

Activity Report

(for the period 01 January 2018 – 31 December 2019)

Ladies and gentlemen,

This time we get together in Regen in Bavaria/ Germany for the 64th Ordinary Congress ahead of the World Championships for Women and Men. The venue of the competitions will be the Franz-Zwiebel-Halle. An ice rink, that bears the name of the longtime president of the German Icestocksport Federation. Once again I will come to the competition venue with great respect of this man, because I worked together with him and learned to admire him, since the foundation of the German Federation in the year 1960, in the board he managed, until he passed away.

Enclosed you will find the written reports of the President and the leader of the inspection authority. Both persons will provide further comments and explanations at the congress, if necessary. This time the report of the Vice President for Sport will be missing, as our colleague in the Executive Board, Karl Rosenberger, passed away on 24th May 2019. I am deeply grateful to the leader of our inspection authority, sports colleague Max Moritz, who has taken over, together with me, the tasks of the Vice President for Sport in the meantime.

The Icestock Family is alive! The registration of male and female athletes from 26 nations (from all continents) for this year's World Championships shows, that Icestocksport is actually practised all over the world. New, respectively come back are the teams from Denmark, Spain and Gabun. Furthermore, we had been especially looking forward to the first time ever participation of male and female athletes from China. Unfortunately, the widespread Corona-Virus has made the travel from China to Europe impossible. What a pity!

With Argentina on the one hand and Gabun on the other, we had the pleasure to welcome two new nations at the America-Cup and at the Africa-Cup.

After this introduction I would like to report about particular key aspects of the reporting period:

IFI – Office:

Regarding the incurring workload in the IFI Office there has been a further agglomeration. The tasks in the office are still executed by Mrs. Margit Wojcik – as a voluntary service. However, an International Federation with 46 members is almost impossible to operate on a voluntary basis. We still have to find further financial resources for a full-time employee who will be able to support the President noticeably with the administrative tasks. Especially during the last weeks, it was almost impossible to manage the workload to fulfil the wishes and requests of the member nations. After all the preparations for the following events had to be handled at the same time: Open Youth European Championship, Junior World Championships, World Championships of women and men as well as the congress 2020. Furthermore, the administrative volume of the daily work has increased even more after the inclusion in the „Olympic Movement“. The requirements of WADA are immeasurable!

Let me express my gratitude towards the Federal Government of Germany with the Ministry of the Interior Affairs, who has granted the uncapped financial support for our office in the

reporting period. The city of Mannheim still leaves us our office for a reduced rent. That is especially remarkable in a time when municipal resources run more and more short.

Our relocation from Bern to Zurich entailed a huge advantage: With notice of 11 December 2018 the canton Zurich has released us from the state and municipal tax. We thank our tax consultant Dr. Marco Greter, from the office ADB Altorfer Duss & Beilstein AG! By the way, an effect of our inclusion in the „Olympic Movement.“

IFI – Events:

As we have heard from the leader of the inspection authority, all Cups and Championships in the reporting period took place to the great satisfaction of everybody involved.

Particularly the World Championships of Women and Men 2018 in Amstetten and Winklarn/Lower Austria, as well as the two European Cups 2019 in Latsch and Meran/South Tyrol were a great pleasure. Both events were highlights that set the bar high for future organizers. New ground was broken regarding the organization of both events.

I would like to highlight, that the „Youth Grand Prix“ has taken a steady place in our event portfolio. And this with extremely good numbers of participants.

Let me thank all organizing teams who helped us in the reporting period to present Icestocksport accordingly. And again, a cordial thank you to all, who have contributed to organization of the IFI events within the IFI itself.

I have to express a very special thanks to the President of the Chinese Icestock Federation, Mr. George Zhong: He had invited teams from all continents to the 1st China-Cup in Icestocksport 2019 in Harbin. Teams from 10 nations had the chance to present the Icestocksport during one week and the cost were fully covered!

IFI – Signatories:

The collaboration with the signatories is difficult. Especially the leader of our inspection authority is the contact person here. Time and again different interests collide. However, it has to be very clearly that **we** decide about the sports equipment that is used to play Icestocksport. The interests of our top athletes must not lead to a mistaken influence on the producers. Sometimes I have the impression that business interests are supposed to overrule our producing guidelines.

GAISF (SportAccord) and our efforts regarding Olympic Games:

Our contact to the **Global Association of International Sport Federations (GAISF)** is well. We can find support in our relations to WADA and IOC again and again here. The reorganization after the death of Patrick Baumann went well. At this point we have to thank very much for the support that GAISF has granted to the IFI.

The inclusion in the Olympic Program still remains our by far biggest goal. Our application for the inclusion of Icestocksport in the „Olympic Movement“ was in process since the end of September 2013! Again, and again we were asked for some supplements and amendments. Of course, we have fulfilled all those. We never left anything undone to exploit all possibilities of networking. In a final step we were given a signal that we were among the best three

federations in the recognition ranking and that we had all chances to achieve the recognition. Then there was an extremely positive sign: Jenny Mann, from the Sports Department of the IOC attended the finals of the WC in Amstetten and she was more than pleased by the performance of our sport. At the same time that was the positive kick for our provisional recognition, that was executed on 19 July 2018 by a letter from IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach.

At this point I would like to thank our fellow officials Volker Bernardi, Christian Wassmer and Dr. Eberhardt Anke, who have pushed and supported me again and again.

We hope to achieve the full recognition at the IOC-Session 2020 in Tokio.

Now, that the Olympic Winter Games 2026 have been awarded to Milano and Cortina D'Ampezzo, we give everything to achieve the inclusion in the Olympic Program, together with our sports colleagues from South Tyrol. We have already sent our application to the organizing committee.

Anti-Doping:

This topic has kept us occupied strongly during the reporting period: Our mandatory membership with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) still charges our budget disproportionately, even though we receive financial support for this purpose from the IOC in the meantime. The necessity of the adoption of the World Anti-Doping Codes as a foundation for the fight against Doping has allowed the World Anti-Doping Agency Foundation Board in its monopoly position in the definition of fees to become excessive vis-à-vis the non-Olympic federations. We are forced to undertake Anti-Doping measures like the large sports federations. The administrative workload is yet immeasurable! My special thank for their input in this context goes to the Vice President for International Affairs, Peter Longo, and our Anti-Doping Commissioner, Dr. Eberhardt Anke.

Conclusion:

As reported in the previous years: The grown family of the IFI naturally requires more financial resources on one hand and saving measures on the other. This does not match with the demands of some smaller federations, as they more often request subsidies for travel costs to European and World Championships and even to congress!

Of course, the assignment of tasks for the members of the Executive Committee have become even more extensive by our globalization!

Finally, it is once again a pleasant task to thank you all, as well as the members of the Executive Committee, the leader of the inspection authority, the Technical Commission, our Anti-Doping Commissioner and our Supervisor for Eastern Europe for the good cooperation. Furthermore, I would like to express my thanks to all those who supported us in the past.

Farewell:

At the congress 2018 in Winklarn I have already expressed towards the members, that I would step back by reasons of age from my position as President in the year 2020. I would like to repeat this statement now and at the same time I take the chance to say goodbye to you all. I go because the time has come for a change of generations. I don't leave in ill will. I enjoyed

being your President and I always kept an eye on the well-being and the progress of the International Federation Icestocksport. I always had my focus on balance and sportsmanlike fairness. It is only natural that I couldn't fulfill all demands of the members.

I wish the IFI all the best for the future, first and foremost a soon participation in the Olympic Programme. And I wish good luck and success to my successor.

Manfred Schäfer, President