

MINUTES of the Founding Assembly of FIR - Federation of International Racketlon



Saturday 2nd February 2019, 08:55 – 09:20

Vienna Sporthotel, 1030 Vienna, Austria

Founding members present:

1. Racketlon Australia Inc, represented by Graham King
2. RFA - Racketlon Federation Austria, represented by Marcel Weigl
3. VZW – Landelijke Racketlon Federatie, (Belgium), represented by Hans Van Daele
4. RC – Racketlon Canada, represented by Kresten Hougaard
5. RCC – Racketlon klub Zagreb, (Croatia), represented by Richard Hobzik
6. CRA – Czech Racketlon Association, represented by Richard Hobzik
7. Racketlon Denmark, represented by Kresten Hougaard
8. Racketlon France, represented by Arnaud Genin
9. Drav – Deutscher Racketlon Verband, represented by Christian Borner
10. GB Racketlon Association CIC, represented by Duncan Stahl
11. HRF – Hellenic Racketlon Federation, (Greece), represented by Marcel Weigl
12. RSS – Racketlon Szabadidosport Szövetseg, (Hungary), represented by Hans Van Daele
13. Malta Racketlon Club, represented by Duncan Stahl
14. SRN – Stichting Racket4s Nederland, represented by Erich Roelofsen
15. Racketlon New Zealand, represented by Patrick Wartia
16. Racketlon Romania, represented by Radu Ionescu
17. SRF – Svenska Racketlon Forbundet , represented by Patrick Wartia
18. Swiss Racketlon Federation, represented by Graham King
19. USRF – United States Racketlon Federation, represented by Arnaud Genin

Final Agenda

1. Welcome note
2. Chair and minute keeper
3. Formation resolution
4. Approval of FIR articles of association
5. Election of the members of the FIR Council
6. Election of the FIR Auditors
7. Election of the members of the FIR Board of Arbitration
8. Approval of FIR rules and regulations
9. Approval of postal applications for FIR membership

1) Welcome note

Duncan Stahl opened the Founding Assembly at 08:40 am and welcomed the representatives of the founding members.

2) Chair and minute keeper

The Founding Assembly unanimously elected Duncan Stahl as Chair and Graham King as Meeting Secretary.

3) Formation resolution

Duncan Stahl stated that the background to founding FIR – Federation of International Racketlon with its seat of registration in Switzerland had been extensively discussed in multiple previous meetings, including the preceding two EGM's of FIR, Austria. He added that it was now clear beyond reasonable doubt, that a transfer of the FIR seat of registration from Austria to Switzerland was formally not possible. Consequently, FIR, Austria was formally dissolved in an EGM earlier today.

The Founding Assembly unanimously decided to form an association in accordance with art. 60 ff of the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) under the name of "**FIR – Federation of International Racketlon**", with its seat of registration in 8001 Zurich, Switzerland.

4) Approval of FIR Articles of Association

Graham King stated that mainly only cosmetic changes were made to the FIR Articles of Association to make them compliant with Swiss association law, with the German language version serving as the official version for all formal purposes, and the English translation serving for communications purposes, adding that copies of both in mark-up format were available for any members wanting to view them.

Graham King stated that the official address of FIR would be "FIR – Federation of International Racketlon, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland", with use of the Swiss Post's "Vereinsadresse" service to forward all post to a chosen address for CHF 20 per year.

Marcel Weigl asked what was to happen to the current FIR inventory he was storing, if FIR has no physical address. Graham King responded that FIR would inspect the inventory and organise its disposal or transfer to his cellar for storage.

Graham King explained the two non-cosmetic changes to the Articles of Association:

- section 5.8 was added on the advice of a swiss lawyer to exclude the member personal liability for any obligations of the association. The EGM approved the change unanimously
- section 1.3n was added to assign the association the duty of also coordinating international tournaments where only 3 of the Racketlon 4 sports are contested, such as "Racketlon split" and "Racketlon $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Duncan Stahl gave details of the status of this sport in other countries, such as Germany and Austria, where a large number of small domestic tournaments have been held and are also planned for the future. He added, that this development had the potential to find more

players at a local level who could then go on to play Racketlon which would be a positive effect. However, he warned that trying to run e.g. "Racketlon Split" or "Racketlon ¾" as international tournaments could be in direct conflict with the FIR and with the FIR World Tour, pointing out that the Racketlon player base is nowhere near big enough to have two versions of the sport played on an international level without coordination. It could lead to reduced number of players entering tournaments and as a direct consequence, a reduced number of tournaments. He summarised that it was for these reasons, he felt very strongly that it FIR should be responsible for the coordination of "Racketlon Split" or "Racketlon ¾" on an international level. The assembly voted to approve this addition to the Articles of Association unanimously, with the exception of Austria and Romania, who abstained, wishing to discuss within the Council in the near future.

