

**INTERNATIONAL SURFING ASSOCIATION
2187 NEWCASTLE AVENUE, SUITE 100
CARDIFF, CA 92007**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
DECEMBER 11, 2023 1:00 P.M.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Fernando Aguerre	President
Karin Sierralta	Vice President
Barbara Kendall	Vice President
Jean-Luc Arassus	Vice President
Jakob Færch	Regular EC Member
Kimifumi Imoto	Regular EC Member
Justine Dupont	Chair, Athletes Commission & EC Member

ISA STAFF/ADVISORS:

Robert Fasulo	Executive Director
Megan Burns	Director of Sport and Athlete Relations
Alex Reynolds	Director of Membership and Development
Hannah Caskey	Membership and Development Coordinator
Gil Burciard	Office Coordinator & Staff Accountant
Erik Krammer	Technical Director

GUESTS:

JJ Hiew	Co-Founder, GetQuorum
Ashley Robbins	Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions

1. OPENING BY ISA PRESIDENT

The meeting was called to order by International Surfing Association (ISA) Executive Director, Robert Fasulo at 1:12 p.m.

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

2. ROLL CALL

JJ Hiew of GetQuorum, the meeting services provider, took the roll call. Present at the meeting were representatives, either in person or by valid proxy, from 35 voting ISA National Federations (NFs): Afghanistan, American Samoa, Argentina, Australia (late arrival), The Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil (late arrival), Canada, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico (late arrival), Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tahiti, Thailand, Ukraine, and United States.

3. PROXIES

The following proxies were submitted, accepted, and in attendance: Chinese Taipei, Dominican Republic, and France.

Other non-voting members in attendance were noted.

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Robert Fasulo asked the representatives present if they wished to make any corrections to the minutes of the annual general meeting held on November 10, 2022, which were included in the AGM package. No amendments were noted.

On a motion made by Robert Fasulo and unanimously approved, it was resolved to adopt the minutes of the annual general meeting held on November 10, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Fernando Aguerre provided a report on upcoming events and initiatives of the ISA.

a. Olympic Funding

ISA had requested funding from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to support the organization between the 2020 Tokyo and 2024 Paris games. In 2022, IOC approved a contribution of \$2.8 million for three years up until 2024 (just under \$1 million per year). The ISA President stated this is approximately 20% of what ISA originally requested, but will still help ISA provide continued service to its members.

ISA also petitioned the IOC to receive a share of revenue from the 2024 Paris Olympics, but the IOC denied the request. ISA did not receive a share of revenue for its presence in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. However, in 2022, the IOC confirmed ISA will receive a share of the revenue for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles and subsequent Olympics.

b. Olympic Eligibility

ISA is implementing stricter rules requiring athletes attend for the full duration of the qualifier events in order to qualify for the Olympics, except in cases of documented illness or injury that are reviewed by the ISA Medical Commission. The ISA President expressed disappointment with the top surfers who in some cases participated in a single heat then left, which reflects negatively on ISA and the sport as a whole. These rules will be in effect for the 2024 World Surfing Games in Puerto Rico. The new rules have been communicated to membership.

c. World Surfing Games:

The IOC approved a total of 48 athletes (24 male, 24 female) to compete in the surfing events at the 2024 Olympic Games. The 2024 World Surfing Games in Puerto Rico will be the final Olympic qualifier event. The number of qualifying athletes is no longer limited by continent or region as in 2023, although each country can still only send two individuals (one man and one woman).

d. Paris 2024:

In June 2019, the IOC approved surfing to be included in the Paris 2024 Olympics. France proposed and IOC approved moving the surfing events to Teahupo'o, Tahiti, an island within French Polynesia, citing concerns over the quality of the waves in France. This is only the second time in Olympic history a sporting event has been held outside of the host country.

Ahead of the events in Tahiti, the French Polynesian government initiated the construction of an aluminum judging tower along the reef in Teahupo'o because the existing wooden tower was not up to safety standards. On December 1, 2023, a construction barge working on the project damaged parts of the reef and resulted in protests within the surfing community in Teahupo'o and worldwide on social media. ISA issued a statement about the incident, which is posted on the organization's website. The IOC and governments of Paris and Tahiti are responsible for venue facilities and infrastructure. ISA proposed an alternative judging method using cameras from the beach or drones but was told at a meeting on December 10, 2023, that this option would not be feasible given time constraints and complexity. The ISA President acknowledged although surfers are not biologists or engineers, they are sensitive to the environment, and stated he hoped for a resolution.

e. Los Angeles 2028:

New Disciplines and Events: In August 2020, ISA was awarded governance of stand-up paddling (SUP) at the Olympic level by CAS. ISA advocated for the inclusion of SUP as a discipline in the 2028 Olympics, however, the IOC placed a freeze on new disciplines across all sports. The next opportunity to add SUP will be for the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane, Australia. The ISA President stated the effort in the meantime will be to expand its presence in the continental/regional events. For example, ISA was successful in including SUP in the 2019 Lima Pan Am Games.

