

49th Annual General Meeting Minutes

6 November 2019

Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel Cape Town, South Africa

**WORLD
SQUASH****WSF**

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President welcomed delegates to the 49th WSF Annual General Meeting and stated that it had been his great desire that the AGM in South Africa would be an opportunity to celebrate the successful end of our bid to secure a place on the programme of the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024, but it was not to be.

Squash would have been a great addition to the Paris programme in so many ways. We ticked all the known boxes all the way through the fixed process and made a great presentation. But finally, we continue to be blocked in our attempts. We must not look at what happened as a failing for squash though, or even our effort. Squash was really deserving of a chance but the IOC apparently had a different agenda to the published one.

The work that was done to present our sport at the Youth Olympic Games and at PSA Tour events was excellent; the interaction and involvement with Paris 2024 and the IOC was substantial. For myself I travelled to all continents to support the bid, meeting IOC and others repeatedly, as well as almost daily interactions with the Paris 2024 organisation.

The Olympic bid was an area of great collaboration with the PSA, and in the spirit of our Memorandum of Understanding there were others too. Refereeing is a good example of shared needs, which the ongoing development of World Squash Officiating addresses. Our constituents may be different – our being the sport as a whole and theirs being the top-level athletes and their events, but while retaining our own identities and targets, our co-operation where the paths cross is essential for the general good health of the sport.

This leads onto the strategic planning that WSF initiated earlier this year. James Sandwith, a British brand and marketing consultant, has been gathering opinion and insight from squash federations around the world, and those within the broader squash community including the PSA, to determine what the sport's future should look like. The review was presented at the conference yesterday and I thank those of you that interacted.

Of course, during the period, Andrew Shelley stepped down at the end of June after nine years as CEO. We are very grateful to him, for his support of the WSF, both helping our championship management for over twenty years before joining the staff, and the last nine years too.

I would like to add personal thanks to Andrew Shelley for his loyalty, his availability and receptiveness. To thank him for having shared with me a management based on conviction, persuasion and sense of general interest. It was a pleasure and an enriching experience working with him.

I should also like to extend my thanks to my Board, the WSF Office, Chairs and members of WSF Commissions, our Regions, Nations and PSA, all of whom provide great support to WSF. Additionally, we must be forever grateful for the work of administrators, volunteers, referees, coaches and all others who are the heartbeat of our sport, too.

The President formally opened the meeting and the Secretary General proceeded to the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Member Nations of: Cayman Islands, Czech Republic, Iran, Jamaica, Poland, Sweden and Zambia; the Regional Federations of: Asia, Europe, Oceania and Pan-America. Personal apologies were received from Murray Day and Susie Simcock (Former WSF Presidents) and Heather Deayton (Former WSF Vice-President).

2. ATTENDANCE & PROCEDURES

a) Members Represented

Australia	- David Mandel	Ireland	- Rosie Barry
Barbados	- Kim Jebodhsingh	Kuwait	- Fayez Almutairi
Belgium	- Thomas Troedsson	Macau	- Luis Mac Peng Iu
Canada	- Lolly Gillen	Malaysia	- Nik Razeen A Daud
Chinese Taipei	- Hsu Ching-Hui	New Zealand	- Jamie Tong
Colombia	- Sergio Becerra	Norway	- Otto Kalvo
Egypt	- Assem Khalifa	Pakistan	- Aamir Masood
England	- Keir Worth	South Africa	- Jennifer Sawyer
France	- Jean-Denis Barbet	Turkey	- Hosan Ozturk
Germany	- Steve Mann	USA	- Kevin Klipstein
Guatemala	- Claudia Ortiz	Wales	- Richard Bennett
Hong Kong	- Emily Mak	Zimbabwe	- Lucky Mlilo

b) Observers Present

Australia	- Richard Vaughan
Chinese Taipei	- Wen-Jui Wang
Guatemala	- Maycol Padilla
Ireland	- Gar Holohan
Kuwait	- Waleed Alsoumiee
Turkey	- Guven Karakas

c) Others Present By Right

Jacques Fontaine	- WSF President
Sarah Fitz-Gerald	- WSF Vice-President
Huang Ying How	- WSF Vice-President
Peter Lasusa	- WSF Vice-President
Pablo Serna	- WSF Vice-President & Secretary General
Hany Hamouda	- President – Squash Federation of Africa

