



44TH ASOIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY VIDEO-CONFERENCE

MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10H00 (CET)

MINUTES

OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The **PRESIDENT**, Francesco RICCI BITTI, opened the 44th ASOIF General Assembly (GA) which was held “virtually” in accordance with Swiss Federal exceptional regulation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He informed the meeting that the Executive Director (ED), Andrew RYAN, James CARR and himself were present in the ASOIF office in Lausanne to conduct the meeting. He welcomed everyone and said that the GA was open to observers and the media who could join the GA via a YouTube live stream.
2. The **PRESIDENT** gave the floor to **Mr. CARR**, acting as facilitator for the meeting, who explained the technology and housekeeping arrangements of the meeting. He said that Lumi, a company which provided a secure and independent remote voting system, would conduct the voting items on the agenda and would be overseen by a public notary. A practice vote was then made with the online participants.

ROLL CALL

3. The roll call was conducted by Lumi. The **ED** confirmed that 26 of the Summer Olympic International Federation (IF) Member Federations were confirmed as present online and with voting rights, therefore with more than two thirds of the Full Members present and correct the quorum had been attained and the GA could proceed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 43rd ASOIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA, 7 MAY 2019.

4. The minutes **were unanimously approved by the GA** via the Lumi voting platform.

REPORT OF THE ASOIF COUNCIL

5. Before giving the floor to the **ED** to present the Council report, the **PRESIDENT** mentioned that the GA had been postponed from April due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but kept in the current year to maintain the annual frequency and to fulfil formal duty in line with the statutes and historical precedent.

6. He wished to congratulate the IF Presidents and General Secretaries who had been elected or re-elected since the 2019 GA in Gold Coast :

- **Mr. Gianni INFANTINO** re-elected President of FIFA (June 2019)
- **Mr. Hamane NIANG** elected President of FIBA (August 2019)
- **Mr. Sebastian COE** re-elected President of IAAF (September 2019)
- **Mr. Bill BEAUMONT** re-elected President of WR (May 2020)
- **Mr. Quanhai LI** elected President of World Sailing (November 2020)

7. The **PRESIDENT** also congratulated the new IOC Members from within the ASOIF family, who had been elected specifically:

- **Dr Narinder BATRA**, FIH President, elected as IOC Member (June 2019)
- **Mr. Dave HAGGERTY**, ITF President, elected as IOC Member (2020)
- **Mr. Gianni INFANTINO**, FIFA President, elected as IOC Member (2020)
- **Mr. Sebastian COE**, IAAF President, elected as IOC Member (2020)

8. The **PRESIDENT** referred to some key issues of the past year highlighting:

- that meetings of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games COCOM and related working groups and meetings had been held and the position had been mutually clarified on several points including the following:
 - that the Games would be delivered even if in challenging conditions;
 - that ASOIF and the IFs would support the optimization measures that the Tokyo OCOG was working on (e.g. value infrastructure, service levels, sports presentation and others), while preserving the integrity of competitions;
 - that ASOIF and IFs would continue to encourage the Tokyo 2020 OCOG to study different scenarios and options for counter measures related to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Concerning the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the **PRESIDENT** said that many changes were under discussion particularly regarding the revised version of the venue Master Plan and this would affect several IFs. ASOIF, together with the IOC Sport Department, was closely following the adjustments and was ready to discuss individual IF cases if requested.
- On the subject of Governance, the **PRESIDENT** mentioned that the response following the publication of the third ASOIF IF Governance Report in June 2020 had been positive and that some IFs had set up new integrity units. In this respect he congratulated the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), World Taekwondo (WT) and the Ethics Foundation of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). He mentioned that there had been an increase in media attention on the ongoing governance situation, notably due to the reform of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and the case of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). This attention had not been positive but ASOIF would continue to engage with these IFs in coordination with the IOC to address these cases.

- On the subject of esports, the **PRESIDENT** mentioned that during the last month much activity had taken place. The objectives of the IOC and the ASOIF family were to support all IFs to assert appropriate governance over the “virtual” or simulation versions of their sports. He mentioned that IFs had received a letter he had jointly signed with Mr. David LAPPARTIENT, President of the UCI and chair of the IOC Esports Liaison Group offering assistance and support. ASOIF remained available to answer any clarification needed.
- The **PRESIDENT** was pleased to report that ASOIF had been able to provide continuity in its service to members and activity levels throughout the COVID-19 crisis and he thanked the Members of the Council for the very effective representation in this difficult period. He also thanked the ED who had ensured, together with the ASOIF staff, that full uninterrupted operations had been maintained, and he thanked Mr. LALOVIC for his availability and interaction in the increasing activity of the IOC Executive Board. He also addressed thanks to the IOC Sports Department for their cooperation, availability and close relations with ASOIF.

