

MINUTES ADMINCOM Meeting by ZOOM of 8th and 9th November 2020

Practical items

It was agreed that Patrice, Andy and Morton would chair the Admincom sessions.

PRESENT

Patrice Martin	President
Sid Adriaensen	Secretary General
Dominique Lakens Douwes	Treasurer
Andy Harris	Elected member
Morten Froulund	Elected member
Stefano Duranti	Elected member
Louis Polome	Africa Confederation
Ludo Vrancx	Barefoot
Marie-Anne Persoons	Cableski
Dany De Bakker	Disabled
Mike Waterman	Racing
Candido Moz	Tournament
Varna Laco	Wakeboard Cable
Nuno Eca	Wakeboard Boat
Gillian Hill	Invited as IWWF Secretary General and for minutes taking

Apologies for absence

Depy Papadimitriou	Elected Member
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Before the Admincom meeting started, the Bureau plus Andy & Morten attended short meetings with each of the Europe Confederation Councils.

A short resume of what was discussed is included under the relevant Council reports under Item 8.

1. Approval of the Admincom Meeting Minutes of 17th September 2020

The Minutes as circulated were approved.

2. Bureau Items

2.1. Corona Virus impacts

The Bureau agreed that the Confederation would NOT REQUIRE vaccinations to take part in events and meetings. In fact, we would just have to adhere to the requirements made by each country going in and out. There was nothing we could do in advance as the situation was changing daily. All Councils will be asked to schedule their Titled Events as late as possible in the summer. This could result in too many Titled Events on the same weekend, but this could not be avoided.

All other Bureau decisions would be discussed during the relevant Agenda item.

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3. Important / Urgent Topics to be discussed

With Covid possibly continuing well into 2021 we will need to make quick decisions as the year progresses.

- Nuno reported that Wakeboard were preparing for a normal year but have been putting Covid plans into contracts for example video events and carrying boat contracts through an extra year if not used.
- Candido said that skiing in the USA is continuing almost as normal.
- Marie-Anne said some Cableski events had been held but each country was different. They have placed their titled events as late as possible in the year.
- Ludo said some Barefoot national events had been held this year the online events held in 2020 had not been successful due to the poor quality of the videos. They need to learn how to handle this. The 2021 Europe Championships would be held later in the year.
- Dany showed some Social Media photos where clearly the social distancing rules were not being applied. We need to be careful of this in the future and use masks and distancing.

4. Future Meetings

4.1. 2021 Congress

We now had to expect this Congress would need to be held on-line. Patrice had made contact with Aleco (FMSN) in order to confirm the situation and suggest we move the 2022 Congress to Monaco instead.

As it was not an election Congress it was believed voting could be done by mail.

We need some approval by the Federations beforehand on certain points.

- Appointment of the Congress Chairperson.
- Appointment of scrutineers. Alain Amade, Nicky Caine, Stefano Duranti
- Confirmation of Congress properly convened in accordance with the Statutes, art 16.
- Approval of the procedures by which the 2021 Congress will be run.
- Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual Congress (Athens, Greece).

We will post all reports on our website during the first half of January 2021.

We will then send a mail to the federations listing the reports to be voted on.

The Federations will then have up to 31st January 2021 to approve or disapprove those reports.

These votes will be recorded by the EC office and tallied by the Congress scrutineers who have been appointed before the Congress and have been approved beforehand as well.

We repeat that any report or topic voted on by the Federations before the Congress date is subject to remarks/observations/counterproposals/... which then will be discussed at or submitted to the Congress itself.

It was agreed to use the Congress 2020 voting powers for 2021. Effectively the year 2020 would be forgotten!!! The activity years to be taken into account over the following 5 years would be:

CONGRESS	Activities year 1	Activities Year 2	Activities Year 3	Activities Year 4
2021	2016	2017	2018	2019
2022	2017	2018	2019	2021
2023	2018	2019	2021	2022
2024	2019	2021	2022	2023
2025	2021	2022	2023	2024

The (provisional) agenda was ready as usual.

With all the voting beforehand, we can cut the Congress time drastically.

We only have to discuss ...

... the points brought on by the Federations

... modifications to the statutes, bye-laws and LAO

... the 2021 calendar

... future Congresses

... some minor points

Tobias Aderum of Sweden had requested to speak on his grass roots membership proposal, however, he suggested 45 minutes which could not be spared during the On-line Congress. However, if there was time at the end and once the congress is declared closed, we could give him 20 minutes to speak to the delegates.

