

GAISF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HELD REMOTELY

10 NOVEMBER 2020

01/ OPENING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr Raffaele Chiulli the President of GAISF, welcomed everyone to the 2020 Statutory General Assembly of GAISF.

This virtual edition would be very special and different, due to the current global situation. Many participants were already familiar with virtual conferences and this was a sign of the resilience and flexibility of the sports community. Dr Chiulli praised the GAISF members for having continued to deliver the best for their members, athletes, fans and families. He was proud that GAISF were able to do the same and to continue supporting its members with commitment, passion and energy and thanked all the members of the GAISF team for their hard work.

02/ ROLL CALL

Mr Gueisbuhler, GAISF Director, announced that there were 66 voting members present at the beginning of the meeting. This number increased during the meeting to a total of 73.

03/ ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda approved

04/ NOMINATION OF THE STEWARD AND TWO SCRUTINEERS

Given the virtual setup of this year's General Assembly it was not possible to choose the usual steward and scrutineers, but Mr Edward Gardiner, notary public in the UK, oversaw the votes from the Lumi offices and attested to the results of the votes.

05/ APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the 2019 General Assembly in Gold Coast approved

06/ PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr Chiulli stated that everyone could be very proud of the way the sports community had reacted and adapted to the global situation, continuing to deliver on their promises.

Since GAISF last met formally in Gold Coast it had been a year and half of remarkable achievements, many of them in the face of remarkable challenges. Dr Chiulli thanked the International Federations for their leadership which had resulted in sport remaining a beacon of hope throughout the pandemic. The International Federations had also delivered practical solutions that had changed people's lives for the better.

When the first wave hit and lockdowns became our new reality, sport was there to make our daily lives healthier and more tolerable. With our sporting heroes right next to us, giving their guidance and encouragement, we kept active in our own homes and shared inspirational moments that we could never forget. To illustrate this Dr Chiulli shared a video clip with the Assembly of his favourite moment from the lockdown, showing two Italian girls playing tennis on the rooftops.

With exercise being one of the only legitimate reasons to leave the house, there was a big growth in running, cycling, outdoor swimming and many others. Then, after the lockdown, the success of bubbles in many professional sports showed it was possible to resume activities safely.

Sport showed once again how it could bring communities together and helped us focus on the beauty of team effort, on the lessons of winning and losing with grace and fair play. Lessons that Dr Chiulli believed were more important now than ever.

And as had been seen from last week's IF Forum, GAISF's members were now actively working on making sure that sport would be a leading actor in the post-COVID recovery, for which Dr Chiulli congratulated everyone.

As you would expect, GAISF had been busy too, delivering innovative sport like in Budapest last year where the World Urban Games were organised. The WUG proved to be a wonderful festival of sport and culture, attracting young people and families alike as was demonstrated in the highlights video that was shown to the delegates.

GAISF looked forward to many of these urban sports enjoying their Olympic debut next summer in Tokyo. These sports were here to stay and so were the World Urban Games. Dr Chiulli repeated his thanks to the team that worked alongside the International Federations and the local organisers to put on this wonderful event. This hard work enabled GAISF to deliver an event that met and even surpassed the expectations for the World Urban Games.

In delivering the World Urban Games, GAISF was also able to celebrate the vision of their much-missed friend Patrick Baumann, less than 12 months after his passing, with his wife Patricia and his lovely son Paul. It was a special moment for Dr Chiulli to have the honour of presenting the medals for the 3x3 basketball together with Paul as he saw his father's legacy in action.

Throughout this period since the last General Assembly, GAISF had been providing targeted support based on what its Member Federations had told us interested them the most.

IFs were determined to ensure their organisations were fit for the future so GAISF had been happy to help with improving governance. Many Members had been making good use of the reports and recommendations that were provided.

Promoting clean sport and protecting clean athletes had long been a priority for GAISF as it was for the Members. Dr Chiulli brought to the Assembly's attention that GAISF, in partnership with the ITA, had been assisting International Federations to make sure they were ready to adopt and implement the 2021 WADA Code.