REPORT OF THE ASOIF COUNCIL

9. The **PRESIDENT** gave the floor to the **ED** to present the Council report. The ED stated that the 2019 Council report had been sent to all Members in accordance with the ASOIF Statutes and included updates for the first quarter of 2020 prior to the impact of COVID-19. Two more recent letters sent to Members were annexed to the report and some additions to the report had been made to provide context around the impact of the pandemic on Council activities and priorities.
10. The **ED** summarised ASOIF’s third phase of its GTF governance project which had been completed by members with 31 self-assessments evaluated by an independent external assessor. The results had been published in June including greater transparency and detail than previous editions as had been agreed by the 2019 GA.
11. The **ED** stated that ASOIF and IF Members remained absolutely committed to the delivery of the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021, even though the Games had been impacted by the necessary postponement and that many items had to be addressed as a consequence. One of the impacts of the postponement had been the suspension of the athlete’s qualification system procedure. A challenge would be the qualification of the remaining athletes as we entered 2021.
12. The **ED** highlighted that due to COVID-19, the SportAccord Convention had been relocated from Beijing to Lausanne in April and then subsequently cancelled, but would take place again in 2021.
13. On WADA intelligence and Investigations, the **ED** reported that the ongoing CAS case decision concerning Russia was awaited with interest as the implications were of significant interest to the IFs. He confirmed that ASOIF would continue to monitor the impact on the IFs and liaise with WADA, the ITA and IOC.

14. The **ED** said that the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games had led to a full review of costs to “optimise” the delivery of the Games in 2021. As ASOIF and all IFs worked closely with the OCOG and the IOC, the effects of COVID-19 had created uncertainty for IFs with planning their competitions and meeting schedules, but ASOIF and its Members remained committed to the delivery of the Games in the most efficient manner in 2021.
15. The **ED** reported that since the publication of ASOIF’s “Future of Global Sport” report in 2019, recent attention had been turned towards the long-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the “Future Role for IFs” as these would continue to be a priority especially the latter in relation to the public authorities. Initial focus would be kept on the EU/European Commission as many of the legislative decisions they took impacted the IFs and Olympic sport beyond the Games.
16. The **ED** mentioned that all eight ASOIF advisory groups had been very active in 2019 and had been able to continue their work in 2020 with the same intensity with meetings being held “virtually”. The eight chairs of the advisory groups had also met collectively for the first time to address key areas impacted by COVID-19 within their own specialist areas, and such a collective meeting would now remain a regular part of the calendar.
17. The **ED** thanked the IFs and the experts provided by them for the advisory groups for their fantastic work which enabled the extensive work done by the groups to go forward.
18. The **ED** referred to the continental multi-sport events and particularly the MOU (roles and responsibilities) and that ANOC representatives were currently reviewing. He said that an NOC focus was on inclusion of the NOC continental games events in IF Olympic Games qualifying processes. ASOIF continued to work closely with the IOC and ANOC to resolve the issues.
19. The **ED** gave a brief report of the Dakar Youth Olympic Games, postponement of which from 2022 to 2026 had created a significant eight-year gap between summer YOGs. He mentioned that IFs were exploring with the IOC ways to stage their own events either in groups or individually which may help to offset the impact of this gap.
20. The **ED** reported on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games that the focus had been very much on keeping costs under control and that optimisation processes were under way making it challenging as it had led to a comprehensive revue of the Venue Master Plan and budgets. IFs had been very cooperative and both ASOIF and IFs would continue to work in the best possible way to achieve the OCOG goals.
21. The **ED** gave examples from the review of each ASOIF Consultative & Advisory Group’s activities which were set out in the Council report.
22. **Mr. Matt SMITH (FISA)** highlighted the challenges of staging Olympic qualification events during the next 6-8 months. He requested support with knowledge sharing amongst the IFs and for an exchange of information. He mentioned that in order to make decisions on how to go forward, it was important to be reminded of the goals, the degree of flexibility permitted and the constraints within the Olympic charter and what needed to be respected. He said it was becoming quite urgent to take decisions on the work and how to deliver the qualifying events.