ISA also proposed longboarding be included as a new surfing event in the 2028 and subsequent Olympic Games. Events are a different classification than disciplines. The IOC is expected to review and decide in 2025 after the Paris games.

Paralympics Update: In July 2022, ISA applied for para surfing to be in the Los Angeles Paralympics. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) stated they will not be adding any new sports. The host of the Paralympics, Los Angeles, was given the opportunity to two new sports and is currently reviewing para surfing and para climbing. The IPC and LA28 have not yet made a decision.

6. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

a. ISA Staff Structure as of December 10, 2023

Robert Fasulo reported on the staff structure of the ISA and provided an organizational chart. ISA has eight full time employees. It was noted that ISA works with seven independent contractors and consultants to provide financial, legal, media relations, and technical support.

b. Financial Statements

ACTION – ISA will publish the final audited statements on the organizations website once the audit is complete.

Robert Fasulo presented the financial statements ending December 31, 2022. He noted the organization is in a solid and comfortable position with reserves (cash and assets) totaling

approximately \$2.6 million. ISA expects a positive net income this year. ISA is meeting the goal set by the Executive Committee to have at least one year of operating budget in its reserves. IOC funding comprises less than 30% of total revenue. ISA is in discussions with the IOC about how the grant might continue upon its expiration after the 2024 Olympics. The financial statements are in the process of being audited and will be published on the ISA website once completed. The financial audits for the last eight years are also listed on the website for transparency in accordance with IOC's good governance policies.

7. **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Status of Applying Members

- a. **New Members:** The federations from the following countries have been recommended for approval as ISA applying members:
- Romania - Federatia Romana de Surfing (FRS)
 - Kuwait - Kuwait Surf Committee (KSC)
- b. **ISA Membership Transfers:** The federations from the following countries have been recommended for approval as ISA applying members:
- Transfer from Slovak Surfing Association (not in good standing) to Slovak Independent Surfing Association
 - Transfer from Surfing Bangladesh (not in good standing) to Bangladesh Surfing Association
 - Transfer from Ghana Surfing Association (GSA - not in good standing) to Ghana Surfing Federation (GSF)

On a motion made by Robert Fasulo and unanimously approved, it was resolved to approve the applying membership recommendations. Motion carried.

Points Requested by Members

- c. **Romania - Best Practices for National Funding:** *ACTION – Alex Reynolds and Hannah Caskey of ISA will provide examples of funding strategies to the representative from Romania.*

Romania requested advice for acquiring non-government funding as a small and relatively new organization. ISA invited other members to share their experiences and advice in individual correspondence outside of the meeting.

Items submitted for discussion and not addressed in other areas of the meeting are summarized below:

- d. **CT Athletes Arrival Dates into Puerto Rico:** Australia inquired about the overlapping schedules of the World Surf League (WSL) championship tour window in Hawaii and the ISA World Surfing Games (WSG) in Puerto Rico in February 2024. Robert Fasulo confirmed that the WSL had agreed to shorten their event to end on February 22, 2024. The WSG opening ceremony will be on February 23. The first competitive event will be on Saturday, February 24, which will give athletes the option to arrive on February 23. The WSL website will be updated with the new dates.
- e. **ISA Format (Clarification of Elimination Round):** Australia sought clarification on “double elimination rounds.” Robert Fasulo noted this depends largely on the size of the field and the number of countries participating.

- f. **Update and Decision Timeline for Para Surfing for LA28 Games Inclusion:** ISA stated they anticipate a decision on whether para surfing will be included in the 2024 Paralympics after the IPC meeting in February 2024.
- g. **Confirmed World Surfing Games and Championships:** Australia asked what games and championships have been confirmed for 2024, 2025, 2026 across all disciplines, and what the timeline is for confirmation. Robert Fasulo stated all events for 2025 and beyond are subject to negotiation and based on expressions of interests and the ability to find strong, reliable partners. He encouraged all Member associations to explore local interest and come forward with opportunities.
- h. **Junior Championship/El Salvador:** New Zealand asked whether the dates and location for the Junior Championship have been confirmed. Fernando Aguerre stated ISA has been in negotiations with a few countries including El Salvador. There is currently not a signed agreement.
- i. **Youth Olympic Games Qualifier:** Panama inquired about the athlete qualification process for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar. Robert Fasulo noted the conversation with IOC has not started with ISA yet, but the world Junior Championship is expected to play a key role.

8. **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT**

- a. **Gender Equality: Women's Judging 2023 & 2024:** Over 130 women participated in ISA's online judging training program held from November 15 to 17, 2023. ISA will offer in person training at the World Surfing Games in Puerto Rico in February 2024. The details and applications will be available in January 2024.

Athlete Development

Megan Burns presented an overview of ISA's athlete development programs.

