

## XVI IFSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13-14 NOVEMBER 2020 – VIRTUAL MEETING

### MINUTES

Approved 23 April 2021

13 November 2020

12:00-16:00 UTC+1

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Voting system: votes are called by the President and voting members can express their choice with yes no or abstain. All votes cast count in the final count of expressed votes, whereas blank votes (or no votes) will not be considered. For practical reasons, the Executive Board voted to extend the deadline for outstanding payments until the end of the year, so the right to vote is granted to all Full Members.

New Full Members: Malta, Mauritius, and Saudi Arabia, shall not exercise their vote before the ratification of their membership on item 3 of today's Agenda.

Country	NF	Delegates	Country	NF	Delegates
ARG	FASA	Magdalena Kast Martin Lascano	LAT	LAA	Normunds Reinbergs
AUS	SCA	Naomi Cleary	LTU	LCSA	Margarita Smirnovienė Milda Koreivaitė
AUT	KVO	Eugen Burtscher Heiko Wilhelm	MAS	PMM	Roy' Mohd Zaidi Kamaruddin
BEL	CMBEL	Tijl Smitz	MEX	FEMED	Alfredo Velazquez Efrén Bonilla Mariana Fierro
BRA	ABEE	Joao Ricardo Gonçalves	MLT	MSFA	Marco Tomasini
CAN	CEC	Christiane Marceau Joachim Stroink Paul Dormaar	MRI	MSCF	Cathy Foo Kune Avinash Keerodhur
CHI	FEACH	Willy Montenegro	NCL	FFME – NC	Philippe Boquet
CHN	CMA	Guowei Li	NED	NKBV	Frits Cattenstart Aukje van Weert Rogier Wouters
CRO	HPS	Alan Čaplar	NOR	NCF	Reino Horak
CYP	CMCOF	Pavlos Georgiades	NZL	CNZ	Richard Waldin David Sanders
CZE	CHS	Jan Bloudek	PAK	ACP	Abu Sadiq
DEN	DKF	Christian Nicolai Ørum-Petersen	PAN	APAES	Rogelio Alvarado
ESP	FEDME	Francisco Durà Sempere Lluís Giner Arnabat	PER	FEDPE	Sandra Portugal
ESP	FEEC	Quim Hernandez	PHI	SCAPI	Franz Lim
FRA	FFME	Pierre You Damien You Vincent Causcé	POR	FPME	Alberto Cruz
GBR	BMC	Lynn Robinson Zoe Spriggins	RSA	SANCF	George Stainton
GER	DAV	Burgi Beste	RUS	CFR	Dmitrii Bychkov Alexander Piratinskiy
GUA	FNAG	Meder Valdez	SGP	SMF	Rasip Isnin Hayati Suaidi
HKG	CHKCMU	Frederick Yu Francis Lo Shirman So	SLO	PZS	Jure Golob

INA	FPTI	Zannuba Wahid	SRB	USCSF	Slobodan Gejo
IND	IMF	Joe Dhillion Sreebash Bhattacharjee	SUI	SAC	Françoise Jaquet Daniel Marbacher Hanspeter Sigrist
IRI	IMSCF	Mahmoud Hashemi Mohammad Havaledar	SVK	SMU James	Anton Pacek Igor Kollar
ISR	ILCA	Yuval Hamburg	SWE	SKF	Patrik Blom
ITA	FASI	Davide Manzoni	TPE	CTAA	Hsuan Hsu
JPN	JMSCA	Yuji Hirayama Shinji Mizumura Yujiro Gohda	TUR	TDF	Ersan Basar
KAZ	MSCFRK	Kazbek Valiyev	UGA	USCF	Brandon Katura
KOR	KAF	Kim Nacksoo Sanghee Cho Sunkyo Jin	UKR	UMCF	Serik Kazbekov
KSA	SCHF	Yasmin Gahtani Abdulrahman Alabdu Bandar Al-Saud	USA	USAC	Bruce Mitchell Marc Norman
			VEN	FEVME	Osdaly Haché Federico Pisani

Before the beginning of the sessions, Members are shown a video-message by IOC President, Thomas Bach.

## 2. MINUTES

- a. Approval of the Plenary Assembly in Writing Minutes, 29 May 2020

[Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_2.a\_PA\_In\_Writing\_200529\_Minutes\_v2\_TBA]

With no comments received, President Marco Maria Sclaris [MMS] proceeds to call the vote.

Vote to approve the 29 May 2020 Plenary Assembly in Writing Minutes						
In favour	34	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership updates

- I. Associate Membership → Full Membership

Secretary General Debbie Gawrych [DG] introduces the membership updates starting from reminding Members that as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 Associate membership no longer exists and those who were in this category were automatically moved to Full membership starting from the above-mentioned date.

- II. PERU: Vote to approve the request of the Federación Deportiva Peruana de Escalada to move from Continental to Full Membership [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_3.a.II\_FEDPE\_Full\_Membership]

DG informs the GA of the request submitted by the FEDPE to move from Continental to Full Membership, which will be in force from 2021. No comments received and MMS calls for the vote.

Vote to approve the request of the Federación Deportiva Peruana de Escalada to move from Continental to Full Membership						
In favour	37	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED

b. Membership Termination

- I. AUSTRIA - Österreichischer Alpenverein (ÖAV): Vote to approve the request of membership termination received by the Österreichischer Alpenverein, starting from 2021 [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_3.b.I\_OAV\_Membership\_Termination]

Moving on, DG reports the request received from the Austrian Alpine Club (Österreichischer Alpenverein) to withdraw their Observer Membership starting from 2021.

Vote to approve the approve the request of membership termination received by the Österreichischer Alpenverein, starting from 2021						
In favour	38	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

c. New Members [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_3.c\_Membership\_Memo]

- I. NEPAL

Vote to ratify the EB decision to exclude the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and confirm the inclusion of Nepal Climbing Sport Association (NCSA) as IFSC Full Member representing Sport Climbing in Nepal; Following the XIV IFSC General Assembly of Tokyo, 16 March 2019, where a final decision was not taken regarding the matter of representation of Sport Climbing in Nepal, the NMA were given additional 30 days to provide the documents requested by the Executive Board. DG informs that these documents were not provided, and the Executive Board moved to the exclusion of NMA and inclusion of NCSA as IFSC Full Member representing Sport Climbing in Nepal.

Vote to ratify the EB decision to exclude the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) and confirm the inclusion of Nepal Climbing Sport Association (NCSA) as IFSC Full Member representing Sport Climbing in Nepal						
In favour	36	Against	0	Abstained	2	APPROVED

- II. FIJI

Vote to ratify the EB decision to exclude the Fiji Mountaineering and Climbing Association (FMCA) and confirm the inclusion of Sport Climbing Fiji (SCF) as IFSC Continental Member representing Sport Climbing in Fiji; With regard to Fiji, DG explains that the FMCA, admitted in 2019, requested to transfer the membership to SCF – Sport Climbing Fiji, following the impossibility from the government and sport authorities to provide financial support to FMCA due to its legal status. The leadership is the same, but SCF is in the position to carry out sport activity in Fiji.

Vote to ratify the EB decision to exclude the Fiji Mountaineering and Climbing Association (FMCA) and confirm the inclusion of Sport Climbing Fiji (SCF) as IFSC Continental Member representing Sport Climbing in Fiji						
In favour	38	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

- III. Vote to ratify the EB decision to admit new members:

- Uganda Sport Climbing Federation (Continental)
- Saudi Arabia Climbing and Hiking Federation (Full)
- Mauritius Sport Climbing Federation (Full)
- Malta Sport for All (Full)

DG introduces the new members that were provisionally admitted by the Executive Board and to be ratified by the General Assembly and listed above. No comments are received.

Vote to ratify the EB decision to admit new members: USCF (UGA), SCHF (KSA), MSCF (MRI), MSFA (MLT)						
In favour	42	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

#### 4. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

The Annual Report 2019 was already published and circulated in the Spring. With the postponement of the General Assembly, and the lack of regular activity throughout 2020, the President's report focused on the present and the future of the IFSC.

MMS opens his address by thanking President Thomas Bach for his words of encouragement and for taking the time to address the IFSC Members. MMS then proceeds to acknowledging, despite the unfortunate circumstances, this year's achievements.