When the scope and scale of the pandemic had become apparent, GAISF had advocated for assistance for International Federations wherever it was possible. The staff had adapted quickly to the situation and Dr Chiulli was proud of the way the team had continued to be present, whether it was from the home or from the office. This was also true for the GAISF Council members and for the Membership Commission as would be seen later in the meeting.

In the absence of competition, many International Federations had taken some time to reconsider their branding, governance, strategies, anti-doping programmes and so on. And GAISF had been happy to support this work.

Many IFs had been able to weather the storm so far, but it was also evident that the storm had not yet passed. Which was why GAISF was committed to a temporary reduction of membership fees for the coming year. Nevertheless, Dr Chiulli assured the Members that a reduction in membership fees would not lead to a reduction in services. In fact, he believed that GAISF would be doing more for its members than ever before.

Dr Chiulli recognised that we all had the ability to shape the future and acknowledged the importance of the future being sustainable. Sustainability was a subject which was very dear to his heart, which was why he was very proud that the first GAISF Sustainability Award was to be presented that morning. He was also proud of the sustainability portal which had been created with the support of the IOC.

There would also be the opportunity to go into a bright future with some new members of our family. Today there would be the opportunity to welcome the World Transplant Games Federation and the Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations as Associate Members and the International Teqball Federation as a Member.

As individual members of GAISF, we were all drops of water, some larger and some smaller but together, we were an ocean. Together we were stronger. Dr Chiulli ended his address by looking forward to meeting everyone in person again soon.

07/ FINANCIAL MATTERS:

07.1 Treasurer's Report

Philippe Gueisbuhler GAISF Director presented the apologies of Treasurer Marisol Casado who could not attend and had asked him to present her report.

The significant impact of Covid-19 meant that GAISF had also had to adapt to the situation. The budget established at the end of 2019 should have been presented in April in Beijing. However due to Covid-19 and the postponement of the General Assembly, the budget no longer reflected reality. Many costs had been saved due to reduced activity and reduced travel. These savings should be reflected in the end of year forecasts.

07.2 Auditor's Report

BDO had carried out the statutory audit and the results had been published in the working documents and submitted for approval.

Auditor's report approved

Mr Gueisbuhler informed the Assembly that the Council recommended reappointing auditors BDO for the following two years.

BDO to be reappointed as auditors for the following two years approved

Mr Gueisbuhler thanked BDO for their continued services as well as Mr Olivier Mirshak for his accounting services to GAISF.

07.3 Budget 2020

Budget 2020 approved

08/ MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVERS

08.1 Report of the Membership Commission

Dr Chiulli passed the floor to Mr Mike Joyce, Chairman of the GAISF Membership Commission to give his report.

Mr Joyce explained that the GAISF Membership Commission had been appointed in November 2019 by the Council to oversee the GAISF administration's receipt and analysis of applications for membership of GAISF and consider them in accordance with the Membership Application Procedures described in Articles 6 & 7 of the GAISF statutes.

The Membership Commission was composed of Mr Joyce as Chair, Mr Tom Hollowell and Mr Gerhard Zimmermann as members and two ex-officio members Mr Philippe Gueisbuhler and Mr Andrew Hofer.

Mr Joyce wanted to take the opportunity to thank them all, together with Davide Delfini and Jonas Barbezat from the GAISF team, for their time and contribution to the fair and pragmatic consideration of all applications.

GAISF had 51 confirmed applications and a further 239 interested in applying for membership of GASIF which gave a good perspective of the scope and scale of the task in front of the Membership Commission.

A full review of all files had been carried out by the GAISF Administration in 2020 with applicant IFs required to confirm their application and pay their application fee.

In addition to file analysis the Commission had been working on guidelines for the Commission itself, Observer status requirements and due diligence. These had also been approved by the GAISF Council.

Mr Joyce explained that the overwhelming consideration with all applications related to compatibility issues with GAISF members. The new GAISF statutes enabled due diligence investigations and attempts to find solutions to compatibility issues.

