



IWAS PowerChair Hockey
(IPCH)

Sport Section of the IWAS



Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy
01st Oct 2018

XXIII IPCH Sport Congress

1. Welcome & Opening

1.1. Introduction

Welcome and Introduction. IPCH Chairman welcomed everyone and quickly explains that the name of the event changed from Sport Assembly to Sport Congress mainly to avoid any possible mix-up with IWAS General Assembly.

1.2. Roll Call (DOC 1)

IPCH SPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. FABIO RODO - IPCH Chairman
2. NIELS ten HAGEN - IPCH Vice Chairman - Competition and Development Officer
3. ANNA ROSSI - Technical and Classification Officer
4. RASMUS DISSING NIELSEN - Marketing & Communication Officer

DELEGATE WITH VOTING RIGHTS:

1. Mick Waite (AUSTRALIA)
2. Salvador Pons Arano (SPAIN)
3. Julian Wendel (GERMANY)
4. Martin Wenger (SWITZERLAND)
5. Antonio Spinelli (ITALY)
6. Danni Mogesen (DENMARK)
7. Radka Kucirkova (CZECH REPUBLIC)
8. Paul Mennink (THE NETHERLANDS)
9. Riina Kaisa Ojala (FINLAND)
10. Kenny Verbraekel (BELGIUM)

DELEGATE WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS:

1. Ross Newcombe (AUSTRALIA)
2. Michael Roshe (SWITZERLAND)
3. Paolo Cifronti (ITALY)
4. Rasmus Nielsen (DENMARK)
5. Hetti Wieringa (THE NETHERLANDS)
6. Miro Reijonen (FINLAND)
7. Hilaire Swerts (BELGIUM)

OBSERVERS:

1. Ralph Hasna (AUSTRALIA)
2. Saila Luumi (FINLAND)

PERSONAL ASSISTANT:

1. Christopher Gakuru (PA - Miro Reijonen - FINLAND)
2. Minna Ylilokka (PA - Saila Luumi - FINLAND)
3. Arianna Pugliese (PA Anna Rossi - IPCH)



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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4. Marloes Nijland | (PA Niels ten Hagen - IPCH) |
| 5. Gerd Autenrieth | (PA Julian Wendel - GERMANY) |
| 6. María van de Velda | (PA - Kenny Verbraekel - BELGIUM) |

- 1.3. **Adoption of Agenda (DOC 2)**
No Objections. The Agenda is adopted as proposed.

2. Minutes previous Sport Assembly

- 2.1. **Matters arising from the minutes**
Nothing to be amended..

- 2.2. **Adoption minutes 12th Sport Assembly, The Netherlands 2016 (DOC 3)**
No Objections. The previous meeting minutes - De Rjip 2016 - are adopted as proposed.

3. Report

3.1. Activities and Financial Report (DOC 4)

After the European Championship a lot of work has been done, funding allowed changes and improvements as for media coverage. Thanks to Rasmus Dissing Nielsen, with a new brand identity our position has drastically improved in the media coverage, and also inside the Committee with a lot of volunteers.

Technical and classification committee

Rossi (SEC Technical and Classification Officer) explains that a lot of work and many things have been achieved in the field of Classification in the last three years.

Kees van Breukelen has played a major role to make all this happen. Players started to be reassessed in the new system as agreed in Sport Assembly 2016 thanks to the many opportunity to pair tournaments for National Teams with Classification Sessions that offered a great chance for both teams to classify their players in advance and for IPCH to educate and train classifiers. Luckily many classifications have been done before the World Championship so that only 35 players were to be classified in the controls days of the World Championship.

This was a great improvement also for the efficiency of the controls.

Moving out from Classification field, it is Important to know IPCH is having, increasing contacts regarding speed control systems. In the Netherlands students worked on system on manual wheelchair, not sure if it would work with power chairs yet.

Recent contacts with FIPFA with who we got a good exchange of ideas overall and especially regarding the speed system which is very similar in the basics to the IPCH one but appears to be safer and the fact that is connected to a computer might help with the recorded inconsistencies of the remotes. Even when they are attached to the rolls, infact, even very very small movements of the remotes due to a loosening of the strings holding them can cause different measurement. It will be add as instruction for OCs to check the holder at least twice a day.

Rodo (IPCH Chairman) adds there have been also contacts with Estonian company about a speed measurement system, it need sensors on wheelchairs and boundaries. The software needs to be developed to interpret the raw data and calculate speed. Not easy but could be a path to follow.

Marketing and Communication committee



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Rasmus Dissing Nielsen reports the huge work done to develop a new brand identity and new website. With Niels ten Hagen we worked together in the development sphere, trying to be present in certain media and official channels.

Development and competition

Niels ten Hagen explains how difficult it is to pass from one competition to another, and how much hard work was needed to make this World Championship going. The bid was eventually given to Italy after a first moment where Czech Republic and Italy were both in the ballot.

Italy had some kind of test tournament, the “Five Stars International Tournament”. It worked very well, a great tournament. It also gave the opportunity to see all the various details going.

In 2019 qualification tournaments will take place where many nations will be fighting for the allocating spot for the European Championship. Czech Republic is appointed to host the Qualification Tournament, in Prague more precisely, maybe in October next year. At least four Nations are expected to be there. Competition and development move closely together.

Finally, a third continent is involved, Canada participated here, contacts with the USA. Many PCH team growing also in the USA. An American championship with IWAS rules would be necessary to invite the winner to the allocated slot of the American region for the 2022 World Championships. Until now we have had only two Regions. Japan was invited but it is not ready yet, contacts also with Morocco, they will probably take years before they can be able to participate.

An Estonian team in the Finnish league. The final league was held in Estonia and Russia was there as well. They pursued some friendly matches. Russia has enthusiastic players coming from Powerchair Football, and they are trying to get the Russian federation on board, at the moment they are doing everything on their own. With IWAS we need the Russian federation to invite them. Many things are moving, every week there are contacts with many nations from all over the world (Asia, Africa, Argentina, etc). Most of the exchanges involve questions to approach us. Many are willing to participate.

