

**MINUTES OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GOLF  
FEDERATION MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2022  
LE GOLF NATIONAL, GUYANCOURT, FRANCE**

---

PRESENT

National Federation Members:

Mustafa Mastoor	Afghanistan Golf Federation
Miguel Leeson	Argentina Golf Association
Andres Schonbaum	Argentina Golf Association
David Greenhill	Golf Australia
Robert Armour	Golf Australia
Duajj Aleid	Bahrain Golf Association
Fanny Cnops	Royal Belgian Golf Federation
Gilles Gbaguidi	Benin Golf Federation
Alphonse Kounouho	Benin Golf Federation
Craig Brown	Bermuda Golf Association
Osmar de Costa Sobrinho	Brazilian Golf Confederation
Emiliy Phoenix	Golf Canada
Felipe Bertin	Chilean Golf Federation
Gabriel Morgan	Chilean Golf Federation
Xiaoning Zhang	People's Republic of China
Tian Zhang	People's Republic of China
Fabio Javier Villamizar Zurek	Colombian Golf Federation
Alejandro Duque	Costa Rican Golf Federation
Sonja Jelaca	Croatian Golf Association
Gordana Popovic Vincic	Croatian Golf Association
Petr Savrda	Czech Golf Federation
Lars Broch Christensen	Danish Golf Union
Morten Backhausen	Danish Golf Union
Carlos Elmudesi	Dominican Golf Federation
Francisco Torres	Ecuador Golf Federation
Omar Siham	Egyptian Golf Federation
Mohammed Attallah	Egyptian Golf Federation
Abdullah AlHashmi	Emirates Golf Federation
Akram Skaik	Emirates Golf Federation
Nigel Edwards	England Golf
Kristo Raudam	Estonian Golf Association
Antti Peltoniemi	Finnish Golf union
Juha Korhonen	Finnish Golf Union
Pascal Grizot	French Golf Federation
Christophe Muniesa	French Golf Federation
Marcus Neumann	German Golf Association
Richard Sablan	Guam National Golf Federation
Sirena Cassidy	Guam National Golf Federation
Mario Taracena	Guatemala Golf Association
Roberto Lowenthal	Guatemala Golf Association
Zoran Mirkov	Golf Association of Serbia
D.J. Neeree	Golf Federation of Haiti
Thomas Tokas	Hellenic Golf Federation
Martin Wai Ho	Hong Kong Golf Association
Hulda Bjarnadottir	Golf Union of Iceland
Orn Haukur	Golf Union of Iceland
Ishwar Achanta	Indian Golf Union
Bibhuti Bhushan	Indian Golf Union
Leith Barnouti	Iraqi Golf Federation
Mark Kennelly	Golf Ireland
Hamid Azizi	Islamic Republic of Iran Golf Federation
Anna Roscio	Italian Golf Federation
Massimo Messina	Italian Golf Federation
Andy Yamanka	Japan Golf Association
Yuji Okubo	Japan Golf Association
Hala Ghawi	Jordan Golf Federation

