



International Masters' Speed Skating Committee

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Minutes (ver.1.1) 39th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/The Netherlands

Saturday, 28 May 2016, 10:05 – 15:50 h (break 12:30 – 13:30)

Hotel Schiphol A4, Rijksweg A4 3

NL-2132 MA Hoofddorp - Amsterdam/The Netherlands

Participants:

AUT	Hubert Kreutz	(HK)	IMSSC Member
CAN	Wim Kok	(WK)	Deputy for Brett Arnason/CAN and Masters' Allround Games 2017 OC
FIN	Pertti Kiiskinen	(PK)	IMSSC Member
GER	Volker Serini	(VS)	IMSSC Honorary President
GER	Reinhold Marsollek	(RM)	IMSSC Member
ITA	Antonio Nitto	(AN)	IMSSC Honorary Member and Deputy for Marcello Bresin/ESP
ITA	Rossella Sardi	(RS)	IMSSC Member
ITA	Paolo Gemme	(PG)	IMSSC Secretary
JPN	Kenji Takai	(KT)	IMSSC Member and IMSSC VP
KAZ	Azamat Ismailov	(AI)	IMSSC Member
LAT	Lasma Kauniste	(LK)	IMSSC Member
NED	Bram de Vries	(BdV)	IMSSC Honorary Member and Treasurer
NED	Tjeerd Smies	(TS)	IMSSC Member and IMSSC Pres.
NED	Joke Wittenberg	(JW)	Assistant
NOR	Sven-Åge Svensson	(SAS)	IMSSC Statistician
NOR	Ragnvald Naess	(RN)	IMSSC Member
RUS	Boris Repnin	(BR)	IMSSC Member and Deputy for Konstantin Lukashevich/BLR
SWE	Jan Landelius	(JL)	IMSSC Member
SWE	Nils Larsson	(NL)	Assistant
SWI	Hans-Peter Ambass	(HPA)	IMSSC Member
USA	Marty Haire	(MH)	Deputy for Andrew Love/USA

Distribution of the Minutes:

All Participants

Other IMSSC Members (AUS/BEL/CZE/KOR/UKR)

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes 38th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED 2015
2. Alterations of Members in the IMSSC
3. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2016
4. Allround Games 2019 and Sprint Games 2019, Applications
5. Allround Games in Fort St.John/CAN 2017, Nations' Quota
6. Sprint Games in Inzell/GER 2017, Nations' Quota
7. Other International Masters' Competitions in 2016/2017
8. IMSTC: current and future status
9. Financial Report 2015, Financial Preview 2016
10. New Proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations
11. Other Proposals
12. Miscellaneous

Session Opening

TS welcomed 21 participants from 14 nations for the 39th annual IMSSC Session. Prior to the meeting, apologies were received from Konstantin Lukashevich (BLR), Marcello Bresin (ESP) and Frank Anderson (AUS). PG was appointed as Secretary (minutes) while TS continued the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the number of valid votes were determined where the number is 16 (AUT, BLR, CAN, ESP, FIN, GER, ITA, JPN, KAZ, LAT, NED, NOR, RUS, SWE, SWI and USA) corresponding to the Member Countries being present or represented, out of 21 persons attending. As nominated Deputies, AN and BR voted respectively for Spain and Belarus.

1. Approval of the Minutes 38th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/The Netherlands 2015

The Minutes of the 38th IMSSC Session, version 1.2, was approved without modifications.

Approved	Favor 16	Against 0	Abstentions 0	Total 16
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2. Alterations of Members in the IMSSC

No proposals were submitted at this IMSSC Session. TS reported about an e-mail exchange with representatives of GBR: Peter Carr can be the IMSSC Member for GBR; he will be proposed at the next IMSSC Session as also a Member for the Mongolia.

3. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2016

SAS presented the IMSSC Records List 2016: 18 new records were achieved; two more records were reported but not acknowledged due to the fact that the involved referees are not International referees.

