



To FIR Council Members

FIR - Fédération Internationale de Racketlon

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**Klosterneuburg 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**1st FIR Council Meeting 2014**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November September 21:30 – 23:30**  
**14<sup>th</sup> FIR Single World Champs/Surrey/London**

Present: Marcel Weigl, Lennart Eklundh, Karim Hanna,  
Dany Lessard, Poku Salo, Phil Todd  
Guest: Graham King, Radu Ionescu (for point 4)

Excused: Ahmad Bahadli, Puzant Kassabian, Nathalie Zeoli

**Agenda**

- 1) Welcome Note, Members, Sportaccord application
- 2) Confirmation of minutes and decisions 3rd Council Meeting 2013
- 3) Tournament Software
- 4) EU Erasmus+ Projects, report from Radu Ionescu
- 5) FIR World Tour 2015 proposal, Continental Championships
- 6) Requests to the Council: Racketlon Women's Association
- 7) Finances
- 8) Marketing, FIR income 2015
- 9) Future of FIR 2015 to 2017
- 10) Hall of Fame
- 11) Any other Business

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

- Sportaccord membership was rejected at SA AGM in Antalya in April 2014. Marcel Weigl was personally present after an invitation by SA president Marius L. Vizer after a personal meeting in Budapest
- Main reasons: 4 existing FIR members are Badminton federations, 3 are just clubs and only 11 FIR members are recognised by NSF – National sports federations or NOC – National Olympic committees. Sportaccord requests 40 FIR members to be recognised!
- FIR to get papers from international racket sports federations like squash stating they accept FIR; Tabletennis, Badminton, Tennis still missing
- Existing members must do their homework and register sole national Racketlon federations, create simple websites, get official answers from NSA or NOC
- Attract new members: 2014 Malta

## 2) Confirmation of minutes and decisions 3rd Council Meeting 2013

The minutes and the decisions of the 3rd Council Meeting held during 13<sup>th</sup> Single World Championships end of November 2013 in Zürich are confirmed unanimously, thus all decisions are final.

## 3) Tournament Software (Graham King)

- With January 2014 FIR has switched from Resultreporter to Tournament Software and finally all seems to run smoothly. Graham King has been so kind to act as Tournament Software officer giving the following status:
  - Tournament Planner used by tournament organisers to manage all FIR tournaments
  - Tournament Software website used to publish FIR tournaments to outside world
  - 1100 players registered in players DB
  - World Rankings transferred from Result Reporter to Tournament Software July 2014
  - Non-FIR agreement (e.g. Racketlon UK, Racketlon Ned etc.) use separate agreement with separate website and licences. TBD
- Next steps:
  - Publish World Tour Race
  - Resolve 30 items on Open Issues list. Priorities:
  - Improve online payment for online tournament registration (currency, reduced charge for second singles or doubles event)
  - Simpler doubles entry (currently need to know partner player licence id)
  - Improved automatic scheduling
  - Improved information to players on website
  - Harmonise Tournament Software usage between FIR and national associations

#### 4) EU Erasmus+ Projects (Radu Ionescu)

Radu Ionescu and Marcel Weigl managed to hand in the EU Erasmus+ projects in the field of sport (first time EU funding for sports) before the entry deadline by the end of June. Notice should be given by the EU in September. Below a very short summary:

- 1) Collaborative Partnerships <http://www.racketlon.net/content/eu-cp>
  - Small project 625.000 Euro
  - Project to help create a European Racketlon Federation
  - Heart of project to solve the problem of recognising a new sport
  - 2 year project
  - 14 Partners of FIR
  - Around 40 projects are financed with a total budget of 20 Million Euro
  - Radu estimates 80% chance to achieve funding
  
- 2) European Sport Events <http://www.racketlon.net/content/eu-se>
  - Big project 1,1 Million Euro
  - Project European Week of sport 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015
  - 1 year project
  - Around 3 projects will be financed with a total budget of 4 Million Euro
  - Radu estimates 50% chance to achieve funding

#### 5) FIR World Tour 2015 proposal, Continental Championships

The applications for the FIR World Tour 2015 are listed as follows below:

