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MINUTES

SPORTACCORD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SwissTech Convention Centre, Lausanne,
22 April, 2016, 9.00 a.m.

SportAccord Council Members

Mr Gian Franco Kasper,
Chairman of the SportAccord Council
Mr Raffaele Chiulli, Vice-President
Mrs Marisol Casado
Mr Ricardo Fraccari
Mr Patrick Baumann, Treasurer
Mr Stephan Fox

Guests

Mr Ron Froehlich (Financial Administrator)
Mr François Carrard (Legal Advisor)
Mr Nis Hatt (Managing Director, SportAccord Convention)

General Assembly

SportAccord members and observers

1. OPENING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman of the SportAccord Council, Mr Gian Franco Kasper, welcomed delegates to the SportAccord General Assembly.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr Kasper announced that 79 Members were present, which meant that a simple majority required 40 votes and a two-thirds majority 53 votes.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved unanimously.

4. NOMINATION OF THE STEWARD AND TWO SCRUTINEERS

Mr Kasper informed delegates that the Council proposed appointing Mr Jan Fransoo (International Korfball Federation – IKF) as steward, with Ms Sophie Gerard (International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation – UIAA) and Ms Clare Briegal (International Federation of Netball Associations - IFNA) as scrutineers.

Approved unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There being no comments, the minutes of the SportAccord General Assembly of 20 April 2015 in Sochi, Russia and the SportAccord Extraordinary General Assembly of 11 November 2015 in Lausanne, Switzerland were declared approved.

6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS (CHAIRMAN OF THE SPORTACCORD COUNCIL)

Mr Kasper began by apologizing for the way the IOC had been treated at the last SportAccord General Assembly. Now that this incident was behind them, he hoped they could look forward to a new and bright future.

He and his colleagues on the Council believed that SportAccord had an important role to play as the voice of all International Federations across the entire spectrum: small and large, Olympic and non-Olympic, winter and summer. SportAccord provided a forum where they could interact, discuss, exchange views, and share problems and solutions. This week's SportAccord Convention was proof of the validity of this approach. He congratulated the President of the SportAccord Convention, Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, on its success, and thanked the city of Lausanne and the canton of Vaud for agreeing to host it.

The SportAccord Council had met on 26 January and again on 21 April to prepare for this meeting. In January the Council had evaluated the feedback received from the Members after the Extraordinary General Assembly. The main issues raised were the proposed structure of SA and the proposed merger with the SA Convention.

After careful consideration, the Council had proposed the Members to recommend keeping SportAccord as a stand alone organisation with individual Members for the time being, rather than merging with the SportAccord Convention and changing the structure to have just the associations as Members. The Council believed that a merger was the right way forward, but for now they needed to focus on governance. In consequence, the Council had made minimal adjustments to the Statutes, which the SportAccord Membership would be asked to consider today. The main change was to set a four-year one-term limit for the SportAccord presidency.

The Council had also reviewed SportAccord's activities, and come to the conclusion that they now needed to focus on the organisation's core mission, also reflected in the Statutes:

- a) to facilitate and promote knowledge-sharing and exchange of information between its Members;
- b) to support the organisation of the annual SportAccord Convention and IF Forum;

- c) upon request from and in agreement with its Members, to develop specific services for its Members in unique areas which avoid duplication and overlap;
- d) to organise and coordinate multi-sports events and support the organisation of multi-sports games by its Members in agreement and cooperation with its Members.

Mr Kasper thanked the Council Members for their constructive approach to resolving the difficulties. In the second half of 2015 the administration had been streamlined to an appropriate staffing size; the offices had been merged with those of the SportAccord Convention and consolidated at the Maison du Sport International. The Doping-Free Sport Unit (DFSU) had remained intact, however, and its activities had even increased. He wished to thank the IOC and WADA for their financial support, which underlined their shared commitment to protecting clean athletes and promoting clean sport.

Mr Kasper said he would be able to stand down as Chairman of the SportAccord Council secure in the knowledge that he was handing over a stable platform to the incoming President and Council. He had not chosen to take on this role after the resignation of the previous president, but he felt he had fulfilled his moral responsibility towards SportAccord, which was now back on track.