SAS pointed out that it is duty of the IMSSC Member to report an IMSSC record. He reported also about the quality of the presented mandatory documents that in some cases are good in others are poor and difficulties arose for the Statistician in order to go through the results.

SAS presented again the procedure for the IMSSC record recognition and in particular the necessary documents well specified in the IMSSC Constitution and Regulations: see input document n.4, available in annex, that shows the required document and the important checks that are carried out. Among the various quality checks the IMSSC Statistician checks the list of Officials. Of course all the necessary officials are mandatory required (finishing line judge, track judges, time keepers, lap scorers, etc.) and in case of missing ones the record is not recognized because that

means that the competition is not properly conducted. According to ISU Rules only ISU Referees (highest level) and International Referees are qualified to officiate at International Competitions: IMSSC practice is that a minimum of one International Referee is required for IMSSC Records to be accepted. Regarding age verification, SAS reported some mistakes on the DB of speedskatingresults.com so he has to directly check with the involved skaters about. SAS recalculates all the points according to the time achieved: in some cases he found that the calculation is rounded up. Another check is related to the conduction of the competition according to ISU or IMSSC rules and also if Age Group is correct.

SAS showed how a record is recognized working on his files: he pointed out that he works on records recognition since 2003-2004 season.

At the end of the discussion, the record list was approved unanimously and it will be published soon correcting minor error on the dates.

4. Allround (AR) Games 2019 and Sprint (SP) Games 2019, Applications

Two candidates made proposals for the upcoming 2019 Masters Games:

- The Netherlands proposed for Sprint Games;
- Salt Lake (USA) proposed for Sprint Games.

No applications for Allround Games were received within or after the deadline of May 21st 2016. PG reported that anyway Baselga di Piné/ITA is offering to organize the Masters' Allround Games on 2019 if needed but he pointed out that is just the OC of the 2018 Masters' Allround Games. MH will check if the OC in Salt Lake City is willing to change the application from Sprint to Allround Games. RN will try to find a candidate for Allround Games in Norway investigating also on outdoor tracks while SAS proposed Bjugn/NOR as candidate although the ice rink is not easy to travel to and is not climatized. VS asked if it is possible to propose Seinäjoki/FIN as candidate and PK replied that unfortunately the ice resurfacing machine is currently broken. After short discussion it was decided to wait until October 1st 2016 and if at that date only one application for Allround Games will be available, then the Allround Games will be assigned otherwise with two or more applications, the decision will be taken at the 40th IMSSC Session.

Then a short discussion was held on the Sprint Games applications and the voting result was:

- for Masters' Sprint Games

Awarded	The Netherlands	Favor 8	Total 16
	Salt Lake/USA	Favor 7	
		Abstension 1	

5. Allround Games in Fort St.John/CAN 2017, Nations' Quota

WK has indicated that they can manage 200 speedskaters as a maximum. After short discussion, the following nations' quota list was defined and confirmed by the IMSSC Members:

CAN	40	JPN	5	USA	10
FIN	7	NED	46	Others	18
GER	15	NOR	46	TOTAL	200
ITA	8	RUS	5		

6. Sprint Games in Inzell/GER 2017, Nations' Quota

HK has indicated that they can manage no more than 220 speedskaters. After short discussion and the comment of SAS that no more than 1/3 of the total could be assigned to a nation, the following nations' quota list was defined and confirmed by the IMSSC Members:

CAN	6	KAZ	5	SWI	5
FIN	8	NED	72	USA	3
GER	40	NOR	36	Others	10
ITA	13	RUS	22	TOTAL	220

7. Other International Masters' Competitions in 2016/2017

The tentative list of IMSSC and other competitions in 2016/17 season is as follows.

