Annual General Assembly

Stockholm, Sweden

*0900, 10th September 2016*

# Agenda

1. Reading of Notice of Assembly.

2. Report on Credentials of Representatives and Quorum.

3. Exclusion/suspension of a Member Association.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

5. Reading of the Minutes of the last General Assembly and approval thereof.

6. Business arising out of the Minutes.

7. Minute of Remembrance for Friends and Colleagues no longer with us.

8. Report of the President.

9. Report of the Executive Board and Committees.

10. Report of the Auditors

11. Receive the Finance Report, Audited Statement and Discharge to the Board

12. Appointment of the Auditors

13. Presentation of the Budget.

14. Approval of Annual Subscriptions

15. Resolutions.

16. Further business.

17. Elections.

18. Acceptance of a new Member Association.

19. Date and location of next General Assembly.

# 12. Appointment of Auditors

### Resolution

To appoint Mazars as the auditors for the World Curling Federation

# 14. Approval of Annual Subscriptions

No change is proposed to the rate of the Annual Subscriptions for the 2017/2018 season.

# 15. Resolutions

The following resolutions have been received by the World Curling Federation in line with the timelines laid down in the Constitution. Where relevant the views of the Competition and Rules Commission and the Athletes Commission are noted.

Any amendments to these Resolutions must be received by the Secretariat by 19 August 2016.

## a) Update to WCF Anti-Doping Rules

### Rationale

The following changes reflect an update to the Rules to mean that if one person in a Mixed Doubles team commits an anti-doping rules violation then the team is disqualified. This ensures a consistent approach to anti-doping with other sports in disciplines where the team cannot be altered once the game has started and where, therefore, the team is considered as an ‘individual’ for results purposes i.e. in Mixed Doubles if one person is removed from a team for whatever reason they may not continue playing with only one person in the team, in Men’s and Women’s curling the team is permitted to play with 3 players or bring on the alternate.

### Resolution

To adopt the changes shown in red to Article 11 Consequences to Teams of the WCF Anti-Doping Rules

**11.1 *Testing* of *Team Sport*s**

Where one or more ~~than one~~ members of a team in a *Team Sport* has been notified of an anti-doping rule violation under Article 7 in connection with an *Event*, the ruling body for the *Event* shall conduct appropriate *Target Testing* of the team during the *Event Period*.

**11.2 *Consequences* for *Team Sport*s**

If more than one member~~s~~ of a team (or one or more members of a team in the case of Mixed Doubles) in a *Team Sport* are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during an *Event Period*, the ruling body of the *Event* shall impose an appropriate sanction on the team (e.g., loss of points, *Disqualification* from a *Competition* or *Event*, or other sanction) in addition to any *Consequences* imposed upon the individual *Athlete*s committing the anti-doping rule violation.

## b) Update to the Constitution

### Rationale

Based on what happened this past season with the Sweeping/Brush issue, the WCF Board was limited to enforcing the existing rules and unable to change any rules to address the issue until the next General Assembly. This Constitutional change would allow the WCF Board to make Rule changes between General Assemblies in emergency situations to allow the integrity of the sport to be upheld while still respecting the authority of the General Assembly.

### Resolution

To adopt the changes shown in red to article 16.13 of the WCF Constitution v7 approved at the 2014 Annual Assembly in Reno.

* 1. The Board has the following powers:
     1. when urgent, take decisions normally assumed by the General Assembly (as per Art. 15), except election of Board Members, expulsion of a Member Association, changes to the Constitution and dissolution of the WCF. In addition in emergency situations between General Assemblies, the Board may propose changes to the Rules of Curling and the Rules of Competition. Any changes proposed by the Board in an emergency situation will be circulated to the Member Associations and if more than 10% of the Member Associations, holding full membership and being in good standing object in writing to the Board within 72 hours of notice being given, the rule change will not be implemented and the matter will be referred to the next General Assembly of the WCF. Otherwise the Board’s decision to revise the rule(s) for the emergency situation will stand until the next General Assembly.
     2. In such ~~a~~ cases the decision must be approved ~~by the next General Assembly~~ in accordance with the constitutional requirements at the next General Assembly.

### Amendment – Proposed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

The notice period of 72 hours is too short when considering time zones, holidays and weekends therefore it is proposed to amend the time period for notice to a minimum of 3 working days.

## c) Proposals relating to Rules of the Game

## i) Permit team time-outs at events that do not have time clocks, Rule C7 (a):

### Rationale:

The events that are most likely not to have timing are the junior and qualification events (i.e. – WJBCC, ECC-B, ECC-C and WWhBCC). The teams playing at these events probably can gain the most from time-outs with their coach and additional time to consider strategy.

### Recommendation:

Time-outs should be allowed at all WCF events, with or without time clocks being used.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES ; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## ii) Double-touch during delivery. Rule R8 (a)(i)

### Rationale:

During the delivery of a stone, if a stone is released by the player and then re-touched it should be removed from play. This is next to impossible for an umpire at the opposite end of the sheet to notice, especially if it is a very minor touch. Some players re-set their hand when applying the handle, or run a finger across the back of the stone, if these actions are taken it does not give any unfair advantage to the deliverer.