- Pan American Games: although not official yet, we have reason to be confident that Sport Climbing will be included for the first time in the Programme of the 2023 Pan American Games of Santiago, Chile. This will be finalised in December 2020 at the Panam Sports General Assembly, and the inclusion is subject to some requirements such as the increase in the number of Members in the Continent.
- European Championships: Sport Climbing has been included in the programme of another large multi-sport event, the 2022 European Championships, scheduled to take place in Munich, Germany. Sport Climbing will share the iconic location of Koenig Platz with Beach Volley.
- Finances: the IFSC benefits from a solid financial situation. The work of the Marketing Department with the support of the counsel of Broadreach Media and support of our agencies Synca and Dentsu led the IFSC to secure a safe budget and our partners confirmed their commitment and support for 2020:
  - Earth Corporation
  - Entre-Prises
  - Japan Airlines
  - Kailas
  - Luxov
  - Perfect Descent

More good news come from Lausanne, Switzerland. Following the approval of the financial papers at the Plenary Assembly in Writing of 29 May 2020, the IFSC initiated conversations with the IOC leadership, and Financial and Sports Departments. Over the last few years, the IFSC invested significant resources to create a structure able to meet the exponential demands required by the inclusion in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and, in general, by the growth of the sport worldwide. The consultation process, which also took into account the losses due to the pandemic and the risks associated with it, resulted in the IOC granting a loan to the Olympic Programme sports International Federations and granting a donation to the Tokyo 2020 additional sports International Federations. The donation amounts to a total of two million dollars, half to be transferred in 2020 and half in 2021. This donation was given under certain conditions, such as the constitution of sufficient reserves to safeguard the IFSC in the face of possible future crises.

MMS highlights that the importance of this donation goes far beyond the financial aspect: the political weight of such a move opens to a new era in the Olympic Movement and new horizons for the IFSC and our sport. This significant growth in our finances shows a change of this direction, and in agreement with IFSC Auditor elected in 2017, Dr. Andrea Barabino.

- The future of our Sport: the IFSC was founded in 2007, and since day one the organisation faced many challenges in order to keep up with the dream of becoming Olympic Sport, that was at the root of the foundation of the IFSC in the first place. MMS encourages Member Federations, especially those that incorporate many activities, to create or strengthen their relationship with their NOCs, as the impact of governing one Olympic Sport will be significant. With regard to this, the IFSC will create a Solidarity Helpdesk, to assist Member Federations to access IOC Solidarity funds.
- Governance: the postponement of the Tokyo Games has provided the opportunity to adjust some aspects of the IFSC and prepare more comprehensively for the Olympic debut. In particular, the ASOIF Governance Questionnaire showed improvement in many areas such as athletes safeguarding, competition manipulation, gender equality. Significant improvements have also been done on the sustainability front, through the creation of the Sustainability Guidelines for IFSC events, as well as the introduction of a budget for CO2 compensation.  
The proposed Statute review has been done with the goal to adapt the existing regulations to the reality that has been rapidly evolving in the last few years.
- Paraclimbing: in October, the IFSC has opened a channel of communication with the IPC towards the inclusion of Paraclimbing in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The Paraclimbing Committee is active, and its enthusiastic members will play a key role in the achievement of this goal, also helped by the creation of the Paraclimbing Fund to boost the ambitions of our athletes.

The Strategic Plan, soon to be discussed, will be the guide light to build the future of Sport Climbing and to reinforce the IFSC model.

Last but not least, MMS congratulates for election or re-election the following Presidents:

- Canada: Climbing Escalade Canada – Ms. Kathy Woods

- Colombia: Federación Colombiana de Escalada Deportiva – Mr. Dagoberto Robayo
- Indonesia: Federasi Panjat Tebing Indonesia – Ms. Yenny Wahid
- Italy: Federazione Arrampicata Sportiva Italiana – Mr. Davide Battistella
- Latvia: Latvian Alpinist Association – Mr. Normunds Reinbergs
- New Zealand: Climbing New Zealand – Mr. Richard Waldin
- Philippines: Sport Climbing Association of the Philippines – Mr. Marte Soliza
- Slovakia: Slovak Mountaineering Union James – Mr. Anton Pacek
- Ukraine: Ukrainian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation – Ms. Anna Yasynskaya
- USA: USA Climbing – Mr. Bruce Mitchell

And from the new Members just admitted:

- Fiji: Sport Climbing Fiji – Mr. Savneel Sanjeet
- Malta: Malta Sport for All – Ms. Anita Pariani
- Mauritius: Mauritius Sport Climbing Federation – Mr. Jacques Li Chung
- Nepal: Nepal Climbing Sport Association – Mr. Hari Dharel
- Uganda: Uganda Sport Climbing Association – Mr. Richard McBond Asimwe

## 5. IFSC STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2028

a. Introduction by Marc Le Menestrel, President of the Ethics Commission [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 1-2] Before moving onto the Strategic Plan, Marc Le Menestrel [MLM], President of the IFSC Ethics Commission, is welcomed to give an introduction to participants regarding the Ethics Commission activities.

MLM addresses the context in which we are: the world is facing a governance and leadership crisis, and the sporting world, including Sport Climbing, is not immune. Ethics play an important role in helping leaders in taking better decisions, at the IFSC. To nurture our Ethics, the preferred approach is to reinforce our values from the core, to work on integrity and identity, rather than listing a set of rules and procedures with a lawyer. These are useful, certainly, but sometimes not enough for Ethics.

Among the activities in the last 18 months, we have been following the Charter of Climbing Ethics, engaging with Officials (Judges and Routesetters), with Paraclimbers, and we initiated discussions to address occurrences of non-accidental violence in sport (sexual abuse, harassment, bullying, discrimination, etc.).

The work on identity started with a series of interviews to the members of the Executive Board, asking them about their values, their challenges, what they need to perform better. Asking personal questions reveals how powerful the values of Board Members are, passionate and committed to the development of our sport in many directions, from environment to governance. This result is particularly important because the work done by representatives of organisations (IFSC-NFs), that is to act on behalf of their organisations, sometimes leaves very little space to the human aspect. For better or for worse, the human factor cannot be removed from our experiences, and the approach in Ethics has to start from the human side. This series of interviews that became the first part of the document *Voices of IFSC Leaders*, intended to highlight the fundamental aspect of the IFSC culture, its objectives, and its challenges. Eventually, Marc Le Menestrel invited NFs to participate in the second part of *Voices of IFSC Leaders* by responding to the request for interviews that will take place during the first half of 2021.

- b. Presentation of the Strategic Plan [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_5.b\_Strategic\_Plan\_Short*;  
Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_5.b\_Strategic\_Plan\_Full*]

DG subject addressed by MLM. Want to emphasise the purpose of why we do the strategic plan. As MLM said, we want to add more diversity of thought, we want to be more transparent and communicate more effectively, and we want to do it with an eye to efficiency and accountability towards our agenda. Before the GA we had numerous discussions with the DAV and other federations. One of the additions suggested by the DAV is about the future of the Combined. DG reminds that the reason why the Combined was outlined in the first place, is because the IOC granted Sport Climbing one medal. So, in order not to privilege one discipline over the others, the Combined format was created as a temporary solution to bring all three disciplines on the stage of the Tokyo Games. The final goal has always been to have three medals for our three disciplines, and this is clearly stated in the Strategic Plan.

A 10-minute discussion takes place regarding the proposal of the DAV:

- Burgi Beste [BB], Vice President of the DAV (GER), introduces the topic, which arose following a series of questions on the future of the sport. During discussion at European level, these questions had sparse answers: some federations see the added value for of the Combined as a fourth discipline, particularly for the youth before they specialise in one discipline. Other federations see it as an artificial and temporary discipline, purely to serve the Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games.

