



FIPFA Congress Minutes

Monday 26 October 2009
13h00 – 19h00
GEORGIA, ATLANTA - USA



Attendees

Hervé Delattre
Robert Thomson
Kevin Grice
Terrie Moore
Ingrid Schwegler
Barbara Peacock
Chris Finn
Cheryl Epp
Jérôme Durand
Adam Parry
Jonathan Newman

Dominic Russo
Jean-Claude Manderlier
Marianne Anskens
Annette Pecher
Claude Guilbault
Ricky Stevenson
Stewart Evans
Allan Harrison
Nicolas Dubes
Luis Miguel Almeida
Mary Coleman

Voting delegates

Belgium: Marianne Anskens
Canada: Claude Guilbault
England: Stewart Evans
France: Nicolas Dubes
Portugal: Luis Almeida
USA: Dominic Russo

Meeting called to order at 1:23 pm

Apologies received from

Mr. Takahashi (Japan), Mr. Blanc (Switzerland), Mr. Madsen (Denmark), Mr. Donough (Ireland) and Mr. Croulliere (France)

Elections

Cheryl Epp (Canada) for Treasurer
Re-elected by a majority of 5 yes/ 1 no/ 0 abstentions

Chris Finn (USA) for Vice President
Re-elected by a majority of 5 yes/ 1 no/ 0 abstentions

Introductions received from new members of the FIPFA family, these being:

Robert Thomson - Secretary General
Kevin Grice - Director, Finance and Administration
Terrie Moore - Director, International Relations
Mary Coleman - Director, Medical Commission

Departing Secretary General Ingrid Schwegler was warmly thanked for her work since before the formal establishment of the Federation in 2006.



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Financial and Administrative report by Kevin Grice and Cheryl Epp

As a new incumbent, Kevin Grice laid out his responsibilities and mandate, as detailed in the FIPFA Constitution (Chapter E, Article 6). Kevin's report had two parts, the first being his financial control/management work and the second part relating to administrative and business development activities.

New financial structure

Cheryl Epp detailed the creation of the Finance Commission and the subsequent accounting organisational meeting which took place in Marly-le-Roi on Sunday, October 10, 2009, between Kevin, Hervé Delattre (FIPFA President), Robert Thomson, Paul-Noël Paganelli (current FIPFA accountant) and Laetitia Baille (future FIPFA accountant). The principal aim of this meeting was to transfer powers of financial management from Hervé to Kevin and analytical accounting from Paul-Noël to Laetitia. In doing so, we will have the normal, more transparent separation of duties required for effective financial management so that in future, no one person will carry out reviews, or record and handle transactions. In addition to achieving a proper accounting process, the other key benefit is releasing some of the burden from Hervé, so that he can dedicate more time to his development tasks.

The structure of the new financial administrative procedures was discussed, including the protocols for inputting expenditure and for recording receipts/invoices. Kevin, Hervé, Paul-Noël and Laetitia plan to meet again towards the end of the year to ensure a smooth transition and to prepare for closing of the 2008 books.

The future developments considered related to an adaptation of the current CIEL accountability software setup, whereby reports (quarterly and otherwise) can be automatically generated, as opposed to the manual reporting with Excel and Microsoft Money, which will be undertaken by Kevin.

Finances at July 20, 2009

The figures as of July 20, 2009 were reported on and it was noted that current levels of expenditure correlate closely to expenditure during 2008.

On July 20, 2009, 24% (€39,300) of the budgeted €163,000 had been spent.

The necessity for two separate bank accounts was explained at the request of Dominic Russo (USPSA President). One is for daily business cheques and the other is a savings account with higher levels of interest, from which money can be quickly and easily transferred.

Budgeting

In addition to the aforementioned points, the request made previously in San Francisco for the sending of informative quarterly budget updates to the EC and Commission Heads was accepted.

It was agreed that the 2010 budget requests would be sent out in the first week of November. These are to be returned by the end of November, giving time for review by Kevin, Hervé, Cheryl and Robert and approval by the Executive Council before 2010.