23. The **PRESIDENT** responded that ASOIF agreed that this issue was important and that it would support any IF requests that were deemed necessary to go forward in this respect.
24. The **ED** said that discussions were under way with the IOC Sports Department to organise a forum between all IFs to provide support and exchange of information as completing qualification was undoubtedly an important challenge.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

2019 Financial Report

25. The **ED** reported that ASOIF had ended 2019 with a positive financial outcome overall and that ASOIF assets remained robust. However, he drew attention to and cautioned on one aspect of the auditors report which was that the end-of-year valuation of ASOIF assets depended on the stock market value on 31 December which had been, a favourable date in an otherwise volatile period. He highlighted that this positive aspect represented an unrealised or “paper” gain only

Auditors’ Report on the 2019 Accounts

26. The **ED** reported that the 2019 accounts had been approved by ASOIF’s auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and that they had been endorsed by Council for presentation to the GA for its approval.

Revised 2020 budgets

27. The **ED** explained the variance from the original 2020 budgets approved by the General Assembly in 2019 which had been adjusted in multiple areas reflecting savings on travel and Tokyo 2020 costs, but increases in IT and office administration spending resulting from COVID-19 impacts. Overall, he expected that the operating budget would be at least CHF 50K below projections and the Central Projects budgets would be also be well below projections.

Draft 2021 Budgets

28. The **ED** reported that the 2021 budget currently forecasts a projected overspend of approximately CHF 100k on operating costs largely due to the postponement of the Tokyo Games to 2021 and related expenditure. He said that he had been prudent and conservative in the projections as there was currently no confirmed figure for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games revenue distribution to date.

ASOIF STATUTES – AMENDMENTS

29. The **PRESIDENT** outline that two basic items were proposed. The first one to establish gender neutral language throughout the ASOIF Statute and the second one being the inclusion of a provision for a virtual General Assembly and electronic voting, to allow for these in exceptional circumstances in future, and therefore required the necessary amendment to be put in place.

ASOIF PRESIDENT ELECTION

30. The **ED** stated that Council had agreed to maintain the four-year cycle for the election of the President of ASOIF even if Olympic Games had not been held in 2020. Only one candidate had been nominated, Mr. Francesco RICCI BITTI, Honorary Life President of the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

VOTING

Approval of the 2019 Accounts

31. The 2019 Accounts were **approved by the GA**.

Approval of Annual Subscription 2020

32. **The GA approved** the annual subscription to remain at CHF100.

Approval of the Revised 2020 Budgets

33. The Revised 2020 Budgets were **approved by the GA**.

Approval of the Draft 2021 Budgets

34. The Draft 2021 Budgets were **approved by the GA**.

Approval of the ASOIF Statute Amendments

35. The ASOIF Statute Amendments were **approved by the GA**.

Election of the PRESIDENT

36. **The GA unanimously re-elected** Mr. Francesco Ricci Bitti as ASOIF President for a final four-year mandate with effect from 01 January 2021.
37. The **PRESIDENT** thanked all the IFs very warmly for their continued support. He said he was honoured by their continued confidence and trust and ready to provide continuity and to prepare the future during his last term, which would surely not be the same given the undoubtedly challenging current context.

REPORT FROM IOC ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE IFS AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES (written)

38. The report had been distributed in written format prior to the meeting.

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

39. The report had been distributed in written format. The **PRESIDENT** presented the new Tokyo Organising Committee Sports Director, Mrs Mikako KOTANI, who replaced Mr. Koji MUROFUSHI who was sincerely thanked for his work.

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

40. The report had been distributed in written format prior to the meeting.

REPORT FROM WADA (written)

41. The report had been distributed in written format prior to the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

42. **Mr. Jean-Christophe ROLLAND (FISA)** asked what follow-up actions ASOIF would take subsequent to the now completed third governance assessment evaluation.
43. The **PRESIDENT** responded that the publication in June of the third round had marked the end of a cycle and that decisions had been taken by the Governance Task Force for the next steps. The first decision was the maintenance of the project to continue through full interaction with ASOIF's Governance Support & Monitoring Unit (GSMU) with all Federations that required assistance. The second decision was to launch a new pilot project to develop a better culture of governance within the IFs, and a number of questions had already been raised by IFs. The third decision had been to encourage more involvement and cooperation from the public authorities which had endorsed the project on a number of occasions in coordination with IPACS.

CLOSING

44. The **PRESIDENT** thanked the IF Members, the Council and the staff for their dedicated work.
45. The next GA would take place in May 2021
46. The **PRESIDENT** informed the meeting that the Association of the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF) had elected a new President in the person of Mr. Ivo FERRIANI whom he congratulated on behalf of ASOIF. He thanked Gian Franco KASPER the outgoing President for his work and confirmed that ASOIF would continue to collaborate with AIOWF in the future and seek to deepen that relationship.
47. The meeting ended at 11h45.