- DAV however recognises its attractiveness for the public, and therefore recommends deeper discussion on the Combined, and to change the pictogram of the no. of medals at LA – leaving it with additional question mark and aim to achieve as many medals as possible.
- Marc Norman [MN], CEO of USA Climbing (USA), weighs in: as organiser having hosted a Combined event not too long ago, this is a format that can work but that also comes with numerous organisational challenges. From a strategic point of view, we look at achieving individual medals and that is our direction. Nothing prevents us from fall back into a combined format if necessary, but it is more of an operational adjustment rather than a strategic goal.
- Yuji Hirayama [YH], Vice President of JMSCA (JPN) and JMSCA representative Shinji Mizumura [SM] relate the position of JMSCA: First JMSCA expresses appreciation for the IOC and the IFSC for their long and hard work to get Sport Climbing in the Olympic Programme of Tokyo. The JMSCA experience with the Combined format is that it is very heavy on the Event Organiser and on the Athletes. Although it is understandable why this type of Combined format was necessary for our first time in the Olympic Games, JMSCA supports that IFSC continues the work to include all single disciplines in the Games Programme.
- George Stainton [GS], Secretary General of SANCF (RSA), reports about their experience and the specific needs of the African Continent. Speed has great potential of becoming an effective drive to grow the sport in the continent as it is easier to put in place. For this reason, in the long term, SANCF also supports the goal to obtain individual medals for the single disciplines.
- Athletes' representatives Shauna Coxsey [SC] and Sean McColl [SMC] both agree that the 3-discipline Combined format was a compromise towards the Olympic dream; it is however physically and mentally very intense and support the goal to achieve three medals for the three disciplines.

DG informs also of the word change suggested by the DAV on the first point of the Strategic Plan, to be included for approval:

*1.3.4. Develop and refine event models that are financially, operationally and ecologically sustainable for event organisers at all levels.*

*1.4.5 To ensure pathways for athletes striving to climb from national, to continental, to international level to build a qualification pyramidal system for World Cups in collaboration with the Continental Councils.*

*2.3.5. To create the IFSC Academy in the most sustainable way.*

DG resumes the presentation of the Strategic Plan going through the strategic planning process initiated in 2018 and kick-started in 2019. DG then goes through the five key objectives:

1. Showcase Sport Climbing through Events [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 7]  
This is our core business: as an IF we do sport events, and they include events the IFSC is owner of (our World Cups, World Championships, etc.), and events in which the IFSC is a provider (Olympic Games, World Games and other Multi-Sport Events). Looking ahead, the IFSC will continue having and improving existing events, but the goal is also to create new layers of events to complement the needs of our Members, to explore different formats and solutions to show the best aspects of our sport, in a system of continuous review where we look at what works and what does not work.

Zoe Spriggins (GBR-BMC) asks if the IFSC will consider creating a fund to help smaller Federations host events.

MMS answers that this is part of a wider discussion on the way we organise events that we will have to address in the near future. So far, the IFSC counted on its Members to organise events. We cannot expect that all Federations are able to organise events, so the question is not only whether to create a fund to organise events for smaller NFs but to actually review the way we organise events and develop the sport in a way that is accessible to smaller NFs or countries with less financial means, to be done within the Strategic Plan.

2. Develop Sport Climbing [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 8]

This point expresses the *how to* and focuses on education and different aspects of the sport.

Development is a very wide concept, and the way we want to articulate this is to create the premises to help our Member Federations with programmes for Athletes, Routesetters, Judges, Coaches, Managers, which in turn will help Member Federation develop programmes to help their national Athletes, Routesetters, Judges, Coaches, Managers in a similar way. Paraclimbing is also central to our development plans, and we strongly encourage our NFs to include as much as possible their Paraclimbers.

Zoe Spriggins (GBR-BMC) expresses appreciation for the commitment to being more inclusive, and in particular the commitment of the IFSC towards the Paraclimbing Community as demonstrated in the strategy.

3. Strengthen Membership and Governance [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 9]

The goal is to increase diversity, increase inclusion. We have a real commitment to increase the number of our Member Federations. The approach we follow to lead our work and this assembly is by trying to model a culture of transparency and a strong sense of ethics. We have been helped by the work of Marc Le Menestrel that showed a different way to create our culture. We wish to have an extensive review of the Statute by 2022 to strengthen our governance and adapt it to the growth of the IFSC, and we also plan to get an international auditing firm to oversee the auditing process. This task has been carried out for years by Dr. Andrea Barabino, and we all agree this is the way forward, which is a positive sign of our growth.

Avinash Keerodhur (MRI-MSCF) asks if there are tools to monitor the progress, since the strategy is over 8 years.

DG confirms that each part of the Strategic Plan will be monitored according to its specific function within the strategy, and the Plan itself should be reviewed to check the parts that work and those that do not. Any recommendation from NFs regarding a particular aspect is welcome.

Normunds Reinbergs (LAT-LAA) comments that it is important to increase the number of full members (not just members) otherwise the future will be decided by fewer federations. Today 71 present participants, just about 40 voting – we miss 43% of our members voting for the future of the IFSC.

MMS answers that this is absolutely correct, and it is also part of our plans. We are moving to another level, and should we be successful in becoming an Olympic Programme Sport, we will be able to fully review the Membership structure. We need to have a community of active Members, and as such they should exercise their right to vote.

Naomi Cleary (AUS-SCA) asks how the audit results will be reported to the GA and if there is going to be an opportunity for input from the members.

DG answers that the audit will be reported to the GA as always as Dr. Barabino did in the past years, and it will be performed by a bigger firm with international standing. It is important to know that we are becoming big enough to go in this direction: we have grown beyond the people that have been working with us. As for the methodology, usually, the auditing firm issues a statement saying that the accounts are in order. The IFSC will still present the financial statements to the NFs. MMS adds that any input is welcome, however the way audits are presented by these big international firms follows international standards.

Naomi Cleary (AUS-SCA) also says it would be great to hear in the future how the high risks to the organisation are addressed.

DG answers that documents about the risk assessment are available, and that some of it may not be very popular among some of our stakeholder, but one of the major risks is not having many of our members in alignment with the IFSC in their mission and purpose. This is why we work very hard to bring alignment within the organisation, starting from our Members, as sometimes serving two masters makes things difficult.

4. Increase IFSC Brand Awareness [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 10]

This point refers particularly to our communications and our positioning within the broad Sports and Olympic world. One of the key aspects that the IOC will assess our performance at the Tokyo Games is our audience: how many spectators, how many are watching us on TV, or digital media. So, our goal is to promote and encourage people who may not know Sport Climbing to engage with us, to know us, and to recognise us.

5. Promote Sport Climbing Globally [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 11]

This point gets into our Marketing Strategy: we are aware that improvements need to be implemented and we have experts working with us in order to improve image and production for our broadcasters. The Covid outbreak of course put a big halt to our plans in this sense for this year but is also made us look at alternative ways to promote ourselves.

Nicki Horak (NOR-NCF) expresses appreciation for the work done on the Strategic Plan as a whole. Coming back to the last point, to promote the sport, we have discussed at length the different medals, but we have not discussed how to develop the format within the discipline, especially for Boulder to make it more time-efficient and more attractive and easier to promote, and fairer for the competitors.

DG thanks Nicki Horak for relaying this valid point: it is indeed an important discussion; however, this is not the time and place to do it. The Sport Department will address their plans shortly.

Brandon Katura (UGA-USCF) comments that, of course, the IFSC has to work on global visibility and brand awareness; however, if we do not have visibility in our own countries we will not achieve much globally. Therefore, it would be beneficial to have a discussion to address how NFs can improve their visibility and how to get funding and support within their countries, so the work of the IFSC is closely intertwined with that of the NFs and translates into visibility at a global level.

DG thanks Brandon Katura for the comments, which is exactly at the core of the cooperative work envisaged by the Strategic Plan and suggests having a conversation after the General Assembly.

DG gives final remarks on the Strategic Plan Session adding that the document is not final: it is the starting point and template that we will use to move our organisation and our Sport forward. DG thanks the Member for the active participation and MMS calls for the vote to approve the IFSC Strategic Plan 2020-2028.

Vote to approve the IFSC Strategic Plan 2020-2028						
In favour	41	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED

General Director Piero Rebaudengo [PR] gives some information on the structural changes implemented since joining the IFSC Staff on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 13-18]

An initial phase of assessment of the existing organisational chart was performed to identify missing key areas, or areas that could be organised more efficiently. The areas that were identified and highlighted are: International Relations, Development, and IT. Communications was separated from Marketing to give the two functions more autonomy and better management on the daily business. Multi-Sport Games have been added to complement the former Olympic Coordination. None of the staff have been let go, and in fact an intern charged with graphics within the Communications Department joined the team a couple of weeks ago. PR makes himself available to be reached and contacted by Member Federations, to further improve the relation and communication with our main stakeholder.