4.2. The spring meeting in Paris.

This would be reviewed in January.

The offer from Depy to host the spring meetings in Schinoussa was welcomed, but we had already agreed to move the meetings planned for 2020 into 2021. It was hoped we could return to Schinoussa in 2022.

4.3. November Meetings

It had already been agreed to have these meetings in London, as planned and cancelled in 2020!

Dates would be 13 – 16 November 2021

4.4. Future Congresses

2022 – Monaco 5th February 2022

2023 – Turkey 4th February 2023

5. The 2021 Titled Events Calendar

The copy circulated by Sid was reviewed and brought up to date.

It was NOTED that this calendar available on the Europe website was for internal purposes only.

The MAIN IWWF Calendar was now available on the EMS and is the one for public use.

6. The 2022 Titled Events Calendar

The copy circulated by Sid was reviewed and brought up to date.

It was noted that the Belarus Federation were negotiating with FISU to include Cableski into the FISU World University Waterski & Wakeboard Championships.

7. FINANCE

7.1. The estimated situation of the EC at the end of this financial year

Dominique estimated the loss for the 2020 year would end up around €20,000.

7.2. 2020 Subscriptions not paid

At this stage 3 Federations had not paid their subscription fees and they were being chased to do this.

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The Admincom agreed that countries who had not paid their fees for 2020 would not be able to vote at the Congress, nor would they be allowed to enter athletes for Titled Events in 2021, or host Confederation Titled Events. These warnings would be issued.

Equally those Federations who owed money to the Confederation were in the same position. Again, these outstanding amounts would be chased.

7.3. List of 2021 Subscription fees

Sid had prepared a list of the subscriptions that would be due in 2021 and these were noted by the Admincom.

7.4. Overview of the divisional Councils income & expenditure

This information had been copied to all Admincom members.

7.5. 2021 Grants to Councils

There had been an idea to reduce the grants from €3000 to €1000 in view of the 2020 situation.

However, this was not greeted with enthusiasm by the Council representatives, who believed they would need their usual grants in 2021.

Patrice said our Councils were very important to us and we need to support them.

But equally it should be understood that events cost a lot to run, the entry fees are too low for titled events, and the organisers must fulfil a lot of requirements, including Anti-Doping costs which are high.

In the past we have provided too much for too long for nothing. We are too cheap!

We need to make sure the costs of events are covered by the participants, and in the case of our smaller divisions we must try to support and help them, to keep them in our family.

Councils are requested to make proposal of a fair price (titled, homologated, and in our calendar) for their disciplines and their events in effort to secure organization of our main events.

IWWF and mainly EC have offered services to the community for many years, but those are at a cost that needs to be shared.

After a short coffee break, the meeting resumed, and agreed the sum of €3000 for each Council in 2021. It was noted that Barefoot had given back their grant for 2020 and would definitely need this income next year.

7.6. Potential Sponsorship deals

Nuno reported Wakeboard were negotiating a new boat contract with Malibu which included details of Covid delays, etc. The final figure is not yet known.

Any sponsorship for other Councils should be reported as soon as it is known.

7.7. Meeting allowances

With the exception of Barefoot, all Councils had only one face to face meeting this year in Athens.

The allowance would be paid out by Dominique shortly.

7.8. Exchange rate EUR/USD

Sid proposed this remains as last year. This was agreed.

7.9. Extraordinary Expenses to be budgeted for 2021

The Admincom nor the Bureau foresees extraordinary expenses in 2021.

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7.10. Special Requests by the Councils

None.

8. REPORTS AND ITEMS FROM

8.1. The President

We are living a very special year. Indeed, the Covid-19 crisis has hit us hard. At all levels and of course in the sports field.

Of course, this goes beyond the international competitions and clinics for officials that we supervise. It is the entire sports sector that is affected, at its heart because what makes us all act is commitment and volunteerism.

Today I would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire community of our different disciplines for having supported over the summer the competitions that were held, certainly not enough but already so important to bring sport to life.

We must also continue to hope even if the whole of Europe is currently taking new re-containment measures.

We will come to the end of this virus by respecting the sanitary instructions and by protecting each other. So, we will once again practice, share, train, and compete for new challenges.

