



ISU Masters Speed Skating Working Group (IMSSG)

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Information for Masters concerning IMSSG Contacts to the ISU Council

Problems with high Age Groups

At the Masters' International Speed Skating Criterion on 13 Nov 2010 in Erfurt there was an informal meeting between Mr. Hugo Herrnhof, ISU Sports Director Speed Skating and myself concerning Masters Speed Skating. At the beginning Mr. Herrnhof informed me that the Council in October 2010 had accepted the budget proposal of the IMSSG. He did not mention any preconditions for the acceptance. In the following discussion I informed Mr. Herrnhof about the development of the Masters Movement, the International Masters Speed Skating Committee (IMSSC) and the International Speed Skating Competitions Program. We intensively discussed this development and also difficulties and their solutions.

When I asked at the begin of February 2011, more than two months later, the ISU Office to remit the accepted budget to the IMSSG account, I got an answer not from the Office, but from Mr. Herrnhof, that the budget was accepted by the Council only under the provision that I would agree with the **restriction of the Masters Age to a maximum of 75 years**. That means that our 5 year Masters Age Group 70 (70 – 74) should be the highest and that our age groups 75, 80, 85 and higher would no longer be accepted.

I could not agree and I wrote a letter to the Council with the reasons for this disagreement. It is attached to this information, see page after next. **I asked the Council to agree with the open end age groups as we use them** and as they are used by the FINA (Swimming) and WMA (Athletics), **and to release the IMSSG budget 2011**. The ISU Council did not discuss the matter in its session in Helsinki in April 2011, but in its session in June 2011 in Amsterdam. But there was also no decision about the release of the IMSSG budget. The Council only decided that there should be a further discussion between Mr. Roland E. Maillard, ISU Council Member, Mr. Hugo Herrnhof and me.

The planned IMSSG Session in June 2011 had to be cancelled because of the blocked IMSSG budget.

Mr. Maillard, Mr. Herrnhof and myself had a meeting in July 2011 in Basel, where I was informed that the Council is still interested in a restriction of the age to 75 years as before, but that he is interested also in a stronger bond of the Masters to the ISU. So some important Master Rules could be brought into the ISU Rules and the International Masters Competitions should be organized as Official ISU Competitions. Mr. Maillard will make a Model Announcement for ISU Master Competitions in the season 2012/2013. There will be a discussion about the Masters again at the next ISU Council Session 14 – 16 October in Florence/ITA.

I provided Mr. Maillard and Mr. Herrnhof with further material about Masters Age Groups in other international sport associations, with actual announcements of the Masters Sprint and Allround Games and with a proposal of the IMSSG to the ISU Council for the incorporation of Masters Rules into the ISU Rules from 2007, which was refused by the Council in October 2007.

I will keep you informed about the further development on our website www.imssg.org, respectively www.imssc.org.

With best regards

ISU MASTERS SPEED SKATING GROUP (IMSSG), Coordinator

Dr. Volker Serini

P.S.:

See on the next both pages the above-mentioned letter to the Council from 29 March 2011, concerning Masters Age Groups and IMSSG Budget 2011.

Members IMSSG:

Jae-Seok Choi (KOR), Andrew Love (USA), Dr. Volker Serini (GER), Sven-Aage Svensson (NOR)