

Meeting of the Technical Committee of 29th January – 31st January 2010

Place: Flair Hotel Hochspessart,
Lindenallee 40-42, 63869 Heigenbrücken,
www.hochspessart.de, phone +49 6020 9720-0, fax +49 6020 9720-70

Date: 29th January 2010, 3.00 p.m. until 31st January 2010, 1.00 p.m.

Participants: Dr. Gerhard Zimmermann (GZ), chairman, Pasi Aho (PA), Reinhard Neitzke (RN), Jan Strandberg (JaS), Yuki Koshimura (YK), Jon Stanwyck (JoS)

1 Greetings, establishment of the quorum, voting rights

GZ greets all participants and expresses his thanks that all six members are present. Every participant has one vote in the meeting.

Following topics are added to the agenda: 3.5, 3.6, 13.5, 14, 17.6

2 Minutes of the last meeting of TC 30th January – 01st February 2009

The planned manual for tournament settings of YNC was not written in Waldshut in 2009. PA will ask if the organizer in Sochi can write it down while preparing for the YNC 2010.

GZ spreads the “official rule interpretations” collected during the last 12 months to be published on WMF-homepage as decided in the 2009 meeting. Some small changes to the planned answers are made. The interpretations will be published soon on the internet.

3 Feedback International Championships 2009

3.1 Working order for best practices

WMF YC has on request of the Secretary General evaluated the YEC 2009 point by point based on the checklist. TC discusses how to define best practices and how to take care of their implementation. TC finds unnecessary

to review the complete checklist after each championships. TC finds rather better to write down some exceptionally good but also bad practices and to communicate them to the next organizers.

PA notes that an especially good practice in Waldshut were the provided fridges for all teams in the players camp. Also the presentation of the favourites and best players of each team on the stage at the opening ceremony was a good practice.

RN states that in Vaduz the organizer was working very well with the checklist and had studied it carefully. GZ adds that in Odense a very good idea was to organize a pre-meeting with Sport Director approx. one year before the championships. Also it was for sure a highlight to organize the WC 2009 indoor, but we should not expect competitions like that in near future to be repeated. The checklist was discussed very detailed in this meeting and the organizer made its own manuals and practices based on these discussions.

3.2 Spectators on site at the championships

This issue has been discussed earlier in TC too. TC finds that the mode is currently as spectator-friendly as possible, but people are still not coming to watch minigolf. Minigolf must go to the people. It is more a marketing than a technical issue to consider how this can be realized.

3.3 Discussion how to guarantee the permanent presence of a mandatory legal guardian for each national delegation at youth events

The occasion rose in Waldshut where the Russian team was sometimes missing an official team leader on site. TC addresses the question to the Board. The main question is who (organizer, WMF/continental federation, team itself) is responsible if something happens? Does the Board see any actions necessary?

3.4 Feedback open letter to Svenska Bangolfförbundet

YC addressed an open letter to active member Sweden due to the incidence at the closing ceremony of YEC 2009. JaS informs that SBGf has discussed the issue internally in a board meeting and with the player in question.

3.5 Time testing at YNC 2009

During the international referee education at YNC 2009 the participants made a field experiment by measuring the preparation times of all players on two different lanes. The report was spread immediately after YNC. The results were not found very surprising. TC sees no need to change any rules based on the testing. The report and experiences should further serve for improving the work of the referees as well as the internal work of the teams.

3.6 Officers' responsibilities at championships

The sport directors/officers GZ, RN and PA state together that the workload is constantly growing at the championships. It is not always possible to guarantee the required quality in managing all the tasks. In the opinion of the said three the sport directors/officers should always prioritize the sport issues at the tournaments in their work. Additional workload can only be handled in case the remaining time allows it.

4 Current status of International Championships 2010 ff

4.1 YNC / YWC 2010 Sochi / Russia

Preparations are running, on theoretical level the main things have been settled. Hotel and flight offers have been spread, the booking processes have been started. The visa acquiring information is still to be sent out by PA.

