



International Masters' Speed Skating Committee

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by e-mail

Vittuone, May 15th 2017

to: all IMSSC Members

Subject: proposals for 40th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED on June 10th 2017 sorted according to agenda item

Please find in the following pages all the arrived proposals sorted according to their relation with the agenda item. The preliminary agenda is the following:

1. Approval of the Minutes 39th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED 2016
2. Alterations of Members in the IMSSC
3. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2017
4. Selection organization MAG 2019 (candidates: Kolomna, Russia and Bjugn, Norway)
5. Allround Games 2020 and Sprint Games 2020, Applications
6. Allround Games in Baselga di Piné/ITA 2018, Nations' Quota
7. Sprint Games in Moscow/RUS 2018, Nations' Quota
8. Other International Masters' Competitions in 2017/2018
9. ISU-IMSSC relationship and economic support
10. IMSTC: current and future status
11. Financial Report 2016, Financial Preview 2017
12. New Proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations
13. Other Proposals
14. Miscellaneous

With best regards,

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS' SPEED SKATING COMMITTEE (IMSSC)

Paolo Gemme

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), Pertti Kiiskinen (FIN), Reinhold Marsollek (GER), Rossella Sardi (ITA), Kenji Takai (JAP), Azamat Ismailov (KAZ), Jae-Seok Choi (KOR), Lasma Kauniste (LAT), Tjeerd Smies (NED), Ragnvald Næss (NOR), Boris Repnin (RUS), Hans-Peter Ambass (SUI), Jan Landelius (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), Sven-Age Svensson (NOR), Peter Reimann (SUI)

Honorary President of the IMSSC:

Dr. Volker Serini (GER)

AGENDA Item 2 – Alterations of Members in the IMSSC

Proposal 1/NED: new IMSSC Member for Great Britain.

Proposal:

The Netherlands proposes to invite UK Master Speedskating as member of the IMSSC. Peter Carr will be invited to represent the UK Master speedskaters in the IMSSC.

Rationale:

Already during some years UK Master speedskaters are participating in Masters speedskating competitions like MSG and MAG with a reasonable number of participants. Furthermore UK Master Speedskating is professionally organised.

Proposal 2/NED: new IMSSC Member for Mongolia.

Proposal:

The Netherlands proposes to invite Mongolia Master Speedskating as member of the IMSSC. OyuntsetegNanjidwill be invited to represent the Mongolia Master speedskaters in the IMSSC.

Rationale:

Already during some years Mongolia Master speedskaters are participating in Masters speedskating competitions with a reasonable number of participants.

AGENDA Item 12 – New proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations

Proposal 5/NED: Part I Constitution, Article 3 – Sessions and Decisions of the IMSSC.

Rationale:

Definition of the “Board of the IMSSC” to be added to Article 3 after the first paragraph. In the IMSSC Constitutions and Regulations nothing is defined regarding “the board of the IMSSC”. Due to the fact that “financial governance” has become important as a result of the negotiations with the ISU, NED proposes to include also the Treasurer in the Board of the IMSSC.

Proposed text:

The Board of the IMSSC consists of five representatives whereas three members are representing the three continents (Canada, North and South America; Europe; Asia), the fourth member is the Secretary of the IMSSC and the fifth member the Treasurer. The Board-member of each continent is resident of a country that is member of the IMSSC.

The focus of the Board is the day to day organisation and operation of the IMSSC. Important tasks are:

- organize and prepare the IMSSC meetings;
- inform the members of the IMSSC about special subjects if required;
- establish and maintain the relationship with the ISU;
- represent the IMSSC in contacts and communication with other ice skating organisations and other international Masters sport organisations.

Proposal 3/NED: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1 – Master Games.

Proposal:

The Netherlands proposes to organize MSG and/or MAG as much as possible on the famous, covered and well reachable ice speedskating rinks in all parts of the world.

Rationale:

To maximize participation of master speedskaters. MAG-2017 was well organised in Fort St John Canada (FSJ), but the number of participants (about 80) was disappointing and travelling costs were rather high to reach FSJ.

Proposal 2/USA: Part II Regulations, New Rule 3.1.3 – IMSSC Single Distance Season Champion Awards.

Rationale:

Many masters spend time on www.speedskatingresults.com comparing their times and rankings with others in their age groups. In fact, for some Masters, placing highly on this international database counts equally traveling to our premier events.