Date	Place	Competition	Type	Status	Responsible
Nov.5th..6th 2016	Inzell/GER	Single Distance Races	SD	C	H.Kreutz
Dec.11th..12th 2016	Baselga di Pinè/ITA	11th Masters' Revival	SD	TBC	R.Sardi
Jan 7th ..8th 2017	Davos/SWI	15th Davos Meeting	AR	TBC	J.Caflish
Jan.7th..8th 2017	FukushimaJAP (*)	17th All Japan Masters and Open	SD	C	K.Takai
Jan.14th..15th 2017	Stavanger/NOR	13th Single Distance Races	SD	TBC	S-A.Svensson A.W.Kranzmann
Jan.21st..22nd 2017	Inzell/GER	9th Master Games Sprint	SP	C	H.Kreutz
Mar.10th..12th 2017	Fort St.John/CAN	26th Master Games Allround	AR	C	W.Kok Dee-Ann Stickel
end of March 2017	Heerenveen/NED	13th Long Distance Races	SD	TBC	B.de Vries
end of March 2017	Heerenveen/NED	9th Heerenveen Sprint	SP	TBC	B.de Vries
Mar.31st...Apr.2nd 2017	Kolomna/RUS	7th Russian Single Distance Races "Kolomna Ice"	SD	C	S.Orlov B.Repnin
Apr 6th..7th 2017	Sheffield/GBR	4th Masters' Short Track Games	Short track	C	Frank Anderson
???	Berlin/GER	19th Master Cup	AR	TBC	K.Reuter
???	Astana/KAZ	3rd Allround Trophy	AR	TBC	???
???	Milwaukee/USA	7th USA Single Distance Championships	SD	TBC	O.Sijuwade

(*) National Event that allow foreign skaters to participate

IMSSC competition
Other competition

8. IMSTC: current and future status

AI apologized about the missing results of the task assigned to him but he had no time to work on the IMSTC issue. Unfortunately Frank Anderson, active short track skater, was not able to attend to that IMSSC Session and MH reported that there were no Masters' Short Track Games last year but it is just confirmed the 2017 edition that will take place in Sheffield/GBR on April 6th and 7th 2017 (www.mastersshorttrack.wix.com/sheffield2017).

9. Financial Report 2015, Financial Preview 2016

The 2015 Financial Report was presented by BdV and then approved unanimously by all Members present in person or represented, who discharged the Treasurer for the work done and the management policies adopted.

Commenting the Financial Report 2015, BdV pointed out about the losses of about 2.7 K€ mainly due to higher travel expenses and less income from the competitions: those losses could anyway be covered by the reserve of about 5 K€. BdV commented that it will be difficult to pay in full the travel expenses may be not this year but the next one and he proposed to increase the IMSSC fee per skater at least starting from the 2017-2018 season to 15 € while BR proposed to decrease the travel expenses and stay on 12 €/skater and BdV replied that in this case the travel expenses should be paid privately by the IMSSC Members at least partially. SAS said that IMSSC made a lot for Master Speedskating and we have to communicate and explain that on our website. AN suggested, at the light of a change of the ISU Office in the very next future, to contact ISU Council again in order to get funds as in the past, action TS.

BdV confirmed that all the OCs paid the IMSSC fees of 12 € except the OC of the competitions in Baselga di Pinè that is anyway going to pay. BdV confirmed that all the travel expenses for the 39th IMSSC Session will be fully reimbursed. TS thanked BdV for his good work.

10. New Proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations

Proposal 3/ESP: Part II Regulations, modification of Introduction.

Approved	Favor 16	Against 0	Abstentions 0	Total 16
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With a minor modification of the text, the proposal was approved: the new approved text is reported below:

Approved text

“A List of International Masters’ Speed Skating Competitions, approved by the IMSSC, will be issued every year after the Summer IMSSC Session on the Official Website of the IMSSC www.imssc.org. The registrations shall be opened at 00:00 (CET) on October 1st.”

Proposal 1/USA: Part II Regulations, Rule 2 - Masters Definition.

Approved	Favor 14	Against 0	Abstentions 2	Total 16
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Approved text:

To change the first sentence to read: “Masters are speedskaters from 30 years, the...”