### Recommendation:

Allow a double-touch, if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

### Amendment – proposed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Delete ‘if it is part of a player’s delivery technique.’ As it is not clear what is not part of a players deliver technique.

## iii) Playing out of proper rotation in Mixed Doubles, Rule R15 (d) NEW part (i) :

### Rationale:

With only two players it is important to have a clear rule about playing out of proper rotation, as an unfair advantage might be gained. Suggest two scenarios: (a) played out of proper rotation and discovered before the next stone is delivered, (b) played out of proper rotation and not discovered before the next stone is delivered.

### Recommendation:

For (a) above: Stone should be removed from play. For (b) Play continues and the player that delivered the first stone of the end, can deliver a maximum of two stones in that end.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## iv) Starting a competition with 3 players. Rule C2 (j)

### Rationale:

Currently a team cannot start a competition with three (3) players (regular curling) and the team forfeits every game until it can start a game with four qualified players. A team could arrive at a championship with 4 or 5 players, but due to illness, accident or other extenuating circumstance(s), they cannot field a team of 4 players. If a panel of 3 persons (President or Representative, event Technical Delegate, event Chief Umpire) agree the team fully intended to have 4 players available for play, then the team would be allowed to start any game with 3 players, without penalty.

### Recommendation:

With approval, allow teams to play with 3 players, including the first game of an event, without penalty.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## v) Scoring R11(i): (i) & (ii)

### Rationale:

Currently if a team is unable to start a game at the designated time, end(s) are considered played and the non-offending team receives point(s) and last stone in the first end of actual play.

### Recommendation:

Change the last part to say … and will have choice of first or second stone in the first end of actual play.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## vi) Timing rule – no clock running. New – C6 Game Timing (p)

### Rationale:

If a time clock should have been running, but is not, one team gains the advantage of actually having more time. We have a well-accepted policy that time is never taken away from a team’s time clock. To balance this mistake, the amount of time that should have been taken off the one clock, will be added to the other clock.

### Recommendation:

To ensure the teams have the same amount of thinking time in a game, insert the new rule: C6 (p) A team whose time clock did not run due to a timing error (no clock running) will not have time deducted from its time clock, but the appropriate amount of time will be added to the other team’s time clock.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## vii) Travel time during time-outs. Revised interpretation of Rule C7 (c)(iii)

### Rationale:

Currently teams that do not have a coach (often financial reasons), or if the coach is not coming to the Field of Play, do not receive travel time. So receiving less time to think during time-outs penalizes these teams. Also, it is difficult for the officials to sometimes determine if a coach is actually coming to the Field of Play, so it is difficult to know when to cancel the travel time.

### Recommendation:

Allow a fixed amount of time for all time-outs (travel time + 60 seconds) and give this to all teams, whether or not they have a coach, and whether or not a coach is coming to the Field of Play.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## viii) Sweeping Rules R7 (a)

### Rationale:

The current rule says the sweeping motion is in a side-to-side direction (it need not cover the entire width of the stone). The Sweeping Summit decisions make the “side-to-side” term unnecessary.

### Recommendation:

New wording for R7 (a): The sweeping motion can be in any direction (it need not cover the entire width of the stone), deposits no debris in front of a moving stone, and finishes to either side of the stone.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## ix) Uniform / Equipment C3 – NEW

### Rationale:

To prevent players from switching brushes (sliding them up and down the ice surface) and to promote the fairness of the game it is suggested new rules be added to the Rules of Competition.

### Recommendation:

Add the following new rules:

C3 (e): Each player must declare his or her approved sweeping device at the start of a game, and only that player can use that device for sweeping during the game. Penalty: if a player sweeps with another person’s sweeping device the stone shall be removed from play.

C3 (f): A player may not change their brush head during a game, unless the Chief Umpire grants special permission. Penalty: If a change is made without permission, the team will forfeit the game.

C3 (g): If an alternate player comes into a game, they must use the brush of the player they are replacing. Penalty: If a new sweeping device is brought into the game, the team will forfeit the game.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

### Amendment – Proposed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Add to the Glossary of Terms a definition of ‘brush head’.

## x) Remove the first sentence in – Rule R10 (e)

### Rationale:

New rules cover this.

### Recommendation:

In R10 (e) Remove: A player may change the type of brush or synthetic broom at any time during a game, provided there is no delay*.*

Also, remove the mention of corn brooms (2nd sentence of this rule).

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## xi) Performance Standards as part of the Rules of Competition – New – Rule C3 (h)

### Rationale:

R10 (a) Equipment rule states that “no player shall cause damage to the ice surface by means of equipment…” Currently that is the only rule that can prohibit sweeping equipment from being used. It is felt that there should also be a rule that prevents players from using equipment that results in an exception performance result and consequently an unfair advantage.

