



IWAS Committee Electric Wheelchair Hockey (ICEWH)

Sport Section of the IWAS

The international Electric Wheelchair Hockey movement

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Minutes 9th Sport Assembly

Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, 8 November 2010

Present:

ICEWH	Mr. J. Teunissen Mrs. A. Wouters	ICEWH Chairperson ICEWH Member
Nation representatives	Belgium Belgium Denmark Finland Finland Germany Italy Italy Netherlands	Mr. K. Verbraekel Mr. H. Swerts Mrs. D. Berenth Ms. S. Luumi Mr. H. Lindblom Mr. H. Acquah Mr. A. Spinelli Mr. F. Rodo Mr. R. Martens
Observers	Canada Canada	Mr. K. Humphrey Mr. W. Ashman
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1. Welcome & Opening

1.1 Introduction / announcements

Welcome Speech by chair: Mr. John Teunissen

Welcome to everybody, after a fantastic week of sport and after a great final, maybe the best match ever in electric wheelchair hockey history. The win of Germany, after many years of the Netherlands, is important for the development of the whole movement. The next Championship will be more tough.

Welcome to our Canadian friends that are evaluating to get into the international EWH movement.

IPC was invited for the World Championship, but the President (Sir Philip Craven) sent a letter saying that the representative couldn't be present, as expected. They are interested in our sport and they keep on supporting IWAS.

1.2 Roll Call

Check of the attendance list by ICEWH Secretary K. Verbraekel: see above

Absent: Australia. After the disqualification of one of their players they decided together with John Teunissen not to attend the Sport Assembly. They will be fully informed about the procedure.

From this time of the assembly till the elections (agenda point 9) K. Verbraekel is considered no more as ICEWH Secretary, but as Belgium delegate/representative.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda (DOC 2)

The agenda is adopted and approved after some remarks by the chairman.

2. Minutes previous Sport Assembly (DOC3)

2.1 Adoption minutes 8th Sport Assembly, Belgium 2008

In formal way the present nations adopt the minutes of the 8th SA.

2.2 Matters arising from the minutes

The assembly underlines the important modification of point 5.3 of the minutes of the 8th SA that assumed that in order to reach the IWAS status we should need to:

- involve 18 nations over 3 continents

This criteria counts to reach the IPC status. To reach the full IWAS status has been modified in the first dot: 11 nations over 2 continents is sufficient.

Then A. Wouters commended that the promotional DVD of our sport isn't realised by FIH, because of lack of finances (in point 5.3.).

During the IWAS Junior Games in the Czech Republic EWH has not been demonstrated as first promised by IWAS and the Czech Republic (in point 22)

3. Report ICEWH

3.1 ICEWH Report 2009 & 2010 (DOC 4)

- No remarks on the activities report nor on the financial part.
- No comments also about the contacts with other organizations.
- A. Wouters specifies that IWAS is a part of IPC. The contacts with them are in a good level. They're curious about the development of our sport. There are many criteria in reaching the goal of being a Paralympic sport, but there is the feeling that they can be attracted by the sport of EWH. We are at a good level, but we need to improve our sport more and spread it more world wide.
- Good contacts also with FIH (International Field Hockey Federation) and IFF (International Floorball Federation). IFF was present during the WC2010 and was very excited and willing to cooperate with ICEWH.
- ICEWH committees (DOC5): we really need more volunteers in ICEWH, because many important places are still vacant and many work needs to be done if we want to realise the business plan.
- About the communication and the media attention:
 - The OC of the EC2008 in Belgium realized a DVD.
 - Rabosport from the Netherlands: they have made video reports following the Dutch team during the WC2010.
 - The OC of the WC2010 arranged national TV being present to WC2010 and the OC will provide a promotional DVD on the recorded material.
- Statistics EWH Development (in business plan 2010-2020): EWH has grown to 1500 players in 11 nations over 2 continents. No relevant comments

The general ICEWH Report 2009&2010 is adopted by the present nations.

4. Recent EWH developments in nations

Italy -> increased the number of teams: now there are 26 active. We are going to experience the second division: A1 and A2. Growing number of athletes. Trying to do some more in fundraising in order to cover the costs of the national team. All the costs of the structure are covered by funding given from the CIP (Italian Paralympic Committee).