**6. SPORT DEPARTMENT**

Vice President Sport/Events Kobinata Toru [KT] introduces the Sport matters to the Assembly. Many valuable comments have already been expressed and taken into account for further consideration. Before moving into the details of the Sport agenda, KT thanks the organisers of the 2019 Season which was very successful and also demanding, with highlight events such as the Paraclimbing World Championships in Briançon (FRA), the Climbing World Championships in Hachioji (JPN), the ANOC World Beach Games in Doha (QAT). We succeeded to show the value of our Sport to many people of the Olympic Family and entourage, which gives us confidence in successfully delivering the Sport Climbing event at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

a. 2019-2020 Season report

The 2019-2020 Season is summarised with a video. KT gives the floor to Event Officer Alessandro Di Cato [ADC] to present the Event Quota Structure 2022 proposal.

b. Vote to approve the Event Quota Structure 2022 [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_6.b\_Event\_Quota\_Structure\_TBA]

ADC gives a summary of the timeline that was set up at the 2019 General Assembly in Tokyo. In January 2020, the Task Force concluded the technical proposal, which was approved by the Executive Board on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The proposal was to be submitted for approval at the General Assembly in March 2020 but stopped by the Covid outbreak. ADC shows the consistent trend of increase of registrations to IFSC World Cups. The reason that determined the need to explore this proposal is the unsustainability of this model, in terms of number of athletes to manage from an organisational perspective, as well as in terms of fairness for competitors.

Proposal and its benefits are summarised on the attached slides [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 19-27]. The development of an additional layer of IFSC events will create the space for athletes that do not access the World Cups, and the incentive is provided by including these events in the World Ranking system.

The timeline for the next steps is to ask the GA to vote on the proposal. Upon approval, a Working Group will be created to define the details of the World Ranking, including the additional layer of events, which will start to count in the World Ranking system from 2022. This proposal shall be presented to the XVII General Assembly in April 2021.

Christiane Marceau (CAN-CEC) asks if there is a contingency plan should the 2021 season be cancelled due to COVID, and if it is to implement this new quota structure in 2023, after a successful season.

ADC thanks for the question. We are not in the position to anticipate the effects of Covid on the 2021 Season, so this matter will be addressed by the Working Group and presented with the full proposal at the next General Assembly.

Naomi Cleary (AUS-SCA) asks whether the ranking used will be fixed for the whole season to allow travel planning, or will it be updated after each event.

ADC responds that the Ranking used so far works on a 12 months per year basis, so we will be able to assess the quota and communicate with the NFs at the end of the season, so there are no changes throughout the year and NFs can plan their logistics for the next season.

Yasmin Gahtani (KSA-SCHF) asks if the new quota be also effective on Continental Cups.

ADC explains that for the moment we are only talking about IFSC World Cups, so the changes for now do not affect the Continental Cups.

Vote to approve the Event Quota Structure 2022						
In favour	41	Against	1	Abstained	3	APPROVED

MMS announces the result and reminds that it will be important, as suggested by Burgi Beste (GER-DAV), to discuss within the Working Group the inclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer of events in the World Ranking system.

c. 2021 Season preview

ADC gives a quick overview of the 2021 Calendar. It is a dense season with many Climbing and Paraclimbing events. Highlights are the Olympic Games, the Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships in Moscow, Russia, and Youth World Championships in Voronezh, Russia [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 29-30]

d. Vote to decide the host of the 2023 World Championships

The three candidates are Bern, SUI; Seoul, KOR; and Chongqing, CHN.

Ms. Françoise Jaquet (SAC-SUI) presents the candidature for Bern.

Mr. Kim Nack-Soo (KOR-KAF) presents the candidature for Seoul.

Mr. Li Guowei (CHN-CMA) presents the candidature for Chongqing.

Marc Norman (USA-USAC) thanks the candidates for their presentations and would like to know from each of them what they would bring to elevate the quality and the exposure of the sport in such a critical time, leading up to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

SAC: having an event in a country with a long climbing tradition will be an opportunity to contribute to the development of Climbing in general.

KOR: KAF hosts many competitions each year and will try to broadcast the competition on TV.

CHN: CCTV 5 (China’s sport channel) will be the main broadcaster of this event giving visibility to the event and the sport.

Bruce Mitchell (USA-USAC) thanks the three candidates for offering to host the 2023 World Championships and asks what each of the countries will do to ensure equal level Paraclimbing inclusion.

SUI: Paraclimbing will be part of the main program and we plan also to build special walls for the competitions.

KOR: KAF will cooperate with Korean Paralympic Committee and try to increase awareness of Paraclimbing.

CHN: CMA will closely follow the instruction of Paraclimbing Committee.

Vote to decide the host of the 2023 Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships		
Bern, SUI	28	APPROVED
Seoul, KOR	9	
Chongqing, CHN	7	

e. Boulder & Lead Combined format

KT presents the Boulder & Lead Combined Format Working Group. Being new to the Olympic Games and environment, the IFSC does not have past examples to learn from. It is very important to pass the knowledge from our first experience to the next, and we started this Working Group to be prepared, even if we have not completed our first experience in Tokyo. In this first phase, the Working Group presented to the Executive Board two viable solutions to approach the Boulder & Lead Format of Paris 2024. Both solutions have pros and cons, and we intend to present all the information to the members [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 31-41] 1. Ranking-based approach, similar to the Tokyo Combined Format. The Sport Climbing community is now rather familiar with this system; however, the numbers show that this model enhances significantly the number of ties. 2. Performance-based approach, similar to many other sports; this model solves significantly the issue of ties and its comprehension is more immediate.

MMS summarises the Executive Board decided to delay the decision on how to structure the Boulder & Lead Combined, as it influences the gold medal of Paris 2024, and additional conversations and analyses will lead to a consensus on the final proposal. It was a great exercise from this large Working Group, in terms of mutual respect between its members as well as in terms of the level of engagement and diversity of experiences. Encourages the Athletes’ Commission to collaborate with the Working Group to find a solution.

Burgi Beste (GER-DAV) comments: Thanks, KT for this very professional work and the very transparent report. For all National Federations it is good to know who the members of a group are, what is the task, what are the roles, the rules and the goals. Good example of the 'new communication' between the Board/Office and the NFs.

Osdaly Haché (VEN-FEVME) asks when the new Boulder & Lead Combined system is expected to be implemented.

MMS responds that as the discussion is still ongoing there is no precise date. First, we will have to wait for the IOC to confirm the inclusion of Sport Climbing in the programme of Paris 2024. Then, there is still time for the Working Group to come to a consensus: it is an important decision and there is no need to rush it.

- f. Sport Development Plan
- g. Technical Commissions

The Sport Development Plan and the Sport and Technical Commission have been sent in the form of written reports.

SV explains that, coherently with the Strategic Plan, there are four major areas of development to focus on:

1. Athletes  
The improvement of events has a direct impact on the athletes; however, the goal is also to support athletes from grassroots to high performance, through workshops and additional opportunities of growth outside the field of play. This will be done through various channels, including the IOC Athletes365 Programme.
2. National Federations  
The development of NFs is not only intended for new or growing federations but also for already developed ones, and there is room to support each other. The goal is to tailor programmes to support the development of officials, coaches, athletes, and a system of transfer of knowledge between NFs and IFSC as well as from NF to NF.
3. Officials  
The IFSC already has processes in place that define the career path of Officials. We intend however to focus more on education and training at all levels, so as to ensure high standards not at IFSC events, but also at continental level and other international events.
4. Coaches  
The starting point is the focus on athletes' safeguarding, for which we have taken input from other International Federations and the IOC. For this we intend to set up a coaches' programme that licences coaches starting from the basics (anti-doping, athletes safeguarding and protection, medical recommendations, etc.), leading in the future to a structure of courses of all levels up to elite training.