Nidal Majali	Jordan Golf Federation
Yerbol Bukharbayev	Kazakhstan Golf Federation
Vincent Wang'ombe	Kenya Golf Union
Peter Tinner	Liechtenstein Golf Association
Mackelis Gedimnas	Lithuania Golf Federation
Eric Mohr	Luxembourg Golf Federation
Marc Schmit	Luxembourg Golf Federation
Fernando Lemmen	Mexican Golf Federation
Raja Hasnaoui	Royal Moroccan Golf Federation
Jalil Benazzouz	Royal Moroccan Golf Federation
Caroline Huyskes	Netherlands Golf Federation
Gregg Thorpe	Golf New Zealand
Dean Murphy	Golf New Zealand
Oyvind Rojahn	Norwegian Golf Federation
Jamie Wood	Oman Golf Association
Mian Muhammad Hilas Hussain	Pakistan Golf Federation
Raul Ford	Panama Golf Association
Gabrielle Deleuze	Panama Golf Association
Valeriano Il Floro	National Golf Association of the Philippines
Radoslaw Franczak	Polish Golf Union
Janusz Sikora	Polish Golf Union
Christine Beauchamp	Puerto Rico Golf Association
Sidney Wolf	Puerto Rico Golf Association
Fahad Nasser Al Naimi	Qatar Golf Association
Ian Pattinson	The R&A
Alick Bisset	The R&A
Hyungmo Kang	Korea Golf Association
Sangwon Ko	Korea Golf Association
Alexander Kochetkov	Russian Golf Association
Marina Minina	Russian Golf Association
Mohammed AlEissa	Saudi Arabian Golf Federation
Fahad Al Shammari	Saudi Arabian Golf Federation
Chong Huat Tan	Singapore Golf Association
Joshua Ho	Singapore Golf Association
Adam Sangala	Slovak Golf Association
Henk Smith	Golf RSA
Sarah Braude	Golf RSA
Gonzaga Escauriaza	Royal Spanish Golf Federation
Luis Mendez	Royal Spanish Golf Federation
Catherine Spooner	St Lucia Golf Association
Habib Chreiki	St Lucia Golf Association
Martin Karlsson	Swedish Golf Federation
Gunnar Hakansson	Swedish Golf Federation
Barbara Albisetti	Swiss Golf
Thomas Busin	Swiss Golf
Kuan-Po Huang	Chinese Taipei Golf Association
Puakpiboon Arnan	Thailand Golf Association
Maher Bouchamaoui	Tunisia Golf Federation
Ferihane Bouchamaoui	Tunisia Golf Federation
Recep Turan	Turkey Golf Federation
Alena Tereshchuk	Ukraine Golf Federation
John Bodenhamer	United States Golf Association
Stephanie Parel	United States Golf Association
Mario Maya	Venezuela Golf Federation
Stephanie Gelleni	Venezuela Golf Federation
Gillian O'Leary	Wales Golf
Martin Chikwana	Zimbabwe Golf Association

Chairman: Mr Mike Whan, USGA

In attendance: Mr. Ian Pattinson (Joint Charman, The R&A)  
 Mr Antony Scanlon (Executive Director – International Golf Federation)  
 Ms Claudia Garduño (Women's Chair – International Golf Federation)  
 Mr Robin Bell (The R&A)

Mrs Nicki Hirayama (JGA)  
Mr Tony Bennett (International Golf Federation)  
Mr Robert Fiala, Emirates Federation for 2023 WATC presentation  
Mr Adel Zarouni, Emirates Federation for 2023 WATC presentation  
Mr Khalid Mubarak Al Shamsi, Emirates Federation for 2023 WATC presentation

Observers: Mr David Wilson (The R&A)  
Mr Niall Farquharson (The R&A)

## **WELCOME**

Mr Ian Pattinson, Joint Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and announcing that Mr Mike Whan would chair the meeting in his capacity as Joint Chairman.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

The Chairman began by thanking Mr Pattinson for his introduction and confirmed the meeting does satisfy the quorum requirements with 76 National Federation members in attendance. Participants are attending both online and in person. Therefore, the Chairman was able to proceed with this as a valid meeting.

The Chairman introduced a representative from Lumi who outlined the procedure for electronic voting during the meeting to the membership and performed a test vote.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chairman requested the approval of the Minutes from the 2020 Biennial Meeting held virtually on 20 October 2020.

The Minutes were approved.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA**

Mr Scanlon began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and mentioned one matter arising from the minutes not included in the agenda being a question raised by several National Federations on the possibility to allow "Professionals as team captains at World Amateur Team Championships".

The Administrative Committee decided during their meeting the previous day to send a survey to all the National Federations asking for their opinion on this matter as it had been done following the 2018 Biennial meeting regarding whether advice givers could be professionals. The survey result will then be submitted to the Administrative Committee who will then provide a recommendation to the Competitions Committee for the WATC Dubai 2023 Conditions.

There were no questions.

### **4. ITEMS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Chairman provided an overview of the items covered and discussed the previous day during the Administrative Committee meeting, which included:

#### **a. 2023 WATC Emirates Golf Federation**

It was reported that Mr Robert Fiala, from the Emirates Golf Federation gave a presentation on the progress of planning and preparations for the 2023 WATC to the Administrative Committee. The Committee commended the Federation for their report and the progress made to date.

