

**MINUTES OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GOLF FEDERATION
MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023 - ABU DHABI GOLF CLUB**

PRESENT

National Federation Members:

Mustafa Mastoor	Afghanistan Golf Federation
Miguel Leeson	Argentina Golf Association
Brad James	Golf Australia
Fanny Cnops	Royal Belgian Golf Federation
Gilles Gbaguidi	Benin Golf Federation
Alphonse Kounouho	Benin Golf Federation
Craig Brown	Bermuda Golf Association
Marcelo Stallone	Brazilian Golf Confederation
Rossana Marini	Brazilian Golf Confederation
Emiliy Phoenix	Golf Canada
Felipe Bertin	Chilean Golf Federation
Desirée Soulodre	Chilean Golf Federation
Pang Zheng	People's Republic of China
Camilo Sanchez	Colombian Golf Federation
Ales Libecajt	Czech Golf Federation
Harry Scott	Czech Golf Federation
Lars Broch Christensen	Danish Golf Union
Morten Backhausen	Danish Golf Union
Mohammed Attallah	Egyptian Golf Federation
Abdullah AlHashmi	Emirates Golf Federation
Akram Skaik	Emirates Golf Federation
Nigel Edwards	England Golf
Kristo Raudam	Estonian Golf Association
Antti Peltoniemi	Finnish Golf union
Juha Korhonen	Finnish Golf Union
Maitena Alsuguren	French Golf Federation
Christophe Muniesa	French Golf Federation
Marcus Neumann	German Golf Association
Miriam Hiller	German Golf Association
Daniel Matsuno	Guam National Golf Federation
Solomon Allotey	Ghana Golf Association
Thomas Tokas	Hellenic Golf Federation
Joanne Sarah Mckee	Hong Kong Golf Association
Haukur Orn Birgisson	Golf Union of Iceland
Brijinder Singh	Indian Golf Union
Bibhuti Bhushan	Indian Golf Union
Mark Kennelly	Golf Ireland
Hamid Azizi	Islamic Republic of Iran Golf Federation
Farideh Khanom Shojaiei	Islamic Republic of Iran Golf Federation
Anna Roscio	Italian Golf Federation
Matteo Delpodio	Italian Golf Federation
Hiroshi Yamanaka	Japan Golf Association
Yuji Okubo	Japan Golf Association
Chris Kinuthia	Kenya Golf Union
Philip Ochola	Kenya Golf Union
Hessen Aboargob	Libyan Golf Federation
Salem Musa	Libyan Golf Federation
Peter Tinner	Liechtenstein Golf Association
Ahmed Baba Abdel Wedoud	Mauritanian Golf Federation
Fernando Lemmen Meyer	Mexican Golf Federation
Hassan El Mansouri	Royal Moroccan Golf Federation
Olivier Edmond	Royal Moroccan Golf Federation
Caroline Huyskes	Netherlands Golf Federation
Gregg Thorpe	Golf New Zealand
Jeff Latch	Golf New Zealand
Oyvind Rojahn	Norwegian Golf Federation

Jamie Wood	Oman Golf Association
Qazi Muhammad Ikram Ahmed	Pakistan Golf Federation
Myka Romulo	National Golf Association of the Philippines
Bartłomiej Chelmicki	Polish Golf Union
Janusz Sikora	Polish Golf Union
Sidney Wolf	Puerto Rico Golf Association
Niall Farquharson	The R&A
Charlie Maran	The R&A
Hyungmo Kang	Korea Golf Association
Sang Won Ko	Korea Golf Association
Marina Minina	Russian Golf Association
Jovana Trifunovic	Golf Association of Serbia
Michael Lavigne	Seychelles Golf Federation
Ivan Chua	Singapore Golf Association
Joshua Ho	Singapore Golf Association
Rastislav Antala	Slovak Golf Association
Susan Andrew	Golf RSA
Gonzaga Escauriaza	Royal Spanish Golf Federation
Mar Ruiz de la Torre	Royal Spanish Golf Federation
Marcus Norman	Swedish Golf Federation
Gunnar Hakansson	Swedish Golf Federation
Barbara Albisetti	Swiss Golf
Thomas Busin	Swiss Golf
Gabriel Huang	Chinese Taipei Golf Association
Petprasert Benz	Thailand Golf Association
Wayne Baptiste	Trinidad and Tobago Golf Association
Raif Ozgur Nacibektasoglu	Turkey Golf Federation
John Bodenhamer	United States Golf Association
Greg Sanfilippo	United States Golf Association
Yared Alula	USA Golf
Mario Maya	Venezuela Golf Federation
Stephanie Gelleni	Venezuela Golf Federation
Gillian O'Leary	Wales Golf

