



WORLD SLEDDOG ASSOCIATION

Sleddoggraces since 1995

MINUTES

WSA General Assembly
7 September 2019, 10.00 AM
Hotel Prinz Carl, Buchen, Germany

Topic 1

Welcome and reports of the previous year (Chairman & Board Members). Discussion of closer collaboration between WSA and IFSS

WSA Chairman Arno Steichler opens the General Assembly at 10.15 am. He reports on the achievements of the past year and thanks again the organizers of the Dryland World Championships in Samorin/ Slovakia and Haidmühle / Germany for their excellent work.

Looking ahead, the Chairman announces that the WSA's new website and the registrations for the Dryland World Championships in November in Firle, UK will go live in the coming weeks. The on-snow Sprint and MD World Championship will be held in Zuberec in February and Niklas Andersson is at the GA to give an update on the on-snow World Championships 2021 in Ramundberget, Sweden. The WSA is still looking for a venue for the Dryland World Championships 2020.

In 2020, not only the WSA celebrates its 25th anniversary, but also Polardistans its 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion, SPHK, the Swedish member of the WSA, has applied for the 300km race to become the WSA Long Distance World Championship.

As already communicated before the General Assembly, delegations from the IFSS led by Helen Lundberg, President of the IFSS and Rüdiger Bartel, Chairman of the IFSS Nordic Breed Committee and the WSA led by Arno Steichler, met in April 2019 to explore the potential and benefits of a closer collaboration between the two leading sled dog sport organizations. During the discussions, it soon became apparent that both organizations had many shared goals and faced similar challenges.

The IFSS is a member of GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations) and actively works on getting the sled dog sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee. If successful, this would also benefit the WSA in negotiations with the public sector and sponsors. Many members of the WSA are also members of the IFSS. A collaboration with the IFSS would mean that we would work together in partnership to standardize the rules and that in future there will only be one championship for FCI-approved purebred sled dogs.

Arno Steichler supports a two-year trial period during which the WSA remains independent. Both the WSA General Assembly and the IFSS General Assembly, to be held next June in Minneapolis, must agree to this before any next steps can be agreed. The Chairman concludes his report by stating that this is potentially a small step for the WSA, but a giant leap for the sled dog sport.

Following the Chairman's report, Rüdiger Bartel reads out a note by Helen Lundberg who regrets that she can't attend the General Assembly in person but sends her regards. Anders Hörnlund, member of the IFSS Nordic Register Breed Committee, is also present at the GA.



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Report Director Dryland

John Carter congratulates Peter and Viola Chanas on the successful hosting of the WSA Dryland World Championship in Samorin, Slovakia. The fact that the same number of nations were represented in Samorin as in the following on-snow Sprint / MD Championships in Haidmühle/ Germany demonstrates that there is a demand for Dryland championships. Looking forward, he encourages the WSA members to attend the upcoming Dryland World Championships in Firle/ UK. Finally, he asks all members to consider whether they have suitable venues for a Dryland World Championship. If in doubt, John is always available to help and advise.

Report Directors Sprint & Middle Distance

Christof Diehl thanks the VDSV, the SC Haidmühle and Michael Landau for the, despite the time pressure, well organized World Championships Sprint and Middle Distance 2019 in Haidmühle.

Report Director Antidoping/ Veterinary Affairs

Karsten Hesse praises the excellent veterinary infrastructure and support at the World Championships in Haidmühle. The vet team was very busy, mainly due to medical emergencies related to dogs that did not participate in the race. He asks that going forward if mushers have no other option other than to bring seriously ill dogs (cancer, etc.) to a race, that they notify the veterinarian in charge ahead of time to ensure that he is prepared accordingly.

All doping tests conducted in Haidmühle were negative.

Topic 2

Acceptance of invitation and agenda as per WSA statutes

The Chairman notes that the invitation for the General Assembly had been issued in accordance with the WSA Statutes. The invitation and the agenda are accepted unanimously.

Topic 3

Counting of delegates and votes (see separate list of delegates and votes – appendix 1) and attendance list

After the attendance list has been checked by Cindy van den Brink, Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber and Irene Valenkamp the following number of votes are determined:

Board: 10 votes

Delegates: 43 votes

The absolute majority is 22 votes. With this the GA has a quorum.

Topic 4

Report of the Treasurer and the Financial Controllers - Discharge of Board

Cindy van den Brink reports on income and expenditures of the past year. The WSA had income from the Dryland Championship in Samorin and the World Championships Sprint & MD in Haidmühle. New this year were the costs for the external webmaster and the insurance premium. Nevertheless, the year ended with a positive result.