For the European Confederation, the decisions were difficult to take during the summer, by postponing or cancelling the various European championships, one after the other but the health, the protection of each and a competition with a representative participation of countries could no longer be there. Likewise, all the World Championships have been postponed.

It was also necessary to ensure the finances of the Confederation with this crisis and study the impacts of postponements and cancellations.

2020 was may be a year with less travel and so less time for our Confederation, but for sure extremely tight in decision and stressful in various online meetings.

Today, therefore, is a new challenge for the year 2021 with our 1st meeting, the Congress which will certainly be held remotely, then a season bringing together the 2020 and 2021 championships over a single summer. Weekends will be busy. This is the opportunity to project themselves into this world after Covid-19, as the Councils had been able to be reactive by organizing their various seminars by videoconference in April, and perhaps to experience a greater number of competitions during the week for the organizers.

Thank you to all the councils and elected members for having been able to maintain a link, at a distance, with the community of officials and competitors in order to maintain this desire to undertake within our confederation.

8.2. Secretary General

The COVID-19 situation led to no E&A Titled events, no World Titled Events and much less competitive activity all-over.

This reflected on less work for the office this year, although the usual and the basic things kept happening – and kept me happily busy.

Not all was gloom though :

From what I heard from certain Federations, they had even an uptick in membership now that their compatriots did travel less abroad.

I'll produce a more extensive report for the Congress, but for now, and with the more frequent Bureau & Admincom meetings by Zoom then in other years when we had more expensive live meetings, all Admincom should be rather well informed of what is happening.

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8.3. Treasurer

This item is already dealt with under Finances – above.

8.4. Elected Member – Andy Harris

The virus continues to thwart progress and continuity and the real meaning of ‘being flexible and understanding’ is starting to test many. Keep smiling, keep calm and carry on is all we can and must do....

Andy raised the following items for discussion – the responses are in *italics*.

1. Social media and our work with Julia Castro: are there opportunities that we may be missing to promote the sport; or do we just wait for more normal times to return? *It was agreed that Patrice would speak to Julia once the situation for 2021 became clearer.*
2. EA Secretary-General replacement: *Sid preferred to discuss this further when we could finally meet again face to face.*
3. Our accounting system providing multi-user access to reports for Council Treasurers etc. *This was working satisfactorily for those who had access. But not all had the necessary card reader yet.*

Other items...? 4-Year plans are fine in a ‘stable’ world. We’re not in that right now and won’t be for some time. I do believe we need to think more laterally i.e. outside the ‘box’ and adapt more so we can ‘live’ with Covid. Let’s learn from what we now know. Each Council should make at least one happen. Some protocols and standards can be softened to make it doable. Rankings and titles can be considered, adapted, suspended and temporarily changed.

8.5. Elected Member – Morten Froulund

Status of implementation of the EMS

Status of implementation in Europe is the following:

- Most of the European Federations and disciplines have done their preparation job apart from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Ireland, Lithuania and Portugal that have received a reminder
- UK Barefoot, Waterski and Wakeboard have started but they have still a lot to do
- Wakeboard Boat is generally behind with registering and inviting their Athletes/Officials world-wide
- Some Federations (France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, etc.) have run selective competitions through EMS with download to the Scoring System as recommended during this test/preparation year

Status of implementation outside Europe:

- Asia: Little activity so far. Reminders have been sent out
- Australia: Barefoot and Waterski have registered/invited their Athletes/Officials. Running test competitions in EMS during November/December 2020 is in preparation
- New Zealand: Barefoot has shown big interest but preparation of Athletes/Officials has not really started. The Waterski discipline is well prepared and will start soon to run competitions through EMS
- South America: Argentina (Waterski), Chile, Colombia and Mexico for Wakeboard and Waterski are advanced in their data preparation but the remaining small Federations (Brazil, Dominican Republic and Peru) have not really started. Reminders sent out.

Status general:

- EMS will enter in function on January 1, 2021 as planned for Barefoot, Cableski, Disabled, Wakesurf, Wakeboard Boat and Waterskiing (Cablewake follows in first quarter 2021)

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- USA Barefoot has joined EMS and has started to invite their Athletes and Officials to become EMS Users. 2021 competitions will be run through EMS
- The IWWF License will become effective January 1, 2021 as planned. The order function is in final test and will be available in Production soon.
- Information about the License: Jose Antonio is preparing a video and “talking points” to help the Federations explain it to their Athletes
- Many enhancement requests are pending with Qubiteq but do not hinder daily use of the system
- EMS Version 2: Several functions have already been implemented (Family Account, Merge Tool, Mailing Tool, IWWF License) and the remaining enhancements will be implemented in the coming weeks (Entry Fee collection, etc.)

