



## 45<sup>TH</sup> ASOIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY VIDEO-CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 8TH JUNE 2021 AT 10H00 (CET)

### MINUTES

#### OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The **PRESIDENT**, Francesco RICCI BITTI, opened the 45<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly which was held “virtually”. He informed the meeting that the Executive Director (ED), Andrew RYAN and himself were present in the ASOIF office in Lausanne to conduct the meeting. He welcomed everyone and said that the General Assembly was open to observers and the media who were invited to join via a YouTube live stream.
2. The **PRESIDENT** gave the floor to **Mr. CARR**, ASOIF Head of Administration and Projects, acting as facilitator for the meeting, who explained that the meeting was being held in accordance with the ASOIF Statutes from the Lausanne office. He outlined the technology and housekeeping arrangements for the meeting. He introduced *Lumi*, a company which provided a secure and independent remote voting system and would conduct the voting items on the agenda. The process would be overseen by a public notary, Mr. Edward Gardner, from Cheeswrights in London, UK. A practice vote was then made with the online participants.

#### ROLL CALL

3. The roll call was conducted within the *Zoom* application. The **ED** said that all 28 Full ASOIF members were confirmed as present and therefore the General Assembly could proceed as the quorum for the meeting had been exceeded. The 5 Associate Members were also confirmed as present.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 44<sup>th</sup> ASOIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, VIDEO CONFERENCE, 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.

4. The minutes **were approved by the General Assembly** via the *Lumi* voting platform.

#### REPORT OF THE ASOIF COUNCIL

5. The **PRESIDENT** congratulated the International Federation (IF) Presidents and General Secretaries who had been elected or re-elected since the 2020 ASOIF General Assembly as follows:
  - **Marisol CASADO** re-elected President of World Triathlon (November 2020)
  - **Annika SORENSTAM** elected President of IGF (December 2020)

- **Umar KREMLEV** elected President of AIBA (December 2020)
- **Marco SCOLARIS** re-elected President of IFSC (April 2021)
- **Narinder BATRA** re-elected President of FIH (May 2021)
- **Poul-Erik HOYER** re-elected President of BWF (May 2021)
- **Marius VIZER** re-elected President of IJF (June 2021)
- **Husain Al MUSALLAM** elected President of FINA (June 2021)
  
- **Alan GILPIN** appointed CEO of World Rugby (January 2021)
- **István KOVÁCS** appointed General Secretary of AIBA (March 2021)
- **Vlad MARINESCU** appointed General Director of IJF (June 2021)
- **Brent NOWICKI** appointed Executive Director of FINA (June 2021)

6. The **PRESIDENT** referred to some key issues of the past year including:

- Regarding the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, he confirmed that the IFs remained fully committed to delivering successful Games, particularly mentioning their contribution to the development of the Covid-19 countermeasures, their flexibility with the delivery plan, and their determination to complete their qualification processes. He also expressed his appreciation to the IOC President and staff for their continued close support and cooperation.
- Concerning the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the **PRESIDENT** said that preparatory work was ongoing and he thanked the IFs for their flexibility in accepting the re-adjustment of the venue master plan.
- The **PRESIDENT** mentioned his membership of the IOC Future Host Commission which had been working on the new bidding process and producing a proposal to be presented to the IOC Executive Committee to support the choice of Brisbane, Australia, as host for the 2032 Olympic summer Games.
- The **PRESIDENT** mentioned that there had been renewed attention from inter-governmental authorities in Europe on the structure of sport due to the now-aborted proposed launch of a European football Super League. He said that ASOIF fully supported the IOC President in defending the European sports model.
- On the subject of esports, the **PRESIDENT** said that the work on a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) commissioned report to identify strategic business options for the IFs to develop related digital initiatives, was reaching its conclusion. The report would be published after the Tokyo Games and be followed by a series of bespoke individual tutorials, one for each ASOIF member.
- The **PRESIDENT** noted that a review of the future structure of the IFs' organisation within the Olympic Movement had begun with the creation of a working group within GAISF. He said that ASOIF would monitor these developments closely.
- The **PRESIDENT** informed that to prepare for the future a minor restructuring of the ASOIF administration was underway and would be presented to the Council in the coming months.
- The **PRESIDENT** recommended IFs to participate and support the generous offer of the IOC to facilitate free-of-charge storage of anti-doping samples facilitated through the ITA.