Rodo (IPCH Chairman) adds a note about the participation in the IPC General Assembly September 2017 in Abu Dhabi, really good opportunity to network and to get a lot of contacts with potentially new nations; IWAS General Assembly which was held in Portugal San Antonio December 2018. The main issue that every new nation is pointing out, is the cost of wheelchairs. However, players can start playing with any kind of powerchair then grow into what they need for international tournaments. This sport can also be developed around a daily wheelchair, as it happened for both Australia and Canada.

Paris 2018, meeting with FIPFA (International Powerchair Football Association) aiming at increasing collaboration, sharing as much as possible information regarding equipment and speed control. Also to favour new nations, presenting both sports so to allow everyone the freedom to choose. Regardless of the results of this meeting, presenting two sports is already a great achievement. Collaboration is a key element. Trying to collaborate as much as possible. Niels ten Hagen will visit Denmark to the league of the powerchair football, to talk to the company who produces the “striker” powerchair, which is right now the biggest producer of power wheelchair for football. They are willing to adapt their chairs for powerchair hockey which would be good for new nations to have competition chairs without spending too much.

Finance

Rodo (IPCH Chairman) explains that After the European Championship 2016, IWAS gave the approval to organize the event, but they pointed out that every loss would have been on us (SEC Members personally). Good news here is that, we have been good enough into managing



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the budget and instead of a loss, we had a surplus of about 7000 euros. Surplus will be given to activities and it will cover the costs of the classifiers training in 2017. Classifiers are essential for this sport and therefore they need to be supported.

Niels ten Hagen adds that the experience about the budget for European championship is that a well managed Championships can pay for itself with participation fees if necessary.

Rodo (IPCH Chairman) explains that in 2017 with 6000 Pounds (IWAS headquarter in the UK, therefore figures are in Pounds), used to cover the meetings. However, IWAS is going to lower the grants. Now we have around 3.500Pounds (almost 4.000 euros) that could only cover a couple of meetings, as the one we have in Paris. Need to find a new marketing strategy or this will affect our development. To develop and to make people talk about PCH and become interested in it, we have to be at every single event.

Voting round: No Objections. The report is adopted as proposed.

3.2. Future plans and development

2019 QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT - PRAGUE

Para Games Breda in June 2019 Netherlands. Last time only with classification session, it could not be considered a real competition internationally, jury members have to be there as well. Geographically closer referees will be chosen in order so to not affect the budget when applied for official tournament. There should be another classification meeting coming, when that will become official we will let everyone know so you know you can gain point on the World Ranking system.

2020 Maybe American regional championship in 2020.

2020 European Championship: Finland informed they are going to send a Letter of Intent to host the competition.

2022 World Championship

4. Motions

4.1. Motions to discuss (DOC 5)

Motions on current IPCH Rules & Regulations which are submitted by PCH Nations and IPCH for Sport Congress 2016. During the meeting these motions will be handled and voted on according to the IWAS Standing Order.

Motion 1: (Italy): IPCH Game rules - E.2.1. - Allocated Time out

Request the possibility to use the 2 allocated time outs foreseen by in article E.2.1 during the whole length of the game instead of one per half as the rules states now.

SECONDED by Spain and The Netherlands.

VOTING :

IN FAVOUR: Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic

AGAINST: Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Belgium

ABSTENTION: -

According to IPCH Operational Rules there has to be a majority for the motion to be approved so with this 5 vs 5 result the motion is to be considered not approved.



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[Motion 2: \(Italy\) IPCH Game rules - E.3.2. - Extra Time](#)

The intent of the motion is to delete the Golden Goal rule.

SECONDED by -

[The Motion cannot be discussed or voted.](#)

[Motion 3: \(Italy\) IPCH Game rules - To add a new rule E.2.9](#)

E 2.9 During the allocated Time-out the players on the field must gather in the playing field area in front of their own Team Area for the duration of the Time-out.

Every players must stay next to their Team Area for the whole length of the allocated Time-out in order to avoid using the Time-out to gain a tactical advantage towards the other team.

SECONDED by Finland

VOTING :

IN FAVOUR: Finland, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Czech Republic, Italy, The Netherlands.

AGAINST: Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Belgium

ABSTENTION: -

[The Motion n.3 is adopted.](#)

[Motion 4: \(Italy\) IPCH Game rules - J.7.2. - Penalty shot series](#)

The motion aims to change the penalty shot series from 3 penalty shots without any limitation regarding points to 5 penalty shots ensuring that the total of class points of the team on the playing field doesn't exceed the maximum points on the field of the teams.

SECONDED by Finland, Spain and Belgium

Discussion:

Netherlands thinks it is important is to maintain all players play independently from the impact or severity of their impairment. There is not a big chance for a Tstick player to score during the penalties, should we then use also 1 point players?

Rodo: you might be able to use also all hand stick when you have the chance to use more lower class hand stick players and still be within the points.

Rossi: remember that with the new half points classifications there might be even more possible combinations as well on this.

Australia wonders how this rule could affect looking back at games played during the World Championship. Since there has been 11 points with only 3 players.



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Netherlands underlines again that in competition like World Championship or similar it would not be attractive or efficient to have T stick players shooting penalties shot series.

VOTING

IN FAVOUR: Finland, Australia, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Czech Republic and Italy.

AGAINST: The Netherlands

ABSTENTION: Denmark

The Motion n.4 is adopted

Motion 5 - 10: (IPCH Referee Committee) IPCH Game rules - H.4 Misconduct

Current rules for misconduct allow only a single punishment – a Red red.

Given that PCH is a highly competitive team sport, where stakes on international tournaments are high, it is to be expected that athletes will sometimes express their dissatisfaction with their performance on the field in a way that can be interpreted as misconduct. Faced with this, referees have, according to the rules, very little choice on how to handle the situation. The changes have been suggested in order to give referees more tools how to handle those situations.

Motion 5-IPCH Game rules - Misconduct

Chance to divide different cases of misconduct. Diverse cases shown, misconduct has to be better explained (light, medium and severe misconduct)

SECONDED by Finland and Belgium

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain..