- b. **Athletes' Commission:** Three positions on the ISA's 7-person Athlete's Commission will be open for election at the 2024 World Surfing Games. The process for nominations will open in January 2024, and more information can be found on the ISA website.
- c. **Athlete Training Camp – Tahiti:** ISA and Olympic Solidarity cohosted an athlete training camp in Tahiti in July 2023, for 11 athletes who qualified for the Olympics or were Olympic hopefuls. ISA also recorded three videos about reef lineup awareness, water safety, equipment, and preparation that will be shared with membership. ISA intends to host another training in spring or summer 2024.
- d. **Scholarship Program:** The scholarship program provides financial support to youth under 18 for education, equipment, or competition. Applicants from only 10 countries applied in 2023. ISA reopened the application to extend through January 15, 2024, to encourage youth from more countries to apply. ISA will announce the recipients in spring 2024.
- e. **Anti-Doping:** The International Testing Agency is presenting a webinar for ISA National Federations on December 13, 2023. ISA will send out a reminder email with the registration link.

Membership and Development Department Support

ISA Director of Membership and Development Alex Reynolds presented a department update.

- f. **Continental Surfing Associations:** ISA officially recognized the African Surfing Confederation. Each continent now has its own regional surfing association.
- The African Surfing Confederation hosted its annual general meeting in April 2024, with five countries represented. Oumar Seye of Senegal was elected its president.
 - The Asian Surfing Federation hosted the Asian Surfing Championships alongside its annual general meeting in the Maldives in July 2023. Eleven member nations and 55 non-member National Federations attended.
 - The Oceania Surfing Federation hosted a development program in Fiji in November 2023.
 - The European Surfing Federation hosted annual Euro Surf events.
 - The Pan American Surf Association hosted the PASA games in Panama in April 2023, and supported the Pan American Games in Santiago in October 2023.

ISA is working with the Continental Associations to increase capacity and facilitate regional development. Alex Reynolds stated National Federations should connect with their Continental Associations if they are not already affiliated with them.

- g. **Olympic Solidarity:** ISA can provide guidance and support to National Federations applying for Olympic Solidarity Projects and is also responsible for approving the technical aspects of projects. ISA added a new webpage about Olympic Solidarity to the ISA website.
- h. **African Youth Athlete Development Program:** ISA's Youth Athlete Development Program is a three-year initiative funded by Olympic Solidarity. ISA hosted a training for African youth and coaches in Senegal in April 2023, and will host a similar event in spring 2024 for Asia/Oceania. Countries that are eligible for the program have 50 or less athletes in the last Olympic Games. Priority is given to low resource countries.
- i. **Coaching Programs:** Over 2,500 coaches across 44 countries participated in the coaching and instruction program in 2023. Eleven new individuals were added to the global network of presenters. ISA solicited feedback via a participant focus group and survey and is reviewing the program to identify opportunities to improve.
- j. **ISA Source:** The e-learning platform has over 5,700 registered users and 600 courses to date. ISA made several improvements to the site in 2023, including a new payment processor, and automated coaching and judging directory.
- k. **ISA Development Webinars:** ISA hosted three free webinars this year for members and coaches. ISA plans to launch more free webinars as well as paid webinar content in 2024.
- l. **Water Safety:** Over 830 coaches from 24 countries have participated in the water safety course ISA launched in 2017. ISA conducted a research study in 2023 about how surfers contribute to drowning prevention and aid in rescue. ISA presented the research at the World Health Organization/International Lifesaving Federation's World Conference on Drowning Prevention in December 2023.
- m. **Judging and Officiating Program:** ISA restructured the program in April 2023. The e-learning course, which is on ISA Source, is now a prerequisite for judging certification and offers five levels of judging. ISA is offering National Federations a launch package and other bulk licensing discounts through the first half of 2024. ISA has hosted international courses online and will continue to offer them.

- n. **Para Surfing:** ISA had record participation of over 180 athletes from 27 national teams at the World Para Surfing Championship at Huntington Beach in 2023. The ISA Head of Para Surfing Maureen Johnson attended the IPC Classification Meeting in October 2023, and reported positive feedback from the IPC. Over 450 athletes have officially qualified in Para Surfing.

Question and Answer Session

Ukraine inquired about the potential for the European Surfing Championship to be included in the qualification process for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Fernando Aguerre responded that the championships organized by the Continental Associations do not automatically qualify surfers to the Olympic Games. The European version of the Pan American games for example, has often been held in areas that are not conducive to surfing.

Australia asked a question about the role of the Continental Association.

Robert Fasulo confirmed the continental association is recognized in ISA's constitution and is a part of the global development as Oceania other than Australia represents small island nations.

9. REPORT ON RULEBOOK CHANGES

Robert Fasulo stated this year's changes to the rulebook were announced to members in an email circular dated September 20, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business of the Association to transact; the meeting was closed at 3:55 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 a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.