There were currently 12 Observers, of which 3 were new and 9 were re-assessed and proposed for renewal. Requests for renewal had been presented to and had been accepted by the GAISF Council as shown in the working documents.

It was just over one year since Mr Joyce had been appointed to Chair the Membership Commission. He was confident that fair and pragmatic considerations of all applications had been made in the best interests of GAISF and its members. Should any Members have questions regarding the work of the Membership Commission and the processes followed they should not hesitate to contact them.

Mr Joyce ended his report by thanking Mr Tom Hollowell and Mr Gerhard Zimmerman for their contributions, together with Andrew Hofer from the IOC and Phillipe Gueisbuhler and his GAISF Administration team. Finally, he thanked President Chiulli, the GAISF Council and GAISF Members and Observers for their support and trust in the Membership Commission.

08.2 Applicants for GAISF Membership:

Dr Chiulli reported that there was one applicant for GAISF full Membership. He introduced the International Federation of Teqball (FITEQ) who would present their sport via video before the vote.

International Federation of Teqball (FITEQ) approved as a Full Member of GAISF

Dr Chiulli offered his congratulations to FITEQ, the newest member of the GAISF family. The FITEQ board of President Gábor Borsányi, Chairman Viktor Huszár and General Secretary Marius Vizer Jr thanked the GAISF members on behalf of the 80 FITEQ Federations all over the world.

Dr Chiulli introduced two applicants for Associate Membership, the World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF) and the Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations (APSO).

The hard work and passion of the WTGF was undeniable and Dr Chiulli was pleased to present a short video explaining the work of WTGF before the vote.

World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF) approved as an Associate Member of GAISF

Dr Chiulli offered his congratulations to the WTGF and welcomed President Chris Thomas who thanked the Assembly for their support for WTGF. One of the most precious things in life was to keep healthy and well through embracing sport. The WTGF would strive to improve their professionalism through membership of GAISF.

Dr Chiulli then presented APSO President Sabrina Ibáñez who explained the work of the Association.

Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations approved as an Associate Member of GAISF

Dr Chiulli expressed his pleasure at welcoming APSO to the GAISF family. He looked forward to seeing all the new Members at the next General Assembly in Ekaterinburg.

09/ SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

09.1 Sustainability award

Dr Chiulli reminded the Assembly that sustainability was a topic close to his heart, representing much of his life's work, both outside of sport and within sport. He truly believed that we were all stewards of our planet's future.

It was therefore an honour to be able to announce the winners of GAISF's first-ever sustainability award. But before going ahead with the award, he was delighted to present two very dear friends who were fully committed to finding innovative sustainable solutions.

Firstly, it was his great pleasure to welcome IOC Member and Chair of the IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, with whom he had the honour to share a long-lasting friendship and passion for sustainability.

HSH Prince Albert II was delighted to address the Assembly in these troubled times when virtual meetings had become the norm. The Covid-19 health crisis had impacted all sectors and sport was not immune to postponement, cancellation and closure. These unprecedented times had demonstrated the power of the most important sporting ability, resilience. Nevertheless, International Federations had remembered that another crisis was equally important to tackle – that of climate change. Despite the challenging times IFs had shown commitment to sustainability with a full acknowledgement of the seriousness and urgency of climate crisis.

Participation in the GAISF sustainability award was a clear reflection of this commitment. He was pleased to learn that 17 international sports federations had applied for the award, having made significant contributions to tackling climate change and other sustainability challenges.

As chair of the IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission, he had been delighted at the impressive progress made by IFs. The close cooperation between the IOC and GAISF had made this award possible. The IOC were proud to have been included in the jury. The IOC had been working closely with many IFs throughout the year to make sure they have the support needed to advance their sustainability efforts. The GAISF Sustainability award recognised a holistic approach to sustainability. It highlighted the fact that sustainability was not just about ad hoc projects but about managing operations and events in a more systematic, integrated and responsible manner.

