by e-mail Vittuone, April 20th 2015
to: all IMSSC Members

Subject: proposals for 38th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED on May 30st 2015 sorted according to agenda item

Please find in the following pages all the arrived proposals sorted according to their relation with the agenda item. The preliminary agenda is the following:

1. Approval of the Minutes 37th IMSSC Session in Amsterdam/NED 2014
2. Alterations of Members in the IMSSC
3. Approval of the IMSSC Records List 2015
4. Allround Games 2018 and Sprint Games 2018, Applications
5. Allround Games in The Netherlands 2016, Nations’ Quota
6. Sprint Games in Baselga di Pinè/NED 2016, Nations’ Quota
7. Other International Masters’ Competitions in 2015/2016
8. IMSTC: organization chart, regulations and status
10. New Proposals for changing IMSSC Constitution and Regulations
11. Other Proposals
12. Miscellaneous

With best regards,

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS’ SPEED SKATING COMMITTEE (IMSSC)

Paolo Gemme

Members of the IMSSC:
Frank Anderson (AUS), Hubert Kreutz (AUT), Willy Caboor (BEL), Konstantin Lukashevich (BLR), Brett Arnason (CAN), Petr Novák (CZE), Marcello Bresin (ESP), Pertti Kiskinen (FIN), Reinhold Marsollek (GER), Rossella Sardi (ITA), Kenji Takai (JAP), Azamat Ismailov (KAZ), Jae-Seok Choi (KOR), Lasma Kauniste (LAT), Tjeerd Smies (NED), Ragnvald Næss (NOR), Boris Repnin (RUS), Hans-Peter Ambass (SUI), Jan Landelius (SWE), Oleksandr Symonenko (UKR), Andrew Love (USA)

Honorary Members of the IMSSC:
Roland Hagemann (GER), Dr. Volker Serini (GER), Dominik Wehling (GER), Antonio Nitto (ITA), Drs. Harry G. Falke(NED), Bram de Vries (NED), Aris J. Dijkman (NED), Peter Reimann (SUI)
Proposal 1/USA - Part I Constitution: Modification to Article 1 - Objectives.

Existing text:
The objectives of the International Masters’ Speed Skating Committee (IMSSC), founded in 1994, are to promote and encourage the development of Masters’ Speed Skating in all possible manifestations throughout the world, especially by promoting Masters’ International Speed Skating Championships and other Masters’ International Speed Skating Competitions, especially in 5 year age groups, and by promoting the development of uniform rules and regulations for Masters’ Speed Skating Competitions in cooperation with the International Skating Union (ISU) and the National Speed Skating Associations.

Proposed text:
Founded in 1994, the objectives of the International Masters’ Speed Skating Committee (IMSSC), are to promote, encourage development of, and standardize masters’ speed skating in all possible manifestations throughout the world. This includes, but is not limited to, Masters’ International Speed Skating Championships. Through the committee based development and application of uniform rules and regulations for masters’ speed skating competitions, and in cooperation with the International Skating Union (ISU) and national associations, the IMSSC strives to create a safe and fair environment in which masters speed skaters the world over may enjoy competition in the great sport of speed skating.

Reasons:
- Grammatical and sentence structure improvements;
- 5 year age groups is not an objective and is covered in the body of the regulations.

Proposal 2/USA - Part I Constitution: Modification to first part of Article 2 - Appointment, Status and General Tasks of IMSSC Members.

Existing text:
Members of the IMSSC are appointed or voted out by the IMSSC at the yearly Session. Voting out must be done by secret ballot and needs a 3/4 majority of the representatives participating in the Session. Every nation can only have one member in the IMSSC. All members of the IMSSC have equal rights and one vote. Voting about persons has to be done by secret ballot. The voting procedure about other matters can be decided at the session. A new Member from a new Country cannot start voting until the next session following the appointment. Every member of the IMSSC may have an assistant taking part in the Session of the IMSSC. An IMSSC member should appoint a successor that, in case of his death or resignation, will act as an interim IMSSC Member for that country. The successor is officially appointed or voted out at the next IMSSC yearly Session.

