



CFF AGM Minutes Sunday September 17, 2023

Present:

Board of Directors

Yann Bernard
John French
Kelly Grieves
Luc Theriault
Judit Blasko
Alexanne Verret

Regrets: Yann Bernard and Chris Kalantzis

Staff

David Howes
Igor Gantsevich

Provincial Members

Newfoundland and Labrador – Theodore Norvell
New Brunswick - Wendy Yano
Quebec - Jean-Yves Pelletier and Dominique Teisseire
Ontario - Lucie Hamelin, Francesco Sabatini & Benjamin Manano
Manitoba - Sean Rathwell
Saskatchewan - Sue Pitura and John Shurniak
Alberta – Richard Bezemer and Sean Rathwell
British Columbia – Yuriy Rubin

Committee Chairs

Barbara Daniel – Coaching Development Committee
Nader Abdelkader – Sports Medicine Committee
Thomas Nguyen – Officials Committee

1. Welcome

John French welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and informed the members that Yann Bernard was unable to attend as he is at the CPE Congress and has asked John to chair the meeting.

2. Nomination of AGM Secretary

It was moved by Quebec, seconded by British Colombia, to appoint David Howes as AGM Secretary. Motion approved.

3. Roll call and Credentials

Roll call was performed. David Howes confirmed the number of votes for each province.

British Columbia - 2 votes

Alberta - 2 votes

Saskatchewan - 1 vote

Manitoba - 1 vote

Ontario - 4 votes

Quebec - 3 votes

New Brunswick - 1 vote

NOTE: A representative from Newfoundland and Labrador was also in attendance and their 1 vote was included for a total of 15 votes.

No proxies were received.

4. Agenda adoption

Quebec proposed the following two amendments to the agenda:

- a) Agenda item 3: the french should be "Appel et accreditation
- b) Agenda item 10 should be Rapports des associations provinciales et des comités (Acceptés comme déposés et discutés) – Branch Member and Committee Reports (Accepted as tabled and discussed)

It was moved by Quebec, seconded by British Colombia, to approve the agenda as amended.

5. Approval of 2022 AGM minutes

Quebec proposed two amendments to the 2022 AGM Minutes.

- a) In the french translation of the minutes, under item #2, it should read "Nomination d'un secrétaire d'assemblée".

- b) In the english version of the minutes, under item #8, it should read “Alberta asked what are the proposed next steps to dispose of the \$50,000 Jackson Wang non-repayable loan”.

It was moved by Saskatchewan, seconded by Alberta, to approve the 2022 AGM Minutes with the proposed amendments. Motion approved.

6. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes. John French noted that Ontario had requested an in-person AGM for 2023, however this was not possible, and the board apologizes for not being able to do so.

7. Financial statements 2022/23

John French noted the outstanding improvement in the CFF's finances and thanked the finance committee and staff for the work they have done to turn the organization's finances around.

Kelly Grieves presented an overview of the current financial situation including an update on the outstanding accounts payable, the statement of financial position, and the key contributors to success.

Ontario asked about the expense for international hosting in the financial statements and where was the corresponding revenue. David Howes explained that the auditor included the \$100,000 hosting grant received from Sport Canada under domestic hosting fees.

Ontario asked where the expenses for AWAD are spent. David Howes explained that a large portion of the expenses go to providing referees for world cups, athlete entry fees and IWAS membership fees. CFF also received additional funding for development that was used to purchase additional frames and chairs. He also explained that some direct support was provided to those that are in the best position to qualify for Paris and that only women's foil from the other national team programs receive any direct support, which is a result of OTP directed funding. For the current fiscal year, an additional \$15,000 in funding for AWAD was requested and received to supplement the \$25,000 that is typically allocated to AWAD from the Sport Canada core funding.

Barbara Daniel requested that if there is more funding available now because of the improved financial situation, will additional funding be allocated for coaching development. David Howes explained that with this being an Olympic/Paralympic qualification year there will be a greater need for funding for our high performance program and that more funds will hopefully be made available in future years for development programs such as coaching and officials.

Manitoba asked how safe sport funding was spent. David Howes explained that the safe sport category also includes concussion awareness and in past years included gender equity initiatives. Due to the pandemic, Sport Canada allowed NSOs to carry-over this funding. The

majority was spent on gender equity. For the current fiscal year, CFF is required to pay an annual fee to OSIC and will need to pay for the services of the independent third party.

