



## 2022 GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Zoom meeting held on Sunday 4, December.

1. Meeting was opened at 2.10pm by Mr Jim O'Grady (President). Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their efforts in joining the meeting.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

Oceania Squash	Jim O'Grady (President), Anna Togolo (Vice President), Dinesh Parmeshwar (Vice President), Carol Kawaljenko (Executive Officer)
World Squash	Zena Wooldridge (President), William Louis-Marie (CEO)
Australia	Robert Donaghue (CEO)
Cook Islands	Akati Maoate (Secretary)
Fiji	Blair Macaskill (President), Gerard Young (Secretary)
New Caledonia	Gilles Rouvray (President)
New Zealand	Martin Dowson (CEO)
PNG	Anna Tologo (President)
Tahiti	Charles Daxboeck (Vice President), Cedric Hateau (Development)

Apologies : Col Clapper (Life Member)

3. **MEETINGS PROCEDURES**

Required Meeting Quorum : 5 Member Countries

With seven (7) member countries present a quorum was confirmed.

Meeting House Rules were outlined requesting attendees to mute their microphone when not talking to avoid outside noises affecting the meeting.

4. **APPROVAL OF 2021 AGM MINUTES**

4.1. Minutes of the 2021 Meeting were distributed to all attendees with meeting papers. Moved Jim O'Grady, seconded Charles Daxboeck that the minutes be accepted. Motion passed by show of hands.

4.2. Matters Arising

General Business Items:

- 10.1 2022 Oceania Championships – Doubles Championships were cancelled due to pandemic and Junior Championships were transferred to Australia.
- 10.3 Tournament Handbook – completed and distributed to members and placed on Oceania website.

5. **WORLD SQUASH UPDATE**

Zena Wooldridge (WSF President) thanked OSF for the invitation to join the meeting and noted that 2022 had been a challenging year recovering from Covid but also a successful year with the resurgence of major events such as World Games, Commonwealth Games, World Juniors, Doubles and Masters.

Zena and William Louis-Marie (WSF CEO) updated the meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the implementation of WSF's 4-year Strategic Plan:

- The new World Cup (Mixed Team Event) held in NZ proved very successful.
- 2026 Commonwealth Games confirmed for Bendigo (Australia)
- 2023 Major Events in Oceania : World Juniors (Aus) and Mens World Teams (NZ).
- Squash57 rules translated into 5 languages. Looking at possible rebrand.
- Dunlop Balls : promoting the right ball for use, rather than any ball.
- World Squash Officiating progressing well. Aus & NZ leaders in registration for officiating.
- Coaching Commission : continues to be led by Sarah Fitz-Gerald.
- World Squash TV : platform for free streaming. Members who have any content they want uploaded should contact the WSF Office. Upcoming OJC to be streamed.
- Squash Levels : new rating system introduced. (Further discussion in General Business.)

- LA2028 Olympic Bid : Olympic officials attended World Games & Comm Games to see what squash can offer. 9 sports bidding for inclusion. Presentation to LA2028 team in partnership with PSA & US Squash received positively.
- Athlete Welfare & Safeguarding – focusing on reviewing policies & procedures
- Compliance Questionnaire to be sent out to Members shortly.
- WSF reviewing their Commissions. Keen to have Oceania representatives on Commissions. Invited Members to submit applications for persons to join a Commission.
- Working with PSA Foundation to develop the outdoor squash game.
- Need to focus on more females involved in game – especially officiating & coaches.
- Looking at developing a Female Leadership Program.

Charles Daxboeck (Tahiti) requested information relating to building of new courts for 2027PG and how many doubles courts should be included to attract future PSA or WSF events. Tahiti to continue to work with WSF.

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

Jim briefly spoke on his written report, acknowledging that the last few years during the pandemic have been challenging. The introduction of Squash TV is very exciting and can't wait to see the Oceania Juniors on TV. Quality of the TV coverage for the Commonwealth Games was a great showcase for our sport and the organisers did an outstanding job. Pleased to see 4 Oceania Member countries represented at the Comm Games. Jim acknowledged the assistance to the smaller Oceania Members from Australia & New Zealand and noted their generosity to share resources is very encouraging.