Proposed text:
Every IMSSC Member may have a Deputy Member taking part in the Session of the IMSSC. Members and Deputy Members of the IMSSC are appointed to or voted out by the IMSSC at the annual Session. Appointment of a Member and a Deputy Member requires a 3/4 majority vote of the present Members participating in the Session. Voting out of an IMSSC Member and a Deputy Member requires a 3/4 majority vote of the present Members participating in the Session. It is not necessary for perspective Members or Deputy Members to be present to be appointed to or voted out of the IMSSC. Voting about persons must be accomplished by a secret ballot. The voting procedure for other matters may be decided at the Session, but typically should be by show of hands, in favor or against. Every nation is allowed one Member and one Deputy Member in the IMSSC. All Members of the IMSSC have equal rights and one vote. A newly appointed IMSSC Member and Deputy Member from a newly participating nation may not exercise voting rights until the next Session following their appointment. With prior notification to the IMSSC office, the Deputy Member may attend a Session in place of the Member, and have all the same rights and voting privileges. An IMSSC Member should identify a successor that, in case of his/her death or resignation, will act as an interim IMSSC Member for that nation. The successor is officially appointed or voted out as a Member at the next IMSSC annual Session. The Deputy Member may also be the Member's successor. It is not necessary for a candidate successor to be present to be voted into an IMSSC status. The goal is to promote active national members, who regularly participate in the governance of the IMSSC. If a nation is unrepresented at two consecutive annual Sessions, that nation's Member, and Deputy Member, status in the IMSSC will be questioned and can be revoked by a vote of 3/4 majority of the present Members at the Session.

Reasons:
- Grammatical and sentence structure improvements;
- Clarification of the process for establishing and controlling member, deputy member, and successor status in
Proposal 4/USA - Part I Constitution: Modification to Article 3 – Sessions and Decisions of the IMSSC.

Existing text:
Part of the Annual IMSSC Income shall be used to cover travelling expenses for the IMSSC Members to the Session and back. The amount is decided by the IMSSC at the Session. If the decided amount is not sufficient to cover all travelling expenses, the travelling expenses of each IMSSC Member who participated, will be reimbursed partially at the same percentage.

Proposed text:
Part of the annual IMSSC income shall be used to cover traveling expenses for the IMSSC Members to the Session and back. The amount is decided by the IMSSC at the Session. If the decided amount is not sufficient to cover all traveling expenses, the traveling expenses of each IMSSC Member who participated, will be reimbursed partially at the same percentage of the expense incurred.

Reasons:
• Correct spelling of “traveling”, by happenstance;
• To clarify the reimbursement is not a percentage of the money available, but rather an equal percentage of the money spent for the Member to make the trip and predetermined lodging. Clarity should also be sought for what constitutes travel from afar and what amount warrant two nights lodging.

Proposal 1/NOR - Part II Regulations: Modification to Rule 1 – Relations to ISU Rules.

Existing text:
The mentioned ISU Rules in this document refer to the 2012 Edition of the ISU Constitution and General Rules and also the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules. If the numbering of the ISU Rules is altered in updates of the above mentioned books, the references shall apply to the corresponding new Rules.

Proposed text:
The mentioned ISU Rules in this document refer to the 2014 Edition of the ISU Constitution and General Rules and also the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules. If any ISU Rule should be renumbered after the issue of this document, the reference herein should apply to the corresponding renumbered ISU Rule until next update of this document.

Reasons:
• References in the updated IMSSC Constitution and Regulations will now refer to the 2014 version of the mentioned ISU Books. (References are checked).
• The last sentence is modified for improved clarity.

Proposal 3/USA - Part II Regulations: Modification to Rule 2 – Masters Definition.

