



Minutes of the Congress of the International Federation of American Football
June 30 2017
Langley, B.C. Canada

Federations present:

Australia | Canada | Denmark | Finland | Great Britain | Haiti | Israel | Japan | Korea | Mexico | New Zealand | Norway | Panama | Sweden | USA.

Organisations present:

AFU China

*Denotes one representative sent where that representative also holds a place on the Executive Board.

** Not all federations eligible to vote based upon membership status

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Richard MacLean, IFAF President, called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. and introduced the members of staff and guests in attendance.

Mr MacLean identified IFAF Secretary Chris Josey as the Minute Taker. No objections were raised.

2. Opening Statement

Kim Wudrik, President of Football Canada, welcomes the delegates to Canada.

3. Appointment of Scrutineers

The following were identified as Scrutineers for voting during the proceedings.

Scrutineer 1: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Scrutineer 2: Kim Wudrick – Canada

Appointments proposed by: Richard Vogt - Norway

Appointments seconded by: Steve Liebowitz - Israel

Discussions: No discussions entered

Vote: All in Favor



4. Appointment of three delegates to confirm the Congress Minutes.

Delegate 1: Michael Hollowell – USA

Delegate 2: Martin Soderberg - Sweden

Delegate 3: Luis Navas - Panama

Appointments proposed by: Martin Cockerill - Great Britain

Appointments seconded by: Darrin Mitchell – Australia

Discussions: No discussions entered

Vote: All in Favor

5. Approval of the Minutes from the Preceding Congress: 2016 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2016 Congress in New York, USA as distributed by the Executive Board

Proposed by: Darrin Mitchell - Australia

Second: Martin Cockerill - Great Britain

Discussion: No corrections called for.

Vote: All in Favor

6. Report of the Executive Board

Motion to approve report of Executive Board.

Proposed by: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Second: Steve Liebowitz – Israel

Discussion:

Executive board commends Andy Fuller on his efforts over the last 12 months. IFAF continues to have limited access to information regarding finances from Paris, and we continue to endeavor to resolve our current position through CAS.

We still endeavor to recover monies from the flag championship in 2016 due to the last minute cancellations. We need to identify moving forward the priorities of our members to ensure that we develop a product that has meaningful competitions.

Vote: Passed - All in Favor – Motion Carried

7. Presentation of the Annual Report by the Treasurer

Motion to approve the Annual Report by the Treasurer.

Proposed by: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Second: Kim Wudrick – Canada

Discussion: See above.



Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

8. Auditor's Report

Motion to approve the Auditor's Report

Proposed by: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Second: Richard Vogt - Norway

Discussion: As IFAF does not have control or insight into the Paris accounts, and the account in USA is not due for audit until its 1 year anniversary the Motion is to defer audit report to September with the results being emailed to members once completed.

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

9. Submission of the Budget and Plan of Action

Motion to approve the Budget and Plan of Action

Proposed by: Darrin Mitchell - Australia

Second: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Discussion:

Presentation of Congress report authored by Andy Fuller -Managing Director, presented by Richard McLean – IFAF President.

The member for Israel expressed frustration at the lack of information forthcoming from IFAF at present, with limited information coming out of the body since the Congress in Newark. IFAF have responded stating that the information being released is done so with caution, in order to sure that the body and its members are protected. An endeavor will be undertaken to create a monthly newsletter to improve the communication channel between IFAF and its members.

Previous year budget was allocated to Cas fees and consolidation of the case. The budget for the next 12 months focuses on the majority of revenue being associated to CAS fees, with the board costs being kept to a minimum. The fees for the World Championships have been estimated to be 1000 euro, but this will be updated in the event this fee structure is adjusted.

The IFAF Executive acknowledge that the budget is not perfect, but it is based on the information we presently have. If fees are adjusted, the budget outcome will reflect this.

The member from Israel (Steve Liebowitz) has suggested that a transition committee be established prior to the CAS outcome in order to work on reunifying the sport once the decision has been announced.

The member from Finland (Roope Noronen) has Stated that this congress needs to formulate an agreement the direction moving forward regardless of the CAS decision.

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

Abstentions: No



10. Membership of Nations

The motion is to ratify the changes in American Samoa and admit both Tahiti and Haiti as an IFAF member commencing the 2018 membership year meeting upon meeting the required criteria.

Recognition of change to member – American Samoa

New nations: Haiti and Tahiti

Proposed by: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Second: Darrin Mitchell - Australia

Discussion:

Applications have been received from new nations seeking to become part of the international community.

It is anticipated that any membership approved would become active from the start of the next membership year and that acceptance by Congress would be provisional to give the Executive Board time to confirm with the federation and their respective governments / sporting authorities that all criteria can be met for 2018, especially as there may be changes to membership levels as per Statute discussions.

These nations currently applying are listed above and will be assigned the following regions pending approval:

Tahiti IFAF Oceania.

They have submitted various documents to us relating to their status.

Haiti IFAF Americas.

They have government recognition and have been in dialogue with us for a while.

The position of the Executive Board is that we would like Congress to give us the authority to work with both nations and their respective authorities to ensure that they meet criteria set for 2018 membership, at whatever level is deemed appropriate.

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

Abstentions: None



12. Proposals from the Membership

Motion One: This Motion recognises that according to the Statutes, the Congress is the supreme authority and legislative body of the International Federation. This Motion proposes that the Congress confirm and ratify the calling notice and all Agenda items.