## 7. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### 7.1. **Financial Statements**

The audited financial statement were distributed to Members prior to the meeting. There being no questions forthcoming relating to the financials it was moved by Jim O'Grady and Seconded by Gilles Rouvray that the audited financials be accepted as prepared. Motion was carried.

### 7.2. **2022/23 Budget Approval**

Due to the pandemic the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Membership Fees were waived. This year the Federation is proposing that the membership fees be reinstated.

There being no further questions relating to the proposed budget, Jim O'Grady moved that the budget be accepted. The motion was seconded by Martin Dowson and carried by show of hands.

### 7.3. **Appointment of 2022/23 Auditor**

Bribie Accounting Services have undertaken OSF's audit for the past few years and it was moved by Jim O'Grady that they be retained for the 2022/23 financial year. The motion was seconded by Charles Daxboeck and carried by show of hands.

## 8. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President handed over the proceedings of the elections to the Executive Officer. The President and 1 x Vice President have completed their terms of office. These positions were held by Jim O'Grady and Anna Togolo (PNG). Both were eligible to re-nominate and submitted their valid nominations by the closing date of 4 November for the 2 year appointment. No other nominations were received.

Carol Kawaljenko moved that Jim O'Grady and Anna Togolo be duly elected to the positions of President & Vice President respectively until 2024 Annual General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Rob O'Donoghue and carried by show of hands.

The incoming President and Vice President were congratulated on their appointments.

Jim O'Grady announced that this would be his last term on the Board and encouraged others to start thinking about taking over the position.

2023 Oceania Board is as follows:

President	Mr Jim O'Grady	2 year term
Vice President	Ms Anna Togolo	2 year term
Vice President	Mr Dinesh Parmeshwar	1 year remaining
Executive Officer	Mrs Carol Kawaljenko	1 year remaining

9. **MEMBER REPORTS**

Written reports from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tahiti were distributed prior to the meeting. There was no further discussion relating to Member Reports.

10. **MEMBERSHIP OF VANUATU**

The OSF Board is keen for Vanuatu to remain as a Member of the Federation however they are in arrears. Vanuatu was accepted as a Member of the Federation in 2010 and competed in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia. Since March 2015 when Cyclone Pam struck the island, resulting in significant damage to infrastructure, there has been very little squash played except for some 20 players who play socially. No-one is prepared to dedicate time to developing squash and the Sport Ministry does not provide assistance as squash is not in the Education Curriculum.

The Board recommended the following:

- that 2020 membership fees of AU\$200 in arrears be written off;
- that Vanuatu remains as an Associate Member of OSF, at no cost, with no voting privileges;
- that OSF pay their 2023 WSF Associate Membership fee and review at the 2023 AGM;
- that OSF continues to provide advice and inform them on activities within the Region; and
- that Vanuatu players be eligible to compete at the Fiji 2023 Oceania Closed Championship.

Member Nations were asked if there was any discussion on the matter. There being none forthcoming it was moved by Jim O'Grady and seconded by Blair Macaskill that the Board recommendations be adopted. Motion was carried by show of hands.

11. **2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Board underwent a consultation process with Members this year and although it took some time to connect with all Members it was very helpful in formulating the plan. There were many common needs, mostly centred around Coaching and Officiating Education. That being the case OSF sought interested parties to form Coaching & Officiating Advisory Groups and have had some very experienced people put their hand up to assist. The Board will work with the Groups to formulate processes and a way forward.

The outcome of Member consultations is the draft Strategic Plan that had been circulated prior to the meeting. Questions relating to the Strategic Plan were invited and there being no further comments it was moved by Jim O'Grady and seconded by Anna Togolo that the Oceania 2023-2026 Strategic Plan be endorsed. The motion was carried by show of hands.

12. **OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

12.1. **2022 Oceania Junior Championships**

The OJC will be held at Thornleigh Squash Centre in Sydney from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December. 150 players have entered with 6 of our Member Nations represented (Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Norfolk Island).

PNG have experienced problems getting visas for their players. Working with PNG Olympic Committee and Australian High Commission.

