**INAS Swimming Committee – 27 September 2018**

In attendance:

Dave Harman – Chair and INAS Sport Director

Celeste Sychertz - Americas

Ivan Volosovitch - Europe

Apologies:

Ina Fowler - Africa

**Correspondence**

Dave has updated the records in the INAS Website.  A USA Parent has contacted DH claiming not to be able to easily download the google sheets format

PMN - By DH, I have checked and it is very simple to copy and paste the results from Google Sheets to Excel – this is not a problem

**Initial Classification Discussion:**

It has been reported to members of the swimming committee that there seems to be no difference between the former II classification testing and the new protocols, leading to a call to reinstate C status to all II athletes.

 By DH – having spoken to IPC Classification staff and WPS Classifiers there is a definite difference, and the new protocols are in use. This has resulted in a small number of athletes being declared non-eligible by WPS Classifiers. This was discussed in Jakarta during the Asian Para Games and subsequently with Nick Parr (Executive Director INAS). It is of course regrettable that some athletes are eventually declared N/E, however this is part of the reason for the 2 Tier classification system.

DH raised the potential issue with Nick Parr whilst in Brisbane, particularly following questions by Japan. Nick will discuss this with Prof Jan Burns and the Eligibility Committee, but this is a very small number from those that have been classified in 2018, and it may not be statistically significant.

DH will report back on this no later than the next Swimming Committee meeting

There is ongoing concern that the Parapans may still insist on full C status for participation in Aug/Sep 2019

Paris:

There was an acknowledged low athlete turn out, especially in the II3 group, with almost a balance between II1 and II2.

The pool was not of an international standard, but the French Swimming Federation worked hard with INAS to provide the best possible quality of event.

The event was dominated by the Russian team, who are now returning in strength, breaking many Records and winning many Gold medals

**Sports Council**

DH and IV attended the INAS Sports Council and Regional Conference in Paris

The council spoke to the sport in general – covereingthe role and purpose

Many sports were represented including Athletics, Rowing, BasketBall, Skiing, Table Tennis, Football, etc.

The meeting “broke” during the morning session for specialist groups or those with a clear common interest to be able to work together. The Paralympic sports of Athletics and Swimming (Table Tennis was not represented at this stage) met together, and agreed that a closer contact with IPC (WPA and WPS) was essential, and where necessary a combined front with both athletics and swimming. It was agreed that more work needs to be done in partnership

Lucy Dominy (INAS Marketing and Communications Manager) – gave a good presentation of what she expects of events, currently poor or inadequate Marketing and Media make our events second class – and could make our events FIRST class if done correctly

\*Live streaming” – is not a must and a requirement for all competitions.  When bids come it, the use of live streaming may lend to choosing one bid over another. However, it should be noted that livestream is now being included by many countries, and for a World event we in Swimming will consider it mandatory during the next competition cycle (post GG19)

Discussion of Sport Specification Documents – Swimming is the “role” model when it comes to these documents.

Sports Committees – their job is to DIRECT the LOC to deliver what they promise and ensure it happens when it comes to competitions

**UPCOMING INAS EVENTS**

October 2019 – Global Games (Brisbane)

2020 – Regional Open, expecting 2 Bids

Hong Kong Jan 2020 confirmed

Edinburgh, Scotland May 2020 (to be confirmed)

Both competitions considering to be Open

2021 – World Championships – 2 bids, one now a confirmed Bid and one still tentative. Locking down on detail by end October

2022 – Regional Open

2023 – Global Games – currently 4 bids

**Miscellaneous discussions**

New Doping Control email – distributed and should have been received by everyone – changes the minimum times of mandatory testing

Medical committee has set the max altitude for competition to 2000 meters but without explanation.

Next Sport Council is expected to be in Brisbane in 2019.

Results from the INAS Sanctioned event in GB have not yet been received, DH has followed up with the Organisers and will do so again in November.

Discussion on how support in the UK is not very good for our swimmers,  in fact the only ONE swimmer able to compete in Paris had to use threatening legal means to get there.

**INAS Rebranding**

INAS is potentially entering a rebranding exercise after Global Games

**Classification and Classes**

Youth Categories – minimum age is 14

Eligibility – II2 will have full championship medals (Downs) through 2019 – in 2019 and 2020 potential to add additional types of impairments to this class

II3 remains a trial

CS indicated she has been recruiting several high level athletes who would qualify for II3 – but it seems the USA is the only country right now excited about expanding this category.

**Global Games Criteria**

The criteria will be different.

The minimum Qualification STANDARD times are the same – but the Minimum ENTRIES times are being reworked?

A participant needs a least 1 MQS to attend but there will be minimum ENTRY times for other events

So If a swimmer has the time for 100 Backstroke – but wants to do the 100 breast stroke – he or she will have to meet the Minimum ENTRY time

This will preclude those swimmers who really don’t have the skills or time to be in some of the events OR put in incorrect information as they register

If a country wants to put in a relay team – each member must do at least an individual event

The wild card entry is strengthened

If a country has less than 1 of either gender with MQS, they may apply to GGSC for a wild card entry (by name) to enter a total of 2 per gender, Wild Card entries under this scheme must still meet MET.

If a country has no athlete qualifying by MQS or MET they may apply to GGSC and INAS Sport Director for 1 Wild Card entry per gender.

**Classification funding**

INAS had secured Agitos funding for 2 classification courses in 2019, however this has been blocked due to the stated fact that INAS is not the IF responsible for Swimming.

The training course in Belgium has now been advertised for January 2019, at a cost of 1000 Euros per candidate, plus of course travel, now at relatively short notice.

DH has discussed this with Nick Parr, and INAS will look at any opportunity to support candidates for this training course (athletics and swimming). DH is aware that some countries are already looking for potential additional Agitos funding to support candidates.

Classification at events remains a clear priority for INAS Swimming, which is why we are declaring our competition cycle as early as possible to WPS. GG19 will request 2 Panels, Regional events in 2020 one panel each (Hong Kong and GBR) and World Championships in 2021 2 panels.

**Post Meeting Items**

**Meeting Communications**

The use of Webex has not been as simple as it should have been, other INAS groups have had some success using Zoom, which we are likely to migrate to for our meeting in December.

Skype has proven to be an unworkable solution.

**Swimming Committee Membership**

We currently have declared membership from the Americas, Europe and Africa, given the focus in 2019 and 2020 I am looking for equal representation from Oceania and Asia.

**Global Games 19**

DH attended an oversight visit to Brisbane in mid October as a member of the INAS Global Games Oversight Committee, in addition to the very valuable work undertaken by the members whilst in Australia, DH paid an additional visit to the Swimming venue with the individual from Swimming Queensland expected to be the Competition Manager (Michael Anderson).

The venue is ideal for the event, with an indoor international 50m 8 lane pool, an outdoor 50m warm up pool, good facilities for Call Rooms and Doping Control, and Physio opportunities. There is a massive amount of seating both for athletes and for spectators. Following my earlier 2 weeks in Jakarta at the Asian Para Games I was able to give the GGSC and Swimming leads an idea as to what great presentation looks like. I will continue to follow up with GGSC.

It is worth noting that both WPA and WPS have now approved the respective global games sports on behalf of IPC

**The next swimming committee call will be on Tuesday 18 December, time to be confirmed. December 2018**