



# International Masters' Speed Skating Committee

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## Minutes 43<sup>rd</sup> IMSSC Session – Virtual Meeting

Sunday, October 11, 2020 16:00 - 17:10 CET

**Participants:**

CAN	Sue Steckle	(SS)	IMSSC Secretary
ESP	Marcello Bresin	(MB)	IMSSC Member and IMSSC Webmaster & Statistician
FIN	Pekka Aho	(PA)	IMSSC Member
GBR	Peter Carr	(PC)	IMSSC Member
GBR	Keith Wright	(KW)	Short Track Expert
GER	Reinhold Marsollek	(RM)	IMSSC Member
GER	René van Bernum	(RVB)	
ITA	Nicola Condini	(NC)	IMSSC Member
JAP	Kenji Takai	(KT)	IMSSC Member and IMSSC VP
KAZ	Leila Utegulova	(LU)	IMSSC Member
MON	Oyuntsetseg Nanjid	(ON)	IMSSC Member
NED	Tjeerd Smies	(TS)	IMSSC Member and IMSSC President
NED	Azamat Ismailov	(AI)	IMSSC Treasurer
NED	Joke Wittenberg	(JW)	
NOR	Sven-Åge Svensson	(SÅS)	IMSSC Honorary Member
NOR	Ragnvald Naess	(RN)	IMSSC Member
RUS	Boris Repnin	(BR)	IMSSC Member
SUI	Hans-Peter Ambass	(HPA)	IMSSC Member
SWE	Nils Larsson	(NL)	IMSSC Member
USA	Andrew Love	(AL)	IMSSC Member
	Roland Maillard	(RM-I)	ISU Member

**Distribution of the minutes:**

All participants and IMSSC Members

**Agenda:**

1. Planning and organization of international masters competitions with respect to all Covid-19 measures in the different countries.
2. Decision timeframe and decision deadline with respect to MSG2021 and MAG2021.

3. Election of a new "Technical Delegate". Candidates are from NL (Leen van den Heuvel) and NOR (Gunnar Lødding)
4. Berlin MSG2021: quota in a non-Covid restricted situation (220 participants) and quota in a Covid-19 restricted situation (200 participants), see concept Announcement of Rene van Bernum.
5. Planning and organisation status of MAG2021 in Kolomna.
6. Approval of 2019-2020 IMSSC records.
7. Additional topics as needed and as time allows.

## Session Opening

The meeting was called to order at 16:00 CET. TS welcomed 22 participants from 14 voting nations to the abbreviated 43rd IMSSC Session held virtually by Zoom. TS called for additions to the agenda and, as none were proposed, suggested items arising could be added at the end of the agenda as well.

### Alterations of Members in the IMSSC

It should be noted (although not discussed) that the member for Finland (FIN) was updated by email to the IMSSC Board. The IMSSC Board welcomes Pekka Aho as the new representative for FIN, and thanks Pertti Kiiskinen for his past contributions.

1. Planning and organization of international masters competitions with respect to all Covid-19 measures in the different countries.

TS expressed that things are not going well with respect to COVID-19 cases in NED currently, with case numbers approaching those from March. Several nations are experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 at this point, similar to in March. International travel is expected to be quite restricted, which is expected to limit international participation in competitions. Since a vaccine is not anticipated until at least Q2-2021, it is not expected that the situation will improve before the speed skating season is over. TS suggested that local/national competitions be planned respecting the local COVID-19 protocols; NED is organizing several competitions to be included in the competition calendar, for example. The draft competition calendar was presented on-screen for review; several changes were noted.

KW reported that a short track training camp was held in Germany the first week of August with 157 athletes from 13 countries participating. A specific protocol for COVID-19 was in place including tracking and tracing, and no resulting COVID-19 cases; this protocol will be shared via the IMSSC website for reference by other organizers.

2. Decision timeframe and decision deadline with respect to MSG2021 and MAG2021.

An extensive discussion was held, and is detailed here for all interested parties to understand how the decision was reached.