8. Acceptance of the Financial Statements and Auditor's report

It was moved by Ontario, seconded by Quebec to accept the financial statements and Auditor's report. Motion approved.

9. Appointment of the Auditor

Kelly Grieves noted that it is recommended to appoint new auditors every five years.

It was moved by Alberta, seconded by British Colombia, to retain the current auditors. Motion approved.

10. Branch Member and Committee Reports

Quebec made a number of suggestions/comments:

- a) it was suggested that the board should consider increasing the funding to the coaching development committee
- b) it was noted that the CFF did not provide any support for a pre-worlds camp and this should not be the responsibility of the province
- c) it was noted that some erroneous information was provided to veterans regarding eligibility and cost for attending veteran world championships
- c) it was suggested that the proposed Youth/Veteran competitions infringe on the provinces' role and are in conflict with the provincial circuits

David Howes provided some feedback on these suggestions/comments. The CFF does not organize camps for veterans as it may do for members of the HPP, who pay a substantial annual fee to the CFF. No requests were received from the veterans to organize a camp prior to world championships. Veterans committee should be responsible for reimbursing the individual who paid for flights and was not able to attend. The idea behind the youth/veteran events was to hold two regional events to allow youth to gain experience outside of their province without having to travel across the country.

Thomas Nguyen also commented on the challenges faced by the Officials committee in providing sufficient referees to support the larger national events and noted the need for more funding for officials development.

Manitoba echoed the need for increased support for coaching development.

Barbara Daniel also requested that the provinces identify anyone interested in contributing to coaching development.

The Branch Member and Committee Reports were accepted as tabled.

11. Report of the Board of Directors

John French provided a verbal Report of the Board of Directors highlighting the financial stability of the CFF, the success of the return to competition, the competitive success of our high performance program athletes in their efforts to qualify for the Olympics and Paralympics, and the safe sport challenges faced by the organization.

12. Ratification of Business of the Board of Directors

It was moved by Saskatchewan, seconded by Ontario, to ratify the business of the Board of Directors. Motion approved.

13. Staff reports

a) Igor Gantsevich provided a written High Performance Report.

Ontario asked what the athletes receive in return for the HPP fees? Igor Gantsevich explained the challenges faced by HP when 5 of 6 weapons receive no additional funding (i.e., OTP). Coaches are seriously underpaid and one was volunteering this past season. It has been challenging to just break even and be able to provide minimal coaching support for our national team athletes.

Ontario raised concerns regarding the cadet/junior booklet. David Howes explained that the cadet/junior booklet was not developed in isolation and that the national coaches were consulted, that it has not been past practice to consult with the provinces regarding HP matters, but if provinces have questions or concerns to please direct them to the staff.

Quebec asked about how accreditations for senior world championships in Milan were allocated. David Howes explained how accreditations were allocated and that only the national coaches had their expenses paid to go to Milan. The president paid his own expenses to go and was accredited as a guest of the federation. The photographer also paid his own expenses and was given accreditation and the photos that he provided were shared on CFF social media.

It was moved by Ontario, seconded by Quebec, that a high performance forum be organized where specific HP issues can be discussed in more detail. Motion approved.

b) David Howes provided a written Executive Director Report and highlighted the requirements for coaches to have access to the competition area for national competitions.

Quebec supported the priorities outlined in the Executive Director report

14. Election/ratification of Officers

The following individuals were nominated for positions on the board: Judit Blasko, Monique Kavelaars and Chris Kalantzis.

It was moved by Saskatchewan, seconded by British Columbia, to acclaim the nominees. Motion defeated.

Ontario raised a concern regarding a board member who is often absent from board meetings.

After some discussion regarding procedures, it was decided to hold a vote for each position separately with the options being yes, no or abstain. The individual would be elected provided they receive more yes votes than no votes.

Following the votes, Judit Blasko, Monique Kavelaars and Chris Kalantzis were each elected to the board for a two-year term.

15. 2024 AGM location

It was moved by Ontario, seconded by Quebec, that the 2024 AGM be a hybrid in-person/online meeting held in a central location subject to availability of location and suitable technological resources. Motion approved.

16. Other Business

There was no other business raised.

Adjournment

It was moved by Quebec, seconded by Alberta, to adjourn the AGM. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. EST.