



**WBTF WINTER BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA  
January 26-January 28, 2018  
Kissimmee, Florida USA – Embassy Suites Hotel  
Lake Buena Vista South**

**2018 WBTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

President	Sandi Wiemers
Vice President	Jean Patrick Rousset
Secretary	Jeff Johnson
Treasurer	Paul Rutten
Sport Administrator	Moto Tsuchiya
Australia	Ainslie Hunt
Canada	Joanne Moser
Czech Republic	Michaela Holmanova
England	Nicky O'Neill
France	Jean Patrick Rousset
Ireland	Bernadette Doyne
Italy	Giovanni Gritti
Japan	Noriko Sugiura
Netherlands	Martin Stevens
Norway	Monica Molvaer
Russia	Andrey Kokoulin
Scotland	Fiona Howat
Sweden	Amelie Nilsson
Switzerland	Alessia Dolci
USA	Karen Cammer

At 9:00 am, President Wiemers called the meeting to order

12 voting members presents / 2 attending on line

**MOTION 1:** Move to accept the agend with one addition – Review of Stay to Play Policy

Moved: Netherlands

Second: USA

In Favor: Unanimous

**MOTION 2:** Move to dispense with the reading of the minutes from 2017 Winter and Summer Meetings.

Moved: USA

Second: Switzerland

In Favor: Unanimous

ETC members joined

Introductions were made of invited guests to speak on sport recognition:

Karl Olson, ICU

Alfredo La Mont, UGAISF Sports Council

## Steps to Sport Recognition

Alfredo La Mont: The process for sport recognition takes GAISF has transitioned to GAISF, based in Lausanne, Switzerland. The GAISF currently has about 100 sports federations as members. They have about 100 more on the waiting list. The process for recognition is not always straightforward - applying and meeting the written requirements is only the start of the process... then a political process follows.

It took the ICU about 15 years to get to the point they are at now - 2016 they were recognized by the IOC. 2014 they were recognized by GAISF as an ISF. Before that, it was years of applying, lobbying and showing they met the requirements. The process was lengthy and expensive, particularly because they faced a challenge from FIG. That turned into a negotiation between ICU and FIG to reach an understanding with FIG that allowed them to be recognized by GAISF.

Karl Olson: Talking to the Executive last night, the WBTF history is much longer than ICU's. Our structure began in the late 60s, in the UGAISF, that introduced the cheerleading as a competition. In the early 2000s we launched the Cheerleading Worlds (which was more of a club event). In 2004 we founded the ICU with 13 countries at the first meeting. By the time our first application went in to GAISF, we were at about 55 countries. We had a provisional membership category which allowed a club in a country to obtain membership. WBTF has clearly been around longer... more established in its structure and democratic processes. By 2009 we submitted our first application to GAISF - they had 3 objections... WADA had not yet accepted our code, we did not have evidence of 5 World Championships, there was satisfactory proof that the national federations had been recognized in their countries. On the day of presenting to the meeting in 2010, FIG sent an email and objected on the basis that 'cheer' was really a discipline of 'gymnastics'. This started a 3-year negotiation with several gives and takes. One interested requirement was that, if FIG had a national federation that was recognized in its country for cheer, ICU was required to accept that federation as its national member (only one case like that - Australia).

The challenge is getting the other sports to recognize you... because once admitted to GAISF the sport becomes eligible to compete at multi-sport games.

2013 was the second round. At that time, WDSF objected. More back-and-forth... By 2016 that was resolved and the application to GAISF was finally accepted.

DW: Is it a requirement that you have to be endorsed by another GAISF member?

KO: When you apply, an objection will stall the applications. Acceptance doesn't have to be unanimous... and some objectors are more important than others.

PR: WADA is a mandatory requirement, true?

KO: Yes. Must be a signatory to WADA. Must have anti-doping regulations, which must be approved by WADA. It is helpful to demonstrate that you have been testing. If you're are not doing that at the World and Continental Championship level, I would recommend you get started. It is expensive, but it is a valuable thing to so.

JPR: My question is who should we apply as... WBTF or IBTF? We understand that we must move quickly, but we are considering the IBTF statutes this weekend and WFNBTBTA will be doing that in March. If we enter into the GAISF process, it should be with the agreement with

NBTA otherwise it could 'explode' or result in poor relations with WFNBTB in the future. This could also be a problem because of the 2019 competition, which will include a majorette portion (which is more common in WFNBTB federations). My concern is that, within France, we have been very engaged/invested in merging WBTF and WFNBTB... now concerned with a process where WBTF appears to be moving forward on its own and without its WFNBTB partner. If the WBTF is going in the process, we want to be sure that WFNBTB can be part of the solution moving forward.

SW: Agree 100% with that position. First call I will make is to the president of WFNBTB. SW believes that they will agree to allowing WBTF to move forward, with an agreement that WFNBTB will join/follow/be part of that solution in the future.

KO: Some ISFs do change their names (e.g. IDSF changed to WDSF). A name change is not as important as getting a stake in the ground.

SW: Why is their urgency?

