

FIR Annual General Meeting 2007
Friday 29th Dezember, 9.00 – 11.30 pm Rotterdam/Netherlands

Present Countries and their Representatives	Total 64 votes
Austria (Marcel Weigl),	6 votes
Belgium (Gert Peersman),	7 votes
Canada (Stephane Cadieux represented by Jamie Hernan),	5 votes
Czech Republic (Svatopluk Rejthar),	3 votes
England (Stuart Foster),	4 votes
Estonia (Matts-Erik Lindqvist represented by Tomas Valiviki),	2 votes
Greece (Georgios Georgoudis represented by Lennart Eklundh),	2 votes
Hong Kong (Chi-Ming Chan represented by RFA – Reinhard Trojan),	2 votes
Scotland (Phil Reid represented by Stuart Foster),	3 votes
Finland (Martti Vottonen),	4 votes
Germany (Irene Seifert),	5 votes
Hungary (Eva Kapcsos represented by Jacob de Vries),	4 votes
Poland (Pawel Kozlowski),	2 votes
Slovenia (Primoz Jerko represented by Martti Vottonen),	2 votes
Sweden (Lennart Eklundh),	7 votes
Switzerland (Karim Hanna voted by E-mail),	4 votes
USA (Cliff Wenn represented by Marcel Weigl),	2 votes
Not present Country Representatives,	Total 5 votes
Bulgaria (Puzant Kassabian),	2 votes
France (Nicolas Barbeau),	1 vote
Slovakia (Puha Zsolt),	2 votes

Further Present people

Marc Veldkamp for Netherlands
Hans Mullamaa – FIR Rules Officer

64 out of 69 possible votes were present at the AGM 2007, which is more than 50%. The AGM can thus take final decisions on all points on the Agenda.

1) Welcome note and GAISF

President Marcel Weigl welcomed all participants and reminds them that they are the missing link to the players. Marcel Weigl reports that he has now informed GAISF – General Association of Sports Federations of the existence of FIR with 21 member nations and 15 legally registered national federations. Meanwhile GAISF has replied and stated they will internally discuss this notification. Application for 2008 is too late the AGM of GAISF is in June 2008 and applications need to be handed in 6 months in advance. The next aim of FIR is to achieve the needed 30 national federations until Summer 2008 and then hand in application for membership for 2009.

Vote:

The suggestion by Marcel Weigl that the deadline for legally registering the national federations of the 6 remaining FIR-members Bulgaria, Canada, England, Scotland, Germany and France is to be extended until 30th June 2008 was carried by 62 of the 64 votes which is the majority and thus accepted.

2) Confirmation of Minutes AGM 2006

The minutes of the AGM 2006 were confirmed by all representatives except Switzerland who did not vote, because they were not member in 2006 yet and thus not present at the AGM 2006.

3) Annual Report of the Council

The Council Members gave brief reports on the action in their responsibility 2007.

- Martti Vottonen: Reports that marketing on a global level is very difficult. **After some discussion it is agreed to aim at least for a ball sponsor.**

- Marcel Weigl: Reports on behalf of Michael Dickert on the World Tour 2008 and Challengers: All country representatives are reminded that applications for Challengers 2008 can still be made until 100 days before start. The webpage www.racketlon.net is up and running and Marcel wishes for more news content (homepage is only as good as its users) **All country representatives in their own marketing interest to send stories of their tournaments and countries.**

- Stuart Foster: Reports on behalf of Phil Reid that the Rankings will be updated faster 2008 thanks to the new system Resultreporter. **Stuart Foster will also be the missing link between Company Procensor inventor of the Resultreporter and FIR and will be FIR – Resultreporter Manager.**

Vote:

All **Council Members** do a tremendous job for FIR for free. The least payback is to give them **free entries (no entry fees) at all FIR Tournaments** around the world from 2008. This vote was again carried unanimously by all country representatives at the AGM.

4) Annual Financial Report

Treasurer Lennart Eklundh reports that he would like to put together the years 2006 and 2007 to one financial year, because 2006 was not a complete financial year as Lennart Eklundh only took over as Treasurer at the AGM in June 2006. This decision was carried unanimously by the AGM. As soon as this is done and the balances checked by the FIR-Auditors Hakan Granberg and Matthias Fagerström the financial report 2006/2007 will be sent to the AGM per E-mail. **FIR currently has around 3500€ on its bank account and is still missing 2000€ tournament and membership fees, giving a total of around 5500€**

5) Elections

There are no elections at the AGM 2007. Belgian representative **Gert Peersman agreed to operate as head of the election committee for the upcoming FIR Council elections in 2008**, as he also had this role 2006. His job is to ask the existing Council members if and under which circumstances they want to continue and find new candidates.