AGAINST: -

ABSTENTION:

The Motion n.5 is adopted

Motion 6 -IPCH Game rules - Misconduct

The rules introduces different punishments as consequences to different kind of Misconduct: Mild misconduct – green card, Medium misconduct – yellow card, Severe misconduct – red card

SECONDED by Germany and Belgium

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy.

AGAINST: -

ABSTENTION: -

The Motion n.6 is adopted



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Motion 7 -IPCH Game rules - Misconduct

For misconduct, the referee may wait to punish until the next dead moment of the match. The match continues according to the reason for which it was stopped. If referee stops the game, the match continues with a free ball for the opposing team (team to which the penalized player does not belong).

SECONDED by The Netherlands and Belgium

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain.

AGAINST: -

ABSTENTION: -

The Motion n.7 is adopted

Motion 8: IPCH Game rules - Misconduct

Referee do not only use red card for misconduct so the rules H..4.4 has to be adapted by saying the appropriate card will be used

SECONDED by The Netherlands and Belgium

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain.

AGAINST: -

ABSTENTION: -

The Motion n.8 is adopted

Motion 9: IPCH Game rules - Misconduct

Motion to better explain the consequences of different kind of misconduct also for coaches and team assistants. Also the motion takes out the spectators from the one who can get cards/punishments.

SECONDED by Spain

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain

AGAINST: -

ABSTENTION: -

The Motion n.9 is adopted

Motion 10: IPCH Game rules - Misconduct



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If a disqualified player, coach, team assistant or spectator interferes with the match in any way, the match will be stopped and the team to which they belong, will lose the match regulatory.

Discussion:

Finland asked about spectator in this case, when a spectator is doing something that disturb the match is the supporter fault or the team? They do not think it is correct to punish the teams for something like that.

Rossi and Rodo explains that this is also how it works in other sports like football, if spectators are insulting in a racist way players (for example) the match can be suspended or lost by the team the supporters represents. In any case this motion is not changing the existing rules only making it more clear and explaining better the process. To change the rules Nations be a motion in the next Sport Congress.

SECONDED by Finland and Belgium

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain

AGAINST: Australia

ABSTENTION: -

The Motion n.10 is adopted

Motion 11: IPCH Game rules - D.2.15 The Team

A player shall not enter or leave the playing field during play without the senior referee's permission. If a player does enter or leave the playing field without permission, this will be considered thanks to this motion medium misconduct and the player shall be shown a yellow card, instead of a red as it was before.

SECONDED by The Netherlands and Czech Republic

IN FAVOUR: Finland, The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain.

AGAINST: Australia

ABSTENTION:

The Motion n.11 is adopted

Motion 12: IPCH Game rules - G.1.2 - The Goal

Motion to specify that a goal scored by a hand-stick player counts as one point. And add a rule according to which a goal scored by a T-stick player counts as two points. Only if the player is actively involved in the scoring e.g. a goal scored off a bounce of a non-moving wheelchair or T-stick still counts as one point.

Discussion:



Netherlands asks to specify better what actively involved means, might it be enough to have a moving wheelchair?

Rossi by reading the full text of the rule it is already explained that the tstick has to move or be actively involved in the goal action when it says e.g. a goal scored off a bounce of a non-moving wheelchair or T-stick still counts as one point.

SECONDED by Belgium and Denmark

IN FAVOUR: The Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, Spain

AGAINST: Italy, Czech Republic, Finland, Denmark.

ABSTENTION:

The Motion n.12 is adopted

Motion 13 - 16: IPCH Game rules - J.1.1 Opening Ball

This proposal changes the way how the match halves are started. Instead of the usual opening ball, the half is started by the referee ball, taken by one player from each team, with other players located in their penalty zone. The proposal will also bring to delete the current J.1.2.

Motion 13: IPCH Game rules - J.1.1 Opening Ball

Motion to add a new group of rules:

J.1. Starting ball

J.1.1. Starting ball is taken from the centre point at the start of each match half.

J.1.2. Starting ball is taken as a referee ball. All rules relevant to the referee ball apply except J.3.5. (this is already new numbering)

J.1.3. All other players line up behind their own penalty line until the ball has actually been touched.

SECONDED by The Netherlands

IN FAVOUR: The Netherlands, Italy, Denmark

AGAINST: Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Switzerland, Australia, Spain, Germany.

ABSTENTION: -

The Motion n.12 is not approved.

Motion 14-16: IPCH Game rules

Since those motions are linked to the previous one that was not approved all the followings are automatically considered as such and therefore not discussed.

The Motion n.14-15-16 are not discussed and not approved.

4.2 Motion not under discussion (DOC 8)

In this session we will consider some motions on current IPCH Rules & Regulations which have been submitted by PCH Nations for Sport Congress 2018 to the Sport Executive Committee. SEC had the pleasure to analyze and discuss them involving also the subcommittees (ex Referees,



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and Jurys]. The following motions will not be discussed during the Sport Congress, for the reasons explained for each. The aim of sharing those ideas during the meeting is to allow and encourage Nations to discuss further to improve those proposal and if considered interesting/needed bring them for discussion again in the next Sport Congress.

[Proposal 1- ITALY / Art. B - The playing Area / B.3. Lines, areas, markings and spots](#)

The aim of the proposal was to introduce a new kind of Goal post lines, not only to be marked with short lines perpendicular to the goal lines but as mark of the places of the goal posts full perimetral lines, which are considered to be useful for Referee in case there is the need to put the Goal post in the proper position and can facilitate the evaluation about a shot if the Goal post is misplaced.

[IPCH remarks:](#)

This change seems to be irrelevant since what is important is to be sure the ball has passed the line in case of a goal and this is not affected by eventual movement of the goal.

No Objections.

[Proposal 2-3- ITALY /Art. E - Stipulations with respect to time](#)

Request to add a Special Time-out awarded to each team, to be used only in the last 2 minutes of the second half of the match, the request would be done by using a special time out card.

This is to give the possibility to the coaches to speak with the team in a fundamental part of the game for suggesting an attack or defense tactic.

