

# Minutes of the 2021 Oceania Squash Federation's Annual General Meeting

held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (Zoom Meeting)

## 1. WELCOME

Meeting was opened by the OSF President, Mr Jim O'Grady, at 2:09 pm (Brisbane time). A special welcome was extended to the WSF Squash Federation President and CEO.

## 2. ATTENDANCE

### 2.1. Confirmation of Attendance

Oceania Board	Jim O'Grady	President
	Lady Anna Togolo	Vice President & <u>PNG Delegate</u>
	Dinesh Parmeshwar	Vice President
	Carol Kawaljenko	Executive Officer
World Squash	Zena Wooldridge	President
	William Louis-Marie	Chief Executive Officer
Australia	Jo Brodie	President (Intermittently)
	Col Clapper	<u>Aus. Delegate</u> & OSF Life Member
	Rob Donoghue	CEO
Cook Islands	Akaiti Maoate	Secretary & <u>Cook Islands Delegate</u>
Fiji	Michael Irava	President
	Blair Macaskill	<u>Fiji Delegate</u>
New Caledonia	Gilles Rouvray	President & <u>New Cal Delegate</u>
New Zealand	Martin Dowson	CEO & <u>NZ Delegate</u>
	Janet Udy	Refereeing Program Director
	Chris Buckland	Referee
Papua New Guinea	Merlyn Kriebisch	Secretary

### 2.2. Apologies

Tutu Inamata – Cook Islands

*There being no further apologies Jim O'Grady (President) moved that Tutu's apology be accepted. Seconded by Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President). Carried*

## 3. MEETING PROCEDURES

### 3.1. Quorum

OSF Constitution states (7.1.2) that not less than ½ the Member Countries should be present. At the commencement of the meeting only 4 countries were in attendance (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and PNG). In accordance with 7.1.3 those present were asked if they were prepared to continue with the meeting – unanimous agreement – so the meeting proceeded. (Cook Islands and New Caledonia joined the meeting after this decision was passed.)

### 3.2. Meeting House Rules

The rules of the meeting were outlined to those present, eg - Muting microphones, Chat function etc.

### 3.3. Motions

Attendees were reminded that only the Official Delegates and Board Members are entitled to vote on motions.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting were distributed by email.*

##### **4.1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held 29 November 2020**

Moved: Jim O'Grady (President), seconded Carol Kawaljenko (Exec Officer) that the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 30 November 2020 be accepted as written. Carried

##### **4.2. Matters arising from 2020 Minutes**

Oceania Championships – this has been included in Agenda Item 10.1

#### **5. WORLD SQUASH UPDATE**

Zena Wooldridge (WSF President) – thanked OSF for allowing herself and the WSF CEO (William Louis-Marie) to be present at the meeting. Reading each Member Country's report gave WSF a useful insight into what is happening in the Oceania Region and the challenges faced. Covid has had a huge impact on International Competitions and several WSF Championships have been cancelled as a result. WSF is looking forward to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July and hopefully the World Doubles will be able to go ahead in April.

The WSF Strategic Plan, ratified at the recent WSF AGM, is ambitious and WSF will need to rely on the squash community for a positive outcome. The WSF Executive Committee (made up of 5 Regional Presidents, WSF Board, PSA & Athlete Commission) will be invaluable in assisting the implementation of the plan, along with WSF Commissions, who previously were standalone groups but now are working collaboratively to implement new innovations. A special thankyou to Jim (OSF President) for his contribution to the Exec Committee, especially his attendance at many early morning meetings and his input and valuable insight in discussions.

2022 will be a challenging year for WSF and we are looking to the future, especially the potential bid to have squash included in the 2032 Olympic Games in Australia.

The Commonwealth Games Federation has changed the sport component in their Regulations to now have only 2 compulsory sports (athletics & swimming) with a additional 17 core sports that future hosts need to choose from. The rationale behind this is that they are struggling to secure Hosts for future Games as many countries don't have facilities to host some sports and this deters them from expressing interest. This makes squash vulnerable as there is a lack of doubles courts in many countries. Although spectators find doubles exciting WSF needs to be flexible if Hosts don't have the courts and are looking at options to ensure squash stays in the Games.

Jim O'Grady thanked Zena & William for their attendance and their insights. Part of OSF's journey is to see how we can align to the global plan.