Existing text:
Masters are non-professional speedskaters (members of National teams and National selections excluded) from 30 years, the age being defined as age reached during the competition year 1st July till 30th June, competing in 5 year age groups 30-34 (30), 35-39 (35), 40-44 (40), 45-49 (45), 50-54 (50), 55-59 (55), 60-64 (60), 65-69 (65), 70-74 (70), 75-79 (75), 75-79 (75), 80-84 (80), 85-89 (85), 90-94 (90) and higher (as high as necessary).

Proposed text:
Masters are non-professional speedskaters (meaning they are not members of National teams or National selection programs) from the age of 25 years. The skater’s age being defined as the age reached on the first day of the competition year, which is July 1st through June 30th. Competitions will be conducted in 5 year age group categories; 25-29 (25), 30-34 (30), 35-39 (35), 40-44 (40), 45-49 (45), 50-54 (50), 55-59 (55), 60-64 (60), 65-69 (65), 70-74 (70), 75-79 (75), 75-79 (75), 80-84 (80), 85-89 (85), 90-94 (90) and higher (as high as necessary).
Reasons:

- Slight rewording chances for clarity;
- Add an age category to include the 25 to 29 year old age group. We observe in the US that there is a population of skaters who do not achieve the level of an elite skater and therefore do not become supported by the national programs. Some of these skaters may be inclined to continue to participate in the sport if they had a group to compete within. Typically, however, because of this they leave the sport and do not return. Perhaps this is also the case in other countries with smaller speedskating populations. If the desire of the IMSSC is to “promote and encourage the development of Masters’ Speed Skating in all possible manifestations throughout the world” then losing this population of potential participants due to lack of community is not an acceptable situation. Based on recent attendance numbers, it would not be burdensome for the majority of Masters events to include this age group demographic.

Note: If adopted, numerous other locations in the Constitutions and Regulations will require change.


Existing text:

Masters’ International Competitions will be held in different countries. They may be organized by a club, cooperating clubs or a National Speed Skating Association. The valid combinations of distances for Sprint and Allround Competitions are the same as in paragraph 3.1.1 but without regard to Age Groups. The competition program may also contain Team Pursuit and Relay Races according to the relevant ISU Rules.

Proposed text:

Masters’ International Competitions will be held in different countries. They may be organized by a club, cooperating clubs or a National Speed Skating Association. The valid combinations of distances for Sprint and Allround Competitions are the same as in paragraph 3.1.1 but without regard to Age Groups. The competition program may also contain Team Pursuit, Relay Races, Team Sprint Races and Mass Start Races according to the relevant ISU Rules.

Reason:

To enable all the new competition formats which appear in the ISU books.

Proposal 5/USA - Part II Regulations: Modification to Rule 3.1.4 and 3.1.5.

Existing text:

3.1.4 Duties of the local IMSSC Representative

The IMSSC Representative of the country where Masters’ International Allround Games, Masters’ International Sprint Games and other Masters’ International Competitions are held, is responsible for providing the organizer with updated versions of “Constitution and Regulations of the IMSSC” and “Requirements and Advices to Organizers” for each competition. Further the IMSSC Representative must follow the preparations of the event to ensure that the organizer understands the mutuality of ISU and IMSSC Rules and practices them in the right way before and during the competition.

3.1.5 Responsible for communication

For each IMSSC competition, the IMSSC representative is responsible for communication. His/Her role is to promptly provide, during the competition or immediately after, news, images and results to the IMSSC website or via direct publication on www.imssc.org or sending those info to the IMSSC Secretary.