In addition they suggest to add 1 time out during extra times, coaches could decide to use in one of the extra time periods as they think fits.

[IPCH remarks:](#)

Sport Executive Committee after consultation with the Referee Committee as well, had considered those motion more in the interest of the teams than in the one of the sport.

Having a lot of breaks can indeed give the coaches a lot of more chances to coach and give technical advices but it also breaks the rhythm of the match a lot.

In addition to that we have considered the proposal (always from Italy - see Open Topics) to break the extra time in two periods. This creates already a break that might be useful for coaches.

No Objections.

[Proposal 4 - ITALY / G.1. Goal](#)

Proposal to re-insert rule G.1.9 A goal scored directly from the own half field without the ball touched by a stick, a player or a wheelchair is not allowed. After the fault goal the match will be resumed with a penalty for the opponent team from the position on field where the shot was made. The reasoning of the proposal is that It's important to permit to the two teams to compete on equal terms. Shots from the own playing field area are much easier for high class player hand sticks. This rule recovered would allow a more fair condition for all the players.

[IPCH remarks:](#)



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This rule was several time voted in previous Sport Congresses which have brought to the decision of taking this very same rule out. Seen the wide agreement on the previous Sport Assembly against the potential re-insertion of this rule the Sport Executive Committee has decided not to discuss the same proposal once again.

No Objections.

[Proposal 5 - ITALY/ Appendix 2 : Flucidation To Personal Contact - BLOCKING](#)

Motion to add a better explanation of Blocking in the Appendix. A player can be blocked by one or more opponents, without any contact between the players, in any area of the court, for an indefinite time (Man-out). If a Time-out is requested, a penalty is awarded or if a goal is scored, the block must be open.

It is important to specify that block technique can be used by one or more players against a single opponent without any contact between the players and that in case of time out or penalty the block has to be released.

[IPCH remarks:](#)

This proposal will be discussed within the Referee Committee and since it regards an Appendix to the rules and regulation when so advised the Sport Executive Committee will apply the change directly and inform all Nations about the specification proposed.

4.3 Open Topics (DOC 6)

In this session motions that were not clear or appeared complicated to be applied are going to be taken into consideration. In order to bring those motions to the table of discussion the Sport Executive Committee tried to reach out for the nations and requested to better explain or reformulate the motion in a more applicable way. Since we did not receive any reply the Sport Executive Committee decided therefore to not put the following to be voted but to allow a short discussion among Nations.

[Topic 1: \(Finland\) / IPCH Game rules - J.6.9. - Penalty shot](#)

Change the rules about how a penalty shot should be taken so that the ball should not only be played in a continuous forward movement, away from the centre line in the direction of the defended goal, during the entire penalty shot. but it shall follow a continuous movement towards the goal cage. Continuous implies that the player and the ball are not allowed to come to a full stop or change direction away from the goal cage simultaneously. if the continuous movement ends or stops the penalty would be over.

The proposal came because IFF changed this rule in this way.

[IPCH remarks:](#)

The explanation given from Finland by itself is not sufficient. This change should be done if it does improve the game and if solves a problem or a potential issue, or if it makes the game more attractive and active.

In addition to this it is not clear what it is meant by "simultaneously". In Floorball a player can move one hand in a direction and the body in another this might be quite more complicated with powerchairs.

Finland explains that the proposal came from the referees. Maybe the main point was not the "changing direction" but the impossibility to move back also slightly, making it easier for referees. the aim was to allow the ball move backwards somehow as long as the powerchair is going forwards.



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Rossi: we can still put this idea for discussion in the subcommittees now that we know a bit more of the background idea.

[IPCH Competition regulations - B.4.1 - Announcements of participating Nations](#)

Request of raising the maximum number of participants for all Team Delegations up to 30 members.

This would give to the coaches, whenever possible, more chances for substitutions and more tactical choices during the match. This would also give the possibility to be part of a National Team for 2 people more. If agreed the rule D.1.1. should be changed according to this:

D.1.1 Each team is allowed to have the following Team Members in the Team Area:

- Max. 1 Team Manager
- Max. 2 Coaches
- Max 12 Team Assistants
- Max 12 Players

[IPCH remarks:](#)

The proposal as it has been presented is not going along the way the development of the sport is going, and this motion could complicate a lot many related processes from the bid evaluation stage to the assignment and work of the chosen OC.

Enlarging, even more, the number of players and of PAs can present problems for the organizers. Knowing that it is already a challenge to organize an event like EC or WC, increasing the number of participants by 20% will make finding organizers even more difficult.

This rule, as well as the one referring to the number of people in team delegation, has been topic of discussion in many previous sport assemblies and this current rules were adopted with a large support in one of the last Sport Congresses (2014 all voting nations did agree on the proposal including Italy).

Adding Personal Assistants is not often a problem, we have had example even in Lignano of teams that requested an extra assistant on grounded basis (ex. ensuring the right work shift to professional assistants/nurses) and those request could be accepted. This is already a possibility by rules and regulations.

Especially adding players might become complicated since the needs of the PCH players are way to higher than other athletes. This can make it harder for us to get the Paralympic status.

The good will behind the proposal is clear, giving the chance to more athletes to represent their Nation, but on the other hand also during the World Championship we saw quite many players playing for very few minutes or not getting into the field at all. So it might also happened that having more than 10 players can represent a problem for coaches on the long run.

Italy: maybe it might be useful to select some extra player in case someone get injured or cannot participate last minute.

Rossi: it is already possible to change players until the presentation of the Final List on the days of controls.



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Finland: Maybe Italy means also during the tournament if someone get injured during the tournament.

Italy: Yes we mean if someone get injured we could substitute him on the next match and still have 10 players

Rossi: Well in this case you should have presented this as a proper motion, because it is a different thing than what was said in your proposal.

Finland: Maybe also rising the number of players can put Nations in an uneven position since some Nations might not be able to bring more players.

[IPCH Competition regulations - B.4.1 - Announcements of participating Nations](#)

Divide the extra time in 2 halves of 5 minutes each.

It's important to have the extra time split into two halves in case of a tie match due to the agonistic and competition level. This would provide a more fair and safe condition for all the players and can be more interesting for supporters.