4.2 EC 2010 Predazzo / Italy (NC 2010 cancelled)

The communication with the organizer is more quiet in the winter. The contact with FIGSP is existing, but not with the local organizer. The requested list of recommended accommodations is pending since 4 weeks. The official tournament website has not been published yet.

The NC 2010 has been cancelled, but there will be an international competition instead. Places in this competition will be reserved for the national teams and there will be a separate ranking for national teams and players. GZ states that signed championships contracts should be reliable for all involved parties; especially very late changes should be avoided in future. The EMF Board has generally discussed the future of the NC's. TC will discuss it in topic 15.

4.3 SNC / SEM 2010 Cheb / Czech Republic

Preparations are running well, Marcus Wütrich is constantly in contact with Jaroslav Rehak of CMGS. RN clarified on request, that Marcus Wütrich is responsible for senior events.

4.4 ECup 2010 Vienna / Austria

RN is working intensively together with Willy Bauer and Leo Moik. Everything is running smoothly. The tournament website will be uploaded soon.

4.5 Asian Open Championships 2010 Kunming / China

The communication was broken since WC 2009 Odense, but has now been re-opened. The organizer is still considering the construction of the second course. The decision will be taken in approx. 30 days. The tournament

invitation will be written after that. The preliminary date will be in November. GZ will keep in touch with the organizer.

4.6 America's Open Championships 2010 North Myrtle Beach / USA

USPMGA is planning to organize the competition after the US Masters in a short version. TC sees that only thing which makes sense is to have one tournament – US Masters and AOC together. Otherwise the AOC will have no participants. There are two problem issues – the ball(s) to be used and the use of the penalty point rule. JoS will open a discussion with USPMGA officials on how these issues could be settled. The date for the championships is fixed to around 16 October, when the US Masters will take place.

4.7 Remarks for awarded championships 2011

WC 2011 Stockholm: JaS informs that the construction of the concrete course has been finished and the first tournament was already played. The exact place of the miniaturegolf course is still to be decided. The negotiations with the city of Stockholm are running. Tantogårdens BGK will host the Swedish Championships 2010 on the WC 2011 courses.

5 Invitations of international championships in general

5.1 General chapter "Conditions for international championships" on WMF-website

Amendment proposals from officers and other persons have been collected and included. The updated version will be published after the final approval.

5.2 Awarding of two individual championship titles: strokeplay and matchplay

GZ opens the issue by proposing two individual titles to be awarded in each category at all championships. RN makes a counter proposal brought from the EMF board meeting that the system with only one champion should be kept unchanged. JaS supports RN's opinion, whereas PA supports two titles based on the discussion and recommendation of WMF YC. JoS finds one champion better for reasons of clarity. YK states that if a good mode can be found, she would prefer two titles.

Long and intensive discussion arises. Possibilities for different modes of championships with two individual competitions are brought in and discussed. PA points out that according to YC the strokeplay competition should have a superfinal round at the end of third day. RN replies by saying that the EMF board has also discussed the arguments of YC and doesn't support the superfinal idea for practical reasons (possible time problem, high "workload" on players on third day). RN adds that in case of two titles at least no superfinal should be played, just the results of the preliminary rounds should be added together. PA repeats that if no superfinal is played, the climax of the

strokeplay competition is cut off. GZ tries to find a compromise and asks RN, if he could change his mind, if no superfinal were played, but he stated he still would vote for one title.

Towards the end of the discussion it becomes obvious that a unanimous decision can not be found in TC. A voting is required. It is decided to vote for the main question (one or two titles) first and then decide on details, if still necessary. **GZ, PA and YK vote for two titles. RN, JaS and JoS vote for one title. This means that GZ's proposal to have two individual titles does not find a majority in TC and so the current mode with a matchplay champion only will be further applied.** TC finally states that the discussion on finding new possibilities to organize two individual competitions at the championships will be continued later in the brainstorming session and after the meeting.

5.3 Superfinal of the individual strokeplay championship on third competition day

Topic cancelled based on the decision in topic 5.2.

5.4 Selection of k.o.-lanes for matchplay finals (motion from YC)

The discussion on further improving the ways to find a better mix of lanes was brought in by WMF YC. TC decides that the official selection criteria remains unchanged, but especially on feltgolf the jury is encouraged to pay attention to the fact that the selection of lanes should promote different skills as much as possible. The juries are also encouraged to use their power to include and exclude some lanes based on the previous argument.