HSH Prince Albert II explained that time and time again IFs had seen the myriad of opportunities sustainability brought including cost savings and increased revenue from sponsorship. Finally, sustainability was not about empty words and promises. It was about turning promises into meaningful, credible action and inspiring others to do the same. Beyond empty stadia and postponed Olympic Games the Covid-19 epidemic had highlighted our need to reevaluate our relationship with nature. Science told us that environmental degradation could lead to more pandemics like the one that was disrupting our lives. This is why the world so urgently needed sustainability leaders like the members of GAISF. HSH Prince Albert supported their efforts and actions in this field, which were essential for the protection of our planet and for our legacy for future generations. He requested the Assembly should continue the impressive work they had done so far. They should continue to inspire others to join in and take decisive action for the challenge we all faced. It was our collective responsibility to ensure that when we overcame this pandemic we would find ourselves on a path to a greener more sustainable world and that sport would play a strong and meaningful role in this recovery.

Dr Chiulli thanked His Serene Highness for his inspiring words. He was a true advocate for sustainability and his passion and devotion to building a better, more sustainable future for all of us was beyond inspiring. The visionary words that you had all just heard showcased exactly why this Award was established - to shine a spotlight on sport's efforts towards a more sustainable future.

The second guest Dr Chiulli wished to welcome was his good friend, Mr Alejandro Agag the Founder of Formula E, Extreme E, and a key figure behind the recently launched UIM E1 World Electric Powerboat Series together with Prince Albert.

Mr Agag wanted to congratulate the International Federations for continuing their effort on sustainability, especially so in the current pandemic situation.

Sustainability was an effort we all needed to be involved in, where we could all make a contribution. We should not see the effort to fight against climate change and make a more sustainable environment as a cost. There should be a huge opportunity to make more jobs, to reduce carbon emissions and to generate growth through the green economy. Sport had a great opportunity to promote and find a purpose around sustainability and this is what we do with the sports we promote. He wished the delegates a great Assembly, great work in the future and that they keep working all together for a more sustainable planet.

Dr Chiulli credited Mr Agag with being a true pioneer in promoting environmentally friendly sport, finding new, sustainable mobility solutions that would have a far-reaching impact in our world whether on shore or offshore and he thanked him for joining the Assembly.

Dr Chiulli now had the pleasure to announce the winners of the GAISF Sustainability Award 2020. He wanted to thank every International Sports Federation who had submitted an entry, all of which were exceptional projects. The creativity, innovation and dedication that everyone had continued to demonstrate in regards to sustainability was remarkable.

In third place was the International Volleyball Federation for its Good Net project. This project was an innovative solution to the critical issue of plastic waste in our oceans. In particular, ghost nets which were discarded fishing nets, which made up an extremely large percentage of this waste. The Good Net project aimed to remove these ghost nets from our oceans and upcycle them into volleyball nets. Congratulations to the FIVB for this incredible project, turning waste into something that could bring joy to people around the world.

Second place went to World Rugby for its extensive efforts in becoming more sustainable. World Rugby had already taken action to reduce its carbon emissions and minimise non-recyclable waste at its events. And its approach to sustainability did not just end at environmental issues, as it strove to use rugby as a tool to support social initiatives that would benefit the wider community. This was a fantastic and hugely inspirational initiative merited our congratulations.

Dr Chiulli proudly announced that the winner of the first-ever GAISF Sustainability Award was World Sailing for their Sustainability Agenda 2030.

In its commitment to sustainability in sport, World Sailing had gone above and beyond, creating not only a project, but an entire strategy for the future. And through this strategy, World Sailing had already begun to implement meaningful sustainable practices. From eliminating hundreds of thousands of single use plastic bottles at its events to creating a Sustainability Education Programme, World Sailing was making huge strides to creating a more sustainable future which could be seen in the video shown.

After the video Dr Chiulli congratulated World Sailing for their outstanding work and had the pleasure to welcome World Sailing Head of Sustainability, Mr Dan Reading, who had been the driving force behind this project as well as CEO Mr David Graham. But before that he wanted to congratulate their recently elected new President Quanghai Li.

