

WSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gasthof Risserhof/ Scharnitz/ Tirol on 20th September 2014

10.40 am: Opening of the General Assembly (the meeting was held in German and translated into English by Irene Valenkamp)

Topic 1

Welcome of members and guests from the WSA Chairman and report of previous year. Reports of other board members.

The Chairman Arno Steichler welcomes delegates and guests. In view of a future collaboration with the IFSS, the Chairman is particularly pleased to welcome the treasurer of the IFSS, Christian Haerberli.

Arno Steichler summarizes the long way the WSA has come since the reconstitution of the Board in 2011 in Campo Felice. He points out what a success the past championships have been and thanks the respective organizers. He also touches on the continuously growing membership, the increased media coverage and the balanced books.

He briefly summarizes the activities of the other Board members and reminds everybody of the upcoming joint IFSS/WSA Dryland Championships in France, a first step towards what is anticipated to become a broader future collaboration with the IFSS.

Finally, he thanks Arnold Petutschnig, President of RSSC-Austria, for his hospitality and expresses his excitement about the upcoming Jubilee World Championships in Scharnitz.

Topic 2

Acceptance of invitation and agenda as per WSA statutes

The agenda was accepted unanimously.

Topic 3

Counting of delegates and votes

Following the examination of the list of attendees by Cindy van den Brink and Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber and the update of the data, the following number of votes was established:

Delegates: 24 votes

Board: 11 votes

Club	Country	Name of delegate	Number of votes
VDSV	Germany	Marcel Kreuzig	2
VDSV	Germany	Rechner Markus	2
SZPZ	Slovakia	Ivan Vasko	2
Concord	Russia	Elena Shepeleva	1
		Elena Shepeleva jr	1
DSO	Netherlands	Cindy Van den Brink	1
FFST	France	Laurent Berge	1
MBEL	Belgium	Rudiger de Pauw	1
		Freddy Guillaume	1
MCS	Switzerland	Guido Weilenmann	1
		Christian Haeberli	1
SSV	Switzerland	Guido Weilenmann	1
		Christian Haeberli	1
PASS	Poland	Jacek Włodarczyk	1
		Mikołaj Włodarczyk	1
RSSC	Austria	Arnold Petutschnig	2
BMC	Czech Rep.	Stepan Krkoska	1
AMWA	England	Irene Valenkamp	1

SDAS	Scotland	Mary Carter	1
		John Carter	1
			24
WSA	Germany	Michael Landau	1
WSA	Germany	Rolf Münch	1
WSA	Germany/Sweden	Arno Steichler (Teunis Bos)	2
WSA	Netherlands	Cindy Van den Brink	1
WSA	Austria	Manuela Petutschnig Gruber	1
WSA	Poland	Jacek Włodarczyk	1
WSA	France	Laurent Berge	1
WSA	Austria	Christian Helm	1
WSA	Germany	Christof Diehl (Karsten Hesse)	2
		IN TOTAL	35

Somit wurde eine Gesamtstimmenzahl von 35 Stimmen festgestellt.

Topic 4

Report of the Treasurer and the Financial Auditors - discharge of the Board

Cindy van den Brink reported on the past financial year and was able to present balanced accounts. On the membership front, only ASKINO/Slovakia did not pay their membership dues.

The Financial Auditors Irene Valenkamp/ UK and Elena Shepeleva/ Russia are both present at the meeting and report that the accounts and the cashbook are in good order. Furthermore, they comment on the exemplary bookkeeping and request to discharge the Board

Topic 5

Membership applications of ASRC (Austria) and ANDORRA MUSHING (Andorra)

Arno Steichler explains that this topic had already led to lengthy discussions at the Board meeting. The WSA statutes dictate that in order to admit a second member club for any country there have to be sporting, language or cultural/historical reasons that justify the admission. Given that in the case of the Austrian club ASRC none of these reasons apply, the application doesn't comply with the statutes and is being rejected. The Chairman welcomes the continued influx of new membership applications but stresses that the goal has to be a single member club per country. He and Vice-Chairman Laurent Berge request that in the course of the coming two to three years countries that currently have two member clubs look into forming a joint national umbrella association to which the WSA membership is being transferred.