- |     |                 |     |                 |                     |
|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1.  | 2-4 Jan         | IWT | Vienna Classics | Austria             |
| 2.  | 20-22 Feb       | IWT | Swedish Open    | Malmö               |
| 3.  | 17-19 April     | IWT | Czech Open      | Prague              |
| 4.  | 22-24 May       | IWT | Danish Open     | Copenhagen          |
| 5.  | 5-7 June        | SWT | King of Rackets | Oudenaarde/Belgium  |
| 6.  | 26-28 June      | IWT | 9. Swiss Open   | Zürich              |
| 7.  | 24 - 27 July    | IWT | German Open     | Nussloch            |
| 8.  | 7 – 9 August    | SWT | Racket Masters  | Surrey/London       |
| 9.  | 28-30 August    | IWT | ALTERNATE Open  | Linden              |
| 10. | 11–13 September | SWT | Austrian Open   | Wr. Neudorf/Vienna  |
| 11. | 2-4 October     | IWT | Malta Open      | Malta               |
| 12. | 16–18 October   | IWT | Finnish Open    | Kauniainen/Helsinki |
| 13. | 30 okt – 1 nov  | IWT | Hungarian Open  | Budapest            |

- Bulgaria, Romania and Canada may still apply until the final deadline end of Sept.
- Still open are the first ever European Championships end of November, where all EU Project partners can apply for. This will happen as soon as notice of EU projects is given
- Continental Championships will be held at least in Europe, America and Oceania

### **FIR Council decision is unanimously to accept the FIR World Tour proposal 2015**

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

- 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 final result for 2013 is a minus of 2185 Euro
- If one summarizes all results since 2002, FIR starts the year 2014 with minus of 165 Euro
- The forecast for 2014 is decreased to a minus of 969 Euro (originally 1750 Euro)
- Lennart reminds that sponsorship will be necessary in the future to keep FIR upright

#### **8) Marketing (Marcel Weigl)**

- Marcel has created an alternative idea for FIR to get in money for the future. The FIR World Tour lottery 2016:
  - The idea: World Tour name sponsor via lottery
  - The risk: for buyers none; for seller non-financial
  - The rules: Aim is to sell 111 tickets (minimum 50 tickets) for 1000€ sold to sponsors
  - The winner: World Tour Sponsor worth 111.000€
    - (11.000€ reserved for the production material)
  - The benefits: According to World Tour regulations 2015
  - The draw: At World Champs Team and Doubles
  - The effect: Big story in Racketlon community, big story for media
  - The sellers: national Racketlon federations to their sponsors and players with private companies
  - For each sold ticket the federation gets a bonus of 100€ if a min. of 50 tickets are sold
  - START: As soon as possible for 2016

## 9) 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
- A separation between general secretary and president is clearly needed. FIR needs a famous name as president with good connections to sponsors, who would offer his name for Racketlon and bring with him a sponsor.
- Lennart might only remain in the council for a further year. Karim, Dany and Nathalie will resign. Graham King and Patrick Laplante are willing to run for elections, which will be held at the General Meeting at the Team and Double World Champs in Poland.
- Marcel will announce on [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) that a new president is needed and asks everyone to help search for candidates.

## 10) FIR Hall of Fame

FIR Council unanimously accepts Marcel's proposal to accept Rickard Tauson, as well as Katy and John Buchanan in the Hall of Fame. Pokus request for Michaela Björnström and Mikko Kärkkäinen is also accepted as soon as the two announce their official retirement.

## 11) Any other business

- Jesper Rätzer has volunteered to help improve the layout of [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) and had a meeting with Marcel Weigl. The project will be taken on in 2015 if volunteers are found
- Nico Hobis request to not pay FIR fees for Council members (because they don't pay entry fees) entering tournaments is rejected unanimously by the FIR Council
- The Great Britain Proposal to act as one GB country, with the exception of Scotland for the time being, is accepted unanimously by the FIR Council
- The FIR Tournament regulations 2015, which see penalty fees for the first time for tournament organisers, were already decided unanimously by the FIR Council per E-mail. A regulation for display of results for spectators shall now be added.

### Next Council Meeting 2014

3<sup>rd</sup> FIR Council Meeting, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> (evening) or Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
(morning) Poland/Team & Double WC

**FIR-Executive President, Marcel Weigl**