This database could be viewed as a threat to the value our race circuit brings, or we could embrace it as opportunity to outreach to more masters, and the National federations by recognizing masters who place highly

The IMSSC does not have a single distance championship, nor is one likely. However we can use this list as a season long virtual competition that will be engaging, and send certificates to the winners via their IMSSC rep or national Association

This proposal does NOT REPLACE the IMSSC circuit, nor does it affect our record procedures, it just allows us one more level of interaction and celebration of skater achievements. Skaters will be sharing these awards on social media, and that increases awareness of our premier events and the IMSSC circuit.

One interesting question for this award, is how to handle the 30 and 35 year old age group, as the top times are world cup racing times. One thought is to sidestep this entirely and start the awards from 40 for the initial year.

Proposed text:

(other section title numbers will move down).

3.1.3

(Suggested Section Titles for group vote/modification)

Masters Fastest Season Time

IMSSC Single distance award

IMSSC Seasons Best Award

The IMSSC recognizes the astonishing efforts made by Masters Athletes week in and out through the whole competitive season. Embracing technology and the database of speedskatingresults.com, The IMSSC shall award honorary electronic certificates (PDF/jpg social media friendly) to the top 10 fastest times skated by masters in each competitive season and send a congratulatory press release to each national federation listing their skaters who have appeared in the top 10 in each age group.

These season best times are not official IMSSC records due to our IMSSC record protocol not necessarily being followed, but they recognize the growth of speedskating and the importance of international fellowship and friendly competition.

(Appendix 2 to be created of the first seasons awards)

Proposal 3/USA: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.3, Rule 4.3 and Rule 4.4.1.

The organizer of the Masters event in Salt Lake City submitted this proposal

In addition to the last year proposal submitted by the US representative, regarding the amendments to the "Constitution and Regulations 2016/2017 ", please consider the following proposal:

Justification:

The organization of master's competitions is associated with significant administrative and logistical burden for local clubs and entities. The cost of ice on the world's best ice rinks is very high, which also represents a serious financial risk for the organizers, without guarantees of a minimum number of participants. This is often times the reason competitions begin to be held in places that are not as popular, either remote and/or difficult, expensive to travel to for most skaters. Ice in these facilities is often cheaper or free, but not always fast. These influences lead to a reduced number of foreign skaters attending.

Last season we had successfully organized a Master's Open National Single Distance Championship as a part of the annual national competitions held by the US Speedskating and Utah Olympic Oval. Without using help and the substantial resources of these two organizations, our small club wouldn't be able to handle the burden of administrative work, or the associated fanatical risks and legal challenges.

We would like to see this successful example of cooperation become a model for the future promotion and development of master's speed skating meets in other countries. It will give us a chance to increase the number of master's competitions at the best ovals in the world and boost overall participation.

The current version of "Constitution and Regulations 2016/2017" defines in details how to organize and conduct the two main competitions of the season – MIAG and MISG. In regards to other international competitions, it needs to be clarified. The document does not restrict master's participation in mixed (masters with non-masters) competitions and approval of such competitions by the IMSSC, however it does not specify the procedure for their conduct and requirements for the final results list.

We need to introduce the concept of Mixed competitions into the "Constitution and Regulations 2017/2018" with necessary guidelines, to make sure that such competitions meet the IMSSC standards and can be approved and included in their calendar.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to single out masters in a separate group when conducting mixed competitions. Under current rulings, not having ability to separate out masters from other participants can impede master skater's participation. At a draw, skaters are placed in accordance with the results achieved in the season. It is important to understand that in our sport a skater races on his/her lane individually against the clock. There is no reason to believe that having faster or slower skater in the other lane can or would affect the skater's performance in a certain way. Often times, a stronger opponent forces skaters to chase, compromising normal rhythm and technique, slowing down their results. Having the participants paired base on their speed, allows to significantly reduce the probability of interference at the lanes interchange. Therefore, the provision requiring masters to be paired only with other masters is unnecessary. Modern technical capabilities make it easy to separate the final results of masters from the main protocol.

Proposed text:

3.1.3. **Title:** Change from "Masters' International Competitions" to "Other Masters' Competitions".

3.1.3. **Current:** "Masters' International Competitions will be held in different countries. They may be organized by a club, cooperating clubs or a National Speed Skating Association. The valid combinations..."

