

FIR Council Meeting, Zoom, 03. March 2022, 21:00 - 21.45

Council Members present:

Amke Fischer (AF), Kresten Hougaard (KH), Kirsten Kaptein (KK), Graham King (GK), Jean Michot (JM), Poku Salo (PS), Duncan Stahl (DS)

Not present: Marcel Weigl (MW), Anna-Klara Ahlmer (AK) Dan Busby (DB) (but all voted on all the agenda points by email)

DS opened the meeting and thanked the council for being able to organize the meeting at such short notice.

DS agreed that he would write up the minutes to the meeting.

1. Vote on the suspension of the Racketlon Federation of Russia as a member of the FIR until further notice...which would mean that:

- **no Russian teams would be allowed to take part in the FIR world team championships**
- **no registered Russian players would be allowed to take part in any FIR tournaments**

KH asked what the main objective was for the FIR to suspend the Russian Federation.

DS replied that it was vital the world of sport was able to unify together to send a message that normality simply could not continue with Russian players able to continue playing international sport at any level while the Russian government waged a war in Ukraine. And while no blame was being attributed to the Russian Federation or its players, it was important that sport in general could isolate Russia so that pressure could be put on the Russian government by its own people to stop their actions in Ukraine.

The Council voted unanimously in favour for the suspension of the Racketlon Federation of Russia until further notice.

2. Vote that no Russian players should be allowed to take part in any FIR tournaments even when listed as a “neutral” player

DS explained that some other sports were continuing to allow Russian athletes to compete under a neutral banner / flag while others were not allowing this.

JM explained that French Racketlon had voted to allow Russian players to compete under a neutral

banner but that his personal opinion was that they shouldn't be able to as it was necessary to send a strong, unified message with no grey areas.

Other council members (KK, AF & KH) felt it was a difficult decision and while they understood the importance of sending a message, they also accepted it was very hard on the individual Russian players.

The council ended up voting:

7 in favour of the ban even under a neutral banner
2 against the ban
1 abstained

GK raised the point about whether Russian players who had been resident outside of Russia for long enough to change their playing nationality (under FIR rules) to that of the country where they were resident, should be allowed to in order to then play FIR tournaments.

The council voted:

7 in favour to allow this
2 against
1 abstained

The council also unanimously voted that all the agreed bans (as above) for Russian players should also be applied to any players from Belarus.

3. Vote on whether to postpone the council elections to an EGM in August

DS explained that while he did not accept the point that member countries had not been given enough time to consider proposing new council members, as the AGM date (April 2nd) had been officially announced on Feb 7th, he did not have any problem in principle on postponing the elections to an EGM at the world champs in August...as long as that EGM was also able to be attended by some members remotely.

AF made the point that we will have to work out timings for the EGM which suited members who were busy with playing schedules at the WCs and at a time that would also allow people from certain countries to attend online.

It was agreed that the details of the EGM could be worked out later but that the principle of postponing the council elections to an EGM at WCs in August was approved unanimously.

DS called the meeting to an end at 21.45