

**INTERNATIONAL SURFING ASSOCIATION (ISA)
2187 NEWCASTLE AVENUE, SUITE 100
CARDIFF, CALIFORNIA 92007**

**MINUTES OF THE ISA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 10, 2022 1:00 P.M.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

In attendance:

Fernando Aguerre	President
Barbara Kendall	ISA Vice President
Casper Steinfath	ISA Vice President
Karin Sierralta	ISA Vice President
Jean-Luc Arassus	ISA Regular EC Member
Kimifumi Imoto	ISA Regular EC Member

Apologies:

Kirsty Coventry	Vice President
Justine Dupont	Chair, ISA Athletes Commission

ISA STAFF:

Robert Fasulo	Executive Director
Alex Reynolds	Director of Membership and Development
Hannah Caskey	Membership and Development Coordinator
Megan Burns	Director of Sport and Athlete Relations

GUESTS:

JJ Hiew	Co-Founder, GetQuorum
Adeel Nasim	Moderator, GetQuorum
Rebecca Blankfort	Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions

1. OPENING BY ISA PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Robert Fasulo at 1:06 p.m.

Fernando Aguerre provided opening remarks and welcomed all to the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Robert Fasulo took the roll call. Present were representatives, either in person or by valid proxy, from 31 voting ISA National Federations (NFs): Afghanistan, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, United States, and Venezuela.

3. **PROXIES**

The following proxies were submitted, accepted, and in attendance: Brazil, India, Israel, New Zealand, Panama, Uruguay

Other non-voting members in attendance were noted.

4. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

Fernando Aguerre asked the representatives present if they wished to make any corrections to the minutes of the annual general meeting held on November 22, 2021, which were included in the AGM package. No amendments were noted.

On a motion made by Puerto Rico, seconded by Slovakia, it was resolved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the annual general meeting held on November 22, 2021, and adopt them as presented. Motion carried.

5. **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Fernando Aguerre provided a report on upcoming events and initiatives of the ISA. Items requiring elaboration are summarized below.

Major Achievements and Milestones in the Last Four Years

In June of 2019, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved surfing to be included in the Paris 2024 Olympics. Following this, longboarding and stand-up paddling (SUP) were debuted at the July/August 2019 Lima Pan Am Games. The landmark ISA World Surfing Games in Miyazaki took place in September 2019, with 55 participating nations and became the first Olympic qualifier. In October 2019, the ISA presented a case for SUP governance to the court of arbitration for sport. ISA was successful, but the official ruling in writing is still pending. By November, 2019, a partnership was launched with ISA and El Salvador for the World SUP and Paddleboard Championship.

The last event hosted by the ISA before the global pandemic shutdown was the World Para Surfing Championship in March 2020. The Olympics and the ISA World Surfing Games that was scheduled for May 2020 were then postponed. In June 2020, ISA secured COVID-19 relief funding from the IOC. In August 2020, The CAS awarded governance of SUP to the ISA at the Olympic level.

The World Surfing Games ran during the pandemic in May 2021 and became the final Olympic qualifier. Surfing debuted in the Tokyo Olympic games in July 2021 with 40 athletes from 18 countries and five continents. Three surfers ranked in the top 20 athletes in social media. Surfing took ninth place in social media engagements at the games. In addition, ISA met with the IOC President at the surfing venue and discussed two major priorities. The first priority was to make surfing a permanent sport at the Olympics. The second priority was to be accepted by the Los Angeles 2028 games.

In 2022, the IOC confirmed a funding contribution of \$2.8 million to the ISA. The Surf City El Salvador ISA World Junior Surfing Championship was held after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. Following this, the ISA and IOC released the Olympic qualification system in June 2022. The ISA World Surfing Games was held in September 2022 in Huntington Beach, U.S.A.

This was the first Olympic qualifier with slots awarded to Team Japan and Team U.S.A. In October 2022, the ISA World SUP and Paddleboard Championships was held in Puerto Rico.

From 2018 to 2022, nine new member federations were approved: American Samoa, Egypt, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine.

Olympic Relations

Paris 2024: Fernando Aguerre reported that the ISA requested 24 men and women to participate in Paris 2024 games. This was initially approved; however, the number was reduced in 2022. After negotiations, the request of 24 men and women was reinstated. There is a maximum of two people per country.