[IPCH remarks:](#)

As mentioned before when talking about extra time outs there is an issue with time to schedule. If we add more and more possible breaks scheduling a competition can be hard. In addition to this many details are not explained.

According to how the motion is written there will be 2 extra times but:

- will there be a pause between the two?
- if so how long?

It would be better to evaluate also all the other involved procedures and processes that this motion can affect.

Rossi underlines that it was quite sad not to have got any kind of reply from the Nations regarding this proposal when asked by email. The aim was to give them the chance to explain better in order to improve the sport and having no feedback is not making Sport Executive work any easier.

4.3 Adjustments (DOC 7)

Below you find adjustments IPCH will take in the IPCH Rules & Regulations, because those concern needed text adaptations, IWAS/IPC Rules & Regulations which need to be followed, or IPCH Rules & Regulations which are already decided by a previous Sport Congress and/or changes that have been analyzed and discussed among Sport Executive Committee and Head of subcommittees and are considered needed for the development of the Sport.

[Adjustment 1: Personal Contact and Offences:](#) The referee can show the red card only to the coach or team assistant or players (basically to all those with accreditation as Team Delegation people who will stay in the Team Area). it should not be allowed to show the red card to other person outside the Team list. This doesn't prevent the Referee to request removal of a person from the audience if this endanger the prosecution of the match

[Adjustment 2: Dead Ball:](#) add the smashing to the case list

[Adjustment 3: Red Card rules](#) Change the rule I.3.7. creating 2 kind of match penalties: with



match penalty 1 is disqualified only for the duration of the current match. With match penalty 2 is disqualified for the duration of the current match and at least one more match. The tournament jury decides on the length of disqualification. The jury decision must be made by the end of the current competition day and communicated to the Team Manager of the penalized player's team and Chief Referee.

Referee will decide if it is match penalties 1 or 2, so they are the one to say to the table if it will be only one match off or if they think something very bad has happened and a more severe consequences should be applied. Jury Members will then consider it and decide.

Australia asks if this is common in other sport

Rossi: explained this is done in floorball and probably also in Ice hockey, this proposal was studied and proposed by Referee also after the experience we had in De Rijp.

Adjustment 4: Playing time

This proposal changes the way how match half is ended. Current rules require a Referee to end the half, while this document proposes that the match half ends as soon as the automatic signal associated with the scoreboard is sounded.

It is the assumption of the Referee Commission that any hall that is designated for official IPCH matches will be equipped with a scoreboard with a sufficiently loud signal. In rare cases when that will not be so, one of the Referees will coordinate with the match table to end the match (half) when the time runs out.

This rule is in line with Floorball rules and regulation and it is a task of the referees to take care of the time during the match.

Adjustment 5: Delaying of the game

Motion to add the following rule

G.6 Delaying the game

G.6.1 Teams should try to play an active game as much as possible.

G.6.2 If referee decides that a team is trying to waste time, a free ball for the opposing team can be awarded. All rules in regards to free ball apply. Referees should warn the team to play a more active game before awarding the free ball.

G.6.3 Referees shall not whistle for delaying the game, if the team is actively trying to create an opening or is being prevented from attacking play by opponent's pressing game.

G.6.4 Repeated time wasting can be penalized by a green card. Green card is shown to the player in the possession of the ball at the time of the whistle or the player who last played the ball (if the ball is free). All rules in regards to cards apply.

The proposal reflects a possibility that is there already for referee, now it is just better explained and entitles the referees to punish with a green card the team that is actively playing to delay the game.

When the referee thinks there is a waste of time, the referee can give a free ball to the opposite team or decide to get the green card out or penalty. However, if the team is purposely trying to find space to score or there is just not space for the player to proceed, the referee should understand the situation and let the match going.

Belgium: This could be a subjective opinion of the referee about what is a delay and what is not.

Rossi: Referees have trainings and meetings to understanding what they face during a match. Therefore they know what they have to do according to each situation.

Ten Hagen: Many referees' decisions are based on interpretation, not only this one.



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Adjustment 6: Match Schedule Give to the Technical Delegates appointed for each IPCH Competition are entitled to modify and adapt the final match schedule for media purposes and in the aim of making it more fair towards all participating teams.

Since the World Championship in Munich in 2014, it has become a tradition to schedule the first match to be played right after the opening ceremony usually in the evening.

This, of course, affects the whole schedule. Still before, some nations have benefited from it (having a more relaxed match schedule) and some the opposite (having to play 2 matches with only 1 game in between).

Since our sport aims to involve the most severe disable players we are convinced that having a more fair time schedule for all can only be a benefit for the sport and the competition.

Furthermore, up to now, according to the Competition Regulation, the home/hosting Nation Team is not necessarily playing the opening match, which is otherwise common in many other sports like football for example.

In PCH we have been somehow lucky because the only time this "problem" would have arisen it would have been the EC in Spain. Germany won the WC 2010 so it was team 1 in group A in 2014 and this is why they played that opening, not because they were home team but because they were 100% entitled to play it. Same happened for The Netherlands in 2016.

In addition to those general considerations, Technical Delegates are often facing the official request of the Organizing Committee about the possibility to have the host nation playing the opening match because of media and sponsorship reasons.

The main aim was to ensure no team had to play 2 matches too close to each other; for this reason the alternance of A and B group is not always respected but once again we preferred the well being of the players over a too tight schedule.

Adjustment 6: Playing System This change aims to clarify the already existing rule and make its application easier.

4.5 New IPCH World Ranking System (DOC 9)

Word was given to Ilkka Siiki who supported the SEC in creating the new World Ranking System together with Davor Matijasevic as well, so we can take this chance to thank them for their help.

The new World Ranking System is based on the results of the individual games, putting more weight on newer results. Each team will get points for every game they play based on the result, the opponent and the type of tournament the games are played in.

2008 was chosen as base year since from that moment the Official Competition have been all regularly played every 2 years (European Championships or World Championships and European Qualification Tournament 2011).

The basis of the system are therefore the result of the EC 2008 and the World Ranking List existing in the beginning of that year which includes all the previous results as well.