Finland -> started a program with younger players. We are now 10 teams in 2 divisions. Connection with Floorball

Germany -> very good development: 3 leagues and 15 school teams, which are not included in the 3 leagues, but we try to involve them. We are now full member of the DSR (National Organisation for Sports for Disabled) and now we can get more money from them.

Netherlands -> EWH is, since October 2010, a sport section of the Dutch Field Hockey Federation (connected to the National Olympic Committee). It is very important to have this status. We are investing in and looking for media attention.

Denmark -> is growing to 5 teams – connection with Floorball.

Belgium -> has tried for years to get the sport in the south of Belgium, but in this French speaking part the most developed sport for disabled is electric wheelchair football, so it is hard to get more players. We are member of our NOSD.

Australia -> they are trying to spread EWH also outside Sidney.

Czech Republic -> is experiencing budget problems. That's why they could not be present in the WC2010. They still want to be on the international movement and events, and have tried to take part in the Qualification Tournament 2011 in Barcelona, but because of the budget problem they have indicated that they're not able to take part.

Spain and Slovenia -> are investing in their National Teams as well as in the organisation/growth in the own nation. They both have planned to participate in the QT2011, organised by Spain in Barcelona.

Canada -> Mr. Teunissen reported that ICEWH has been invited by Canadians to visit the North American Power Hockey Cup, where Canadian teams and USA teams compete together and where a few different rules are used. J. Teunissen and A. Wouters went there (August 2010) and he thinks it was a new interesting input. He reports about the challenge with distances inside Canada and he said he has been very impressed of how much they have done (many teams already and a brief power hockey history) and how well organised and exciting the tournament was.

They have 1 league, Canadian Championships and they experience junior classes in which senior players teach how to play and how to drive to the newbies.

Canadian representative W. Ashman has tried the Turbo Twist Sport Wheelchair and his idea about that is that this wheelchair is amazing! This kind of wheelchair could improve the level of the sport and increase the skills of the players. They will think about this chair also to have a second chair to play with, without the problem to damage the personal wheelchair.

USA -> J. Teunissen and A. Wouters has met EWH involved people from the USA, also in the Power Hockey Cup in August 2010 in Toronto. Some are interested in the international movement. ICEWH will keep the contact.

In general: good EWH development

EWH gets his position in the different countries, more and more. Developing the sport internationally and in the countries gives the possibility to collect more money. Nations with low number of teams should invest in more teams. We hope every nation can support and invest in its neighbour nations, to grow to the number of 18 nations worldwide. We don't need only new continents/nations. The most important part is that we spread knowledge around the world so that EWH can grow up in different countries.

We should think out of the box for the future thinking about the opportunity to get some rules from the Canadian Power Hockey (f.e. to play with high balls).

Thank you to Canada for the opportunity to bring the EWH in a new dimension.

Development with IFF and FIH

Some nations started some years ago to have contacts with their national associations of Floorball and Field Hockey.

About IFF (International Floorball Federation): they were present at this WC2010 and promised to take into consideration the possibility to integrate EWH in their sport federation. They really want to stay in contact and to go deeper they proposed to spread their international calendar in order to give ICEWH possibilities to use some chance to do EWH events or demonstrations during their IFF events. Floorball is not an Olympic Sport yet, but is a recognised sport by IOC and has applied to become an Olympic sport.

About FIH (International Field Hockey Federation): they promised to discuss integration of EWH in their sport federation. Field Hockey is an Olympic sport.

ICEWH will keep the contact with both. In the near future there will be a fundamental discussion in joining the IFF or FIH..

5. Business Plan 2010 - 2020 (DOC 5)

We wish to:

- Continue planning World Championships every 4 years
- Regional Championships every 4 years
- Development Events (education of players, trainers, coaches, officials)
- Sport Assemblies every 2 years, with elections every 4 years
- Find and support new EWH nations
- Promotion and growth of the sport worldwide
- In 2013 we want to reach the full IWAS status (11 nations in 2 continents)
- Do the application for Paralympic Games in 2013, so that EWH could be in Paralympics 2020

IPC criteria (DOC6)

- EWH-sport on elite level with the best players
- Attractive and exiting sport for spectators and media
- Fair Play and save sport
- Motorised sports shall not be included (!)
- World anti-doping code
- IPC Classification code
- EWH is recognized by NOSDs
- National Championships in last 4 years
- National Delegations compete in international competition
- 2 World Championships in the last 8 years
- The regular sport shall be on the Olympic programme, or recognized by IOC.
- Worldwide sport: EWH in minimal 18 nations over 3 continents

Did IWAS/ICEWH try to contact Asian countries? ICEWH tried but nothing more than spare contacts. It is difficult to find the right persons/organisations which want to start EWH.