Proposed: "Various Masters' International, National (open) competitions will be held in different countries. They may be organized by a club, cooperating clubs or a National Speed Skating Association. Masters' competitions can be also organized as a part of other than exclusively Masters' events. For such Mixed competitions a separate Masters' results list must be produced. The valid combinations..."

Reason:

It is important to make amendments to Rule 4 in part of records registrations procedure for the times set by masters in the IMSSC approved Mixed competitions.

Proposed text:

4.3. **Current:** "IMSSC Records (International Masters' Records) are recognized only for times and points reached in International Masters' Competitions approved by the IMSSC ...

Proposed: "IMSSC Records (International Masters' Records) are recognized only for times and points reached in competitions, approved by the IMSSC ...

4.4.1. **Current:** "Result reached at a National or International announced Master Competition (See Rule 2) ... If other speed skaters start in a speed skating event besides one or several age groups of Master Speed Skaters from 30 years, each Master Speed Skater must be clearly marked with Age Group in the starting lists, results and standings during the competition and in the final results.

Proposed: "Result reached at the IMSSC approved Masters' Competition ... If other speed skaters start in a speed skating event besides one or several age groups of Master Speed Skaters from 30 years, a separate Final Master's Results list with final standing must be produced."

Proposal 7/NED: Part II Regulations, New Rule 3.1.8 – Extra Starter Assistant.

Proposal:

The Netherlands proposes an extra rule in the IMSSC Constitution and Regulations as a supplement for ISU rule 255.2.1 for Masters' International Games and other Masters' International Speedskating Competitions (see underlined section).

ISU Rule 255.2.1

...

When competitions are using quartet starts an extra starter assistant (two instead of the usual one assistant) is necessary by the start of the 500 m to prevent accidents.

Rationale:

Competitions are mostly very busy by the start of the 500 m by using quartet starts. Competitors must follow each other very quickly during the races. Furthermore Masters in the higher age categories are sometimes less alert and flexible to respond quickly.

Proposal 8/NED: Part II Regulations, New Rule 3.1.9 – False Start.

Proposal:

The Netherlands proposes for an extra rule in the IMSSC Constitutions and Regulations as a supplement for ISU rule 255.2.2.a.b. and 3.1 (false start) for Masters' International Games and other Masters' International Speedskating Competitions (see underlined section).

ISU Rule 255.2.2.a.b. and 3.1 (false start)

Instead of ISU rule 255.2.2.a.b.:

...

The Competitors have to take a stable position before the Starter calls "Ready", whereupon they are to take their starting position and keep this position absolutely until the shot is fired.

Replace it for:

The Competitors have to take a stable position before the Starter calls "Ready", whereupon they are to take their starting position and **wait in this position** until the shot is fired.

By this adjustment a false start for the competitor occurs when the skater:

- Stands in the starting line;
- Makes a start before the shot is fired.

Rationale:

Masters in the higher age categories are often less stable and flexible to keep their position fully stable and without any movement in the time period before the shot is fired.

Proposal 9/NED: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.9 – Recommendation for Overtaking.

Proposal:

The Netherlands proposes to add to rule 3.9 a supplement (4.d) to ISU rule 256 (see underlined section below).

ISU Rule 256

...

3. Crossing the lines of the designated competition lane

If a Competitor skates outside the designated competition lane, thus completely crossing the line to the other lane or to the warm-up lane with the full skate, the Competitor may be disqualified, even without offending another Competitor. If there are confirmed observations of more than one such offence during the race, the Competitor will be disqualified, except for situations described in paragraph 4 below.

4. Exceptional situations

The following situations will not lead to a disqualification in accordance with paragraph 3 above:

- a) If a Competitor does not keep within the inner lane in the curve or when exiting the curve towards the finishing straight and therefore crosses the line to the outer lane, the Competitor will not be disqualified if

- returning immediately to the inner lane. When exiting the curve, the return to the inner lane must in any case have taken place before the first of the lines defining the 1000m finish on a standard 400m track.
- b) If a Competitor leaves the designated competition lane due to a fall or other accidental reason, the Competitor will not be disqualified if returning directly to the designated lane. See also Rule 260, paragraph 3.
 - c) If a Competitor has overtaken another Competitor skating in the same lane, and during the overtaking crossed the outer demarcation line of the lane in order to avoid interference, the overtaking Skater will not be disqualified. See also Rule 257, paragraph 2.
 - d) If a Competitor skates in the outer lane and has overtaken another Competitor skating in the same lane. If the Competitor is during the overtaking crossing the inner demarcation line of the lane between the end of the curve towards the finishing straight and the finish line, the overtaking skater will not be disqualified. See also Rule 257, paragraph 2.

