

**FIR Council Meeting at Recrean, Oudenaarde, Belgium**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

**10.00 – 12.00**

Council Members Present:

Hans Vandaele (HVD), Richard Middleton (RM), Graham King (GK), Kresten Hougaard (KH), Amke Fischer (AF), Duncan Stahl (DS)

Agenda:

- Membership Structure
- Council Positions
- Budget
- Seat of registration
- AGM preparation
- Rules revision
- Draw process
- Board of Arbitration
- Hall of Fame
- +65-class

This is a table of agreed action points to be carried out by nominated Council Members by agreed dates – all of which came out of the Council Meeting. The detailed minutes of the meeting follow this table.

<b>Action</b>	<b>By Who</b>	<b>Supported By</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Awarding of World Tour tournaments initially only to Federations	<b>Kirsten</b>	GK	For the 2019 Tour	
Analysis of income from different player license fee membership structures and findings presented to Council	<b>GK</b>		5 <sup>th</sup> July	To give enough time for the Council to discuss findings before any changes proposed at the AGM
“Godfather Support” proposal to be written up where “bigger” Racketlon	<b>Marcel</b>		20 <sup>th</sup> July	In time to be added to AGM proposal and

countries support smaller ones				official invitations
Update of the new membership country online application form	<b>GK</b>		5 <sup>th</sup> July	
Proposal for the new FIR vision of how to grow the sport + a list of all the proposed Council members and their roles going forward	<b>DS</b>		20 <sup>th</sup> July	To be included as supplementary material with the AGM invitation
Collection together of research done so far into the Change of Seat of the FIR and given to AF	<b>GK</b>		ASAP	
A detailed look and steps taken to change the seat of the FIR from Vienna/Austria to Berlin/Germany...including getting legal advice	<b>AF</b>		20 <sup>th</sup> July	
All official documents + supplementary material to be collected and be sent out as part of the official AGM invitation in Zurich	<b>KH</b>		25 <sup>th</sup> July	
Review and clarification in a written proposal of all rules connected to the Team Competition at the World Champs in Zurich	<b>KH</b>	HVD & RM	ASAP	This is urgent as people already booking flights etc
A document explaining how live draws need to be conducted in order follow all rules	<b>KH</b>	Kirsten + GK	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Before the Paris Open live draw on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Potential candidates for the Hall of Fame Committee to be spoken to	<b>DS</b>	KH	5 <sup>th</sup> July	
Identifying 4 tournaments on the Tour where 65+ classes will happen	<b>Kirsten</b>	GK	5 <sup>th</sup> July	
Review of World Tour Prize Money	<b>DS</b>		5 <sup>th</sup> July	In time for any AGM Proposal
Analysis of the income potential from the website optimisation of racketlon.net	<b>KH</b>		20 <sup>th</sup> July	Could form an important part of our budget

## 1. Membership structure: country and player

GK explained how there is a need for the FIR to address how and to whom FIR World Tour tournaments are awarded.

It was explained how FIR rules stated that tournaments should be awarded to a country's Federation (as is each member country's right) and that the Federation could then appoint a Tournament Director of its choosing.

It was agreed that FIR should look to stick closer to these rules and engage with national federations (not just individual TD's) when awarding tournaments.

GK raised the issue of the annual FIR Player License fee and how this could be an obstacle to those players who only wish to play in their country's world tour event.

HVD agreed that FIR license fee effected the number of local entries who would only play at KOR. GK commented that other countries had also registered this as a barrier

GK suggested that we should look at a lower FIR license fee for players who only played their 'local' FIR tournament?

DS asked if some analysis could be done to see the likely effect that a multi-level membership scheme would have on the overall income to FIR and that we should also wait to see the results of the Player Survey that is currently being done.

DS also suggested that if there was an increase in FIR License Fee for those who play more than one tournament, there could be a way of FIR sending a small % of money back to the national federations (depending on the number of that country's registered players). This would help mitigate the additional cost of increased membership fees for a federation caused by players registering for a FIR event without a national licence, act as an incentive for Federations to have their players registered with FIR and also an incentive for Federations to comply with various FIR guidelines (bank account, constitution etc) in order to receive such money.

GK offered to analyse the effects of a few different membership structures and present the findings to the Council.

The idea first raised by Marcel Weigl (MW) about the "bigger" Racketlon countries offering to pay the passive membership fee of a "smaller" Racketlon country and to help that country develop the sport was discussed further and got full support. It was referred to as "Godfather Support" by the "bigger" countries.

MW will be asked if he could develop the "Godfather Support" idea and write up a short proposal that could be presented to different Federations before the AGM in Zurich.

