



To FIR Council Members

FIR - Fédération Internationale de Racketlon

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Klosterneuburg 23rd December 2013

3rd FIR Council Meeting 2013
Friday 22nd November September 21:30 – 00:00
13th FIR Single World Champs/Zürich/Switzerland

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Karim Hanna, Puzant Kassabian,
Dany Lessard, Poku Salo, Ahmad Bahadli

Excused: Phil Todd, Nathalie Zeoli (wants to resign)

Guest: Keith Lesser

Agenda

- 1) Welcome Note, Members, Sportaccord application
- 2) Confirmation of minutes and decisions 2nd Council Meeting 2013
- 3) Tournament Software
- 4) FIR World Tour
- 5) FIR Tournament Regulations
- 6) Requests to the Council: Racketlon Women's Association
- 7) Finances
- 8) Marketing; Replacement of Nathalie Zeoli
- 9) AGM Presentation; Requests to the AGM
- 10) Future of FIR 2015 to 2017
- 11) Hall of Fame
- 12) Any other Business

1) Welcome note, Members, Sportaccord application (Marcel Weigl)

- Sportaccord membership has been rejected (see letter attached)
- Main reasons: some existing FIR members are Badminton federations and only 10 FIR members are recognised by NSF – National sports federations or NOC – National Olympic committees. Sportaccord requests 40 FIR members to be recognised!
- FIR to appeal decision, as some NSF and NOC don't recognise until FIR is Sportaccord member; Personal meeting with new Sportaccord President Marius Vizer in Budapest
- FIR to get papers from international racket sports federations like squash stating they accept FIR; Personal meeting with new World Badminton president Paul Hoyer in Copenhagen
- Attract even more new FIR members

Big hopes for the future:

Japan	Hirona Sudo	Lebanon	Marc Mourad
Qatar	Alexandru Rosca	Luxemburg	Tony Nightingale
Ghana	Conny Schmickl	Iceland	Arnpór Jón Þorvarðsson
		Nepal	Manoranjan Mishra

Further Possibilities:

Bangladesh	Manoranjan Mishra	Norway	Lennart Eklundh
China	Thorsten Deck	Portugal	Luis Barbossa
Dubai	Andy Holmes	Ukraine	Aija Klaseva
Egypt	Karim Hanna	Wales	Peter Bridgeman
		Zimbabwe	Jessica Calder

2) Confirmation of minutes and decisions 2nd Council Meeting 2013

The minutes and the decisions of the 2nd Council Meeting held in September 2013 in Austria are confirmed unanimously, thus all decisions are final.

3) Resultreporter/Tournament Software (Marcel Weigl)

- Marcel Weigl presents an evaluation of Tournament Software (TS) after which FIR Council decides unanimously to switch from Resultreporter to Tournament Software
- Main advantages of TS
 - Publicity: attract players of other racket sports TT, BA, SQ
 - In-house solution: Database and rankings all in one
 - Draws: better visibility, automatic time schedule saves a lot of time for tournaments
 - Statistics: full matches, head to head, career high
 - Sign in: with age and gender limitations
 - National versions with very low costs
 - Payment: Online for licenses and entry fees
 - Cost effective: 2014 approx. same as RR, following years around 50% cheaper

- Main disadvantages
- Offline System, publish every 15 min
- No live scoring in first year
- No iPhone APP in first year

FIR Council decision unanimously: Switch from Resultreporter to Tournament Software from 2014

4) FIR World Tour (Marcel Weigl)

Marcel Weigl reports that the 2nd FIR Delegate seminar was held with a number of new participants during the world champs in Zürich to further increase the quality of FIR World Ranking events. In total 15 FIR-Delegates will be nominated by FIR for 2014 in addition each FIR World Tour event will also be allocated a FIR Delegate Assistant

5) FIR Tournament Regulations (Karim Hanna)

- Marcel Weigl has sent out the document "FIR Tournament Regulations" with a few changes especially referring to the change to Tournament Software
- Karim Hanna shall implement them and FIR publish until the beginning of 2014

FIR Council decision is unanimously to accept the proposed changes

6) Requests to the Council: Racketlon Women's Association (Marcel Weigl)