Chairman: Mr Mike Whan, (USGA)

In attendance: Mr Antony Scanlon (Executive Director – International Golf Federation)
 Ms Claudia Garduño (Women's Chair – International Golf Federation)
 Mrs Nicki Hirayama (Board member – International Golf Federation)
 Ms Stephanie Parel (USGA)
 Mr Thomas Pagel (USGA)
 Mr David Wilson (The R&A)

Apologies: Mr Niall Farquharson

1. WELCOME

Mr Mike Whan Joint Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and presented apologies from Mr Niall Farquharson, Joint Chairman.

2. ROLL CALL

The Chairman confirmed the meeting does satisfy the quorum requirements with 62 National Federation members in attendance. Participants are attending both online and in person. Therefore, the Chairman was able to proceed with this as a valid meeting.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER

The Chairman announced that IGF Board member, Ms Nicki Hirayama, will be the scrutineer for any votes held during the meeting and then introduced a representative from Lumi who outlined the procedure for electronic voting during the meeting to the membership and performed a test vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman requested the approval of the Minutes from the 2022 Biennial Meeting held in Paris on 29 August 2022.

The Minutes were approved.

5. FINANCIAL

Mr Scanlon reported that Audited assets totalled USD 5.1m on 31st December 2022 with USD 4.7m cash in the bank and in hand. Income and expenditures were in line with budgeted expectations.

The IGF was able to benefit from favourable interest rates for short term cash deposits and this generated some additional income of USD 32000.

The IGF will continue to implement its delivery model of relying on Delivery Partner resources until 2028, and therefore should have sufficient funds to continue its operations without requiring loan funds from Delivery Partners throughout this period.

Mr Scanlon reported that the Financial Statements for 2022 were audited by Mazars for the first time, and approved by the IGF Board were circulated to the meeting and the membership in the meeting documents. The 2022 financial statements were prepared by Comptabilité Et Gestion SA, an independent accounting firm based in Fribourg, Switzerland and supervised by the IGF Executive Director.

Mr. Busin (Swiss Golf) inquired whether the IGF have invested their money in several different banks? Mr Scanlon confirmed that IGF is working with both the Banque Cantonale Vaudoise and Crédit Suisse.

Mr Busin then asked where the IGFs revenues come from? Mr Scanlon stated that the main revenue source is the International Olympic Committee who provides funds for development and following IGFs participation at the Olympic Games. Another income source is from entry fees for the WATC. It was noted that the IGF members do not pay any annual membership or subscription fees to the IGF.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Administrative Committee Meeting

The Chairman provided an overview of the items covered and discussed the previous day during the Administrative Committee meeting, which included:

2023 WATC Emirates Golf Federation

Mr Robert Fiala, from the Emirates Golf Federation gave a short presentation on the delivery of the Eisenhower Trophy 2023 and the preparations for the Espirito Santo Trophy to the Administrative Committee.

The Committee commended the Federation for their report and the success of the Eisenhower Trophy.

The Chairman gave special mention and thanks to Emirates Golf Federation Vice Chairman General Abdullah Alhashmi present for the great success of the Eisenhower Trophy and for the Emirates Golf Federation amazing hospitality.

2025 World Amateur Team Championships

Mr Joshua Ho, General Manager of the Singapore Golf Association gave a presentation on the planning and preparations for the 2025 World Amateur Team Championships. Mr Ho will also be making a presentation to the meeting.