Following this the Administrative Committee discussed the Qualification System and field sizes for 2023, given that the entries for each championships will be limited to not less than 36 teams but are investigating whether the field could be expanded to 42 teams depending on light. Various scenarios regarding field sizes and qualifications were discussed. Following this, the Administrative Committee recommended that the Competition Committee, when developing the qualification system, ensures the strongest field possible coupled with a good balance in the diversity of the regions of countries participating. They directed the Competitions Committee to provide “real time” scenarios from the current WAGR rankings for the Administrative Committee to review and to decide on the qualification system.

#### **b. 2025 World Amateur Team Championships**

The Chairman noted the Administrative Committee appreciation of the hard work done by the bid panel members in coming to their recommendations.

It was reported that the Bid Committee had recommended that due to the high quality and strength of the submissions made by both candidates, the Singapore Golf Association and the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation, following agreement from both candidates that the 2025 WATC be awarded to the Singapore Golf Association and find that the 2027 WATC Royal Moroccan Golf Federation be awarded the 2027. This recommendation was submitted to the IGF Board at its July 2022 meeting, and they unanimously supported this recommendation.

Following this the Administrative Committee supported the recommendations, and all voted unanimously on recommending to the biennial meeting the awarding of the 2025 WATC to the Singapore Golf Association and for the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation be awarded the 2027 WATC.

#### **c. 2023 Administrative Committee Appointments to the IGF Board**

The meeting was informed that the IGF Administrative Committee approved the reappointment of Ms Claudia Garduño (FMG) - Women’s Chairman of the Administrative Committee and Ms Nobuko Hirayama (JGA) as members of the IGF Board for 2023.

Mr Antony Scanlon thanked Ms Garduño and Ms Hirayama for their tremendous contributions to the IGF Board.

### **5. WORLD AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

#### **a. 2023 WATC Emirates Golf Federation**

The Chairman welcomed the Emirates Golf Federation (EGF) representatives, General Abdullah AlHashmi, Mr Akram Skaik and Mr Robert Fiala to the Meeting and invited Mr Fiala to give a presentation to the meeting on the progress and planning to date, which started with a video message from. H.E Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Bin Khalid Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Emirates Golf Federation.

The 2023 WATC will be hosted at the Jumeriah Golf Estate, more precisely the “Fire Course” opened in 2010. This course has hosted two professional events in the past: the “Golf in Dubai Championship” in 2020 and the “AVIV Championship” in 2021.

The EGF is working with four different partners to offer accommodation: Ibis, Novotel, Adagio and Mövenpick, from 3 stars to 5 stars categories. Mr Fiala mentioned that rates are already set for all visitors and will not go higher. A map of hotel location was showed. Hotel are located about 30

minutes away from the Golf Course. The organisers are working with the Accor group on an online reservation booking process to be used via the event website.

The Dubai International airport is located 40 minutes from the Course.

The Championships logo is a mixed of the National Federation logo and the WATC mention. The colours are the UAE colours.

The EGF has formed a committee of key stakeholders from the Emirates Golf Federation, Dubai Golf, and Falcon Golf. This Committee has had 4 meetings in preparation of today's presentation.

The EGF and Jumeirah Golf Estates will be hosting the IGF for a site visit mid October 2022.

End of the presentation.

The Chairman thanked the EGF for their work so far and added that everyone is looking forward to the 2023 Championships.

## **b. Host of 2025 WATC**

The Chairman stated that as referenced during his earlier report, on "Matters Arising from the Administrative Committee", the committee discussed the bid process for 2025 and event locations going forward and following a recommendation from the bid panel, both the IGF Board and the Administrative Committee have all unanimously voted on a motion to support their recommendation for the 2025 WATC event in Singapore and 2027 WATC in Morocco. He went back on the bid process of the Cities for 2025 and 2027 WATC and thanked Sidney Wolf for leading up the Bid Panel. He reconfirmed the acceptance of the Administrative Committee the previous day to allocate both next Championships respectively to Singapore and Morocco.

Mr Antony Scanlon asked the meeting to approve the recommendation from the Board and Administrative Committee to vote on a Motion to allocate the 2025 WATC to Singapore Golf Federation and the 2027 WATC to the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation.

Mr Lars Broch Christensen from the Danish Golf Union raised his concern that there may be some National Federations that may have wished to bid for the 2027 WATC and were not given the opportunity to do so. The Chairman agreed but reinstated that both bids were very strong and of very good quality and that the Board and Administrative Committee felt it would be a pity not to take the opportunity to work with those Federations.

