

## **2020 IJRU Virtual General Congress Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020**

**Time: 12:00PM – 16:26PM UTC**

**Venue: Microsoft Teams**

**Purpose: General Congress**

**Attendees:**

**IJRU Board Members:**

President – Shaun Hamilton

Executive Vice President – Takashi Ogawa

Secretary General – Rochelle Boggs, Janet Locke

Africa – Keo Mokolopo, Moagi Sharp

Americas – Ernesto Hernandez, Ron Kappert, Lindley Langhorne

Asia – Michael Chan, Jay Jukping

Europe – Silke Fürnschuß, Ekaterina Libova, Hanno Kramer

Oceania – Luke Winstanley

**2020 NGB Delegates:**

Austria – Gerhard Blumel, Ingrid Vukusic

Australia – Kirralee Larkin, Taryn Hodgson

Belgium – Simon Mahy, Eva Vandemeulecroeche

Botswana – Onalenna Ditlhotlhole

Canada – Jodie Harrison, Cathy Cunningham

China – Yan Zhang, Bill Luo

Czech Republic – Martina Varkočková, Petra Jerábková

Denmark – Sofie Slettebo, Cecilia Prastholm

Eswatini – Fred McFadden, Muriel Hofer

Finland – Susanna Porola

France – Nadia Aidli, Jonathan Mahoto

Germany – Nicolai Lorke

Guyana – Lindley Langhorne, Shavin Greene

Hong Kong, China – Sin Ting Juanita Cheung, Pak Ki Ng

I.R. Iran – Mitra Rouhi

India – Abhishek Joshi, Sunita Joshi

Italy – Cesare Bianchi, Concetta Nucci (Interpreter: Harold Dean Cummings)

Japan – Jun Haratake, Akitoshi Moriguchi

Kazakhstan - Alfiya Kalmaganbetova, Aibar Nugamanov

Kenya – David Omondi, Leonard Ochola

Malaysia – Habibah Hamid, Qui Hen Siew

Malta – Marco Tomasini,

Mexico – Giovanni Hernández, Dora Hernández

Mozambique –, Arsénio Penga

Pakistan – Ali Zulfiqar

Portugal – Rosa Antunes, Carlos Freitas

Puerto Rico – Roberto L. Acosta (Interpreter: William Matos), Mahaleth H. Vega

Russia – Ekaterina Libova, Elena Poltorykhina (Interpreter: Kirill Frolov)

Slovakia – Martin Kolcak, Pavlina Hadova

Singapore – Don Lui Peng Hui

South Africa – Mpho Seate, Tshilwane Sonopo  
South Korea – Daejung Kim,  
Sweden – Pia Josephson, Kajsa Murmark  
Switzerland – Matthias Zedi, Lara Zedi  
Thailand – Nutchapol Tanchareon, Angkana Hiranprueck  
United States – Thomas LaVecchia, Dave deTenley

**Guests:**

IJRU Technical Committee/General Congress Assistant – Monica Foster  
IJRU Technical Committee/General Congress Assistant – Andrej Kyselica  
IJRU Media Communications/General Congress Assistant – Carly Simpson  
General Congress Assistant – Chris Brown  
General Congress Assistant – Jessica Nicholson

**Apologies:** None

**Non-attendance:** None

**Agenda**

**00. Instructions – Navigating Microsoft Teams & Performing a Test Vote**

- Instructions regarding meeting participation were given and a test vote took place using the Polly voting application.
- IJRU is recording this meeting, but private recording is prohibited.

**01. Welcome and Opening of the IJRU Congress – Declaration the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Congress of IJRU is Convened**

- IJRU President Shaun Hamilton welcomed everyone and declared the IJRU 2<sup>nd</sup> General Congress open.

**02. Roll Call: Board of Directors, Member Countries**

- Roll was taken and a quorum was established of 18 countries out of the total of 20 full and provisional member countries eligible to vote at this time. (Later in the meeting additional countries joined, making for a total of 33 participating countries.)

**03. Approval of Agenda**

- **Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the 2020 IJRU General Congress Agenda.*  
**Discussion:** None  
**Outcome:** Carried

**04. Approval of the July 10, 2019 IJRU General Congress Minutes (Oslofjord, Norway)**

- **Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the minutes of the 2019 IJRU General Congress.*  
**Discussion:** None  
**Outcome:** Carried

**05. President's Address – “Jumping Through Uncertain Times”**

- The President's Address was given by Shaun Hamilton, president of IJRU, and is attached for reference.