The Sport and Technical Commissions are nominated by the Executive Board and follow the same cycle. In April 2021 the Commissions will be formed again, and for this purpose the structure and mandates of each commission has been reviewed so to better complement the Strategic Plan for what concerns the Sport Development aspects. The work of the Commissions will feed directly the goals to be achieved in the next 4-8 years. [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 42-51]

Tijl Smitz (BEL-CMBEL) asks about the Routesetters Commission and its tasks/goals. The diversity programme is great, and the nominations procedure is needed, but in what way is the RS Commission working on quality control and quality development? There is good quality, but it would be good for all to have more of it. Asks what the IFSC strategy is on this aspect and whether it is the RS Commission's responsibility.

SV responds that the answer is complex. The first step is to create a more solid structure: there is a system of evaluation and selection of Judges and Routesetters in place, but we need more structure. Then, in this 8-year plan there is the possibility to have a third body that can evaluate and operate on Officials. This is still hypothetical at the moment as we need to see examples of organisations who have this in place and analyse how to make it work in our system.



## 7. OLYMPIC GAMES 1

Due to time constraints, Head of Olympic and Multi-Sport Games Jérôme Meyer will only present the update on point 7.c, whereas the broader discussion on the Tokyo and Paris Games will be addressed the next day.

JM informs that the Youth Olympic Games of Dakar 2022 have been postponed to 2026 due to many factors, including the postponement of the Tokyo Games and the Beijing Winter Games scheduled to happen six months later [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 71]. The aim is that the YOG in Dakar will create momentum around Sport Climbing in Africa, and in the coming years leading up to the event we will work to grow the sport throughout the continent.

JM adds some information regarding the participation of Sport Climbing in other Multi-Sport Events: the Munich 2022 European Championships, a new type of event in its second edition, scheduled for August 2022 [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 72], the Birmingham (Alabama, USA) 2022 World Games scheduled for July 2022 [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 73-74], the Asian Games of Hangzhou 2022, and the Panam Games of Santiago 2023 [Ref. *2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged*, p. 75].

MMS adds that for the Panam Games we are in a similar situation as for Paris 2024, meaning the news is still not official and we have to wait for the confirmation from Panam Sports, which is scheduled to address the topic at their next General Assembly in mid-December 2020.

The first part of the XVI IFSC General Assembly is adjourned at 4:00 PM UTC+1.

**14 November 2020**
**12:00-16:00 UTC+1**

Country	NF	Delegates	Country	NF	Delegates
ARG	FASA	Martin Lascano	LAT	LAA	Normunds Reinbergs Linda Gruzite
AUS	SCA	Naomi Cleary	LTU	LCSA	Margarita Smirnovienė Milda Koreivaitė
AUT	KVO	Eugen Burtscher Heiko Wilhelm	MAS	PMM	Roy' Mohd Zaidi Kamaruddin
BEL	CMBEL	Tijl Smitz	MEX	FEMED	Alfredo Velazquez
BRA	ABEE	Joao Ricardo Gonçalves	MLT	MSFA	Marco Tomasini
CAN	CEC	Christiane Marceau Joachim Stroink Paul Dormaar	MRI	MSCF	Cathy Foo Kune Avinash Keerodhur
CHN	CMA	Guowei Li	NED	NKBV	Frits Cattenstart Aukje van Weert
CRO	HPS	Alan Čaplar	NOR	NCF	Reino Horak
CYP	CMCOF	Pavlos Georgiades	NZL	CNZ	Richard Waldin David Sanders
CZE	CHS	Jan Bloudek	PAK	ACP	Abu Sadiq
DEN	DKF	Christian Nicolai Ørum-Petersen	PAN	APAES	Rogelio Alvarado
ECU	FEDAN	Eduardo Martinez	PER	FEDPE	Sandra Portugal
ESP	FEDME	Francisco Durà Sempere Lluís Giner Arnabat	PHI	SCAPI	Franz Lim
ESP	FEEC	Quim Hernandez	POL	PZA	Piotr Bunsch
FRA	FFME	Pierre You Damien You Vincent Caussé	POR	FPME	Alberto Cruz
GBR	BMC	Zoe Spriggins	RSA	SANCF	Tracy Potgieter George Stainton
GER	DAV	Burgi Beste Martin Veith	RUS	CFR	Evgeniy Chernyshev Alexander Piratinskiy
GRE	EOOA	Theodoros Tsavaridis	SGP	SMF	Rasip Isnin Hayati Suaidi
GUA	FNAG	Meder Valdez	SLO	PZS	Jure Golob
HKG	CHKCMU	Frederick Yu Francis Lo Shirman So	SRB	USCSF	Slobodan Gejo
INA	FPTI	Zannuba Wahid	SUI	SAC	Hanspeter Sigrist
IND	IMF	Joe Dhillion Sreebash Bhattacharjee	SVK	SMU James	Anton Pacek
IRI	IMSCF	Mahmoud Hashemi Mohammad Havaledar Soheil Asefi	SWE	SKF	Patrik Blom
ISR	ILCA	Yuval Hamburg	TPE	CTAA	Hsuan Hsu
ITA	FASI	Davide Manzoni	TUR	TDF	Ersan Basar
JPN	JMSCA	Yuji Hirayama Shinji Mizumura Yujiro Gohda	UGA	USCF	Brandon Katura
KAZ	MSCFRK	Kazbek Valiyev	UKR	UMCF	Serik Kazbekov
KOR	KAF	Kim Nacksoo Sanghee Cho Sunkyo Jin	USA	USAC	Bruce Mitchell Marc Norman
			VEN	FEVME	Osdaly Haché Federico Pisani

## 8. OLYMPIC GAMES 2

### a. Tokyo Games Event preparation

IFSC Head of Olympic and Multi-Sport Games Coordination Jérôme Meyer [JM] gives a report on the situation concerning the Tokyo Games preparation. A video showing the venue site of Aomi Urban Sports Park shot during the Test Event that took place in March 2020. JM congratulates the great work done by the Tokyo 2020 and Entre-Prises, and reports the result of the Test Event, which was run with no athletes due to the Covid restrictions. A number of operations were tested, nevertheless, including the athletes transition flows, routesetting and sport equipment, technology and particularly timing and scoring (OMEGA). Further explanations were given to describe the venue elements, location, spectator seats, etc. [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 52-59]

IFSC Vice President Sport/Events Kobinata Toru [KT] informs about the dismantling process of the walls that followed the postponement of the Games: with one year delay, the panels have to be stored in a safe place to avoid deteriorating from environmental agents. Reinstallation of the panels is planned for April-May 2021 and the venue is planned to be ready by the arrival of the IFSC Delegation around 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 60-61]

KT gives details about the Covid countermeasures. These are sport-specific and continuously developed and reassessed by IFSC, IOC, TOCOG under various scenarios in order to deliver the Games. JM will reach to NFs with qualified athletes following the Assembly, to engage the conversation on coaches/athletes plan for Tokyo. Other operations and legacy topics are also under ongoing discussion, as well as engagement at various level of fans and audience [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 62-65]

Before moving to Paris 2024, IFSC President Marco Maria Sclaris [MMS] gives some information about the remaining Tokyo Continental quota, namely Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania. MMS shares the receipt of information from the continents on their Covid situations. The difficulties in cancelling the events, and the risks presented by travels are acknowledged. Officially, one request of cancellation and two other requests for postponement were received. Numerous calls and conversations were held to engage with NFs. Hosting Continental qualifying events beyond 2020 will open the qualification system to a new age group, thereby a change of the QS itself, and this is undesirable, since one Continental event (Pan American Championships) already took place under the 2020 age limit. Furthermore, given the very difficult times, the IOC recommends to not change the QS and to go forth with the preparation of the Tokyo Games.

Frits Cattenstart (NED-NKBV) asks if the walls will be adapted for Paraclimbing.

MMS answers that, as clearly expressed in the letter from IPC President Andrew Parsons, we are not a Paralympic Sport so we cannot be considered a Paralympic Sport and we cannot use any facility during the Olympics for a Paraclimbing event. The Tokyo walls will be dismantled after the Olympics and before the Paralympic Games. But the goal is to try and showcase Paraclimbing in Paris 2024 as a demonstration sport, and definitely work to submit a successful bid for Los Angeles 2028.