Mrs Nicki Hirayama, member of the IGF Board, was appointed as the scrutineer during the vote and watched over the vote with Lumi.

The meeting were asked to vote on the Motion: "Do you approve the recommendation of the Administrative Committee that:

Singapore Golf Association be the host of 2025 World Amateur Team Championships and Royal Moroccan Golf Federation the host of 2027 World Amateur Team Championships?"

The motion was approved by 84 votes in favour (85,71%) and 14 votes against. The Chairman congratulated both the Singapore Golf Association and Royal Moroccan Golf Federation on their election to host the World Amateur Team Championships.

## **6. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

### **a. Audited accounts 2020 & 2021**

Mr Scanlon reported that the financial statements of the IGF for 2020 and 2021 had been provided to the IGF memberships and to the meeting attendees ahead of the meeting. The IGF Accounts have been audited by PWC and approved by the IGF Board.

As reported on the 2020 Biennial Meeting Financial report the IGF required fundings from delivery partners in order to operate in 2020 and secured interest free loans from the IOC and credit facility from the Swiss Government for 2021 operations.

Following receipt of the IOC contribution for the IGF participation at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games all loans were paid out in full.

Following the delivery of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, both the IOC and ASOIF advised to anticipate the same amount from the IOC that we received for participation at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games of USD 13 million.

Prior to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the forecasted amount approved by the ASOIF General Assembly in 2019 for distribution was USD 14.1 million.

Following payment of loans, IGF had cash reserves of USD 9.4 million at end of 2021.

The IGF is hoping to have a revenue increase from the IOC for the delivery of the Paris2024 Olympic Games.

The IOC and ASOIF funding model is composed of five different groups and the IGF being the last NF to join the Olympic program with World Rugby, is at the bottom of the ranking getting the smallest revenue. This should not be reviewed by the IOC until after Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Mr Antony Scanlon stressed the importance of the Delivery Partners for the IGF Operations providing resources, in support to the small IGF staff based in Lausanne. Without them, the current delivery model could not work.

## **7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **a. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games**

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games were a great success.

The IGF received extremely positive reactions from the athletes on their experience.

Positive reviews from world media as well.

Strong TV figures across significant markets around the world with 210 million people.

Immense social media and print media coverage.

The athletes enjoyed the Village experience very much. Sixty percent (60%) of the athletes stayed at the Olympic Village and despite the long transport time between the Village and the Venue, athletes were positive.

Food is a key factor for athletes, and they reported a very good and varied food quality as well as a good service level. Mr Antony Scanlon thanked the JGA and the Kasumigaseki golf club for their contribution and for ensuring that the condition of the golf course was at its highest level. It was reported by athletes that the course had the same conditions they experience at the Masters in Augusta.

To reach this level of organisation, credit must be made to the team and the structure in place. There are key experts in our delivery partners that input their expertise into the Organising Committee. This requires a strong planning process.

The IGF works with the Organising Committee (OCOG) to define a project plan which outlines the key milestones, deliverables and outstanding issues called the Sport Delivery Plan (SDP)

- Track progress
- Assign adequate resources to ensure tasks are completed and issues resolved

SDP is reviewed monthly with the OCOG to obtain a status update, replanning tasks if necessary and identifying issues related to missed deadlines.

The IGF Competitions Committee is part of that process, comprising of representatives from the major golf professional tours. They are the link between the IGF and the athletes in the lead up to and during the Olympic Games.

So is the IGF Athletes Committee, which role is to advise the IGF Executive on all matters relating to the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement from an athlete's perspective. Members of the Athletes' Committee are representatives from the IGF Professional Member Tours who are elected by their peer. They are also the liaison with the IOC Athletes Commission.

Despite of the challenges encountered at the Tokyo Olympic Games, such as conflicted events in the calendar and Covid-19, there was a strong representation from top athletes. For Women, the top 15 in the world participated and on the Men side, all but 3 eligible men in top 15 participated.

The postponement of the Games had a huge impact on the professional and amateur game and required a rescheduling of several events.

Mr Antony Scanlon thanked the IGF memberships who moved the dates of major championships and tournaments to accommodate the Olympic Games dates.

