

WORLD BAREFOOT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES



WBC Conference Call
On 19/20 November 2023

Items and Actions

1. ATTENDEES

Lyn Blaauw – LB
Geoff Blaauw - GB
John Cornish - JC
Paul Turner - PT
Rob Groen - RG
Betsy Gilman - BG
Claire Mowday - CM
Mark Shank - MS
Brian Price - BP
William Leigh - WL
Ludo Vrancx - LV
Richard Gray - RGRAY
Andy Harris - AH
Svenja Hempelmann - SH
Gustavo Serrano – GS

APOLOGIES

Geoff Davis

2. 2024 OPEN, JR & U23 WORLDS - JC

Site Visit and Coordination – JC LOC Chair

- Preparation for an upcoming site visit.
- Coordinating logistics with Polk County and Auburndale.
- Will proceed with the event regardless of cooperation from Polk County and Auburndale.
- Disabled tournament is set to end on the 21st of September.
- Considering an early setup on the 22nd for the Barefoot Worlds.
- Mention of wakeboarders scheduled for the following weekend.

JUNIOR QUALIFYING SCORES

- Discussion on junior qualifying scores and previous adjustments.
- GB - In Mulwalla in 2023, the LOC requested an adjustment to the Junior qualifying scores due to concern for attendance.

If there is a concern for the attendance of Juniors at the 2024 Worlds, an adjustment could be proposed by the LOC.

- WL – Question of how we arrive at the qualifying score of 9.2 for jump for Junior Girls.

- RGRAY – The qualifying scores are calculated per the Technical Rules.
- Varying opinions on the appropriateness of the 9.2 jump score for Junior Girls.

- GB – The qualifying score is not calculated on the current rankings list; it is calculated on the rankings list in a certain period, per the Technical Rules.

If a change is to be requested to the qualifying scores, this can be discussed with the LOC.

U23 QUALIFYING SCORES

- WL – Question raised about why there are no qualifying scores for U23.
- MS - Introduction of the under 23s concept as an experiment to keep Juniors in the sport.
- Decision to continue the experiment for at least one more cycle with no qualifying scores for U23.
- Consideration for presenting proposals to the rules committee for qualifying scores following the upcoming Worlds.
- WL - Acknowledgment of the goal to drive participation.
- PT - There needs to be a team event to require qualifying scores for independents.
- GB - Positive remarks on the retention of ladies in the under 23 division.
- RG - Recognition of the under 23s as a stepping stone from juniors to open.

TEAMS EVENT

- GB – The decision was made to run without a team event, to drive participation in the U23s. The skiers are being called Country Representatives, rather than Independents.
- RGRAY – In Canada they call them the U23 Canadian Team.

3. JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT - BG

- Mention of a North American plan by Svenja, Betsy, and Peter.
- No details shared in this meeting, with a plan to share details in the next WBC meeting.

4. HISTORY - JC

- Country Updates have been made by Philippe.

5. RECORDS - GB

- Delayed receipt of a record for review. Documents to review a record were recently received 6 weeks after the record was achieved, which is out of alignment with the rules.
- JC – Raised the concern about the process and impact on the athlete.
- Discussion on adhering to the 14-day rule for record submissions.
- BG – Requesting that we allow some grace for the submission of records.
- RGRAY – Suggested removing the deadline for record submissions altogether from the rule book.
- RG – Commented that records need to be submitted in sequence of occurrence.
- GB – If you are running a record capable tournament, you should be following the rules.

Record capable tournaments have more than one judge, the judge who has the capacity to submit the record should be the one tasked with that job.
Suggestion for WL to communicate responsibilities to skiers for timely record submissions.

6. EMS UPDATE - GB

- Overview of EMS capabilities, including PayPal payments.
- Positive feedback on EMS records and LEON program integration.

7. OFFICIAL'S COMMITTEE – LB on behalf of MM

- Mention of a plateau in judges joining the EMS.
- Good compliance with upgrading of Officials.
- Expectations for improved participation in the Southern Hemisphere season.

8. OFFICIALS EDUCATION - LB

- No updates.

9. 2025 MASTERS UPDATE - LV

- A letter was prepared and sent to the President of the Italian Federation to question whether they are interested and capable of holding the 2025 Masters.
- Emphasis on awaiting the Italian Federation's response for further progress.
- Expecting to hear back between now and February 2024.
- Acknowledgment of potential interest and positive signals from Italy.