By Invitation

Lorraine Harding	- WSF Operations Manager
Jasmine Pascoe	- WSF Assistant Operations Manager
Alex Gough	- PSA Chief Executive Officer
Anne Smith	- Chair, WSF Anti-Doping & Medical Commissions

d) Voting Procedures

The Secretary General explained the voting procedures and reported that 24 Member Nation were represented at the meeting, with a total of 80 votes. He further advised that changes to the Articles of Association required 60 votes (at least 75% of the total votes) whereas general motions only required 40 votes (in excess of 50% of the votes) for them to pass. He reminded that a country must be present to vote and that voting would be by show of hands, by a show of voting numbers or secret ballot if so requested.

e) Appointment of Scrutineers

James Sandwith (England) and Steve Doeg (South Africa) were accepted as the official Scrutineers.

3. APPLICATIONS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

a) Liechtenstein, Malta and Zambia

The Secretary General confirmed that explained that each of the National Federations had provided the requisite documentation and payment.

Proposed by Wales, Seconded by Belgium
Application Accepted Unanimously

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 October 2018 were approved without comment.

Proposed by Canada, Seconded by Wales
Approved Unanimously

5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2019

There were no questions or comments from the delegates.

Proposed by Canada, Seconded by New Zealand
Accepted Unanimously

6. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE WSF SQUASH 57 RULES

Racket & Ball Specifications – Amend Section 5, Point 2

Motions: Executive Board at the request of the Squash 57 Commission

GENERAL USE BALL (blue)

Weight: 39 – 41 gms

Diameter: 55 – 57mm

Rebound Resilience: Min 1120mm – Max 1150mm (from a height of 254cm/100 inches at a temp of 25 deg C)

BLUE (higher bounce) BALL

The following specification is the standard for a General play (blue) Squash 57 ball to be used under the Rules of Squash.

Diameter (millimetres) 57 + or - 1.0

Weight (grams) 40.0 + or - 1.0

Rebound Resilience from 254 centimetres

@ 25 degrees C. 60% minimum

@ 33 degrees C 63% - 65%

COMPETITION BALL (black)

Weight: 38 – 40 gms

Diameter: 55 – 57mm

Rebound Resilience: Min 940mm – Max 970mm (from a height of 254cm/100 inches at a temp of 25 deg C)

BLACK (lower bounce) BALL

The following specification is the standard for a Competition (black) Squash 57 ball to be used under the Rules of Squash.

Diameter (millimetres) 57 + or - 1.0

Weight (grams) 40.0 + or - 1.0

Rebound Resilience from 254 centimetres

@ 25 degrees C. 54% minimum

@ 33 degrees C. 56% - 58%

Proposed by Canada, Seconded by Wales
Motion Passed Unanimously

7. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE RULES OF SQUASH

a) **Motion 1 – Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM)**

It is the motion of SRAM that players may ask for a let by raising their hand at the end of the rally instead of having to utter "let please", at which point the referee shall make a decision and the players will continue play.

THE RULE - 8.2 A striker who believes that interference has occurred may stop and request a let, preferably by saying "Let, please." That request must be made without undue delay.

Notes:

- Before accepting any form of request the Referee must be satisfied that the player is actually requesting a let.
- A request for a let includes a request for a stroke.
- Normally, only the striker may request a let for interference. However, if the non- striker requests a let for lack of access before the ball has reached the front wall, that request may be considered, even though that player is not yet the striker.