The Qualification System has also been impacted by the rescheduling. The fairest and most equitable way to determine the qualifying athletes was to align the previous Qualification System with new dates. Extended through a three-year period ending on 21 June 2021 for the men and 28 June 2021 for the women. Mr Antony Scanlon thanked the WOGR and the Rolex Rankings for their flexibility.

Golf was the leading Federation in terms of advice to the IOC and the Japanese government. Professional golf was the first sport to return to play in June 2020. Through the Playbook created by the PGA Tour, "Return to Golf – COVID 19 Tournament Playbook", the IGF helped the IOC Medical team and the Games organisers. The IOC was very appreciative for our support.

The Covid-19 situation did not offer the possibility for spectators to watch the competition, but there was still more than four thousand people in the venue during the medal matches, between volunteers, media and contractors. The quality of the competition and skill demonstrated by the athletes was still outstanding.

There was 210 million Broadcast reach. The Olympic Games provided a great platform for the athletes to increase their followership, especially via social media.

## **b. Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

The IGF has an excellent relationship with the Paris2024 Organising committee and also with the French Golf Federation.

The Opening Ceremony will be on the Seine and will be an amazing location.

Competition schedule will remain the same as for Rio and Tokyo Olympic Games, with the Men's event taking place from Thursday to Sunday of the first week and the Women's event from Wednesday to Saturday for the second week.

Both events are benefiting just as much of the broadcast and social media attention.

Qualification System will remain the same as for previous Games editions.

The IGF will utilise the official World Golf rankings to create the Olympic Golf Rankings as a method of determining eligibility.

The top-15 world-ranked players will be eligible for the Olympics, with a limit of four players from a given country.

Beyond the top 15, players will be eligible based on the world rankings, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top-15.

There will be a total of 60 players for each of the men's and women's competitions.

Men's qualifications have started on 13 June 2022 and will close on 17 June 2024, while the Women's qualifications started on 20 June 2022 until 24 June 2024.

### **c. Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games**

Dakar Youth Olympic Games were initially taking place in 2022 but was postponed due to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games. There is no Organising Committee in place at the moment for those Games.

Mr Antony Scanlon raised his concerns about the quality of the Golf course and the capability of the country to host the golf competition.

Health and safety are also a matter of concern, shared by other National Federations and solutions are discussed with the IOC at the moment.

### **d. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games**

The announcement of the dates of the LA2028 Olympic Games was a surprise for the IGF as it is not the usual timeframe used by the IOC. This has created challenges for Major Events and the IGF is in contact with the IOC to clarify the situation.

The LA2028 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony is set for July 14, 2028, with the Games running through July 30, 2028, and the LA28 Paralympic Games will kick off August 15, 2028, and close August 27, 2028

Golf is officially part of the program for the 2028 Olympics. Other sports and disciplines that could be added to the program will be decided by the IOC mid-next year.

After Tokyo, the IGF Board and the Competitions Committee reviewed our presence at the event. The Competitions Committee made a proposal to include two 54-hole Team Events, one each for the Men's and Women's Golf Competitions, while we will continue with the 72-hole Stoke Play.

Events will run concurrently with Individual Stroke Play competitions, starting with Round 1 and concluding with Round 3. A Medal Ceremony will immediately follow the play.

The highest ranked two players per NOC will comprise each team, with a limit of one team per country. NOCs with fewer than two players will not participate. If Team Events had been in place in Rio, 24 male teams and 23 female teams would have been eligible. In Tokyo, 23 male teams and 21 female teams would have been eligible.

Each player's score will contribute to the Team Score in order that both players' performances are recognized.

In the event of a tie for first, second or third, a play-off or multiple play-offs will be conducted to determine the gold, silver and bronze medal winning Teams.

This will be proposed to the IOC.

### **e. IOC Relations**

In terms of IOC relations, Mr Antony Scanlon reported that the IGF had regular meetings with the IOC Director of Sport and the Executive Director of the Olympic Games.



Regular meetings were also being held with other members of the IOC administration and the IGF attended numerous IOC meetings such as each of the Sessions every year, Fourth International Forum for Sports Integrity (IFSI), IOC IF Medical Commission Chairpersons' meeting, IOC Women in Sport Forum, IOC IF Sustainability Forums, IOC IF Communications Forums. The IOC President reappointed the IGF Executive Director to IOC Digital & Technology Commission.