Proposed by: Great Britain

Second: Steve Liebowitz- Israel

Discussion

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

Motion Two: "That the Congress authorizes and instructs the Presidium and Board of IFAF :To Transfer the Legal seat of IFAF to a non-codified Common Law based jurisdiction within a corporate not for profit based system"

Proposed by: Great Britain

Second: Darrin Mitchell - Australia

Discussion:

Congress has stated this would not take effect until after CAS. Upon completion of the CAS finding the congress agrees for the authority to be given to the Executive Board to identify a location and subsequently move the legal seat

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

Motion Three: That the Congress authorizes and instructs the Presidium and Board of IFAF :To establish and implement new Statutes for the Federation, accompanied by new Regulations, pursuant to a transfer of the Legal Seat as proposed in Motion Two. (This must also be read in accordance with Agenda Item 14).

Proposed by: Kim Wudrick - Canada

Second: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Discussion:

Jen Phelps – Legal Counsel explained the meanings of statutes and the role they play with the IFAF organization. Jen reminded that if statutes are passed today, we would need to continue to review and update as required.

Review of changes to 3.2 and associated points as outlined

Review of changes to 3.3 and associated points as outlined

Review of changes to 3.4 and associated points as outlined

Review of changes to 3.5 and associated points as outlined

Review of changes to 3.6 and associated points as outlined

Review of changes to 3.7 and associated points as outlined

Consensus from members that weight in votes for Full member opposed to Associate should be 3 to 1



Review of changes to 5.2 and associated points as outlined

Review of changes to 6.0 and associated points as outlined

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

Motion four: Adoption of the new IFAF statutes of June 30th 2017

Proposed by: Kim Wudrick - Canada

Second: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Discussion:

Motion targeting the adoption of the new IFAF statutes re-written in their entirety that will be subject to registration to the Bobigny Prefecture.

Vote: All in Favor – Motion Carried

13. Election of one Auditor

Motion to defer the appointment of an auditor until such time as the CAS process is completed, with the nominations sent to the congress for approval

Proposed by: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Second: Kim Wudrick - Canada

Discussions:

Vote: All in favor – Vote Carried

14. Amendments to Statutes

See Agenda Item 12

Proposed by: Kim Wudrick - Canada

Second: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Discussion:

Following a debate on proposed new Statutes Congress gives full authority to the Executive Board to amend the new Statutes against the principles agreed by Congress and engage a legal firm operating in the jurisdiction of the new legal seat to ensure that the Statutes are legally compliant in order to become operational with immediate effect.

Finally, Congress gives full authority for the Executive Board to identify and enact change management procedures to allow continuation of operations.

In light of this, the Congress confirms the nomination of the Executive Board members as follows:

- President: Richard MacLean
- Vice-president: Scott Hallenbeck
- Development manager: Makoto Kaneuji
- Competition manager: Kasper Linden
- Financial manager: Marie Solhaug
- Secretary general : Chris Josey



- Other board members: Kyung Koo Park, Jose Jorge Orobio Rosas, Michael Ryan, Veronica Salas, Marc-Angelo Soumah

The Congress recognizes that the President continues in office for the remainder of the term that they were elected for. The first Senior Vice President assumes the role of Vice President and continues in office for the remainder of the term that they were elected for. The second Vice-president assumes the role of second Vice-president and continues in office for the remainder of the term that they were elected for; The Treasurer assumes the role of Director of Finance and continues in office for the remainder of the term that they were elected for.

The Secretary becomes General Secretary until such time that there is a Congress where elections for the role can be held.

The current members of the executive board are responsible for ensuring the transition within this board taking into account the various evolutions and versions of IFAF's statutes that existed or existing due, in particular, to the procedure before the TAS concerning IFAF's governance.

The Continental Chairs continue in post until such time that there is a Congress where elections for the Continental roles can be held.

The current Athlete Representatives form part of the emerging Athlete Representative Panel with one nominated to continue in an Executive Board post.

The current 'Two Additional' members shall, where appropriate, continue to serve in lieu of Continental Chairs, until the next elective Congress.

Should issues arise, Congress gives full authority to the Executive Board to address these in advance of the next Congress.

Finally, Congress gives the Executive Board full authority to start recruiting for the identified Committees and Panels where there are currently personnel gaps. Congress also gives full authority to the Executive Board to re-advertise roles where named incumbents have not performed their duties under the auspices of the Executive Board for the past six months or longer.

Vote: all in favor – Motion Passed

14. USA Football membership

Motion made that the full Congress jointly submit a public statement acknowledging USA Football as the official representative to IFAF. Motion essentially jointly recognizes USAFB as the sole governing body for football in the United States.

Proposed by: Steve Liebowitz

Second: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain

Vote: all in favor – Motion Passed



15. Any Other Business

Executive committee has approved Panamas Bid for the 2018 Flag Football championship with the 2018 congress to be held during this event. The date to be confirmed in August 2018.

2020 World flag bid has been awarded to South Korea.

U19 2018 bids invites to be sent to Finland, Australia and Mexico with the end of August being nominated as the final bid completion date.

Working committees to be reestablished to reduce the workload and pressured from board members to complete all tasks. Committee positions to be listed and called for in the IFAF newsletter.

Luis Navas from Panama thanks IFAF for the trust to run a successful 2018 world flag championships and Panama invites all to attend and participate in an exciting event

Closure of Congress:

Motion to close Congress

Proposed by: Kim Wudrick - Canada

Second: Martin Cockerill – Great Britain