### b. Paris 2024

#### I. Qualification System

All discussions surrounding Paris 2024 are still pending the IOC Executive Board confirmation of the Paris 2024 Programme. JM informs that the IFSC Executive Board approved three principles to be ready to get to work [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 66-67]

#### II. Next steps

With regard to the timeline, the IFSC will work on an internal QS draft to meet the IOC deadline, as they will be expecting to publish the Paris 2024 Qualification System Principles in the aftermath of the Tokyo Games [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 68-70]

JM and MMS both report on the venue situation. There have been some discussions considering a venue change from Place de la Concorde in central Paris (shared with other sports), to Le Bourget, a suburban Paris area. This is a discussion between the city of Paris and the Organising Committee, in the endeavour to re-qualify some less attractive areas of the city through sport. This change will mean having a venue solely for Sport Climbing, without the complicated logistics of the shared spaces, and it opens to greater possibilities regarding the legacy plans, as the climbing walls could remain in the same place after the Games.

**10. GOVERNANCE**

The Session on Governance and Statute Review starts with the introduction of the motion submitted by the Danish Federation (DKF) with regard to Article 18. Nicolai Ørum-Petersen is called to present the motion. Due to impossibility to connect to the system, IFSC Secretary General Debbie Gawrych [DG] informs that the agenda needs to move forward and introduces the motion submitted by DKF. The motion intends to undo what was voted in at the 2019 General Assembly in Tokyo and reintroduce the majority of attendance to be able to vote on statute amendments. Before calling the vote, IFSC President Marco Maria Scolaris [MMS] reminds that the motion presented by the DKF bears some merits however it proposes to go back to a system that the IFSC has had in place for twelve years. The position of the Executive Board is the same as 2019, when the change was proposed. Many IFs also changed this recently, moving from a high quorum to a no-quorum to change the Statutes: the sport world moves fast and delaying decisions may have consequences on the functioning of an organisation and might weaken leadership. Moreover, democracy is based on the principle of participation and with the reintroduction of the quorum, Statutes may not be changed because of the non-participation of some members.

Vote to approve the motion by the DKF on Article 18						
In favour	26	Against	6	Abstained	10	REJECTED

a. Proposed Statute review [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_9.a\_Statute\_Review\_Final\_forPA\_TBA]

I. Vote to approve the change from *Plenary* to *General Assembly* and replacement of the term in all instances  
 MMS explains the historical reason for the adoption of *Plenary* instead of *General* was requested by the UIAA to distinguish the two events which initially were supposed to take place together. In 2007, the IFSC Members voted to split the two annual meetings, and the IFSC started having its own AGM each year in spring. The time has come to uniform the language of the organisation and use widespread term *General*, also considering that the terminology is not totally correct.

Vote to approve the change from <i>Plenary</i> to <i>General Assembly</i> and replacement of the term in all instances						
In favour	43	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

II. Vote on Cosmetic Statute Amendments [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_9.a\_Statute\_Review\_Lists\_of\_Amendments]  
 DG continues by introducing the cosmetic statute amendments presented to the General Assembly. They have been already presented to the members and they are mainly word changes.

Vote to approve the cosmetic Statute Amendments						
In favour	42	Against	0	Abstained	3	APPROVED

III. Vote on Non-Cosmetic Statute Amendments [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_9.a\_Statute\_Review\_Lists\_of\_Amendments]

Article 5 – Principles	Article 17 – Members’ Representatives
Article 5 BIS – Objectives	Article 18 – Quorum (Motion by DKF)
Article 7 BIS – Admission	Article 19 – Taking of Decisions
Article 10 – Suspension	Article 20 – Agenda
Article 11 – Exclusion	Article 21 – Amendments to the Agenda
Article 11 BIS – No Claim for Reimbursement or Damages	Article 24 – Requirements for Candidacy
Article 13 – Bodies Reflects on Article 25 – Role of the Executive Board; Articles 32-37 on Commissions	Article 42 – budget and Accounts
Article 15 – Powers of the General Assembly Reflects on Article 23 – Executive Board	

DG introduces Oceania Council President Romain Thevenot [RT] to present the non-cosmetic Statute amendments presented to the General Assembly. For the sake of time, articles are presented in groups.

RT presents the amendments to Articles 5 and the introduction of Article 5 BIS, intended to reflect that Principles and Objectives are two separate aspects of the IFSC work. Article 5 BIS includes the motion presented by the Belgian Federation (CMBEL) on Point 5bis.r, concerning a stronger commitment to sustainability and attention to the environment when promoting and planning its activities.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 5 – Principles						
In favour	45	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 5 BIS – Objectives						
In favour	45	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

RT moves to the Membership section of the Statute, and the amendments concerning Admission, Suspension and Exclusion. The amendments proposed simply clarify practices already in place. Members are admitted and excluded by the General Assembly, whereas the Executive Board has the power to suspend a member as a temporary measure in case there are disputes or other issues with a Member.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 7 BIS – Admission						
In favour	46	Against	0	Abstained	2	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 10 – Suspension						
In favour	44	Against	1	Abstained	1	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 11 – Exclusion						
In favour	44	Against	3	Abstained	1	APPROVED

RT introduces the new Article 11 BIS on waving claims for reimbursement or damages. The introduction of this article has been recommended to protect the IFSC from potential financial claim.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 11 BIS – No Claim for Reimbursement or Damages						
In favour	42	Against	0	Abstained	5	APPROVED

Next RT introduces the amendments touching on the IFSC structure and the role of the General Assembly. Article 13 is changed in order to give appropriate names to some of the IFSC Bodies and introduce some new commissions. This approach is intended to better structure the functioning of the organisation, and it also serves as an opportunity to have a broader and more direct engagement of Member Federations within the activities of the IFSC. The approval of these articles directly reflects on Article 25 – Role of the Executive Board and Articles 32 to 37 where each Commission is described in more detail, including the Paraclimbing Committee. With regard to Article 15 to be noted, among other amendments, is the reintroduction of the Treasurer as one of the functions within the IFSC Executive Board elected by the General Assembly.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 13 – IFSC Bodies						
In favour	46	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED



Vote to approve the proposed Article 15 – Powers of the General Assembly						
In favour	49	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED

RT moves to Articles 17 and Article 19 on the representation of members. Article 17 proposes to keep the article before the review presented before the postponement of the March 2020 General Assembly, and therefore to not put a limitation on what topics proxy votes are valid. Article 19 introduces the possibility to vote electronically, and refers to the role of the Nomination Committee, to be discussed later today.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 17 – Members Representatives						
In favour	47	Against	0	Abstained	2	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 19 – Taking of Decisions						
In favour	47	Against	0	Abstained	2	APPROVED

Next, RT presents the amendments concerning the Agenda of the General Assembly. Although presented for approval, the Executive Board already implemented the main change of Article 20 in this GA of 2020, that is to present the Statute amendments with the provisional agenda, to give NFs enough time to review the changes proposed and express comments. The amendment to Article 21 suggests that items relevant to Statutes and Finances may not be added during the General Assembly to avoid taking decisions without proper information, and also considering there is sufficient time in the months leading up to the General Assembly for such additions.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 20 – Agenda						
In favour	45	Against	1	Abstained	1	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 21 – Amendments to the Agenda						
In favour	41	Against	4	Abstained	2	APPROVED

RT proceeds with the presentation of Articles 23-24-25 concerning the composition of the Executive Board and reintroduction of the Treasurer (Art. 23); Requirements for Candidacy where the role of the Nomination Committee is further explained (Art 24); and the Role of the Executive Board, including the new Commissions, corrections to reflect the current management of operations (role of the General Director and management of the staff).

Vote to approve the proposed Article 23 – Executive Board						
In favour	44	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 24 – Requirements for Candidacy						
In favour	43	Against	1	Abstained	1	APPROVED

Vote to approve the proposed Article 25 – Role of the Executive Board						
In favour	43	Against	0	Abstained	4	APPROVED

RT presents Articles 32 to 37 referring to the Commissions, which have been approved through the approval of Article 13 and Article 25. To be noted is that the Anti-Doping Commission is incorporated within the Medical Commission as one of its functions, that Sport Commissions are divided into Sport and Technical Commissions, and the addition of Media, Marketing and Finance Commissions.

Next, RT introduces the last article up for discussion, Article 42 on Budget and Accounts. The article has been simplified, although the sentence ‘meeting international recognised standards’ has been reintroduced following the last NF call where it was noted that this sentence was inadvertently deleted.