Recently, the IOC has changed its approach on the "IOC Framework on fairness, inclusion and non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations" to which each International Federation applied in 2015. It is now the responsibility of each IF to create a policy for its sport. The IOC offers guidance to International Federations on how to design eligibility criteria that work for their own sport/context, while considering fairness, inclusion and non-discrimination. This is done through ten principles that each International Federation should follow when setting their own criteria. Each of them must be considered collectively.

A working group, led by LPGA has been created and a policy is being drafted by the IGF. Once finalised, it will be shared with the National Federations, hopefully next January 2023.

Mr Antony Scanlon also spoke about another important subject, "Safe sport initiatives". The protection of clean athletes is an important responsibility that the IGF and its memberships must undertake to safeguard our sport in the coaching of and participation in competitions. The IGF would encourage the memberships not only to have safeguarding policies in place but also to appoint a Safeguarding Officer.

The IOC has launched the International Safeguarding Officer in Sport Certificate to support the education of Safeguarding Officers and enrolment to this can be made through each NOC.

The meeting was informed about the "Olympic Virtual Series" that had been introduced by the IOC in 2021 and the IGFs desire to be part of this in 2023 and that the IGF is working closely with the PGA Tour and their publisher to develop a tool. This is a mass population event, played on a console game and the IGF encourages all members to register and participate as it will provide a great opportunity to expand the reach of our sport and to attract a big number of new persons into the game of golf

## **f. ASOIF & GAISF Relations**

### **ASOIF**

The IGF continues to have a close relationship with ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) and has regular meetings with the CEO and President of the organisation. The IGF Executive Director is also a member of three ASOIF advisory committees. The IGF virtually attended the 2021 ASOIF General Assembly and would attend the 2022 meeting in November this year.

### **GAISF**

The "General Assembly of International Sports Federations" (GAISF) is another umbrella organisation that the IGF remains a member of, and the IGF attends its General Assemblies.

At its 20 May 2022 General Assembly, GAISF's President informed the memberships that their Executive Board had determined that the role and necessity of GAISF had diminished and a rebalancing of IF representation within sport structures was required and therefore the organisation was to be dissolved.

Independent lawyers provided an overview on the legal requirements and timeframe of dissolution, which could be completed by the end of 2022.

#### **g. Membership**

The number of memberships since the last Biennial meeting has remained at 150. At this time, all the National Federations have integrated their Woman & Men organisation to create a single body.

There are 4 memberships requests ongoing.

The number of Professional Members remains the same, being 21.

#### **h. Anti-Doping**

The IGF is committed to ensuring that its competitions, athletes and members safeguard the integrity of golf and to protecting clean athletes through the fight against doping.

Regular meetings were held with WADA's administration and the IGF had attended a number of their Forums.

There was a very extensive program for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Golf was the only sport at the Games which had all their athletes registered in the WADA database, called the "registered testing pool". This means that all our athletes were nominated to be tested.

We have been able to test athletes before and during the Games.

In view of controlling the testing distribution plans of the IGF events and the organisation of the testing, the IGF has signed an agreement with the International Testing Agency (ITA) this year. For the first time, during this WATC's edition in Paris, the ITA will manage the IGF anti-doping programme, in consultation with the IGF, the French Golf Federation and the AFLD (French Anti-Doping Organisation).

Focus this year will also be on evolving the IGF Anti-Doping Education Plan and Risk Assessment to meet WADA Compliance requirements.

#### **i. International Paralympic Committee**

Mr. Tony Bennett, Chairman of the Golfers with Disabilities Committee was invited to present the IGF latest activities.

Mr Bennett mentioned the relationship that has been built with the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago to help the IGF with the testing protocols and also with the eligibility assessors training in various countries around the world.

He outlined that the appointment of National Eligibility Assessors (NEA) and their education is a fundamental part of any Paralympic application and facilitates more meaningful communication with National Federation (NF) members. Each country should have a NEA and provide support for players with disability when applying for a pass and facilitating the applications to the Central Eligibility Team who will ensure consistency and harmonisation of the eligibility standard.

The NEAs will provide the expertise within the National Federation and ensure there are adequate opportunities for players to be assessed and adequate number of Eligibility Assessors to be available for events in their country.

