

IJRU General Congress Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2019

Time: 14:04 – 17:21 Local Norway time

Purpose: Ordinary General Congress of IJRU

Attendees: 2019 Board Members

President – Shaun Hamilton
Executive Vice President – Takashi Ogawa
Secretary General – Janet Locke, Rochelle Boggs
Treasurer – Mike Simpson
Africa – Keo Mokolopo, Innocent Nyangori
Americas – Ernesto Hernandez, Ron Kappert
Asia – Michael Chan, Janet Locke
Europe – Hanno Kramer, Silke Fürnschuß
Oceania – Luke Winstanley

2019 Continental Representatives

Oceania – Carolyn Barker

2019 NGB delegates

Australia – Taryn Hodgson, Kirrilee Larkin
Bermuda – Kendia Gill, Toni Dickerson
Canada – Jodi Harrison, Carly Simpson
China – Cai Yingmin, Zhangyan, Liu Miao (interpreter)
Denmark – Ulla Christensen, Mia Monster
France – Nadia Aidli, Jonathan Mahato
Germany – Hanno Kramer, Benjamin Schmitz
India – Sunita Joshi, Abhishek Joshi
Japan – Jun Haratake, Akitoshi Moriguchi
Kazakhstan – Alfiya Kalmaganbatova
Kenya – Leonard Ochola Omollo, Innocent Phillpo Nyangori
Republic of Korea – Daejung Kim, Taehyoun Lee
Mexico – Giovanni Hernandez, Madian Espinosa
Portugal – Rosa Antunes, Carlos Freitas
Russia – Elena Poltozykhina, Ekaterina Libova
South Africa – Keo Mokolopo, Tshilwane Sonopo
Thailand – Angkana Hiranprueck, Nutchapol Tanchareon
United States – Tom LaVecchia, Brain Hsu

Guests: Andrej Kyselica,
Melanie Crispin, Photographer

Absent: Africa – Elves Tembe
Asia – Jay Jukping

Agenda

1. All Member countries are in good standing. Opening of the IJRU Congress - Declaration that the 1st AGM of the IJRU General Congress is convened

- President Shaun welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

- Janet Locke took roll. A quorum was established being 17 countries out of the 31 total Full and Provisional member countries eligible to vote were present. (Later in the meeting that increased to 18 countries.)
- The following two scrutineers were appointed to ensure that all voting in this meeting will be done in a fair and just manner: Kirralee Larkin (Australia) and Kendia Gill (Bermuda).

3. Ratification of IJRU Board of Directors

- A brief history was explained. Both the FISAC-IRSF board and WJRF board verified the proposed IJRU interim board. That decision needs to be ratified at this IJRU congress in order to move forward, thus the following motion.
 - **Motion:**
To approve the IJRU board of directors of IJRU.
Motion proposed: Canada
Motion seconded: USA
Outcome: Carried

4. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:**
To approve the IJRU General Congress agenda.
Motion proposed: Canada
Motion seconded: India
Outcome: Carried

5. Nomination of Scrutineers

- Already nominated following roll call.

6. President's Address

- President Shaun Hamilton welcomed everyone to the first ever IJRU congress. Since 1973 our sport has seen considerable growth with the establishment of various rope skipping/jump rope organizations over the years. In April 2017 WJRF and FISAC-IRSF discussed the possibility of a merger extensively. Under the guidance of various other sports and of GAISF, the decision was made to merge and move forward with accurate governance under GAISF and the Olympic Committee. Finances within the sport are essential as resources are necessary in order to evolve and sustain the sport. Jump rope has an amazing potential, as it is inexpensive and is well known throughout the world. In order to move IJRU forward it is going to take everyone's efforts and commitment. IJRU are doing everything for the athletes and sport.

7. Financial Matters

- **07.1 Treasurer's Report (Good Governance and Audit Intent)**
IJRU is a merge of FISAC-IRSF and WJRF and their finances. Until the merge is completed the decision was made to split the expenses evenly. Financial obligations have been managed effectively so far. There has been a major difference in the two organization's competition models, with WJRF's model producing much more capitol. Four weeks after this WJRF event concludes in Norway a

financial statement will be made, and a full financial summary will be possible once the merge is complete.