Proposal 2/ITA – Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.1 - Masters’ International All-Round Games.

Approved	Favor 12	Against 1	Abstentions 3	Total 16
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BdV reported about involved time constraints (longer competitions) and about women that are afraid to skate 3K and for that reason they are not keen to participate in allround competition.

Approved text:

- **Ladies: 500m, 1500m, 1000m, 3000m (age groups 65 and higher)**

Proposal 1/NOR - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.1 - Masters’ International All-Round Games.

Rejected	Favor 3	Against 12	Abstentions 1	Total 16
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The proposal 1/NOR is identical to proposal 2/ITA with the addition of the 5K extended to AG70 Men: BdV reported that older skaters don’t like to skate 5K also at the light that till yesterday they skated 3K ! He also affirmed that a lot of skaters will not participate anymore to Masters’ Allround Games. SAS suggested to keep the current rule and those who want to skate 5K can participate to Single Distance competition.

Proposal 1/JAP - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.1 - Masters' International All-Round Games related to 4.2 Single Distances and Allround Competitions.

Withdrawn	Favor	Against	Abstentions	Total
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Proposal 4/JAP - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.6 Limit times...and records.

Withdrawn	Favor	Against	Abstentions	Total
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Proposal 1/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.6 - Limit times for Masters' International Sprint Games and Masters' International Allround Games

Rejected	Favor 3	Against 9	Abstentions 4	Total 16
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MH commented that the proposal gives power to the OC to accept or reject the participation of a skater while LK affirmed that usually Latvian skaters have short time to practice on ice before the competitions so difficult to achieve limit times.

Proposal 2/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.7 – Maximum time table.

Approved	Favor 16	Against 0	Abstentions 0	Total 16
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Approved change:

Times must be written as “XX.YY” and not “XX.YY.ZZ”, for instance “50.00.00” must be written as “50.00”.

Proposal 1/ITA: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.2 (Entry) and Rule 3.4 (Confirmation of Participation).

Rejected	Favor 3	Against 5	Abstentions 8	Total 16
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Proposal 3/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.2 – Entry.

Approved	Favor 16	Against 0	Abstentions 0	Total 16
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Approved text:

Change text “. has been issued in the IMSSC or IMSSG Webpage.” into “. has been issued on the IMSSC Website.”

Proposal 2/ESP: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.2 – Entry.

Approved	Favor 15	Against 0	Abstentions 1	Total 16
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With a minor modification of the text, the proposal was approved: the new approved text is reported below:

Approved text to be added at the end of Rules 3.2:

In particular for the Masters' Allround Games and Sprint Games the following rules apply:

- the registrations of skaters of Nations with or without selection process will have a common deadline;
- the registrations for Nations without selection process will go on also passing the relevant Nation quota; all the skaters outside the Nation quota will go in a waiting list; the registrations will go further until the deadline;
- at the registrations deadline two cases will be possible:
 - i. Nation quota not fulfilled: in this case the available places will be distributed among the other Nations that own a waiting list in relation to their percentage of the original quota;

- ii. Nation quota fulfilled or passed (waiting list): In this case and according to IMSSC Rule 3.2.1 Substitutes, if a skater cancel her/his registration, she/he will be substituted by a skater available of the same country in the waiting list till the first team leader meeting.

Proposal 2/USA: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.1.2 – Masters’ International Sprint Games.

Approved	Favor 13	Against 0	Abstentions 3	Total 16
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With a minor modification of the text, the proposal was approved: the new approved text is reported below:

Proposed text to add at the end:

The Masters’ International Sprint Games should be organized in the same two days for all participants.

Proposal 3/JAP: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.5 - Drawing and Ranking.

Rejected	Favor 2	Against 11	Abstentions 3	Total 16
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Proposal 5/JAP: Part II Regulations, Rule 3.5 - Drawing and Ranking or new paragraph.