TS had preliminary discussions with RVB regarding MSG, and proposed a December 31, 2020 deadline to determine if the games should proceed as planned. BR indicated they are prepared to host MAG however COVID-19 has raised uncertainty around travel, and suggested end of January

for a decision, or to postpone the event altogether. The group indicated dissent, as it would be too late for travel arrangements and other plans by late January.

RN raised the possibility to postpone the MAG and MSG Games for a year, and push out the next year's games to the following year. TS commented that he has been following the ISU planning, which has cancelled all events to the end of 2020, and suggested that the probability of MSG and MAG occurring is quite low. All IMSSC member nations must be in a situation for which their athletes are allowed to travel to the host countries, which seems unlikely at this point.

TS clarified that planning for how the MSG and MAG schedules will be affected should be discussed at a later time, for example, if Quebec City and Almaty would host one year later than was originally planned, if Kolomna and Berlin become hosts in the 2021-2022 season. Also, Kolomna and Berlin are able to continue to host an international masters competition on their planned dates for this season, however these events will not have the status of International Masters Championship Games.

TS proposed that the above be decided by December 31, 2020. KT requested clarification around the process, that participant athletes should still register on the IMSSC website for these events, for which payment would not be due until the events are confirmed. RVB and BR agreed to the Dec. 31 deadline.

HPA requested clarification for the criteria to formally cancel the official MSG and MAG status for these two events this season, which was confirmed as the ability of all IMSSC member nation athletes to travel to the host locations. SÅS addressed that even if allowed to travel, many masters athletes may hesitate to travel under the current conditions and there would be few competitors. TS affirmed that individuals would be welcome to make their own choice on whether to participate. HPA proposed that the IMSSC decide to not hold the games this year to motivate people to not take risks, as it is impossible to believe that people will be able to travel without problems.

At this point, RN requested an update on the current situation in RUS from BR, who stated that there is a new record number of cases (13,000) in RUS, mainly in Moscow. Many people in Kolomna have confirmed COVID-19 cases and are hospitalized, although not many deaths. BR commented that the locality doesn't matter as people must travel through several airport to arrive there and when asked if travellers have to quarantine, addressed that it's currently impossible to travel to Kolomna as there are no flights arriving. SÅS again addressed the uncertainty of the current situation with little prospect of improvement in the near term, and a negative trend.

RM-I added his perspective, as he is on the Organizing Committee of in Universiad 2021 in Lucerne, to be held January 2021, which has already been cancelled in spite of having 3,800 preliminary entries from athletes all over the world. They recognize that SUI could not accept over 3,000 international travellers at this point, and they are considering postponing the event to December 2021. RM-I gave his opinion that taking the action to postpone all international competitions now for the season would be a good solution.

PC suggested that identifying domestic versus international competitions would be prudent, with international participation being permitted at domestic competitions, however not specifically planning any "worldwide" competitions or at least deciding at the proposed Dec. 31 deadline about these. TS then addressed the overall consensus of the group to postpone MAG and MSG for one year, while still organizing competitions on the IMSSC calendar for this year.

As such, a decision was reached by the members participating in the meeting to postpone MAG and MSG for the 2020-2021 season, until 2021-2022, while allowing domestic competitions to proceed as planned.

3. Election of a new "Technical Delegate". Candidates are from NL (Leen van den Heuvel) and NOR (Gunnar Lødding)

TS addressed that profiles had been distributed for the two candidates for Technical Delegate, and both appeared quite capable of fulfilling the role, appearing equal in their experience.

Leen van den Heuvel received 10 votes.

Gunnar Lødding received 4 votes.

TS will ask Leen van den Heuvel to assume the Technical Delegate role.

4. Berlin MSG2021: quota in a non-Covid restricted situation (220 participants) and quota in a Covid-19 restricted situation (200 participants).

This agenda item is no longer relevant as MSG has been postponed for this season.

5. Planning and organisation status of MAG2021 in Kolomna.

This agenda item is no longer relevant as MAG has been postponed for this season.

6. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2019-2020

The preliminary record list was distributed to members ahead of the meeting and presented on screen during the meeting. KT identified that Total Sprint Points record for F50 was missing from the list, broken this season by Junyu Koyano at MSG. MB will correct this.

