

EUROPEAN PAINTBALL FEDERATION SUMMARY OF ORDINARY CONGRESS

February 1st 2018

The European Paintball Federation was convened for its meeting at 8:30 A.M. on February 1st 2018 at Barcelona, Spain.

Present:

1. Ainsley Baddeley (UK) - President,
2. Laurent Hamet (France) – General Secretary
3. Ulrich Staehr (the Senior Vice-President) – Deutsche Paintball Liga, Germany
4. Tomasz Matuszewski (Vice-President) - Stowarzyszenie Polska Liga Paintballowa, Poland,
5. Barry Fuggle (Vice-President) - Millennium Series, Great Britain,
6. Laurent Capron – French Paintball Federation, France,
7. Patrice Guigou – co-founder of EPBF, French Paintball Federation
8. Viktor Tohayev – co-founder of EPBF, Paintball Federation of Ukraine
9. Tatiana Nikolaeva – Russian Paintball Federation
10. Dave van der Plas – Paintball Federation of Netherlands
11. Filippo Fiorio – FIDASC Italy

Staff of the European Paintball Federation attending:

1. Viktoriya Sarantseva, EPBF Secretary

Guests attending:

1. Konstantinos Papapanagiotou, Greek Paintball League
2. Jose Antonio Otero, Spanish Paintball League
3. Luis Tomas Dunkas, President of Portuguese Paintball Federation
4. Tom Cole, NXL US
5. Jay Lasheras, Spain

Proceedings:

The Ordinary EPBF Congress called to order at 8:30 a.m. on 1st of February, 2018 by the EPBF Executive Committee.

Meeting agenda:

1. Financial report 2017 and outstanding payments review.
2. Affiliation program and forecast for 2018.
3. EPBF events in 2018, locations and format.
4. Youth sports developing.
5. Referees.
6. Other.

By starting the Congress, the current President Ainsley Baddeley offered to attendees to present themselves and tell about National Federations / Associations they represent.

After the short presentation the meeting began with the financial report from 2017.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

L.Hamet with the assistance of the EPBF Secretary Viktoriya Sarantseva went throughout the Earnings and Expenses in 2017.

Before the first discussion about finances in 2017 started, Ulrich Staehr from German Paintball League (DPL) asked about sending the financial reports to all the attendees before meeting so they have a time to study it.

See the Summary Tables below.

EPBF Summary 2017

	Earnings	Expenses
Membership fees 2015 (15)	12 000,00	
Entry fee Veterans Championship (10)	6000,00	
Entry fee Women`s Championship (8)	2500,00	
Entry fee Man`s Championship (12)	19200,00	
Entry fee U19 Championship (8)	-	
Outstanding payments 2014	2600,00	
Sponsorship	-	
Investments, stock profits	-	
Others	-	
Events organisation		33 980,00
Trophies, Flags and Medals		565,25
Administration Expenses		4731,00
Printing production (banners, posters, flyers)		75,00
Office expenses		-
Website costs		-
Bank charges		43,00
Total	42 300,00	33114,25
Balance		9185,75

There are €3100 outstanding from this year, and €2600 outstanding payments from 2015/2016 years, but still not enough to cover our debts to Millennium Series for the events organization from last years.

Outstanding payments	5700,00
Debts to Millennium Series	6862,00
Balance	-1162,03

OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS REVIEW

1/ Payment missing from Turkish Paintball Federation.

The President Kerem Barcool did not arrive to the meeting so there was no information available about the current status of payments. The missing amount is 1600 EUR (2017 membership fee and participation in the Men`s Championship in 2017).

Urich Staehr suggested that it has happened because the Federation is a brand-new and it needs time to adjust the organisational processes. According to him there is a possibility to receive the missing payment in 2018, if the Federation plans to continue cooperation with EPBF.

2/ Missing 600 EUR of the membership fee from DPL Germany.