Administrative functions

In line with the need for a greater level of control over administrative records, several aims were highlighted:

- Ensure compliance by all affiliate members with Chapter A, Article 4 of the FIPFA Constitution on Membership. By collecting NOPF Constitutions and athlete information, the Secretariat will enable FIPFA to better represent itself and Powerchair Football in an international context.
- Liaise with the key personnel within the EPFA Zone (Ricky Stevenson - President, Steve Kelly - Treasurer, and Nicky Baker - Secretary) to administer an EPFA Zone bank account. The conditions to be met for a Zone to have its own separate bank account were approved by the EC earlier on in 2009. At present, the European Zone is the only one fitting these criteria and therefore the only Zone to which the possibility of a Zone-specific bank account is available.
- Partnerships – Hervé will retain contact with EDF and Kevin will aim to discuss a continuation of the partnership with Invacare through the new contact in Germany.
- Business Development – in addition to new resource mobilisation methods discussed in detail by the Executive Council the following day, Kevin laid out introductory documentation sent to private companies with a history of partnerships, sponsorship and charitable donations to sport, disability sport and football. These will be followed up with a view to securing future growth and prosperity of Powerchair Football globally.

Robert summed up the strategic approach towards development, implying a mutually beneficial partnership, with NOPFs and FIPFA sharing resources.

Development Commission report by Hervé Delattre

Hervé started by introducing the newly created Medical Commission which will be headed by Mary Coleman. In short, the main goal of this commission is to provide FIPFA and its NOPFs with health information. This was perfectly demonstrated in the lead up to the Americas Champions Cup, with informative advice passed down to the key stakeholders regarding the H1N1 pandemic. In the future, it is hoped that the Medical Commission can be equally as useful in providing a medical perspective on classification discussions, health and safety provisions for FIPFA-sanctioned competitions and on anti-doping issues. It was left for Mary Coleman to further present her ideas and the work her new Commission will undertake.

Following on from the presentation by Kevin and Cheryl, Hervé went on to reiterate the importance of financial competence and abiding by existing FIPFA regulations for future prosperity of the sport, especially in light of recent organisational discussions with the International Paralympic Committee. For future recognition by and membership in the IPC and other international bodies, it was stressed that affiliate members must assist with the gathering of figures, calculations and other materials regarding Powerchair Football worldwide.

IPC developments

Robert introduced the topic, explaining that informal contact has in the past couple of weeks become quite formal. Terrie Moore continued with some background information, explaining how Hervé had initially written to the IPC President Sir Philip Craven at the beginning of 2008, a letter which was well received and responded to with the suggestion that FIPFA first look to expand globally. Communication has been re-established by Terrie in the last few months, with a view to the IPC distributing FIPFA material at their General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Thursday 19 – Saturday 21 November, 2009. Eventually, it became apparent that just as an organisation must be an IPC member to attend the General Assembly, one must also be an IPC member to distribute material there.

Matters progressed in mid-October with a letter received from Sir Philip Craven requesting a proposal for FIPFA to become an IPC member and Powerchair Football to potentially be played at the 2016 Paralympic Games. Due to the urgency of the matter, Robert requested that the Congress pass responsibility for responding over to the Executive Council, which they promptly did. Terrie asked that all NOPFs assist as much as possible with gathering the information on resources, competitions, teams per country,

number of powerchair users playing the sport and administrative documentation including each NOPF's constitution.

Asia Zone report

Hervé provided a brief comment on the situation in Asia in the unfortunate absence of the Asia Zone's President Mr. Hiroshi Takahashi. The language barrier was noted as the overriding reason for lack of developments.

Other national contacts

Singapore:

The contacts by Hervé and Adam Parry in Singapore were briefly touched upon. They found approximately 20 athletes there playing Powerchair Football, using the official Powerchair Football rules. It was decided by mutual consent between FIPFA and the Singaporean organisers that becoming an associate or affiliate FIPFA member would be put on hold until there is sufficient organisation at a national level. Between them, Adam and Hervé will keep in contact with those they met in Singapore, and FIPFA will aid them in any way possible with development of the sport in their country.

