

World Tenpin Bowling Association
WTBA Congress 15-16 December 2015
Agenda item 5.1 WTBA President's report



WTBA CONGRESS

Abu Dhabi – December 15, 2015

WTBA President's Report for the period August 2013 to December 2015

1. World Championships. My sincere congratulations to the Emirates Bowling Federation, the Hong Kong Tenpin Bowling Congress, and Sam's Town, our Tournament Directors and Technical Delegates, and bowling center staff for their superb management of the 2014 World Men Championships in Abu Dhabi, the 2014 World Youth Championships in Hong Kong, and the 2015 World Senior Championships in Las Vegas. While our new World Championships model is working well we need to continue to improve our events, particularly to the outside media and spectators.

The World Women Championships will be contested December 5-14, 2015 in Abu Dhabi. Based upon the 2014 WMC I am convinced that the Emirates Bowling Federation will do an excellent job as host for the event, as well as the FIQ and WTBA Presidium and Congress meetings.

2. Olympic effort. You have previously received numerous pieces of correspondence from this office regarding our efforts to gain entry as a medal sport into the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. While we were successful in attaining Tokyo shortlist status along with 7 other sports, bowling was not recommended to the IOC for inclusion in the 2020 Games. While this was a great disappointment to all of us, we cannot forget two important facts: first, our current Olympic effort was focused on the 2024 IOC shortlist that is normally announced in late 2015 or early 2016, and the Tokyo opportunity was a bonus that did not exist until January of this year; and second, this is the first time that the sport of bowling has been on a shortlist.

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- We have to put our disappointment behind us and continue united in the long-term Olympic effort. We have work to accomplish in several key areas, including the image of our sport and our athletes; the perceived lack of youth appeal; and the presentation of our events to the outside world. You will be provided with a game plan for becoming involved in our joint efforts during this year's Congress. I would be remiss if I did not thank all those that have contributed to our Olympic effort, including the BPAA, USBC, Brunswick, Storm and Kegel for their efforts through the Friends of Bowling program; and Round One Corporation and the Japan Bowling Congress, for their substantial use of resources in pursuing the Tokyo 2020 opportunity.
3. World Bowling Tour. The 2015 World Bowling Tour consists of 20 event, including 5 in calendar year 2014 and 15 in 2015, as we have changed to a calendar year. and the WBT Finals presented by the PBA, Las Vegas, USA. Tremendous global interest has been generated by the WBT, particularly including the 2 hours of ESPN television coverage of the WBT Finals courtesy of our partner the PBA. PBA events were rebroadcast in 169 countries in 2014; this is exposure that would be impossible for us to obtain otherwise. My personal thanks to all of the event promoters, Brunswick and PBA, who see value in a true world tour. The Tour is an important element of our global image and integral to our continuing Olympic effort; I urge all of you to support the Tour in any manner you can.
 4. FIQ final Reorganization proposal – World Bowling. I attended the 2015 Congresses of ABF and ETBF, as well as a meeting of PABCON, to explain the final Reorganization plan proposed by the WTBA Executive Board (unanimously), and the FIQ Presidium. The proposal has 3 significant effects: first, we will officially change the name of WTBA and FIQ to World Bowling, and that will become our legal name, rather than our current trade name; and in effect, FIQ and WTBA will merge. Second, we will clean up several loose ends in the current statutes. Third, the Executive Board structure will become the same as the current WTBA Executive Board, with WNBA/ninepin becoming a Committee of World Bowling, without voting rights and without any obligation to pay World Bowling dues.

WNBA has responded that they do not wish to become a Committee and don't want any change in the current FIQ structure. While WTBA has some feeling for ninepin's desire to remain a full partner in the World Bowling family, the WTBA Executive Board determined that the continued involvement of ninepin as a World Bowling Committee was the best compromise. WTBA remains open to

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any other reasonable solution, however, any solution must resolve the continuing issues between ninepin and tenpin: first, the payment of dues in a timely and complete basis by ninepin; second, the accounting for dues on a timely and complete basis by ninepin; third, the continued involvement of ninepin voting on tenpin matters, despite a verbal agreement that this would discontinue, and sometimes against the tenpin opinion on the issue; and fourth, the allocation of the debt that has been created to WTBA on account of the legal fees and expenses incurred by FIQ in the two Catalonia CAS cases, which exceed \$100,000 USD. FIQ does not have the financial ability to pay these bills, and as a result WTBA will be required to do so.

Unless a better and complete solution is found before the Congress, the WTBA continues in its belief that the 2015 proposal is the best solution for the combining of FIQ, WTBA and WNBA into World Bowling.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Dornberger".

Kevin Dornberger, President