



Minutes  
46<sup>th</sup> IMSSC Session - 13 May 2023

**Participants**

AUS	Frank Anderson	FA		IMSSC Member
AUT	Hubert Kreutz	HK		IMSSC Member
CAN	Randy Plett	RP		IMSSC Member
ESP	Marcello Bresin	MB		IMSSC Member & Statistician & Webmaster
FIN	Pekko Aho	PA	via VC	IMSSC Member
FRA	Olivier Chailloux	OC		IMSSC Member
GBR	Peter Carr	PC	via VC	IMSSC Member
GER	Reinhold Marsollek	RM		IMSSC Member
GER	Heike Kogler	HK		invited guest
ITA	Nicola Condini	NC	via VC	IMSSC Member
JAP	Kenji Takai	KT		IMSSC Member & Vice President
KAZ	Leila Utegulova	LU		IMSSC Member
MON	Oyuntsetseg Nanjid	ON	via VC	IMSSC Member
NED	Tjeerd Smies	TS		IMSSC Member & President
NED	Azamat Ismailov	AI		IMSSC Treasurer
NED	Leen van den Heuvel	LvdH		IMSSC Technical Delegate
NOR	Ragnvald Naess	RN		IMSSC Member
NOR	Sven-Age Svensson	SAS	via VC	IMSSC Honorary Member
SWE	Nils Larsson	NL	via VC	IMSSC Member
SWI	Hans-Peter Ambass	HPA		IMSSC Member
SWI	Peter Reimann	PR		IMSSC Honorary Member
USA	Andrew Love	AL		IMSSC Vice President
USA	Marty Haire	MH	via VC	IMSSC Assistant

**Agenda**

1. Approval of the Minutes of the (online) 45th IMSSC Session 11 June 2022
2. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2022
3. Evaluation of the games and competitions 2022-2023
4. International Masters Sprint Games 2024, nations quota (if required)
5. International Masters Allround Games 2024, nations quota (if required)
6. Applications for Allround Games 2026 and Sprint Games 2026
7. Applications for future MIST Games 2025 or later
8. Financial Report 2022, financial preview / budget 2023
9. Resignation of Brett Arnason as Vice President and Member of Canada, nomination of successors (see also USA proposal 4)
10. Vacancy for the role of Secretary of the IMSSC
11. Proposal for changing Article 3.6 of the "IMSSC Constitution & Regulations"
12. Proposals from Spain (3 proposals)
13. Proposal from USA about the participation fee (see file "USA Prop 1 - Fee Update - Final MCH-AL.docx")
14. Proposals from Japan
  - a. 7 proposals, see file "Japan Proposal 2023-OthersRev041523.docx"
  - b. 2 proposals, see proposal 1 & 2, file "Japan Proposal 2023-Part I.docx"
15. Proposals from Japan and USA to change the structure and organisation of the IMSSC (see file "Japan Proposal 2023-Part I.docx" and USA proposal 2 and 3)
16. Other proposals or topics
17. Miscellaneous

## 0. Session Opening

The meeting was called to order at 09:30 h CET and Tjeerd welcomed 24 attendees from 17 voting nations at the meeting (in person and via VC) of the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the IMSSC.

Ragnvald asked why there is no member of Latvia. Tjeerd Answered that Lasma Kaunista couldn't be reached and Latvia has not yet nominated a successor. Ragnvald asked attention for decisions related to MAG2025 and MSG2025. This topic was added to agenda point 6.

## 1. Approval of Minutes of 45<sup>th</sup> Session

There were no other comments (only one typing mistake on page 1), so the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Session are approved.

## 2. Approval of IMSSC Records List

Marcello has distributed an update of the 2022-2033 records on 11 May 2023.

Leen van den Heuvel mentions that records are improved in the Kolomna Ice competition (25 & 26 March 2023), but this competition is not on the list of IMSSC competitions 2022-2023. At the other hand the Kolomna Ice competition is organized every season and is compliant with the IMSSC and ISU rules. The decision is made that records skated in this competition can be approved, based on the documentation send by Boris Reprin (RUS) to Marcello Bresin on 4 April 2023.

Marty Haire asks attention for improving 3 distance record in a 4 distance competition, as stated in Rule 4.4.6 of the IMSSC Constitution & Regulations (IMSSC C&R). [He pointed out the precedent of other previous mini-Allround documented records set during 4 distance Allround Games.](#) After a short discussion it is decided that no 3 distance record can be skated in a 4 distance competition.

Note: This requires a change of Rule 4.4.6 based on a proposal to be decided in the next (47<sup>th</sup>) Session.