ALM: The sooner you get your name in, the sooner you start getting your sport identified... the sooner that GAISF process will get going.

MS: How long does recognition take?

ALM: It varies a lot and there is no simple answer. Ice Stock Sports did it in one year. ICU took 7 years.

KO: The new GAISF process is that they have a 'vetting' committee and they do grant 'observer' status before being fully admitted as a member. This is at the discretion of a 3-person membership committee.

ALM: Details of the application process can be found on the GAISF website... Item 7

SW: The political aspect of application is critical, and this is why SW is asking the Board to bring ALM on as an advisor.

ALM: Baseball/softball (1980s). Baseball and softball had a problem with their identity - softball wanted to be recognized as different from baseball. Recently worked with parkour, skateboarding, ...

## **ALL REPORTS WERE GIVEN**

### **IBTF Update**

SW: Any questions to follow-up from the report sent in December?

JM: Clarification on the proposals for age divisions. Junior Women is shown as 13 in the minutes...

Jeff: The Minutes and my notes do show 12 for Jr Men and 13 for Jr Women. We will need to re-visit that with the WFNBTB members and correct or confirm.

SW: As one method of driving our member country count up to the required 40, IBTF decided to pursue incorporating the Majorette disciplines. And this is why we will be adding a majorette

component to the 2019 Grand Prix - to open it to WFNBTAs majorette athletes as well as majorette athletes from any other organization.

SW: Another change for the 2019 GP and ICup is that WBTF agreed to move the Elite levels of competition out of the ICup and into the Grand Prix. This will help to reduce the number of days of the overall competition. By 2021, that portion of the competition becomes a World Championship. The freestyle side (2020) could be a little slower in bringing the WFNBTAs side along.

A final wrinkle came up when WFNBTAs still wanted to hold an international competition on the third year (which is their current WC cycle). And they wanted to call it a World Championship. There were several weeks of discussions which followed and SW believes there is now an agreement. WBTF will still need to decide for itself what sort of competition it would hold on that same 3rd 'off' year.

KC: How does this work.. Legally, the IBTF is incorporated and we have ratified statutes. What does this mean as a member country... do we follow WBTF rules, IBTF rules, when does it all become one?

SW: Certainly the hope and the goal for the future is that it all becomes one.

KC: Are we filing our GAISF application as WBTF or IBTF?

SW: Making it as WBTF, with a side agreement with WFNBTAs.

KC: What if they don't agree?

SW: We may simply have to wait... moving forward without their agreement is a problem. Moving forward as IBTF is difficult... getting non-profit status for IBTF will take time. Holding IBTF World Championships will take time.

KC: Page 16. What is an assessment fee?

PR: Paul explained how we do continental commissions assessments. Sandi described how we've done the IBTF assessment.

KC: 'rules are binding'. Does this mean each member federation must adopt all IBTF rules, eg. Age groups?

SW: Not supposed to mean that... each country can do its own thing internally but must follow IBTF rules at IBTF competitions.

MS: The plan now really only deals with world level. It allows the continental stuff to carry on separately

SW: We were limited in what we could accomplish. The NBTA Europe organization is far older than WFNBTAs and far more established.

MS: Challenge in Netherlands is that the NBTA federation is unwilling/uninterested in working together, merging. Until the NBTA Europe situation is addressed within IBTF, this probably won't change.

SW: WBTF and NBTA situations?

CZE: Our association is the only twirling association until last year, when another was created. This new one is cooperating majorette federations.

MM: We have had some competitions together and there has been a good cooperation. The NBTA leader has recently changed so we must establish good communication again. It has worked well so far, but we are far apart. Positive, but still far away.

SW: Here is a problem in Norway... NBTA Norway is within the music federation (60,000 members) so they have no money problems whatsoever. Therefore, it is not appealing for them to move to the sport side because they would lose access to that money. WBTF Norway, as a sport, does have some benefits (e.g. access to venues). NBTA Norway rules did not allow gymnastics so some twirlers would move to WBTF Norway because of that, but NBTA Norway has recently modified its rules so that is less appealing.

SWE: We do have majorettes that are in another association, but they operate within a music federation. Don't currently have a big problem.

ITA: WBTF federation has tried to approach NBTA federation regarding a merger - still very hard to tell if NBTA Italy is seriously considering this option.

SWI: We have an agreement with NBTA, but at the moment there are no actual NBTA athletes. We are trying to make agreements with majorettes, but they are not interested in making any agreements to compete. There are a lot of majorettes in Switzerland - they are not really competing in any organizations.

SCO: We have no problems.

NET: We are not on speaking terms. We have some cooperation with majorettes in NET. We have cooperation with judging. We will have a combined nationals in the future. The majorettes are in the music federation and are (technically) within NBTA NET - but they do seem to want to work with us more than NBTA. Our numbers are very small and this is our biggest problem.

ENG: We are having our first competition with NBTA in February. We know each other quite well, some athletes do cross over. Not an adversarial relationship. Also working a lot with majorette groups - they do not currently compete with any international federations. They are very much looking forward to the 2019 competition.