10. APPEALS

1. 10.1. Either player may stop play during the rally and appeal against any lack of call by the Marker by saying "Appeal, please."

2. 10.2. The loser of a rally may appeal against any call or lack of a call by the Marker by saying "Appeal, please."

Proposed by Malaysia, Seconded by Norway

Motion Failed - 11 in Favour; 60 Against; 8 Abstentions

b) **Motion 2 – Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM)**

It is the motion of SRAM that henceforth there shall be no more discussions questions by the players on referee's decisions. Any discussion or show of dissent should warrant a conduct penalty.

Proposed by Malaysia, Motion not Seconded and later withdrawn by Malaysia

c) **Motion 3 – Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM)**

It is the motion of SRAM that henceforth the tin height for all levels of competition be standardised to 17 inches.

Proposed by Malaysia, Seconded by Pakistan

Motion Failed - 14 in Favour; 64 Against; 2 Abstentions

8. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF WSF LIMITED

a) **Amend Article 59 as follows:**

Motion: Executive Board at the request of the Governance & Audit Commission

59. The WSF may by special resolution remove any member of the Executive Board for cause - in accordance with the Fundamental Principles and Integrity of Conduct sections of the current WSF Code of Ethics - whereupon an election of his/her replacement shall be held in accordance with the provision of these Articles, with a term of the unfinished portion of the person replaced. This action must meet the requirements of Articles 35 and 49.

Proposed by Australia, Seconded by Canada

Motion Passed - 76 in Favour; 4 Against

b) **Amend the Heading to Article 64 and Article 64 as follows:**

Motion: Executive Board at the request of the Governance & Audit Commission

MAXIMUM TERM, **AUTOMATIC** DISQUALIFICATION & REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

64. The office of a member of the Executive Board shall be **automatically** vacated if:

Proposed by Australia, Seconded by Wales

Motion Passed – 67 in Favour; 6 Abstentions

As this point in the meeting, the Observer from Ireland raised a Point of Order in that neither the 2006 Companies Act nor the WSF Articles of Association require a motion to be "seconded" if they have been submitted correctly for the AGM Agenda. It was agreed that this was correct and so it was decided that motion 7.b) should proceed to a vote after all. However, Malaysia chose to withdraw the motion.

c) The following new definition to be alphabetically inserted in Article 1.2

Motion: Executive Board

At the WSF Conference the previous day it had been agreed that a small amendment to the motions was required to make ensure that it complied with employment laws. Accordingly the floor was asked to agree that there could be an amendment, which they did (75 in favour). The wording in parentheses at the end of the motion was added accordingly.

"Qualified Delegate" shall mean an individual duly authorised by a Full Member to be its in-person representative at the respective AGM who also meets the qualification requirements. In order to be a Qualified Delegate, the Full Member, by its appropriate officer (Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, or President), shall directly notify the office in writing at least fourteen (14) days before an AGM commences of the appointment of its delegate, including a specific confirmation that the prospective delegate was born in the Full Member country, or is a citizen of, or became a naturalised citizen of, or is an employee of, or has been a legal "full time" resident of the respective Full Member country for at least three (3) years preceding the AGM. Notwithstanding the above, a prospective delegate is ineligible to represent a Full Member if they have represented another Member at the AGM within the one (1) year preceding the upcoming AGM. (Unless they are an employee of the National or Appropriate Federation)"

Motion Passed - 63 in Favour; 15 Against; 2 Abstentions

d) Democracy and Voting at the WSF

Motion proposed by Australia

That written or electronic voting be allowed at General Meetings of the WSF.

Motion Failed - 26 in Favour; 39 Against; 13 Abstentions

e) Democracy and Voting at the WSF

Motion proposed by Australia

That the quorum be defined to include those present and eligible to vote and those having voted in writing or electronically. *[Only be put forward if Motion 8 d) is passed].*

Motion Voided

f) Voting Rights for the Regional Federations

Motion proposed by the European Squash Federation

To provide the European Squash Federation with 3 votes at the WSF AGM.

