



Congress 2019 Minutes

13 & 15 May, Tully, Queensland, Australia

1. Opening of Congress

The Congress was chaired and opened by Mr. Joe Willis Jones, the President. As Chair of the Congress, the President reminded the attendees of the formal process under which the Congress functioned, and that a single delegate representing each member organisation that is a Full Member of the IRF shall be allowed to cast votes and to speak in representation of the views of their nation. He informed the Congress that issues shall be voted on via a show of hands and decided by the majority or as otherwise required by the IRF Bylaws.

2. Apologies, roll call/ establish delegates, establish quorum

Motion 1 **A motion was made by the Chair for a roll call to ascertain the IRF Full Member delegates in attendance, and to establish a quorum. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General.**

The Secretary General then made a roll call of the forty-one (41) IRF Full Member Organisations and it was determined that the answering delegates or proxy delegates represented a majority. A quorum was therefore established, and the Congress was called to order with the full authority established under the IRF Bylaws.

Delegates from IRF Full Member Organisations that answered the roll call:
Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, USA. China, Indonesia and Iran answered the roll call in the 2nd session.

Proxy delegates that answered the roll call:
Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Switzerland.

Board of Directors in Attendance

Mr. Joe Willis Jones - President and Chair

Ms. Sue Liell-Cock - Secretary General

Mr. Pieter Bekkers - Treasurer

Mr. Peter Micheler - Chair of International Relations Committee

Mr. Jozef Kytka - Chair of Judges Committee
Mr. Kianoosh Mehrabi - Co-Head Recreation and Conservation Committee

Apologies:

Mr. Eric Boudreau - Vice-President 1 and Chair of Sport & Competition
Mr. Gaspar Goncz - Vice President 2 and Chair of Guide Training & Education
Ms. Emilia Begunova - Chair of Recreational Rafting
Ms. Nikki Kelly - Chair of Athlete's Committee

3. Vote to accept Congress 2017 minutes

Motion II **A motion was made by the Chair requesting that Congress vote to accept the minutes of the IRF's 2017 Congress. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General.**

A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hands. The vote was recorded with the motion being approved with one abstention.

It was so resolved by the Congress to accept the IRF's 2017 Congress minutes.

4. Reports on membership applications, resignations or expulsions

The Chair recognized Ms. Sue Liell-Cock, the Secretary General, who then reported on the following membership matters:

a) **Advisement of adjustment in Full Member**. The BOD advises Congress that there has been a positive structural change within China that includes rafting sport under the China Watersport Administration thus giving us NOC recognition in China, with CESA continuing to recognise and support the IRF.

b) Advisements of new IRF Provisional Members:

- i. The IRF Board of Directors (BOD) advised Congress that they have accepted the application from the Rafting Sports Association of Pakistan to represent the nation of Pakistan as an IRF Provisional Member.
- ii. The BOD advised Congress that they unanimously voted to revise the status of the Serbian Rafting Federation (SRF) from Full Member to Provisional Member. The BOD also unanimously voted to accept an additional Provisional Member from Serbia, the Rafting Association of Serbia (RAS).

Motion III **A motion was made by the Chair requesting that Congress vote to accept the Rafting Sports Association as the Provisional Member for Pakistan, and the Rafting Association of Serbia as a Provisional Member of Serbia. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General.**

A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hands. The vote was recorded with the motion being approved with one abstention.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept the above mentioned organisations to represent the nations of Pakistan and Serbia as IRF Provisional Members.

c) Resignations of Full Members:

The Turkish Developing Sport Branches Federation (TDSBF), which represents the nation of Turkey in the IRF, has submitted a request to resign TDSBF membership.

Motion IV **A motion was made by the Chair requesting that Congress vote to accept this resignation from IRF membership as the TDSBF had made an official request to resign, and had met all Bylaw requirements that are relevant to resignation requests. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General.**

A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hands. The vote was recorded with the motion being approved with one abstention.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept the resignation of the Turkish Developing Sport Branches Federation as a member of the IRF.

5. President's Report

The President presented a lengthy oral report on the current state of the IRF and the challenges and progress that has been made since the close of the 2017 Ordinary Congress. He also reported on the work that he has been engaged in during that time; the effects, outcomes and resolutions of major international meetings he has attended on behalf of the IRF; and the latest news and advancements of upcoming major IRF competition events. A written summation will be posted alongside this document at a later date.