Morten also attached the IWWF Event Management System Newsletter #6 which can be found at <https://ems.iwwf.sport/Home/News>

It was noted that when a National Official took an exam and became International, his/her National Federation would need to be asked to change the status. Morten would look into this issue to see if the Council could upgrade the status.

Louis wished to commend Peter Frei for holding a workshop for the African Federation which was excellent and very well explained.

8.6. Elected Member – Stefano Duranti

Stefano had submitted a written report concerning the idea of new medals. The Admincom agreed that he should ask the manufacturer for two sample medals of 2 different sizes for the committee to review in February. He would also consult with Nigel Talamo, who seemed to have a good “take” on design.

Stefano had equally prepared his first ideas on change necessary to the Discipline / Sanctions and Appeals in the Europe Bye-Laws.

As the IWWF had a similar need to change their Bye-Laws Gill suggested we involve Jeff Smith from the USA to see if we could deal with the 2 issues at one time. This was agreed.

It was noted that after the Appeals Committee the only further action could be taken through the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Stefano was thanked by all for starting this process for change.

8.7. Elected Member – Depy Papadimitriou

Depy was unable to join the meeting but had submitted a written report.

I miss all of you.

It’s nearly 10 months ago we held the 2020 Congress and I resigned as President of the IWWF. I also resigned as president and member of the HWSF.

I want to apologize once again for not attending the Congress and not being able to see all of you. Health wise it was a difficult time for me, but I am much better now.

None of the members of my Administration had anything to do with the Congress, so I decided to deal with everything. Physically I couldn’t do a thing, but financially I dealt with everything and with the help of Dimos Alexopoulos, Sophia Kostoula, Efi Stathopoulou and Christianna Mamali, I think the organization was quite successful. I hope you all had a good time.

Since 1993 as President of the HWSF I tried to do what was best for the sport I love, and our athletes and the results were good. We had athletes in the ranking list, we organized many competitions.

But now I am sad to say that after all these years of help to HWSF, they have no money, no help from the Ministry of Sports and the employees feel lost and in a desperate economic situation.

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The Corona Virus started in March 2020. It affected every country worldwide as well as our sport. Lots of competitions were cancelled and God knows how long this will last.

We successfully had the Greek Nationals, as well as five more competitions. (4 tournament 1 wakeboard-Nationals)

We closed the season with the Michailidis Masters, successfully organized by the Kaiafa Water Ski Club with lots of Greek and foreign athletes.

Things are not easy with the HWSF, actually very difficult. I hope they manage to survive.

Thanks to all of you, I miss you all.

The Councils

During the meetings of each Council, held on Saturday the following points were discussed and answered by each Council:

- The To Do List for All Councils
- A request from Patrice for action photos, female and male for the New Year greeting from the Confederation.
- General information about the Council's dealings with the EMS.
- Information for the Selectors for the IWWF International Hall of Fame
- The female and male skiers / riders of the decade 2010 to 2019 – to replace the annual skiers/riders of the year for this year only.
- If wished by the World Councils, the skiers / riders of the quarter century. Not all would do this.

8.8. Barefoot Council

All members were present during the meeting with the Bureau.

- The 2021 European Championships would be held from 2 – 5 September 2021 at Cirencester Waterski Club, GBR. This will include the Youth Championships.
- No venues set yet for 2022, but interest from Italy and France.
- Council are working to replace their website which was hacked. This is being handled by Dylan.
- One event was held in GBR towards the online World Barefoot event. Unfortunately, the videos taken are almost unusable due to rough water and bright sunlight. Another online event was held in Italy and did not work out well. Those involved hoped not to do this again.
- If the Officials Seminar is impossible to hold, they will run a Webinar.

8.9. Cableski

All members of the Council were present except the Athlete Rep.

Morten was able to answer a number of questions asked about the EMS and gave a practical demonstration of how the system works, where the help videos and procedures are stored, etc.

The IWWF Licence fee would be applicable for International events, but for smaller national competitions not included in the Rankings List, there would be no fee payable.

The Rules for the IWWF Licence fees would be include in the IWWF Bye-Laws before this year end.