8. Constitution and Policy - Ratification

● 08.1 Adoption of Constitution

The IJRU constitution is now in its 6th version (version 1.6), taking into consideration the opinions and suggestions of various rope skipping organizations around the world. Part of the preamble was read aloud. The constitution is the most important document guiding IJRU to safe and legal practices. It is a document combining FISAC-IRSF and WJRF constitutions, as well as under the advice of various other sporting organizations and GAISF. It is a living document that is anticipated to change over time, and suggestions are encouraged in the future. A constitution timeline was presented, showing the evolution of the constitution. It is available at ijru.sport for anyone to access at any time.

- Feedback can be given to info@ijru.sport or through the NGBs through their Technical Congress representatives.

- Three minor amendments to the constitution were reviewed, as stated below. When voting, those two items will be incorporated, as they were overlooked in the more recent version.

(1) The continental organizations' names have yet to be determined, thus specific names will not be mentioned.

(2) The ethics panel manages the election process. In order to make sure that the number of members are consistent throughout the document, it will be stated as being "up to 6."

(3) There will be up to 6 people on the ethics panel, but three cannot be placed until 2022, so the wording will include "or vacant," to consider our present situation and possible future circumstances.

- **Motion:**

To approve the IJRU Constitution with the aforementioned three amendments.

Motion proposed: Kenya

Motion seconded: Germany

Outcome: Carried

● 08.2 Adoption of Gender Policy

IJRU must issue policies regarding our athletes. A gender policy was created by the boards and has been available for review by the public for quite a while. It is in line with the IOC and technical testing policies.

- **Motion:**

To approve the IJRU gender policy.

Motion proposed: Australia

Motion seconded: India

Outcome: Carried

● 08.3 Pending Policies

Policies yet to be determined will be finalized in time as IJRU progresses in accordance with priority.

9. Vacant Board Positions

● 09.1 Vacancy Procedures

There are some vacant board member positions. They will be filled in a fair manner in 2022 in accordance with the constitution that was just approved.

● 09.2 2022 Elections

For the continuity of good governance, the elections will be in a cycle so that not everyone's terms will conclude at the same time. The athlete committee may be seated by June 1, 2020, if that is what the ethic's panel decides.

10. Membership

● 10.1 Membership Report

A slide was presented showing the present IJRU member countries, their standing in IJRU, and standing with GAISF. As of March 1, 2018, membership in both FISAC-IRSF and WJRF were frozen and no new members were accepted in order to properly evaluate the present member country organizations and address any rivalry issues. In instances where there was a rivalry and one of the organizations was already recognized by their highest sporting organization in their country, they were automatically chosen. Also, if any "for profit" organizations submitted applications, they were not considered, as "non-profit" is a requirement.

The goal is for all organizations to move up to full membership. The membership fees and requirements for each level (observational, provisional, and full) were reviewed. Starting now any organization will start at either observational or provisional level. Full membership status will be addressed by the BOD following review by GAISF membership panel.

● 10.2 Membership Benefits

A slide was shown summarizing all the benefits for IJRU membership. Any suggestions for future benefits are welcome as well. IJRU's job is to provide services for its members. IJRU can issue the "dot.sport" website title to NGB and more. Dot.sport" can be available to our members, and a process will be confirmed. For the first time in the sport of jump rope we have the opportunity to rank scores globally. Any intellectual properties will be available to IJRU members only. Once IJRU has 40 full member countries IJRU can be moved up from observer in GAISF to the full member status.

Meeting break 15:07 – 15:20 occurred at this point.

11. Technical Congress Address

- The Technical Congress Committee was seated by the interim IJRU board over 9 months ago, and an effort was made to incorporate both FISAC-IRSF and WJRF rules to create a successful rule set for the future. Various aspects were considered to maximize the opportunities for our athletes as the sport evolves.

● 11.1 2020 Competition Structure

There will be two competitions: the junior and senior world championships. The NGBs can determine their own qualification rules. There will likely be 3 or more slots per country. Nominations can be made for additional slots. The open competition will also be nominated by country and will be held across the street from the world championships. It will be possible to compete in both competitions, with the option of specializing or competing in all-around events as well.