Australia:

Since Robert and Hervé wrote to several Australian contacts in September with an invitation for attendance at international events over the next year, no response has been forthcoming. These contacts will be pursued. With a group currently playing a form of Powerchair Football, this country was pinpointed as a good prospect for development of the sport outside of the existing countries. The current problem is again that there is no structure at a national level. FIPFA will try to assist in the development of a strategy to get the different groups functioning together.

Brazil and Mexico:

The other developments mentioned were a Brazilian contact received through Luis Almeida from the Portuguese NOPF and a contact in Mexico received by Dominic Russo, USPSA President. These are at this stage, contacts in their infancy, but nonetheless, ones that FIPFA wishes to further develop in the coming year as part of its plan to extend beyond the existing affiliate countries.

Potential future affiliate countries within Europe were left for discussion by Ricky Stevenson in his European Zone report.

Insurance

Hervé commented that FIPFA will be looking to develop a global insurance plan covering all potential liabilities, from personal injury to event cancellations due to pandemics such as the H1N1 flu.

Sports Department report by Adam Parry

Adam started by re-capping the composition of his department. For those unfamiliar, this is as follows:

Classification Commission:	Stewart Evans
Sports Rules Commission:	Ricky Stevenson
Technical Commission:	Dominique Scelles
Competition Commission:	Sam Bull
Referees Commission:	Chris Mulholland

Classification Commission

Adam only touched on the classification work undertaken, as Stewart was present to provide a detailed analysis of classification developments and success of the scheme piloted during the Americas Cup.

Sports Rules Commission

Likewise for the Rules Commission, Adam only touched on their last meeting because Ricky later made a presentation on the work being done. To summarise, the whole body of rules was evaluated at their last meeting where they also discussed amendments to the laws of the game and a process for implementing law changes was presented.

Technical Commission

Adam, Dominique and Hervé had a meeting in Paris earlier on in the year where the workload was prioritised. They started creating tests for technical aspects of the sport and also made a start on the production of fact sheets.

A pressing issue was discussed later in the meeting relating to the urgent need for side-protection on powerchairs as a safety measure to avoid injury to athletes from powerchairs tipping over.

Note from Dominique:

In his absence, Dominique sent a letter informing the Congress of the work his commission has undertaken. This includes creating guidelines for:

- Balls
 - Testing/validating
- Footguards
 - Universal, standard guard
- Goal Posts
- Powerchairs
 - List of suitable powerchairs: eg. Storm v TDX powerchairs
 - Need to convince manufacturers to commercialise sport powerchairs



Competition Commission

Adam and Sam Bull utilised the World Cup document created by Jonathan Newman for the 2007 World Cup and created two documents. The first was a World Cup bid document which the Secretariat revised and sent to all NOPFs at the end of June. The second document was the rules and regulations which will govern the World Cup in 2011.

Sports Department workload/priorities

- Bring the International Referees Commission into being for all FIPFA-sanctioned International Competitions, responsible for collating the information and provision of referees.
- Create the process, rules and regulations for FIPFA-sanctioned international club competitions.
- Consider safety aspects.
- Plan a Sports Department conference.
- Continue the development of a classification system.

Classification Commission report by Stewart Evans

Stewart's Classification Commission is currently made up of the following members:

Stewart Evans, Terrie Moore, Jim Little, Dominic Russo, Florent Bokobza, Marie-France Rietz-Delattre, Robert Thomson and Bente Lund.

Stewart started by detailing the eligibility criteria defined by his team, this being:

- Powerchair Football is played only by those with a diagnosed, severe physical impairment that leads to a verifiable, permanent* activity limitation; as a consequence, the athlete needs the use of powered mobility in order to play a sport.
- * Some variable, fluctuating impairments may imply classification at every competition (for example, multiple sclerosis).

Players will be classified in a unique way based on severity of disability, with a PF1 classification denoting:

'A player who has highly significant levels of physical difficulty which affects their overall performance. The areas of assessment include the following.