CAN: Not aware of any majorette federations in Canada. Not had any direct discussions or planned meetings with CNBTA. CNBTA really only exists within one province. We are a much larger and economically viable organization. On their third president in three years. Have blown hot and cold.

ENG & NET: Many NBTA federations have a fear that they won't be able to compete

SW: On the freestyle side, WFNbta federations did express a fear that they won't be able to compete because of compulsories and short program. This has led to the technical discussion about modifying our own Jr approach. (e.g. Jr elements = SP elements)

JAP: We are focusing on working with the sports council in Japan. There is a non-profit organization that does baton twirling - not part of nbta, they are independent. We will be meeting with them next month. Last time we met was about 2 years ago. This time we are hoping to work out details/agreement for working together. We want to have their consent for us to make application to the sports council without their objection. We are also trying to promote the sport to other countries in our region.

USA: We have a different situation. USTA (60 years old) was founded as a breakaway group from NBTA. USTA is a non-profit, NBTA is privately-owned. In a way, we don't really have a problem - at the level of athletes, coaches and judges, there is a great deal of crossover. It is not reasonable to think we could push through and take over that private business. Also, we are a smaller organization.

FRA: We have merged administratively and governance, but have left the technical component separate (wbtf people keep doing freestyle, NBTA people keep doing solo/2b). We are now trying to combine some education (eg. Coach level 1). At the E Cup in Ireland we will be sending a contingent that includes both WBTF and NBTA athletes in the 'core' events. We are also now talking with a multi-sports federation in France that is interested in creating a coaches' exam that will allow coaches to be certified as 'coaches', not simply as 'baton teachers'.

RUS: We have tried to register both baton and majorettes as a sport - applied to ministry of sport. Response was not as standalone sport, but as part of another ISF already recognized. Our structure developed from majorettes and dance clubs. There are now 35 clubs doing majorette and 6 clubs doing baton twirling. We have offered to cooperate with majorettes in our country but they have refused - they are working with the WMF majorette organization.

CZE: We have a very similar situation as Russia. There are several majorette federations in the country - one is a member of the WMF and there is no cooperation with them. And, because this is enough for them they are not interested in any further cooperation.

Meeting recessed

Issues from Martin Stevens

NET: Concern is that we have continental commissions and we don't use them enough. We had good discussion. When we made that decision, we did ask Caroline, JMR and Nicky to work out a time schedule to make sure it would still all fit within the time schedule. We did agree that, if it would help the time, to not flash scores or only flash scores in finals. Then there was 'interference' from Sandi and Paola to take over the scheduling. Why not simply let the continental commission do their job?

SW: Paola was concerned that in moving to a 5-day schedule, the competition would become expensive to attend the whole competition. So she hoped to be able to structure the competition to allow people to attend a portion of the event and not necessarily all of it.

NET: Managing Committee basically 'took over'... Why do we not let the Euro Commission just do their job.

SW: In October I was receiving inquiries from countries about what was happening with the competition. They wanted information and they weren't getting it.

SW: The managing committee got involved because the schedule wasn't getting created and published. This made it impossible for countries to plan their travel.

SW: Will refer any future questions directly to Nicky to be addressed.

NET: ETC and Technical Commission... Sees a risk that the ETC becomes exclusive committee and does not engage all of the technical advisors often enough. We were in favor of the ETC in order to speed up the development of technical programs. But we are seeing them excluding others in their work.

SW: 100% agree. The Executive has a proposal that will be brought to the table later in the meeting to re-structure the ETC.

NET: Procedure of the motion concerning the number of athlete for junior... There were several votes... then follow-up email votes... Multiple votes and then there is no opportunity for discussion on the email votes.

USA: We all agree that the meeting on the Sunday morning at I Cup was not a good situation. Despite the situation, I think we had a good conversation (even though it didn't go the USA way). Certainly the procedure and sequence of things was not good.

SW: Definitely don't intend to have any in-competition meetings again in the future.

NET: With the new rule on badges... how did that work at Croatia I Cup? Did it have the effect we wanted?

SW: Yes, for the most part. But it is still a clerical challenge - it takes a long time to go through the procedure.

**MOTION 1:** Adopt the agenda, with the following additions:  
- Review Stay to Play policy

Moved: NET  
Second: USA  
In Favor: Unanimous  
Approved

**MOTION 2:** Move to dispense with the reading of the Minutes from the 2017 Winter and 2017 Summer Meetings.

Moved: USA  
Second: SWI  
In Favor: Unanimous  
Approved

### **Treasurer's Report**

PR: 2017 was run within budget.

### **Audit Committee Report**

JMoser: The information comes from Sandi and Paul to the audit committee. Receive all bank statements, all expense claims and receipts. The committee members have time to review all of this material before the meeting. The records are all very transparent - could easily query/question any particular item and see the underlying receipts.

Bank fees are an issue - WBTF is paying a lot in bank fees, particularly for wire transfers.

Want to recommend that purchases less than \$500 be done by PayPal or credit card and not wire transfer, as this is much more cost-effective.