- The **PRESIDENT** informed that three members of the Council were standing for re-election and thanked them for their availability and all the Council members for their contributions, which was a positive sign of stability and continuity, an important factor in challenging times.
7. The **PRESIDENT** gave the floor to the **ED** to present the Council report. The **ED** reminded that the written Council report had been sent to all Members ahead of the GA in accordance with the ASOIF Statutes and therefore he would only highlight some of the key points and update on any additional or new information.
  8. On the subject of Tokyo 2020, the **ED** mentioned that IFs had been key in supporting the process of cost optimisation and also working on the Covid-19 countermeasures including the development of the playbooks. The IFs, working with the IOC, had also made great progress in adapting their qualification systems and was approaching the end of the process. A number of IFs had been staging qualifying events and the successful delivery of these events in the current Covid-19 environment was a positive indication for safe Olympic Games. He reiterated that the IFs remained fully committed to delivering exceptional Games in Tokyo this year, even if it meant doing so in significantly challenging conditions.
  9. The **ED** thanked the IOC for their cooperation in facilitating vaccinations for IF staff traveling to Tokyo.
  10. On the subject of the WADA/RUSADA case CAS ruling which had reduced the original four-year sanction period to two years, the **ED** highlighted the joint work of ASOIF with the IOC and WADA to agree Code-compliant procedures applicable to IF events in order to avoid multiple IF CAS cases and the threat of IF non-compliance with the WAD Code.
  11. The **ED** reported that work had been ongoing following the publication of the “Future of Global Sport” report in 2019, including the esports project designed to identify strategic business options for all IFs to engage in related digital initiatives. Another piece of research was under way, aiming to promote a common set of criteria and a methodology for event hosts, rights-holders (IFs) and the industry, to evaluate the beneficial impact of staging major IF events.
  12. The **ED** referred to the increased focus on and impact of, European legislation on IFs and that Council would prioritise its work in this area and resume collective lobbying activities together with the IFs.
  13. The **ED** mentioned the ruling from the European Court of Justice on an International Skating Union competition case which would necessitate study for each IF on its impact and possible changes to IF rules and statutes.
  14. On the subject of Governance, the **ED** reported that ASOIF’s Governance Task Force had increased its independence by including two new members representing the public authorities and had agreed to commence its fourth IF self-assessment exercise starting in Q4 2021 with the final report to be submitted to the ASOIF General Assembly in 2022.
  15. The **ED** wished to express, on behalf of ASOIF, great thanks to the approximately 50 IF members of the ASOIF Advisory/Consultative Groups for their contributions, as they had been able to be more engaged and active than ever before during the Covid-19 period, largely due to reduced travel obligations etc.
  16. The **ED** acknowledged the very close working relationship ASOIF had enjoyed with the IOC and its various departments during the pandemic.