Denmark: we have to do something with Sweden because they are growing and we don't have to miss the contact with them.

Netherlands: every 2 years Sport Assembly and every 2 years National Team events, but we should keep more in contact. Maybe with an email newsletter or something.

ICEWH should work in an autonomous way, but needs help/initiatives from the EWH nations to realise the aims of the business plan.

The ICEWH Business Plan 2010-2020 is adopted without relevant remarks or comments.

6. Players Eligibility & Classification (DOC 7)

6.1 Players Eligibility

Motion 1: to change the eligibility description as reported in doc 7.

The Players Eligibility is described in a more positive way as proposed in the SA2008.

Unanimous OK to the new definition of Players Eligibility

Motion 2: to add Severe Kyphoscoliosis to the list of the minimal disabilities.

Agreed is to add Severe Kyphoscoliosis, but the medical committee needs to define Severe Kyphoscoliosis more detailed.

Motion 3: to skip Pulmocardial Affections from the list of the minimal disabilities, because they are not classifiable/measurable, following the IPC rules.

Italy: underlines that ICEWH should also take into consideration the endurance of the athletes, because for example someone affected by Muscle Dystrophy or by Pulmocardial Affection can have different dururances.

Chair: It has been underlined that there can be grey areas between diagnosis. Some of them cannot be eligible, but some others can. F.e. if someone has a heart attack? How to measure that risk? It is difficult to built up the minimum disability criteria. They should be measurable.

Italy: proposes not to agree to skip pulmocardial problems till endurance is one of the part of the criteria.

We received the advice from the **Medical Committee** that sais that pulmocardial affections are not measurable and therefore to skip.

The nations wish a medical description of endurance for our sport.

ICEWH will ask the Medical Committee for this.

The assembly agreed on: new proposal from the Medical Committee for classification within a medical scientific definition of endurance. Pulmocardial affections will be skipped from the list, because it is not measurable in the current situation. Once there is a good definition of endurance and those affections are measurable, pulmocardial affections can come back on the list.

6.2. Classification System

Most of the present nations prefer the 4 class classification as proposed in Doc 7, but we need a 3 class system discussion on all the items to take into consideration. We need more detailed medical inputs/descriptions.

Chairman: assumes to use as less classes as possible (IPC criteria) to be more easy.

The **Medical Committee** proposed the 4 class system. There should be a significant difference in playing possibilities of the players between the classes.

Netherlands: prefers the 3 point system.

Can we apply the point systems to our national league in order to check which is the best?

Additional Game Rules

Most nations don't prefer to have a player of each class on the playing field.

Germany: only one player with the maximum points should be allowed on the field.

The nations prefer one or two players with the highest points on the field.

The nations prefer one or two T-stick players on the field.

Germany: if we allow a hand stick player to play as goalkeeper, it is something like losing the sense of the play.

Netherlands: wish to give the possibility to the coach to choose whether to use a hand stick or a T-stick player as goaltender.

Germany, Finland and Italy: prefer that a T-stick player shall function as goaltender.

Maximum points

The meeting agrees that the more show the games can give, the better it is for media, players etc. (IPC criteria). There are different opinions about what the maximum points should be.

We have to think how to get a final agreement. Should the Classification System be useful for National competition (club teams) as well as for international competition (National teams)?

The Medical Committee will be asked to send a next proposal.

7. Rules & Regulations

7.1 Organisers Regulations Competitions (DOC 8)

The current Organisers Regulations are split in one book for international competitions and one for international events.

The ICEWH Organisers Regulations Competitions are adopted by the present nations.

7.2 Organisers Regulations Events (DOC 9)

The ICEWH Organisers Regulations Events are adopted by the present nations.

7.3 Qualification System European Championship 2012 (DOC 10)

This document hasn't been discussed, because we already work with it and IWAS has given approval previously.