IGF Administrative Committee Appointments

The meeting was informed that the IGF Administrative Committee approved the reappointment of Ms Claudia Garduño (FMG) - Women's Chairman of the Administrative Committee and Ms Nobuko Hirayama (JGA) as members of the IGF Board until 2025. Their mandate is extended until 2025 as the IGF Biennial Meeting have been changed to odd years. The Chairman thanked Ms Garduño and Ms Hirayama for their tremendous contributions to the IGF Board.

6.2 2025 World Amateur Team Championships Host

The Chairman welcomed Mr Joshua Ho, General Manager of the Singapore Golf Association (SGA) and invited him to give a presentation to the meeting on the progress and planning to date for the 2025 World Amateur Team Championships (WATC).

Mr Ho reported that the Championships will be held at the Tanah Merah Country Club in Singapore. Espirito Santo from 1st to 4th October 2025 and Eisenhower Trophy from 8th to 11th October 2025. Climate in Singapore is similar to Abu Dhabi, hot and humid and that rain & tropical thunderstorms could provide challenges during the 2025 WATC.

Tanah Merah Country Club has two golf courses: Garden Course and Tampines Course.

The 2025 WATC will be played on the Tampines Course, which have been renovated in 2019. This course hosted the Singapore Women's Open in 2022 and the International Series Singapore in October 2023.

The SGA is working with the Accor & Shangri-La groups to offer 4 & 5 Stars hotel accommodation that will be located downtown Singapore close to restaurants and tourist attractions and within 30 minutes from the Golf Course and the airport. SGA is also looking for accommodation closer to the course. The booking process and prices will be communicated once the hotels are secured.

To conclude the presentation, a video was played that is available on the [IGF Website](#).

6.3 IGF Executive Director's report

The Executive Director's report was provided to the membership.

Mr Scanlon introduced the current IGF team made of seven staff located in Lausanne, stating that each of them having a strong Olympic experience. One of the team, Mr Andrew Hofer, is in charge of Olympic Solidarity (OS) and he will reach out to the membership to support them with any O.S. fundings requests.

Paris 2024 Olympic Games

The Paris 2024 mascot and the Golf pictograms for Paris2024 were presented.

A new delivery model has been put in place jointly with the IGF and Paris2024 Organising Committee, with the contract finally being signed on 7 July 2023.

The IGF Head of Agronomy conducted two site visits and homologation review of Le Golf National Golf Course on 19 April 2023 and during the Cazoo Open de France 2023 21-24 September 2023. The IGF is collaborating closely with the team at the Le Golf National to ensure that the condition of the golf course will be of the highest quality for the athletes.

Paris 2024 has reported that it is close to selling out of all of 25,000 tickets for each of the eight sessions.

The IGF has confirmed all its accommodation requirements for Paris 2024. It was noted that a number of NOCs and NFs are still looking for accommodation close to the Golf Course and that the IGF is collaborating closely with the organizing committee to find solutions for the NFs. He also cautioned that the Transportation plan for the event for all populations will be challenging.

A Test Event was conducted in July 2023 during the FFG Junior National Championships where the Omega scoring system was evaluated.

The IGF Communications Committee is led by the PGA Tour communications team and is made up of representatives from each of the delivery partners communications staff. The IGF will soon contact the IGF membership to see how they can assist us before and during the Olympic Games to promote storylines and content for the golf competitions that will display the Olympic spirit.

The Qualification System for Paris 2024 will remain the same as for previous Games editions. Whereby, the IGF will use the official World Golf Rankings to create the Olympic Golf Ranking as a method of determining eligibility.

The top-15 world-ranked players will be eligible for the Olympics, with a limit of four players from a given country. Beyond the top 15, players will be eligible based on the world rankings, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top-15. There will be a total of 60 players for each of the men's and women's competitions. Men's qualifications have started on 13 June 2022 and will close on 17 June 2024, while the Women's qualifications started on 20 June 2022 until 24 June 2024.

At the beginning of 2024, all athletes listed within the Olympic Golf Rankings will enter the IGF anti-doping program and therefore will fall under the jurisdiction of the IGF for anti-doping. The IGF aim to test every player before the Olympic Games and through the International Testing Agency will be working closely with each of the Tours as well as with the National Anti-Doping Authorities. Athletes will be asked to submit their whereabouts per day for anti-doping test.

Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games

Currently the IOC is reviewing the programme of those games to determine if all sports can be held in the country.

Mr Scanlon travelled to Dakar on 4 October 2023 with an IOC delegation to assess the golf course condition, whereupon he provided a report to the IOC on the suitability of the golf course for such an event. A meeting with the IOC will be held further to Mr Scanlon's report.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

During its Session in Mumbai, the IOC membership approved five additional sports to the LA 2028 Olympic Games programme: baseball/softball; cricket; flag football; lacrosse and squash. Golf has already been approved for inclusion in the programme.

There are ongoing discussions between the IGF and LA2028 on the event delivery by the IGF of both the competition and sports services as well as the "outside the ropes" delivery. The competition will be held at the Riviera Country Club where the PGA Genesis Championship is organised, and this is a great opportunity for the IGF to work closely with the organisers of this event.

IOC relations

Mr Scanlon reported that the IGF had regular meetings with the IOC Director of Sport and the Executive Director of the Olympic Games and with other members of the IOC administration. The IGF has attended numerous IOC meetings such as the 141st Session in Mumbai, IOC Olympic E sports Series, IOC Safe Sport Forum, IOC IF Medical Commission Chairpersons' meeting, IOC Women in Sport Forum, IOC IF Sustainability Forums and IOC IF Communications Forums. It was also noted that the IOC President reappointed the IGF Executive Director to the IOC Digital & Technology Commission.

Safe Sport

One of the key areas in sport is "Safe sport" and the need for the IGF to protect our athletes health and safety including abuse and harassment. Mr Scanlon urged for each National Federation to train and appoint a Safeguarding Officer within their organisation.

The IGF have appointed a Safeguarding Officer who has undertaken SafeSport training in the US and is currently completing the IOC Safeguarding Officer in Sport Certificate. This person was on site during the WATC and for each event that the IGF is organizing.

It was noted that the IOC has created regional hubs that will function as central coordination points and will provide athletes in these regions with independent guidance, and help them access psychosocial support, legal aid, and any other assistance that they may need.

Mental Health Awareness

The IGF Medical Committee, through Dr Margo Mountjoy, is undertaking evidence-based and research-driven efforts to promote mental well-being across golf which is in line with the IOC Mental Health strategy. A study was conducted last year at the 2022 WATC with the female athletes, focusing on their mental well-being. The outcome of this study has been posted on the IGF Website and some of the findings from the study have been implemented at this WATC. Another survey, in association with the IOC has also been initiated during this Championships with the results from this survey to be combined with other sports results.

ESports

On June 2023, the IGF participated in the Olympic Esports Series in Singapore. Although not part of the competition format, the IGF played a significant role within the Free to Play Zone, featuring a diverse range of golf-related games, including the PGA Tour 2K console, Full Swing and Trackman simulators, as well as Golf+ virtual games.

All the publishers were extremely positive of their experience and expressed their interest in working with the IGF to be a competition sport within the next Olympic esports series. The IGF will work with the IOC Sport department to explore future opportunities for our sport to be part of the ESport Olympics which has been announced last week by the IOC President.

ASOIF & GAISF Relations

Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)

The IGF continues to have a close relationship with ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) and has regular meetings with the President and Chief Executive of the organisation. The IGF Executive Director is also a member of two ASOIF advisory committees. The IGF attended the ASOIF General Assembly in May 2023 where ASOIF members approved the Paris 2024 Olympic Games International Federation (IF) revenue share scheme which elevated golf to group D, which should result in an increase of income from the IOC for the IGFs contribution to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in comparison to Tokyo 2020.

General Assembly of International Sport Federations (GAISF)

At its 14 September 2023 Extraordinary General Assembly, GAISF member approved the final steps in the liquidation of the organisation which includes the final balance sheet drawn up by liquidators Ernst & Young, the distribution of the liquidation proceeds to the IF umbrella bodies (ASOIF, AIOWF, ARISF and AIMS), following the principles agreed by the GAISF members in November last year when they voted to dissolve the organisation.

Memberships

The number of memberships has increased since the last Biennial meeting and is now 152. The number of Professional Members remains the same, with 21.

