



## Congress 2021

# Minutes

23 November 2021, Virtual

### 1. Opening of Congress

The Congress was chaired by IRF President, Joe Willis Jones. The Chair welcomed everyone to the virtual Congress and officially announced the IRF's 2021 Congress open.

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

The Chair recognised the Secretary General, Sue Liell-Cock, who explained how the online webinar platform recorded all attendees as they logged in on the day. The Secretary General then determined that the logged in delegates and proxy delegates of Full Members were 26 which represented a majority of the forty-three (43) IRF Full Member Organisations. A quorum was therefore established, and Congress was called to order with the full authority established under the IRF Bylaws.

#### **Delegates from IRF Full Member Organisations in attendance:**

Argentina, Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Ukraine, and United States of America

#### **Proxy delegates for Full Members in attendance:**

New Zealand

#### **Provisional Members in attendance:**

Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Serbia

#### **Associate Members in attendance:**

HATEAO

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**Board of Directors in attendance:**

Joe Willis Jones - President and Chair of Congress  
Eric Boudreau - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Chair of Sport & Competition Committee  
Gáspár Göncz - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Chair of Guide Training & Education Committee  
Sue Liell-Cock - Secretary General  
Peter Micheler - Chair of International Relations Committee  
Jozef Kytka - Chair of Judges Committee  
Kianoosh Mehrabi – Chair of Conservation Committee  
Emilia Peneva - Chair of Recreational Rafting Committee  
Aleš Danek - Chair of Athletes' Committee

**Apologies:**

Pieter Bekkers - Treasurer  
Tim Marshall - President New Zealand Rivers Association

**Board of Directors nominees in attendance:**

Aleksei Shirokov  
Goran Lolic  
Jasmina Marčok

**3. Vote to accept Congress 2019 minutes**

The Chair recognised the Secretary General, who reported that the Congress 2019 minutes had been distributed together with the agenda and other documents.

The Secretary General introduced the online voting platform for all Full Members to use to cast their secret and verified votes during Congress.

**Motion I      The Secretary General motioned that Congress votes to accept the minutes of the IRF's 2019 Congress.**

**The motion was approved with two abstentions.**

**It was resolved by Congress to accept the IRF's 2019 Congress minutes.**

**4. Reports on membership applications, resignations, or expulsions**

The Chair recognised the Secretary General, who reported on the following membership matters:

**a) Advisements of new IRF Provisional Members:**

The Board of Directors (BOD) advised Congress they had accepted the application from the *Association Gaucha de Esportes Aquáticos (AGEA)* to jointly represent the nation of Brazil as an IRF Provisional Member.

**b) Advisements of new IRF Associate Members:**

- i. The BOD advised Congress they had accepted the application from the *Hellenic Association of Tourism Enterprises in Outdoor Activities (HATEOA)* to represent tourism in Greece as an IRF Associate Member.

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- ii. The BOD advised Congress they had accepted the application from the *Association Peruana de Turismo de Aventura, Ecoturismo y Turismo Especializado (APTAE)* to represent eco-tourism and specialist tourism in Peru as an IRF Associate Member.

**c) Advisements of new IRF Full Members:**

- i. The BOD advised Congress they had accepted the application from *Persatuan Rafting Malaysia (Malaysia Rafting Association)* to represent the nation of Malaysia as an IRF Full Member. They have satisfied all requirements to become a Full Member.
- ii. The BOD advised Congress that the *Ukraine Rafting Federation* has been promoted from Provisional to Full Member, having satisfied NOC requirements, and will continue to represent the nation of Ukraine.

**Motion II     The Secretary General motioned that Congress vote to accept Persatuan Rafting Malaysia (Malaysia Rafting Association) to represent the nation of Malaysia as an IRF Full Member.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**It was resolved by Congress to accept Persatuan Rafting Malaysia (Malaysia Rafting Association) as an IRF Full Member.**

**Motion III    The Secretary General motioned that Congress vote to accept Ukraine Rafting Federation to represent the nation of Ukraine as an IRF Full Member.**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**It was resolved by Congress to accept Ukraine Rafting Federation as an IRF Full Member.**

**d) Resignations of Full Members:**

The BOD advised Congress that no official resignations were received as per our Bylaws.