MB asked if it is his role as statistician to assess all events and scour the results for broken records, or to receive record applications, which TS confirmed is the case. MB also thanked the organizers of competitions in NED, RUS and ITA for their complete and timely submissions. MB also thanked SÅS who assisted a great deal, as well as SS and TS who pursued additional submissions. Leen van den Heuvel was acknowledged as especially helpful in identifying all the new records. MB went on to address that the current IMSSC process for records is not working, even considering that this was an exceptional season, and proposed a new process for electronic submission be created for records broken in subsequent seasons. SÅS and MB agreed that the submission process was a failure in this exceptional season, particularly from MSG in Calgary. MB proposed electronic submission by organizers, with a May 1 deadline to be accepted. TS affirmed this direction.

KW requested clarification of qualifying competitions for records; TS confirmed that the competitions on the IMSSC calendar are the events for which records may be set, per the IMSSC constitution. KW requested that Short Track records from MIST games and World Winter Masters Games (WWMG) held last year be added to the list and will submit the list to MB via SS as secretary.

It was confirmed that the protocol for MSG held in Calgary has recently been received with all necessary documentation to support the new records achieved. The extensive protocol was delivered to the IMSSC on paper rather than as a digital file.

Andrew Love (USA) joined the meeting during this discussion.

7. Additional topics as needed and as time allows.

KT requested that TS formally address the errors in the final MSG protocol. KT will send the details of the errors for Japanese athletes to TS.

AI addressed the financial situation of IMSSC has sufficient funds at this time, that IMSSC will not be applying for the much appreciated ISU financial support this year, but will apply again when Masters Games are on the schedule in the future. RM-I acknowledged this and suggested that he would request a lower amount of €10,000 from ISU on behalf of IMSSC for administrative purposes. This will be requested of ISU Council next week, with thanks from the IMSSC.

RN asked if the €10 fee for individual competitors would still be charged; it was confirmed that it was not being charged for events currently as IMSSC has ISU support.

It is expected that that next meeting will be hopefully be held in person in May 2021.

SS read the following message from Mrs. Ramoser Adelheid, Ritten Sport – Collalbo, ITA:

*“We (Ritten Sport from Collalbo /Italy) are very glad that we had the opportunity to organize Mag20 in January, short time before Corona broke all activities down.*

*It was a great event. Participants were so friendly and thankful - we didn't expect this and had a very good time (beside the intensive work to do, but it was ok). Weather was fine, people was in a good mood and results were very good - also some Worldrecords were broken during this event. We knew a lot of very nice people and had a good time. I hope Masterskaters did too.*

*Therefore we would be glad to organize another Mag competition or maybe a Sprintgames-edition in further years. Please accept this as our candidature for MSG23, in any case we will formalize as soon as possible.”*

The message was acknowledged and the event also acknowledged as well run and well attended.

RN acknowledged the WWMG games and suggested that the IMSSC could consider hosting a Single Distance championship in this style as well. A brief discussion of coordination of events, including events on consecutive weekends and crossing long track and short track was held. Further discussion or decisions around this was deferred for a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm CET.

*Sue Steckle*  
(IMSSC Secretary)

***Members of the IMSSC:***

*Frank Anderson (AUS), Hubert Kreutz (AUT), Willy Caboor (BEL), Konstantin Lukashevich (BLR), Brett Arnason (CAN), Petr Novák (CZE), Marcello Bresin (ESP) Pekka Aho (FIN), Peter Carr (GBR), Reinhold Marsollek (GER), Nicola Conдини (ITA), Kenji Takai (JAP), Leila Utegulova (KAZ), Jae-Seok Choi (KOR), Lasma Kauniste (LAT), Nanjid Oyuntsetseg (MON), Tjeerd Smies (NED), Ragnvald Næss (NOR), Boris Repnin (RUS), Hans-Peter Ambass (SUI), Nils Larsson (SWE), Oleksandr Symonenko (UKR), Andrew Love (USA)*

***Honorary Members of the IMSSC:***

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

***Honorary President of the IMSSC: Dr. Volker Serini (GER)***