- In September 2013 female players on the FIR World Tour have founded the RWA - Racketlon Women's Association with the aim to protect the rights of women in international Racketlon
- Nicole Eisler has sent a letter to FIR on behalf of the RWA with requests to FIR
- Marcel Weigl appreciates this initiative but reminds that until this point Nathalie Zeoli is part of the Council and could defend the rights of women. Furthermore Marcel invited a representative of the RWA to come to the Council meeting
- As Nathalie Zeoli was not present and RWA did not send a representative FIR Council decided not to talk about the RWA requests until a representative of RWA is found to present the requests personally

7) Finances (Lennart Eklundh)

- Lennart reports that the forecast for 2013 with a minus of around 3600 Euro does not look very good.
- FIR started 2013 with a plus of around 2000 Euro, which means according to the forecast FIR will start 2014 with debts of around 1600 Euro
- The forecast for 2014 does not look much better, shows a minus of 4250 Euro even if the FIR proposal of increasing the FIR membership fees from 50€ per country to 50€ per vote per country is accepted by the AGM
- Lennart reminds that sponsorship will be necessary in the future to keep FIR upright

8) Marketing (Marcel Weigl)

- FIR marketing officer Nathalie Zeoli would like to resign as Thorsten Deck actually asked her to take this position and he would help her
- Marcel has persuaded Nathalie to keep the position until a successor is found and suggests it should be a women to be able to represent the RWA
- Thorsten has promised since months to deliver a marketing presentation, which has not reached FIR yet
- Marcel has found an Austrian marketing agency EVCOM who are willing to market international Racketlon, but need the basic marketing presentation to adapt it
- Keith Lesser mentions possibilities with Duncan Stahls company and that we need to get Racketlon on TV, e.g. Jesper Hougaards idea with the TV company Smash

9) AGM Presentation, Requests to AGM (Marcel Weigl)

- Marcel quickly goes through the powerpoint presentation prepared for the AGM and fills in the missing parts of the FIR Council Members
- FIR Council has issued two requests to the AGM:
 - 1) Adaption of the rules of Racketlon especially in context of a clearer definition of the rules of conduct and gummiarm
 - 2) Increase of the FIR membership fee to 50€ per vote per country in order to secure the budget 2014
- RFA – Racketlon Federation Austria requests a change of Champions League rules. FIR Council has different opinions on the matter
- DRaV – German Federation would like to limit the entry fees for juniors in general to 20€ per single classes. This is not supported by FIR Council

10) Future of FIR 2015 to 2017 (Marcel Weigl)

- Marcel states quite clearly that the workload for him as FIR-Executive president in a now big federation with 42 members and around 5000 players is not manageable for one person any longer, but he will of course fulfil his contract throughout 2014. Some important things though will just not get done
- If Marcel will continue to run as president or work as general secretary will depend very much If it is possible to find ways of financing the build-up of a new structure with two fully employed persons which is more than necessary to hold up the system
- Together with Kevin Je and Keith Lesser, Marcel is working on a fund raising project including a big questionnaire for all active Racketlon players which has started during the world champs in Zürich
- Marcel will work on a concept and present to Council at World Champs in London in August. FIR-Council elections will be held at the AGM 2014 in November during Team and Double World Champs in Poland
- Also all Council members shall look out for a powerful president with good connections to sponsors, who would offer name for Racketlon and bring with him a sponsor

11) FIR Hall of Fame

FIR Council unanimously accepts Keith's and Marcells proposal to accept Richard Lawrence, one of the main organisers of English Open and the ERA – English Racketlon Association in the FIR Hall of Fame for his extraordinary duties for international Racketlon. The award shall be handed over to Keith Lesser after a minute of silence at the Opening Ceremony of the World Champs in Zurich.

12) Any other business

- Jesper Ratzer has volunteered to help improve the layout of www.racketlon.net
- A consistent physio is offered to the World Tour events by FIR
- FIR World Tour A1 Posters and A6 Cards are ready and will be handed out during world champs

Next Council Meetings 2014

1st FIR Council Meeting, T.B.A

2nd FIR Council Meeting, on Thu 21st August (evening) London/Single WC

3rd FIR Council Meeting, on Thu 20th Nov. (evening) Poland/Team & Double WC

FIR-Executive President, Marcel Weigl

FIR Vice-President, Lennart Eklundh