- *Postural control.*
- *Head control.*
- *Driving skills, where particular attention is given to:*
 - *reflex activity;*
 - *fine motor control;*
 - *gross motor movement pattern;*
 - *fluency of motor skill movements.*

These criteria can combine to affect the performance of a player so that they are not as functionally effective as athletes in the category of PF2.'

The PF2 classification denotes:

'A player who has moderate to mild levels of physical difficulty which affects their overall performance. The areas of assessment include the following.

- *Postural control.*
- *Head control.*
- *Driving skills, where particular attention is given to:*
 - *reflex activity;*
 - *fine motor control;*
 - *gross motor movement pattern;*

- *fluency of motor skill movements.*

The cumulative effect of certain debilitating factors can combine to affect the performance of a player so that they qualify to play, but it is evident that they are more functionally effective than athletes in the PF1 category.'

Two important points were noted:

1. The FIPFA Eligibility Criteria does not in any way question the presence of genuine impairment; it merely refers to the eligibility of an athlete to compete in Powerchair Football.
2. The assessment is purely focused on the functional performance of the athlete in relation to Powerchair Football, looking at the presence of reflex and response time and the ease with which athletes can play the sport safely. No external factors such as age, gender, cognition, skill or fitness are taken into consideration.

It is planned that in the long term, a prescribed ratio of PF1 and PF2 players that can be on court at any one time will be agreed upon (e.g. no more than one or two PF2 players, thus ensuring at least numerical equality for PF1 players). To Stewart's understanding, this would be a question for the Rules Commission, as it wouldn't be fair for the Classification Commission to advise on such a key sport rule. This, however, is a future topic of discussion, the importance of getting a strong classification system up-and-running in the first instance being emphasized.

Americas Champions Cup trial run

Stewart detailed the work his Classification Commission has been performing throughout 2009, culminating in a trial run during the Americas Champions Cup. The trial consisted of 16 individual classifications which were managed by the three team panel made up of Stewart, Terrie Moore and Jim Little.

Initially, the assessments took a long time, but eventually they were able to reduce the time to approximately 15 minutes per athlete. The main positives to come out of the trial were:

- Broad level of agreement between the three classifiers.
- Athletes reported as being comfortable with the assessment process.
- Increasing level of interest shown by players and coaches throughout the competition.

Financials

A question was raised as to who will finance the work of the classifiers. For the duration of 2011, the expenses will be budgeted for in the respective Classification and Classifiers training budgets. Once a rigorous system has

been successfully tested, accepted and ratified, the competition hosts will be responsible for covering the classification team expenses at any given event.

Commission workload/ priorities

- Complete the final code.
- Identify and train a larger team of classifiers.
- Set up and start to use a tailored classification database.
- Set up formal documentation system.
- Reach Asia Zone.
- Identify insurance options for classifiers.
- Consider honorarium system for classifiers.
- Be ready for 2011 World Cup with all Zones having had a formal classification event.

A timescale was detailed for the above workload.

Classifications prior to World Cup 2011

To be in a good position for managing classification at the 2011 Powerchair World Cup, Stewart hopes to classify a significant percentage of the athletes who will compete at the following events:

- April 2010 Power Champions League, London.
- Next year's Americas Champions Cup.
- A national Japanese competition.

A question was raised with regard to pre-World Cup classifications. Dominic Russo asked if those athletes would have to be reclassified at the World Cup. The answer was generally no, but in some instances, where severity of disability has drastically changed, there could be exceptions. When deciding on this, the organization of the tournament at which the initial classification is conducted must also be taken into account. If there are three classifiers in a panel, it is deemed a full international-standard classification. For some lesser tournaments held on a national level there may only be two classifiers; a re-classification will therefore be necessary if that athlete is selected for a full international standard event.