Mr Dan Reading thanked Dr Chiulli and told the Assembly what an honour it was for him personally to receive this award. Nevertheless, he wanted to emphasise the team effort from volunteers, staff and all World Sailing's members and extended his thanks to them all. He also wanted to encourage other IFs to work in this area. World Sailing was only a medium-sized Federation but he wished to encourage others in their efforts and would be happy to work with them. He believed that the moment to change was now and encouraged everybody to work on this important mission.

Mr David Graham thanked President Chiulli and Director Philippe Gueisbuhler on behalf of World Sailing and extended their gratitude to GAISF for recognising their efforts in this vital sector. It had been worrying and fascinating to listen to the scientists and other experts at the IOC Sustainability Forum held last week. It was clear that sport collectively had a huge responsibility in sustainability due to its loud voice that was listened to globally. It was wonderful to see that collectively we had all stepped up. Sustainability was very well integrated in World Sailing with unanimous buy-in from all departments, from the Board, the Council and from their new President Quanghai Li. World Sailing only had 25 staff members so when Mr Gueisbuhler called them with the news it was a surprise but highlighted what could be done with the right strategic partners. World Sailing looked forward to working collectively with other IFs to achieve a great result and thanked GAISF for the award which would motivate them to continue further with their efforts.

Dr Chiulli could see how much this award meant to them both. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic it was not possible to send the trophy in advance. But this, alongside the well-deserved prize money that would go towards furthering sustainability in sport, would be sent to the winners in the near future.

10/ REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION

10.1 Activity Report

10.2 Multi-Sport Games Report

Dr Chiulli informed Members that the report of the administration was included in the Activity Report along with the Multi-Sport Games Report. These had been shared with all Members in writing, and no comments or questions had been received prior to the Assembly.

11/ ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Dr Chiulli advised the Members that the written reports of GAISF stakeholders (ASOIF, AIOWF, ARISF, AIMS and Associate Members) could be found in the Working Documents.

He would at this point in the proceedings like to give special congratulations to three dedicated individuals within the global sports community:

He congratulated Mr Ivo Ferriani on his election as President of the Association of Winter Olympic International Federations (AIOWF). His election was testament to his devotion to winter sports, and he had no doubt that he would continue to develop the AIOWF family as Beijing 2022 draws closer.

He also applauded Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti on his re-election as ASOIF President. It was evident that summer Olympic sports truly valued his guidance and leadership, and he wished Mr Ricci Bitti all the best for the future.

And finally, he congratulated Stephan Fox. He continued to provide expert guidance to all of his members as they developed their sports, and he was sure Mr Fox was delighted that the AIMS family would welcome their newest member, FITEQ.

11.6 IOC

Mr Kit McConnell IOC Sports Director could unfortunately not join the meeting to give his report.

12/ DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr Chiulli introduced a short video prepared by SportAccord highlighting the venue for SportAccord 2021 in Ekaterinburg, Russia. The GAISF General Assembly, would be held on Friday 28 May 2021. Should the circumstances not allow us to hold the General Assembly as announced, we will of course keep you informed.

13/ CLOSING OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr Chiulli acknowledged that when the GAISF Members met again, they would be reminded of just how special it is to see each other in person. Even today, they had been looking forward to seeing everyone at the Olympic House, following the kind invitation of the IOC President Thomas Bach. But as we had also seen, the work of sport did not stop because of the pandemic. If anything, that work had become even more important.

He wanted to thank once more the Council, Philippe and the GAISF team for their part in helping to make sure GAISF's work had not stopped.

The challenge for the future was clear. But first a difficult period had to be overcome and we would need to be ready as science helped bring more solutions. We should be ready to help sport assume its proper place in everyday life and GAISF would be by your side.

Just as the situation with the pandemic was always changing, our common solutions would have to be dynamic and adaptable. The months ahead would not be business as usual. We knew this and would be working to support you even more than ever, to help you share best practice so that we could all emerge stronger.

Dr Chiulli proposed working together to achieve the common goal of a better world through sport and closed the meeting with the wish for all members to stay healthy and active until the time when they could meet again.