## 3. Evaluation of the games and competitions 2022-2023

### *MSG2023 Calgary*

Tjeerd expresses may thanks to Brett Arnason and the organizing team in Calgary to take over the organization of MSG2023 due to the rejection of the Medeo Ice rink to organize MSG2023 in January or February 2023. In particular thanks to Bob Irvine, the Calgary Office and City of Calgary.

Tjeerd will write letter to Bob Irvine with the IMSSC appreciations (action 1).

### *MAG2023 Quebec*

MAG2023 was held at the Centre de Glaces Intact Assurance on the Gaétan-Boucher Oval in Quebec City. The number of participants was 43 women and 85 men, in total 128 competitors from 9 countries. Results 231 season bests, 138 personal bests, 5 IMSSC records and 2 IMSSC sama log records.

Tjeerd has read a number of messages on Facebook from different skaters that MAG2023 was a nice and well organized event.

### *MIST2023 Amsterdam*

Frank Anderson presented an overview of the program, participation and results of MIST 2023. The number of participants was 93 of which 28% women and 72% men from 14 countries.

The event started already 5 days before the first competitions with a number of activities for all participants. MIST2023 was very successful.

### *Other masters competitions LT and ST*

A large number of other national and international masters was organized in 2022-2023. Unfortunately only the Netherlands published results of her 4 international masters competitions (DMC-1, -2 & -3 and TRR), with extended reports and photographs on Facebook and on the IMSSC website. To the opinion of Tjeerd the best way of promoting masters speedskating is by organizing international masters competitions and by publishing, in a structural way, results and impressions on social media and the IMSSC website.

### *Report for the ISU*

At the end of every season Tjeerd has to make a report for the ISU with an overview of all masters competitions. To do so Tjeerd request all countries/members that have organized international masters competition (ST and LT) in 2022-2023 to sent a full report and some pictures to him within 2 weeks, to enable him writing the report for the ISU (action 2).

Marcello mentions that every Member has rights to publish news items on the IMSSC website. So this is no excuse not publishing results of competitions on the IMSSC website.

#### 4. International Masters Sprint Games 2024 and nations quota

Issue is that Collalbo, Italy has given back the organisation of MG2024. Nicola Condini has worked on an alternative to be organized in Baselga di Pine on 27 and 28 January 2024. Nicola explains that the final confirmation can not be given yet but he expects that MSG2024 will be organized in Baselga instead of in Collalbo. Expected number of participants is 150, maximum number is 200, so no nations quota required.

#### 5. International Masters Allround Games 2024 and other competitions in 2023-2024

##### *MAG2024*

MAG2024 will be organized at IJsbaan Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands, in the first weekend of March 2024 (1 until 3 March). The program format is program D as defined in the IMSSC C&R Rule 3.1.1. The maximum number of participants is 200. Leen van den Heuvel gives a comprehensive presentation.

Tjeerd presents a concept for the nations quota which is accepted by all Members:

- Canada: 7
- Germany: 15
- Italy: 7
- Japan: 0 (Japanese masters will only participate in MSG2024 and WWMG2024)
- Netherlands: 85
- Norway: 40
- Sweden: 8
- USA: 9
- for all other countries: 29

##### *Other competitions in 2023-2024*

- Sprint Classic Inzell: 3 & 4 February 2024
- Masters Cup Berlin: end of February 2024 depending on schedule DESG

#### 6. Applications for Allround Games 2026 (MAG2026) and Sprint Games 2026 (MSG2026)

##### *MAG2025 and MSG2025*

In the 45<sup>th</sup> Session only one candidate ice rink (Milwaukee, USA) offered to organize MAG2025 or MSG2025. Tjeerd asked on 29 May 2022 via email Ragnvald Naess to investigate if Norway is able to organize MAG2025 or MSG2025. The result is that Stavanger Skating Club is willing and able to organize MAG2025 in February 2025, because Stavanger prefers to organize MAG2025.

Andrew Love indicates that Milwaukee is willing to organize MSG2025, date to be defined, but flexible.

##### *MAG2026 and MSG2026*

Kaska Rogulska from the Netherlands (born in Poland) has taken the initiative to contact the ice rink in Zakopane, Poland in February 2023. This initiative has resulted in a formal application by the Polish Speedskating Association (by sports director Konrad Niedzwiedsky) to organize either MAG2026~~5~~ or MSG2026~~5~~ on the ice rink in Zakopane on 27 February until 1 March 2026. At that time the ice rink in Zakopane will be covered.

Unfortunately no other applications are received by the IMSSC.