The Council were not fully in favour of the IWWF International Hall of Fame revisions. They believed that IWWF IHOF inductions should be held around the IWWF Congress where the inductees would be seen by Federation Presidents, etc. Rather than at the relevant discipline World Championships. Gill said the Council should write to the IWWF President and Geoff Blaauw with their thoughts, as the new rules had been approved by the EB. For 2020 Gill believed there would IHOF celebrations around the World Congress.

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All meetings in 2020 had been by ZOOM, and the final meeting would be in December, with cocktails!

Marie-Anne had submitted a more detailed report which would ultimately be used as her Congress report. Therefore, it is not written here.

8.10. Disabled

All members of the Council were present except Dario who was still dealing with all the problems of the flooding at Recetto.

We regret that the annual Officials Seminar, planned in March 2020 in GBR was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic.

Only 3 disabled competitions (or Waterski competitions with disabled skiers) took place in Europe last season. One in Sweden, one in France and one in Italy.

The 2020 E&A Disabled Championships were postponed to 2021. But at the moment we don't have an organiser. At the question if there is a possibility that we can join the Waterski Open Championships in Agrinio, Greece, we haven't received an answer yet.

Records

Although there were only 3 competitions in Europe in 2020, 2 World records by E&A athletes were set.

- 08/08/2020 – Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) / MP4 Women – Tricks – 1,540
- 01/09/2020 – Christophe Fasel (SUI) / MP4 Men – Tricks – 1,400

Audio Slalom (CAS Update): CAS (Chronos Audio Slalom System) developers have split up after one of the team sadly died. We are in discussions with the remaining developers to ensure we have details of the hardware and software so that we can share details with a new manufacturer. The software details exist; however, the hardware is proving more difficult. Daniele suggested we contact the Italian Federation to obtain their CAS unit, as due to flooding at Recetto their device is no longer working, but the hardware is all intact.

EMS (IWWF Event Management System) / World Ranking: Since EMS has gone live this season, we have not had many events in E&A due to COVID, so we have not really used it yet, apart from getting the admin side in place. Once fully live, this should give us the ability to have a World Ranking List.

IWAS which is a wheelchair sport association for non-Paralympic Games had approached us to take part in the Gutmann Games which would be held on the sea in Lanzarote 2021. This was not feasible for our sport, but it was hoped to join them in the future.

Gill suggested Paul make contact with the Invictus Games organisation, which might provide excellent publicity for us.

Changes in the Council composition at world level with a new Canadian member. Still working on putting together a sound Classification team.

8.11. Racing

All members of the Council were present except Jules.

Mike had provided a written report:

It has been a traumatic year for the Racing division, as for all aspects of our sport during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As I write these words indeed many countries in western Europe are in or about to enter further widespread lockdowns with their unavoidable knock-on effects, for our sport.

To my knowledge, the only Water Ski Racing which has taken place in Europe this season were two weekends of National competitions in Belgium in August.

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We had scheduled a social media seminar in the spring but that was cancelled, due to travel restrictions, and we have only met once as a Council by zoom in the summer months.

The aspect of communication and the use of social media in its various guises, is we realise, a very important tool for the future of the sport and we will pursue the matter in the new year if not before, with at least a zoom meeting if a face to face physical gathering continues to be impossible.

We continue to be optimistic as regards the 2021 Worlds potentially during August in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, but right now we have no signed commitment. Our World Racing Council Chair, Vera van den Bossche, and I have been regularly chasing our friends in the Canaries federation and we currently await positive news.

As regards the 2021 season we already have firm dates for the Diamond race at Viersel, Belgium, and for the Hanseatic Classic at Kings Lynn, GB and hope to expand the calendar once we get the all-clear for participation and travel in our member countries.

Insurance is an issue for various federations, as we all know, and in GB it has become a very serious matter as the longstanding boat insurance scheme used for decades has finally been withdrawn and a replacement facility to include racing risks remains elusive.

We will carry out our annual rules review and indeed we are looking at some quite radical changes to our basis of racing and the categories we currently employ.

The Council whom I thank for their continued zeal remain committed to the sport in these troubled times and positive as regards the future of water skiing in all its forms.

We are always grateful for the help and guidance of our Europe Region Secretary General and the Executive and hope for a better 2021 for all.

The remaining items raised by the Bureau were all being dealt with as required.