All games played since that in official events are used in calculating the current World Ranking List, updating the list after each tournament.

The formula for calculating the points per match is: Base-points*WRL placement modifier*Type of match

Base-points are the following: 3 for a victory (2 after extra-time), 0 for loss (1 after extra-time) and 1 for draw. These base-points, as said in the formula, will be multiplied by two modifiers, the "type of match modifier" and the "WRL placement modifier".



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The type of match modifier is an indicator of the importance of the tournament and stage the match is being played. The modifier is highest for World Championships final (5.5) and lowest for a friendly tournament game (1).

The WRL placement modifier is based on the placing difference between the two teams on the latest World Ranking List before the tournament. This means that if team A is far above team B in the WRL, team B has a higher multiplier and viceversa it will be smaller for team A. The closer two teams are on the World Ranking List used as base the closer the multiplier will be to each other. The modifier is always at least 0.1, it cannot be less than that.

New teams (that are not in the previous World Ranking List), will be added on the bottom of the WRL, if two new teams are playing against each other the multiplier will be 1.

Teams will also get points for participating in tournaments and placing in the top three on Regional Championships (ex. Europeans Championship) or World Championships.

The World Ranking List is updated after each tournament, adding the total match points a team has gained during the tournament, the participation points and possible bonus to the points the team had before the tournament started.

On the 1st of January each year the points are multiplied with 0.8, this guarantees that more recent results have more weight than older ones.

The Netherlands: is this a way to encourage nations to play more?

Rossi: The re-edition of the WRS was something we have been thinking about for a while, especially after facing cases like one single tournament not going as a team plans and jeopardizing the whole qualification on next competitions (Finland can be an example of this). Or a WRS changing header for only 1 match lost at extra time.

The WRS was really competition ranking based, we tried to study many system and try to build up a system that can push development, with at least 1 friendly match or a participation to a friendly tournament.

Ten Hagen: also related to IPC and Paralympic Dream we need Nations to be on the List, so in the previous one if you were not participation you somehow lost your spot while now the points are getting older but not being cancelled.

Netherlands: how do you plan Friendly matches?

Rossi: we have discussed and approved this in the Sport Assembly 2016. Countries have to inform the Committee if they want to have tournaments or friendly matches, so that jury members, observers and referees can be appointed officially.

The only Friendly tournament that counted was 5 stars tournament. Breda was not an official tournament in 2017 it might be in 2019 we are in contact with organizers. If so it will count.

Finland What if i.e. The Netherlands and Belgium that are geographically close may want to have ten tournaments can they?

Rossi: they should ask each time the committee, so IPCH will also consider this, it has to be considered that there will be costs as well.

Siiki took the word back explaining the last updated version with all result of WC 2018 explaining how to get the final result after WC 2018. In January 2008, everyone had zero because that EC was taken as base because since then regular competition have been played. Those who played in the tournament in Belgium gained points. Siiki showed a comparison between old and new system.



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Some teams got quite a lot of points, much more than in any other competition because of some surprising tournament. Denmark for instance gained many points as well as Switzerland, the list indeed drastically changed.

Australia: This seems to be a European game, because everyone outside Europe will consequently lose points.

Ten Hagen: Australia needs to involve other countries not to lose points, even New Zealand.

Rossi: Countries does not have to be necessarily from the same region, more countries are invited and get involved the better it is. This is also part of the promotion and development plan, main target of this sport now. Once a country is invited and matches officialized, it will be added to the list. It is not strictly linked to IWAS Status or membership which has more relevance for voting rights.

With this new system, World Champions are not automatically at the top of the list, many other factors and criteria are involved. it depends a lot on results of single matches, and from the positioning before the tournament..

Germany: Switzerland and Denmark ranked high because of the multiplier, don't you think this multiplier is too big?

Siiki: Actually, the multiplier does not affect that much. Of course, who is high on the top of the list will never get too many points.

Australia: Friendly matches in Australia require teams to fly all the way there.

Anna: It is mainly a distance issue, but everyone has to have its chance. If tournaments are requested and organized enough in advanced the costs would surely be lower. Australia already has jury members and classifiers. For referees instead, a training course can be arranged.

Germany: What does the world ranking list is made for? For qualifying reasons. For Australia maybe the positioning on the ranking is not the main issue, while for other region as Europe it is a tool to decide who is qualifying or what.

Australia: This is right but I feel the ranking system needs to look at the long term development goal. Everyone, also all the teams have to work hard in order to make this going also outside Europe. In 14 years, development outside Europe did not improved, indeed we only had two non-European nations. Players and people in general are dismayed by the idea of spending 24 hours on an airplane to get to Australia, it is not easy. The distance element has to be taken into consideration by everyone, Also the challenge we face in training altogether within Australia, distances are huge. IPCH and the whole sport needs to work harder on extra european Nations.

Ten Hagen: we can discuss this in the next workshop about development.

5. Elections

5.1. Information and procedure elections

Every four years elections occur for the various position. More people are required because the workload is very heavy, therefore from we moved from 5 to 7 (development, competition, marketing etc.)



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For each Nomination, introduction of the nominated candidates, distribution of the voting cards distributed; anonymous voting; LOC's President Stefano Occhialini counts.

Position: Chairman

NOMINATION FORM - 2 nominations:

1. Fabio Rodo, Current chairman Italy.
2. Miro Reijonen Finland.

Fabio Rodo and Miro Reijonen introduce themselves in relation to their position.

VOTING: Fabio Rodo 9 - Miro Reijonen 1

Fabio Rodo is confirmed as IPCH Chairman

Position: Secretary Officer

No nominations for secretary officer

Position: Technical and Classification Officer

NOMINATION FORM - 1 nominations:

Anna Rossi: Introduction speech

VOTING: IN FAVOUR: Anna Rossi 9 - 1 Blank

Anna Rossi is confirmed as Technical Officer

Position: Development Officer

Rodo took the work for a premises to the voting: On the same morning, the Committee received the nomination request by Nikolaj Richelsen from Denmark. According to the guidelines received from IWAS the Sport Congress will decided on this.