Vote to approve the proposed Article 42 – Budget and Accounts						
In favour	42	Against	0	Abstained	3	APPROVED

- b. Elections 2021: Vote to approve the Nomination Committee, Nomination Criteria and Electoral Procedure [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_9.b\_Electoral\_Procedure\_Final\_TBA; Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_9.b\_Nomination\_Committee\_Final\_TBA; Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_9.b\_Nomination\_Criteria\_Final\_TBA]

DG presents the documents related to the Nomination Committee and Electoral Procedure, to be voted all at once. The rewording suggested by the DAV on the Nomination Criteria for the roles of President and Vice President is presented to the members.

Vote to approve the Nomination Committee, Nomination Criteria, and Electoral Procedure						
In favour	43	Against	0	Abstained	4	APPROVED

MMS thanks the Members for the effort in the long process of Statute amendments, which is time and energy consuming. The IFSC Statute was written in 2007 and deeply changed in 2009. Since then, articles have been amended several times in the attempt to keep up with the evolution of the organisation and of the Sport. What was approved today, although mostly cosmetic, is a very important step for the future Executive Board to do a more thorough review of the Statute. The whole process has been a good exercise for everybody, not only today but also in the past months in which we prepared this review with the aim to involve NFs in the process and find consensus. This will be the approach moving forward.

## 11. FINANCE

- a. Financial situation

Vice President of Finance Pierre-Henri Paillason [PHP] introduces the financial update. It has been a very particular year, mostly due to the near-total cancellation of our events. At the beginning of the pandemic, we implemented a conservative approach to safeguard our finances, and the help given by the IOC a few weeks ago contributed to the preservation of the financial wellbeing of the IFSC.

PHP gives the floor to Administration Director Francesca Jengo [FJ] to give the details of the financial situation as of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 until today [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 78]. After summarising what happened between June and November 2020, including the events that were not foreseen in the provisional budget (Briançon World Cup, Speed Knockout, Continental Qualifying Events) [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p.79-80], FJ explains the next steps: following the recommendation of IOC and ASOIF, the Executive Board established that the growth of the annual turnover of the IFSC requires further control mechanisms and undergo external audit. Lastly, the reserves will be allocated in different plans [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 81]

- b. Vote to approve the Fee System 2020-2021 [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_10.b\_Fee\_System\_2020-2021\_TBA]

FJ continues with details on the Fee System that was already presented in February and supposed to be approved at the Limassol General Assembly in March. The summary is reported in the slides [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 82] and the main changes are the introduction of a late registration fee for World Cups, World Championships and Youth World Championships,

as well as a change in the registration fee for the YWCH, going from fee per athlete to fee per athlete per discipline: the same concept applied to World Cups and WCH.

Naomi Cleary (AUS-SCA) asks what the process will be for selecting the auditor.

General Director Piero Rebaudengo [PR] answers that he is in charge of the selection of the external auditor in accordance with the needs of our Federations and according to our regulations. We have made contact with some of the main agencies that work within the international sport environment. The Executive Board will examine the proposal of the most suitable agencies and make a decision.

MMS clarifies that the IFSC already has an Auditor, Dr. Andrea Barabino, who has been serving the IFSC for many years and will continue checking our accounts until 2021. In order to be even more transparent, the Board decided to hire a support to the work of the IFSC Auditor, and this is not subject to the election of the General Assembly. The Auditor for the next term will be appointed in 2021. Having an auditing firm already with us, will help the General Assembly nominate the auditor for the next four years.

Vote to approve the Fee System 2020-2021						
In favour	40	Against	4	Abstained	5	APPROVED

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

a. 2019-2020 Communications report

Head of Communications Marco Vettoretti [MV] introduces himself and reports the 2019 and 2020 seasons. These were two very different years of course, with 2019 seeing a large number of events including World Cups, World Championships, Paraclimbing World Championships, Youth World Championships, the ANOC World Beach Games, and two Olympic Qualifying Events in Hachioji and Toulouse. On the other hand, in 2020 we were only able to host the Pan American Championships and Olympic Qualifying Event for the Pan American Olympic Quota, the online Speed Knockout, and the Lead World Cup in Briançon. The Communications Department covered through corporate news and social media all the IFSC corporate and institutional events that took place in 2019 and 2020, including the General Assembly, Climbing Summit, Officials Seminar, among others. The numbers in viewers and engagement have grown steadily, and our social media have an audience of more than half million people across all channels [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 85-99]

b. 2021 Communications strategy

MV continues presenting the strategy for 2021. With the hope that the pandemic will allow it, the keyword is more: more events, more engagement, more audience. In fact, the main objectives are 1. To turn the audience (passive receiver of information) into community (active search of and engagement with specific content driven by common interest) through the increase in the number of photos taken during the events and the creation and improvement of diverse and innovative digital content; 2. Act as the global information hub for all stakeholders (federations, athletes, event organisers, officials, partners, etc.) through increased distribution of newsletters, the thorough analysis of each competition via post-competition reporting system, and establishing a two-way partnership particularly with Member Federations and Athletes as the main ambassadors of our sport, via open communications, distribution of content and added visibility on IFSC platforms [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 100-110]

DG emphasizes the connections between the re-structured Communications Department and the Strategic Plan, and how the goals complement the IFSC objectives.

c. Tokyo Games Communications plan

In relation to the Tokyo Games, MV reports that the Communications Department, Tokyo 2020 and Olympic Channel are working to maximise communication opportunities before, during and after the Games. Coordination meetings with Tokyo 2020 have already started in order to be up to date regarding ongoing Games developments. Ahead of the Games, the Communications Department is considering the launch of a new website. The analysis is not only to improve the design and user experience, but also the structure that hosts the website that will be tested with high numbers of visitors. [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 107]

### 13. MARKETING

#### a. Marketing vision and main achievements

Marketing Director Anne Fuynel [AF] presents the main goals of the Marketing Department to achieve the IFSC strategy, detailing the various sources of income available for the IFSC and the activities initiated in 2020 with short-term and long-term goals [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 112-120]

#### b. TV update

This was a complicated year due to the effects of the pandemic. The 26-minute highlights were still produced, although reduced from eight to five episodes as there were no events. AF also shows the TV coverage for the three events run so far in 2020, the Pan American Championships, the Speed Knockout, and the Briançon World Cup. In spite of the difficult situation, our competitions were broadcasted in new countries such as Indonesia and Chinese Taipei, and we consolidated our partnership with ESPN Latin America. The goals for next season are focused on giving priority to TV audience during the Olympic Games, with particular attention to the territories described by the ASOIF in the *Tokyo 2020 Games Time Data Collection – Methodology* document, which is part of the evaluation of a sport's performance in terms of audience in key territories. [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 121-124]

#### c. Sponsors' update

AF thanks the IFSC Sponsors who all paid their fee for 2020 and have shown great support to the IFSC in trying to find alternative ways to get visibility. The goal for 2021 will be to strengthen the existing agreements and further develop the collaboration with Dentsu branches in Europe, USA, and Russia [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 125-126]

#### d. Production Plan

AF presents the plan to improve the quality of IFSC events production, by increasing the number of host broadcasters to achieve standards that match international sport production and that are attractive to broadcasters. We will work with executive producers to satisfy the demand of high-quality content, including new TV graphics and adding equipment such as remote cameras and vertical cams/drones for more details. We are also exploring the potential of augmented reality to better display the best features of our sport and communicate them with immediacy to new audiences who are getting familiar with Sport Climbing. [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 127-129]

### 14. ANTI-DOPING

#### a. WADA Rules

Anti-Doping Officer Paolo Orione presents the 2020 Anti-Doping report. Despite the limited number of competitions, it has been a busy year for Anti-Doping, mostly due to the significant changes in the regulatory environment introduced by WADA. This meant an effort to adapt existing regulations to comply with the requirements of the new WADA Code, which will be in place as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The IFSC Anti-Doping Rules have been re-drafted taking into account the new Code and recently approved by WADA. The new regulations are available on the IFSC website, and it is highly recommended that all Member Federations take a look at them. The IFSC is finalising the last details to contract the ITA, the International Testing Authority based in Lausanne, who will provide the IFSC with the necessary expertise and control systems to monitor all Anti-Doping-related activities (out-of-competition testing, administration of the ADAMS platform, management of TUE).

