



ISU Masters' Speed Skating Working Group (IMSSG)

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By Email

To the Council of the
International Skating Union (ISU)
Attn: Mr Fredi Schmid, ISU General Director
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Krefeld, 29 Mar 2011

Copy:
Ottavio Cinquanta ISU President
Jan Dijkema ISU Vice President
Hugo Herrnhof ISU Sports Director Sp.Sk.
IMSSG Members

Withheld IMSSG Budget 2011, Masters Age

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council,

At an informal meeting about Masters Speed Skating with Mr Hugo Herrnhof at the 7th Masters' International Speed Skating Criterion in Erfurt on 13 Nov 2010 Mr Herrnhof gave me the approval of the requested IMSSG budget of 9500,00 EUR without mentioning any preconditions.

On 7 Feb 2011 I asked Mr Schmid to remit the approved budget to the IMSSG account, because I wanted to send the promised contribution of 1500 EUR to the organizer of the 3rd Masters' International Sprint Games in Berlin. Thereupon, on 10 Feb 2011, nearly three months after the approval of the budget on 13 Nov 2010 in Erfurt, I got new information from Mr Herrnhof that the budget was only agreed under the precondition that I would agree with the restriction of Masters between the ages of 35 – 75 years.

But neither myself as IMSSG coordinator nor the IMSSG as a whole can decide upon the age groups of the Masters as laid down in the Regulations of the IMSSC (International Masters Speed Skating Committee):

“Rule 2: Masters Definition

Masters are non-professional speedskaters (members of National teams and National selections excluded) from 30 years, the age being defined as age reached during the competition year 1st July till 30th June, competing in 5year age groups 30-34 (30), 35-39 (35), 40-44 (40), 45-49 (45), 50-54 (50), 55-59 (55), 60-64 (60), 65-69 (65), 70-74 (70), 75-79 (75), 80-84 (80), 85-89 (85), 90-94 (90) and higher (as high as necessary).”

This rule can only be altered by vote on a proposal of an IMSSC Member at an IMSSC Session. The next one is the 34th IMSSC Session on 28 May 2011 in Amsterdam/NED.

But the IMSSG as a whole is in favor of maintaining the existing IMSSC Rule 2.

The reasons are the following:

1. IMSSC Rule 2 was decided by the IMSSC with a great majority after intensive discussions of the IMSSC Members of a lot of Nations, all experienced in Masters Speed Skating.
2. The IMSSC has had good experiences with the open end of the age groups, so with the high age groups as 70, 75, 80, 85 (eldest skater until now 86 years old). The skaters of these age groups all skate admirably well and safe.
3. The good experiences with the high age groups 70, 75, 80, 85 were made at more than 100 International Masters' Competitions (Sprint, Allround and Single Distances), including 20 Masters' International Allround Games and 3 Masters' International Sprint Games, in nearly 20 years.
4. Masters taking part in International Masters' Competitions have competition licenses from their National Speed Skating Associations.
5. A participation cut at 75 years would be discrimination only owing to the age.
6. The skaters of the highest age groups are very important for higher motivation of the younger skaters to go on in their training and in competing also if they get older. And this keeps them fit and young.
7. The skaters of the highest age groups always get the most applause at competitions as for example the two skaters Men 80 at the 20th Masters International Allround Games 2011 in Calgary/CAN.
8. Other International Sport Organizations, as for example FINA (swimming) and WMA (athletics), have many more years good experience than the IMSSC with very high Master age groups.
9. FINA has age groups 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, ... (five year age groups as high as is necessary). Rules see attachment.
10. WMA has age groups 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99, 100+. Rules see attachment. WMA is in close cooperation with IAAF as IMSSC with ISU/IMSSG.

With regard to the above cited reasons the ISU Council is asked by the IMSSG to accept the age groups as used by the Speed Skating Masters for nearly 20 years and to release the payment of the requested IMSSG budget to the IMSSG account. Then the IMSSG would be able to re-establish its interrupted activities in developing and promoting International Masters' Speed Skating Activities in close cooperation with the IMSSC.

With best regards

ISU MASTERS' SPEED SKATING GROUP (IMSSG), Coordinator

V. Serini

(Dr. Volker Serini)

Attachment: FINA Masters Rules excerpts, WMA Masters Rules excerpts

ISU-Council-110329-withheld-IMSSG-budget
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Members IMSSG:

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