#### **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President's Report was distributed electronically to everyone present. Mr O'Grady acknowledged that it had been a challenging twelve months in the Region and all Members had been impacted by Covid in a variety of ways. Most nations have been able to survive but all have been impacted.

Jim O'Grady thanked the Member Nations for their support during the year. He also thanked the OSF Board Members for their input into the Federation and hopes that 2022 will see things improve across the Region.

Jim O'Grady (President) moved that his report be accepted, seconded by Col Clapper (Australia).

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

### 7.1. Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were circulated and Members were asked if there were any questions relating to them. Col Clapper (Aus) asked if there were any conditions as to how SPIN monies from WSF were to spent. The OSF President explained that there was no specific policy and OSF's Executive determines how these monies are spent. There being no further questions relating to the financials Jim O'Grady (President) moved that they be accepted; seconded by Anna Togolo (PNG). The motion was carried with show of hands.

### 7.2. 2021/22 Membership Fees

Covid has once again reduced the Federation's capability to deliver programs and hold events planned for 2020/21 and OSF have had no real involvement in the Region except for normal communications. This being the case Jim O'Grady (President) moved that all Membership Fees due for the 2022 Financial Year be waived, although any fees outstanding prior to this year will still be payable. Col Clapper (Australia) seconded the motion and those present agreed unanimously.

PNG queried whether WSF was in a position to do the same. Zena (WSF President) advised that the biggest risk and challenge for WSF is their financial situation. The organisation is quite vulnerable and reserves represent little more than a month of its annual turnover, whereas OSF has 3 years in reserve. If WSF waived their fees it would be insolvent in a very short time. WSF's major challenge is their financial situation and they do recognise that it is difficult for smaller countries to find the finances but they were not in a position to waiver fees.

### 7.3. Budget Approval

The proposed budget for 2021/22 Financial year was distributed electronically and delegates were invited to ask questions relevant to the document.

Col Clapper (Aus) queried the item 'Player Grants' in Development Programs. Carol Kawaljenko (EO) explained that OSF had a Junior Development Grant designed to support young squash players to participate in the Oceania Juniors and other major junior events across the Region. There is a limit to how much any one player can be given so it is spread across a number of athletes and there were specific eligibility criteria for funding.

Jim O'Grady (President) acknowledged that our operating costs for this financial year will come out of reserves but with our healthy bank balance we are not at risk. Hopefully 2022 will be a more active year.

There being no further questions relating to the budget Jim O'Grady (President) moved that the budget be adopted. The motion was seconded by Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President) and carried unanimously by show of hands.

### 7.4. Appointment of Auditor for 2021/22

Bribie Accounting Service Pty Ltd currently audit our financials and it was moved by Jim O'Grady (President) and seconded by Anna Togolo (PNG) that their services be retained for the current financial year. Carried.

## 8. ELECTIONS

Nominations to fill the Vice President and Executive Officer positions that have completed their 2-year term of office were due on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021. No written nominations for either of these positions was received.

### Vice President

Jim O'Grady (President) nominated Dinesh Parmeshwar to the position of Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Blair Macaskill (Fiji). There being no other nominations Dinesh Parmeshwar was duly elected to the vacant Vice President's position until the 2023 AGM. Carried.

### Executive Officer

Jim O'Grady (President) acknowledged the years that Carol Kawaljenko had supported OSF, both as Executive Officer and previous to that as Vice President. There being no written nominations for the position Jim O'Grady (President) moved that Carol Kawaljenko be nominated to the position for a further 2 years, seconded by Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President). There being no further nominations Carol Kawaljenko was duly elected to the position until the 2023 AGM. Carried.

## 9. MEMBER REPORTS

Member Reports received prior to the meeting were circulated with Meeting Papers. Those present at the meeting were invited to speak to their report if they wished.

### 9.1. Australia

Rob Donaghue (CEO Squash Australia) acknowledged that Covid had impacted the attendance at their recent AGM, with some not able to attend in person and attending via electronic means. Australia has been working on a new strategic direction using the 2032 Olympics as their aspirational and big thinking platform together with a 5 year plan aligning to WSF where there are crossovers. Members have been actively engaged in the process and look forward to the implementation of the plan.

### 9.2. Cook Islands

The Cook Islands have been Covid free but with borders closed it has had a massive impact on the tourism industry. With reduced or no work residents gravitated towards sport and squash drew an influx of interest with lots of new faces to the sport as well as returning players. Numbers grew to the most in over 8 years.