Los Angeles 2028: It was reported that negotiations with the IOC were held to add two discipline events. No decisions have been made yet on the venue. The following 2032 Olympic games will be held in the Gold Coast in Australia.

Stand-Up Paddle (SUP): Prior to the meeting, Czech Republic requested a discussion on board transport. Robert Fasulo stated that the ISA is aware of the challenges following the World Championship in Puerto Rico. Given the size and restrictions of airlines, the ISA is working with host organizers and countries to find solutions to access customs.

Denmark reported that a proposal was submitted to the SUP Committee to get ISA stakeholders together to create solutions for current challenges regarding SUP. There is more potential for SUP than is currently being engaged. New federations that are joining the ISA have an interest in contributing to SUP. As such, Denmark is asking the ISA to create a sub-committee that can create the global participation and diversity on a global scale for SUP.

6. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ISA Staff Structure as of November 10, 2022

Robert Fasulo reported on the staff structure of the ISA. It was noted that independent contractors are used by the ISA to outsource work in various fields such as technology and consulting services.

Financial Statements

Robert Fasulo noted that the financial statements ended December 31, 2021, are in the process of being audited. The reserves at the end of the year totalled just over \$2 million. The ISA maintains a reserve fund equivalent to one year of operating expenses. The events revenue accounts for approximately 40% of income, which will evolve over time. The IOC contribution of \$2.8 million was for three years up until 2024. He emphasized that this was a fraction of what other Olympic IFs received as part of the Olympic revenues distribution. The audit will be published on the ISA website once completed.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE ISA CONSTITUTION

There were no amendments proposed by the Executive Committee or the members prior to the AGM.

8. **ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

A second roll call was done before proceeding to the election of the Executive Committee. The following members were noted in attendance, either in person or by valid proxy: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Maldives, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, United States, Venezuela, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The following members were noted in attendance by proxy: Brazil, India, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Panama, Uruguay.

There were four positions on the Executive Committee for election:

- President currently held by Fernando Aguerre (ARG)
- Vice President currently held by Barbara Kendall (NZL)
- Vice President currently held by Casper Steinfath (DEN)
- Regular Executive Committee Member currently held by Jean-Luc Arassus (FRA)

Consideration was given only to those candidates whose CVs the ISA received by October 27, 2022.

President

The candidates for the President position were:

- Fernando Aguerre (ARG)

The floor was given to the candidates to address those in attendance.

Despite there being only one candidate for the President position, an election was still held for transparency to the members.

For the position of President, Fernando Aguerre was elected.

Vice President

The candidates for the two Vice President positions were:

- Candice Appleby (USA)
- Jean-Luc Arassus (FRA)
- Jakob Færch (DEN)
- Barbara Kendall (NZL)

The floor was given to the candidates to address those in attendance.

On the first vote, no majority was reached. A second vote was taken between candidates Barbara Kendall (NZL), Jakob Færch (DEN), and Jean-Luc Arassus (FRA).

On the second vote, no majority was reached. A third vote was taken between candidates Barbara Kendall (NZL) and Jakob Færch (DEN).

For the position of Vice President, Barbara Kendall was elected.

A vote was held for second position of Vice President between candidates Candice Appleby (USA), Jakob Færch (DEN), and Jean-Luc Arassus (FRA).

On the first vote, no majority was reached. A second vote was taken between candidates Jakob Færch (DEN) and Jean-Luc Arassus (FRA).

For the position of Vice President, Jean-Luc Arassus was elected.

Regular Member

The candidates for the position of Regular Member were:

- Candice Appleby (USA)
- Jakob Færch (DEN).

Following the vote, Jakob Færch (DEN) was elected to the position of Regular Member.

9. RATIFICATION OF ATHLETES COMMISSION ELECTIONS AND MEMBERS

The ISA created an Athletes Commission (AC), which was adopted first by the ISA Executive Committee. There were four members elected to the AC with Justine Dupont as the AC Chair representing the athletes.

Fernando Aguerre called for a motion to ratify the membership of the AC.

On a motion made by Costa Rica, seconded by New Zealand, it was resolved to ratify the membership of the Athletes Commission. Motion carried.

10. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Status of Applying Members

New Members: The federations from the following countries have been recommended for approval as ISA applying members:

- Saudi Arabia (KSA) – Saudi Surfing Federation
- Egypt (EGY) – Egyptian Surfing Association
- Mauritius (MRI) – Mauritius Surfing Federation
- Mozambique (MOZ) – Associação Tofo Boardrideirs de Moçambique

On a motion duly made by Uruguay, seconded by Senegal, it was resolved to approve the applying membership recommendations. Motion carried.

11. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

Gender Equality

Megan Burns reported on the changes the ISA has made to encourage the promotion of gender equality.

Athletes Development

It was reported that there is a new composition of the AC. Presentations were made on the role of the AC and how to amplify the voice of members in the sport world. ISA focused on the key matters at the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic games. A video was shown describing the program.

The ISA will be offering an Athlete Training Camp in Tahiti. The aim of this training camp is to raise the skill level of future Olympians by offering a targeted program in the lead up to the Paris 2024 Olympic games. With the support of Olympic solidarity, NOCs can apply for their athletes to participate. There will be 12 athletes participating in this program with one per gender from each continent. This is done for universality and to target continental qualifiers. Little to no experience was required for this opportunity. The camp will be held in June or July 2023.

ISA Transgender Policy

Dr. Lee Rice, Chair of the Medical Commission, spoke about the ISA's transgender policy that was approved by the Executive Committee. The Medical Commission faced multiple issues, such as basic and social human rights while promoting surfing to as many people as possible. Furthermore, fairness and competition needed to be adopted for athletes participating. There is no single right answer or set of rules to be agreed upon. The Medical Commission tries to strike the best balance to allow fair competition and safety.

A number of professionals were consulted on this issue and the most recent scientific publications on transgender athletes were reviewed. Clinical science states that before puberty, there is no significant difference between men and women in terms of testosterone. At puberty, the male body produces 30 times more testosterone than the female body. This increases leverage to the male body and increases muscle, bone density, strength, and aerobic capacity. As such, it is not equal for men and women.

Various athletic committees are applying different standards for transgender athletes. More specifically, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) decided that one year of testosterone suppression was needed and specifics can be decided by each sport committee. The Medical Commission for the ISA recognizes that surfing is a balance and coordination sport. As such, it was agreed that a transgender athlete must have less than 5 nanomoles per liter for at least 12 months after puberty. This allows normal test levels at the top of the female range.

Membership and Development Update

The membership and development update was presented by Alex Reynolds.

NF Communication and Relations – ISA Lineup and NOC Recognition: Regular communication and updates will be provided on development progress. The importance of working with the IOC was noted.

NF Development Support – Olympic Solidarity: A youth athlete development program was held in El Salvador. Six nations from the Americas were selected to participate. This was intended to build technical skills and holistic long-term development for potential future Olympians and coaches from developing surfing nations. In March or April 2023, there will be a program in Senegal and a video outlining this opportunity was shown.

Development Programs – Coaching, Judging Water Safety: The ISA created a development and support Olympic solidarity program in Sao Tome and Principe. Training and national championship took place through non-profit programs to create a better future for surfing in this country. Coaching and judging programs were developed. In the coaching program, there were 1,500 participants in 175 courses. The ISA is working on more resources for coaches. A survey will be done at the end of the year to understand the needs and gaps in coaching programs. The judging program is being updated. Online judging courses are available for surfers and prospective judges. Furthermore, a women’s judging program was adopted with nine women in eight countries.

ISA Source

It was reported that, to date, ISA has been a tool for managing existing courses and programs. There have been over 1,600 registered users, 200 courses managed, 30 content videos, and 150 e-learning users. The ISA is exploring new and exciting ways to interact with coaches and members, such as webinars, resources, updated learning pathways, and e-learning. Three development webinars have been done thus far in Olympic solidarity, coaching fundamentals, and surf therapy.

Para Surfing

The ISA is pushing para surfing to be included in the Paralympics. In July 2022, the ISA applied for para surfing to be in the Los Angeles Paralympics. A decision was expected to be made in January 2023.

Question and Answer Session

Dominican Republic inquired regarding the ISA’s guidelines on the participation of transgender athletes.

Robert Fasulo responded that the ISA position was developed based on principles established by the IOC, but specifically related to surfing. He said that the specific guidelines for implementation of the policy were being developed by the ISA Medical Commission. The ISA will communicate the position to all members once the guidelines were finalized.

12. RULEBOOK CHANGES

There were no changes made to the rulebook.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded it was agreed that there was no further business of the Association to transact; the meeting was closed at 4:02 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered to be a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Executive Committee Member

Executive Committee Member

Date

Date