The Committee continues to refine the eligibility and classification standards for Golfers with Disabilities and has developed a sports class framework - Golf for the Disabled (G4D) Classification Matrix & Performance Band Map.

Eligible impairment groups are distilled into nine sports classes which include the IOC's and further condensed into four bands to create one team. All IPC eligible impairment categories are included within golf's classification system. This will be the model proposed for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Bid.

The Eligibility Assessors training will start at the end of 2022 – beginning 2023. It will be an online application produced together with the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab and every player around the world will be able to use it.

The growth of tournaments that are WR4GD-processed continues: in 2020: 27 tournaments; in 2021: 48 tournaments; and in 2022: 26 tournaments (from January to June).

A G4D Tour was created, delivered by the European Tour Group and EDGA, which was completed and implemented with seven events running alongside 2022 DP World Tour events for the current leading players from the WR4GD Gross Ranking competing.

The inaugural U.S. Adaptive Open, was held in July 2022 at Pinehurst by the USGA and was a tremendous success. Mr Bennett congratulated the USGA for the great organisation of this event.

As in 2018, after the reject of the 2024 Bid, the IGF has again presented a bid to the International Paralympic Committee for golf's inclusion onto the sport programme for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games, with a four- athlete mixed gender team event.

The proposed format of competition is the following:

- 54-hole mixed gender team event consisting of two (2) males and two (2) females from the same NPC.
- Round 1 - 18 holes Foursomes format, with pairs of players competing as partners.
- Round 2- 18 holes Greensomes format, with both players drive after which one drive is selected before the alternate shot format continues.
- Round 3 - 18 holes Fourball format, best score on each hole by team

The maximum number of 15 teams x 4 players = 60 athletes

The Qualification System proposed is the following:

- The 30 highest ranked NPCs on the Paralympic Golf Rankings (PGR) will be eligible for their NPC to enter two (2) men and two (2) women.
- The PGR is formed by adding the highest ranked man and woman on the World Ranking for Golfers with Disability (WR4GD).

About the Team Selection:

- One player from each band must be selected.
- A team is made up of two male and two female athletes
- The overall team value must reach the minimum required number of points.

### **Inaugural 2023 Golf for the Disabled World Team Championship**

This Championship, which would be a biennial event, would take place in October 2023 and the planning is under development. It is a major component of the IGF's bid for inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games. Its format would be similar to the Paralympic bid, with mixed

gender teams event consisting of two (2) males and two (2) females. The IGF is working with a National Federation on its capacity to host this event and it will be organised together with the IGF, the USGA and the R&A.

Chairman Mike Whan shared his experience after the US Adaptive Open and raised that this competition is different in its organisation and mentioned that not only the athletes but also the staff were very appreciative of organising a competition that matters and help grow our sport. He also suggested for future organisers to seek for help as it is a new and complicated format of event.

## **8. 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Article 6.9 of the IGF Constitution, the Administrative Committee had proposed at its meeting yesterday that the following National Federations should appoint members of the Administrative Committee. Zones, from Asia-Pacific: Australia, China, India, Japan and Korea; from the Americas: Argentina, Canada, Chile and Puerto Rico; and from the Europe/Africa Zone: Iceland, the Netherlands, Spain and South Africa. Mr Scanlon noted that at least two of the Members of the Administrative Committee appointed by the National Federations of each Zone must be a woman and that the IGF wants to promote talented women within our Federations to be serving on this Committee and at other levels within golf.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman opened the floor to questions from the room:

First question from Mr. Raoul Ford from Panama. With the reduction of the costs and of the field for 2023, what will be the Qualification System and is it going to give the same chance to participants to all the countries?

Chairman Mike Whan replied that the Administrative Committee discussed yesterday three different approaches. First option being using simply the WAG Ranking, the second one being using the WAGR and get at least 2-3 countries from each region, and the last one based upon existing regional events. Options 2 and 3 were seen as the options to keep the more global representation in the event. Some research will be done to understand what the fields would be using each option keeping in mind that the goal will be to offer the possibility to the highest number of countries to participate. The IGF will work closely with the Administrative Committee and is aiming to publish the new Qualification System in January 2023.