8.12. Waterski

All members of the Council were present except Dimos.

WSC had asked that there be clarification on an email from Patrice sent to WSC regarding their minutes of 16th September 2020. The email had expressed concern that WSC appeared to be sanctioning European drivers when the rest of the world appeared to be interpreting the rules differently (based on an online survey of eight top international drivers, some of whom appeared to be condoning the use of tolerances in the skiers favour).

Members of the WSC expressed various comments regarding the huge amount of work in ensuring their review of all the video evidence was proven before bringing this to the Admincom, who had then agreed the suggested sanction.

The Admincom members present all reiterated their support for the WSC and the proposed sanctions. The fact that an appeal had then been submitted and was under review by the Appeals Committee had meant the sanction had to be suspended pending the Appeals Committee decision.

This did not mean the Admincom no longer supported the original decision, but the existing rules called for them to accept that whilst the matter was under Appeal, the sanction could not be enforced.

The WSC members were obviously disappointed by what they believed was a lack of understanding the way they were trying to improve driving all over the world, with the use of clever technology and random reviews of event footage. Patrice said it was not his intention to question what the WSC was doing, but he was concerned that the standards were not applied equally across the other Confederations.

It was re-iterated that lowering the standard in Europe was not the way forward.

Europe were leading the world in this and WSC wished to continue doing so. The other Confederations knew this and would follow shortly.

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It was asked if it would be possible for Admincom to write to WSC re-stating their support for the work that WSC was doing with regard to upholding the rules. Patrice replied that he would be happy to do so.

The WSC was advised that the Europe Bye-Laws on Discipline, Sanctions and Appeals were in the process of review, which was much needed.

Candido suggested that going forward, it might be better to have proper meetings between Admincom and WSC whenever either side felt the need for clarification or information on what the other committee were doing. This might be better than a series of emails.

Concerning the priorities for 2021 Patrice said that they would be as they have always been; the scheduling and running of titled events and training of officials. For him personally, he also felt we needed to work on a better system of ranking list with more emphasis on competition as opposed to absolute performance.

Candido said the WSC was already discussing all these issues and had some ideas on moving forward. The timetable for events was very full, and it was also important to make room for Elite events. It would take careful handling.

Christophe said that holding European titled events (excepting U14 and U17) in alternate years, interleaved with world events, might not only alleviate some of the pressure but also help elevate the importance of the European events.

Following a request for clarification from Sid, Candido outlined the plans for the 2020/2021 Youth Championships.

- They would be carried out over nine days. Three days for each category.
- First the U14/U15, followed by U17/U18 and finally U21/U22. Each category finishes completely before the next starts.
- To avoid the problems with the banquet experienced last year at a local casino, it was proposed to add a small amount to the entry fees and provide a small party/buffet at the lake itself.

As for the Appeals case at hand :

The members of the Appeals Committee are not qualified to review the drivers' video's. This requires special software and only a few people in the world have the competence to use it.

From the evidence as laid down by the TC, the Admincom is convinced that the driver did try to advantage the skiers.

The role of the Appeals Committee is to ascertain that the correct procedure has been followed when sanctioning the driver.

The Committee can also judge whether the sanction is appropriate."

All items on the To Do list from the Admincom had been handled.

8.13. Wakeboard (Boat)

All members of the Council were present.

All items in the To Do list had been dealt with, including the IHOF nominations, and Riders of the Decade.

Linda had provided a written report as follows:

The Wakeboard Boat Council has met by Zoom on a bi-monthly basis since our last report in May 2020.

2020 Wakeboard Boat Officials Seminar – May, Portugal - cancelled

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Work has continued to produce video presentations to provide online solutions to the seminar at a National judging level. This is being taken forward by a subgroup of both the EC Wakeboard Boat Council and members of the World Wakeboard Boat Council - to ensure consistency of message and content re judging and levels of qualification. It has been a particular challenge to deliver National qualifying seminars this year.

2020 IWWF - E&A Wakeboard Boat Championships – Toutainville, France - Cancelled

2020 - IWWF - European Wakeboard Boat Tour - all stops - Cancelled

2020 IWWF - Euro Online Wake Challenge

The EC Wakeboard Boat Council announced a new online European event to keep our riders on the water and connected and engaged in competitive spirit. A bulletin was issued and following feedback and discussion at the May Admincom meeting the name of the event was adjusted as above.