Urich Staehr as a representative from DPL asked about explanations of this amount. Viktoriya Sarantseva explained, that in 2017 there were €100 overpaid from DPL for Veterans entry fee, after it has been €300 received as membership fee, so €400 in total. No more payments were received from DPL in 2017 as membership fee, so €600 is missing. Urich Staehr agreed to check this with the accountant in order to transfer the money missing from 2017.

3/ €500 Veterans entry fee outstanding from Latvian Federation.

Because the President Uldis Berjins did not arrive to the meeting to confirm the debts, Viktoriya Sarantseva informed the attendees that according to the last conversation with Uldis he is acknowledged about the debt and will pay it in 2018.

4/ Missing €500 of the membership fee from Netherlands.

Viktoriya Sarantseva informed the attendees that according to the last conversation with Perrie van Maasacker, the President of Dutch Federation, he refused to pay second half of the membership fee and asked for a membership cancellation in 2017. Dave van der Plas, as a representative from Netherlands informed that because of the current situation in Netherlands the nonpaid 2017 membership fee cannot be claimed, but he will put all his efforts to have the Federation among EPBF members in 2018.

5/ There was also a question to the Paintball Federation of Ukraine as the formal EPBF member about membership in 2018.

Tatiana Nikolaeva reminded the attendees that the question about Ukraine has been reviewed in 2015 during the 2nd Congress in St Raphael. She was unsure for how many years it has been decided to skip the membership, for 1 or 2 years. Viktoriya Sarantseva reminded the situation about Ukraine and the decision taken that time.

“Representative of Paintball Federation of Ukraine informed the present about situation in Ukrainian paintball development. Because of the economy crisis and cancelling of the paintball tournaments in 2015, PFU Representative asked for termination of the EPBF Membership fee payment in 2015, for 1 year.

After a short discussion, next decision was taken:

Due to exception with political situation in Ukraine, EPBF skips the Membership fee for Paintball Federation of Ukraine for 1 year.”

Laurent Hamet suggested to skip the membership fee for Ukraine for some more time to give the Federation a possibility to get back to its normal.

Viktor Tohayev, as the Federation’s President confirmed, that if there will be 2 National teams participating in 2018, Federation will pay a membership fee to become a member.

6/ Also a question about debts outstanding from Polish Federation has been raised again.

Tomasz Matuszewski explained that the Federation was facing financial problems for several years, but they are ready to cover all the debts as it was agreed last year on the Congress. He is aware about the debts.

Resolved:

1. Financial report from 2017 is approved.
2. All the debts from 2017 (except 50% of membership payment by Dutch Federation) should be paid in 2018.

FINANCIAL FORECAST 2018

New Members in 2018

L.Hamet pointed to the attendees that this is very important for EPBF to involve the new Federations to the sports development in Europe. In 2017 there was one new member affiliated – Georgian Paintball Federation. Meaning EPBF should have the Affiliation Committee working hard on that subject. L.Hamet also offered one more person to the Affiliation Committee / Paintball Sport Strategy Council lead by Kerem Barcool – Tatiana Nikolaeva, who had a lot of suggestions how to involve new Federations and how to improve a communication between current members.

It was also pointed by attendees that there is a need to push the local leagues/clubs to register Associations or Federations to become the EPBF member.

Viktoriya Sarantseva informed attendees about 2 requests for affiliation received recently from Finnish Paintball Federation and from local paintball club P8 in Belgium, in cooperation with local paintball league, to take over the membership from not functioning Belgian Paintball Federation.

A representative from Portuguese Paintball Federation informed the attendees that the Federation is interested to become a member in 2018 year.

The affiliation of Spain was questionable, since there is neither an operating Federation nor a registered association. There is a local league but they need a support to register an Association.

There is also a strong competition in Spain between 2 organisations, who wants to represent the National teams in 2018.