The ISU changed her planning forecast and is planning ISU world cups and championships 3 years head. This makes it easier for the IMSSC to plan her games. This change is a great benefit for all organizers of events. Azamat Ismailov suggests to plan games 2 years ahead instead of 3 years.

Hubert Kreutz and Nicola Condini indicate that in 2026 MAG of MSG2026 can be organized in Inzell or Baselga di Pine before the Olympic Winter Games. The decision is made that in the autumn of 2023 a zoom-meeting will be organized to discuss other candidate ships for MAG2026 or MSG2026 (action 3).

Tjeerd will advise Zakopane to organize MSG2026, because the "format" is rather straight forward, so they can gain experience in organizing a competition with a large number of competitors (action 4).

#### 7. Applications for future MIST Games 2025 or later

The IMSSC received two applications for MIST 2025:

- from the UK to organize MIST 2025 in Sheffield on 25 until 30 March 2025; max competitors 150
- from Canada, "Club de patinage de Vitesse de Drummondville", Quebec Canada on 22 until 23 March 2025 (+/- one week); maximum competitors 150

Frank Anderson gives the advice to award MIST2025 to Drummondville. ST is popular in Canada and in particular in Montreal/ Drummondville. Frank mentions that Sheffield has withdrawn her candidateship for 2025 but present themselves as a candidate for MIST2027.

Frank will request for other MIST2027 applications (action 5).

## **8. Financial Report 2022, financial preview / budget 2023**

### **Report 2022**

Azamat Ismailov explains the P&L of 2022. The ISU has granted € 40 K for all games and general costs of the IMSSC. This leads for 2022 to a profit of € 12,5 K.

### **Budget 2023**

Costs are rising rather heavy due to inflation, in particular travelling costs. Budget 2023 is not yet clear. Azamat is waiting for the financial figures of MAG2023 Quebec and MIST2023 in Amsterdam (action 6 and 7).

Azamat proposes to ask the ISU to increase the financial support with € 2 K per game and for the general costs. This means 4 times € 12 K instead of 4 times € 10 K. Azamat and Tjeerd will define concept request for the ISU (Ferdinand Schmid / Alexander Kibalko) (action 8).

Another option to save money is to organize the Session after MAG or MSG. Attention point is that not all Members will visit/participate in MAG and MSG and it is not fair that Members that participate in MAG/MSG will not be reimbursed compared to Members that have to travel extra. Another point is that participants in the MAG and MSG want to prepare themselves the days before the MAG and MSG, so that the meeting can only take place the day after the MAG and MSG. As a result, additional days off must be taken.

Furthermore a small discussion is held about interest on the bank account.

## **9. Resignation of Brett Arnason as Vice President and Member of Canada**

Andrew Love gives a nice speech about all things Brett has done and achieved for the IMSSC. The IMSSC is very grateful for all the work Brett has done. Brett is nominated as Honorary Member of the IMSSC (action 9). Tjeerd hands over a small figurine of a skater with inscription to Brett.

All Members agree with the successors of Brett Arnason:

- Andrew Love is vice president for North America
- Randy Plett is Member for Canada.

## **10. Vacancy role Secretary**

Tjeerd requested Ragnvald Naess if Norway is able to present a candidate. Ragnvald will do an investigation in Norway. Marty Haire mentions that USA has possible a candidate from Milwaukee and he will ask this candidate to apply via email to Tjeerd.

Kenji proposed to combine role of Technical Delegate with Secretary. Leen indicates that he has no time due to his role in the KNSB. Frank Anderson and Kenji Takai offer to be assistant Secretary to support Tjeerd in his combi role of President and Secretary.

## **11. Proposal for changing Article 3.6 of the “IMSSC Constitution & Regulations”**

The proposal by Leen van den Heuvel is accepted unanimous.

Leen mentions that the IMSSC C&R must be adopted in terms of gender neutrality (“women” instead of “ladies”) (action 10).

## **12. Proposals from Spain (3 proposals)**

### **Proposal 1: website**

Marcello Bresin indicates that the website requires a rather large and costly update. This update is required if the competition registration system must kept in place in the website. An idea is to use another system (Element Timing of Lars Hagen) for competition registration. This system is used by the Max Aicher Arena in Inzell and by the ISU. Perhaps the IMSSC can also use the license of the ISU. The ISU uses also another system OES to register other “topics”, such as accommodations and more. The IMSSC don't require this functionality.

Hubert Kreutz will inform Marcello with the contact information of Lars Hagen. Marcello will come with a proposal (action 11).

### **Proposal 2: Russia / Belarus readmission**

After a small discussion the decision is made to follow the “strategy” of the ISU with respect to readmission of masters from the Russian Federation and Belarus. This means that the decision, made by the Board of the IMSSC on 5 March 2022, is still valid.