The competition events of IJRU were explained, making a comparison of the FISAC-IRSF and WRJF rules. The scoring system is a cumulative system. Deductions will be percentage based. There will be 4 categories of judges. Presentation will be impacted by a percentage, which will be more consistent. The DDC will be run under the rules of JDDA. The team show rules will be quite similar to how it has been.

Gratitude was expressed to the countries that participated in the judge clinician training this morning. Judge training will take place in accordance with the IJRU rules, if they are approved.

Q&A:

1. The present version of the rules will be used in the 2020 competition. However, if there is a major problem, they may be corrected prior. Clarification and spelling error corrections, etc. can be made. The next major revision will take place after the 2020 competition.
2. The process of questioning and making suggestions on the rules is best through the Technical congress blog. It is also possible via e-mail: info@ijru.org. Or through technical congress representatives.
3. IJRU members will have access to IJRU judge training and intellectual properties. The goal is to have the NGBs be self-sufficient. Judge and clinician training will be a big part of IJRU.
4. Judge certification and training will be done in part online. Likely there will be at least 4 levels of judge certification. A level 4 judge will likely be paid judge at a world competition. In order to judge in 2020, they must be a level 3 judge, so they must pass the online certification and other trainings.
5. As for the qualifier for the DDC, that is still being discussed. IJRU is discussing this with the JDDA, and as soon as a decision is reached, it will be publicized. The DDC will be an event in the world championships.
6. The decisions regarding percentages in presentation judging (35%) was made after lengthy discussion and the rescoring of various routines to see how those results compare with the present judging systems. The thought process behind this can be publicized soon in a Technical Congress blog post.
7. There are some issues with the rules, and whether or not modifications can be made before 2020. Equations and percentage terminology is confusing to some people. Changes can be made if that is in the best interest of the sport and athletes if it does not cause harm at this point.

● **11.2 Competition Rules Adoption**

Motion:

To approve the IJRU competition rules and judge's manual with the ability to make changes in the future.

Motion proposed: Canada

Motion seconded: India

Outcome: Carried

● **11.3 Call for Expanded Tech Congress Members**

2 delegates from each country are invited to serve on the committee. IJRU needs more people to get involved.

● **11.4 Intellectual Properties**

IJRU intellectual properties will be made available to IJRU members.

12. IJRU 2020 Championship Organization Committee

The championship organization committee handles everything about the competition. We are considering to have the following timeline with 4 options of packages to cater for different time periods. Carlton University is near the TD Place Arena. There will also be hotels available to book on your own.

Tentative schedule:

July 5: Check in

July 6-7: 2-3 day open competition running at the same time as the junior competition

July 8-10: Preliminary rounds

July 11: DDC World Competition

July 12: IJRU Finals (i.e. grands)

July 13: Camp

July 14: Check out

13. Special Presentations

13.1 GAISF Update and Recognition Status

IJRU was the only organization offered GAISF observational status last year. This is very exciting for our sport. The next step up is full membership in GAISF. That is possible by having 40 full member countries, so we need to work hard to help our NGBs obtain full recognition from their national sporting authority. After obtaining GAISF, the next step is AIMS, then ARISF, and then the IOC. Obtaining IOC status is actually a realistic possibility, if we work hard to move forward. The higher up the pyramid we go, the more resources (i.e. finances) will be available to us. There is no excuse to not grow the sport, as there is no conflict with any other sport (ex. gymnastics).

13.3 Why Recognition Matters: NGB Recognition Success

For example, in South Africa, people cannot wear certain national attire unless they are recognized nationally. It means that their voice can be heard and that they can get to vote for things that matter to them, thus allowing the sport to move forward. Delegates can also be nominated and national events that are sanctioned, but without recognition participation is not possible. It is also possible to obtain technical and government assistance. Branding, marketing, and financial assistance will also become a reality.

Announcements:

China Open: October 9 - 14. IJRU members are all welcome to attend, and will receive financial support for up to 10 places for domestic costs (domestic transportation, meals, lodging).

14. Adjournment

- The next IJRU General Congress is scheduled for July 2020 in Ottawa, Canada.

Motion:

To adjourn this meeting.

Motion proposed: Bermuda

Motion seconded: Australia

Outcome: Carried