
1st FIR Council Meeting 2012
Friday 13th April 21:15 – 00:15
Prague/Czech Republic/Czech Open

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Poku Salo, Ahmad Bahadli, Puzant Kassabian, Dany Lessard
Excused: Karim Hanna, Gary Tovey, Gianpaolo Martire

Agenda

- 1) Welcome Note, Member States update
- 2) Resultreporter
- 3) Rankings
- 4) Olympic Draws
- 5) World Tour 2011, 2012
- 6) Tournament Support 2011
- 7) Rules
- 8) Marketing
- 9) FIR Finances
- 10) FIR Website and Social Media
- 11) Any other business

1) Welcome note (Marcel Weigl)

Marcel Weigl opens the 1st official Council Meeting of the year and welcomes all Council members.

a) FIR Member Countries

Mongolia, Denmark and Australia have sent in papers and application requests and are accepted as new FIR members number 31, 32 and 33 on 17th April 2012. Potential further members are:

Bangladesh	Manoranjan Mishra
Brasil	Manoel L Santana, Luiz Jimenez
China	Yan Shiduo, Gong Shihua
Egypt	Karim Hanna
Lebanon	Marc Mourad
Luxemburg	Tony Nightingale, Tom Pfeiffer
Iceland	Arnþór Jón Þorvarðsson
Iraq	Ahmad Bahadli
Ireland	Judy Lambert
Nepal	Manoranjan Mishra
New Zealand	Jason Granville, John Stapleton
Macedonia	Puzant Kassabian
Portugal	Luis Barbossa, Jacob de Vries
Qatar	Alexandru Rosca
Romania	Radu Ionescu
Serbia	Ivan Djordjevic
Turkey	Emre Ak, Ersoy Koror
Ukraine	Aija Klaseva
Wales	Nick Macey, Steve Kneller

b) Sportaccord Update

With Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and the Czech Republic only seven of the 33 FIR member states are officially recognised by their national NOC – National Olympic Committee or NSF – National Sports Federation. 10 are needed according to the current Sportaccord statutes, but this can change every year. For that reason it is crucial to achieve 40 member states and 10 of these recognised by 30th June 2012. Marcel insists that Council members must take responsibility otherwise nothing will happen. Marcel will travel to Lausanne on 21st June for a meeting with Sportaccord General Secretary and membership responsible together with Ahmad. The two of them will also make other appointments in the House of Sports where Sportaccord sits together with many other international sports organisations.

To Do:

- Marcel to publish information of new members
- All Council members to take responsibility to get Racketlon federations until 30th of June
- Marcel and Ahmad to arrange appointments in Lausanne

2) **Resultreporter** (Marcel Weigl on behalf of Rickard Tauson)

Rickard and Marcel have been very active in the last months and a quite a few improvements have been taken care of:

- Flags added
- W.o. and retired added
- Complete Ranking pdfs on the webpage
- Live score calculation corrected
- 2nd player license for double entries
- National version of RR ready and now tested in Austria
- Specific user for all tournaments onsite login

Nevertheless the list for more improvements is as following:

- National version translation of languages
- Pictures, flickr?
- Check Manual
- Matchpoint indicator
- Improve error handling
- Tournament support, contact number during tournament, e-mail to marcel
- Doubles sorting according to world ranking
- Integrated filter seniors rankings
- Add forum
- Match times below schedule
- Social media integration
- Juniors and Seniors Rankings, Filter

To Do:

- Rickard Tauson to go through the points and make improvements
- Marcel to start with language translation to German
- Marcel to check manual and then let Rickard finalize it

3) Rankings (Poku Salo)

The complete rankings pdf is now online on www.resultreporter.com as is the new points matrix as well as the junior mixed doubles and seniors women +45 rankings. Also the w.o. function has now been implemented meaning that if a player does not show up for a match he automatically receives the worst possible end position depending on the round he has reached. What still needs to be done is for both seniors and juniors a filter shall be integrated in the rankings, so that e.g. each age group can be displayed separately. 45+ shows all players, 55+ only the ones over 55 and so on. Marcel starts the discussion that only 8 tournaments valid for the world rankings in two years is too few with now 15 FIR tournaments plus challengers annually and proposes a new system from 2013, where a limit for the tournament categories shall be introduced, e.g. a maximum of 4 SWT, 6 IWT and 2 Challenger count for the world rankings over a period of two years.

To Do:

- Marcel to push Rickard for the integrated filter
- Marcel to make a proposal for the new number of tournaments counted for 2013

4) Olympic Draws (Poku Salo)

Poku says that doing the Olympic draws is not a problem. After some late entries at Czech Open again Marcel suggests that from 1st of May late entries in Olympic Draws shall not be accepted as fairness towards other players especially in singles unless the draws are not complete. Late entries can be placed on the waiting list. Council also decides that alternate players cannot be taken out of other draws (e.g. from men b to men a), once the draws are published.