Proposed text:

3.1.4 Duties of the local IMSSC Representative

The IMSSC Representative is the individual (or his/her delegate) who submitted the Application to Host to the IMSSC for conduct of the Masters’ International Allround Games, Masters’ International Sprint Games and/or other Masters’ International Competitions. He/she is responsible for providing the organizer with updated versions of the “Constitution and Regulations of the IMSSC” and the “Requirements and Advices to Organizers” for each competition. Furthermore, the IMSSC Representative must follow the preparations of the event and, in liaison with the nation’s IMSSC Member, ensure that the organizer understands the mutuality of ISU and IMSSC Rules and practices them in the right way before and during the competition.
3.1.5 Responsible for Communication

For each IMSSC competition, an IMSSC Representative (see 3.1.4) is responsible for communication. His/Her role is to provide news, images, and an accounting of race results for publication on the IMSSC website as soon as possible but no later than one week of the close of the subject competition. This information may be published directly on the IMSSC website (www.imssc.org) in the form of a News Article or by emailing the News Article to the IMSSC Secretary.

Other information and/or news that is of a time sensitive or urgent nature shall be communicated by the IMSSC Representative to the IMSSC Member or other IMSSC Official immediately upon discovery.

Reasons:
- Clarify who the IMSSC Representative is and what his or her responsibilities are concerning the preparation, conduct, and reporting of a particular Masters competition.
- Properly bound the timeframes suggested in the existing text.


These two Rules should be cancelled, in view of a more fair and fostering attitude, aimed at a better development and promotion of the Masters' movement all over the world. This will allow participation in the Games even to those Nations which, for example, cannot count on great numbers of skaters (who may not even possess personal times for all distances), and/or do have significant/representative athletes with unpretentious personal bests.

Reason (practical): in both International Games of this year 2015, derogations were accepted and enforced by several IMSSC Members.

Proposal 6/USA - Part II Regulations: Modification of Rule 3.1.6. - Limit times for Masters' International Sprint Games and Masters' International Allround Games.

Existing text:

Every participant has to inform the national IMSSC Member of his (her) most recent time on the 500 m and 1500 m. It is the responsibility of the IMSSC Member to accept the times. If the applicable time (500 m for the Sprint Games and 1500 m for the Allround Games) does not meet the Maximum Time as laid down in Rule 3.1.7 (Maximum Time Table) the participant cannot take part in the Sprint and/or Allround Games unless the national IMSSC Member decides otherwise in a written consent.

Proposed text:

If a master skater wishes to participate in either the Sprint Games or the Allround Games, their most recent time skated in the 500m (for Sprint Games) and 1500m (for the Allround Games), in the current or prior season, must meet the time standard set below in Rule 3.1.7. It is incumbent upon the skater to ensure this is the case PRIOR to registering for a competition. If a skater has not achieved the minimum time standard at the time of the subject competition, then their participation will be denied by the IMSSC. However, if the skater engages their national IMSSC Member PRIOR to the registration deadline with an explanation of extenuating circumstances, the IMSSC Member may waive the time standard requirement of Rule 3.1.7. If the requirement is waived, an explanation of the skater's circumstances along with the IMSSC Member's rationalization and approval shall be forwarded to the IMSSC Secretary in writing for information.

Reasons:
- Clearly state who is responsible for what with this rule. Having exercised it twice for the Allround Games last year, I questioned:
  - What does most recent mean?
  - Who else needs to approve this or be informed about it?
  - What happens if a skater registers, arrives, has not made the standard, AND did not get waiver approval from the nation's IMSSC Member? By then, it is too late for a quota replacement.
Proposal 7/USA - Part II Regulations: Modification of Rule 3.2. - Entry.

Existing text:

The official entry form of the competition is sent by fax, mail, email or through a designated website to the organizer or the National IMSSC Member (as specified in the announcement) by the competitor or through representation of the club/association the skater belongs to. Every competing skater must be licensed in his/her own country. Every participant has to meet a reasonable time qualification. The National IMSSC member is responsible for acceptance of a participant.

Proposed text:

The official entry form of the competition is sent by fax, mail, email or through a designated website to the organizer or the National IMSSC Member (as specified in the announcement) by the competitor or through representation of the club/association to which the skater belongs. Every competing skater must be licensed in his/her own country.