Also a recommendation that a separate budget be created for each event, so that it is easier to see the outcome of each event.

JAP: Thank you for the audit report. We would recommend that the Income Statement and Balance Sheet be distributed to Board members in advance of the Winter Meeting so there is an opportunity to review prior to the meeting. Or a draft version, since the Audit Committee hasn't met yet.

**MOTION 3:** Move to accept the report of the audit committee.

Moved: Canada

Second: USA

In Favor: Unanimous

**MOTION 4:** Move to accept the Treasure's Report as presented.

Moved: USA

Second: Scotland

In Favor: Unanimous

### **2018 E Cup Report**

European Commission will notify countries about their assigned practice days and items.

European Commission will discuss at their meeting when the Opening Ceremony will be held. That decision will also take the practice schedule into consideration.

FRA: The French selection isn't held until end of May. If the hotel deadline is the end of March... what can we do?

SW: Normally, the recommendation is that each country should book the number they think they will need, and then cancel what they don't need.

SW: What is the cancellation window? Cancellation terms vary by property. Most have non-refundable deposits by March 2018.

FRA: We think this will be a significant problem for 2018, as France bookings for ECup are done by club and not by country.

NOR: Same problem as France. May 15 would be a more acceptable deposit deadline.

SWE: Also

SW: Will ask Bernadette to discuss with the hotels

NET: The hotel prices quoted on the EuroTwirl website are 25% higher than what you can find on a site like [booking.com](http://booking.com).

SW: Speaking on behalf of USTA and the 2018 World Champ... the negotiation with the hotels was designed to accomplish two things: good rates for the guests and also financial support from the tourism board (or equivalent) to offsetting some of the costs for the competition.

IRE: Hotels in the Dublin area are expensive and are not being marked up by 25%. I understand everyone's feelings with the situation as she has been on the other side also when travelling to competitions.

IRE: Will see if it is possible to either drop the non-refundable deposit or move the date to be later.

SW: list of countries that have already booked?

IRE: Eng, Switzerland, some of Net, Czech Republic

Break for lunch

Break for Continental Commission Meetings

## **2018 World Championships Update**

SW: Would people be interested in a pre-arranged shuttle bus from the Embassy Suites LBV South to the venue? Only on Opening Ceremony, competition days. Only out in the morning and back in the evening. Not to/from airport. Not to/from practice days. Based on Pan-Pacific competition, that was between \$12-15 per person per day. To price this out, will need some estimates of which countries and how many people...

NOR: Can you pre-order taxis, large car?

SW: Uber and Lyft are available and less expensive than taxis. Uber has a variety of service options.

JAP: Depending on the day, the number will fluctuate

Sandi polled the group...

CAN: Practice gyms... is it on the website? When can we start making reservations?

SW: It has not been posted yet, but we will get it up as soon as possible.

SW: Daily Lunch offering will also be going up onto the website soon. USTA prefers that each federation send in a single order form for their entire contingent - athletes, coaches, spectators, etc.

SW: The Embassy Suites LBV South will offer an evening buffet if interested. That will be in the area of \$25/person. The final menus have not been set, but it will have a reasonable variety. The obvious benefit is that it is here in the hotel, and will be available when the competition is done, and will be seated quite easily. Orlando is a very high traffic tourist area and it can be very difficult for groups to get in to many restaurants. That will be ordered directly with the hotel convention services person from the hotel.

SW: For contingents that host their own party, these must be arranged directly with the convention services contact. The hotel is always busy - summer, meetings, weddings, etc. Deal with this sooner rather than later.

CAN: If booking at Embassy Suites LBV South... can we meet with with Stacy on Monday?

SW: Yes.

SW: Correction to the website... We have negotiated away the parking fee at Embassy Suites LBV South.

SW: We are adding a hotel to the information available... The Holiday Inn Express (last property on Friday tour). This is a new hotel and it wasn't onboard when the package was created.

ITA: is the dinner buffet competition days only?

SW: If we have at least 20 people, it can start on any day. It will start shortly after the competition is scheduled to end and be open for 2 hours.

SW: We need each country's best guess on number/divisions of athletes that will be attending. I have not received: NOR, ITA, RUS, FRA, USA

## **Majorette Task Force**

Sandi Wiemers reporting.

Met on Thursday evening. FRA, ENG, RUS attending.

Discussed what we needed to do to begin this process of adding the Majorette Branch to the WBTF, and the necessity of beginning this process now. ENG was asked to look at any existing majorette federations to find out what events are currently being offered - with the intent of figuring out what events we should be offering in order to make this as open as possible. Proposed beginning this in May in Moscow. They already have a competition scheduled for this time.

RUS: Last year there were 5 countries involved: CZE, KYR, KAZ, RUS. This year, May 12/13. Will be held at an exhibition complex. One venue will have majorettes, the other will have a cheer competition.

SW: There are 4 or 5 international federations in Europe. One in particular, International Federation Majorette Sport They have members who are interested in working with WBTF.