Withdrawn	Favor	Against	Abstentions 0	Total
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The proposal was withdrawn but it was decided that the proposed text will go into a new version of the document “Requirements and Advices to Organizers of International Masters’ Competitions”

Proposed text:

The first quartet (or pair) start must be confirmed with all skaters of quartet (pair) on ice if the quartet (pair) order has been changed. Make sure all are on ice before start, especially one the order was shifted up. Need some sort of prevention for international skaters.

Proposal 2/NOR - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.5 - Drawing and Ranking (block 4).

Withdrawn	Favor	Against	Abstentions	Total
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Proposal 4/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 3.7 - Participants in the Last Distance (Mass Start).

Approved	Favor 15	Against 0	Abstentions 1	Total 16
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After discussion and modification of the text, the proposal was approved: the new text for the entire par.3.7 is reported below:

Approved text:

3.7 Participants in the Last Distance

For the Sprint and Allround competitions every skater that has finalized three distances according IMSSC and ISU rules, is allowed to skate the fourth distance.

Proposal 2/JAP - Part II Regulations, Rule 4.2 - Single Distances and Allround Competitions.

Withdrawn	Favor	Against	Abstentions	Total
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Proposal 5/NED - Part II Regulations, Rule 4.3 – Applications (required documentation to get Masters records recognized).

Withdrawn	Favor	Against	Abstentions	Total
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Proposal 3/NOR - Part II Regulations, Rule 4.3 – Applications (block 4).

Approved	Favor 15	Against 0	Abstentions 1	Total 16
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Approved text for block 4:

The official protocol must contain:

- a) the complete list of officials (observe ISU Rules 210 and 213);
- b) the starting list for each distance; (ISU Rule 273 § 1 a)
- c) the times of automatic timekeeping, recorded in hundredth of a second; (ISU Rule 273 § 1 b)
- d) the times of manual timekeeping:
 - accumulated lap times in hundredths of a second (see ISU Rule 252);
 - final times in hundredth of a second (see ISU Rule 250, § 5 and § 6).

The times of automatic timekeeping should show the rank of the skaters. If they additionally show the starting order in pairs and possible quartets, the starting lists may be omitted.

If the times of automatic timekeeping are complete and uncorrupted, the times of manual timekeeping may be omitted. The IMSSC Statistician may still demand them.

11. Other Proposals

Late Proposal 4/NOR – nomination of Sven-Åge Svensson to IMSSC Honorary Member.

Approved	Favor 16	Against 0	Abstentions 0	Total 16
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The late proposal was approved unanimously and now Sven-Åge Svensson is an IMSSC Honorary Member, congratulations !!!

Proposal 1/ESP – Update of IMSSC website.

Approved	Favor 16	Against 0	Abstentions 0	Total 16
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The proposal was approved and also the relevant preliminary budget; the proposal is related to the update of the IMSSC website in order to:

- Increase security;
- Improve booking system with a new version more effective for users and organizers alike (adding online/offline payment alternatives and the possibility to export directly registration lists).

A preliminary rough budget would be around 400€ to 600€ (annual hosting/domain expenses will remain the same, unless the hosting provider applies slight increases).

Proposal 3/USA – New incentives for skaters.

Only for discussion - IMSSC, along with National Masters organizations should develop new incentives for skaters to participate in the sport. Not everyone can make a podium, or set a Master's record. It could be a good idea to recognize PB times, keep track of National records on the IMSSC site, have IMSSC Masters forum on FB for open discussion about the league and sharing of pictures, articles, and skater achievements.

Proposal 4/USA – Competition planning.

Only for discussion - Competitions planning. Currently IMSSC requires applications for Masters Games three (3) years prior to a competition. It is very hard to make a commitment for three years ahead of time in the rapidly changing world, especially in our small sport. Planning for not more than two (2) years ahead would be more reasonable for everyone involved.