Following the rejection of the membership application of ASRC, the assembly is asked to only vote on the application of Andorra Mushing. The application is accepted unanimously. Arno Steichler will inform the club via email about the positive outcome and welcome them into the WSA.

Topic 6

Statute amendment § 4 Basic Principles

Changing from:

The WSA and its members are encouraged to adhere to the following basic principles:

1. Sled dog races according to the statutes of the WSA are only to be held with pedigree sled dogs in accordance with F.C.I. rules and regulations .
2. The fundamental principles of amateur sport and fair play have to be observed and adhered to at all times.
3. WSA and its members guarantee to observe the rules of international federations for the prevention of maltreatment of animals.
4. The following grades and categories are fixed for reasons of sport specific registration:

Category 1 = Siberian Husky

Category 2 = Alaskan Malamute, Greenland Dog, Samoyed

Grades = O; A; B; C; D; SM; SW; SJM; SJW

To:

The WSA and its members are encouraged to adhere to the following basic principles:

1. Cooperation with the respective breed associations in the various countries as well as the F.C.I. .
2. The fundamental principles of amateur sport and fair play have to be observed and adhered to at all times.
3. WSA and its members guarantee to observe the rules of international federations for the prevention of maltreatment of animals.
4. The following grades and categories are fixed for reasons of sport specific registration:

Category 1 = Siberian Husky

Category 2 = Alaskan Malamute, Greenland Dog, Samoyed

Grades = UL, 8,6,4,2, SM, SW, SJM, SJW, MD (middle Distance), D (long Distance)

The statute amendment §4.1 was rejected unanimously. The statute amendment § 4.4 was accepted unanimously.

Topic 7

Statute amendment: § 13 Notice of a General Assembly / Proposals

Changing from:

The regular General Assembly/GA takes place once a year – preferably in June/July. The latest date is the 15th September. The GA is called by the Chairman. The notice has to be in writing and has to be made public on the WSA website accordingly.

To:

The regular General Assembly/GA takes place once a year – preferably in June/July. The latest date is the month of September. The GA is called by the Chairman. The notice has to be in writing and has to be made public on the WSA website accordingly.

The statute amendment was accepted unanimously

Vice-Chairman Laurent Berge points out that an earlier date would be preferable given that many mushers have started training in September. Arno Steichler responds that going forward whenever possible a date in June will be favoured but that enough times needs to be given to the venues organizing championships to prepare a meaningful presentation.

Topic 8

Adaptation of the race rules as a result of the earlier statute changes:

Changing from:

2. Special Rules for Nome Style

2.1 CLASSES.

2.1.1 An OPEN or UNLIMITED (O-class) team shall consist of not less than 8 dogs, with a minimum of 9 dogs in the first run. The musher must be at least 18 years of age.

2.1.2 A limited 8 dog class team (A-class) shall consist of 6 to 8 dogs, with a minimum of 7 dogs in the first heat. The musher must be at least 18 years of age.

2.1.3 A limited 6 dog class team (B-class) shall consist of 4 to 6 dogs, with a minimum of 5 dogs in the first heat. The musher must be at least 16 years of age.

2.1.4 A limited 4 dog class team (C-class) shall consist of 3 to 4 dogs. The musher must be at least 16 years of age.

2.1.5 A limited 2 dog class team (D-class) shall consist of the same 2 dogs at all heats. The musher must be at least 16 years of age.

2.1.6 A musher at the age of at least 12 years and not older than 15 years shall be considered as “JUNIOR”. It is assumed that the junior has the explicit permission to from either the parents or the custodian to participate in the event and that an adequate personal insurance coverage is available. Junior mushers will be marked (J) in the final results. Junior classes are D-class and Skijoring. Junior classes must run over the D-Trail

2.1.7 The age of any musher is regarded to be the same during the whole season and is the age the musher reaches on the 31st of December following the end of the racing season.

To:

2 Special Rules for Nome Style

2.1 CLASSES.

2.1.1 An unlimited team (UL-class) shall consist of not less than 8 dogs, with a minimum of 9 dogs in the first run. The musher must be at least 18 years of age.

2.1.2 A limited 8 dog class team (8-dog-class) shall consist of 6 to 8 dogs, with a minimum of 7 dogs in the first heat. The musher must be at least 18 years of age.

2.1.3 A limited 6 dog class team (6-dog-class) shall consist of 4 to 6 dogs, with a minimum of 5 dogs in the first heat. The musher must be at least 16 years of age.