12.2. **2023 Events**

12.2.1. Oceania Closed Championships

Confirmed for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Nadi Sports Club in Fiji.

**Championship Director** – Fiji have appointed Michael Irava

**Accommodation & Transport Information** – to assist Members to make

appropriate bookings information on accommodation venues and transport availability will be sent out at the end of January 2023.

**Preliminary Entry Forms** will be sent out 1<sup>st</sup> May – due back 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**Final Entry Forms** will be sent on 7<sup>th</sup> August – due back 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Tahiti asked if there was any financial support for Member Countries to send players. OSF advised that Member Countries were responsible for all expenses relating to their team. OSF contributes towards officials travel, functions, trophies and other expenses to ensure a well-run and enjoyable tournament.

12.2.2. Oceania Open

Scheduled to be held in New Zealand. Dates are yet to be confirmed.

12.2.3. Oceania Junior Championships

Hosted by New Zealand – scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Devoy Squash and Fitness in Tauranga. More information will be distributed as it comes to hand.

12.3. **2024 Events**

12.3.1. Oceania Doubles and Oceania Masters

Expressions of Interest closed on 30 November for hosting these 2024 Championships with three (3) Members expressing interest for both these events. The Board will meet later this month to deliberate and Members advised as soon as possible.

12.3.2. Oceania Junior Championships

These Championships have already been awarded to Australia.

13. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

13.1. **OSF Advisory Groups**

During consultation with Members it was recognised that the Board needed assistance in providing Coaching and Officiating education programs to Members. Expressions of Interest were requested from any persons who would be interested in forming an Advisory Group to assist. There was a good response and the Board will work with those persons to form the Groups and implement programs. Additional persons are needed to ensure a wide range of expertise so any further interest is encouraged.

Coaching Advisory Group – OSF will arrange a Zoom meeting with a representative from each Member Country attending to consider member's needs and the best way forward. Brad Hindle (Australia) has offered to chair this meeting. Communication relating to this meeting will be sent out to Members early in 2023.

Officiating Advisory Group – will meet and discuss options early in 2023.

13.2. **Squash Levels**

OSF has been approached to adopt Squash Levels across the Region – a player rating system. There is a lack of information as to how it is applicable to Oceania. Squash Levels is a global player rating system that will give a better effective way to seed players regardless of their standard.

WSF advised that the ultimate goal is that the system automatically calculates a playing level value for every player. It should make it easier to rank players for graded tournaments and allow WSF & Countries to introduce more graded events to attract players of all abilities not just the elite.

After discussions it was agreed that WSF would assist in arranging a Webinar with Squash Levels that all Members could attend to learn more and decide if it would be

appropriate for them to adopt. WSF CEO to work with Oceania in organizing the webinar at a time suitable for Oceania Members.

### **13.3. Dunlop Ball Allocation**

WSF is keen to ensure that the Dunlop Sponsorship Agreement that provides squash balls to our Region provides the balls that we want. They are negotiating the allotment of balls to include a variety of different balls and promotional materials.

Currently we are provided with double yellow squash balls, but is that what we really want? Members to consider their needs and feed back information to OSF.

### **13.4. Referee Education Tools**

Tahiti use the French system currently and not the WSF system. They are keen to access situation examples to assist trainee referees to evaluate certain situations and learn what the correct decision should be. Looking at somewhere that can provide them with 30-40 different online examples.

New Zealand advised that Oceania Members can access their Squash Smart online system that has information available on a variety of Club related matters. There are modules relating to Coaching & Officiating that have been developed in partnership with WSF. Anyone can register to use.

Australia has partnered with Australian Sport Commission that can also be accessed by Oceania Members. It covers mainly club governance issues. Technical content is mainly from WSF.

Jim suggested that if a Member was looking for something specific that they contact OSF and OSF would source the information required and advise, rather than the Member having to go to different sources to find information.

The OSF President thanked everyone for attending, especially Zena and William from WSF who had a very early start to attend the meeting. WSF attendance was appreciated and it was good to hear what is happening globally first hand.

There being no further business for discussion the meeting was closed at 3.23pm.