12. Miscellaneous

- **IMSSC Records:** MH pointed out that the record issue is important for US skaters involved in US competition due to the unavailability of International or ISU Referees but he declared that they will work in the direction defined in the IMSSC Constitution and Regulations and reported more times by SAS. AI announced that he will propose at the 40th IMSSC Session some modifications to the requirements for the IMSSC records recognition.
- **Legal verbiage (language and terminology) used in the “Constitution”:** last year MH just presented a proposal to have a legal view of the text that should be revised in order to better clarify the requirements and sustain possible legal challenges.
- **Free Masters’ Training Program:** AN announced that in Baselga di Piné is under study a “Free Masters’ Training Program” that foreseen two (2) free training sessions a day for International Master.
- **Presentation of the Masters’ Allround Games in Fort St.John:** see attached input doc.n.14.
- **Next IMSSC Session:** next 40th IMSSC Session will take place in Amsterdam on June 10th, 2017.

Session closing

At 15:50 hours, TS as chairman of the meeting thanked the participants and then closed the session.

39 th IMSSC Session - input documents		
N	document	source
1	39 th IMSSC Session – agenda	IMSSC Secretary
2	38 th IMSSC Session - Minutes of the meeting ver.1.2	IMSSC Secretary
3	IMSSC Records List 2016	IMSSC Statistician
4	Records recognition	IMSSC Statistician
5	IMSSC Record Certificates 2015-2016	IMSSC Secretary
6	application 2019 MGS Salt Lake USA	UMSL
7	application 2018 MGS The Netherlands	MCLN
8	Master Games - participants and quota	IMSSC Secretary
9	IMSSC calendar 2016-2017	IMSSC Secretary
10	IMSSC financial annual report 2015	IMSSC Treasurer
11	IMSSC updated statement 2016	IMSSC Treasurer
12	39 th IMSSC Session - proposals sorted acc.to agenda item	IMSSC Secretary
13	IMSSC address list 2016-2017	IMSSC Secretary
14	Presentation of the Masters’ Allround Games 2017	Wim Kok

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS’ SPEED SKATING COMMITTEE (IMSSC)

June 5th 2016

Paolo GEMME
(IMSSC Secretary)

Members of the IMSSC:

Frank Anderson (AUS), Hubert Kreutz (AUT), Willy Caboor (BEL), Konstantin Lukashevich (BLR), Brett Amason (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 Reprin (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-Åge Svensson (NOR), Peter Reimann (SUI)

Honorary President of the IMSSC:

Dr. Volker Serini (GER)

Records recognition - required documentation

ISU:

- ISU World Record Appl. Form
- Announcement
- Program of Events
- List of Competitors
- List of Officials
- Competition Results
- Start lists
- Protocol of autom. time keeping
incl. PhotoFinish
- Time recording tape

- Certificate of track measures
- Certificate of timekeeping equip.
- Age verification for juniors
- Doping test, +++

IMSSC:

- Announcement
- Competition program

- List of Officials
- Results by rank (autom. timek.)

- Results by pair (autom. timek.)

- (Times of manual timek if

- (Age verification)

Records recognition - important checks

Are times/points correct?

- Results by rank
- Times of electronic t/k per pair with split and lap times
- (Evt. times of manual t/k with split and lap times)
- Recalculate points

Races conducted according to ISU/IMSSC Rules?

- List of officials
- Competition program according to Annmt. and ISU/IMSSC Rules?
- Drawing/pairing according to ISU and IMSSC Rules?
- What do the documentation look like?

Age group correct?

- Mainly «speedskatingresults.com»

2017 World Masters All Round Speed Skating Games Fort St John

Introduction

First, Brett Arnason sends his regrets for not being able to attend. Second, I very much appreciate the opportunity not only to represent Canada at this AGM, but also to provide information about Fort St. John, the host community for the 2017 All Round Games. This includes a brief description of the community, its location, airport and initial travel information, the facility, the track, the club and the hosting team.

Dates

The dates for the 2017 All Round Games in Fort St. John are **March 10-12, 2017**. These have been established in consultation with the Canada in IMSSC rep as well as a consideration of Canada's national speed skating calendar for 2016-17.