Classifiers training

As a vital new addition to FIPFA competition organization, it goes without saying that there will be a mountain of work in the fields of training and information sharing to athletes, coaches and other key stakeholders. In order to manage this, Stewart will liaise with Jérôme Durand, Head of FIPFA's Training Department to formalise a workload for the Classifiers Training Commission. Between them, they will come up with a plan of action and budget for the following:



- Draw up Classifier Commission requirements.
- Review existing commission staffing.
- Identify new classifiers.
- Prepare 3-4 day training course.
- Develop Video package.
- Prepare 2 hour Coaches course for delivery at classifying events (a condition of participation in the event).
- Produce a fact sheet for coaches/club managers.
- Deliver 3-4 day course for Euro/Americas new classifiers.
- Deliver 3-4 day course for the Asia Zone's new classifiers.



Sports Rules Commission progress update by Ricky Stevenson

Ricky gave a brief presentation on developments, summarised below:

- Commission meeting held in San Francisco, February 2009.
- Discussed comments received by NOPFs, referees and commission members.
- Amendments document produced.
- Ratified by FIPFA Executive Committee on 28 February, 2009.
- Completed Laws of the Game produced and submitted to FIPFA (website), June 2009.
- Next review to take place in 2010, to finalise laws for 2011 World Cup.



Training Department Report by Jérôme Durand

The first International Referee Training event was conducted in Atlanta in March 2009. This was a three-day event aimed at improving the level of the less experienced referees, in turn achieving more consistency in refereeing decisions.

Each referee was given the opportunity to officiate two games; it was, however, difficult to use this for evaluating the standard of refereeing, as each game was very different to the next and two games is a small sample in the grand scheme of things. The main conclusion drawn was that every opportunity to train and give practical experience to FIPFA's international referees must be taken.

Jérôme's aim over the next year is to conduct a second refereeing seminar/training session on all rules of the game. Jérôme hopes that each NOPF will be able to provide one experienced referee. This referee will then utilize the training so that the knowledge is filtered down to other referees within his/her NOPF. For new member countries eg. Switzerland/Ireland, where perhaps there will be no experienced referees, it will be the responsibility of the Zone in conjunction with the Training Department.

Communication Commission report by Nicolas Dubes

Website

At present we have an informative website available in two languages – French and English. The key problem for Nicolas is that he doesn't have enough people globally providing relevant information which can be posted on the website. He would like a reliable person in each country to provide information on anything relevant to Powerchair Football, from competition information, to the creation of new teams and general developments. His other points on the website were a request for patience with translations, as generally, nothing should be posted on the website unless there is a corresponding article in the other language. He also reminded the Congress that at their request, a service is available whereby they can make posts directly onto the websites themselves.

DVD

Nicolas reminded the Congress that there is a promotional DVD available free of charge which contains a general introduction to Powerchair Football. The promotional DVD is now available with subtitles in 12 languages.

Starter kit

The creation of a new Powerchair Football Starter Kit was then detailed; it is planned that this will be available for distribution by 1 February, 2010. All NOPFs will receive a copy of the Starter Kit, but it is mostly geared towards countries that are not currently playing the sport. The Starter Kit contains 2 DVDs, a 12 page booklet of specifics to the game, descriptions of technical needs, laws, etc., that are needed to play the sport and information for organizers on best practices for developing and organizing the sport.

Briefing Newsfeed

The idea of introducing a briefing newsfeed was discussed. This would be emailed to athletes, officials and key FIPFA partners. The document would comprise a general, perhaps quarterly update on Powerchair news worldwide (similar info to that which is posted on the website. The general consensus was that this is a good idea.

Challenges:

1. Need a mailing list.
2. Will only be successful if enough good information is provided by NOPFs and Commission heads.

EPFA Zone report by Ricky Stevenson

The work conducted in the last 12 months is as follows:

- Developing Countries
- Held their first Zone Congress
- First Zone Competition
- Planning for 2010

Ricky then detailed a UK Home Nations meeting attended by representatives with the remit for disability football from the Football Associations of England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This was a very successful event, with much interest shown. FIPFA materials (DVD, brochure and contact details) were distributed.