Motion Withdrawn

g) Voting Rights for WSF Full Members

Motion proposed by Sweden and Belgium

All full members have one vote in the case of any election and changes to the Memorandum & Articles of Association.

In all other issues, a Member can have one extra vote if they participated in a WSF team event in the three years before the year of the AGM. A member can have one extra vote when that Member has hosted a team event in the previous three years. A member can have a maximum of three votes.

Motion Failed - 6 in Favour; 58 Against; 16 Abstentions

h) Voting Rights for WSF Full Members

Motion proposed by Ireland

Full Members at the time of the meeting shall be entitled to the following number of votes:

Votes Criteria

1 All full members

1 Verified court numbers >750

1 A minimum of 70% participation in World Senior and Junior Team Championships in the 10 years preceding the AGM (total participation combined across events)

Motion Failed - 10 in Favour; 51 Against; 19 Abstentions

9. MOTIONS GENERAL

a) World Junior Ranking Under-17

Motion proposed by the European Squash Federation

Remove the World Junior Ranking at U17 level and the requirement for tournaments to use SPIN for the U17 event to be included in the World Junior U19 Ranking.

Motion Failed - 14 in Favour; 61 Against; 5 Abstentions

b) Squash Personal Identification Number (SPIN)

Motion proposed by the European Squash Federation

WSF to revert to charging a once in a lifetime fee for SPIN.

Motion Failed - 10 in Favour; 62 Against; 8 Abstentions

c) Squash Personal Identification Number (SPIN)

Motion proposed by the European Squash Federation

SPIN must remain a registration tool only and must be fully controlled by WSF.

Motion Failed - 8 in Favour; 51 Against; 21 Abstentions

10. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE WORLD SQUASH ANTI-DOPING RULES

None submitted.

11. MOTIONS TO CREATE & AMEND REGULATIONS GOVERNING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

a) Amend WSF Championship Regulation K4 (eligibility) as follows:

Motion proposed by the WSF Championships Commission

K4. Notwithstanding the above, a player is ineligible to represent a country if he has represented another country in the **three years** preceding the Start Date in a recognised International Squash Team or Individual Championship (.i.e. WSF World Championship, Regional Team or Individual Championship, official Match between MNFs in any age group).

New Paragraph: *"Note for general guidance: In the case of Individual Championships, where a player is entered by their National Federation into a World or Regional Individual Championship, a player would be deemed to have represented their nation. However, playing in a National Open event does not count towards eligibility, nor does participating in Individual Masters events such as World and Regional events."*

A player who has not reached the age of 18 on the final day of an event may within the next three year period from the applicable final day subsequently exercise a different qualification based upon a reduction of three years to one year in the requirements of K2 and K4.

A player may only make one change using the reduced time period, and thereafter would be required to conform to the three year period in respect of exercising an eligibility.

In all cases of eligibility based upon residence, it is not permitted to do so based upon residence in respect of further education away from the family home, even if there is an intention to remain in the country afterwards i.e. the time period shall commence after the final day of the study period.

Motion Passed – 63 in Favour; 17 Abstentions

b) Amend WSF Championship Regulation X8 as follows:

Motion proposed by the WSF Championships Commission

X8. The random draw method shall be used in accordance with Appendix H to compile draws with the format and the placement of seeds being decided by the WSF Office in conjunction with the Championships Director.

The minimum number of seeds normally will be calculated as 25% of the Draw size (including byes) up to a maximum of sixteen seeds **in the case of 64 maximum entry**. If there are more than 64 entries then 17/32 seeds will be **shadowed, but not designated and denoted** on the draw.

Motion Passed – 67 in Favour; 11 Abstentions

c) New Regulation X6.

