

MINUTES of the IWF SPECIAL CONGRESS 2022 January 22 (09:30 CET) By Video Conference via Zoom

PARTICIPATING

At Head Table:	Dr. Michael Irani , IWF Interim President
TV Studio, Madrid	Jean-Pierre Morand , IWF Legal Counsel from Kellerhals & Carrard
Online:	Mohammed Jaloud , IWF General Secretary
	IWF Member Federations online as per the attendance sheet attached hereto as Annex 01.

After the welcome speeches of Irani and Jalood; a moment of silence was dedicated to Dr. Francois Carrard, passed away recently, the legal counsel of the IWF.

The floor was passed to Mr. Jean-Pierre Morand who conducted the Congress.

Mr Morand explained that there appeared to be difficulties for members to join the meeting online and that at this stage the number of attending members required to decide on the approval of amendments to the Constitution (75 % or 121 members) had not joined the online meeting yet. Accordingly, and as members were still continuing to join, it was proposed to change the order of the items on the agenda, starting with votes not subject to the above quorum. The vote on the constitutional amendments would then be conducted if and when the quorum of 121 would be reached. A vote on the modified agenda would be conducted as an additional preliminary vote.

Mr Maxim Agapitov, President of the Russian Federation took the floor and began to raise a question in regard to a proposal made on behalf of its federation. Mr Morand indicated that indeed a request was submitted by the Russian Federation and in parallel a similar request had been submitted by four other members. The approval of this proposed amendment could not be included in the agenda as the applications did not fulfil the conditions provided by the Constitution for such application to be submitted by members to be submitted to a vote in this Special Congress. Mr Morand proposed however that this issue be addressed when the point on constitutional amendments would be addressed in the course of the meeting at which point the Russian Federation would be offered the possibility to make its point. Mr Agapitov agreed thereto.

[VOTE 1 Do you approve the modified agenda of the Special Congress? YES/NO](#)

Applicable attendance quorum: 10 members – Members attending on line 115

Votes cast: 95

Yes votes: 94

No Votes: 1

VOTE 1 – From the total of 95 votes, 94 votes cast in favour of approval of the agenda.
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98.95% of the votes cast approved the proposal.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the IWF Special Congress.

VOTE 2 Do you approve the ratification of the appointment of the five (5) members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission? (Chair: Gabriel Nigon (Switzerland), Members: Nasr El-Din Azzam (Egypt), Ahmad Bin Nooh Al-Thani (Qatar), Lorena Novoa (Colombia), Charles Quagliata (Australia))? YES/NO

Applicable attendance quorum: 10 members – Members attending on line 119

Votes cast: 99

Yes votes: 93

No Votes: 6

VOTE 2 – From the total of 99 votes, 93 votes cast in favour of approval

93.93% of the votes cast approved the proposal.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the IWF Special Congress.

VOTE 3 Do you approve the ratification of the appointment of the two (2) “reserve” members of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission? (Ana Maria Montoya Ruales (Peru), Valéry Horyna (Switzerland)) YES/NO

Applicable attendance quorum: 10 members – Members attending on line 119

Votes cast: 105

Yes votes: 104

No Votes: 1

VOTE 3 – From the total of 105 votes 104 votes cast in favour of approval

99.05% of the votes cast approved the proposal.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the IWF Special Congress.

VOTE 4 Do you approve the ratification of the appointment of the five (5) members of the Independent Investigative Chamber? (Dev Kumar Parmar (United Kingdom), Elda Gjoka (Albania), Adnan Rhoma (Libya), Romain Bizzini (France), Lorenza Mel (Italy)) YES/NO

Applicable attendance quorum: 10 members – Members attending on line 21

Votes cast: 105

Yes votes: 103

No Votes: 2

VOTE 4 – From the total of 105 votes 103 votes cast in favour of approval

98.10% of the votes cast approved the proposal.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the IWF Special Congress.