Rationale:

On the basis of current rules, it is almost impossible to overtake in the section of the outer lane between the end of the curve towards the finishing straight until entering the curve after the finish line, without being disqualified.

AGENDA Item 13 – Other proposals

Proposal 4/NED – Requirements and Advices to Organizers of International Masters Competitions ver.1.2, article 20 - Closing Banquet.

New first sentence:

For the closing banquet the organising committee should in favour choose for a location with good acoustic capabilities.

Rationale:

During the last years the IMSSC-board received complaints from master speedskaters that communication with each other was hardly possible, not only due to reduced hearing possibilities of elderly speedskaters but also due to bad acoustics in the location of the closing banquet.

Proposal 6/NED – ISU contributions for Masters' Allround and Sprint Games.

Introduction

The ISU has contributed for each game an amount of €10.000 without a clear direction how to spent such an amount.

Do we have to pay it to the organizer irrespective of the costs?

Do we have to pay the organizer a negative balance between income and expenses?

If that turned out to be less than €10.000 what can we do with the difference?

Possible options

1. Pay the remaining money back to the ISU.
2. Use the remaining money for promoting the international Masters speed skating competitions.

We, The Netherlands and Bram de Vries the Treasurer of the IMSSC, propose to ask the ISU, that if the organizer does not need the full €10.000, the IMSSC can keep the remaining money to establish a fund for promotion of the international speed skating competitions according rules to be discussed in this meeting. Hereby we can think about a donation for every international competition etc.

The Sprint games in Inzell 2017 have been sponsored by the IMSSC with € 7.720 and the Allround games in FSJ with € 770 using the financial contribution of the ISU.

If we pay the organizers the full € 10 K, this means that both organizations will have a profit, while that will not be the intention of the ISU and also not of the participants who paid in Inzell € 100 and in Fort St. John € 165 per person.

Our proposal

Our proposal is establish a fund with the remaining amount of the financial contribution of the ISU for promotion and support of all Masters speedskating events. For next season the amount of money in this promotion fund is € 11.510,--.

Proposal 1/USA – Strategic Discussion.

The IMSSC has historically been focused on administering the record list and selection criteria for our 2 top tier meets. It is also a time for central master's Speedskating organizers from around the world to meet and discuss issues.

On our 40th year of existence, it is well worth reflecting on historical data from how we have grown, and discussing where the IMSSC is going in the future.

Retrospective Data evaluation

- What does the size of our circuit for number of races/race days/popularity of our 2 main events indicate.

Here are some questions looking to the future:

- How do we order our priorities?
- Race Sanctioning for MSG-MAG
- Growing the IMSSC circuit in number of races per year
- Serving our current "customers" well
- Outreaching to national federations more actively
- Aid-advice-marketing to individuals promoting IMSSC races
- What is our approach to the ISU?
- How do we embrace technology to our advantage?

(Appendix 1 forthcoming to this is the total skater days for as many years as we can get records, the total number of events, the location of the Masters Games, and the total number of participants in each)

AGENDA Item 14 – Miscellaneous

Suggestion 1/ITA: Website support.

It would be convenient for those who post competitions in IMSSC website to receive a better and more timely support by the Webmaster.

Reasons:

Even considering that last year the site was renovated - and for technical reasons it could not be completed within October 1st - it may be beneficial, in order to improve procedures, to point out that even long after this date, when the site was almost completed, Italian requests to specifically adapt the form dedicated to the Masters' Revival according to the event characteristics (choice of distances) were not thoroughly answered, in spite of the various reminders. Even in previous years, it was difficult to receive answers to our requests, owing to lack of time frequently stated by the Webmaster.

Information 10/NED: Information about Masters' Sprint Games 2019 in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands (MCLN) will organize MSG-2019 in the weekend of 9 and 10 March 2019 in the Elfstedenthal icerink in Leeuwarden.

To avoid possible collision with a possible "Elfstedentocht" in Friesland in the winter of 2019, MCLN is going to organize MSG-2019 late in the season 2018-2019. Joke Wittenberg has already been in contact with the management of the Elfstedenthal in Leeuwarden about MSG-2019.