As part of the WADA Strategic Testing Programme, in preparation for the Olympic Games, the IFSC will call for tests for the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021. [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 131]

**15. PARACLIMBING COMMITTEE**

- a. Report of activities [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VGA\_Slides\_Merged, p. 132-139]

Sebastian Depke [SD], Chair of the Paraclimbing Committee, addresses the Members and reports the activities carried out in 2020. First, SD introduces the members of the new Committee just established in 2019. The Paraclimbing Committee identified a set of clear goals for the next years. The most imminent goal is the bid for the inclusion of Paraclimbing in the Paralympic programme of Los Angeles 2028, which will have to be submitted by the end of 2021. Other goals are intended to create stronger connections between the Paraclimbing community and the IFSC, to develop the sport towards professionalism and to promote the sport in general, as outlined in the Strategic Plan. The Committee is primarily focusing on restructuring the Classification system and the consequent training of new classifiers. Similarly, the Paraclimbing Rules are in the process of being updated. In terms of Routesetting, the Paraclimbing Committee with the Paraclimbing Community and Routesetters, have created the Paraclimbing Routesetting Handbook in a joint effort to set guidelines and Paraclimbing-specific needs in routesetting. From an event perspective, the Paraclimbing Committee is looking at increasing the number of competitions to gain more experience and more visibility. To do this, the Paraclimbing Committee designed a predictability system to help event organisers find the best format for Paraclimbing events based on the number of athletes, the time available and routes available.

The goals for 2021 are to run three World Cups, complete the new IPC-based Classification system and re-classify all athletes according to the new system. Lastly, the Committee intends to run seminars in classification and routesetting to transfer knowledge within this new system, and finally create the best premises to make a successful bid for the inclusion of Paraclimbing in the 2028 Paralympic Games.

While the IFSC is working to find a way to make the sport ready for the Paralympics. The IPC requires 32 countries participating at international competitions, and so far, there are 24. SD encourages Member Federations to call for their athletes, to update their databases and to spread the word of Paraclimbing within their communities: there are a lot of climbers with disabilities who do not know that Paraclimbing exists and there is a competition format specifically designed for them.

MMS thanks SD for the great work done by the Paraclimbing Committee and for always advocating for the opportunities of Paraclimbers. Referring to a comment from Pierre You (FRA-FFME) saying that NFs can also become members of their National Paralympic Committee, MMS invites once again NFs to approach their Paralympic Committees, to tell them that Paraclimbing exists and it is a beautiful sport. USA Climbing is also offering to support any Federation interested in advancing Paraclimbing. There is a movement here: catch it. The IFSC cannot achieve this goal alone, we need Federations to get involved. It is a big challenge, but this is the time to create the foundation to achieve this objective.

- b. Vote to validate the Paraclimbing Committee Regulations and ratify the Paraclimbing Committee  
 [Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_14.b\_Paraclimbing\_Committee\_Regulations\_TBA;  
 Ref. 2020\_IFSC\_VPA\_14.b\_Paraclimbing\_Committee\_Composition]

Sport Director Silvia Verdolini [SV] presents the vote to validate the document that SD referred to in the previous presentation, detailing the work done and future goals of the Paraclimbing Committee. In addition, the second part of the vote is to formally ratify the composition of the Paraclimbing Committee.

Vote to validate the Paraclimbing Committee Regulations and ratify the Paraclimbing Committee						
In favour	42	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

**16. MEDICAL COMMISSION**

- a. Report of activities

Please refer to the written report.

**17. ATHLETES COMMISSION**

- a. Report of activities

President of the Athletes' Commission Sean McColl (SMC) reports about the first Olympic Qualifying year, officially started in 2019 with the Hachioji World Championships. On that same occasion, the Athletes' Commission held elections to replace six new members to sit on the Athletes' Commission, and subsequently the AC nominated Shauna Coxsey (GBR) as Vice President to sit as female representative on the IFSC Executive Board. The rest of the Commission will be elected at the next World Championships in Moscow 2021. Throughout the year, Athletes have been involved in the various Working Groups and Task Forces put in place by the IFSC. The AC aims at having more regular meetings in order to get a broader involvement of the athletes. SMC welcomes Shauna Coxsey (SC) to her first General Assembly. SC is thankful for the opportunity to sit on the Board and to advocate for the Athletes and looks forward to working more with the Athletes Commission.



Tijl Smitz (BEL-CMBEL) comments that many athletes have the impression of not being properly represented. They often do not know what is going on, they do not feel informed nor consulted. Asks if this is a wrong feeling, and how the Athletes' Commission works closely with all athletes, not only the ones in the Commission, and if there are any specific plans in 2021 for this.

SMC answers that he sometimes gets this message from athletes, that they are not represented, and what happens is that when athletes are reached out to personally, they do have a lot to say, but then it is hard to get them to share those thoughts at meetings and in a constructive manner to find solutions. Feedback and even complaints are welcome, but they need to be presented in a way that is constructive and oriented to solving the issue at hand, whether it is to the Executive Board or the Sport Department. At the AC we want the athletes to be heard and to feel represented, and we intend to continue sending out a report after each World Cup to the athletes to share the experiences and feedback for each event. SMC encourages athletes' representatives to be actively involved and to spread the discussions with their peers.

MMS thanks Tijl Smitz for opening this discussion, and comments that he is often asked by other IF Presidents and representatives how the IFSC convinced its NFs and made it possible to have two athletes' representatives on the Executive Board. The answer is always that the motion was unanimously approved: the athletes are our reason to be and therefore they must be heard. Said that, this concept must also extend to our Member Federations: if NFs representatives do not talk with IFSC representatives, it does not work. There needs to be a two-way communication, and we know this system is not totally established within our Members. MMS encourages NFs to make it a priority within their organisations to have athletes represented on their Boards, on the Commissions, and other bodies.

## 18. DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS COMMISSIONS

- a. Report of activities

Please refer to the written report.

## 19. CONTINENTAL COUNCILS

- a. Africa
- b. Asian Council
- c. European Council
- d. Oceania Council
- e. Pan American Council

Please refer to the written reports.

## 20. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- a. Updates from CAC

Honorary Member Reindert Lenselink is not able to present due to unforeseen occurrences. CAC Trustee Shauna Coxsey (SC) gives a short report on his behalf.

SC informs that despite everything happening this year, CAC has had a lot of support throughout 2020, and thanks everyone who has donated to CAC for the continued support.

- b. Peace & Sport 2019

Honorary Member Paola Gigliotti [PG] gives a report on Peace & Sport activities. The International Federation of Sport Climbing has always felt a particular attachment to the programmes concerning education, social inclusion, gender equality and environmental protection. The IFSC has an active role in the forums and events of Peace&Sport. Our commitment has also been recognised by the inclusion of PG among the six members of the international panels of judges during the Peace&Sport Awards 2019.

2020 was supposed to be a very special year for climbers because for the first time we would have attended the Olympic Games in Tokyo. We would have liked to celebrate this *April 6*, the UN International day of Sport for Peace, with even greater commitment, including the celebratory *Carton Blanc*, during the General Assembly in Cyprus.

We were supposed to hold a Climbing Marathon with the universities that joined our programmes. We would have ended the celebrations in Syracuse with an Open Climbing Day for refugee children and unaccompanied minors.

However, all of that was not possible due to pandemic, and we rebounded on a virtual event, *Climbing House Climbing Life Climbing World*. We invited as many people as possible to join us by sending a photo of them climbing in their house with a white card in one hand. Luckily, we received a lot of pictures from everywhere, and it was a great pleasure to have involved so many people of all ages. We tried to tackle the pandemic and strict lockdowns in as many ways as possible, in the attempt to motivate and keep the climbing community busy at home. Peace&Sport is very appreciative of the work done by the IFSC and would like to have the IFSC nominated for one of their Awards next year.



MMS warmly thanks PG for her unrelenting support to eh IFSC, but even more for all her hard work in being at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic.

**21. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- a. 2021 Elective General Assembly: 23-24 April 2021 – Paris, France

Pierre You, President of the French Federation FFME, presents the preliminary information ahead of the 2021 General Assembly to be held in Paris on 23-24 April 2021.

- b. 2022 General Assembly: Host TBA