5.5 Experiences with team penalties at NC and ECup → conclusions

The experiences from 2009 YNC and Ecup are almost 100 % positive. After some years' use the referees are learning to use the system better and better.

RN explains the system used at Ecup in Vaduz. Team fouls and personal fouls (possibly leading to direct penalty points) can and should be separated and used parallel to each other. TC finds the system good and decides to add one sentence to the invitation: **"As team fouls count for example time, chain calls and coaching violation."**

5.6 Organisation of database for WADA-code acceptance and picture right forms from participants of International Championships

TC states that the forms should be collected if possible already prior to the tournament. The new form will be valid until the end of 2014, when the next updated WADA-code will be published. This means that once a player has signed, he/she doesn't have to sign again before 2015. The names of the players who have signed will be registered by WMF. The forms will not be included any more in the invitation. The forms will be sent and collected separately in advance by the responsible tournament directors.

The question from YC about invalid returned forms was given back by the Board. The possible problems will be handled case by case. The Board and TC see no standard rule or solution possible.

5.7 Initiative by Wolfgang Wicki to help young and small nations during the practice of the Championships

Basically two things have to be separated:

- 1) To teach minigolf basics for the very young and new nations. The best way to do this is to send a coach to this country for 2-3 days. The responsibility should lie with WMF.
- 2) To teach course-specific things to bit more advanced nations at the championships. Here TC will send out an enquiry, which nations would offer their help, which nations would like to receive help and in which language the help should take place. The helper and receiver would have to be in the same training group.

GZ will first send a general mail about the idea, because it could help some small countries to decide for a participation, if they can receive help. After official registrations a detailed plan will be created. No exact rules will be drafted, everything must happen on fully voluntary basis. The responsible tournament officers take care of the detailed planning. The participating teams must give feedback (also the helpers but especially the receivers).

6 Final approval of official invitations for international championships 2010

- 6.1 YNC 2010 Sochi / Russia
- 6.2 YWC 2010 Sochi / Russia
- 6.3 EC 2010 Predazzo / Italy
- 6.4 SNC 2010 Cheb / Czech Republic
- 6.5 SEM 2010 Cheb / Czech Republic
- 6.6 ECup 2010 Vienna / Austria

All invitations were approved with some minor changes. The responsible officers will finalize and publish them as soon as possible.

7 Awarding procedure for international championships 2012 and later

- 7.1 SEC / SNC 2012 Rosemaai / Belgium

EMF has awarded the championships and the contract has been signed. The current status is that also the SNC will be played.

7.2 ECup 2012 Vizela / Portugal

ECup 2012 is to be played only on miniaturegolf. The championships have not been finally awarded yet.

7.3 Asian Open Championships 2012 Chiangmai / Thailand

An application from Chiangmai has been submitted. The Asian federation should still also seek for alternative interested candidates. YK promises to take care of this.

7.4 (SNC) / SEC 2013 Appelscha / Netherlands

An application for SEC on miniaturegolf only has been submitted. Since the SNC would be at Pentecost weekend, the organizer does not want to organize it.

7.5 ECup 2013 Holesov / Czech Republic

An application for ECup 2013 on miniaturegolf has been submitted.

7.6 NC / EC 2014 Prievidza / Slovakia

The application has been cancelled.

7.7 Asian Open Championships 2014 Chiangmai / Thailand

An application from Chiangmai has been submitted. The Asian federation should still also seek for alternative interested candidates. YK promises to take care of this.

7.8 ECup 2015 Appelscha / Netherlands

The application has been submitted and is only for feltgolf.

7.9 Others

GZ and RN will update the application forms for the different championships. GZ will send out the next call for applications.

8 International referees

8.1 Update of international referee list

The existing list is up-to-date. Verners Kirss and Martin Tomanek are added to the list because they will probably be refereeing at Youth Championships in 2010. The referees and officials have received the rulebook in printed version.