## 06. New Member – Approval

- **06.1 Where a single organization from a country made application and fell under C7, C7.1 and C8 of the Constitution – Approval**
  - 06.1.1 Argentina
  - 06.1.2 Austria
  - 06.1.3 Belgium
  - 06.1.4 Botswana
  - 06.1.5 Chinese Taipei
  - 06.1.6 Croatia
  - 06.1.7 Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)
  - 06.1.8 Finland
  - 06.1.9 Italy
  - 06.1.10 Malta
  - 06.1.11 Mozambique
  - 06.1.12 Pakistan
  - 06.1.13 Philippines
  - 06.1.14 Rwanda
  - 06.1.15 Somalia

**Motion:** *In accordance with the IJRU Constitution, C7.1 and upon the recommendation of the IJRU Board of Directors, it has been proposed that the slate of 15 countries named in 06.1.1 – 06.1.15 of the 2020 IJRU General Congress agenda, be confirmed as IJRU's recognized NGB's for their respective country.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

- **06.2 Where more than one organization made application for membership. The decision was made by the IJRU BOD to recognize only one member according to C7, C7.2 and C8 of the IJRU Constitution. The three organizations below were involved in this situation.**

### **06.2.1 Czech Republic – Presentation by President of CJR. Approval**

The president of Czech Jump Rope (CJR) gave a brief presentation profiling CJR for the General Congress.

**Motion:** *In accordance with the IJRU Constitution, C7.2 and upon the recommendation of the IJRU Board of Directors, it has been proposed that Czech Jump Rope be named and confirmed as IJRU's recognized NGB in Czech Republic.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

### **06.2.2 Slovakia – Presentation by Chairman, SRSA. Approval**

The chairman of the Slovak Rope Skipping Association (SRSA) gave a brief presentation profiling CJR for the General Congress.

**Motion:** *In accordance with the IJRU Constitution, C7.2 and upon the recommendation of the IJRU Board of Directors, it has been proposed that Slovak Rope Skipping Association be named and confirmed as IJRU's recognized NGB in Slovakia.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

### **06.2.3 Hong Kong, China – Presentation by Chairperson, HKRSA. Approval**

The chairperson of the Hong Kong Rope Skipping Association (HKRSA) gave a brief presentation

profiling CJR for the General Congress.

**Motion:** *In accordance with the IJRU Constitution, C7.2 and upon the recommendation of the IJRU Board of Directors, it has been proposed that Hong Kong Rope Skipping Association be named and confirmed as IJRU's recognized NGB in Hong Kong, China.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

## 07. Strategic Plan – Approval

### ● 07.1 Strategic Plan

The IJRU Strategic Plan was posted on the IJRU website 60 days ago for review. It is very important due to IJRU's impact from COVID-19. There are six goals/objectives which are further broken down into further detail.

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the IJRU Strategic Plan.*

**Discussion:** The full plan will be posted on the IJRU website.

**Outcome:** Carried

## 08. Financial Matters

### ● 08.1 Treasurer's Report (Interim Treasurer)

The treasurer gave a brief report status the financial challenges and impact of COVID-19 over the past 8 months. Plans to address the finances and a budget going forward are mentioned below.

### ● 08.2 2018 Audit

This audit was submitted to GAISF. IJRU is incorporated in the US, and the US doesn't require annual audit. A "review" (a mini audit) can be conducted when necessary. IJRU's finances are in accordance with financial accounting regulations in the US.

### ● 08.3 Current Financial Position

This document current is of August 31, 2020 and states the present value in the IJRU bank account. There are no major pending debts. IJRU needs considerably more funds to appropriately run and advance the organization and sport.

### ● 08.4 2021 Forecast Budget – Approval

This document shows where most of IJRU's expenses lie. As many expenses as possible have been cut from the budget in order to keep the organization in as strong of a position as possible.

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the 2021 IJRU Forecasted Budget.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

## 09. Constitution and Policy

### ● 09.1 Constitution Amendments – Approval

The Constitution as approved in Norway in 2019 and the Constitution changes document have been available for review for 60 days, along with a color-coded version reflecting the changes. Some changes were minor, such as grammar updates, and others more drastic, such as procedure amendments. Feedback on changes to the Constitution was received from four persons/NGBs.

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the amendments of the IJRU Constitution - sections C1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,17,18,20,21,23,24,25,27 for minor variation to spelling, grammar and readability.*

**Discussion:** The IJRU Constitution was made based on extracting the best aspects of the FISAC-IRSF and WJRF Constitutions, as well as input from other International Federations. In the future, NGBs will also be consulted to seek and gain feedback.

