



ISU Masters Speed Skating Working Group (IMSSG)

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Minutes

5th Session of the IMSSG in Erfurt, Germany, 2008

This session of the IMSSG was held in the Haus des Thüringer Sports, Werner-Seelenbinder-Str.1, 99096 Erfurt/GER, Session Room, on Wednesday, 27th of February 2008,

Participants:

GER	Dr. Volker Serini	(IMSSG Member, Coordinator)
KOR	Jae-Seok Choi	(IMSSG Member)
NOR	Sven-Åge Svensson	(IMSSG Member)
USA	Andrew Love	(IMSSG Member)

Distribution of the Minutes:

Participants of the Session

IMSSC Members

Ottavio Cinquanta

ISU President

Gerhard Zimmermann

ISU 1st Vice President

David M. Dore

ISU 2nd Vice President

ISU Council

Members

ISU TC Speed Skating

Chairman and Members

Fredi Schmid

ISU Director General

Peter Krick

Chair Sports Directorate

Hugo Herrnhof

ISU Sp.Sk. Sports Director

Rhea Schwarz

Coordinator ISU Adult Fig. Sk. Gr.

Opening:

We began our meeting by examining the minutes from the previous IMSSG meeting, and deciding out if the minutes as stated are accurate. We discussed some wording changes, as Sven-Åge wanted to make sure he was quoted correctly.

Item 1:

Minutes from previous Meeting

Sven-Åge was concerned that the office costs were not shown accurately in his opinion. The Dutch IMSSC rep Bram DeVries & Sven-Auge have been working on creating a new accounting format for Volker that should be much easier to use.

Item 2:

Report on the Contacts of the first Vice-President of the ISU

Volker exchanged letters with Mr Zimmerman & visited the ISU office in Lausanne. Volker met with Mr. Fredi Schmid, Piere Eymann, & Fabrice Prahin. This was an excellent meeting, with much practical information being exchanged & promises of cooperation. Volker let the ISU know about the continuing development of the "Masters Movement".

Volker had submitted a proposal to the ISU. Mr Zimmerman made a report & recommendation that the IMSSC will have more flexibility if we integrated properly into the ISU. At the moment there is nothing possible to have further integration of the masters into the ISU, in the words of the ISU Council, the current pragmatic shall be maintained.

Volker had 2 meetings with Mr. Zimmerman, the first one was the creating of the proposal. The 2nd meeting was an approval of the budget we requested, but not of the rules we suggested.

But the ISU is still very interested, and strongly wants us to continue our work.

Item 3: ISU Reactions to our Proposals

There was much discussion within the ISU about changing the name of our competition to “Masters’ World Championships.” However to call something a “World Championship” means the ISU imposes very specific rules. These rules would be very difficult & expensive for our organizers to implement.

One stumbling block is that if our competition became the “Masters’ World Championships” would that mean that there would be 30 more world champions? This is a big problem for the ISU. So maybe the competition could be called “*masters world championship*” but those who win will not be called “*masters world champions*”.

The ISU says calling something the “Masters’ World Championships” is too much. So the ISU Council did not accept our proposal to call our event the Masters’ World Championships. There was lots of discussion about how to integrate masters into the ISU rules. A new paragraph? A new section? A separate chapter?

At the moment there is nothing possible to have further integration of the masters into the ISU. But as stated earlier, they are very interested in what we are doing, and encourage us to continue.

We will be changing our philosophy of working with the ISU, and will be focusing on taking several small steps during each ISU Congress, instead of trying to make large ones. The immediate proposal we are crafting is to change the title of the Masters Games. The skaters would not be “official world champions” but the competition would be called the “Masters World Championships.”

The **immediate proposal “Masters’ World Championships”**, which was made for the ISU Council Session in October 2008 in Trento, **is attached**.

Item 4: Future Proposals to the ISU

Here is the future path of actions we propose:

1. Official recognition of age groups for masters because there is no current recognition. Masters are mentioned but never defined. We need to suggest a path for definition.
2. Change the Name of our IMSSC records to Masters World Records.
3. Name changes of the Masters’ International Games to Masters' Allround World Championships, Masters' Sprint World Championships.

4. We need to further refine our rules on linking age groups together & separating awards. We need several well-written sections that define how we separate age groups & our reasons for doing it.

Item 5:

Further Developments

There is a Korean Masters competition that currently exists. There are 6-7 masters age groups there with 60 athletes skating.

Can this event be opened to International skaters? Who is the organizer of the race? The competition is always run indoors. 500-1000-1500 The competition happened 2 weeks prior to our meeting. It is a 2 day competition. Is it the Korean amateur sports association running this event?

Could it be run with a separate protocol for international skaters.

There is one nation that is not present in any discussion. Japan.

1. Does Japan have masters speedskaters?
2. Do they have masters competitors?
3. Is it possible to make the Korean masters championship an international event for European & Japanese skaters.

Item 6:

Next Year's Budget

We spoke at length about next year's potential expenses vs the actual charted numbers from this years expenses. We examined the budgeting & the separate accounts, and continued the accounting questions from 2006 with an eye on improving and looking forward.

ISU MASTERS' SPEED SKATING WORKING GROUP (IMSSG)

Andrew Love

(IMSSG Member)

Attachment: Letter to the Council "Masters' World Championships"

08-4th-IMSSG-Session-Erfurt-Minutes

Members IMSSG :

Dr. Volker Serini (GER), Jae Seok Choi (KOR), Sven-Åge Svensson (NOR), Andrew Love (USA)