Majorette federations represent a growth opportunity for us, and they use the same apparatus as we do. We need to look at these federations as our peers. We shouldn't be trying to 'convert' them into baton twirlers, because their level of skill and expertise is very low at this time. They have their own discipline and can excel at it. Within your own countries, you should be trying to make contact with them and trying to work out some mutual arrangement.

NOR: What is 'in it' for any of these majorette federations to be joining with us? Do they expect competitions?

SW: They expect standards, organizations with good governance. Many have come from organizations that haven't been well-organized. Many don't want to be swallowed up by WMF. We need to create an environment that is open and inclusive so that we are very appealing.

## **Old Business Reminders**

Reminder to updating contact information...

Reminder to provide contact information, including physical mailing address, by March 1

Reminder to provide contact information for WBTF Coaches

## **Calendar Review**

2019 E Champ is still vacant. Seeking applications until Feb 14. Biggest challenge is for countries to find a venue that meets the minimum height requirement.

SW: Today in the Pan Pacific Commission meeting, they approved a venue at 9.1m for their Pan Pacific Cup. We can't afford to price ourselves out of existence because of the ceiling height requirement. Recall that in 2008 Limerick the venue had a ceiling height of 29ft. At that time, the coaches felt it was fine because they all had sufficient notice to prepare their programs appropriately. So, the European Commission can choose to choose something shorter...

SCO: Agree that we are pricing ourselves out of the game because of the requirement.

SWE: We have no problem with lowering the height requirement.

NOR: How high was the ceiling in Germany?

ENG: Definitely less than 9m... 7.5m was the consensus.

NOR: Norwegian Champ minimum is 11m. 9m is a bit low.

SWE: Our requirement is 12m. But we do want to HAVE an European Champ, so if we must go with shorter then so be it.

ITA: Less than 12m is not okay.

SW: WBTF rule for Championships is 13m. Cup minimum is 11m. Pan Pacific accepted 9m because there were no other options and taking a shorter venue was preferable to having no competition at all.

FRA: In 2012, the arena was 15m, in 2014. Maybe the rules do need to be adjusted and lower the minimum height. When we have multiple bidders, then it becomes a factor in the decision-making.

SW: So what if, by Feb 14, there is no bid with a 13m facility... what will you do? European Commission should think about that this weekend while most of you are present.

2020 Pan Pacific Cup has now been filled... Calgary, AB, Canada.

2020 European Cup... It may be Spain.

SW: The 'proposal' is completely inadequate. They should be required to submit a formal and complete bid.

Euro countries: agree

ENG: A complete bid, especially including hotel costs, is critical.

SW: Propose that this decision be scheduled for the summer meeting. With a formal and complete bid to be prepared and distributed by mid-June.

2020 Champ... Only expression of interest is IRE. No information received yet.

SW: This will also be scheduled for the summer meeting, with proposals prepared and distributed by mid-June.

2021 IBTF BT Champ

SW: Would definitely like to see a WBTF country win this bid.

CAN: It probably should be a European country in order to actually get majorette involvement.

NET: Has IBTF established minimum height requirements for its competitions?

SW: Not yet.

SW: How will we handle large number of athletes in the changing rooms. The way we do it is to assign dressing rooms in a country-dedicated area.

RUS: In our case for May 2018, this won't be a problem because it is a large venue with enough space. It becomes a scheduling issue in order to spread out the athletes attending.

JAP: At our nationals, we have around 1000 athletes competing over 3 days. We simply have a men's changing room and a women's - not allocated by club. They change and keep their bags with them in their seating areas.

SW: Running a 7 or 8 day competition may present a challenge for some federations, but not necessarily for all.

SW: Bids are open... have it ready, have it thorough, all by June.

### **New Member Report**

RUS: Uzbekistan was a closed country but has democratized and become quite open. Viktoria has a very good relationship with the Uzbek sport ministry. Speaks very fluent English. Similar for Kyrgyz Republic (but not fluent English).

SW: Have communicated back-and-forth by email and on a very regular basis with some. All are very enthusiastic.

Moto reported on the S Korea clinic

**Motion 5:** Move to accept Uzbekistan, Kyrg Republic, Argentina, Pakistan, S Africa, S Korea for Provisional membership.

Move: USA

Second: SCO

Unanimous

SW: Our provisional membership category requires renewal annually. Recommend that we do not renew the provisional membership for the current member from Kazakhstan.  
At the time we accepted this federation, there was an application from a second applicant. Upon a three year review we feel that we should not continue and bring in the second applicant.

**Motion 6:** Move that we do not renew provisional membership for Kazakhstan.

Move: CAN

Second: USA

Unanimous

CZE: Will contact Slovakia and pursue them for membership.

USA: Has Japan had any success with China?

JPN: First contact was about 15 years ago, but very little progress to report.

SW: Indonesia?

JPN: Last December at our Group National Championship, Indonesia attended. He introduced the government officer back in Indonesia because this year in August Indonesia is hosting the Asian Games. Baton Twirling has been invited to perform as a demonstration.