**Outcome:** Carried

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the amendments of the IJRU Constitution - sections C7,13,16,19,22,26, which are changes as reflected in the IJRU Control Document referencing variation to the existing Constitution.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

- **09.2 Youth Development Commission Charter – Approval**

This has been available for review on the IJRU website. International organizations must have a strategy and plan for youth, so this document is essential for IJRU.

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the IJRU Youth Development Commission Charter.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

- **09.3 Athlete Council Document Suite – Approval**

IJRU received much guidance from GAISF and other international federations on this topic. The Athlete's Council is essential for IJRU to move forward. The Athlete Council Document suite involves the following two documents, which have been available for review on the IJRU website.

- 09.3.1 Athlete Council Charter**

- 09.3.2 Athlete Council Election Procedure**

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the Athletes Council Document suite.*

**Discussion:** It is mandatory that the athletes on the council speak English in order to communicate with IJRU, etc. The possibility of an interpreter can be looked into. An extra six athletes are indicated to allow for keeping a balance of gender and continental representation, etc. The age requirement is 18-years old, as complex issues are addressed warranting an athlete of such age or older. Athletes on the IJRU Board do not represent their country, but the sport as a whole. They do not have voting rights at a General Congress, as with the other Board Members.

**Outcome:** Carried

- **09.4 Ethics Panel Document Suite – Approval**

The following four documents constitute the Ethic Panel Document Suite, which have been posted on the IJRU website for review. All of the documents are in accordance with the IJRU Constitution and each other and ensure IJRU runs in a fair and ethical manner.

- 09.4.1 Ethics Panel Charter**

- 09.4.2 Code of Conduct**

- 09.4.3 Code of Ethics**

- 09.4.4 Ethics Panel Procedural Rules**

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the Ethics Panel Document suite.*

**Discussion:** The difference between “conduct” and “ethics” is as follows: “Conduct” is what is approved conduct by IJRU, and “ethics” are standards for behavior. Anonymous complaints will be followed up on, but at certain stage information will need to be shared in order to process such a complaint. The issue of confidentiality is addressed in the documents. The Safe Sport Strategy and Education will be reviewed by the relevant committee.

**Outcome:** Carried

- **09.5 Financial Committee Charter – Approval**

This document has been posted on the IJRU website for review. The main objective is to help the IJRU Board fulfil its responsibilities regarding finances.

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the Financial Committee Charter.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

- **09.6 Gender Eligibility Policy Update – Approval**

This policy was approved in the July 2019 General Congress, but since then changes were necessary. The updated version has been posted on the IJRU website for review. The two main changes were altering the names of the championships and clarifying the age requirement language.

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the Gender Eligibility Policy.*

**Discussion:** The changes were made to ensure the policy reflects the content of the IJRU Constitution and so that the policy is in line with the IOC Policy.

**Outcome:** Carried

<5 Minute Break>

## 10. Board of Directors Activities

- **10.1 Board of Director Vacancies**

The IJRU Board has the present vacancies:

10.1.1 Africa (1)

10.1.2 Asia (1)

10.1.3 Oceania (2)

10.1.4 Athlete Representatives (2)

- **10.2 Board of Directors – Newly appointed Members**

IJRU proudly announces its newly appointed Board Members as follows:

10.2.1 Lindley Langhorne – Guyana (Pan America)

10.2.2 Ekaterina Libova – Russia (Europe)

10.2.3 Moagi Sharp – Botswana (Africa)

- **10.3 Interim Ethics Panel Members – Approval**

All three members have a legal expertise and worked together to create the Ethics Panel Document Suite. IJRU is still looking for additional well-qualified candidates for this panel.

10.3.1 Ekaterina Libova – Russia

10.3.2 Eilea Given – Canada

10.3.3 Allysa Ciancio – Canada

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the Interim Ethics Panel members until the election process takes place in 2022.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

- **10.4 Continental Reports – IJRU Vice Presidents**

10.4.1 Asia

The Asian Jump Rope Union (AJRU) report was presented by Mr. Michael Chan, interim president of AJRU, and is attached for reference.

### **Africa**

The Africa Jump Rope Federation (AJRF) report was presented by Keo Mokolopo, president of AJRF, and is attached for reference.

### **10.4.2 Europe**

The European Rope Skipping Organization (ERSO) report was presented by Mrs. Silke Fürnschuß, president of ERSO, and is attached for reference.