During this discussion the attendees agreed on the strategy EPBF should use in the process of National Selection of non-affiliated National teams: to accept only requests from National teams who has a Federation/Association registered behind or local league. No self-combined teams of club/owner supported teams should be accepted in 2018. If there is no Organisation or league behind, National teams will not be accepted to participate.

Resolved:

1. Assign Tatiana Nikolaeva to the Paintball Sport Strategy Council to manage affiliation of the new Organisation as well as a communication between the current members.
2. Put more efforts in pushing the local leagues/clubs to register Associations or Federations to become the EPBF member.
3. World Championships National Selection Regulations for non-affiliated National teams' requests: only requests from registered Federation/Association or local leagues are to be accepted.

EPBF EVENTS IN 2018

Taking into account popularity of the World Championship held in different categories and request from National teams all around the world, the EPBF Congress approved the events in 2018 to be held as the World Championships.

Also taking account a success last year with the U16 Championship held in Chantilly, the decision was to add U16 as a separate category and to hold the World Championships in 5 categories: Veterans, Women`s, Men`s, U19 and U16.

Event`s locations

The attendees discussed 2 obvious options for the EPBF events in 2018: NXL Europe events or local leagues. There were pros and cons for both options.

Despite the benefits such as teams coming to paly 2 events which helps to reduce travel costs, they have too many games for 2 events and get tired to play it.

One more point has been discussed – a prestige of holding World Championship, which is an important moment in discussion with the events' organiser.

It was agreed to discuss the NXL Europe option with Tom Cole (the NXL representative) first, to find out possible conditions for EPBF. But first EPBF's goals and level of potential cooperation with NXL Europe had to be discussed.

All the attendees agreed that EPBF should have more power to represent European paintball society on the world level, especially in negotiations with American organisation NXL, who plans to bring American standards to Europe.

1/ EPBF should take a power to protect European paintball standards, including protecting interests of the National Federations. It means EPBF has to make such important decisions like picking the dates for international events in Europe to reduce clashes with local leagues.

2/ EPBF should work on the European rules and refereeing standards as well as referees' classification and clinics.

3/ EPBF should gather information from its members and share this experience among it members. It can be regulations samples or standards, informative articles, news from National Federations shared on webpage and facebook page. More news about National Federation`s work should be posted by EPBF.

4/ EPBF should continue the tradition of posting the layouts samples for use by National Leagues or Federations, 5man and 3man.

5/ EPBF should bring the World Championship events on the new level, to become more prestigious to participate in for any Organisation. The idea was to use the prestige of the event to deal with local Ministries or Local Authorities in order to get the good location. That would be one big event hosting all the categories at the same time. The idea belongs to Filippo Fiorio, who explained that many Local Authorities in Italy are looking for a possibility to host such event because it has many benefits for the local sport development.

It also would be a great possibility for National Federations to support the National teams and help them to organise a trip a big world-level competition, where the players of all ages and genders could stay together and feel the importance to represent the country. By doing that we are getting closer to the Olympic standards.

It means that would be a separate event, World Championship, organised independently from NXL or local events. It could be one of the biggest international events in Europe for teams to compete.

All the attendees agreed that it is too late for 2018, but this can be implemented for 2019. For that purpose, it was agreed to design a presentation file about EPBF and the World Championship idea to deal with Local Authorities in order to find potential locations for 2019.

Ainsley Baddeley and Filippo Fiorio agreed to work closely on that subject in a separate Committee.

The attendees agreed to arrange next meeting on the first NXL Europe event to validate the presentation file.

Meanwhile there was still a need to decide the locations for 2018, so attendees went back to the option to hold the events linked to NXL Europe and to define the acceptable conditions before discussing with NXL representative.

Conditions to discuss with NXL

- All the attendees agreed that payment of €600 that EPBF used to pay to Millennium Series for the events organisation is way too big, so it should be cut. EPBF should insist on holding the events for free as this brings also benefits to NXL Europe.
- NXL should provide a free spot for EPBF tent and local Federation's tent.
- NXL should provide the webcast translation for the EPBF games.