8.2 Referee nominations 2010

RN is responsible for the planning of EMF tournaments. PA is responsible for the planning for the youth tournaments. If necessary, they will cross-check details with each other.

8.3 Requested education by Poland

Poland (Pawel Larus) has requested a referee education. TC states that Pawel is welcome to participate in the education at YNC in Sochi, if possible for him. Another occasion could possibly be offered at YWC. RN will also ask Marcus Wütrich, if he would like to organize an education in Cheb.

8.4 Education programs during Nations Cups

Like stated above in 8.3, a referee education will be offered at YNC in Sochi on request of the Russian federation. YC has already promised to run it. RN will check if something can be offered in Cheb.

9 Update of fair play guide

GZ adds two minor things based on his experiences from Odense.

10 Amendments to checklist for international championships

10.1 Best practices

Discussed in topic 3.1.

10.2 Diplomas

The diplomas must contain the WMF- or EMF-logo and the signature of the responsible tournament officer.

10.3 Guide for opening and closing ceremonies conducted by WMF Media Manager

TC thanks Willy Bauer for his work and states that this very informative and large guide will surely be of great help for the organizers who want to use it and TC can only recommend the organizers to read it.

10.4 Tents to cover some lanes during rain

The WMF Board did not approve the motion of the YC to offer financial support to the organizers for buying some tents for covering lanes and so possibly saving the tournament. After some discussion TC decides to add 10

party tents of 3 x 3 m each as an obligation for every organizer of an outdoor championships.

10.5 Others

WMF Headquarters have issued a letter to WMF sponsors declaring their duties and rights for 2010 championships. TC states that this again will increase the duties of the responsible officers as already mentioned in 3.6. TC will ask the Board if the duties from this letter should also be added to the checklist or not.

TC finds it further worth considering to split the checklist to different chapters according to the responsibilities inside WMF (media, headquarters, sport) or at least marking the responsibilities point by point. Followed by this TC goes through the checklist to define the responsibilities from its point of view.

11 Current situation with BangolfArena

A development group has been founded with GZ as chairman in order to avoid all questions from member countries going to Lars Isberg and so increasing his workload. The big question is to find a solution for the realtime result service in Bangolf Arena. The first tests in Waldshut with iPod Touch and Spike software were not successful. Also the user interface had some problems which must be solved before the situation is satisfactory at all.

See also topic 2 regarding the settings manual for NC.

TC has received an order from the Board to place BA as the standard software for all championships. In our opinion TC can not act like this before we can guarantee a complete functional solution. At the moment this is not the case and we can't make BA mandatory to the organizers. As soon as the system has been improved to the level of other existing systems, it will be accepted more or less automatically. Currently WMF does not have the manpower to support all organizers sufficiently with BA.

12 Worldwide international sport rules WMF rulebook 2.3

12.1 Explanation for rule changes by DC 2009

TC does not find necessary to publish any explanations. TC will continue to write down the necessary explanations directly when proposing new rules.

12.2 Reorganisation of international player transfer rules (motion from Czech Republic)

Czech Republic proposed to change the transfer rules and DC 2009 gave the issue to the hands of TC. TC defines in its discussion the following important facts:

- 1) The proposed change must in its final form prohibit a player from playing team leagues and/or championships in two countries during the same time period. The player can only play in a team league and/or team championship in the country to which he went on loan. He/she can however play in other team competitions in his home country (e.g. team competition in connection with regular individual tournaments). Especially prohibited should be the theoretical possibility to qualify with two teams for Continental Cups.
- 2) In any loan case at least both involved federations must agree on this loan transfer in written form. The agreements are to be sent to WMF Sport Office.
- 3) Second international transfer window will be opened annually for August 1-15. The transferring player is eligible to represent the new club from August 16. The next international transfer for this player is possible not earlier than 12 months after the previous transfer. These rules will be valid for normal transfers and players on loan.
- 4) To play the individual competition for the home club and the team competition for the foreign loan club in one competition is not possible.

GZ will send an answer to Czech Federation based on the points decided above. These facts will be further developed to a motion for a rule change at DC 2011.