6) Players License Fee 2008

The FIR-Council proposed to implement a player's license of **10€ annually** valid from the first tournament of year 2008, for all players taking part in FIR-tournaments. This has been on the agenda before and now FIR is organised and ready for this important decision, which will help develop Racketlon through out the world. This is a very important factor to be able to run the **Result Reporter**.

Benefits for the players:

- Can take part in FIR Racketlon tournament
- access to players corner/profile on the Result Reporter
- Up to date World Ranking
- can play any FIR tournament
- Guarantee that Entry Fees don't rise (Singles 50€, Doubles 30€)

Benefits for Tournaments: Fee to FIR stays the same

Benefits for FIR:

- possibilities to offer a complete tournament organisation system RESULT REPORTER incl. players corner, entry engine, Result Reporter, homepage,
- possibility to run Racketlon.net owned by FIR
- possibility to develop FIR world wide. Administration costs.
- possibility to run the World Tour
- possibility to produce promotion material, posters and banners
- Possibilities to look for private sponsors and fundings around the world
- possibilities to help developing Racketlon countries
- possibilities to collect the data of all existing players, which the GAISF asks for

Vote:

- a) Players License 10€ per year
- b) Players License 10€ per year, except 1st tournament in own country

After a long discussion the vote ended with a close majority for option a) **Players License 10€ per year for all tournaments from 2008**. After Belgian president Gert Peersman argued that a problem could be that the tournament organisers 2008 did not know about this in advance which would be unfair especially to the ones at the beginning of the year because the players were not informed about these extra costs, FIR-President Marcel Weigl and the present Council members decided to offer a compromise to vote on again:

Players License 10€ per year from 1st January 2008 except the first tournament each player plays in 2008. From 2009 all players must pay the Players License even if they play only one tournament per year. This vote was carried by the majority of the AGM and is now valid.

7) Rules

a) Rulebook

Point a) was taken off the agenda because already clarified in Council Meeting before AGM.

b) Rules Clarifications and changes

Rules Officer Hans Mullamaa had done some clarifications and suggestions for rules amendments on <http://www.racketlon.com/rulesprop07.html>

Vote:

All clarifications and amendments to the Single, Team and Doubles Rules done by Rules Officer Hans Mullamaa were carried unanimously by the AGM.

For a change of the Squash Double Rules the necessary 2/3 majority were not achieved by the AGM.

c) Conduct on Court

Belgian president Gert Peersman requested a discussion about rules concerning conduct on court and what sanctions FIR can make. It was agreed that major rules breaking would be reported to FIR by the FIR Supervisor and a Court of Conduct (a foundation shall be further discussed by the Council) could decide about a sanction.

d) Tournament Requirement Specification and FIR-Logo

Marcel Weigl reminds all country representatives that it is compulsory for all tournament directors to read and follow the Requirement Specification and especially use the FIR-Logo on all printing material, posters and webpages. The FIR Supervisors will contact the tournament directors with a ToDo list.

World Tour posters and business cards will come 2008, produced in Austria.

e) Head Referee, Media-Officer and FIR-Supervisor

Each tournament needs to have a head referee to take the last decisions, the FIR Supervisor shall make sure all draws are correct, all courts are ok and work together with the tournament and check the tournament specification. FIR will publish a TODO list for the Supervisor. The Media Officer is in contact with FIR Homepage Officer and local media.

f) Entry Fees

Limitation at the moment on Singles is 50€, suggestion by Council on Doubles maximum of 30€ per pair

Vote:

The majority of the Council carried this vote. From 1st January 2008 a maximum of 30€ per doubles pair is to be charged at FIR World Tour Events.

g) Walk Overs

Country representative from England Stuart Foster takes on a request by Keith Lesser, that when a player walks over in one draw, he can not continue to play in another one. For example pulls out of elite in order to win veterans. A rule already exists that if you retire in any set of a match then the tournament is over for you.

Vote:

After some discussions with pros and cons the majority of the Council agreed on this new rule. To be added to the Rules by Hans Mullamaa.

8) Any other Business

Resultreporter

After the AGM took the important decision to introduce the Players Licence Fee of 10€ per year FIR president Marcel Weigl announced that FIR can now offer the use of the Resultreporter for all FIR tournaments for free. FIR strongly recommends and asks especially all World Tour and Super World Tour events to use the system in order to be able to create a database for all players, all matches on the World Tour and in order to keep the World Rankings up to date. All tournament directors will be informed about the exact procedures from FIR per e-mail and then contacted by Rickard Tauson from Procensor for details.

Minutes taken by Martti Vottonen and amended by Marcel Weigl and Lennart Eklundh

Next AGM schedules for November 2008 in Fürth/Germany during World Champs