SW: Puerto Rico update... We have raised between 2500 and 3000 for hurricane relief. Japan today provided a 4000 donation.

USA: USTA is planning on going down to provide humanitarian assistance.

### **Budget Proposals**

Paul presented the various budget proposals that are contained in the 2018 budget.

SW: Vision for Tab System at I Cup is that each lane would have a TV monitor beside each lane so that the scores for that lane would be displayed on those monitors. Some of the hardware (e.g. tablets, network) would be WBTF, some of it (e.g. monitors) would be provided by the host country.

ENG: Does France already have the big screens for 2019.

FRA: No.

ITA: This system needs to be easy to install and easy to use so that it can be used by the different countries.

NET: What does the General Secretary position do to the Sports Administrator position?

SW: As it is proposed, there is very little overlap.

USA: This position is not elected, how will the selection be done?

SW: We will put out a call for applications.

ENG: Will the General Secretary come to the meetings?

SW: Maybe to one of the two - it may be necessary or it may not. Many of the tasks in that position are currently being done by SW and the next president may not be willing to do so.

JPN: It is actually quite surprising that WBTF, as an international federation, hasn't needed this position before now. As a national federation, we have 5 full-time staff to manage the day-to-day work.

NET: is the 12K for Advisor/Lobbyist a one-time amount, or will it become an annual requirement?

SW: After the first year, we will have the opportunity to re-evaluate and re-consider.

SW: These amounts do add up. Over the years, WBTF has been very conservative in its financial management and have built up funds for the right time. That time is now for us to move forward.

NET: Is the 2500 in funds for education enough?

SW: It would be better to have more - it is impossible to predict. But we simply felt that the extraordinary amounts were already adding up to a large number for the Board to approve!

Sandi presented the membership fee proposal. There are no changes to membership fees from previous years.

### **Renewed IBTF Statutes**

The original/first statutes that were already approved actually contained 'statute' and 'policy manual' items.

### **IBTF Policy Handbook**

7pm Recessed for the evening

Sunday 8:30 am

SW called the meeting to order

JMR and Elisabeth Kleive reported on behalf of the ETC

The ETC approved their minutes from the summer meeting in Porec', Croatia with the following amendment: Jean Michel Ruelle was present at the meeting.

In Artistic Group, ETC is proposing that 10 groups go to Final Round, regardless of the number of groups entered in the division. No change to Team

SW: This request was made by several groups after 2017 I Cup because of the cost of travel etc. It is probably a very good idea, since the A Group event doesn't have any levels.

Proposing that we eliminate the requirement that tattoos must be covered. Times have changed since that rule was introduced. We did investigate other sports - even gymnastics doesn't have rules that tattoos must be covered.

ENG: We have tried to cover with make-up, but that doesn't work either because the make-up transfers to the baton.

Proposing a plan of action to improve communication

- Judges and Technical Advisors meeting in the summer, for 2-3 hours
- Have Skype or Go to Meetings throughout the year (frequency TBD)
- Establish an email group for judges and technical advisors only to share questions, answers and communicate better

- Establish working groups that include people from outside the ETC for small tasks and projects that need to be done

SW: Already do have a conference call on Feb 6

NET: Should these motions being presented by the ETC be presented and considered by the Technical Advisors before the Board votes on them?

SW: 2 years ago, the TA came to the Board and asked for some type of sub-committee to try and speed things along. The ETC was created and empowered to do this progress.

ENG: The ETC is addressing the communication issue

EK: This winter meeting the ETC has been working a great deal on the coaches program and changes to short program. Those are the matters we will really need to communicate with the technical advisors on Feb 6.

We are also working on the role of the chief judge. At the world championship, the role is largely administrative - ensure everyone flashes within the range. But at the European championship, the chief judge has the authority to actually go to a judge and tell them they need to change their scores because they are not scoring properly.

SW: The summer meeting time will be hard to schedule. And WBTF did used to have summer technical and judges' meetings and they were cancelled because the technical people were just too busy and preoccupied with the actual competition.

ENG: The question of the summer meeting should be discussed with the technical community at the Feb 6 meeting.

SW: surveyed the board to see whether they wanted to vote on these ETC motions now, or do them by e vote after the ETC has had its Feb 6 conference with the technical community.

Board: vote now

JAP: Tattoos are a cultural issue. We still think they do not belong in a performance sport like ours.

NET: Any changes, progress to report on the new judging system?

EK and JMR: We have tried several things for the new judging system with no success. It is still a concern, but the coaches program was established as a higher priority. The caption system that they tried in 2014 is one that we want to explore further. We need to establish a clear direction and broad objectives and then also involve the technical community in different working groups.

JMR reported on the coaches' program

We have finalized the clinicians for the summer program. WE have fixed the content of the one-day course that will be delivered in the summer. It looks like we will have two audiences at the World Champ... some attending to become clinicians, others attending to learn the material of the Six Degrees, etc.

It is very important for the WBTF that we have some WBTF-certified coach in all of our countries and areas. And very important to have that in counties that have recently joined the WBTF.