Ireland

A demonstration was held by players and representatives from the English WFA in August 2008. This was without doubt a success, since the Irish have now gone on to create the IWFA, which became a FIPFA associate member in 2009. Irish representatives attended the Powerchampion's League in 2008 as a learning exercise with a view to participating in 2010. Since then, the Irish have held their first national Powerchair Football tournament. This was run in July 2009 in conjunction with the Irish FAI.

Switzerland

A two-day demonstration was held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2008. At this event, informative clinics were conducted with players, coaches and referees. Workshops were delivered to potential organisers, parents, carers, coaches and referees.

Scotland

A one-day demonstration is planned for early 2010. In attendance will be a mixture of players from France and England. This will be run in a similar way to the demonstration in Ireland. It is hoped that this will lead to the establishment of a Scottish Association.

Poland

The Percy Hedley Foundation in England made a connection with a group in Poland that had been practicing Powerchair Football. Correspondence has led to an arrangement to meet. On 5 December of this year, Robert and Hervé will attend a Boccia competition where they will look to lay down plans for the future development of Powerchair Football in Poland.

Belgium

Belgium has successfully completed its first tournament in which five teams competed. As a result of this national-level competition, a Belgian team will now be able to compete at the 2010 Powerchampion's League. The success of their first national tournament means that it will now be an annual occurrence.

First Congress

The first EPFA Zone Congress was attended by Belgium, England and France. During this congress, members were nominated and elected to become EPFA Officers. The outcome of these elections were as follows.

- President – Ricky Stevenson (Eng.)
- Treasurer – Steve Kelly (Eng.)
- President of Sports Department – Nicolas Dubes (Fra.)
- President of Development – Herve Delattre (Fra.)
- Administration & Finance - Ronnie De Scheemaecker (Bel.)
- Secretary – Nicky Baker (Eng.)

Powerchampion's League

After a formal bid process, the 2008 Powerchampion's League was hosted by the French Association in Douai. Promotional materials, which were put up throughout Douai for exposure of the tournament and Powerchair Football, were presented to the Congress.

The PCL is aimed at teams from all the EPFA Zone affiliated NOPFs. The participating countries were Denmark, England, Belgium and France. The details were as follows:

- Eight Team competitions – 4 France / 2 England / 1 Belgium / 1 Denmark
- Referees from across Europe and 2 from USA
- Four-day event (Day 1 arrival & opening / Day 2 pool games / Day 3 finals & closing / Day 4 travel home)
- Regulations based on World Cup 2007

Plans for the future

The 2010 Powerchampion's League host was officially announced as England. PCL 2010 will be hosted at Stoke's Mandeville Stadium, 8 – 12 April, 2010. One day has been scheduled for classification before the start of the tournament. Team entries will be made by all NOPFs during November 2009.



A delegate from the Belgian NOPF queried the format of the event, which is as follows:

- 8th – arrival
- 9th – classification
- 10th – pool play
- 11th – semis + finals
- 12th – departure

PCL 2011

For efficiency, Ricky will be sending the Powerchampion's League bid document out to all NOPFs by December 2009. Bids are requested back by March 2010 with a decision to be made and announced at the Powerchampion's League event in Stoke, 2010.



Americas Zone report by Jonathan Newman

The Americas Zone President was invited to make a presentation evaluating the success of the Americas Champions Cup and to give an update on the Americas Zone developments as a whole.

Jonathan thanked the FIPFA members for attending the competition. Although there hadn't been significant time to evaluate the competition, Jonathan commented on the fellowship and camaraderie between the two countries.

Canada

A meeting attended by Jonathan and Hervé was held 7 – 8 October, 2008. The plan made was to incorporate Canada as a legal entity with the Powerchair name.

USA

Development of the sport in the USA has been quite rapid. With more and more teams signing up, the USA is now at a stage where an additional tier of competition has been added, meaning that teams now have to qualify in order to compete at the nationals. Other developments include a revamped website, starter kit and a drills video.