### 9.3. Fiji

Squash had an extremely disruptive year due to Covid and courts were closed for some time. However, Fiji is now back on the courts and looking to restarting programs in early 2022. With 17 squash facilities scattered around the country most have only 1 or 2 courts so holding tournaments is a real challenge. Nadi Sports & Social Club are looking at expanding from 2 to 4 courts so if construction goes ahead it will be a huge boost to squash in Fiji. Nadi is Fiji's tourism hub so this will increase the opportunity to hold international tournaments in Fiji.

### 9.4. New Caledonia

Squash New Caledonia continues to promote squash together with clubs and institutions. Players were able to compete in tournaments around several Covid lockdowns. We are proud of New Caledonian Brice Nicolas who won the French Junior U19 Championship, his 2<sup>nd</sup> title after winning the U15 a few years ago. 2021 was a year for remembrance with the renaming of the Dumbea Squash Club facility to Sallee de Squash Enzo Corigliano and the celebration of 40 years of squash in New Caledonia.

9.5. New Zealand

Over the last year New Zealand has had major changes with the Board of Squash NZ almost new from 18 months ago and a new CEO appointed. The impact of Covid has been very challenging with us just coming out of a long lockdown in Auckland. On the positive side this has allowed the National Office the opportunity to implement the objectives our new strategic plan. In 2023 our new IT platform will revert to a value based model where members, clubs and players can choose what they wish to be involved in rather than a packaged approach. NZ's CEO, Martin Dowson, is keen to support Oceania and share resources to engage with the smaller Nations.

9.6. Papua New Guinea

Covid continues to impact on squash activities in the country. Squash received endorsement for the Commonwealth Games and the squad are currently training with several stationed in Australia and others in Port Moresby. A 'Women Only' program in Port Moresby has proven successful and attracted more females to the game.

9.7. Tahiti

Due to the pandemic Tahiti were unable to play squash for 6 months of the year. They did however manage to hold a tournament in June with a 'No Spectator' policy restriction in place with 30 players competing. With assistance from the Ministry of Sport a Sports Development Officer from France has been appointed for 12 months to develop squash, both adult and junior programs. Very excited that Tahiti has been confirmed as the host for the 2027 Pacific Games. It is proposed that a new squash facility with 3 squash courts will be built for the games.

Moved Jim O'Grady (President) that Member Reports be accepted as tabled, This motion was seconded by Martin Dowson (New Zealand) and carried by those present.

## 10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1. 2022 Oceania Championships

10.1.1. *Oceania Doubles Championship*

The inaugural Doubles Championship to be held in February on the Gold Coast have been postponed due to travel restrictions still applicable across the Region. The Federation will work with Squash Australia to reschedule for later in the year if possible. Decision to be made by 1 July.

10.1.2. *2022 Oceania Junior Championships*

This event is scheduled to be held in Auckland in April. Again, travel restrictions may impact on this event. The final decision as to whether this event will go ahead will be made on 1 February in consultation with Squash NZ.

10.2. OSF Tournament Calendar

A draft 2022–2027 calendar was distributed to Members seeking expressions of interest to host an OSF event, that currently has no identified host.

- Australia has confirmed they will host the 2023 & 2025 Oceania Juniors.
- Australia has also expressed interest to host the 2024 (Masters), 2026 (Doubles) and 2027 (Juniors).

Other Member Nations still have the opportunity to put their expressions of interest forward and are encouraged to do so.

10.3. Tournament Handbook

A Tournament Handbook, incorporating all existing OSF Championship Regulations and Requirements, has been drafted to replace the existing separate regulation for each event. Procedures for lodgment of expressions of interest to host events and host responsibilities have been included in the document. It is anticipated this will be distributed early in 2022 for Members to make comment and the final document implemented by 31 March 2022.

10.4. 2027 Pacific Games

Tahiti was announced as the Host for the 2027 Pacific Games. Tahiti Squash are confident that squash will be included in the sports program. Further details will be available from the Pacific Games Council and each country's Sports Authority leading up to the Games.

**11. AGM CLOSURE**

There being no further business the President thanked Zena and William from WSF for attending the meeting, along with the Delegates and Observers in attendance and formally closed the 2021 AGM at 3.07pm.

All attendees were invited to stay online to move into the Planning for the Future Workshop.

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