2.1.4 A limited 4 dog class team (4-dog-class) shall consist of 3 to 4 dogs. The musher must be at least 16 years of age.

2.1.5 A limited 2 dog class team (2-dog-class) shall consist of the same 2 dogs at all heats. The musher must be at least 16 years of age.

2.1.6 A musher at the age of at least 12 years and not older than 15 years shall be considered as "JUNIOR". It is assumed that the junior has the explicit permission to from either the parents or the custodian to participate in the event and that an adequate personal insurance coverage is available. Junior mushers will be marked (J) in the final results. Junior classes are 2-dog-class and Skijoring. Junior classes must run over the 2-dog-trail

2.1.7 The classification is based on the actual age of the musher on the first day of the championship.

Changing from:

2.2 EQUIPMENT

2.2.4 A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver, standing on the runners and have a basket of minimum surface of 40x50 cm, with a solid bottom capable of safely carrying a dog. All sleds in all classes shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brake pad, brushbow, one(1) snowhook for D and C classes is mandatory, two (2) snowhooks are allowed. Two (2) snowhooks for B, A and O are mandatory. All sleds shall be equipped with a dog bag. The dog bag must be of adequate size to carry the largest dog in the team and should be ventilated with holes or a net of a minimum surface of 600 cm². So called Swedish- or Firefighter shackles with sharp edges/locking teeth are not permitted at any point in the harness or equipment as well as the stake out equipment. This is for animal welfare reasons

To:

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Changing from:

3 Special Rules for Pulka Style

To:

3 Special Rules for Pulka Style (SW/SM)

New:

3.3 Trail and Starting Rules

3.3.6 Pulka class shall compete on the 6-dog-class trail.

Changing from:

4 Special Rules for Skijoring

To:

4 Special Rules for Skijoring (SJW/SJM)

Changing from:

4.1 Classes

4.1.5 Separate classes for drivers aged 12-15 years may be offered on the “D-trail”. A musher at the age of at least 12 years and not older than 15 years shall be considered as “JUNIOR”. It is assumed that the Junior has the explicit permission to from either the parents or the custodian to participate in the event and that an adequate personal insurance coverage is available. Junior mushers will be marked (J) in the final results.

4.1.6 The age of any musher is regarded to be the same during the whole season and is the age the musher reaches on the 31st of December following the end of the racing season.

To:

4.1 Classes

4.1.5 Separate classes for drivers aged 12-15 years may be offered on the 2 dog-trail. A musher at the age of at least 12 years and not older than 15 years shall be considered as “JUNIOR”. It is assumed that the Junior has the explicit permission to from either the parents or the custodian to participate in the event and that an adequate personal insurance coverage is available. Junior mushers will be marked (J) in the final results.

4.1.6 The classification is based on the actual age of the musher on the first day of the championship.

Changing from:

4.4 Trail Rules

4.4.4 Skijoring class shall compete on a trail of a maximum of 12 Km.

To:

4.4 Trail Regeln

4.4.4 Skijoring class shall compete on the 6-dog-class trail.

New:

5.2.8 Pure sprint sledges are not allowed in MD and D classes (for example Hornet, Spyder or similar sledges)

Changing from:

7.6.2 Starting Intervals

7.6.2.1 One (1) or two (2) minutes in limited classes involving eight dogs or less as well as Pulka and Skijoring class. At the World Championship / European Championship the starting intervals must be at least one (1) minute for Pulka, Skijoring, D and C classes, and two (2) minutes for B, A and O classes.

To:

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Changing from:

7.8 Time Disqualification

The time disqualification shall be effective if a team's performance is more than 150 % of the fastest three (3) running time per heat and class. This also goes for Juniors. Every team will be compared with their own original class. At a World Championship / European Championship no exceptions are allowed.

To:

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²⁾ 7.8 Exception musher with recognized handicap - paralympics guidelines

³⁾ 7.8. The time disqualification does not apply if a delay is due to providing recognized assistance

Changing from:

7.11.2 Trail Distances

7.11.2.1.2 Trail Distances per heat:

- Unlimited class: more than 18 km
- Eight dog class: 16 km to 19 km
- Six dog classes: 10 km to 15 km
- Four dog classes: 7km to 10km
- Two dog classes: 5 km to 6 km

- Pulka & Skijoring: The distance for Pulka and Skijoring shall be identical to the trail distance of the B category except as otherwise indicated.