Reason:

This concern of time standard is address in a rule that was new last year and is no longer required to be discussed here. Also, this gives the impression that ALL competitions require an IMSSC Member pass judgement on a skater's ability. I don't believe this should be the case. If there is specific case/competition (not a Sprint or Allround Games) where the organizer wishes to enforce the Rule 3.1.7, then it should be communicated in the competition announcement, AND the organizer should be the judge not the skater's national IMSSC Member.

Proposal 3/NOR - Part II Regulations: Modification of Rule 3.5. – Drawing and ranking.

Existing text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, neighboured 5 year age groups may be joined for drawing and speedskating. However final classification must be done separately in 5 year age groups independent of the number of participants in an age group.

Proposed text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, neighboured 5 year age groups may be joined for drawing and speedskating. But the allotting of track on the 1000m is decided by the ranking after two distances within each 5 year age group, and not by the ranking in the joined, neighboured groups. The final classification must be done separately in 5 year age groups independent of the number of participants in an age group.

Reason:

It is unfair that the skaters who are aggregate first after two distances, 500m and 1500m, in an age group may be given the disadvantageous first outer track on the 1000m, just depending on their ranking in a joined group.

Proposal 2/NED - Part II Regulations: Modification of paragraph 4 of Rule 3.5. – Drawing and ranking.

Existing text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, neighboured 5 year age groups may be joined for drawing and speedskating. However final classification must be done separately in 5 year age groups independent of the number of participants in an age group.

Proposed text:

Generally the age groups are drawn separately. If the number of competitors is very small in one or several of the five year age groups, neighboured 5 year age groups may be joined for drawing and speedskating. For the final distance drawing and classification of any master must be done in her/his own age group independent of the number of participants in that age group.

Reason:

In Kolomna there was a lot of discussion about drawing and classification for the fourth distance.
Proposal 8/USA - Part II Regulations: Clarification of Rule 3.7. – Participants in the last distance.

Existing text:
If the time schedule requires limitation of participants in the last distance of an Allround Competition, a minimum number of skaters of every five year age group must be allowed to skate according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of skaters</th>
<th>Skaters on last distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – 3</td>
<td>1 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 – 7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed text:
Only if the time schedule requires limitation of participants in the last distance of an Allround Competition, a minimum number of skaters of every five year age group must be allowed to skate according to the following table. In the case where a participant limit must be imposed, the starting list shall include the top general classification skaters in that age group. If a start listed skater withdraws from the last distance, his/her starting position will be filled by the next lower ranked skater in that age group. Adjustments to the table below should be made to fill a quartet or pair, at the discretion of the organizer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of skaters</th>
<th>Skaters on last distance (minimum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–3</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>4...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason:
- Clearly state that all skaters in a group of 3 or less will skate the last distance;
- Allow for maximum participation while maintaining the ability for the organizer to honor the ice availability schedule limitation.


Existing text:
IMSSC Records over all distances may be recognized also for times achieved in quartet starts (see ISU Rule 278 § 1a, §2b, § 3a-e, §4 and §5).

Proposed text:
IMSSC Records over all distances may be recognized also for times achieved in quartet starts (see ISU Rule 278 § 1, §2b, § 3a-d, §4 and §5).

Reason:
Correction of two references to ISU Rules.
**AGENDA Item 12 – Other proposals**

**Proposal 1/ESP – No speedskates rule.** Except Masters Games and any other event that disallows different skates, athletes should be able to participate in events even with fitness/non racing skates.