13 System-specific rules feltgolf WMF rulebook 2.6

- 13.1 Complete revision of feltgolf rules for DC 2011 (including diagrams for sizes of passage ways in relation to lane length); proposal worked out by PA and JaS

PA and JaS presented their work until now. Also the responsible officials of Swedish and Finnish federations have been involved in the work. The following steps and details are decided:

- 1) Define the detail what “distance between back frame and hole” mean in some lane descriptions. This is defined to be the shortest distance.
- 2) JaS will check the final compliance with Swedish rules.
- 3) The compliance of the detailed comments from Finland should be revised once more.
- 4) At the end all possible conflicts should be collected and finally decided on.
- 5) The final version will be written until TC 2011 and then sent as motion to DC 2011.

Further the input from WMF Gold Sponsor Nifo regarding the different difficulty levels of the feltgolf courses was discussed. JaS will follow-up.

- 13.2 Reduction of total numbers of feltgolf lanes in rulebook

TC decides to combine lanes 6 (middle hole in slope) and 25 (money box) as lane 6 with optional hole shapes a) (old lane 6) and b) (old lane 25).

13.3 Repositioning rules on lane 24 (Swedish ledge)

The drawing regarding repositioning rules on this lane which was published at WC 2009 in Odense will be included in the rules of this lane.

13.4 Measurements of lane 30 (vertical hole in slope)

The correctness of the distance of the hole from back frame (currently 1 cm without range) must be checked. TC finds that a range should be defined.

13.5 Proposals from Sweden to TC meeting

- 1) Repositioning rule on lane 3 (boxes): Near the obstscale repositioning is allowed also 20 cm from the frame, not only 50 cm from the obstacle → gives a rectangular area.
- 2) At lane 8 (gentleman) TC sees no need for a rule change. Balls stopping on top of the obstacle do not count as successful and the next shot is to be played from tee-off.
- 3) At lane 14 (cradle) TC sees no need for a rule change: Balls stopping on top of the hill are not counted as in the cradle. Balls further than on top of the hill are counted as successful, if the lane has no green and even if there is no target hole at all in the cradle.

14. Homologation of course materials

WMF Gold Sponsor Game'n Fun has contacted WMF and asked for a definition of a further feature for fibrecement plates, the surface texture. TC doesn't consider the texture to be a decisive factor and sees no need for measuring this feature.

TC further states that the norms for measurements have been fixed and are valid for all materials. Additionally it is not possible to work with different testing norms for different materials. The defined norm for every feature must always be followed.

15 Worldwide international sport regulations WMF rulebook 3.3

15.1 World Crazy Golf Championships (regulation 3.7)

TC sees that the use of this established tournament name can be further discussed, if BMGA fulfills its membership tasks and sends in the pending course approval forms.

15.2 Ball approval (regulation 3.4)

JoS will discuss with Bob Detwiler the WMF approval of the USPMGA golf balls. BD has made already an offer to WMF to pay a fee for USPMGA approved golf balls. TC finds that with this payment the WMF approval could be awarded and the open issue settled.

16 Regulations for World and Continental Championships WMF rulebook 3.6

16.1 Discussion on the EMF proposal that NC's should not be mandatory → conclusions for WMF rulebook

After a constructive discussion with several practical and financial arguments TC finds that the NC should not be mandatory but it is still recommended. A motion to the WMF Board to change the regulations (3.5.1-3) will be submitted. The final decision if a NC is organized or not is to be made latest when signing the championships contract. The application forms will be adapted so that the applicants can apply for Championships with or without NC.

16.2 General change of date of Senior Championships and Championships in general

The motion from Switzerland is discussed. TC sees no need to change the current calendar basics.

17 Brainstorming and discussion on ideas for future

17.1 Promotion of MOS tournaments

TC has already done a lot for promoting MOS tournaments. Currently the promotion is concentrating on USA, China, CZ and GB with their current tournament projects.

TC discusses the idea to organize an official MOS tournament under the supervising of WMF. TC finds that this tournament should not be called "World Championships" since there should only be one official WMF-promoted and -supervised World Championships in minigolf. Therefore TC decides that a "World Adventuregolf Masters" will be announced open for applications, starting in 2011. The tournament should be organized annually at changing venues.