Financial Controllers Elena Shepeleva and Mary Carter checked the book keeping ahead of the GA and thanked the Treasurer Cindy van den Brink for her excellent work and asked the assembly to discharge the Treasurer. The Treasurer is discharged unanimously.

Arno Steichler then asks the assembly to discharge the entire Board. The Board is also unanimously discharged by the GA.



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Topic 5

Changes to WSA Statutes

The amendments to the Statutes proposed by the Board were sent to the members with the invitation to the General Assembly.

- The Assembly decides to vote on the changes as a single package with 37 votes in favor and 6 against.
- The amendments to the Statutes are adopted by 32 votes in favor, 10 against and 1 abstention.
- Since the new Statutes come into effect immediately, the number of votes increases to 46. The absolute majority is now 24 votes.

Topic 6

Election of Board and Extended Board for a period of 3 years

Alain Hauert (SUI) and Attila Kiss (ROU) are unanimously mandated by the Assembly to manage the Board elections.

The Board is elected by secret ballot. The Extended Board will only be elected by secret ballot on request. The entire Board is elected for a term of 3 years.

Since each role on the board can only be filled by one person, the General Assembly will have to choose one of the available candidates for the roles of Director Media/ Sponsoring and Director Distance. In addition to the two candidates (Teunis Bos, Rudiger de Pauw), who have made themselves available for the position of Director Media / Sponsoring ahead of the GA, the assembly proposes Niklas Andersson (SPHK) for the role. Due to time constraints, Karina Andreasen (SPHK) withdraws her candidacy for the role of Director Distance.

The Assembly unanimously decides to destroy the ballot papers following the elections.

Results Board elections

- Chairman: Arno Steichler
38 Yes 3 No 4 Empty
- Vice-Chairman: Arnold Petutschnig
43 Yes 0 No 3 Empty
- Secretary: Irene Valenkamp
39 Yes 7 No 0 Empty
- Treasurer: Cindy van den Brink
44 Yes 0 No 2 Empty

Results Extended Board elections

- Director Sprint: Christof Diehl
45 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions
- Director Dryland: John Carter
45 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions
- Director Distanz: Michael Landau
45 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions
- Director Anti-Doping/ Veterinary Affairs: Karsten Hesse
44 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions
- Director Media/Sponsoring (in a secret ballot)
Teunis Bos: 8 Rudiger de Pauw: 7 Niklas Andersson: 30

John Carter is being elected Director Sport by the Directors Sprint, Distance and Dryland.



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Election of 2 Financial Controllers for a period of 2 years

The two Financial Controllers are also due for election this year. The previous auditors Elena Shepeleva (RUS) and Mary Carter (SCT) are available for another term. In addition, Franky de Backer (BEL) and Gudrun van de Mortel (NLD) are proposed for the role.

The candidates received the following number of votes (in a secret ballot):

- Franky de Backer: 6
- Elena Shepeleva: 3
- Gudrun van de Mortel: 35
- Mary Carter: 37

Gudrun van de Mortel and Mary Carter are confirmed as Financial Controllers for the next two years.

The President thanks Alain Hauert and Attila Kiss for the professional conduct of the elections.

Topic 7

Race Rules

The proposed changes to both the on-snow and Dryland Race Rules are being accepted unanimously.

Race Judge Committee Policy

The new Race Judge Committee Policy raised some questions. It was agreed that the Race Marshal should not have a seat on the Race Judge Committee as it's the role of the Committee to review the Race Marshal's decisions and the five nations represented on the committee should not be elected at the GA for a year, but should be chosen from the nations present at a championship. It was decided that the Policy should be revised and then be put into force by a Board resolution until the next General Assembly.

Topic 8

Veterinary Policy

The new Veterinary Policy, the revised vaccination rules and the veterinary requirements for organizers of championships were adopted unanimously.

Topic 9

Membership Applications

The following membership applications have been received by the Chairman:

- **Zambia:** the request is incomplete. The Chairman has asked for more information. As soon as a complete application has been submitted, Zambia can be provisionally accepted by a Board resolution until the next GA.
- **Mexico:** the application is incomplete. The president has asked for more information. Once a full application has been made, Mexico may provisionally be admitted by a Board resolution until the next GA.
- **Belarus:** The current WSA member in Belarus has been dissolved and a new club has asked to replace it. As soon as all documents have been received and checked, the new club can be accepted by a Board resolution until the next GA.

Single Membership Applications

There is an application for a single membership from Ukraine. This is unanimously granted.



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Topic 10

Race Judge Applications

Applications to become a WSA Race Judge have been received from Andreas Hartmann (GER) and Melis de Heus (NLD). Both candidates meet the requirements. Since both have no previous experience with WSA championships, the General Assembly decides by a majority vote that both applicants should work as Race Judge aspirants for two years, following which the GA will vote again on the applications.