To:

7.11.2 Trail Distances per Heat

7.11.2.1.2 Trail Distances per heat:

- Unlimited class: more than 18 km
- Eight dog class: 16 km to 19 km
- Six dog classes: 10 km to 15 km
- Four dog classes: 7km to 10km
- Two dog classes: 5 km to 6 km
- Pulka & Skijoring: to the trail distance of the 6-dog-class.

Changing from:

7.11.2.2.2 The distance shall be at least 40 km.

To:

7.11.2.2.2 The distance shall be at least 40 km (MD).

Changing from:

7.12 Trail Markings

7.12.1 General

7.12.1.6 Markers applicable for a certain class or certain classes only, shall be marked with the class(es)‘ identification („O“, „A“, „B“, „C“, „SH“, „SD” or „SJ“) in white letters in the centre of the marker.

To:

7.12 Trail Markings

7.12.1 General

7.12.1.6 Markers applicable for a certain class or certain classes only, shall be marked with the class(es)‘ identification (UL, 8, 6 (=SM/SW/SJM/SJW), 4, 2 and MD (Middle Distance)) in colour in the centre of the marker.

Topic 9

Redress Eurocup rules

Arno Steichler explained that the original English translation of the Eurocup rules was ambiguous in one point. Irene Valenkamp updated the translation to remove the ambiguity. The formal change of the rules was accepted unanimously.

Topic 10

IFSS/WSA Dryland Championships in France

The Chairman asks Vice-Chairman Laurent Berge to update the Assembly on the IFSS/WSA Dryland European Championships in France as he has been leading the negotiations and the organisation on behalf of the WSA. The Vice-Chairman thanks the IFSS Treasurer Christian Haeberli for attending the GA and explains that Christian Haeberli is working with Christian Helm on defining the registration process for the upcoming joint championship. He goes on to explain that this joint championship is very much a prototype and a learning curve for both organizations. He appeals to the membership to bear with the organizers as not everything will be perfect and that as guests of the IFSS we have to be willing to accept compromises. However, Laurent is confident that solutions will be found for all remaining issues. A list of the quotas per member club can be found in the attachments to the agenda.

Members are being asked to bear in mind the following:

1. 1. By 1st October, members have to inform Arno Steichler and Laurent Berge via email how many starters they intend to send to the Dryland Championships. This might enable countries that would like to send more competitors than their quota currently allows to increase their allocation.
2. 2. All member clubs that are also a member of the IFSS, will have to register their competitors directly with the IFSS. All other members have to register their purebred teams directly with the WSA.
3. 3. All competitors need to purchase a DID (€ 30) regardless whether they register via the WSA or directly with the IFSS.

Topic 11

Miscellaneous about Scharnitz as well as approval for Championship 2015 in Scharnitz

Arno Steichler hands over to Arnold Petutschnig, President of RSSC Austria, the organizers of the 2015 World Championships. He briefly explains the event and presents a video showing the work that has gone into the championship to date. The Chairman expresses his excitement about the upcoming championship and praises the progress that has been made to date.

Topic 12

Applications for the 2016 and 2017 Championships and applications for 2014/15 Eurocup race series

The sole application received for the 2016 World Championships is by SSCT/VDSV/Frauenwald. The application is approved unanimously.

Until now the following Eurocup race applications for the 2014/15 race series have been received: Unterjoch, Frauenwald and Campo Felice. The final deadline for the submission of Eurocup race applications is 1st October (via email to Arno Steichler) in order to ensure a timely publication of the final race calendar on the website.

Topic 13

AOB

Christoph Diehl requests that member clubs inform mushers who intend to participate in the Dryland Championships in France that if they have dogs that are being treated for thyroid issues to get in touch with the WSA vet Dr. Karsten Hesse as soon as possible

Arno Steichler reports that all doping samples collected in Kandersteg tested negative.

The Assembly accepted unanimously the proposal to increase the fees paid by the organizers of championships to the WSA by € 5 as of 2016.

The Chairman closed the General Assembly at 1.20pm

Minutes: Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber, Secretary WSA

Signed: Arno Steichler, Chairman WSA