17.2 Proposals for a new mode of team competition at Championships (working order from last TC for JaS)

At least no very bright ideas can be presented, since the basic idea must be that all participants (team players and individual players) must be offered as many rounds as possible. Otherwise we will lose a significant amount of participants. Therefore it is not possible to put more weight on the team competition than currently.

17.3 Participation at multi-sport events

Different possibilities are discussed and basically found interesting. Several restricting factors must however also be considered.

17.4 Awards for coach of the year and player of the year

The idea is coming from WMF Secretary General. TC is raising the question for the purpose of these nominations. Should it be for media or other purposes? TC sees that in case of players such a nomination would mostly be the choice between the champions in different categories.

17.5 Change in the allowance of the k.o.-system to 16/8 players

JaS presented the proposal from Sweden, which after a discussion however could not find a majority in TC.

17.6 Opening SEC (and also NC's) for more players per nation

The proposal is coming from Sweden. TC sees that for SEC this is not possible, because this would favour the big nations in qualifying for k.o.-finals. For NC's it is currently possible to allow more players in all categories. The maximums are decided to be 4 teams and 16 players per nation. This change will be applied already in 2010.

18 Educations for members and registrars

18.1 Coach education / request from Romania, others

Dan Toadere from Romania has requested a coach education. TC recommends the Board to allocate funds for an education in Romania. The countries around Romania should also be asked, if they wanted to participate in this session. The funding could be taken from the WMF budget for the projects in the member countries.

TC further states that any such request should basically be considered and supported, since it would develop the sport.

18.2 Referee education / plan for YNC 2010 Sochi

As already stated above, an education will take place at YNC in Sochi and possibly another one in Cheb.

18.3 Anti-doping education

YC did offer an education session in Waldshut, but it was not found very effective, because it was a mass lecture. TC decides to offer more online information on anti-doping issues by uploading the presentation of Dr. Andreas Fuchs in Waldshut and links to some important issues on WADA-homepage. TC also wants to thank Dr. Andreas Fuchs for his efforts in co-organizing the first ever WMF anti-doping info session in Waldshut.

19 Education of TC members regarding the WADA anti-doping program

GZ reported the recent news about anti-doping work and some important issues were discussed long and thoroughly. In April 2010 in Dubai at Sport Accord congress small international federations will come together and compare their situations and collect best practices. GZ will participate in this congress.

20 WMF World Ranking Lists

20.1 Implementation of points for second title at International Championships

Topic cancelled due to earlier decisions.

20.2 Others

TC sees no need to change anything in the mode. TC is satisfied with the work of the current group working on the lists. Questions sent in (e.g. by Secretary General) were discussed, but the current system is found being enough for the moment. WMF doesn't have the financial and personal resources to develop and maintain a more complete and possibly fairer system.

21 Task list WMF sport

TC discusses the task list presented in the Board meeting by GZ and finds it ok. The goals on the list are realistic and several of the tasks must be taken care of anyway. TC discusses further how the tasks can be better divided among TC members. It will be decided case by case who takes the responsibility.

22 News flash from TC meeting for WMF-website and first information to WMF active members

GZ will write and publish a news flash about the main decisions.

23 List of motions for the next meeting of WMF Board

Topic 15: To make the organizing of NC not mandatory.

24 List of motions to be prepared for DC 2011

Topic 13: Finalizing of the feltgolf rules package

Topic 22: Rule change for international player transfers and players on loan

25 Date and location for next TC meeting

The next meeting will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 28.-30.1.2011.

26 Expenses

26.1 Decision on daily allowance for TC members

Due to meals included in the room price PA, RN, GZ and JaS receive 0,5 allowances. YK and JoS receive 2,5 allowances (four free meals were provided during the stay in Heigenbrücken).

26.2 Approval of TC members' expenses (documents approved by WMF Sport Director before delivery to Finance Manager)

The expense forms will be sent to GZ asap.

For the minutes
26th March 2010
Bamberg

Chairman
Dr. Gerhard Zimmermann
WMF Sport Director

Secretary
Pasi Aho
WMF Youth Officer