It has been a challenge to engage riders in this event and we are seeking feedback and linking with members of the WWC to receive feedback about how to better attract riders to inline events.

A subgroup has been established to work further on this and to bring forward proposals for 2021.

2021 Events Calendar

The Wakeboard Boat Council is working to plan and secure the dates for the event schedule for 2021 to seek to host a realistic series of events.

Council is in discussion regarding financial sponsorship for 2021 and a further 3 years which would include a Covid break clause.

2021 International Officials Seminar – 7/8/9 May 2021 Portugal

2021 Wakeboard Boat World Championships – 17th to 14th July 2021- Italy

2021 Malibu European Wakeboard Open – early August date (tbc)

2021 E&A Wakeboard Boat Championships – w/c 16th to 20 August

Venue - Toutainville, France .

The LAO was signed for 2021 by the French Federation/ Organiser and will carry forward.

Malibu will be the partner sponsor for this Championship

EMS Introduction and Promotion

Peter Frei attended our meeting in Athens, and we are working to roll out the EMS across the European Federation.

The Officials database was updated and sent to Peter to upload.

Rider lists were requested from all Federations and all representatives have been proactively invited to EMS zoom sessions to support the uploading of all their international athletes.

Ongoing promotion continues to support the messages around implementation and our thanks to Peter for all his willing support and the many hours he has spent in support of our Federations.

2020 Wakeboard Boat E&A Ranking

All scoring files requested have been provided to the EMS team to upload into the ranking

8.14. Cable Wakeboard

All members of the Council were present at the meeting with the Admincom.

All items on the To Do list were completed including IHOF issues, Riders of the Decade, etc.

Other than Athens, all meetings during 2020 had been held by ZOOM.

All events being held in 2021 would be for that year, with no carry forward from 2020.

The new age categories come into force for 2021.

Qualifications of officials in Russia would be verified with the Russian Federation.

Although suggested for implementation within the IWWF EMS in the first quarter of 2021, Lucien is not sure everything is ready and that 2022 is more likely.

The IWWF Licence fee is not being appreciated by the Riders, but this is a requirement and no doubt it will eventually be accepted. They have had a Ranking List free for too long.

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The officials Seminar is likely to be a Webinar, and this is still being discussed.

8.15. IWWF

Gill had submitted a short-written report:

Things do appear pretty quiet at this moment in time, however, there is still a lot of work being done in preparation for 2021:

1. In light of current events and travel restrictions affecting most countries, the IWWF and [Thailand Extreme Sports Association \(TESA\)](#) have agreed further rescheduling of the [IWWF World Cable Wakeboard & Wakeskate Championships](#), previously planned for January 2021, to **22nd to 28th November 2021**.
2. IWWF Executive Board Postal Ballot #11 - IWWF World Waterski Championships and Congress 2021. The [Greater Orlando Sports Commission \(GO Sports\)](#) has just approved funding of USD125,000.00 to host the 2021 IWWF World Open Waterski Championships at [Jack Travers Waterski School](#), in Groveland Florida, from 11th to 17th October 2021. The IWWF Congress is planned for Thursday night.
3. The new IWWF International Hall of Fame rules have been accepted by the Executive Board. They are not without teething problems, but this does surely always happen when a complete change is made. In future nominations and approval will come from the individual Sports Disciplines. This will mean that the smaller divisions will have an equality of inductees should they wish. Presentations are likely to be made at the relevant Sports Division World Championships.
4. The 2021 IWWF Anti-Doping Rules have been accepted by the Executive Board and will come into force in January 2021. They have yet to be sent to all Federations, councils, etc. but this will be done shortly.
5. We have received a bid and Performance Guarantee from the Chilean Waterski & Wakeboard Federation, to host the 2022 IWWF World Under-17 Waterski Championships at Lago los Morros ([Miranda's Ski School](#)) in January 2023 (actual date TBC). The postal ballot will close this week, but we already have a large majority in favour.

I am working with the President on the format of the 2020 Executive Board meeting(s) which will need to take place via ZOOM. There will probably be 3 or 4 separate sessions to cover all the necessary.

It was known that Gill would retire from the IWWF Secretary General role at the Congress in 2021. The European Confederation would like to find someone from Europe to replace her and a few names were mentioned. The issue of time was a problem for some as they were still working for a living. Gill would speak with Jose Antonio about this, so he was well aware of the situation.