To Do:

- Marcel to inform players of no mercy for late entries

5) World Tour (Ahmad Bahadli, Marcel Weigl)

a) Challengers 2012

The number of Challengers of 2012 is only one so far, which is the World Sports Festival in Austria from 6th to 8th July. Countries shall be reminded that there are no fees this year for new Challengers. Lennart and Dany say that Vasteras in Sweden and Canada are interested.

b) World Tour 2012

With nearly 150 single entries at Vienna Classics and 180 at Czech Open the FIR World Tour 2012 has started off well. Marcel reminds though that once there are more tournaments closer to each other, there will be less entries. German Federation has asked for a special permission of OLIVER Tennis and Squash Balls (which are not on the FIR Approved Balls List) for German Open and ALTERNATE Open, because they have a contract with them. After testing the balls at Czech Open council agrees for 2012 only.

c) World Champs 2012

Puzant reports that the preparations for Team and Double World Champs (12-15 July) in Sofia are going well. The best hotel is directly beside the venue, ball contract has been signed with Babolat, subsidies will be given by the government and TV will be on site. The only problem is the glass Squash court which exists but a place is needed to put it up for a test. Marcel has asked many teams for their principle entry and will add all these teams to the entry list now.

d) World Champs 2013, 2014, World Tour 2013

Zürich (Singles WC 2013), London (Singles WC 2014) and Netherlands (Doubles and Teams 2013) have applied for World Champs and all requests were confirmed by FIR Council. The applicants are now asked to submit exact dates and places by the end of May so that the FIR World Tour 2013 can be built around the World Champs. The application electronic form will be prepared on www.racketlon.net in May so all tournaments can apply online until 30th of June 2012. Marcel reminds Lennart that Malmö is needed as Super World Tour event again.

e) Racketlon in Dubai

Ahmad has been to Dubai and shows the Council pictures. He has taken contact of a possible Racketlon tournament and Marcel will send a presentation of a possible show tournament.

To Do:

- Marcel to inform German Federation of Ball permission
- Marcel to add teams for Team World Champs to www.resultreporter.com
- Marcel to inform World Champs hosts
- Marcel prepare electronic application sheet for World Tour 2012 with Rickard
- Marcel to prepare presentation for Dubai

6) Tournament Support (Dany Lesard)

Dany Lessard has taken over as Head of Tournament Support. A FIR Delegate List 2012 has been published. The onsite Delegate List has been updated. Dany has started with a list of which delegates shall take care of which tournament.

To Do:

- Dany to update the FIR delegate list with Marcel
- Dany to request the evaluation sheets from the delegates
- Marcel to develop with Rickard an online evaluation sheet on RR

7) Rules (Marcel Weigl)

Council went through the Tournament Regulations as well as the Players and Draws Regulations and have agreed upon a few improvements and clarifications.

To Do:

- Marcel to update both documents and send to Karim to finalize and then e-mail out together with the tournament applications 2013

8) Marketing (Marcel Weigl on behalf of Gianpaolo Martire)

Marketing Officer Gianpaolo has developed a Marketing concept (see attachment), but could not come to the Council meeting on a short notice:

“Dear Council, Dear Members, as forwarded by email to president Marcel Weigl at April, the 11th, due to unexpected work commitments, in spite of I had previously confirmed my presence, I’m really sorry but I won’t be able to take part to this meeting in Prague, I apologise again for my absence. Attached together with this letter a basic marketing project following what done and what to do. Regards Gianpaolo Martire.”

Gianpaolo has also developed tournament logos and a CI for the usage on all FIR World Tour tournament posters 2012. Lennart reminds that FIR definitely needs sponsoring from 2013 as a huge amount of around 10.000€ by the Austrian Sports Ministry probably falls away.

To Do:

- Marcel to arrange meeting in Vienna with Gianpaolo to work on marketing concept 2012
- Ahmad to make contacts in Lausanne where money could come from
- Marcel to contact betting industries, Austrian sports ministry
- Lennart in contact with Stiga including World Champs 2012
- Marcel to send to all Council members the FIR marketing powerpoint presentation

9) FIR Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

Lennart presents the final result for 2011 (see attachment) with a plus of 1526€. On the bank account with 1st January 2012 FIR has 7329€ on its account, but debts still have to be paid to Rickard Tauson from Resultreporter and Italy has not yet paid the tournament fees for Team and Double World Champs. The budget is thus more or less even. The budget for 2012 is more or less the same as the result for 2011. Marcel and Lennart have found a solution for paypal transactions and opened a second FIR bank account in Austria.

To Do:

- Auditors to confirm final result 2011
- Council to confirm auditors
- New Council to find solutions of more income

10) FIR New Website and Social Media (Marcel)

Gary Tovey has now created a FIR facebook account. FIR Council asks Gary for a concept what other social media FIR shall connect with and how these pages shall be taken care of.

On www.racketlon.net following things shall be taken care of:

- Social media integration, link to facebook, youtube channel
- Tournament evaluation sheet
- Tournament application sheet
- www.resultreporter.com tournaments listing
- Newsletter function, not function
- weigl@racketlon.net must be sender e-mail
- Blog section for all FIR players

To Do:

- Marcel and Rickard to finalize the new website
- Gary to make suggestions and take steps to get on Facebook, Twitter, youtube

11) Any other business (Marcel)

- Marcel reminds that the referee situation in the Olympic draws at the tournaments is not the best and must be taken care of to improve the seriousness of Racketlon, otherwise sanctions by FIR shall follow in future. Line Judges shall be used in the finals if possible.

- At World champs no national anthems shall be played for B, C, D draws

Next Council Meetings:

2/2012: Friday 13th July (Evening) Team and Doubles World Champs Sofia/Bulgaria!

3/2012: Thursday 29th December (Evening) Single World Champs Stockholm/Sweden!

Minutes taken by Marcel Weigl and confirmed by Lennart Eklundh.

Written and e-mailed to all Council Members on 27th April 2012!