First vote is due to accept the new nomination. After Nikolaj Richelsen introduction and presentation (CV/Cover Letter), if the committee in the room agrees to proceed with this new nomination, the voting will also include the new Danish candidate.

The other Candidate for the position of development officer is Miro Reijonen from Finland. After the voting to decide whether or not Nikolaj Richelsen can be eligible for election or not, the voting for the position will follow.

Finland: Not a good example for future occasions.

Rossi: Operational Regulations says:

art. 7 h. Written nominations for elections (including curriculum vitae) will be called for and placed before the Sport Assembly by the IWAS.

art. 7 i The names and curriculum vitae of the nominees for the IPCH Sport Executive Committee will be circulated to the members at least 3 months prior to the Sport Assembly at which elections are to occur.

art. 7 j Any candidate nominated for election to the IPCH Sport Executive Committee shall be present at the Sport Assembly or shall have presented to the Sport Assembly a curriculum vitae in order to be elected

So there are some greys areas on the rules on this. for this reason we have discussed the situation with IWAS as mentioned by Mr. Rodo before and the indication we received is to submit to Sport Congress the decision if to accept the nomination or not.



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The CV of Mr. Richelsen was shown and a short presentation of the candidate was shared by Mr. Nielsen.

VOTE FOR ACCEPTING MR. RICHELSEN'S NOMINATION FORM:

IN FAVOUR: Netherland, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Czech republic.

AGAINST: Finland and Spain.

VOTING: Miro Reijonen 4 – Nikolaj Richelsen 6

Nikolaj Richelsen is the new Development Officer

Position: Communication Officer

NOMINATION FORM - 1 nominations:

Rasmus Dissing Nielsen, Denmark

VOTING: Rasmus 10 – blank 0

Rasmus Dissing Nielsen is confirmed as Communication Officer

There are other positions open and available. Quest for solicit.

Afternoon Session Workshops

CLASSIFICATION WORKSHOP

Kees van Breukelen

Why classification?

Every sport, either on a wheelchair or not, has its own classification system, not just based on performance classification (to take the best player) but also on selective classification. Selective classification comes first.

Why selective classification?

Selective classification is important to allow everyone to participate reducing unbalances to its possible minimum. For instance, if you do not separate men soccer players from women players, men would most likely always win.

What we need, and what sport needs is to have unpredictable competition, while giving everyone the opportunity to become world-class players.

Classification can be made by sex, weight category or age as selective criteria. In PCH, impairment is the unit of classification. Without selective classification based on impairment, performance classification does not subsist. Class: 1 2 3 4. The IPC says that you can put players in the floor only if their disability fall under one of the eligible impairments. Any other kind of impairment out of those 5 listed below, is not allow in the competition.

1. Muscle power impairment
2. Range of motion impairment
3. Amputation/limb Deficiency
4. Short Stature impairment



5. Coordination Impairment

Focus has recently been given also to trunk functions. Trunk functions play a great role in players' performance and therefore should be counted up. Trunk score: 0 - 0.5 - 1 points.

Studies have been made on persons with disability, resulting in the fact that trunk matters in terms of ability to strength the rotation, rotation speed, shoulder readiness for any efficient movement and higher shooter accuracy (goals).

Indeed, despite somebody may look as to have a good control of the trunk, a touch could be enough to make it "fold". If trunk is not strong enough it is 0.5 points instead of 1. Also arms can be put in half points, it would become more precise (i.e. instead of arm 3, there could be 2.5 arm)

This week (not the WC week...) we used the in between our profiles and trunk profiles. This means that we have now a refinement of the current system.

We created a new form to fill in, with the new criteria.

Field of vision is also taken into consideration when deciding on 0.5 or 1.0 class. This does not refer to the impairment in terms of sight but the field of vision: rotation trunk and/or head. The edge between 1 and 0.5 point is formed by (1) field of vision and (2) joystick control (finger/hand strength & coordination).

For each player, the pertaining class is followed by a status. Status N means Nationally. In international classifications there are three possibilities: C (Confirmed), R: (Revision) and FRD (Review with Fixed Date). C would not be correct for players with muscle diseases because those diseases are progressive, and the player has to be seen again and again. In this case, R is surely more appropriated. However, since no everyone has always the chance to go through this Review, FRD will represent the other option.

Important to notice also is that classification is based on the impact of impairment and not on the equipment, which means that the player can choose whatever he wants to use, regardless of a T-stick or the hand stick.

The Maximum Point Score on Court is important to make sure that everyone can participate and to has the possibility to become a world-class athlete regardless of the degree of ability. Furthermore, this also ensures a more attractive game.

We have looked at Wheelchair rugby and Wheelchair basketball how they did come to their maximum point score on court. Besides that we did looked how our national teams played during the final day of the WC considering the in-between profiles: when counting the in-between trunk profile and in-between arm profile of all national team players, the average point score on court was 11.97 for the participating teams. That means that the 11 point system we used till now can be raised to 12 points to allow coaches to make the same lineup of players.

With the new classification these changes have been met:

<u>Denmark:</u>	3 up and 1 down	}	Total: 17 up 8 down
<u>Germany:</u>	3 up and 1 down		
<u>Italy:</u>	4up		
<u>Netherlands:</u>	1up 1 down		
<u>Belgium:</u>	3up 1 down		
<u>Switzerland:</u>	2up 4 down		
<u>Finland:</u>	1up		

Switzerland was playing only with 10/10.5, the team with one of the lower point score (after Australia that was playing 7.5)

The aim of this part of the workshop is to inform and to listen to other countries' opinions. Whether the maximum point score on court should be higher or lower does not have to be decided now, but this Sport Congress is the good moment to share and receive opinions in this respect.

Technically everyone agrees that the classification handbook can be improved and made more efficient. We do not need to vote on the refinement now. It is important however to think about representation, we are not the only team sport for power chair, therefore we need to make our identity clear. Why and for whom was this sport born at the beginning? What do we want from this sport?