**MOTION 7:** Artistic Groups will have two rounds of competition. They begin with a preliminary round and end with a final round. The top 10 groups will move to the finals, regardless of the number of groups entered in the division.

Moved: USA  
Second: France  
In Favor: 12  
Against: Netherlands  
Approved

**MOTION 8:** To remove the rule on covering tattoos. (Section 10 of the WBTF Policies & Procedures Manual – Page 11, point 10 under hair and accessories and under the Baton/Costume Inspection form – “other” – remove requirement

Moved: Norway  
Second: Russia  
In Favor: 9  
Against: Japan, Canada, Netherlands  
Abstain: Switzerland  
Approved

### **Renewed IBTF Statutes**

SW: These were sent out earlier. Have been reviewed by our sports attorney.

CAN: Section 3.1.3.2 (Purpose) this paragraph excludes majorette federations as members to IBTF... so we will need to make sure that majorettes really are part of WBTF or WFNBT. No need to change anything, but we must be mindful that those majorette federations need to be associated with either WBTF or WFNBT.

**MOTION 9:** Move to accept the renewed IBTF Statutes as presented

Moved: CAN  
Second: SCO  
In Favor: Unanimous  
Approved

### **IBTF Policy Handbook**

SW: This is where many of the things that were in the original version of the statutes have been moved to. This is a working document that will continue to be developed.

USA: The IBTF provides a lower share of entry fees to the host country (50%) than WBTF currently provides (60%).

SW: This is not in the policy handbook yet, as the finance people are still working on their section of the policy manual.

It was a complicated discussion - that involved balancing many interests and coming from two very different competition financial structures.

For the Freestyle year in the cycle, it is a concern and is perhaps something that will need to be re-visited at future IBTF meetings.

SW: Future revisions will have to come to the WBTF Board for their approval.

**MOTION 10:** Move to accept the renewed IBTF Policy Manual, as presented

Moved: USA  
Second: SWI  
In Favor: Unanimous  
Approved

### **Bid process document**

NET: current requirement in the document is for minimum 3000 people. Seems unnecessarily high.

NET: Refers to Continental and International. Should be referring to Cups and Championships.

Sidebar... 2019 E Champ

ENG: Was not able to have the meeting with the E Commission members to decide what to do if no acceptable bids were received by the Feb 14 deadline.

ENG: At this point (ie. today) it is impossible for any country to commit to 2019 E Champ

NET: The financial viability of a E Champ competition must be addressed. It is a fundamental problem and one of the reasons that countries are hesitant to bid.

SW: Obviously the fear/concern we should all have is that our venue requirements - particularly height at a Championship event - are pricing us out of the market.

NET: when the Board meeting adjourns, the E Commission must meet and discuss potential issues for the 2019 E Champ.

**MOTION 11:** Move to accept the renewed Hosting Bid Process into the WBTF Policy Manual, with revisions as noted in the Board minutes.

Moved: NET

Second: NOR

In Favor: Unanimous

Approved

### **Catalonia letter**

Received letter from Catalonian federation yesterday regarding their request to compete under the international flag rule. This was followed by a letter of objection from Spain.

**MOTION 12:** Move to deny the request from the Catalan Federation.

Moved: CAN

Second: USA

Abstain: RUS

In Favor: 11

Approved

### **Letter from Ireland**

ENG: Ireland federation wishes to make it very clear that they are not, as a federation, making money from the Stay to Play policy. That support is used for the venue.

NOR: In Bernadette's letter, it referenced a June date for the deposits

NET: May 9 will be the entry deadline (8 weeks prior to Opening Ceremony). With that as the entry deadline, May 15 is a reasonable deadline for hotel deposits.

ACTION: E Commission will address these issues related to the E Cup.

### **Sport Recognition SubCommittee**

President: Sandi Wiemers, SWI (Alessia Dolci), RUS (Andrey Kokoulin), NET (Martin Stevens)  
The purpose to craft an agreement to seek approval from WFNBT to submit GAISF application.

**MOTION 13:** Move to appoint a Sport Recognition sub-committee that will act on behalf of the Board in order to achieve recognition at GAISF.

Moved: CAN

Second: USA

In Favor: Unanimous

Approved

### **Technology Report**

JJ presented WBTF.ORG annual statistics

PR presented Photo Site updates, including the World Record Book uploads

SW shared the work the Athletes Commission has been doing to prepare for the upcoming World Baton Twirling Day - again, April 10 around the world. We are hoping for participation to increase from the 2017 version.

ENG: Very appreciative of the Photo of the Day on the Facebook group.

### **2018 Budget**

Paul presented the 2018 budget proposal.  
Some corrections.

Board asked to merge the line items of 5.1 and 5.2 into a single line item for startup assistance and allocate a total amount of 15000.

FRA: Re the 12K to Alfredo La Mont. If we achieve recognition, can we split this amount with WFNBT?

SW: This is an excellent point and I agree. We need to make some progress toward achieving the final goal first. We have always said, with the WFNBT partnership, that we (WBTF) had much more to offer to the partnership in many respects: educational programs, money, status, governance structures.