Finally, he thanked Sarah Lewis and Andrew Ryan, who had carried out all the hard work behind the scenes.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.1. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Patrick Baumann noted that the Members had already received information on SportAccord's finances at the Extraordinary General Assembly in November. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the structural changes had had an impact on the organisation's finances, and these were reflected in the 2016 budget. 2015 had gone smoothly; the staff had been treated generously and in accordance with Swiss law, and the handover from the previous management had been handled professionally and in a positive manner. During the transition, BOO had conducted a review to secure an overview of the organisation's commitments for the remainder of 2015. He wished to thank Mr Ron Froehlich for his continued assistance during this time, despite his health issues.

7.2. 2015 BALANCE SHEET & ACCOUNTS

Mr Ron Froehlich referred the Members to the document in their files. He noted that at 31 December 2015 SportAccord had total assets of just over CHF 3 million. Current income for 2015 came to almost CHF 3.6 million, including DFSU revenues of CHF 700,000 and payments from the SportAccord Convention of CHF 1.5 million. The “Partnerships” item represented sponsorship from Taishan Sports, which had been split between 2014 and 2015. Under Expenses, some of SportAccord’s departments had now closed: this included the SportAccord Academy and the Sports Social Responsibility Unit. The Multi-Sport Games Unit showed no income because no events were currently planned. In terms of payroll expenses, the benefits of having cut the SportAccord staff from 21 to 7 would become apparent in 2016. The expense item under “Support for IF development” represented a payment to the International Federation Ice Stock Sport. Expenses also included some exchange rate losses due to the Swiss National Bank’s decision to remove the cap on the exchange rate between the Swiss franc and the Euro.

Mr Antonio Espinós (World Karate Federation - WKF) had a comment regarding the income from the DFSU. The IFs contributed to the unit via a fixed fee established by the SportAccord administration. He felt that the aim of the DFSU should be to produce neither a profit nor a loss, but to break even. If more IFs began using the service, it might be possible to reduce the fee to the federations.

Mr Kasper said that this was something for the new Council to discuss. It was currently unclear what would happen to the DFSU, but the Olympic Summit had decided that doping controls in future should be handled by an independent body. WADA was in the process of discussing the matter, and he believed the DFSU could be a part of the new system.

7.3. AUDITOR’S REPORT

Mr Adham Sharara (International Table Tennis Federation – ITTF) suggested that, under “Audits” in the Treasurer’s Report on p.32, the words “audited by BDO” be changed to “reviewed by BDO”.

Mr Baumann thanked Mr Sharara for this observation, and noted that the scope of the review conducted in 2015 had been different. BDO’s report on the 2015 financial statements did indeed state that, “We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.”

Mr Kasper asked if the Members approved the balance sheet and accounts for 2015 and agreed to discharge the Council Members of liability.

The motion was passed with one abstention.

7.4. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITORS

The SportAccord Council proposed renewing the appointment of BDO for a further two years, in accordance with the SportAccord Statutes.

Approved unanimously.

7.5. 2015/2016 PROVISIONAL BUDGET

Mr Ron Froehlich commented on the revised budget for 2015 and the provisional budget for 2016. He noted that Human Resources expenses would fall from just over CHF 2 million in 2015 to just under CHF 800,000 in 2016. The DFSU was expected to show a small profit for the first time in 2016, after having operated at a loss for many years, and he felt it would be prudent for the new Council to consider setting up a reserve account. The 2016 budget forecasted a loss of CHF 165,000, but given that it was a conservative budget he hoped to see an improvement in this before the end of the year.

The 2015/2016 provisional budget was approved with one abstention.

8. STATUTORY CHANGES

Mr Kasper explained that since a merger between SportAccord and the SportAccord Convention was no longer imminent, only minor changes were being proposed to the Statutes. He asked SportAccord’s Legal Advisor, Mr François Carrard, to explain the modifications.

Mr Carrard summed up the statute changes proposed by the Council. The main changes were intended to broaden the definition of non-discrimination; to specify a single four-year term of office for the SportAccord President; to set the number of Council Members at 9, including the President; and to specify that Council Members were designated by their respective organisations.

Mr Fernando Lima (Federation Internationale de Volleyball - FIVB) thought they should consider rewording the heading of Article 3, “Non-discrimination, representation of women”,

and change it to “Non-discrimination”, since it made no reference to women’s representation.

Mr Gerhard Zimmermann (World Minigolf Sport Federation – WMF) suggested that the fourth bullet of 29.2 should be modified to reflect the new name of AIMS: Alliance of Independent recognised Members of Sport.

Mr Robert Keller (International Powerlifting Federation - IPF) proposed that in article 29.2 ASOIF, AIOWF, ARISF and AIMS each be granted two Members on the SportAccord Council, with one representative for the Associate Members.