10. RULES COMMITTEE UPDATE - MS

- Added a new bonus for starts.
 - Discussion on changes, including the removal of points for one-foot, one-hand and one-foot waves.
 - PT - Dissenting views expressed by European skiers, citing negative impact on progressing skiers.
 - WL - Feedback from athletes opposing the proposed changes, emphasizing the impact on lower-level skiers.
 - GB - Discussion on the role and decisions of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee dedicate a lot of time to discussing and adjudicating these rules.
 - LV – Concern raised that AH is the only European on the rules committee.
 - RGRAY – Commented that there are 11 people on the rules committee, including Ryan and Ben Groen who are both very much in touch with the skiers.
 - RG – Accesses the rules website and views any changes that are being made, making comment only when he has any major concerns.
 - PT - Emphasis on the Council's role in voting on proposed rule changes.
 - MS - Discussion on Toe Turn Recovery and whether it should be on the feet. Majority of people disagreed.
- Consideration of requiring runoffs for ties in the first round.
Majority support for runoffs to save time and add excitement.
Final rules package to be sent next week.
- BG - Query about the council's role in approving or vetoing rule changes.
 - GB - Clarification that historically, the council typically approves committee decisions.
- Emphasis on committee members' dedication and conflicts of interest.
- BP - Discussion on the need for a balanced perspective considering skiers at all levels.
 - GB - Mention of concerns about the rapid execution of certain tricks.
- Recognition of the importance of video review in judging accuracy.
- PT – Concern that these specific rule changes would negatively impact Junior Girls in particular.
 - MS – Final draft of the rules is being sent to the Council next week.
 - BP - Query about the PPG Rule 210 and the process of submitting drafts.
 - MS - Clarification that historically, the first draft is sent to the committee, not the council.
- Explanation of the final draft sent to the WBC for approval.
Acknowledgment of the December 7th deadline for comment and approval by the WBC.
Announcement of a directive to reconstitute the Rules Committee, possibly with a smaller size.
- GB - Reasons for reconstitution include the need for a more functional and manageable committee.
 - MS - Recognition of the increased workload during the current rules cycle.
 - GB - Acknowledgment of the challenges faced by committee members and the importance of efficiency within the committee.

11. ATHLETE'S REP - WL

- Brief update on the excitement around upcoming World Championships.
- Mention of skiers' anticipation for the 2025 Masters Championships.
- Recognition of a positive response and eagerness among athletes.

12. AWARDS COMMITTEE – CM

No updates.

13. FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT - GS

- Partnership with showski team in Mexico and South America.
- Plans for expansion after consolidating in Mexico.
- GB – There are 5 skiers from China registered in the EMS.
- BP – Intention to follow up with those skiers once no longer overseas.

14. SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY - RG

- Currently looking at a new jump-scoring program. It's a software package that is currently used in Tournament skiing.
 - GB - Approved by IWWF and benefits discussed, one of the benefits that it is free to use.
 - RG – Multiple people are being contacted to trial and test the product before it will be approved.
- Discussion on drone rules. Each state should abide by the rules of the state.
- MS – Suggestion to write explicit rules surrounding drone use can be submitted to the Rules Committee.
 - RG – Suggestion that these rules should be included in the PPG.

15. WEBSITE UPDATES - RGRAY

- Comment that History files were updated by Phillippe.
- Glitches reported and discussed.
- BP – Comment on storage of some documents on the WBC website. To be discussed further later.

16. ADMIN AND PPG - BP

- Final draft of PPG has been circulated, discussed, and endorsed by the WBC. Will look at potentially adjusting rule 210 for clarification.
- GB - Acknowledgment of Brian and Claire's contributions.

17. CONFEDERATION UPDATES

- **Europe:** LV – Working on Italy for the 2025 Masters as mentioned.
- RGRAY – Questioned the state of barefooting in Scandinavia.
- LV – They've expressed their intention to join EU championships in 2024.
- **Oceania:** BP - Concerns raised about junior development in New Zealand.
- RGRAY – Very impressed with the BWSA National Calendar that was included in the report.
- BP – Acknowledged that John O'Neill, Liz Roberts, and the administration team of BWSA have put a lot of time into getting all states working together for the success of the sport.
- **PanAm:** Betsy's update on a new website for the ABC. This website is still in the works.

18. GENERAL BUSINESS

- GB - Proposal to remove neck and teeth tricks from competition.
- Discussion on potential risks and historical incidents.
- MS – The value of keeping these tricks in the sport, does not out-weigh the risks of keeping the tricks, particularly the neck tricks.
 - GB – Request that MS and the Rules Committee decide upon whether these tricks be removed from 2025 or 2026.

19. NEXT MEETING AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Next meeting in February 2024. Date will be decided and circulated.
- JC - Reminder to share travel plans for World Championships with JC so that he can organise cabins and other necessary items for Council members.
- GB – Call for sponsorships for the Worlds.
- RGRAY - Call for volunteers for the World Championships, specifically from the WBC.
- BP – There is a current call out for Judges, Scorers and Drivers, please encourage your Confederations to nominate.

20. MEETING ADJORNED