7.4.1 Speed Control System (DOC 11)

Further discussions shall be needed. The Referees tried out all the 3 systems and summarized their remarks into a report. All systems gave different speeds and to measure during the game should take at least 3 minutes, because all levels of the speed system of the wheelchair should be measured, because you don't know where the player has the highest speed. To put a match down for at least 3 minutes is not wishable.

We need to find more practical solutions to measurte the speed during the game, without putting the game down for many minutes. We should also consider a laser gun system that

can catch speed from any distance.

The organizing committee of the next event (EC 2012) should provide one system and be able to use it. Anyway till we will have a definite system we are not going to change the rules putting in punishment.

7.4.2 Referee Signals (DOC 12)

The present nations unanimous agree to reduce the signals and accepted the signals as written in the document.

7.4.3. Referee Certification (DOC 13)

The present nations agree about the certification system for Referees.

7.4.4. Jury Member Certification (DOC 14)

The present nations agree about the certification system for Jury Members.

Belgium: Senior Jury Member → judging 4 referees is too less, means that after ½ or 1 competition someone can become senior jury member. Also the same for Chief Jury Member.
The nations agree that the Jury Commission will think it over.

7.4.5. Motions

Motions ICEWH

Finland: disagrees with the motion on Game Rule F.2.1.

The committee is staying with the motion.

The floor for training sessions and matches must be the same. It's up to the Organising Committee to request for exception to IWAS. If accepted the exception will be taken in the contract (according the Technical Delegate). 4 nations agree, 2 disagree.

Game Rule F.2.1. will stay like it is.

All other proposed motions by ICEWH are unanimous agreed by the present nations.

Motions Finland

Clear rules for control of equipment.

ICEWH will request the Referee Committee to improve the rules/information.

Clear rules about protests on classification.

ICEWH will request the Medical Committee to give clear information.

Clear rules about advertising: how can we make better rules about advertising?

ICEWH will ask IWAS for information.

Penalties of 2 or 5 minutes: the present nations are positive about this proposal and decided that it will be a good idea to work it out in a proposal and to involve in the discussion also Referees and Jury Members in order to be sure we consider all the consequences.
ICEWH will request the Referee and Jury Committees to work out the proposal.

Medical Form: proposal that just medical doctors fill in medical forms, not physiotherapists, because they can't do this.

ICEWH will ask the Medical Committee, and if it is ok it will be accepted.

Motions Germany

The motions on Game Rules F.2.1., G.2.5., G.2.6 and G.2.7. are accepted by the present nations.

Game Rule J.5.11: Shoot out: now if the goaltender touches the ball, it is not goal. The present nations agreed to change the rule in order that if after the touch the ball goes into the net it is goal.

ICEWH will look up the rule in Floorball and will revise the rule.

7.5 Champions Cup (DOC 15)

We need to decide if we can realise a champions cup yearly and with all the things that makes it official (anti-doping control, classifications, contract with IWAS with sanction fee etc). Are we ready for such a yearly official event?

In case we let it an unofficial event we can be more free and each nation can decide to organise without respecting all the rules for official competition.

The assembly decided to organise Champions Cups in UNOFFICIAL WAY.

8. Events & Competitions

8.1 World Championship 2010:

A short look back to the WC 2010: Very well organised and of high playing level.
Thank you to Italy for all they have done!

8.2 Planning Events & Competitions (DOC 5 appendix 6)

May 2011: Qualification Tournament for EC 2012

2012: EC 2012 (with Officials Courses) / Sport Assembly

2014: WC 2014 (with Officials Courses) / Sport Assembly

Champions Cup: on initiative of nations (if possible every year, but as we said it is unofficial)

Development Events (with Referees, Trainers/Coaches and Players Courses): on initiative of nations.

The present nations accepted the planning of the events.

To plan/organise other international events in your nation, be aware of this calendar.

9. Elections ICEWH Executive Committee Members

Anna Rossi has lead this elective assembly, because all present and current ICEWH executive members were nominated.

All the nominations were accepted by the present nations and after the voting procedure the following persons are elected for the next 4 years:

Kenny Verbraekel will be the ICEWH Secretary General.

Saila Luumi will be the ICEWH Event, Competition and Development Officer.

Anja Wouters will be the ICEWH Technical Officer.

John Teunissen will be the ICEWH Chairman.