDGE UPDATE - LB

- LB advised of proposed practical exams being issued to the appointed judges over the coming months, in the lead-up to the Worlds.
- An on-site judges clinic is scheduled for 5 October 2024.
- GB advised that the WBC Council meetings will be on Friday the 4th of October (11am-evening) and Sunday the 13th of October (10am-1pm).

3. RULES COMMITTEE – MS

- The report made reference to setting aside Rule 713 (C) and the approval to do so being granted by the WBC.
- The approved 2024 Rules are currently being formatted into the print version and anticipated to be posted on the WBC website in the coming week.
- The target dates for the review and finalization of the forthcoming year Rule Book (e.g. 2025 Rule Book) is proposed to be by October of each year. The commencement date for the new Rule Book to come into operation will remain at 1 January. The date change will enable the Southern hemisphere Federations to have advanced visibility by both skiers and officials re the approved rule changes that will come into effect on 1 January of their competition season. Proposed revised review dates approved by the WBC.

4. HISTORY – JC

- Missing results from the WBC Website – History portal for the 1995 Junior Worlds and the Team Results for the 1996 Open Worlds and the 2023 Open / Junior Worlds have been sourced and will be uploaded to the WBC website.

5. RECORDS - GB

- No recent applications received.

6. ATHLETE'S REPRESENTATIVE - WL

- IWWF have instigated the requirement for Divisions to have both a Male and Female athlete's representative, with the appointees to share the representation duties on the respective Divisional Councils. The athlete's representative on the Councils will remain at one (1) vote. Appointments to occur at the forthcoming 2024 World Barefoot Championships.
- The IWWF Athletes Commission has been directed to make a policy on Transgender competitors in our sport, a draft policy will be released in the coming months.

7. 2025 MASTERS UPDATE – LV

- Discussions on-going with the Italian Federation re hosting the 2025 Masters Barefoot Championships.
They have a very good site for the Championships.
The Italian Federation is also bidding for the 2025 IWWF World Tournament Championships, which is the Federations preferred event to host. Should they be successful in being awarded the Tournament Championships, they will no longer consider hosting the 2025 Masters Barefoot Championships. The European Barefoot Council will continue to monitor the situation and undertake ongoing discussions with the Italian Federation but was not hopeful of a good outcome.
- GB commented that we need to look for a potential alternative host, as we need to know the host in the coming 3-4 months.

8. AWARDS COMMITTEE – CM

- Report acknowledged and congratulated both Ashleigh Groen (Stebbeings) and Keenan Derry from Australia being named the respective IWWF World Female/Male Barefoot Waterski Athlete of The Year. Ashleigh also named as the IWWF Female Athlete of The Year.
- Reminder for Federations to consider submitting nominations for Outstanding Service Awards, which are currently open. People that meet the criteria as listed in the World Barefoot Council – Policies Procedures and Guidelines document to be considered. **Nominations close 31 July 2024** and awards (if any) will be made at the 2024 World Championships in Florida.
- Acknowledgement of Brian Prices re his induction into the IWWF Hall of Fame as an Official and for Keith St Onge and David Small for their induction into the IWWF Hall of Fame as Athletes.
Huge congratulations to all three inductees.
- GB to send RGRAY a newsletter to be posted on the WBC website for the Athletes of the year, in addition to the IHOF Barefoot recipients being: Brian Price, Keith St. Onge and David Small.

9. FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT - GS

- Not a lot to report.
- GB advised of the recent communication with the Chinese Federation that had been undertaken via Paul Fong – IWWF, re the possibility for any of the Chinese skiers that appear on the EMS results register, to attend the 2024 World Barefoot Championships.
- Encouragement and further discussion to be followed up with the Chinese Federation.

10. SYSTEM AND TECHNOLOGY - RG

- RG provided an overview of the new 'Video Tape Measure' jump measuring system that had been trialled at a number of events. Excellent feedback received. The software is free and the system provides for 'High Definition' video.
- The WBC approved the adoption of the system as an 'Approved Jump Measuring System'.
- GB will send the details to Oscar Footman and the rules committee to get this passed in the coming weeks.

11. ADMINISTRATION – BP

- 2024 Policies Procedures & Guidelines document completed and issued for uploading onto the WBC website.
- Other projects – Provision of a formal 'Officials Manual' being considered as a forthcoming project.

12. FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT

- OCEANIA – BP – Comprehensive report was provided.
- EUROPE – LV – Apologies for no report. U23 clinic is being organised, and intending on running one every year.
There will be an official's seminar on 16-17 March in Holland.
- LB to send LV some quality videos that the judges and officials will be going through at the Official's clinic at the Worlds.
- PANAM – BG – Not present. Report provided.

13. WBC WEBSITE – RGRAY

- New updates being actioned upon receipt.
- RGRAY suggested that the Australian Federation may wish to list the forthcoming Peter Taylor Memorial Tournament as a major event on the WBC website.
- If so, send relevant details to RGRAY.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Richard Gray proposed that the WBC needs to consider providing a recommendation to the IWWF re substantially increasing the entry fees for a World Championships, as a means of Federations jointly assisting to fund and make it financially viable for a LOC to host a World Championships.
- GB commented that we currently have indications from 13 Federations that they will be entering a team into the upcoming world championships.
- Further discussion to be held re this item.