Mr Raoul Ford also asked if there will be a consultation process with the National Federations? Mr Scanlon said that this decision must be made by the Administration Committee. The regions will be the liaison between the NFs and the IGF and could be consulted.

Online questions were received during the meeting, and these were addressed by the Executive Director.

A question was raised by Mr Vincent Wang'ombe from Kenya Golf Union about the Qualification System timelines for the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games. Mr Scanlon answered that it is usually two years out from the Games, which would be June 2024. The IGF is not expecting any big changes to the QS from the previous editions.

Another question from Gabrielle Deleuze, from Panama was raised as to why it is not possible to have a caddy or use electric push kart at World Amateur Team Championships. Mr Scanlon will relay this question to the Competitions Committee for review. He however, mentioned that it has been noticed during previous events' editions that it was difficult for host countries to find enough volunteers to caddy and also to provide enough electric push karts for all the participants.

Next intervention from the room came from Dr. Mustafa Mastoor from Afghanistan Golf Federation (AGF). He stated that the AGF is in discussion with the R&A and the IGF since several months to find solutions to evacuate of twenty-five (25) golfers and their families from Afghanistan due to the regime collapsed last August 2021. He outlined the human rights abuses imposed by the regime particularly for women and girls that have received international condemnation. Dr Mastoor made a plea to the meeting for collective solidarity with the Afghan Golf Federation and for support letters from the respected Federation of the countries, including France, UK, USA, Canada, Australia and Spain. These countries already have active schemes for evacuation of Afghan.

The Chairman responded on behalf of the USGA, noting how horrific the plea was to hear and suggested that Dr Mastoor provide a draft letter that could be sent to the governments in support of these athletes and to provide this to the IGF for distribution to the Membership.

Mr Antony Scanlon confirmed that the IGF has been supporting their application, working with the Australian and the Canadian Golf Federation as well as the R&A. Those Federations are working with their respective government. The IGF has also worked with the IOC and the NOCs of those countries.

In response, Mr Ian Pattinson, on behalf of the R&A extended his deepest sympathy to the people of Afghanistan for the trials and tribulations and oppressions that those people are suffering and that all attending the meeting are mindful of those matters which is seen regularly on TV screens. He noted that the Afghanistan Golf Federation is, of course, an affiliate of the R&A and that he was grateful for Dr Mastoor bringing to everyone's attention the plight of these athletes. Mr Pattinson assured Dr Mastoor that the R&A will continue to work tirelessly to try and help. He noted that he did not want to diminish what is happening in Afghanistan, but that there are people in other parts of the world suffering from similar oppression, but that the R&A will continue to keep working with the Afghanistan Golf Association insofar as they can.

Another question from the room, from the Emirates Golf Federation who is seeking for assistance and support for the development of their 17 members countries from the IGF and the R&A.

Mr Ian Pattinson welcomed the comment and proposed a discussion with them further to the meeting. Mr Scanlon suggested them to list their requests and ensured that help and expertise can be found within the Memberships.

A member for the Singapore Federation thanked the Memberships for their supports and they look forward to welcoming everyone in Singapore.

Mr Yerbol Bukharbayev from the Kazakhstan Golf Federation (KGF) asked a question: The KGF is a member of the European Golf Association, and they received an invitation to participate to the Asian Games in 2023 and would like to understand the reason for that.

Mr Scanlon explained that this is based on how the IOC and the NOCs geographically recognised each country. It seems that Kazakhstan is recognised as being part of the Asian region. However, it is up to the Federation whether they want to participate or not.

The other questions raised online will be answered personally by Mr Scanlon after the meeting.

Mr Ian Pattinson came back on the great competition held during the Espirito Santo last week with a tie between United States of America and Sweden during which the winner was determined by the team having the best non counting score on the last day. Mr Pattinson received several comments/questions from the memberships on how the winner team should be determined in the future in such a case, and he welcomed every Federation to send their opinion to the IGF. He also passed on his congratulation to the winning team, Sweden.

Mr Antti Peltoniemi, from the Finnish Golf Federation took the floor. He was also a member of the Finnish Olympic Committee and witnessed the big effort made for Golf being at the Olympics. He thanked the IGF and is proud of having part of that.

#### **10. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Biennial Meeting will be held on 23 October 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting. The meeting closed at 11:00 CET