DS suggested that 'New Country Membership' of the FIR should in the first instance be made simpler and easier in order to encourage and not discourage potential new members.

The Council agreed that the following items should be optional:

- Official registration document with national body
- Copy of statutes

- Website
- Declaration of how many players

GK will update the new country membership application form on racketlon.net.

DS said that the aim of the proposed appointment of a member country representative on the Council is to improve communication and to make sure that FIR is seen to be doing and offering more back to its member countries.

## **2. Council positions**

DS will write up a proposal about his vision going forward for the sport (adapted from the previous one after consultation with various council members and others).

This proposal will include the proposed make-up of the Council with their roles and responsibilities which will then get voted on at the AGM. It will also include a list of consultants who will work with and support the Council members.

## **3. Seat of Registration**

After consulting with various people, DS suggested Germany as a new seat for FIR (as he will be based there going forward).

GK will collect together the research he has done so far and present to AF

AF offered to look into how this change could be implemented and will speak with Frank Kleiber who also has some recent knowledge about the recent change of address for the German Federation.

## **4. AGM Preparation**

KH said that the official invitation will be sent out at the end of July (minimum of 20 days notice needed)

KH would co-ordinate and prepare all the official documents needed to be sent out with the invitation.

It was also agreed that along with the official documents, the proposal from DS along with the proposed Council make-up should also be included as Supplementary material – so that member countries could understand in better detail what they were voting for.

GK said he would also check on rules around the Board of Arbitration and the AGM invitation

## **5. Rules revision**

GK suggested that there needed to be a system introduced to deal with proposed rule changes.

RM suggested it should be made clear who players need to contact to suggest any rule changes.

DS said this info should be included as part of a FIR newsletter (now that we have Mailchimp up to date, a newsletter was something that should and could happen regularly).

It was agreed that any proposed rules changes should first be directed to the Rules Officer (HVD), who would then present any proposed changes to Council

KH said that he had spoken to Esther about allowing u21 players to be named in their country's elite squads at the world champs 2018 and would make sure that the schedule allowed u21 and Seniors players to be available for elite and age group medal matches.

KH would also review and clarify all rules around the team competition (promotion and relegation) and liaise with HVD.

It was agreed that this clarification on team rules needed to happen very soon so that they could be published widely.

## **6. Draw process**

KH said that the delegate needs to take a much more active role in making sure draws and live draws are done correctly...in order to avoid the mistakes that were made at KOR

GK – should players be asked if they are OK to be put up a category?

KH said that players should be asked. If no one wants to move, then it is necessary to make a draw to see who goes up.

DS said that this process needed much more clarification so players could clearly understand how decisions were made.

KH to speak to Kirsten about creating a live draw procedure document.

DS – draws should never be published on Tournament Software until delegate has OK'd them.

GK asked what should the criteria be for a redraw?

KH said that if any regulations had not been followed then the delegate with the approval of either the head delegate, the President or World Tour Officer should have the power to demand a redraw.

This led to a wider discussion about the Delegate system.

DS suggested that a smaller group of delegates (4 or 5) should be developed and trained and should cover all tournaments in order to get a much more consistent level of performance.

DS suggested that KH should lead this training and development of delegates as one of his primary roles in the new Council.

GK will update the draw process document published on [racketlon.net/tournament\\_support](http://racketlon.net/tournament_support)

## **7. Hall of Fame**

DS suggested the set up of an independent panel of 3 people to manage and decide on all things connected with the Hall of Fame

KH suggested to allow a player vote for some Hall of Fame entries...via FB?

DS will contact various people to make up the Hall of Fame panel

## **8. 65+**

GK suggested that approx. 4 tournaments a year should be targeted to concentrate on getting a good 65+ entry...to allow for better planning + possibly to allow a reduced entry fee for the 65+ class + possibly ensuring the class is held over a maximum of two days, published well in advance to allow more economic travel and hotel costs. This should be taken into consideration when planning the world tour.

## **9. AOB**

DS suggested there needed to be a review of Prize Money on the world tour in order to understand better what its purpose was going forward.

DS pointed out that Mailchimp, now that we have a database of more than 2000 names would cost 55 euros per month to use.

KH said he would look into a possible, cheaper alternative and suggested "Campaigner" as an option.

KH confirmed that DS had been appointed as FIR General Secretary since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 after Natalie Paul had stepped down.

KH will look into the income potential through the website optimisation of [www.racketlon.net](http://www.racketlon.net) (through paid for content and links).

*Duncan Stahl / FIR General Secretary*