

To the attention of All GAISF Member International Federations

Lausanne, 31 May 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It was a pleasure to meet up with so many of you during Sportaccord in Bangkok which proved to be a wonderful host city for a hugely enjoyable and productive event.

I would like to thank you for your support during our General Assembly which, with the welcome return of the IAAF, World Golf and the IPC to active membership, saw the GAISF Family reunited in full for the first time for four years.

Their presence is evidence of the strides we have taken to refocus GAISF and to make it more relevant and reflective of all our members' interests across the fast-changing world of sport.

These are exciting times for GAISF and, in alignment with the International Olympic Committee and in keeping with our Memorandum of Understanding, we are making good progress in servicing and supporting our members in many different areas.

MULTI-SPORT GAMES

Organising multi-sport games to provide a showcase for members' sports is an important part of our commitment and during Sportaccord I signed an agreement with Sheikh ANOC President Sheik Ahmed Al-Sabah in the presence of International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach covering the organization of editions of the World Beach Games after 2019.

The agreement recognises ANOC's important efforts in launching the World Beach Games and GAISF's critical role in Multi-Sport Games. Under the agreement ANOC and GAISF will form a 50-50 partnership to run the World Beach Games through a jointly held event company registered in Switzerland.

The World Beach Games would be held every two years following the edition being organized by ANOC in San Diego in 2019. The Sport Program will be determined in agreement with the IOC and in principle, unless approved by the IOC no Olympic events will be included in future Beach Games.

In a significant move we were also able to the launch of the host city selection process for the inaugural World Urban Games which we aim to stage in either 2019 or 2020.

The project received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from both potential hosts and International Federations during special briefing presentations during SportAccord.

The World Urban Games will be a five-day celebration and showcase for new-generation sports. It will comprise a programme of competition and showcase urban sports complimented by a Festival of youth-focused music, art and culture that will give the Games a unique inclusive and festive atmosphere.

We are still in a consultative phase with regard to potential host cities and the sports to be included and a review of the disciplines eligible for the competition programme is under way and, under the supervision of the relevant International Federations. The final programme will be proposed for approval in due course and disciplines will be selected from among all eligible disciplines in consultation with the host city and all stakeholders.

SUPPORTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Given the range of complex issues facing sport around the world, promoting and supporting Best Practice in governance is, of course, high on GAISF's agenda.

Consequently, I was particularly grateful to His Royal Highness Prince Feisal Al-Hussein, chair of the IOC working group on abuse and harassment in sport who joined us at the GA to deliver a timely and instructive presentation of the International Olympic Committee Toolkit which has been designed to help International Federations ensure that all athletes are able to enjoy the right to practice sport in a safe environment.

Needless to say, we are entirely aligned with the IOC on this initiative and I urge all members to take advantage of the Toolkit and the work that Prince Feisal and his working group continue to do.

Integrity and ethics in sport are seldom far away from the news pages nowadays and, over time, it is likely that most, if not all, IFs will need to take advice on ethical issues. However, few have the scale or budget to sustain a permanent Ethics function and, we are told, even some of those which do have one find they are unused much of the time.

As a result, we have been asked by AIOWF to consider setting up an Ethics Department at GAISF which would be on hand to provide counsel and services to members as and when they are needed. It is an idea designed to minimise cost while ensuring that members receive the very best service and we are currently looking into its value and feasibility. Naturally we would be delighted to receive any comments or observations from members on the subject.

As sport becomes increasingly reliant on digital technology I was grateful to our legal advisor Maître Carrard for his perceptive presentation at the GA of the key principles of the new European general Data Protection regulation (GDPR) which comes into force on May 25. GDPR has implications for all International Federations – wherever they are based or operate.

GAISF is organising three workshops to inform its members on this new regulation. The first workshop was held in Lausanne on 28 May 2018 with the next two scheduled for 11 and 19 June 2018. For more information please contact Pierre Germeau, Head of Digital Services pierre.germeau@gaisf.org

DOT.SPORT INITIATIVE

I hope that members will take time to consider and then sign-up to GAISF's Dot.Sport initiative which will be rolled-out in the coming months. Dot Sport gives members the opportunity to acquire the valuable asset of their unique digital signature through internet address extensions relevant to their sports and individual disciplines in a range of languages. The process of acquiring the rights has been long and complex but, in doing

so, I believe we have created a unique opportunity not only to control and validate the organisations which use .Sport and its variants but for our members but to strengthen the ties of the sport family.

Members will be able to acquire a portfolio relating to their own sports and individual disciplines and an ambassador programme, involving iconic sports brands, will activate their .sport extensions in the months ahead.

WORLD SPORTS INDEX

GAISF is currently working with sports data and media Nielsen Sport and InfoStrada to develop a World Sports Index which will, effectively, create the first global performance tables compiled based on results from across all events of all sports.

This is a far-sighted project which will provide at-a-glance performance comparison information which, I believe, will make it an important strategic planning tool and investment guide for IFs and their national members as well as for NOCs.

As it will be first of its kind ever developed we also anticipate that it will become an important source of information for the media and, by doing so, help put the spotlight on sports which might otherwise slip under the radar in certain countries. Work on the project is continuing and we will report on developments as they occur.

GAISF MEMBERSHIP PLATFORM

In keeping with our MoU with the International Olympic Committee work is progressing on the development of a digital Membership Platform. The Platform gives open access for members, allowing them to store and update their information as necessary as they make their journey through the IOC pyramid.

It represents a controlled single source of information and data about members which can be accessed by the IOC and is designed to ensure IFs are able to keep their membership files complete and up-to-date and will not have to start from scratch each time documents are requested.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Finally, I would like to highlight a few of the key decisions endorsed by the General Assembly.

We welcome the World Armwrestling Federation (WAF) as a Full Member and the World Union of Olympic Cities and World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry which become Associate Members.

The International Jump Rope Union (IJRU), created by a merger of former rivals, the International Rope Skipping Federation (FISAC- IRSF) and World Jump Rope Federation (WJRF), became the 10th International Federation to gain GAISF Observer status after working with the help of GAISF advisors to align their interests, overcome rivalry issues and create the new Federation.

I was also able to report on the current situation with regard to Observers. I was pleased to reassure members that GAISF will be super-diligent in our scrutiny of all these to ensure that they have real substance – and are not simply ‘paper’ organisations – that they have critical mass which supports their claim to be an international Federation, that they are the sole governing body for the sport and that their interests or actions do no harm those of existing members and of GAISF.

The International Federation of American Football (IFAF) has resumed its active membership following productive discussions with the current administration which formally acknowledged its outstanding debt to GAISF and provided assurances it will be cleared.

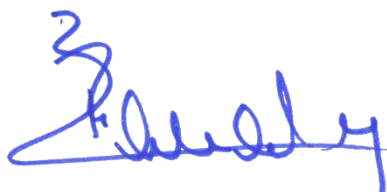
Members voted for a change to our Statutes to emphasise our commitment to equality and the promotion of women’s rights and opportunities in sport by adding new text which mirrors the statutes of the International Olympic Committee.

‘GAISF encourages and supports the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women.’

The past 12 months have been a time of significant progress for GAISF and Bangkok 2018 represented another milestone. Working in alignment with the IOC and guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed late last year, we have the structure, the vision and the clarity of mission to build for a successful future.

In closing I would like to extend my very best wishes for all your events and activities in the months ahead and look forward to meeting up again at the IF Forum in Lausanne in November.

Best regards,



Patrick Baumann

President

cc. GAISF Council