8.16. Africa Confederation

Louis had provided a written report:

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a devastating effect on some of the federations in Africa with not able to run any competitions resulting in a falling membership impacting negatively on their financial survival. A number of federations have defaulted to an Associate status while other have not been able to renew their membership. I suspect that 2021 will be same if not tougher.

The current membership stands as:

- Full members: Egypt / Namibia / South Africa
- Associate Members: Morocco / Zimbabwe / Ghana
- In progress: Cameroon
- Not renewed: Mauritius / Sudan / Nigeria

A few highlights since our last meeting are listed below:

- Egypt managed to stage a very successful National Wakeboard Championships in mid-Oct 2020.

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- Namibia has been able to restart some local club competitions.
- A number of officials' seminars were staged in South Africa and Namibia.
- The building of a new cable site in Ghana (Accra) has been delayed due to the virus pandemic but the plan is to resume in 2021.
- A virtual African Confederation Congress was run in early November.

9. TITLED EVENTS – these are E&A Events organized by the EC

Concerning drug testing, it was already agreed that this must be done at all Europe & Africa Championships. It was clear in the LAO that the cost must be borne by the organisers and there can be no leeway on this.

We are well aware of the expense but there is no other way at present.

Also, we must consider how best to deal with education for Athletes, Parents, Officials, Council Members, etc.

For the major 3 event Youth Championships at Sesena, the testing would be required on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday with a total of 10 tests.

10. RULES – PROPOSED CHANGES

10.1. Statutes

No changes foreseen besides those already mentioned in our Admincom Minutes of 17th September 2020.

10.2. Bye-Laws

The Discipline Rules were already under review and we hope to finalise before the Congress.

We may have to add the requirement for an IWWF Licence somewhere. This would be checked.

10.3. List of Obligations

The Appendix D for Anti=Doping would be revised to bring it up to date. No fundamental changes.

10.4. Guidelines

Sid would review these in time for our May meeting.

There was some concern about the possible Conflicts of Interest in the Sports Division Rule Books.

Not all Sports Divisions had a rule about Conflict of Interest, but it was in the Waterski Rule book very clearly. In a small sport it was inevitable that parents and coaches played a big part in our organisation, and all should be aware of where a Conflict of Interest may occur, and steer clear. Stefano warned about putting too much into print, better for all to have an understanding. He would try to prepare something for the Admincom to consider at our next meeting.

In many ways this had more relevance when concerning the work of Committees and Councils, where a statement should be made at the start of every meeting if a conflict of interest might be needed to be declared depending on the subjects under debate. Commercial interests, site owners, equipment providers, etc....

11. COMMON TOPICS FOR ALL COUNCILS

- The To Do list had been sent to all Councils who had promised to respond.
- Deadline for Council expenses for the year to be submitted by 30th November.
- Deadline for office to send invoices about 2019 and 2020 – 30th November.
- The list of voting powers had since been agreed to be that used for the 2020 Congress, so there was no further work needed on this.
- Written reports for the Congress – to be submitted to Sid BEFORE 10th January.

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12. DEVELOPMENT

Lapsed Federations are those who have not paid their subscription by 30th November. If they pay before the Congress, then their status would be changed to active.

12.1. Multi-Sport Games

The Mediterranean Games would be held in 2022.

The World Games would be held in 2023.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The list of those who have died since the last Congress has been prepared.

13.1. Public Liability and other Insurances

The proposal on the table was from a Dutch broker, who advised we also need a Directors & Officers Policy and Professional Indemnity. This would be around €10,000 per annum, which seemed high.

Patrice would speak with Peter Frei who handled the IWWF insurances to see what they are paying.

13.2. Pennants, Plaques, etc

It was agreed to HOLD all purchases until the situation of Covid in 2021 was clearer.

There being no further business Patrice thanked all for their attendance and their time in this long weekend of meetings.

Meeting list and times

Friday 6 th November	Bureau	1800 – 2000
Saturday 7 th November	Waterski Council	0900 – 1030
	Barefoot Council	1100 – 1200
	Wakeboard Boat Council	1400 – 1500
	Racing Council	1530 – 1630
	Cableski Council	1700 – 1800
Sunday 8 th November	Cable Wakeboard Council	0900 – 1030
	Disabled Council	1100 – 1200
	Admincom	1400 – 1800
Monday 9 th November	Admincom	0900 – 1100