### **Proposal 3: Location annual meeting**

Marcello indicates that organizing this meeting in Inzell is not much cheaper than organizing meetings nearby an international airport, such as Frankfurt or Berlin. An alternative is to organize the Session after MAG or MSG, as discussed earlier in this meeting.

The decision is made that Azamat will do a financial check and Marcello makes a proposal for “selection process for the location” (action 12 and 13).

### **13. Proposal from USA about the participation fee of skaters**

Marty Haire explains that the participation fee is fixed since 2018 while at the other hand costs are rising. From information in the chart of the Worldbank (<https://data.worldbank.org>), it can be calculated that the average annual inflation rate has been ~2.7% since 2018. Therefore, the current ceiling of the participation fee should be adjusted. The following is decided:

- the adjusted fee will only apply for MAG, MSG and MIST
- the participation fee can be adjusted upwards and downwards
- the annual increase/decrease will be based on an inflation index of the Worldbank

This proposal is unanimously approved.

An adjusted rate for season 2023/2024 will follow (action 14).

### **14. Proposals from Japan**

**Seven proposals, see file “Japan Proposal 2023-OthersRev041523.docx”**

1. Appoint Brett Arnason as Honorary Member  
Done, see minutes point 9.
2. Clarification of masters records  
The definition of a masters record is described in IMSSC C&R Rule 4.3.
3. Information about function of National Director WMA  
Background information only.
4. Cooperation with ISU Adult Figure Skating group (AFS)  
Also background information. Tjeerd Smies has spoken with Diana Barkley of AFS during ISU congress 2018 and Kenji Takai during ISU congress 2022. The IMSSC will keep contact with AFS.
5. Promotion of masters speedskating using “legend skaters”  
The overall experience is that former top skaters are not interested in masters speedskating.  
The proposal is rejected.
6. Discover the oldest female competitive speedskater as Guinness Record  
Honoring the oldest active female master speedskater is an idea based on the recognition of Iishi Marumo (JAP) in the Guinness Book of Records.  
This idea will be worked out in the next Session.
7. Set new age group (25-29) as masters age group  
ISU and IMGA have defined that masters start at age 30+. The IMSSC will follow these rules.  
The proposal is ~~anonymous~~unanimously rejected.

**First two proposals, see file “Japan Proposal 2023-Part I.docx”**

1. Text change in IMSSC C&R Part 1: Constitution, Article 1: Objectives  
This text change/improvement proposal is ~~anonymous~~unanimously accepted.
2. Voting out members, meeting twice in a season (online & onsite), election system  
These topics will be worked out in the “working group”, see point 15.

## 15. Proposals from Japan and USA to change the structure and organisation of the IMSSC

A number of topics regarding organisational changes are discussed but no final conclusions and decisions can or will be taken.

A number of topics will be working out in a “working group”, such as:

- management structure
- election system of “management roles” and role period
- grouping of countries in “regions”
- regional representation/representatives
- revision of organizational meeting structure
- frequency and type of meetings/Sessions
- which topics will be discussed in which type of meeting

The working group will define different ideas/options/scenarios and advantages and disadvantages of each option/scenario. The goal is that this working group makes a report and some organizational options for the IMSSC to adopt, or send back for more research in the autumn of 2023 (action 15).

The following members make up the working group:

- Andrew Love
- Kenji Takai
- Randy Plett
- Hans-Peter Ambass
- Ragnvald Naess.

## 16. Other proposals or topics

### **WWMG2024**

Will be held in Lombardi, Italy on

- Short track 12 until 15 January 2024 in Bormio
- Long track on 16 until 20 January 2024 on natural ice of Lake Palu (1.908 m height)

Tjeerd Smies and Leen van den Heuvel are in contact with the organizers (Luca di Carli) and IMGGA (Samantha Hayward) since 5 April 2022. Tjeerd received on 9 May 2023 an email from Luca di Carli, with an update of organisational and technical topics (PPT-presentation). This presentation will be shared with all Members (action 16).

Entry to participate in WWMG2024 is open from 9 May onwards on <https://wwmg.endu.net>

Schematics of the Lake Palu track were shown and photos of the venue discussed.

### **ISU rule 254.4**

Ragnvald mentions that there has been a small exchange of thoughts between Arne Kjell Foldvik and Tjeerd about ISU rule 254.4. This rule is related to “crossing the borders of the track on the straight” during skating. The rule has also an “escape” for the referee for not applying this rule in certain circumstances.