### Recommendation:

Create a New Rule

C3 (h): All Field of Play equipment used at WCF competitions must meet WCF Equipment Standards. Reasons for equipment being considered non-approved include, but not restricted to: damage to the ice surface, non-conformance with existing rules or standards (i.e. - electronic communication devices), performance testing results that give an unfair advantage, failing to register equipment with the WCF office by the deadline date.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

### Amendment – Proposed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

At the end of the first sentence of the proposed C3(h) add ‘as defined and published on the WCF Website’

## xii) Penalty for using non-compliant equipment – New – Rule C3 (i):

### Rationale:

The new approved equipment rule (C3 (h)) should have a strict penalty clause attached to it.

### Recommendation:

Create new rule:

C3 (i): The penalty for using equipment in WCF competitions which does not conform to standards for Competition Equipment established by the WCF:

(i) First team offence during a competition – the player is disqualified from the competition and the team forfeits the game.

(ii) Second team offence during a competition – the team is disqualified from the competition and all players are not permitted to play in WCF competitions for a 12-month period.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

### Amendment – Proposed by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

It is felt that the proposed punishments are more draconian that those in place for drug taking. The following is proposed:

(i) First team offence during a competition – the team forfeits the game.

(ii) Second team offence during a competition – the team is disqualified from the competition.

## xiii) Teams – Rule R3 (b)

### Rationale:

Add the words “or positions” to enhance the rule.

### Recommendation:

In R3 (b) A team that deliberately changes its delivery rotation, or positions, during a game will forfeit the game, unless it was done when bringing in an alternate player.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## xiv) Touched Moving Stones – Rule R8 (d)

### Rationale:

As we saw at the WMCC in Basel, a moving stone can be touched by a stone deflecting off the sheet dividers, this rule covers this situation.

### Recommendation:

Create New Rule

R8 (d) If a moving stone is touched by a stone deflecting off the sheet dividers, the non-delivering team shall place the stone where it reasonably considers the stone would have come to rest had the moving stone not been touched.

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## xv) Scoring – Rule R11 (a)

### Rationale:

At each event there is a policy that tells the minimum number of ends that must be played during the round robin and playoffs. But sometimes a team is mathematically eliminated (meaning the game is over according to R11 (a)) before the minimum number of ends is reached. Which policy or rule takes preference? Suggest that all teams must play the minimum number of ends in a game.

### Recommendation:

Insert in R11 (a): …or when one team is arithmetically eliminated, *provided the minimum number of ends have been completed.*

Supported by the C&R Commission – YES; Supported by the Athlete Commission – YES

## xvi) Add to the Glossary of Teams a definition of debris:

### Rationale:

There is currently no definition of debris

### Recommendation:

insert into the Glossary of Terms - Debris: Any substance, including frost, snow or material originating from brushes, shoes or clothing.

## xvii) Insert a word into R1 (a) to confirm the sport is played on ice:

### Rationale:

The IOC define Winter sports as being played on snow and ice, this would confirm that curling is played on ice.

### **Recommendation**:

Change the wording of the rule to:R1 (a) The length of the *ice*sheet from…

## d) Motions from Member Associations

## i) Members Meetings (submitted by Canada, Denmark and USA)

### Rationale:

In September 2015 during the Annual Curling Congress in Belgrade, Serbia the Member Associations of the World Curling Federation (WCF) agreed by consensus to request that Member Associations and the WCF Board of Directors meet in person at least twice per year in order to ensure an alignment of priorities between the Member Associations (MAs) and the WCF.

In response to the MAs’ request the WCF Board of Directors held an extra half-day meeting during the World Men’s Championship in Basel, Switzerland earlier this year. Because the meeting was not mandatory, there was only one half-day session, and no formal agenda, many MAs did not attend.

A concern was expressed that smaller curling nations would not attend a second yearly meeting due to the lack of resources which in turn would lead to the larger curling nations having too much influence. Past experience has shown this is not a substantial risk. Prior to the first Curling Congress in Scotland in 2013 the MAs met twice per year and smaller curling nations consistently attended. The meeting in Basel this year also saw several smaller curling nations attend despite the shorter meeting and having to pay their own expenses.

Further, with regard to larger curling nations having more influence, past experience shows there is no reason for concern. Larger curling nations have historically shown a willingness to assist in the development of the sport across the world. Many larger nations have shared best practices and resources with developing curling nations. In addition, the break-out sessions in Belgrade proved that the larger and smaller curling nations have far more in common than their differences.

While it is important for the WCF to be fiscally responsible it is recommended that the WCF continue the financial support of Member Associations attending the Annual Curling Congress. The WCF should also consider financial support, especially to the developing curling nations, to attend the second in person meeting where fiscally possible.

### Recommendation:

That the World Curling Federation shall hold a minimum of two in-person meetings with its Member Associations per year.

# 17. Elections

## Vice President (Pacific-Asia)

Hugh Millikin (AUS)

## Director (Position 3)

Catherine Lindahl (SWE)

Laura Lochanski (CAN)

# 19. Future Meetings

Open Meetings for Member Associations will be held in Beijing, China, 24th and 25th March 2017

The 2017 Annual Congress will be held in Bled, Slovenia, 14th -17th September 2017, the Annual Assembly to be held on the 17th September.