In response to the comments, Mr Carrard replied that it made sense to delete “representation of women” from the heading of Article 3. In terms of increasing the number of AIMS Members to 2, he could see no legal objection, but this must be a policy decision.

Mr Kasper asked those Members who were in favour of accepting the new Statutes as proposed by the SportAccord Council to raise their green cards.

Mr Keller asked for a revote, as he felt many of the Members were unclear as to what they were voting on.

Mr Kasper asked those Members who were in favour of the Council Membership numbers proposed by Mr Keller to raise their green cards.

There were 21 votes in favour. The proposal was therefore rejected.

Mr Kasper asked those in favour of accepting the new Statutes as presented to raise their green cards.

There were 67 votes in favour. The proposal was therefore accepted.

9. MEMBERSHIP

Mr Kasper reported that the Council had discussed Membership at its meeting the previous day, and concluded that the text in the Working Document was incorrect. In fact, given that the Council had not discussed any of the applications from new Members, the Council proposed that all requests for Membership of SportAccord be postponed to the next General Assembly. The three candidates affected by this decision had been informed, and he thanked them

for their understanding. The new Council would be able to discuss the Membership criteria and applications.

Approved unanimously.

10. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Approved.

11. REPORT FROM THE SPORT ACCORD CONVENTION LAUSANNE 2016

Mr Nis Hatt, Managing Director of the SportAccord Convention, shared some statistics from the 2016 SportAccord Convention. He noted that the programme had been expanded to four days, and enriched with the addition of LawAccord, MediaAccord, the City Forum and Digital Summit. He announced that the 2017 SportAccord Convention would take place in Aarhus, Denmark, and thanked the Members for their continued support.

Mr Kasper congratulated Mr Hatt on an excellent Convention.

12. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM MEETINGS AMONG MEMBERS

None.

13. ITEMS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION

None.

14. ELECTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT

Mr Kasper announced that there were two candidates for the position of SportAccord President: Mr Patrick Baumann (Federation International de Basketball – FIBA) and Mrs Anna Arzhanova (Confederation Mondiale des Activites Subaquatiques – CMAS).

The candidates were invited to make a 10-minute presentation to the Members. The Council had determined the order of the presentations by drawing of lots. Votes would be cast in writing.

Mr Baumann briefly described his personal and professional background. He said he was standing for President not for political reasons but because, having sat on the Council, he felt a sense of responsibility to rebuild SportAccord and drive change. For him, SportAccord was about dialogue, sharing, providing a test ground for innovation and acting as the voice of sport. If elected, he would bring his experience as a sports administrator, and the Swiss qualities of neutrality, efficiency and precision. He saw the role as being similar to that of a referee: the position was necessary, but it was the teams that were remembered once the game was over. He hoped to work with all the Federations in a climate of transparency, sustainability and unity. The SportAccord Convention existed to work for the Federations in the way they wanted it to, each member having its role and voice. Just like a watch, every wheel was necessary, however small.

Mrs Arzhanova acknowledged that she was not a well-known figure within SportAccord, but said that she wanted to work with the Members to maintain and improve this fantastic platform. They could help all the sports to grow, with the aid of multi-sports games, and in harmony with Olympic Agenda 2020. They would work together to fight against fraud, tear down barriers, banish discrimination and make SportAccord a place where Olympic and non-Olympic sports were united. She was in favour of maintaining individual Membership, and cooperating with the IOC in an open and effective way. SportAccord was the home of the International Federations: it was up to them to maintain it. Sport had taught her never to give up, and she hoped to show her commitment by working hard.

The SportAccord Members were invited individually to cast their votes.

Mr Patrick Baumann was elected President of SportAccord with 55 votes. Mrs Arzhanova secured 25 votes.

Mr Baumann thanked all the Members for their support, and for entrusting him with this challenge. He thanked Mrs Arzhanova and her supporters for a fair race.

Mrs Arzhanova thanked Mr Baumann and invited him to take up some of her ideas. She hoped they could work together to take SportAccord into a positive future.

Mr Kasper congratulated Mr Baumann, and said he hoped he would be effective and successful in his work with the new Council.

15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The next General Assembly was scheduled to take place on 7 April 2017 in Aarhus, Denmark.

16. CLOSING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr Kasper thanked all the delegates for their collaboration.

17. FAREWELL AND WELCOME RECEPTION, PRESIDENT OF SPORT ACCORD