17. The **ED** said that there had been an increase in media enquiries on aspects of ASOIF's work and concerning the common position of the IFs.
18. The **ED** mentioned that ASOIF had continued its work with ANOC and the IOC to agree on appropriate form of cooperation regarding the delivery of NOC-led regional multi-sport events. He said that a model MOU between the parties continued to be developed.
19. On the subject of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the **ED** stated that it had naturally been ASOIF's priority and would continue to be so throughout 2021.
20. Concerning the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the **ED** mentioned that ASOIF had been meeting on a weekly basis with the Sports Department of the 2024 Organising Committee. The Paris 2024 Organising Committee had implemented a cost reduction plan and resultant updated venue master plan. The current emphasis was on identifying the most efficient delivery plan model for each discipline and event at the 2024 Olympic Games.
21. On the postponed Dakar Youth Olympic Games in 2026, the **ED** mentioned that a report had been received and was included in the meeting papers.
22. On the subject of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, the **ED** informed that the sports competition program would be approved in the IOC Session to be held in Beijing in 2022.
23. The **ED** gave examples of each of ASOIF's Consultative & Advisory Group's activities which were presented in detail in the report.
24. **Mr. Tom DIELEN (World Archery)** thanked the ASOIF staff for the assistance provided over the last year and raised a question concerning the MOU between ASOIF and IAEH (International Association of Event Hosts) as to how it would fit with the work already done by ASOIF for the IFs and how IFs could subsequently contribute. A second question related to esports and virtual sports, and asked what would ASOIF's role be in the IOC virtual sport series and how could the IFs get involved in that.
25. The **PRESIDENT** answered that the aim of the MOU was to have a standard, a continuity and a sophistication of the work that was done in the past to evaluate the impact of IF events. On the "IOC Virtual esports Series", he said that taking part was an open invitation to IFs and the ASOIF project provided support to IFs to enable them to be fully equipped in the complicated esports eco-system.
26. The **ED** explained that following the former Global Sport Impact project and the current Event Impact Studies project, the work aimed to establish common criteria and methodologies with a view to general acceptance. He reiterated that the aim of the esports project was to provide strategic and business options for all IFs.
27. **Mr. David HAGGERTY (ITF)** raised a question regarding the preparation for the Tokyo Games, asking if ASOIF felt there was anything specific IFs should be doing to prepare. A second questions raised concerns regarding the atmosphere resulting from spectator restrictions in Tokyo.
28. The **PRESIDENT** confirmed that final Tokyo preparations were going well and that ASOIF was confident that the situation was under control. A concern had been public opinion, however there had been high-level political support in Japan with IOC support. He said that the Japanese authorities were determined to honour their commitments. He said that the ban on international spectators and restricted participation of Japanese spectators was still being discussed and was evolving regularly, hopefully with a positive outcome to have as many spectators as possible at Games events.

29. The **ED** mentioned that the role of the IFs in the Tokyo Games events would be greater and more important than ever before, as they had been delivering their own events in the recent Covid-19 restricted period. He said the IFs had the experience to organise events within the Covid-19 conditions and he hoped the authorities in Japan would be reasonably flexible in working with the IFs on a sport-by-sport basis.
30. **Mr. Sebastian COE (World Athletics)** thanked ASOIF and its President for the reports and updates and for being effective advocates on behalf of the IFs. He spoke of his own observations born from his recent visits to Tokyo to attend test events, where in terms of protocol and planning, notably, no stone had been left unturned. He mentioned the importance that, in the lead-up to the Games, there needed to be a far greater recognition of the work undertaken in their preparation by the IFs and that a communications plan, should highlight the numerous amount of time and planning that had gone into protecting and ensuring the safety of the athletes and spectators in Tokyo. He felt it was necessary to deliver a stronger message regarding this work.
31. The **PRESIDENT** thanked Mr. COE for his witness account of the progress during his visits and mentioned that the Tokyo Organising Committee was thankful for this. He appreciated the flexibility of the IFs and was very optimistic that best efforts had been made, representing sport in the best possible way.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **2020 Financial Report**

32. The **ED** presented the 2020 Financial Report as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and informed that the 2020 accounts had been audited and approved by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA. He summarized that ASOIF finances remained in a strong position and well protected with a defensive and prudent investment policy approved by Council.

### **Auditors' Report on the 2020 Accounts**

33. The **ED** invited the auditors from PwC to present the report which was duly done.

### **Approval of the 2020 Accounts**

34. The 2020 Accounts, presented by ASOIF's auditors, PwC, were **approved by the General Assembly**.

### **Approval of the Subscription 2021**

35. **The General Assembly agreed** that the annual subscription would remain at CHF100.

