



ISU Masters Speed Skating Working Group (IMSSG)

ISU Masters Speed Skating Working Group (IMSSG), Office
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Oslo, April 24. 2009

Minutes

6th Session of the IMSSG in Bjugn, Norway, 2009

This session of the IMSSG was held in the City Hall of the Municipality of Bjugn, N-7160 Bjugn, on Wednesday, 25th of February 2009,

Participants:

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

Distribution of the Minutes:

Participants of the Session

IMSSC Members

Ottavio Cinquanta

Gerhard Zimmermann

David M. Dore

ISU Council

ISU TC Speed Skating

Fredi Schmid

Peter Krick

Hugo Herrnhof

Rhea Schwarz

ISU President

ISU 1st Vice President

ISU 2nd Vice President

Members

Chairman and Members

ISU Director General

ISU Chair Sports Directorate

ISU Sp.Sk. Sports Director

Coordinator ISU Adult Fig. Sk. Work. Gr.

Item 1:

Approval of the Minutes of the 5th session of the IMSSG

It was pointed out that in Item 2 on top of page 2 there is a sentence that does not give meaning: "... the IMSSC will have more flexibility of we integrated properly into the ISU". Maybe some words are missing. Volker will try to find out what is the correct wording. Except from this the minutes were approved unanimously.

Item 2:

Report on the Contacts to the ISU

Volker Serini was invited by the ISU to participate in the ISU Congress in Monaco June 15th through 21st 2008 as guest and representative of the IMSSC and IMSSG. During the Congress he had interesting discussions with participants from several countries. One

important topic was introduction of 5-year age groups according to the IMSSC Rules for the Masters in CAN, USA and NED which was discussed with Gregg Planert/Speed Skating Canada, Bob Crowley/US Speed Skating and A. J. Augustinus and A. Hazelhoff/KNSB (NED) respectively. In the meantime such 5-year age groups have been implemented in Canada and USA and partially in the Netherlands. With Gregg Planert there was also a discussion about organizing the regular event “Masters’ Intl. Canadian Open” just once in the new Olympic Ice Hall of Richmond in February 2009 since the hall will close down after the Olympics. From 2010 the event will go back to Calgary.

Volker also had the possibility to meet with the Legal Adviser of the ISU, James L. Hawkins/USA and discuss the possibility of using the term “Masters’ World Championships” instead of “Masters’ Games”. In Mr. Hawkins’ opinion this change would not give legal problems with the ISU Rules, it would rather be a political matter. Interesting was also a short discussion with the ISU Speed Skating Sports Director, Mr. Hugo Herrnhof/ITA about the Masters Speed Skating and the possible introduction of Masters Rules into the ISU Rules. They agreed to have further contact.

Much time was spent on discussions with Mrs Rhea Schwartz/USA, Coordinator of the ISU Adult Figure Skating Working Group. The ISU organizes every year a large International Adult Figure Skating Competition in Oberstdorf/GER, and Volker had the opportunity to visit this event in June 2008 for the first time.

The 1st Vice-President of the ISU, Mr. Gerhard Zimmermann, is the primary contact for the IMSSG to the ISU. According to the ISU Communication No 1535 of Oct. 13 2008 the ISU Council has additionally assigned provisional supervisory duties of Masters Speed Skating activities to Council Member Gyorgy Martos/Hungary.

Item 3:

Proposals to the Council concerning “Masters’ World Championships”

As stated in the Minutes from the 5th Session of the IMSSG, our proposals about the incorporation of Masters’ Rules into the ISU Rules were rejected by the Council. The IMSSG then decided to ask the Council for a minor change, i.e. the use of the words “World Championships” instead of “Games” in our two largest competitions, the “Masters’ International Allround Games” and the “Masters’ International Sprint Games”. This was proposed to the ISU Council in an email to the 1st Vice-President of the ISU, Mr Gerhard Zimmermann on September 20th 2008 (see Minutes of the 5th IMSSG Session 2008 in Erfurt). This proposal has also been rejected by the Council at its session in October 2008 in Trento/ITA. No reasons for the rejection were mentioned, and Volker therefore asked for the reasons by letter to the ISU Office. The response was a written confirmation of the rejection still without reasons.

The Council assures that they want us to continue our work, but still they can not accept what most other large sports associations have already accepted. This creates some frustration among the IMSSG members. The “World Championships” and the Age Groups are important matters for the Masters’ Organizations. We can see no sense in making more proposals of the same type. The only way seems to be that several National Associations take commitment and make proposals about such changes directly to the Congress.

During the discussions there were also questions about what the ISU Adult Figure Skating Working Group was doing and what they might have achieved. Volker had some information

that he shared with the group. It shows that the International Adult Figure Skating has a very different system for grouping the participants according to age and level. As mentioned above, they have only one international competition a year which always takes place in Oberstdorf, Germany.

Item 4:

Further development of Masters' Speed Skating worldwide.

We have for several years been trying to extend the Masters' movement to Asia. As a follow up of questions raised at the previous IMSSG Session in Erfurt, Mr. Choi now reports that he has been in touch with the Japan Skating Federation, and that there are some 50 Master Speedskaters in Japan. In Korea there are at least some 45 Master Speedskaters, and they are now an official part of the Korea Skating Union.

Korea and Japan have agreed to organize a yearly International Masters' Event that will alternate between them. It is a single distance competition, and it will first be held in Korea in March of 2010.

In China there are no Masters. It seems that the Chinese Skating Association only considers international top skaters.

In North America Master Speedskaters compete mainly among themselves, but some go to Europe for competitions. This year most of the skaters from USA and Canada will go to the new facility in Richmond for the Masters' Intl. Canadian Open, because this venue will close down after the Olympics in Vancouver 2010.

Item 5:

Important items of the Agenda of the 30th IMSSC Session next day.

For the IMSSG the most important item on the agenda of the IMSSC Session the day after will be **Item 3 Allround Games Candidates for 2010 and 2012**. The location of the Masters' All Round Games 2010 is again open after Innsbruck withdrew as a host. The decision will strongly influence the IMSSG budget for 2010 since the main part is travel cost to the IMSSG Session in connection with the Games.

Also **Item 9 Other Proposals** seem to be of interest to the IMSSG. Italy has made a proposal about Connections between IMSSC and IMSSG. It is a bit unclear what is really proposed, but we imagine that they want a clarification of the roles of the two organizations.

Item 6:

Next Year's Budget

The budget process for 2009 has taken place during 2008 and the Proposed Budget was submitted to Mr. Gerhard Zimmermann on September 21st 2008. The budget covers travel costs, some office costs, some Internet costs and contributions to the organizers of the Masters' Allround Games and Masters' Sprint Games. The estimated costs were 10.700 €, but because of surplus funds of 2008, the amount was reduced to 9.000 €. The budget was accepted by the Council.

Since the location of the next IMSSG Session is not known (see Item 5 above), the budget process for 2010 is postponed.

There was a discussion about the lack of doping tests in Master Speedskating. This is also a matter of costs. Volker will investigate on the costs and the feasibility of doping tests and possibly include such costs in the 2010 budget proposal.

Item 7: Miscellaneous

Andrew Love/USA was appointed by the ISU Council at its Session in October in Trento/ITA as Member of the ISU Masters' Speed Skating Working Group (IMSSG) for North America.

ISU MASTERS' SPEED SKATING WORKING GROUP (IMSSG)

Sven-Age Svensson

(IMSSG Member)

IMSSG Members:

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