Zone meeting 2009

The Americas Zone conducted a productive meeting on Sunday 25, 2009, the day prior to the Congress, at which they discussed plans for the Americas Champions Cup in the future, their constitution and logo design.

Medical Commission report by Mary Coleman

Mary described the goal of the Medical Commission as being to enhance the safety of athletes during competition. She went on to describe four key parts of her mandate as:

- Develop a medical record cards system for players to participate in international competitions. The goal is to have all medical information available in competition for hospitalization and / or medical consultations. This form should also inform FIPFA and the host country of any type of care needed. These medical record cards will be collected by the local medical officer who will be present at each international competition.
- Develop a model sheet describing the arrangements to host a Powerchair competition (to be included in the specifications for the organization of competitions).
- Participate in the work of the Classification Commission.
- Conduct research on the future anti-doping rules (see CP-ISRA).

The rest of Mary's presentation to the Congress is summarized below:

System of care for athletes

- Pre-competition.
- During competition.
- Post-competition analysis.
- Coordination with other FIPFA Commissions.
- Enhance and ensure safety of competitors to promote the health and well-being of the athletes and their caregivers.
- Provide education and training for coaches and athletes.
- Develop best medical practice recommendations for Powerchair football competitions to:
 - Promote quality and success of competitive event
 - Consider individual/team/legal and cultural factors

Pre-competition goals

- Develop medical record cards for players to participate in international competitions. The goal is to have all medical information available in competition for hospitalization and/or medical consultations. Mary highlighted that in most competitions in the US the athletes must submit a medical clearance form to their coaches to play. After congress discussion it was decided that the Medical Board present at a competition would hand the information back to the player or their carer at the end of the competition. For reasons of confidentiality and data protection, the consensus was that it's best if FIPFA does not retain this information.

- This form should also inform the FIPFA and the host country of any type of care needed. These medical records will be collected by the commission.
- Exclusion criteria?
- Develop a model sheet describing the arrangements to host a Power Chair competition (to be included in the specifications for the organization of competitions).
- Establish safety alerts/information to players about conditions in host country.
- Establish protocols for immediate treatment and transport to appropriate medical facilities within host countries.
- Establish system for identifying local medical coordinators for competition and housing.

Competition

- Member of the medical board will be present at each international competition.
- Coordinate with local health officials and event site personnel

Coordination

- Participate in the work of the Classification Commission.
- During competition and planning phases.

Post game analysis

- Types of Injuries or Illnesses.
- Coordination with Outside Medical Facilities and On-Site Event Coordinators.
- Surveys-coaches and players.

Conditions at Americas Cup

- Cuts, Bruises and Sprains
- Decubitus
- Concussion
- Head Aches
- Respiratory-upper and lower
- Allergic Reactions

Recommendations

- Players have medical record with them.
- List of medical services (clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, etc) with phone numbers and transportation directions available to players and coaches.
- On-site personnel with ventilator certification.
- Go to personnel on-site (defibrillator) and at hotel.

- Hygiene at Event.....hand washing, gels.
- Follow-up after injury or illness.

Anti-doping

- Conduct research on the future anti-doping rules (see CP-ISRA).
- Banned substances-drugs, supplements, drinks, Therapeutic Use Exemptions, Testing

Coaches medical handbook

- General Medical Information on Medical Conditions Represented in Power football
- Impact on Exercise and Physical Fitness
- Treatment and Equipment
- Drugs and Impact on Performance
- Doping and Therapeutic Exemptions

Recommendations from Medical providers present at America's Cup experience

- Players should have a medical record with them.
- List of medical services including transportation and directions available.
- On site personnel with ventilator certification.
- Go-to personnel on site at competition and at hotel
- Hygiene at the event.
- Post-game injury analysis.

At the end of Mary's presentation, Robert suggested that she convene the mountain of work laid out. This includes liaising with other FIPFA departments on mutually relevant topics. Robert took the opportunity to thank Mary for her hard work in presenting to the Congress and in relation to the H1N1 Flu Pandemic information given for the Americas Champions Cup.