Intervention by the Russian Weightlifting Federation: Mr Maxim Agapitov from RUS WF asking the floor passed the floor to the Second delegate, Mr. Artem Patsev from Russia, as he was boarding a plane. Mr Patsev said the following which he asked to put on record:

“The Russian Weightlifting Federation would like to raise here a very important question regarding the amendments to the IWF Constitution, so we would like to say some words on the central issue of our Special Congress today.

It was totally surprising and disappointing to see that the IWF email of 16 January 2022 to all of you, Full Member Federations, did not include the suggestions duly and in due time sent to the IWF by the Russian Weightlifting Federation in regard of Art.13.12 of the IWF Constitution, containing, inter alia, both the proposal on the amendment of this Article’s text and the rationale therefor. These suggestions have not been included into the file named “IWF Constitution Amendments” and, therefore, the proposal duly made by the IWF Member

Federation (Russian Weightlifting Federation) according to the Art. 42.3 of the IWF Constitution in regard of a Special Congress (which is the case here today), was not listed/mentioned in the materials for the point 3 of the agenda (Approval of the proposed changes to the IWF Constitution and Rules). By the way, these proposals have been sent to the IWF twice – on 8 December 2021 and on 12 January 2022.

What is even worse is that the same proposal has been duly sent (in due time as well) to the IWF by some other Full Member Federations, including Kazakhstan and Turkey and some others, and those have been totally ignored by the IWF, too.

It is undisputable (and one cannot seriously dispute) that it is a clear attempt to deprive all of you, all Full Member Federations, of your essential right to be informed beforehand on the entirety of the materials for the upcoming Congress, let alone the right of a particular Full Member Federation to have its proposals be included into the agenda for a wide discussion by the weightlifting community (such a right is ensured by Art.42.3 of the IWF Constitution).

Such a blatant violation of the newly adopted IWF Constitution will not remain unnoticed, and the Russian Weightlifting Federation intends to protect the Members' Federations – all of your - constitutional rights in full, including the resort to the IOC's assistance and judicial protection by the Swiss court system. We have some troubles in understanding why the IWF management still hesitates to publish on its website the information regarding a claim against the IWF which has been filed with the Lausanne cantonal court based on the direct violations of the Swiss law by Art.13.12 and the way IWF applies it, and the case is still pending resolution.

The Russian Weightlifting Federation respectfully requested the IWF management to include the missing proposals into the materials for this Special Congress, for your kind attention. However, this request was also denied, as the IWF somehow decided that Art.42.3 of the Constitution does not apply, as Mr Morand has just mentioned. It is our opinion and the opinion of the Swiss legal professionals who are in charge of the claim filed in Lausanne that the grounds raised by the IWF denying our request are totally baseless, since the proposed amendments squarely fall within the scope of this Special Congress, setting out the requirements for eligibility for those who will want to be elected in the future. We suppose it will be finally for the Swiss court to decide who is right and who is wrong here.

Anyway, it is absolutely clear and so we would like to remind all you, dear delegates of the Member Federations, that no vote can be taken on the proposed changes because there was a serious flaw in the process.

That being said and given that it has been a longstanding position of the Russian Weightlifting Federation and Mr Maxim Agapitov's personal position – to be always transparent and honest with everyone, we would like to raise a formal complaint about this issue.

We hereby respectfully request to include this formal complaint into the minutes of this Special Congress. Of course, I'm ready to send immediately the text of my speech to the Chairman of the Congress, Mr Interim President Mike Irani, for his convenience and for convenience of those who will draft the minutes of this Special Congress. Thank you very much for your kind attention."

Jean Pierre Morand, taking the floor replied that, as he already mentioned in his introductory speech, four members, in addition of Russia, had made a proposal for amendments of provisions, whose amendments were not considered and therefore not applied for by the IWF board when it decided to call the present Special Congress. The Special Congress was named "special" as it had precisely a *special purpose*, which was defined by the party who called it – in the present case the IWF Board – to approve specific amendments referring to the process of the elections, and specifically *not* to consider other amendments of material provisions. If the members wanted to propose constitutional amendments, the Constitution was very clear on how this should happen:

First, through a proposal lodged on the occasion of an ordinary Congress in which a member had a right to make a proposal individually.