**Reason:**

Last December, at the Masters Revival in Baselga, a new master lady that trained for quite some time for the event and was enthusiastic about long track, was almost disqualified because she had fitness type skates instead of speedskates... She was forced to wear a pair of Vikings to participate: having never tried such a skate before, she obviously couldn’t cope with them and left the event (and the sport) in disgust. Now, I don’t know what are the current ISU rules, neither I know about other countries, but in Italy and Spain there are scores of over-30 roller skaters that are attracted to long track and could be lured to skate masters events, although given the costs it’s absurd to expect them all to buy speedskates to start with. And we definitely need to increase the ranks in mentioned countries! So we should be favouring entry-level skates for new masters, at least in low-key events like Baselga’s.

**Proposal 9/USA - Adopt Guidelines for Appointment of IMSSC Honorary Life Members.** The proposed Guidelines are attached. At the 37th Session of the IMSSC, nominations for Honorary Members were made and passed. An newly recognized Honorary Life Member, Antonio Nitto, suggested that a set of Guidelines be drafted to help standardize and give structure to the process. Tjeerd and I agreed to work on this during the year. The attached is a submittal for adoption by reference to the Constitution and Regulations of the IMSSC.

Guidelines for Appointment of Honorary Life Members to the International Masters’ Speedskating Committee (IMSSC)

The IMSSC Members can appoint IMSSC Honorary Life Members as a tribute to outstanding accomplishments in the promotion of Masters' speedskating and dedicated services to IMSSC.

1. **Criteria**

Honorary Life Members to the IMSSC may be nominated or proposed for appointment at the annual Session on the basis of the following criteria:

- Has carried out a significant role or roles on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the masters speedskating community.
- Has made a significant and lasting contribution to further the mission and goals of the IMSSC through interaction with international organizations and committees on behalf of the IMSSC over the course of their career.
- Has exhibited the highest ethical standards of conduct on behalf of the IMSSC.
- Has retired from any official IMSSC post.
- The appointed must be made by a three-quarter (3/4) secret ballot decision of the IMSSC Members or Deputy Members in attendance.

2. **Entitlements**

No specific or implied entitlements result from an appointment as an IMSSC Honorary Life Member.

3. **Nominations**

Anyone may nominate a person as an IMSSC Honorary Life Member. A nomination shall be submitted in writing as a formal proposal to the IMSSC Secretary prior to the deadline for proposals for the annual Session of the IMSSC in accordance with [IMSSC Rules and Regulations] with detailed motivation and justification information to fully support the nomination. It is recommended that the nomination proposal come with the endorsement of the national IMSSC Member of the nominee, as this person will be sponsoring the nomination at the Session.

These guidelines shall be made known Masters Speedskaters via the IMSSC website.
4. **Removal from IMSSC Honorary Life Status**

The IMSSC Members may remove an IMSSC Honorary Life Member from such stand with due reason at the annual Session if it is learned that personal acts committed by the individual shed negative light on their character or integrity. A secret ballot of three-quarter (3/4) majority is required to do so.

5. **Current IMSSC Honorary Life Members**

The IMSSC proudly holds the following persons status as IMSSC Honorary Life Members:

- Aris J Dijksman, Netherlands
- Dr. Harry G Falke, Netherlands
- Roland Hagemann, Germany
- Antonio Nitto, Italy
- Peter Reimann, Switzerland
- Volker Serini, Germany
- Bram de Vries, Netherlands
- Dominik Wehling, Germany

**Proposal 1/NED – Requirements and Advice to Organizers of International Masters Competitions v.1.1 – additional text to point 5 announcement.**

In the announcement of the Masters Allround Games in Calgary as the announcement of the Sprint Games in Kolomna, nothing was mentioned about the applicable time limits as defined in the Constitutions and Regulations in chapter 3.1.7. Furthermore is it not always clear to masters that in a number of countries (see below) the application of masters is centrally organised/coordinated.

**Proposed text to be added:**

In the announcement the time limits must be published as defined in chapter 3.1.7 in the Constitutions and Regulations 2014-2015 of the IMSSC (v.1.0). Application of masters for the Masters Allround Games and the Masters Sprint Games of the following countries must be done via the IMSSC country representative:

- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Russia