Round Table - opinions:



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Germany: The main criteria should not be the attractiveness, most important is to let all the classes play, keeping this sport for those it is made for. These days Switzerland played the most attractive hockey. I think we should stay where we are. Even if not 11 maybe but not more than 12.

The Netherlands: we would have preferred going with 12. 5 or even 13.

Italy: agrees with Germany. Either 11 or even a little down if possible.

Czech Republic: has to discuss with the teams. However, the representative thinks that the 11 points system makes sense. The maximum score mechanism with multiplier plus the goalkeeper it really does make sense.

Spain: keep 11. Furthermore, with half points more players will be able to play in the field

Belgium: 11, or maybe up to 12. Surely no more than 12.

Australia: would stay with 11, reinforcing what already exist. Increasing the points could reduce opportunities for those weaker.

Finland: no more than 11.5

Switzerland. Stay with 11.

Denmark: 11 or maybe 12 but no more than 12.

Rossi: not all the classes in national teams are used in the international one. Even if you follow the very same system, the players have to go through international classification. This gets closer to a point where we can say that we are assessing the physical potential of the players.

Classifiers have a unanimous position a minimum of 11.5 points would ensure much more motor capacity and protection for all the players. They think that with 11.5 they could reach both the participation and attractiveness aims set.

Further considerations will be made when the new Sport Executive Committee will meet considering the positions of the Nations and the advices of the Classifiers. Final decision will be communicated by email and through IPCH website.

Development - Workshop

Niels ten Hagen:

This sport is all about development so there is need of long-term strategies (3-4 years plan) but of course also short term plans. This workshop is necessary also to gather your ideas and new ideas in general. Four years are not as long as they sound, therefore we need more hands and more plans.

A paper, called the "Wishlist" is distributed, in order to gather ideas on what would make this sport different, without changing the rules. i.e. clubs championships, leagues etc.

Niels asks everyone to write down three wishes for each nation, what is new and what should be developed in the PCH.

Results: Development and wheelchair hockey.



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- 1- Finland: no politics, more cooperation within nations and more open discussion (no side communication)
- 2- The Netherlands: speed control, official matches around the regional and world championships
- 3- Australia: Developing a Champions League, get other nations near Australia involved, cheaper hockey chairs.
- 4- Germany: hockey powerchairs selling company, one for everyone. Big wins and look for dignity instead of humiliation during the matches. Demo-exhibition events. Crowd funding – fundraising.
- 5- Switzerland: attractive sport for tournaments, places/venues more attractive for tourists.
- 6- Belgium: Real time speed control system
- 7- Spain: Webpage for second hand material, some kind of market place online. Different type of tournaments for different starting nations playing world champions. Good idea to create a separate league for starting nations.
- 8- Czech Republic: To become a Paralympic sport. Same as Spain (league A and League B, mainly for starting nations). Club tournaments should be more visible for all the countries. Club tournaments should be shown in the website so to give the chance to all countries to get involved if they wish. Time to consider the opportunity to become an International Federation (i.e. FIPFA). PCH deserves its own international federation, with a single enriched website, all the information for every country, links, and everyone should have the English version available in their webpage.
- 9- Italy: Champions League for Clubs. Financial support for nations so that everyone would be able to organize tournaments or leagues etc. The year 2020 is the 25th year of the Italian federation, it could be a good possibility to have a Champions League.

Niels: Each team should properly check the competition regulations, because the humiliating loss of Canada for the respective big wins was not necessary.

Wish list priorities according to the number of voting:

- 1) Speed control system: easy and real time. The entire system is around 10K euros, fundraising and crowd funding for speed control could be the starting point. However, the system we have now is not bad and it is affordable. Australia has more information regarding the speed control system, therefore Australia is required to contact Fabio to discuss about this. New and more brands are appearing for PCH Chairs/equipment which would create competition and make the prices lower. As well, sometimes PC companies are willing to lower the prices with pushed to do so.
- 2) Champions League: it could start with the 25th anniversary celebration.
- 3) Open conversation / no politics. Keep communication open, be nice to each other with real support. (ask for second motion)
- 4) Independent International Federation. (IWAS takes too long)
- 5) Setting up a “Market” place
- 6) More official matches not only European Championships / World Championships
- 7) Club Tournaments – Coordination and Promotion
- 8) Developing countries should also be involved in matches.
- 9) Etc.



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Each country at the Sport Congress is required to write down on the provided list which of the recommended nations could be more easily reachable and to get in touch with them. New Zealand has to be added to the list.

“EACH ONE TEACH ONE”

Floorball does this, take example from them.

CONCLUSION OF THE SPORT CONGRESS

Present Nations are required to highlight Pros and Cons of the competition and the Congress itself.

- Finland: Cons – The Finnish team was not present. Impressed by the organization of the competition. Although volunteers have done almost everything, it was almost professional. Finland is glad to host the European Championship in 2020. Everything went very well. Miro: Things have progressed a lot in the last 8 years.
 - The Netherlands: Good organization.
 - Australia: Great experience, big trip, people ill along the way. Every one very kind and sympathetic. Professional.
 - Germany: Congrats to the LOC. Streaming was a great improvement, very good feedback from Germany. Real commentators, different cameras, very well made streaming.
 - Switzerland: Same things as for the rest. Many thanks to the LOC. Bidding for WC2022.
 - Belgium: everything very professional, media coverage, organization, etc. Hopefully this will be the standard for all the following organizations.
 - Spain: first international experience as a jury member, really enjoyed. Great ideas, good plans, well executions, good care at small details.
 - Czech Republic: Good choice Italy as organizer, hopefully the Czech team will be present next time.
 - Italy: As never before. This is a very good thing for the movement and for everyone. Thanks to everyone, LOC, volunteers etc. who made this possible.
 - Denmark: happy and excited. Glad we ended up with good live stream. Denmark is very satisfied.
 - Technical delegates: hard work. Happy. At the end very good job. Happy with the organization, the level of this event is very high, difficult to get higher.
 - Fabio/Niels: Sport Congress has to be moved up before the event.
- Anna: Sport Congress should be during the weekend, to allow everyone to be here, also who has a different job.
- Australia: meeting also on Skype.