Motion proposed by the WSF Championships Commission

"X6. The seedings will be compiled by a specialist WSF Seeding Panel within 12 days of the entry deadline. This listing shall then be forwarded to all nations who are represented in the draws who will have a designated period of approximately 48 hours (deadline to be provided with the circulation) in which to lodge objections to the orders in writing, citing reasons. Any objections received will be reviewed by the WSF Seeding Panel and alterations made if agreed before the final listing is published. There shall be no further seeding objections allowable after the designated period."

Current Regulations X6 to X16 to be renumbered accordingly if this motion is approved.

Motion Passed Unanimously

12. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

a) To update Members on progress made in assigning World Championships in the last year and receive expressions of interest to host future events:

The Secretary General drew the delegates' attention to the available World Championships and reiterated the deadline for tendering. He thanked those Nations that had already applied for and been awarded events and encouraged tenders for all available events.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Men's Team	USA	-----	NEW ZEALAND	-----
Women's Team	-----	MALAYSIA	-----	VACANT (C)
Women's World Championship	PSA	PSA	PSA	PSA
Men's World Championship	PSA	PSA	PSA	PSA
Men's & Women's Junior Individual (A)	MALAYSIA	AUSTRALIA	VACANT (B)	VACANT (C)
Women's Junior Team	MALAYSIA	-----	VACANT (B)	-----
Men's Junior Team	-----	AUSTRALIA	-----	VACANT (C)
World Masters	-----	POLAND	-----	VACANT (C)
International Doubles	AUSTRALIA	-----	AUSTRALIA	-----
Hardball Doubles	-----	VACANT	-----	VACANT

Note: Tenders are required by 31 December two years ahead of the Championship e.g. for events in 2022: tenders must be submitted by 31 December 2019.

(A) Played before the Junior Team Championship held concurrently with it.

(B) Event currently available.

(C) Tender closes 31 December 2019.

Delegates were advised that henceforth the World Doubles Championships will only be every four years (in the 12 months prior to the Commonwealth Games to encourage participation.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

a) To receive the Forward Plan of the WSF for 2019/2020

Received Unanimously

b) To receive reports from WSF Regional Federations

The Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were duly received, with no additional comments.

14. WSF FINANCE

a) Adoption of the audited accounts for the financial year 2018/2019

**Proposed by Australia, Seconded by Wales
Adopted**

b) To authorise the Officers to appoint and fix remuneration of the auditors.

**Proposed by Canada, Seconded by Germany
Authorised**

c) To receive the Budget for the financial year 2019/2020

**Proposed by Germany, Seconded by Australia
Received**

d) Motion – WSF EXECUTIVE BOARD

That the Membership Fees of the WSF, for the calendar year 2020, shall be increased by 3% to:

Full Member - 6 votes	(1501 courts and over)	£7,210
Full Member - 5 votes	(1001 - 1500 courts)	£5,265
Full Member - 4 votes	(751 - 1000 courts)	£4,300
Full Member - 3 votes	(501 - 750 courts)	£2,360
Full Member - 2 votes	(51 - 500 courts)	£1,340
Full Member - 1 vote	(1 - 50 courts)	£430
Associate Member		£36
Affiliate Member		£590

Motion Carried – 77 in Favour, 2 Against

15. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None.

16. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Secretary General advised that it is anticipated that location and date will be advised to National Federations before the end of the year.

The President made a presentation to Squash South Africa and thanked them for being such wonderful hosts. He then thanked everyone for attending and their contribution over the past few days and his hope to see more delegates at the next AGM.

In closing he stated that the coming year would be an important one for squash where we will see strategic initiatives that will lead the sport, as well as enhancing the WSF's relationship with the PSA. He reiterated that the failure of the Olympic Bid had been a shock to him and suggested that squash cannot just close the Olympic door, it must remain on the landscape of global sport by maintaining and gaining inclusion in all multi-sport events and continuing to attend International Sport meetings such as SportAccord.

The meeting closed at 11:10.