Presentation from Tom Cole, the NXL representative

When Tom Cole arrived, Ainsley Baddeley asked all the attendees to represent themselves one more time, so Tom get more understanding about the meeting and the attendees. Also Laurent Hamet shortly explained Tom about EPBF and its role in Europe.

After the short introduction, Tom started his presentation of the situation in Europe as NXL sees it, and the standards NXL plans to bring to Europe in 2018.

When the presentation finished, Ainsley Baddeley informed Tom Cole about expectations EPBF has in 2018 about the events organisation, including the previously defined conditions. Tom previously agreed the possibility to hold the World Championship during the NXL Europe events without extra payments for that. It was also agreed that NXL will be able to provide the webcast if there is a time available on PRO field.

Tom informed that NXL is interested in cooperation with EPBF and wants to be sure that EPBF will cooperate with NXL not only in 2018 but in the future as well.

A previous agreement from Tom Cole has been received but he asked Ainsley Baddeley to call him after the meeting so they can finalise the agreement.

Previously agreed locations:

1. World Championship Veterans – April 13 - 15: Chartres (France-South Paris)
2. World Championship Women`s - May 25 - 27: location TBA
3. World Championship Men`s - July 6 - 8: Dublin (Ireland) or London (UK)

4. World Championship U19&U16 - September 28 - 30: Paris (France)

Resolved:

1. To hold the events in 2018 as World Championships, involving the National teams all around the world.
2. To create a separate Committee including Ainsley Baddeley and Filippo Fiorio to work on the EPBF presentation file.
3. Ainsley Baddeley to call Tom Cole after the meeting to finalise the agreement between EPBF and XNL about the 2018 events organisation.

Format

Taking into account a success last year with the U16 Championship held in Chantilly, the decision was to add U16 as a separate category to hold the World Championships in 5 categories: Veterans, Women`s, Men`s, U19 and U16 (3man format). U19 and U16 to be held at the same event.

According to the research made by Paintball Federation of Russia about the Women`s international championships held in Russia, there is more possibility to attract Nations by changing the format from 5man to 3 man, due to the specific situation with women`s teams in paintball.

Due to the fact that the number of National teams in Women`s category is very low the decision was made to use 3man format for the World Championship Women in 2018.

It was also agreed to push NXL Europe in organising a separate division for Women teams on the same event as the World Championship Women`s, so the women teams can compete on NXL Europe event as well.

Entry fee for World Championships in 2018

After a short discussion about the ways to compose the 2018 budget, the attendees agreed that the amount of affiliation/membership fee should not be changed, so it stays €1000 for 2018.

Due to the good financial conditions offered by NXL, entry fee for the EPBF affiliated Organisation is be reduced, as well as some entry fees for non-affiliated Federations, to make the difference bigger and to stimulate European Federations to affiliate with EPBF.

Following prices were decided for the World Championships in 2018:

#	Category	Affiliated	Non-affiliated
1	Veterans	€400	€1000
2	Women`s (3man format)	€300	€600
3	Men`s	€500	€1000
4	U19	-	€600
5	U16 (3man format)	-	€300

It was also decided to keep the possibility for the affiliated National Federation to send their U19&U16 teams to participate with no entry fee changes for the youth sport developing.

Financial forecast for 2018

Taking into account reducing the organisational expenses in 2018, present came to conclusion that it will allow the EPBF to become financially independent and able to function as the core of paintball sports developing in Europe.

An option to affiliate the Federations from other Continents has been reviewed in order to give them a discounts opportunity. It has been agreed that the Federations from abroad can pay membership fee to become a member.

Also a possibility of entry fee discount for US National teams has been discussed. Because NXL has agreed to provide the EPBF with very good conditions and it is important to have the US teams participated, it was agreed to skip entry fee for all the US teams to force them to play in each category.