### **10.4.3 Pan America**

The Pan American Jump Rope Federation (PAJRF) report was presented by Mr. Ernesto Hernandez, president of PAJRF, and is attached for reference.

### **10.4.4 Oceania**

The Oceania report was presented by Mr. Luke Winstanley, and is attached for reference.

## **11. Membership**

### ● **11.1 Membership Update**

#### **11.1.1 57 Total members**

#### **11.1.2 25 Full members**

#### **11.1.3 22 Provisional members**

#### **11.1.4 10 Observer status members**

IJRU needs at least 40 full members to meet the membership criteria in GAISF. In 2019 IJRU's initial membership in GAISF was 7.5% when 3 countries were added as full members. In 2020 IJRU broadened its membership by the recognition of 17 new full members, for a 42.5% increase. To date IJRU has reached 50% of the minimal requirement of 40 countries with 20 full members. IJRU wants to reach this goal by 2022. IJRU hopes to move all NGBs up in status to full membership level, and for each NGB to successfully maintain that status.

### ● **11.2 Membership Benefits**

IJRU hopes to add membership benefits in addition to the ones already available to its members. IJRU is open to suggestions for future consideration.

### ● **11.3 Continental Organization – Ratification**

#### **11.3.1 Pan America**

#### **11.3.2 Africa**

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to ratify the Africa Jump Rope Federation and the Pan American Jump Rope Federation as the Continental Organizations of IJRU.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

## **12. Technical Congress**

### ● **12.1 2020 Technical Congress Update**

There are 25 countries that have submitted Congress delegates. The first meeting was held virtually on May 31, 2020. Seven proposals were voted upon and approved regarding the IJRU rules at that time.

### ● **12.2 Competition Rules – Ratification**

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to ratify the 2021 Judging and Competition Handbooks.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried

- **12.3 Virtual Competition Proposal**

IJRU is planning to hold a virtual world championship in 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19. IJRU is asking the General Congress to allow the Technical Committee and Technical Congress to proceed with the implementation of this. The virtual championship will enable more athletes to be able to participate. Its structure will be similar to that intended for the 2021 Ottawa, Canada World Championships. There will be a preliminary event which will be completely prerecorded, and final event which will be livestream, even though the athlete's competition videos themselves will not be live. Video quality will be important. Detailed information will be presented when available.

- **12.3.1 Approval of Overarching Intent**

- **12.3.2 Outline of Technical Congress Proposal**

- **12.3.3 Request for General Congress Approval – Delegation of Authority to Proceed – Approval**

**Motion:** *It has been proposed to approve the delegation of authority to the Technical Committee and the Technical Congress to proceed with the structure and implementation of a Virtual World Championship for 2021.*

**Discussion:** Based on IJRU's analysis of the world situation, most countries will not be able to travel internationally in 2021. IJRU cannot handle such a loss financially to plan and downscale or cancel an onsite event. Thus, the IJRU Board is proposing to go virtual. As for the competition month, July is the goal, as that is when the onsite competition would have been. Competition videos will need to be submitted well in advance to allow for judging. The judging method will be very specifically outlined so that judging is consistent and fair to all athletes.

**Outcome:** Carried

**Note 1:** IJRU is not going to publicly announce about the virtual competition decision on this time, but rather let the NGBs have the opportunity to inform their athletes, coaches, judges, and other stakeholders first. On October 24 IJRU will inform the NGBs of the rules to pass on to their athletes. On November 2 general information will be communicated to the public. IJRU is not giving up on live competitions and will try to incorporate them as best as possible in the future.

**Note 2:** Continental championships are up in the air at the moment due to COVID-19, as the future is very hard to predict. The board will discuss about this issue, as IJRU's job is to always do what is best for the athletes.

- **12.4 Intellectual Properties**

IJRU is finalizing intellectual properties which it can provide to its members as a whole that will benefit athletes. More information will be provided when available.

## 13. Special Presentations

- **13.1 GAISF Observer Status Renewal – 2020 Members certificate**

- **13.2 AIMS Participation – United Through Sport**

- **13.3 Rescheduled Events**

- **13.3.1 International Schools Federation (ISF)**

- **13.3.2 TAFISA Event**

- **13.3.3 Youth Olympic Games**

Due to time constraints, these items were not communicated.

## 14. Adjournment

- **Motion:** *To adjourn this General Congress.*

**Discussion:** None

**Outcome:** Carried





Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet Locke  
Rochelle Boggs  
IJRU Co-Secretary Generals