Leen van den Heuvel mentions that this rule is not always strictly enforced during the last years. Leen always explains IMSSC rules, including this rule, in preparation meetings with organizers, Referees and Starters of IMSSC competitions/games.

### **Behaviour of Octavian Moga (ROU)**

During MAG2023 in Quebec and a number of years ago in Baselga di Pinè, Octavian Moga has offended in words and physically members of the jury. His behaviour is not acceptable.

Tjeerd Smies will write him a formal letter that his misbehavior is not tolerated. This letter will be the last warning. If Octavian Moga misbehaves in the future, he will be banned from all IMSSC games and competitions (action 17).

### **Successor Member USA**

Andrew Love indicates that Marty Haire will be his successor as Member of the USA.

### **Age categories during national masters championship in Japan**

Kenji Takai mentions that in the national masters championship in Japan age groups of 10 years are used. Japan may do so, but this is not compliant with the IMSSC rules.

In the Netherlands skaters younger than 30 are racing in IMSSC competitions (DMC, TRR) but in a separate drawing group. In the Netherlands Schaatscircuit.nl organizes a number of competitions in which pairing is based on best season time with gender mixing. So a master can race against a junior skater.



## 17. Miscellaneous

*Planning of the 47<sup>th</sup> Session.*

In the autumn of 2023, based on a process to be defined by Marcello, the decision will be made where and when the 47<sup>th</sup> Session will be organized.

## 18. Closing of the Session

Tjeerd thanks everyone for their contribution and participation in the meeting.

Meeting closes at 16:45 CET.

Meeting minutes documented 7 June 2023 by Tjeerd Smies, including review by the Board members.  
Distribution of minutes: All participants, IMSSC Members, Honorary Members, ISU (Alexander Kibalko).

### Action list

#	Description	Action by	Planned or due date
1	Letter with appreciations of IMSSC to Bob Irvine	Tjeerd Smies	15-06-2023
2	Reports + pictures international competitions as input for report ISU	all Members that has organized international competitions in 2022-2023	15-06-2023
3	Organize Zoom-session to discuss other candidates for MAG2026 and MSG2026	Board of the IMSSC	09-09-2023
4	Advice to Polish Speedskating Association to organize MSG2026	Tjeerd Smies	01-07-2023
5	Request other candidates for MIST2027	Frank Anderson	autumn 2023
6	Financial figures / P&L MAG2023	Marty Haire	ASAP
7	Financial figures / P&L MIST2023	Frank Anderson	ASAP
8	Define concept request for the ISU to increase financial support (4 times € 12 K)	Tjeerd Smies / Azamat Ismailov	01-07-2023
9	Update list Honorary Members	Tjeerd Smies	01-07-2023
10	Update IMSSC C&R	Tjeerd Smies	01-09-2023
11	Proposal for website and competitions registration system	Marcello Bresin	01-09-2023
12	Check costs annual meeting Inzell compared to costs other locations	Azamat Ismailov	01-08-2023
13	Define selection process location annual meeting	Marcello Bresin	01-08-2023
14	Define adjusted participation rate for MSG, MAG and MIST season 2023/2024	Board of the IMSSC	01-09-2023
15	Draft report about change of management structure and more	Andrew Love + Working Group	01-11-2023
16	Distribute presentation of WWMG2024/Lake Palu	Tjeerd Smies	15-06-2023
17	Letter to Octavian Moga related to his offence against members of the jury in Quebec	Tjeerd Smies	01-07-2023

### Members of the IMSSC:

Frank Anderson (AUS), Hubert Kreutz (AUT), Willy Caboor (BEL), Konstantin Lukashevich (BLR), Randy Plett (CAN), Petr Novák (CZE), Marcello Bresin (ESP), Pekko Aho (FIN), Olivier Chailloux (FRA), Peter Carr (GBR), Reinhold Marsollek (GER), Nicola Condini (ITA), Kenji Takai (JAP), Leila Utegulova (KAZ), Jae-Seok Choi (KOR), Lasma Kauniste (LAT), Nanjid Oyuntsetseg (MON), Tjeerd Smies (NED), Ragnvald Næss (NOR), Boris Reprin (RUS), Hans-Peter Ambass (SUI), Nils Larsson (SWE), Oleksandr Symonenko (UKR), Marty Haire (USA)

### Honorary Members of the IMSSC:

Brett Arnason (CAN), Roland Hagemann (GER), Dominik Wehling (GER), Antonio Nitto (ITA), Drs. Harry G. Falke (NED), Bram de Vries (NED), Aris J. Dijkman (NED), Sven-Åge Svensson (NOR), Peter Reimann (SUI)

### Honorary President of the IMSSC:

Dr. Volker Serini (GER)