6. Management Report by the Secretary General

The Chair recognised the Secretary General who summarised the written management report that was sent to members prior to the Congress. The report focussed on key elements such as the IRF's application for Global Association of International Sport Federations (GAISF) recognition and membership, efforts to increase IRF revenues, efforts to increase rafting sport visibility with the general public, the focus on reducing costs for teams to attend IRF events, increase of teamwork and cooperation of our members within the IRF, and thanks to notable individuals that had contributed to IRF progress over recent months.

7. 2018 Financial Report by the Secretary General

The Chair recognised the Secretary General who noted that the report had been accepted and

approved by the BOD and asked the delegates if there were any questions or concerns about the report. No questions or concerns were raised.

Motion V **A motion was made by the Chair requesting Congress to accept and approve the 2018 Financial Report. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General.**

A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hands. The vote was recorded with the motion being approved with one abstention.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept and approve the 2018 Financial Report.

8. Proposed 2019 Budget by the Secretary General

The Chair recognised the Secretary General who noted that the proposed budget had been accepted and approved by the BOD, and asked the delegates if there were any questions or concerns about the proposed budget. No questions or concerns were voiced.

Motion VI **A motion was made by the Chair requesting Congress to accept and approve the proposed Budget for 2019. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General.**

A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hand. The vote was recorded with the motion being approved with one abstention.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept and approve the proposed 2019 Budget.

9. Reports from Heads of Committees

It was stated by the Chair that each member nation had been sent Committee reports prior to Congress and that delegates had hopefully taken time to read them. The Congress, Agenda and Reports were also published on the IRF website for easy access to all and so, in the interest of saving time, it was not necessary for the Congress to read each report from the Committee Heads.

The Chair opened the floor for delegate questions or comments about the reports, but none were forthcoming.

10. IRF Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022 - going over the main objectives.

The Chair presented the draft IRF Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022 via a power point and oral presentation. At the end of the presentation the Chair announced that the draft had been accepted and approved by the BOD and but would remain open for member comments and suggestions for a short time before being finalized and actioned.

The First Session of the 2019 IRF Congress was adjourned by the Chair with pending business to be carried forward to the Second Session.

11. Discussions and Resolutions on Proposals

Prior to Congress, the IRF Administration received a total of three (3) formal proposals which were submitted in accordance with requirements of the IRF Bylaws, and subsequently sent to all member nations for study and review. The Chair invited each nation's delegate and/or BOD member who had submitted these proposals to present an oral summation before Congress. After each presentation, the Chair then motioned to Congress delegates to vote by a show of hands to accept or reject each proposal.

PROPOSAL 1 **A Proposal to Accept Various IRF Bylaw Updates and Changes**
proposed by the IRF Secretary General and approved by the BOD

Motion VII **A motion was made by the Chair requesting Congress to accept or reject in their totality all proposed changes to the IRF Bylaws. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General. A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hand.**

The vote was recorded with the proposal being accepted unanimously.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept all proposed changes and updates to the IRF Bylaws. The changes shall take effect immediately at the close of Congress.

PROPOSAL 2 **A Proposal to Accept Changes to the IRF Membership Fees**
proposed by the IRF Secretary General and approved by the BOD

Motion VIII **A motion was made by the Chair requesting Congress to accept or reject the proposal to change the IRF Membership Fees. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General. A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hand.**

The vote was recorded with the proposal being accepted unanimously.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept the proposed changes to the IRF Membership fees.

PROPOSAL 3 **A Proposal to Accept the BOD's appointment of Rafael Gallo as an Honourary President**
proposed by the IRF President

Motion IX **A motion was made by the Chair requesting Congress to accept or reject the BOD's appointment of Rafael Gallo as a Honourary President of the IRF as per IRF Bylaws. The motion was seconded by the Secretary General. A vote was taken by Congress using a show of hand.**

The vote was recorded with the proposal being accepted unanimously.

It was so resolved by Congress to accept Rafael Gallo as a Honorary President of the IRF.

9. Adjournment of the Congress

The Chair thanked all delegates and BOD members in attendance for their interest and participation, and adjourned the Second Session and closed the 2019 IRF Congress.

10. Breakout Workshop

After the adjournment of the Congress and as announced in the Congress Agenda, all delegates were invited to join in on a Breakout Workshop titled “Challenges for the IRF – the future of international sport governance.” Most delegates chose to stay and actively participate in very fruitful discussions on this subject in an informal setting. It was resolved by the Chair that the positive conclusions taken from this workshop shall be presented for serious consideration by the BOD and the Executive Committee as the IRF moves forward into the future.