## 5. President's Report

The President presented his report orally on the current state of the IRF, the challenges and progress that has been made since the close of the 2019 Ordinary Congress. The President also reported on the work 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 published 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 the positives that have come out of the last two years. The Secretary General gave thanks to notable individuals that had contributed to IRF progress over recent months.

**Motion IV The Secretary General motioned that Congress vote to accept the Management Report.**

**The motion was approved with one abstention.**

**It was resolved by Congress to accept the Management Report.**

## 7. 2020 Financial Report by the Secretary General

The Chair recognised the Secretary General who presented the 2020 Financial Report and noted the report had been accepted and approved by the BOD and asked delegates if there were any questions or concerns about the report. No questions or concerns were raised.

**Motion V The Secretary General motioned Congress to accept and approve the 2020 Financial Report.**

**The motion was approved with one abstention and one rejection.**

**It was resolved by Congress to accept and approve the 2020 Financial Report.**

## 8. Proposed 2021 Budget by the Secretary General

The Chair recognised the Secretary General who presented the 2021 budget and noted the budget had been accepted and approved by the BOD and asked delegates if there were any questions or concerns about the budget. One question was asked and answered.

**Motion VI The Secretary General motioned Congress to accept and approve the 2021 Budget.**

**The motion was approved with one rejection.**

**It was resolved by Congress to accept and approve the 2021 Budget.**

## 9. Reports from Heads of Committees

The Chair noted 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 access to all and so, in the interest of saving time, it was not necessary for the Congress to be presented with each report from the Committee Heads.

The Chair opened the floor for delegate questions or comments about the reports. Discussions ensued.

## 10. Discussions and Resolutions on Proposals

Prior to Congress, the IRF Administration received a total of one (1) formal proposal which was submitted in accordance with requirements of the IRF Bylaws. This proposal was and subsequently sent to all member nations to review.

**Proposal 1 Proposal to accept various IRF Bylaw updates and changes**

*Proposed by the Secretary General and President, and approved by the Executive Committee*

**Motion VII The Chair motioned Congress to accept or reject all proposed changes to the IRF Bylaws in their totality.**

**The motion was approved with one rejection.**

**The Chair opened the floor to the delegate that rejected the motion, so that they could present their reasons as to why they rejected and to open a discussion on the reasons. However the delegate declined to present their reasoning.**

**It was 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.**

## 11. Election of new Board of Directors

The Chair thanked the incumbent BOD for their past four years of service. And especially thanked Pieter Bekkers who opted to not stand again as Treasurer as he felt the new candidate would benefit the position more.

**Motion VIII The Chair motioned Congress to vote for their preferred candidate for the position of Chair of the International Relations Committee.**

**The motion was recorded as Aleksei Shirokov (12 votes), Peter Micheler (9 votes), and two abstentions.**

**It was resolved by Congress to approve Aleksei Shirokov as the Chair of the International Relations Committee.**

**Motion IX The Chair motioned Congress to vote for their preferred candidate for the position of Chair of the Judges Committee.**

**The motion was recorded as Goran Lolic (17 votes), Jozef Kytka (5 votes), and one abstention.**

**It was resolved by Congress to approve Goran Lolic as the Chair of the Judges Committee.**

The Chair thanked Peter Micheler and Jozef Kytka for their work as Chairs over the past years. Particularly Peter Micheler who was a founding member of the IRF, as well as a past President.

**Motion X** The Chair motioned Congress to vote for the remaining eight (8) uncontested BOD positions which were: President, Sport & Competition Chair, Guide Training & Education Chair, Treasurer, Secretary General, Media & Marketing (Communications) Chair, Recreational Rafting Chair and Sustainability Chair.

The motion was recorded as the motion being approved with one abstention.

It was resolved by Congress to approve the remaining eight (8) uncontested BOD positions.

## 12. Thanks and Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked all delegates and BOD members in attendance for their interest and participation and closed the 2021 IRF Congress.