Resolved:

1. World Championships to be held in 2018 in 5 categories: Veterans, Women`s, Men`s, U19 and U16. U19 and U16 to be held at the same time.
2. Two categories: Women`s and U16 are to be held in 3man format in 2018.
3. Discuss with NXL Europe a possibility to organise separate 3man divisions for Women & Youth teams, so the teams can compete on NXL Europe event as well.
4. Entry fees for all the categories are to be approved according to the table above.
5. Any Federation from abroad can become affiliated with EPBF after the affiliation fee payment.
6. To skip entry fee for all the US teams to force them to play in each category

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

In order to promote National Federations and to help them in developing the local tournaments, the attendees discussed a possibility to organise the European Championship with the club teams participated. The idea was to take the best teams per country based on the local Championship results.

The main point was to hold the event end of season or in between seasons, to give teams an option to practice before the main season starts. One of the main issues was a location: hard to find a location for the event in late Autumn or Winter time.

Taking into account all the issues with organising of such event, like luck of time for teams and Federations, luck of finances and big expenses on the event`s organisation, the attendees agreed that this needs to be discussed with the National Federations first.

YOUTH SPORTS DEVELOPING

All attendees agreed that EPBF should continue its work in developing the paintball sport by focusing on the program of bringing new players in paintball, and pushing the youths sport development. U16 format in Chantilly was a huge success so it needs to be continued in the future.

Everyone agreed with importance of bring youths in paintball and to give them opportunity to develop. It was also agreed to push NXL in organising a separate division for youth players on the last event, so the kids` teams can compete on the World Championship as well as on the NXL Europe event.

In order to develop the paintball standards for kids it has been decided to organise the Youth Committee based on the French Federation, the most experienced Federation in working with kids.

EPBF should also be able to hire a PRO player to organise a clinic for kids on the event, it is should be possible for the last event in 2018.

REFEREES

Laurent Hamet informed attendees about the Referees National Organisation in France called AFCAM created to protect referees interest in all kind of sports, the organisation is recognized by Olympic Committee in France. It is registered in France and at the moment functioning locally, but potentially they will become an international referees organisation soon.

EPBF has a possibility to become a member of that international organisation if provides European Paintball Referees regulations and standards, together with the rules. So it is now very important to develop the regulations and standards for referees in Europe, including refs' classification.

Among the benefits of membership in this organisation is recognition of the paintball referees on the international level by the Olympic Committee.

It also will work for National Federations if they provide list of local referees, so their referees are also protected. And this is one more explanation for Federations why to become the EPBF member.

Attendees have obliged the Rules, Referees, Disciplinary and Ethic Commission lead by Ulrich Staehr to prepare the classification standards and regulation for paintball referees in Europe for the next meeting in April in order to provide this information to AFCAM to become a member.

OTHER

EPBF Webpage administration

One more urgent issue to approve was about the EPBF/UPBF webpages administration. Viktoriya Sarantseva explained to attendees that because in the past it has been paid in full by Millennium Series, there were no questions. Now EPBF faces a problem with webpage engine and domain administration, including ranking engine. Viktoriya Sarantseva offered Sascha Riess to that position as the formal Millennium Series administrator who has been doing this job before, so he should be involved now and paid by EPBF accordingly.

Ulrich Staehr agreed to discuss that with Sascha Riess and to give the information about his conditions.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:

Next EPBF Executive Committee meeting was appointed to the first NXL Europe event in Chartres, France.

Next Meeting Agenda

1. Report by Rules, Referees, Disciplinary and Ethic Commission about classification standards and regulation for paintball referees in Europe in order to get the membership in AFCAM Referees Organisation.
2. Creating of the UPBF based on the functioning EPBF core.
3. Paintball standards for kids.
4. Current situation with the events locations for 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Laurent Hamet
General Secretary
European Paintball Federation

Ainsley Baddeley
President
European Paintball Federation

These minutes will be formally considered by the Congress at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.