Topic 11

Board Proposals

There are no Board proposals.

Topic 12

Proposal by Members

DSO

The DSO suggests that a proposal is being developed for a uniform membership fee coupled with uniform voting rights (i.e. every member pays the same amount in membership fees regardless of the number of members and receives the same amount of voting rights in return). This proposal requires a change of the WSA statutes, which would have to be voted on at the GA 2020.

The motion is rejected by 27 votes to 9 with 9 abstentions.

SPHK

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Polardistans, SPHK is applying for the 300km race to become the WSA Long Distance World Championship in 2020.

The application is unanimously approved.

Topic 13

Any Other Business (AOB)

Ramonberget 2021

Niklas Andersson presents Ramonberget, the location of the on-snow World Championships 2021.

Q&A with Rüdiger Bartel about the closer collaboration with the IFSS

Rüdiger Bartel, Chairman of the IFSS Nordic Breed Committee, answers questions about the collaboration with the IFSS.

He explains that being recognized by the International Olympic Committee will make it easier for sled dog sports to gain access to public funds, commercial sponsors and training facilities. In addition, the interest of the media in sled dog sport will increase.

Another consequence of working with the IFSS is that in future the WSA will be the only organization that will offer European and World Championships for purebred sled dogs, which will increase the value of the titles.



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Urgent motion Arnold Petutschnig & Michael Landau

Following the Q&A with Rüdiger Bartel, Arnold Petutschnig and Michael Landau put forward the following urgency motion:

With immediate effect and as a first step towards a cooperation with the IFSS, the WSA is to introduce a DID instead of the WDL. The proposed cost of the DID is € 45 with the proceeds going to the WSA! In return, the WSA Board should consider reducing the starting fees for championships.

Following the discussion by the General Assembly the motion was withdrawn.

Acknowledgments

The Chairman thanks the Board Members who are stepping down at this General Assembly Manuela Petuschnig-Gruber, Jacek Wlodarczyk and Karina Andreasen for their many years of service to the sled dog sport.

After a minute's silence for the former WSA middle distance world champion Andreas Kraft, who passed away unexpectedly, the president thanked the delegates for attending the General Assembly and closed the meeting.

Minutes:

Irene Valenkamp/ Secretary

Approved by:

Arno Steichler/ Chairman



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Appendix 1: List of Attendees

Club	Country	Delegate Name	Number of Votes
WSA	Austria	Manuela Petutschnig Gruber	1*
WSA	Austria	Arnold Petutschnig	1**
WSA	Germany	Christof Diehl	1
WSA	Germany	Michael Landau	1
WSA	Germany	Arno Steichler	1
WSA	Germany	Karsten Hesse	1
WSA	Great Britain	Irene Valenkamp	1
WSA	Netherlands	Cindy van den Brink	1
WSA	Poland	Jacek Włodarczyk	1*
WSA	Scotland	John Carter	1
WSA	Sweden	Karina Andreassen	1*
WSA	Sweden	Niklas Andersson	1**
		Total Board	10*/9**
RSSC	Austria	Arnold Petutschnig	1
MBEL	Belgium	Franky de Backer Xavier Dasseville	1 1
BMC	Czech Rep	Manuela Petutschnig	1
FFST	France	Arnoud Eggenmann	2
VDSV	Germany	Michael Landau Rüdiger Bartel Arno Steichler	1 2 1
AMWA	Great Britain	Irene Valenkamp	1
Lucky Sleddog	Italy 2	Andreas Bordiga Sebastian Bordiga	2 1
DSO	Netherlands	Gudrun van de Mortel Lonneke Bom	1 1
NSHK	Norway	Saskia van Es Knut Helge Reiersgård Line Løw Cecilie Husebø-Isaksen	1 1 1 1
PASS	Poland	Jacek Włodarczyk	2
CSSBN	Romania.	Kiss Attila	1
Concord	Russia	Elena Shepeleva Elena Shepeleva jr	1/2*** 1
SSV	Switzerland	Alain Hauert Andre Kummer	1/2*** 1
SDAS	Scotland	Mary Carter	2
SZPZ	Slovakia	Peter Chanas	2
SPHK	Sweden	Karina Andreassen Anders Hörnlund	1 1/2***
SPHK	Sweden	Teunis Bos	Guest
		Total Members	33/36***
		TOTAL	43/45***

* Voting rights until Topic 6

** Voting rights from Topic 6

*** Additional vote from Topic 6 as a result of the changes to point 12.2 of the Statutes



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Appendix 2: Rewritten Statutes

https://www.wsa-sleddog.com/images/Downloads/Statuten/Satzung_WSA_EN_final_19.1.pdf