### **Revised 2021 Budgets**

36. The **ED** presented the revised 2021 budgets which included a downgrade on the return on investments and was based on prudent and conservative projections as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games revenue share had not yet been confirmed. The ED noted that the 2021

operational budget forecasted a loss of approximately CHF 100,000 largely due to deferred expenditure related to the postponement of the 2020 Olympic Games.

37. **The General Assembly approved** the revised 2021 budgets.

### **Approval of the draft 2022 Budgets**

38. The **ED** presented the 2022 budget which indicated a return to a breakeven operational budget.
39. The draft 2022 budgets were **approved by the General Assembly**.

### **ASOIF STATUTES – AMENDMENTS**

40. The **PRESIDENT** presented the proposed amendments, notably the new article 3.10 which aimed to define and clarify the status and rights of a Full Member which had had its IOC recognition suspended. The second proposal was for a change to Article 4.4 which was an amendment proposing to improve gender balance within IF delegations attending the ASOIF General Assembly.
41. **Mr. Hassan MOUSTAFA (IHF)** asked about the proposed amendments to the statutes in regard to the new article 3.10, whether the motion was coming from the IOC or from ASOIF.
42. The **PRESIDENT** confirmed that ASOIF Statutes amendments were a request from the ASOIF Council, in this case an article aiming to clarify a Members' rights within ASOIF in case of an IOC suspended recognition status.
43. The ASOIF Statute Amendments were **approved by the General Assembly**.

### **APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

44. The **PRESIDENT** informed that four additional IFs had been included on the Paris 2024 programme, following organizing committee proposals. Notably the IFs governing "breaking" from DanceSport, sport climbing, skateboarding and surfing with three of these IFs (IFSC, World Skate and ISA) already ASOIF Associate Members since their sports were included in the Tokyo 2020 Games programme. In accordance with ASOIF Statutes Article 3.5, the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) had submitted its application in writing and in good order and asked the General Assembly for its approval to become an Associate member of ASOIF.
45. The **General Assembly approved** the application for ASOIF membership of the WDSF as an Associate Member.
46. The **PRESIDENT** congratulated the WDSF and invited **Mr. Shawn TAY**, President, to take the floor. Mr. TAY thanked the General Assembly for the acceptance and support of the meeting.

### **COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

47. The **ED** stated that three nominations had been received by the deadline and in good order, all seeking re-election for their second full term as a member of the Council.

## **Election of the COUNCIL MEMBERS**

48. The **General Assembly re-elected** each of the three candidates for a four-year term to begin immediately after the election until the General Assembly in 2025 with the following results (presented in alphabetical order):

- **Mr. Sebastian COE**, President of World Athletics with 22 votes of 23 cast
- **Mr. Uğur ERDENER**, President of World Archery with 24 votes of 24 cast
- **Mr. Nenad LALOVIC**, President of United World Wrestling with 22 votes of 25 cast

49. The **PRESIDENT** thanked the candidates and congratulated them on their re-election.

## **REPORT FROM IOC ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE IFs AND OLYMPIC GAMES (written)**

50. The report had been circulated in written format prior to the meeting.

## **REPORT FROM THE TOKYO 2020 ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES (written)**

51. The report had been circulated in written format prior to the meeting.

## **REPORT FROM THE PARIS 2024 ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR OLYMPIC GAMES (written)**

52. The report had been circulated in written format prior to the meeting.

## **REPORT FROM THE DAKAR ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES IN 2026 (written)**

53. The report had been circulated in written format prior to the meeting.

## **REPORT FROM WADA (written)**

54. The report had been circulated in written format prior to the meeting.

## **CLOSING**

55. The **PRESIDENT** thanked all the IF Members, the Council members and the staff for their attendance and dedicated work over the past challenging period.

56. The **PRESIDENT** mentioned that a joint meeting between the IOC and the Summer IFs had been scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Tokyo, however, the details were yet to be confirmed.

57. The **PRESIDENT** informed the meeting that the intention would be hold the next General Assembly in April or May 2022 as part of the SportAccord Convention, with the exact dates and location to be confirmed.

58. The meeting ended at 11h46.