Technical Discussion

Side protection on powerchairs

Prior to the Congress, Luis Almeida from the Portuguese NOPF had requested a discussion on an issue which has concerned him in recent times. Taking the opportunity to comment, Luis explained how throughout his time in Powerchair Football, he has seen the ball get stuck underneath players' powerchairs, with the outcome being that the powerchair flips over.

A view was expressed that it is the less experienced players whose chairs were tipping. Although a relevant point, it was decided that in instances where serious injury can occur, addressing training provisions and providing guidelines can only be part of the remedy and on its own, is not a satisfactory response. Adam agreed that this is an urgent priority. He will liaise with Dominique to obtain a recommendation that the Rules Commission make side-protection on chairs mandatory for all FIPFA-sanctioned international competitions. From this recommendation, the Sports Rules can then be amended.

Equipment checks

Dominic Russo raised a concern that throughout the Americas Champions Cup, he had not seen any checks on quality and regularity of equipment. This will be reviewed, as regulations are already in place.

Constitution translation

With regard to previously held discussions on the importance of consistency when representing our sport on an international stage, some minor constitutional amendments, spelling corrections and translations were suggested. Two notable inconsistencies related to the use of the words sport/discipline and Finance Committee/Commission. These amendments to the English version of the constitution were accepted by Congress on the understanding that the equivalent changes would be made to the official French version (Federation registered under French law) of the constitution to ensure consistency.

Align FIPFA Zones with those of the IPC

This item was requested by the French Federation, the idea being to coordinate FIPFA's Zones with those of the IPC.

IPC Countries per Zone:

- Oceania - 7
- Africa - 41
- Asia - 40
- America – 25
- Europe – 49

This quickly became a complex discussion with a member of Congress commenting that FIFA consists of six quite different Confederations, these being:

- South America
- Asia
- Europe
- Africa
- Arabia
- Oceania

As the discussion became more complicated, Robert queried whether there was any tangible advantage to deciding on this issue in the immediacy and the extent to which France considered it important to vote on the matter during the Congress. Nicolas Dubes, the voting delegate for France, said that it was not vital to reach a decision during the Congress. By this stage, however, the matter had been raised and it was generally felt that it was important to reach a consensus. Dominic felt that FIPFA should go with the IPC Zones but combine those of Asia & Oceania to ensure valid competition in each Zone. Terrie suggested it made sense to label the two Zones separately as 'Asia' and 'Oceania', whilst retaining the flexibility to make adjustments depending on the competition.

After much discussion, Chris Finn moved to change the Zones whilst retaining the ability to combine the Asia & Oceania Zones at a later date if useful. This vote was seconded by Dominic and ultimately received five votes for and one abstention – amendment passed.

World Cup Trophy discussion

Chris Finn provided two World Cup trophy designs (based on a trophy of approximately 18 inches tall) shortlisted from 10 submissions provided by a design school in California. Chris requested that a vote be held among all members of Congress present. Trophy #3 received 10 votes and #2 received 5.

Although a majority decision had been reached, Stewart queried the practicality of the designs from a kinetic point of view. His main concerns were:

- No grip on the trophy which could be problematic given the limited dexterity of many athletes.
- The angles had sharp edges – again dangerous.
- The weight was ambiguous and likely too heavy for many athletes.

Stewart offered his own drawings which could be converted into digital format to give a better idea of what the final design would look like. It was also suggested that an overlay of the world on the ball part of the trophy could make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Mary queried whether it was possible to offer the designs online for athletes worldwide to vote on? It was decided that this is possible and that Chris will look into the logistics of this in coordination with the Secretariat and Communication Commission.

Chris – asked for an informal vote of design acceptance

- Design # 2 - 5
- Design # 3 - 10

Chris asked whether people were comfortable with the designs provided or if he needs to bring in another set of designs. It was decided that the designs were to be amended to incorporate the aforementioned suggestions whilst considering the kinetic requirements. Chris will have a final draft model made in the coming weeks.

Robert thanked Chris and the Californian University that had submitted the designs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm