

DOWN SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING ORGANISATION (DSISO)



Ability not Disability

www.DSISO.org

#DownSyndromeSport



SPORTS ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Truro @ 20.00 hours 23 July 2018 Dalhousie University

Meeting opened at 20:00

1. Chairman's Welcome

1.1. **Present** The list of attendees is included at the end of these minutes

2. Apologies for Absence: Costanzo Mastrangelo

3. Acceptance of the Agenda

3.1. The Agenda was accepted unanimously after a discussion on how it was prepared.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

4.1. Accuracy of Content and Approval:

4.1.1. Minutes need to be amended to show Billy Birchmore is from UK, not Italy.

4.1.2. Minutes were then Accepted, 1 abstainer

4.2. Any Matters Arising:.

4.2.1. Members requested that reminders be sent to each country, close to the event, that they need to have their copy of the minutes with them for the Assembly.

4.2.2. DSISO procedures to be spelt out providing more details in a way that members can understand.

4.2.3. Requested that oaths be held off until athletes are in place, not waiting to enter.

4.2.4. The process for submitting motions needs to be spelt out. (See Item 10 of these minutes)

4.2.5. An apology was demanded from GB for a remark made by the president, even though it did not relate to a member of the GB team or anyone at the Assembly.

5. Reports

5.1. President

5.1.1. See report attached.

5.2. CEO:

5.2.1. Duties for the last two years included the Executive meeting in Truro, November 2016, providing an opportunity to inspect the proposed venue for 2018 championships.

5.2.2. Numerous updates to the Rules, particularly for the technical requirements.

5.2.3. Organising Skype meetings but there have been problems with getting more than 4 attendees plus the problems with time differences and work commitments.

5.3. Records Officer's Report - see report attached

- 5.4. Financial Officer's Report – See report attached
- 5.5. Technical Director's Report – Swimming - Outstanding
- 5.6. Technical Director's Report – Synchro - Outstanding
- 5.7. Medical Officer's Report - Outstanding¹

6. **Motions**

6.1. **Motion 1²**

6.1.1. **From the Executive Committee re reduction in DSISO Executive Committee**

- 6.2. A lively discussion was held but got bogged down by the use of the word 'power' in the Roles and Responsibilities section of the Rules. This had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the motion, but resulted in the situation where the change needed to be made before a vote could be taken on the original motion.
- 6.3. A suggested change to the wording was to be submitted by one of the attending representatives.
- 6.4. However when it had not been received two days later a voting form for the reduction of the DSISO committee was distributed and votes received the following day.
- 6.5. The result was 12 in favour of the motion, 6 against, so the motion was carried.

7. **Election of the DSISO Executive Officers (RULES A6)**

7.1. Election of Officers (post specification in RULES) –

Although the outcome of the Executive Motion 1, was yet to be determined, since there was only one nomination for each of the available positions, a vote was not required from the Sports Assembly.

- 7.1.1. President - Geoff Smedley
- 7.1.2. CEO - Barbara Higgins
- 7.1.3. Financial Officer - Lizzie Vogel
- 7.1.4. Medical Officer - Arly Heide

7.2. Note: The Coach Representative (Johnny Yu Ning Siu) was elected in 2016 to serve until 2020

8. **Confirmation of Co-opted Members**

- 8.1.1. Technical Adviser – Swimming - Carla Cardoso
- 8.1.2. Technical Adviser – Synchro Swimming - Lolli Montego
- 8.1.3. Records Officer - Deferred, see item 6.4
- 8.1.4. Medical Officer - Deferred, see item 6.4

9. **Motions**

9.1. From the Executive Committee

¹ Costanzo Mastrangelo from Italy was the previous Medical Officer for DSISO. He decided not to continue in this role. Thanks to the support he gave to DSISO are recorded in these minutes.

² This Motion was presented at this time since its outcome would affect the next item, the Election of Officers.

9.1.1. In response to recent problems the Executive Committee wished to present two 'late' motions. To do so required the permission of the Assembly (Motion 2). Before going to the vote the President explained the two motions.

9.1.1.1. Motion 3. Simply explained the Executive wishes to change the meaning for NSO, National Swimming Organisations to NSO, National Sports Organisations.

9.1.1.2. Motion 4. For Individual Entries the current Rule states that the NSO must be aware of the Individual Entry. The Executive suggested that the Rule should state that the NSO gives permission.

9.1.2. The majority of members at the Assembly Voted not to accept Motion 2 and therefore Motions 3 and 4 could not be presented or voted upon.

9.2. From the Membership – no Motions were presented

10. 2020 World Championships

10.1. Report from President (See Presidents Report attached)

11. Any Other Business

NOTE, Although the following were not received in writing before the Assembly is was agreed to listen to the proposals.

11.1. There was a query regarding the Rule for swimmers not reaching qualifying time in races. Referred to Rule BL 3.1.4, of the DSISO Handbook³

11.2. Create Officer in charge of swimmer welfare. Requires a motion. (See comments from the DSISO CEO at the meeting in his attached document)

11.3. Changes to Rules only to be made after discussion at the next Sports Assembly.

11.3.1. Note: This is totally unworkable. We follow FINA rules, and if there is a change to those rules then we must follow suit. There are many other reasons why the Rules need to be changed in the intervening years between championships.

11.3.2. Any such changes requires a motion.

11.4. There was a complaint regarding sub-standard accommodation, 5 toilets for 40 people, Lack of attention to vulnerable people. This was passed to the Organising Committee for their attention.

12. Miscellaneous

12.1. A number of discussions took place that were not agenda items, including:

12.1.1. Complaints regarding accommodation, food, transport, communication, safety and security, communication, technical difficulties, excursions.

12.1.2. Lack of communication from DSISO during intervening years.

12.1.3. DSISO Executive meetings, costs, logistics, inclusion of member countries in electronic meetings.

13. Meeting Closed.

13.1. Motion to reduce number of DSISO Committee to be resolved by email, voting forms to the DSISO CEO and results added to these minutes. (see Item 6)

3

BL 3.1.4. Participants not reaching the qualifying standards during the heats will be fined. The fine will be twenty (20) Euros, or a fee agreed upon by the technical delegate and the Local Organising Committee. Payment of the fine is required prior to any competitor from the offending nation being able to compete in further events. All fines are the property of DSISO.

ATTENDEES

DSISO Executive Board.:

Geoff Smedley	President 2018-2022
,John Rumsey	CEO 2014-2018
Barbara Higgins	CEO 2018-2022
Lizzie Vogel	Finance Officer 2018-2022
Arly Heide	Medical Officer 2018 - 2022
Johnny Yu Ning Siu	Coach Representative 2016-2020
Carla Cardoso	Technical Director Swimming 2018-2022

International Representatives

Japan	Hiromi Yomane
Albania	Yeton Kaqlata
USA	Sandra Sanguinett
Australia	Annette Telfer, John Beckworth, Amanda Kerby
Italy	Alberto Werig
Estonia	Urmo Pollisinski
Croatia	Danijela Kurtin
Brasil	Roberto Di Cunto
Macau	Siu Yu Ning, Chang Ho Yan
Great Britain	Alison Reed, John Reed, Keith Banks
Mexico	Orlando Ibarra
Gibraltar	Greig Stewart
Hong Kong	Wong Pak Cheng Johnny
Ireland	Ann English, Aine Yap
Portugal	Carla Cardoso
Costa Rica	Luis Cortez
Denmark	Caroline Beck



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Swimming Assembly 2018 Truro, Canada

Dear Friends,

The last two years have been busy and exciting for me.

2016 Trisome Games

The first Trisome Games was a great event in 2016 I have had a lot of great feedback for the swimming event. Much of this must be credited to the great team we have in DSISO. Thanks for a great job by Carla as the Technical Director for Swimming and Floriana as the Technical Director for Synchro. I must also mention John who with Fausto put a lot into making sure the medal Ceremonies ran so well. Barbara for keeping up with all the Records, and putting the results on the website each day. Well done to Johnnie, without whom the call room would not have been so efficient, to Arly and Costanzo who dealt with the occasional medical issue and Lizzie who chased you all for your Membership money.



As you probably know I am now looking forward to completing plans for the next Trisome Games of 2020 that will take place in Antalya, Turkey. I will, of course, keep you informed as more details are available.

#DownSyndromeSport

This is a new hash-tag that is being promoted through the Social Media. I really hope this catches on because anything we can do to raise the general profile of Down syndrome sport will also help us directly in swimming. See also my next section on our programme to obtain Paralympic recognition.

If anything you put onto any Social Media site can be accompanied by #DownSyndromeSport, please do so.

2016 Paralympics

Through my position with the Executive Board of the European Paralympic Committee I was able to attend the Rio Paralympics. As always I did my best to meet with anyone whom I think will listen to me about the inclusion of athletes with Down syndrome. There are some folks I know I still have to persuade that there should be such a class. Other folks, who are already convinced of our case, I spoke to in an effort to maximise the impact we can collectively make upon the IPC.



Of course, I am not alone in pushing forward our ambitions for Paralympic inclusion. Many others are also promoting the message. We need lots and lots of media attention. At the end of the day if we can get a strong message about inclusion spread throughout the world's media then the IPC will have to accept their responsibility and stop this discrimination.

I am very aware that our CEO, John, and his son Danny, were very active in Australia to promote interest in our Paralympic ambitions.

I also spoke to our friends in South Africa and made another presentation to the TC programme Carte Blanche. This was with the hope this would help to raise the profile in South Africa. Certainly the previous presentation I made to promote the Trisome Games went down very well.

Petition

DSISO was made aware of a Petition to get the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to stop discriminating against athletes with Down syndrome and recognise Down syndrome as a specific Sports Class giving our athletes access to the Paralympic Games.

The emphasis of our approach changed from "why won't you let us take part?" to "shy are you I was happy to encourage many of you to sign this. The petition is closed and I am awaiting information from the organisers of the petition regarding its impact. I hope it has not just sunk with many other good initiatives into the vast organisation that is the IPC!

Other Championships

2017 European Open – Paris, France

This was a great event excellently managed by our friends in FFSA. I know many of you were there and I am pleased that by Opening the European Championships there were many countries there from outside Europe. All together 18 countries took part – a record number for a Regional Championships. The event was quite fantastic with a great atmosphere and some wonderful swimming. A number of World and Regional Records were broken. As always, you will find all the results on our website www.DSISO.org. Many thanks to Barbara who manages the DSISO website and all the acknowledgements of DSISO Records.



Although they didn't win any medals on this occasion my congratulations to new swimmers from Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden. The standards for our Championships get higher every time. Therefore, just to qualify is a great achievement. I hope we will see these folks on the Podium in the future.

The Organisation was excellent and congratulations to FFSA the Fédération Française du Sport Adapté for this. However, I must also thank the excellent work done by members of the DSISO Executive whose input was significant for the success of the event. Swimming Technical Director Carla Cardoso, Synchro Technical Director Lolli Montego, and Executives Barbara Higgins and Arly Heide.



TRISOME GAMES 2020

After a bidding process with bids from France, Mexico, Croatia and Turkey the Executive finally gave the bid to Turkey. The event will take place in Antalya. I have no further information yet but as soon as I am able I will let you have dates etc.

The DSISO Executive Board

This would be an appropriate time for me to congratulate the following people, who in working to the responsibilities of their DSISO roles have contributed an extra, and significant effort:

John Rumsey in particular for his excellent work in keeping the Rules up-to date at times it seems it will never be completed. Continually we discover new additions or changes to make the Rules more applicable to our competition objectives. John will be sadly missed as the CEO although I hope he will be persuaded to take on some project work with us from time to time.

I have already mentioned Carla and Lolli who, as the DSISO Technical Directors, have made a considerable impact upon the professionalism of DSISO. In particular thanks are due to Carla for her excellent review of the entry details that I know were a great support to the LOC in Paris and again here in Truro.

Thank you Barbara for keeping the Records programme running consistently for many years now. (Records come into her in-box from DSISO recognised events on an almost continuous rate) I also appreciate her input to maintaining the website. I anticipate a continued working relationship with Barbara as our new CEO.

Costanzo, our Medical Officer, is always there at the end of an e-mail if I have issues with medical issues. Costanzo is not standing again and so my sincere thanks to him for his input and support.

I must also thank Arly in this context, although he is a Member at Large, as a Medical Practitioner he can always be relied upon to advise me on Classification issues. Arly will be assuming the role of DSISO Medical Officer from now on.

Often missed because she is working away in the background, but many thanks to Lizzie for working with a difficult banking system in South Africa to arrange the transfer of the account from GB to South Africa. This is now very close to being achieved. Lizzie will be continuing as our Finance Officer and will be on board to conclude the setting up of the DSISO account in South Africa.

The professionalism and experience of Jose and Fausto from Portugal has been a great contribution to the Executive Board and they will be sadly missed. As Members at Large they have contributed to the success of DSISO in a number of different ways and are always there to share their expertise in the sports field for swimmers with Down syndrome.

Johnny has been our Coach representative for many years. He will continue with this role until 2020. After that his role will be assimilated into the Technical work of Carla and Lolli. Although they have considerable experience, we will miss the coach knowledge and input from Johnny after 2020.

2019 European Open – Sardinia, Italy

Plans to go to Spain were sadly not concluded but I am pleased that we will return to Italy and the 'formidabilege' organising committee led by Dario Della Gatta. The event will take place in Olbia, Sardinia. Arrival September 15th and Depart September 22 2019.

The Pool is in the Geovillage which looks excellent for both the accommodation and the pool.

Kosovo International Open – Pristina

I have just returned from a truly great competition in Kosovo. Organised by Arjeta Gashi whom many of you will know. Her excellent swimmer, from Kosovo, is Medina Surdulli.

The purpose of arranging the Competition was to encourage participation within the Balkan region. As an open competition it achieved this and also encouraged a wider entry to total 11 countries overall.



Whilst in Kosovo I was invited to meet the Prime Minister of Kosovo and he was very encouraging. He said he would work towards getting more people with Down syndrome involved in sport and he also committed to ensuring that Medina would be able to go to Canada for the World Championships. (Sadly, the support was not forthcoming and so Medina is not here with us after all)

He presented an award to Medina in recognition of her success and as a great ambassador for Kosovo. I agree wholeheartedly.

A sincere thank you to all the countries that attended. Your support for Kosovo will have a lasting effect and I anticipate more swimmers joining Medina in the Kosovo team.



For those that didn't go, you missed a great event. I hope we will be able to attend another event in Kosovo in the future. If we do, don't miss an opportunity to visit this great country.

You can find the results on

<http://kosovo-asf.org/Data/Results/2018/1st%20Championship%202018/>

Finally, my sincere thanks to Kosovo for nominating me for another 4 years as the DSISO President.

WADA

In November 2017, WADA's Executive Committee has adopted a new policy related to the organizations wishing to become signatories to World Anti-Doping Code (the Code).

Based on this new policy, any International Federation wishing to become a Code signatory has to proceed by first filing an application for membership with the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

GAISF's Membership Commission will then accompany and timely review the fulfilment by that organization of the eligibility criteria to become a member of GAISF. Within the anti-doping framework, this Commission will assist the organization to set up rules and policies that comply with the Code.

As soon as the GAISF's Membership Commission considers that the applicant has the necessary anti-doping rules and processes in place, it will inform WADA and, together with the applicant, submit all necessary information and documentation required by WADA to review whether the organization fulfils the condition to become a Code Signatory.

In my role as the SUDS President and CEO I have contacted the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) to enquire about Membership. One of the issues we will face will be the cost of Membership. Membership, of GAISF is initially \$US3,000 (Associate Members) and \$US4.000 (Full Member). I am waiting for a response from them. This will have to be spread among the members of SUDS. The outcome will be that for DSISO to make its contribution we may have to increase Membership fees. However, this is something for the future at this point.

Provisional Arrangements

Since this will take some time and so, until we have more information, it is not appropriate to use the TUE Forms in preparation for competitions. We will notify everyone as soon as we have completed the process and have been accepted as a member of GAISF and subsequently a signatory to WADA.

In investigating the issue of doping implications and the safety for Down syndrome athletes, SUDS has come across research showing how the neurovegetative regulation of Down Syndrome athletes under effort are more delicate than in other athletes. This raises our concern regarding health hazards during competition due to doping. DSISO will inform and raise the attention of all medical staff attending competitions regarding these peculiarities and susceptibilities of Down Syndrome athletes.

Therefore, DSISO have now instituted a simpler form of Dope Testing that is being trialled at this Championships in Truro. Arly will be managing this and we will conduct some random tests to examine the process.

The process will be a 'dipstick into a urine sample'. This is very simple and quick results will show for all amphetamine and amphetamine derivatives,. As such this test will address the concerned outlined on the previous page for the health and safety of the athletes.

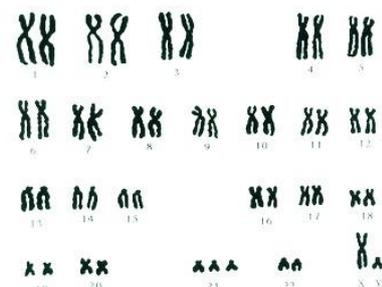
Should there be any positive results from these tests then a letter of concern will be given to the Team Manager, Coach and Parents.

At this time SUDS and DSISO are yet to determine what sanctions may be applied in the future to any athlete with a positive result from this test.

DSISO Eligibility Protests

To date neither DSISO nor SUDS has been able to challenge the eligibility of a Down syndrome athlete other than to ask for a Cytogenetic Analysis. This is an expensive and lengthy process.

As a result we have been looking at a simpler test to administer. Arly has identified such a test, the FISH test. FISH stands for fluorescent in situ



hybridization. FISH testing, or FISH analysis as it is sometimes referred to, is a relatively new cytogenetic technique that allows a cytogeneticist to determine how many copies of a particular chromosome are present without having to go through all of the steps involved in producing a karyotype. I can provide a more detailed explanation on request.

We have made arrangements with the local hospital that will administer this test for us if necessary during this Championships.

INAS

As many of you will know, in spite of the fact that some time ago the International Sports Association for athletes with Intellectual Disability (INAS) rejected a motion from some of us involved in Down syndrome sport for Down syndrome to be an extra class, INAS have now introduced such a class. This was introduced at their Championships in Mexico and is included for the INAS European Games in Paris, running at this time.

To try and establish some co-operation between INAS and SUDS I gave the President of INAS a proposed Memorandum of Understanding in Paris last year. However, INAS have not been prepared to discuss this further with me. Therefore, I believe the question of a Memorandum of Understanding between the SUDS organisations (including DSISO) and INAS is no longer viable. INAS is still offering opportunities for Down syndrome athletes. So, if you are interested in INAS events check their website for the Classification criteria.

Where Next?

Of course we know that we have our Open European Championships in 2019 in Sardinia.



The World Championships for 2020 will be part of the Trisome Games, which will take place in Antalya, Turkey (I will send you more details of that Championships as soon as they become available)

However, I would like to plan further ahead if possible. There are a number of countries that regularly take part in our Championships that are still to stage a DSISO Championship. If a small country such as Kosovo can do

this then surely some of the larger countries can also do so. Come and talk to any of the DSISO Executive Committee in Truro and we will talk you through the process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Smedley".

Geoff Smedley
DSISO President
Truro July 2018

DOWN SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING ORGANISATION (DSISO)

Financial Officer's Report 2016 – 2018

It gives me great pleasure to present the Finance Report of 2017 and updated report of 2018 (January – June).

I want to thank all the Member Countries and the Country Members for their cooperation and support through the years involved. Thank you also to the DSISO Executive for their assistance.

DSISO's money is still mainly been spent on Executive Meetings and Inspections (accommodation and transport), Administration and Affiliation. We would like to extend our service to cover a broader spectrum in the future as already said in 2014.

The executive meetings have been limited since 2016 by making use of Skype Meetings, which was not really successful. Therefore you will see no expenses for executive meetings in 2017 on the report. Only two members visited Truro for final inspection of the venue, and also to assist the LOC.

I can report with confidence that the DSISO account has been taken care of, and expenditures have been made after careful consideration.

Recommendations:

1. Member Countries must make sure the correct amount arrives in the DSISO account. All bank cost must be paid by the Member Country. Thank you to those countries that adhere to that.
2. All financial issues must be communicated to the Financial Officer. They can be copied to other executive members.
3. All payments must be done through the Member Country. Deposits from individuals are not recommended.
4. Clear reference must be used when a deposit has been made. The country name must always be added as Reference.
5. If possible, please e-mail proof of payment (PoP) to the Finance Officer after money been transferred / deposited into the DSISO account.

I thank you

Lizzie Vogel

(Financial Officer) July 2018

Record Officer & Webmaster's Report - 2016-2018

During the period 2016-2018 there were a steady flow of both regional and world records. There was an increase of age group record applications especially M2 and Junior. These records are an encouragement to swimmers and a motivation to continue belong to DSISO.

The Website continues to get many hits, especially the record pages. Facebook is a very successful social media tool. Some posts can generate over four thousand hits. This happens when countries "share" the post. A great public awareness exercise.

Many queries came in via the website regarding the Canadian Championships.

Barbara Higgins

Records Office & Webmaster.

My Comments (John Rumsey)

These comments are not directed to those at the meeting who provided positive and respectful comments and suggestions, however, sadly they were in the very small minority.

I am no longer a member of the DSISO Executive Committee. Had I not decided to not stand for re-election, I would have resigned out of disgust at the actions of the attendees at the Assembly. Some of you came up to us the next day saying it wasn't personal. Rubbish, it was very personal. You are all very quick to criticise, blame, accuse DSISO for everything you are not happy with, even when things go wrong that are the responsibility of team management. You forget that if there was no Executive Committee there would be no competitions purely for athletes with Down syndrome. But none of you put your hands up to take a position on the committee, very few are prepared to host the competitions, and invariably you will criticise and complain about the accommodation, or the food, or the transport, or the communication.

The question was asked of the DSISO Committee whether we have ensuites and air conditioning, the inference being that we were "living in the lap of luxury", to the sarcastic laughs of the attendees. I would like to remind you that our day doesn't finish at the end of the day's competition, we go back to work at the hotel and we need a room where we can work as a group and discuss any issues that need to be addressed. The host countries put us up in a hotel because they know and respect the work that we do. We are volunteers too, using our own resources to do our jobs, Personally I found the question and the reaction both rude and insulting, and did nothing to gain respect and friendship, which you all pay lip service to. You forget that we are working throughout the year, every year, on making each championship a success. The measure of our success is the increase in the number of countries joining DSISO and the number of swimmers competing. If you needed any proof of what these championships have achieved over the years, just look at the times and records that were set in 2004, and the times and records that have been set in 2018!

There are not many countries that can provide five-star accommodation for athletes, team managers and support staff, parents and supporters, at a cost that all countries can afford. I applaud all those countries that have hosted championships in the past, providing viable alternatives that may not have been able to meet all your standards, but at least provided what was needed to hold the competition at an affordable price for as many as possible. Congratulations to Nick Sharpe and Tanya Colburn and their team of volunteers for another successful and rewarding championship. The accommodation at the Dal Agricultural College was offered in keeping with the membership requests that a range of accommodation is offered to enable teams to match the costs to their budgets. The features of the accommodation were clearly laid out by looking at the Dal website which could be studied in preparation for teams make their decision. Although not stated as such the opportunity to put teams in hotel accommodation was always there and some team did this.

A suggestion was made that DSISO include on the Committee a person who would be responsible for the security of the athletes. Is this not the responsibility of team management? How do you expect one person to be responsible for 24 teams consisting of over two hundred athletes? Is this just another opportunity for team managers to abdicate from their responsibilities and provide another reason to blame DSISO when things go wrong that team management should be responsible for? In my view this is totally unrealistic.

My reward, my satisfaction from being a member of the DSISO committee has been seeing the friendships, camaraderie, resilience and sense of achievement of the swimmers at each of the championships. After all, they are the reason for holding these championships, and encouraging

athletes from other sports to get involved, as seen at the T21 Games in 2016. They are the memories I take away, and they make up for the behaviour exhibited at the Sports Assemblies.

Please don't bother sending any comments back to me because I am no longer a part of DSISO, These comments are mine and do not reflect the opinions of any member of the new DSISO committee, and I have not elicited any input from them.

John Rumsey