The Games take place one week **before** the Calgary Olympic Oval Finale, which means that those who have the qualifying times for that event will be able to skate two high level events on back- to-back weekends. This may be of consideration for travel planning.

Community and its Location

Fort St. John is a community of about 21,000 people. Its economy is heavy natural resource based with a focus on agriculture, forestry, petroleum and natural gas extraction. The city is very much a working community. Following the indigenous peoples who have lived in this area for thousands of years, Fort St John traces its recent roots back to the explorers and fur trade in 1792, only 225 years ago.

Fort St. John is located in NE British Columbia at latitude 56.25, just north of the Peace River. It is located east of the Rocky Mountains at Mile 49 of the famous Alaska Highway. By car it is about 1000 km north of Calgary, 700 km from Edmonton and 1300 km from Vancouver. While some may consider this a remote location, in general terms it is no more remote than Bjugn is from Oslo or Amsterdam.

Travel

There are very good flight connections between Fort St. John and the major cities of Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Flights arriving from Asia, Europe, or N.America in these cities will have several daily flights connecting to Fort St. John. Flying time from Calgary or Vancouver is about 1h:40m with the Bombardier Q400 turbo prop. Major airlines include *Air Canada* (Star Alliance partner) and *WestJet*.

The airport (YXJ), with runways able to handle Boeing 747 aircraft, is less than 10 km from downtown Fort St John, the oval and most hotels. There are hotel shuttle services. More information will be provided in the announcement

Facility

For many years club members skated outdoors in temperatures down to -30C. In the lead up to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics somehow the stars aligned and the City of Fort St. John secured funding for a multi-purpose facility: the Pomeroy Sport Centre. How this was came about, is another (and much longer) story. It took three year to complete the facility, which was officially opened on October 13, 2010.

At the ground level there are two ice-hockey rinks (also used for short track), dressing rooms, meeting rooms, a school, training facilities, and a visitor centre.

The 400m speed skating oval is on the next floor, which on the inside looks down on the two hockey rinks. There are meeting rooms, change areas and a food concession. Suspended from the ceiling is a 350 m. rubberized and heated running track. In terms of design this is a very unique facility.

The 400m speed skating track is 680m above sea level. This makes it the fourth highest indoor oval in the world after Salt Lake City, Calgary and Inzell.

The timing office is adjacent to the track. Electronic timing includes not only photocells but also *Finish Lynx* photo finish equipment.

The Club

While not as old as many European speed skating clubs, the **Fort St. John Recreational & Speed Skating Club** was established in 1964, offering both long track (outdoor) and short track programs from October to March. With more than half a century of history and experience our club is deeply embedded in the community and well known on the Canadian speed skating scene.

We are very proud of our two local Olympians: Linda Johnson-Blair (Lillehammer; Nagano) and Denny Morrison (Torino, Vancouver, Sochi). Needless to say that many of our skaters have also participated at national and international events. Our club is entirely run by volunteers: executive, coaches and officials.

We have hosted many regional and provincial events. At the national level this also includes many Canadian Championships and Canada Cups. In 2015 we hosted the long track component of the Canada Winter Games.

The 2017 Games Team

Our team consists of a number of dedicated, hardcore and seasoned organizers, who have solid experience in hosting many high level events. While our team and club is very excited about hosting the 2017 Games, equally if not more excited is the City of Fort St. John - Mayor and Council as well as City staff.

We have always been able to count on their unconditional support. We also enjoy the support of the community at large, the business community and one of the major hotels: the Pomeroy Group. Last but not least the BC Speed Skating Association and Speed Skating Canada.

As a club we are also able to draw on many well qualified officials with experience at

national and international events, such as World Cup and Olympics.

In closing

We are excited about the upcoming Games. We have the support. We will be ready to host you for hopefully a most memorable event. You are invited. We hope to see you in 2017. More information to follow in the announcements

Thank you and sincerely

Wim

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