FRA: We are not a perfect organization, we have a lot of money and it is important to use this money because it really has no value just sitting in the bank.

USA: We are allocating 1/3 of our reserve, and this is a significant amount. We can also use some of these reserves to offset the costs our existing federations incur.

**MOTION 14:** Move to accept the 2018 Budget as amended

Moved: SCOT

Second: NET

In Favor: 11

Against: USA

Approved

### **2018 World Championships Update**

Lunch meals will be uploaded shortly

Practice gym form is on the site now (all availability other than music test)

Will report back to countries about bus transportation within a few weeks.

Dinners at Embassy Suites... Sandi will send out contact information separately.

## **Elite Divisions and 2019 ICup**

Three options from yesterday:

- 1) Leave it like it is
- 2) Add Solo, 2B and Team (Elite) divisions back in to the I Cup
- 3) Negotiate with NBTA to increase the Elite allocation to be 12 from each country (6 from each federation)

CAN: Leave it as it is. Maybe some Elite athletes will not attend I Cup in ATwirl, APair, 3Baton and only attend GPrix, but impossible to predict.

SWE: Also, do the Majorette events have to be in the middle or can they be moved to the beginning or end.

ITA: Would prefer to see Majorette at beginning or end. At the moment, they are not a sport and we should mix our 'sport' with the majorette competition.

NOR: If some athletes cannot attend the entire competition. We don't want our athletes travelling alone or attending alone.

FRA: Are we discussing just the Elite division issue at I Cup? Or also the schedule?

USA: Our issue is with both.

Jeff: Changing the schedule: can only be done with talking to WFNBTB.

- Adding more athletes to GPrix: can only be done with talking to WFNBTB.
- Adding Elite Solo, 2B, Team back to ICup: we can decide that on our own

USA: What was the technical input on this:

SW: 3 of our technical people were there, and they worked on and agreed to this schedule.

NOR: Back to schedule... can we ask again?

SW: Yes of course

FRA: Cannot extend the venue by one day on either side.

SW: I will definitely go back to the IBTF people to adjust the schedule. Move Majorette over to the end of day 7. Start GPrix right at the beginning of Day 5.

SW: We could possibly squeeze more lanes on to the floor and accept that the days will run longer...

FRA: This schedule has been accepted within the FFSTB. This competition and schedule is a large financial risk to FFSTB. If we move the Elite Solo, 2B, Team back in to the I Cup, our concern is that many people will not stay to watch (or participate) in the Grand Prix. The last two days of the competition are very important for us because that is when we expect to have the most spectators and it is the greatest showcase.

SW: If we do not put Elite Solo, 2B, Team back in to Intl Cup, we run the risk that some athletes may only qualify in Artistic Twirl (since there are 6 qualifiers) but not Solo (since there are only 3) may skip the competition entirely.

SW: Porec' GP had two problems:

- 1) Should not have been before, should have been like Abbotsford.
- 2) Location hurt because NBTA athletes had just recently been in Porec'.

CAN: This was negotiated carefully, considering FFSTB needs. Accept it as-is.

Option 1: Leave as-is  
Option 2: Add Elite Solo and 2B back to I Cup  
Option 3: Add Elite Team back to I Cup  
Option 4: Add Elite Solo, 2B, Team back to I Cup

First vote

Option 1: 5  
Option 2: 3  
Option 3: 0  
Option 4: 4

FRA: Why are we voting again? If we are changing the schedule, we must know rapidly so it can be presented to the managing committee in France. It is important to know what is the process for making decisions - it not clear now. The organization of the competition is not to make profit but to develop the sport itself. It is a lot of work, we need a lot of volunteers. It is very difficult to organize when things change each time a group of people gets together. It is very important to respect the procedures for decision-making. We must leave to catch our flight now, but we need to know what the decision is because there is a lot of committee management - it is not just one or two people that gets everything done. Now in FFSTB decision-making is a bit more difficult because 30% of our decision makers are former NBTA France people.

NET: Could JPN and USA find Option 2 acceptable?

USA: It is better than Option 1 for us.

JPN: Asking Team to only be in GP is a tough sell.

JPN: Obviously, whatever the Board decides, we will support. But Solo is our base and first event.

Second vote

Option 1: 1  
Option 2: 0  
Option 3: 0  
Option 4: 11

SW: I think this is a positive... I believe we will see more athletes at both the I Cup and the G Prix as a result.

SW: Procedurally, a couple things... When we come home from the summer competition, I begin to immediately receive questions about when will we getting the rules for the next competition. We did that. Then we get to November, and decisions are made in partnership with IBTF. It was probably a mistake to not respect WBTF history by deciding to drop the Elite Solo/2B/Team. It may be unprofessional to be 're-visiting' that decision from November, but it is more unprofessional to not correct an error when we know it is there.

**Stay to Play**

Tabled

**MOTION 14:** Move to adjourn

Moved: USA

Second: SCO

In Favor: Unanimous

Approved

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Johnson, Secretary