The FIR Articles of Association were thus approved by the Founding Assembly.

5) Election of the members of the FIR Council

According to the FIR Articles of Association, art. 9.1, the FIR Council, including the President, all Vice Presidents and the Treasurer, are elected by the General Meeting. Duncan Stahl stated that FIR, Switzerland would retain the same Council members, as FIR, Austria, for a period of 3 years.

The assembly unanimously elected the FIR Council as follows:

- Executive President: Duncan Stahl (GBR)
- Vice President: Graham King (SUI)
- Treasurer: Amke Fischer (GER)
- Social Media Manager: Anna-Klara Ahlmer (SWE)
- Player & Member Country Representative: Dan Busby (GBR)
- Head of Delegates: Kresten Hougaard (DEN)
- World Tour Manager: Kirsten Kaptein (NED)
- Non-European Racketlon Development: Frank Kleiber (GER)
- Rankings Officer: Poku Salo (FIN)
- Rules Officer: Hans Van Daele (BEL)
- EU Project Officer: Marcel Weigl (AUT)

All Council members had declared their acceptance if elected prior to the Founding Assembly.

6) Election of the FIR Auditors

The assembly voted unanimously to retain the same Auditors, as FIR, Austria, for a period of 3 years:

- Joachim Gersdorf (GER)
- Patrick Wartia (SWE)

Both auditors had declared their acceptance if elected prior to the Founding Assembly.

7) Election of the members of the FIR Board of Arbitration

The assembly voted unanimously to retain the same Board of Arbitration, as FIR, Austria, for a period of 3 years:

- Karim Hanna (SUI)
- Zigmars Puikevics (LAT)
- Carola Von Heimbürg (GER)

All Board of Arbitration members had declared their acceptance if elected prior to the Founding Assembly.

8) Approval of FIR Rules and Regulations

Graham King explained that the rules and regulations were only cosmetically modified where needed to be compliant with Swiss law. All modified documents were available at the assembly in mark-up form for those wanting to view them.

- Rules of Racketlon
- Tournament Regulations
- Players and Draws Regulations
- Ranking Regulations

The assembly voted unanimously to approve the new rules and regulations.

9) Approval of Postal Applications for FIR Membership

The following 12 national Racketlon federations were unable to attend the FIR Founding Assembly and submitted a written request to be accepted as FIR founding members

- ERF – Estonian Racketlon Federation
- FRF – Finnish Racketlon Federation
- HKRA – Hong Kong Racketlon Association
- RISA – Racketlon India Sports Association
- IRS – Israel Racketlon Society
- LRF – Latvijas Reketlona Federacija
- PFR – Polska Federacja Raketlona (Poland)
- RFR – Racketlon Federation of Russia
- National Racketlon Federation of Singapore
- SRA – Sloveskà Racketlonovà Asociácia (Slovakia)
- RSA – Racketlon South Africa
- Konyaalti Youth and Sports Club Association Turkey

The assembly unanimously approved all applicants as FIR founding members.

10) Budget 2019

Graham King and Duncan Stahl presented the FIR 2019 budget, showing an income of ca. EUR 42'000 and expenses of ca. EUR 38'000.

Duncan Stahl explained that the most significant differences to 2018:

- the introduction of a Marketing Fund to be spent on promoting Racketlon, being drawn partly from falling away of FIR tournament prize money, and partly from using the surplus carried over from FIR, Austria's dissolution
- the reduction in office rental costs, as a result of the cheap solution offered by the Swiss Post
- an increase in personnel costs to reflect the financing of a part-time Executive President

Marcel Weigl commented that he approved of the marketing plans, but felt that it should have been done differently, and not be taken from 2019 prize money which had already been approved and budgeted by the Tournament Directors, as it could have an impact on sponsors. Duncan Stahl replied that he indeed took office in August 2018, after the 2019 World Tour had been agreed, but felt it was more important to make a difference as soon as possible, and not wait until 2020. Before taking this decision, he had spoken to the greater majority of Elite players affected about his plans and received their overwhelming support. Arnaud Genin (France) said that he did not play the sport because of the prize money and that he agreed with the idea of using a part of tournament prize money to help fund marketing initiatives which would help grow the sport and then maybe help raise greater levels of prize money in the future.

The lack of budgeted sponsorship was also discussed. It was decided that EUR 1'000 should be budgeted as sponsorship income, which might reflect the cost of services and/or equipment provided by sponsors for free.

The assembly subsequently approved the revised budget for 2019.

Duncan Stahl closed the Founding Assembly at 09:31 am.

Duncan Stahl

(Chair)

Graham King

(Meeting Secretary)