Outside of an ordinary Congress, and when the proposal had to be done through a Special Congress, a request for a special Congress with the purpose of addressing this proposal had to be made. This was specified in article 42.3, mentioned by Mr. Patsev, which referred to article 15.6. Article 15.6 provided that an application by a member for a special Congress and for a decision to be submitted to that special Congress had to be supported by at least 20% of the members. The members – individually – did not have the right to submit and propose a constitutional change, which is a major step for the Federation, at any time if and when they would wish to do it. The fact that there had been a Special Congress called for with a specific purpose and with accordingly a specific agenda was not meant to open the floor to any other amendments proposals, including amendments, which could happen to be more or less linked with the topic for what the Congress had been called by the IWF board. Only the IWF Board defined the purpose for which it called a special Congress. Such a Congress was defined by the fact that it was called for a purpose. The purpose of the present Congress was twofold: to approve the amendment submitted by the Board and only those ones, and not to open potentially a full revision of the Constitution, and secondly, to proceed with the ratifications. It did not open the possibility for a member to submit 14 days in advance of the Congress, a proposal that it could only make individually 4 months in advance of an ordinary Congress, or in a Special Congress only together with at least 20% of the members. Clearly the five members together did not represent the required quota for a proposal by members.

Accordingly, the proposal made by Russia and the other Federations could simply not be submitted to this Special Congress because it did not belong to it. The IWF Board confirmed that decision not to include the proposal on Friday [28 January 2022] and this was communicated to the concerned Federation.

The Constitution, being the fundamental text of the federation, was very clear on the fact that an individual member could not request to put items on the agenda at the last moment, on the occasion of a Special Congress. It is something that a member could not do, subject to fulfilling the conditions of the Constitution. Mr Morand added that he would invite the concerned members, if they thought that the amendment they wanted to propose was adequate to do it observing the constitutional requirements. They could do that either on the occasion of the following ordinary Congress, and it could then be submitted as an individual request, provided the four months deadline would be respected. The other way was if they could gather 20% of the members to support their motion to change the present constitution, in which case such motion should then be addressed in a Special Congress, which would be a different one. This was the only possible answer to be given to the applicant members on that matter.

Regarding the request of Mr. Patsev to record their intervention in the Minutes of the present Congress, Mr Morand said that the intervention on this issue would indeed be recorded.

VOTE 5 Do you approve to have a block vote on the proposed changes to the IWF Constitution and Rules? YES/NO

Applicable attendance quorum: 10 members – Members attending on line 122

Votes cast: 108

Yes votes: 103

No Votes: 5

VOTE 5 – From the total of 108 votes 103 votes cast in favour of approval.

95.37% of the votes cast approved the proposal.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the IWF Special Congress.

VOTE 6 Do you approve the proposed changes to the IWF Constitution and Rules included in the material which was provided to IWF Member Federations on 15 January 2022? YES/NO

Applicable attendance quorum: 121 members – Members attending on line 123 (quorum met)

Votes cast: 111

Yes votes: 107

No Votes: 4

VOTE 6 – From the total of 111 votes 107 votes cast in favour of approval.

96.40 % of the votes cast approved the proposal.

The proposal was ACCEPTED by the IWF Special Congress.

The President thanked the members for their participation and overwhelming support for this very important step for the IWF in moving towards an Electoral Process which was essential to restore the credibility and preserve its place as an Olympic sport.

There being no other matter to transact, the meeting was closed.

Meeting ended 12:00 a.m. CET 30 January 2022.

Minutes taken by Mária Cseresnyés

Annexes to the Minutes

ANNEX 1 Attendance List of Representatives of Member Federation participating Online