Anti-Doping

It is of utmost importance for the IGF to ensure that its competitions, athletes, and members safeguard the integrity of golf and protect clean athletes through the fight against doping. In support of this, the IGF received notification with WADA that it has met the requirements under the Code Compliance Questionnaire and that it is in compliance with the WADA Code which is critical for our participation in the Olympic Games.

The International Testing Agency (ITA), were present at registration during the ongoing WATC, continues to independently manage the IGF anti-doping programme. They are also aiming at educating our athletes and will work with the IGF Memberships in this regard. It is also important for each National Federation to support the IGF by educating their athletes and make sure they understand and follow the WADA Code.

The IGF have regular meetings with WADA's International Federation Relations and attended the 2023 WADA IF Forum, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

International Paralympic Committee

The Memberships were informed that unfortunately, the application submitted to the International Paralympic Committee last year for golf's inclusion onto the sport programme for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games, was unsuccessful.

The IGF Board has directed the IGF Administration to look at all opportunities to ensure admission to the Paralympic Programme.

The IGF have appointed the IPC lawyers (Bird & Bird) who writes the IPC Classification Code to develop the IGF code.

The IGF is suspending any Disability World Championship until the classification code is in place.

Commonwealth Games

Last year, golf was admitted to the Commonwealth Games Programme, but in July this year the Victorian government announced the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games due to financial reasons. The IGF has met with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) since this decision and there is no host country identified for the 2026 Commonwealth Games yet.

2029 WATC Bid Process

The Bid Process for the 2029 WATC is currently under review and will be presented to the IGF Administrative Committee for approval. Following this a notice will be sent to the membership for expressions of interest in first quarter of 2025. The host country will be selected at the 2025 WATC Biennial meeting.

Questions arising from the IGF Directors report:

- Mr Morten Bakhausen(Danish Golf Union) asked whether a Team Event is possible at the LA2028 Olympics? Mr Scanlon stated that the IGF is working with the IOC and the Organising Committee to hold a Mixed Team Event during the LA2028 Olympics, and for this to be held between the Men's and Women's Individual Stroke Play Competitions. Logistical aspects still need to be finalized, but this format proposal has generated a lot of enthusiasm.
- Mr Lars Broch Christensen (Danish Golf Union) stated that tickets for the Paris Olympics are sold out and asked what are the chances for NFs to get some tickets for late qualifying teams? Mr Scanlon replied that the IGF will provide four tickets per session for each athlete. Also, for those NOCs that have qualified athletes, one ticket for each session will be given to the President of the National Federation. The last option for NFs to purchase tickets is through the official website of the Organising Committee.
- Online question was received concerning the Qualification System (QS) for the next WATC in 2025 and the number of teams for this event? Mr Scanlon responded that the 2025 QS was discussed the previous day at the Administrative Committee meeting. A full analysis will be done by the IGF Competition Committee following the 2023 WATC with a proposal to be submitted to the IGF Administrative Committee for approval. Due to the limited daylight in Singapore, we do not anticipate an increase in number of teams.
- Online question asking for an update on development of IGF Transgender Policy. Mr Scanlon said that the IGF is working with the LPGA, other professional members and the IGF Medical Committee and will have a policy released next year for events under organized under the IGF jurisdiction and for Professional Womens' Game. Once approved by the IGF Board, it will be circulated to the NFs.

7. 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Article 6.9 of the IGF Constitution, the Administrative Committee had proposed at its meeting yesterday that the following National Federations should appoint members of the Administrative Committee.

- Asia-Pacific: Australia, China, India, Japan, and Korea.
- Americas: Argentina, Canada, Chile, and Puerto Rico.
- Europe/Africa Zone: Iceland, the Netherlands, Spain, and South Africa.

A motion was proposed to approve the Administrative Committee's proposed national federations for appointment to the 2024-2025 Administrative Committee. The motion was approved.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman opened the floor to questions from the room. There were no questions.

9. CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting and the Emirates Golf Federation for hosting the meeting and the 2023 World Amateur Team Championships.

The meeting ended at 13:00 (UTC)