IDBF MEMBERS EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGRESS

Part 1

Held by zoom teleconference - 17th May 2025
Start time: 10:30 UTC

AGENDA

Roll call members and confirmation of voting rights

Opening remarks by the President of IDBF

1 - Incorporation of IDBF Limited, Hong Kong

2 - Articles of Association and Bye-laws

3 - Appointment of Prof. Rostam Neuwirth as Chair of the Ethics Committee

4 - New Membership Applications **(attached)**

5 - Review of Membership Status

6 - Approval of 2024 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report

IDBF MEMBERS REPRESENTED		**FINANCIALLY QUALIFIED TO VOTE**	
1. Full Members (38)			
Australia	澳大利亚	Yes	
Austria		No	
Canada	加拿大	Yes	
China	中国	Yes	
Chinese Taipei	中华台北	Yes	
Cyprus	塞浦路斯	Yes	
Czech Republic	捷克	No	
France	法国	Yes	
Germany	德国	Yes	
Great Britain	英国	Yes	
Hong Kong China	中国香港	Yes	
Hungary	匈牙利	Yes	
India	印度	Yes	
Ireland	爱尔兰	Yes	
Italy	意大利	Yes	
Japan	日本	Yes	
Korea		Yes	
Macau China	中国澳门	Yes	
Malaysia	马来西亚	Yes	
Netherlands	荷兰	Yes	
New Zealand	新西兰	Yes	
Norway		Yes	
Panama	尼日利亚	Yes	
Philippines	菲律宾	Yes	
Poland		No	
Puerto Rico		Yes	
Russia	波多黎各	Yes	

Serbia	俄罗斯	Yes	
Singapore	塞尔维亚	Yes	
Slovak Republic	新加坡	No	
Spain	斯洛伐克	Yes	
Sweden	西班牙	Yes	
Switzerland	瑞典	Yes	
Thailand	瑞士	No	
Trinidad and Tobago	泰国	Yes	
United Arab Emirates	特立尼达和多巴哥	Yes	
United States		Yes	
Ukraine		Yes	
2. Ordinary Members (10)			
Argentina	阿根廷	No	
Armenia		No	
Bahrain		No	
Cambodia		No	
Egypt	埃及	No	
Israel		**Yes**	
Monaco		No	
Myanmar		No	
Romania		Yes	
Uganda	乌干达	Yes	

IN ATTENDANCE

Claudio Schermi (Italy)	IDBF President	Congress Chairman
Peter Tang (Macau)	IDBF Secretary-General	
Loretta Lewis (Australia)	IDBF Treasurer	
Matt Smith (Canada)	IDBF Vice-President	
Nigel Bedford (Gt Britain)	IDBF Vice-President	
Anna Sokratous (Cyprus)	EDBF President	
Franco Sui Chong (Trinidad)	Pan Am DBF President	
Belinda Chung (Australia)	Chair IDBF Media & Marketing Commission	
Mike Haslam (Gt Britain)	IDBF Founder & Hon President	
Mike Thomas Gt Britain)	IDBF Honorary President	Scrutineer
Meri Gibson (New Zealand)	IBCPC President	Scrutineer
Sylvia Wong (Australia)		Scrutineer
Janine Lette (Australia)		Minutes Secretary
LUMI staff members		Electronic voting system

Opening Remarks by the IDBF President

Dear IDBF Members,

Welcome to this Extraordinary Congress, convened by the IDBF Executive Committee and Council. Thank you all for your presence today, which reflects our shared commitment to shaping the future of our federation.

This is a pivotal moment for the IDBF. I wish to acknowledge the significant progress we've made together in recent years. Special thanks are due to our Council Members, Member Federations, and dedicated Working Groups for their contributions to the ongoing development of our sport and our organization.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful that the process of IOC recognition will be reinitiated in 2025. This has been a long-standing objective, and we remain committed to fulfilling the criteria and responsibilities required. The decisions before us today are a fundamental step on that journey.

Today's agenda includes several key decisions. The most pressing item is the incorporation of the IDBF as a legal entity in Hong Kong. This appears in two parts:

- ***(a)** The motion to register **IDBF Ltd** in Hong Kong*
- ***(b)** The motion to adopt the **Articles of Association (AoA)** of IDBF Ltd*

Following detailed discussion at Council level and in recent consultations with Member Federations, there is strong consensus that incorporation in Hong Kong is the best option for the IDBF.

*I now invite voting delegates to vote on **Agenda Item 3**: the motion to incorporate IDBF in Hong Kong as a limited company. Please be reminded that a **two-thirds majority** is required for this motion to pass.*

We have also received a number of comments and proposals from members concerning the draft AoA, which were prepared by our legal counsel and CW CPA in Hong Kong.

We acknowledge that several members — and some Council members — feel they have not had sufficient time to thoroughly review the draft or submit further proposals. That is understandable given the complexity and importance of these documents.

*However, the current version **meets all legal requirements** for registration in Hong Kong. Accordingly, I propose two options for your consideration:*

Option 1: Vote Today with a Continuing Review post registration in Hong Kong

- *We **adopt the proposed AoA** solely for the purpose of incorporation.*
- *The Congress formally records that the **consultation and review process continues** until the registration is completed.*
- *Once IDBF Ltd is registered, the Council will convene another Congress to consider any proposed amendments to the AoA arising from this ongoing review.*

Option 2: Adjournment and continue the review process pre-registration in Hong Kong

If the Congress prefers not to vote on the AoA today, we can:

- *Proceed with the remaining Agenda items.*
- ***Adjourn the Congress** and reconvene in **2–3 weeks' time** to vote on the AoA.*
- *In the meantime, establish a **Working Group immediately** composed of representatives from:*
    - *The Executive Committee*
    - *The Council*
    - *Member Federations*
- *The Working Group will **review the most recent version of the AoA (circulated yesterday)** and engage with members who are encouraged to submit proposals for the working group to consider*

Final Notes *Let us remain focused and constructive. I urge all members* ***not to reopen debate*** *on AoA issues already discussed in our Zoom meetings or addressed in the* ***Members' Information Pack****, where responses are clearly recorded.* *Our goal is to keep the process* ***moving forward****, transparently and inclusively, while preserving the momentum we have built together.* *Thank you again for your continued dedication to the IDBF and our shared vision for the future of dragon boat sport worldwide.*

1. Incorporation of the IDBF in Hong Kong The IDBF President said that it was very important for the IDBF to incorporate in Hong Kong and that we had all spoken a lot about this and now was the time vote on this motion, which was separate to the motion to adopt the Articles of Association. The President confirmed that all members, Full and Ordinary could vote if they had paid their 2025 Membership Fee and that a 2/3 majority was required to pass the motion. The scrutineers confirmed that the maximum number of votes that could be cast was 35. 2/3rds majority vote required - 24.	**MOTION 1.** That the unincorporated IDBF is to be incorporated in Hong Kong, China, as a Company Limited by Guarantee, without share capital **FOR - 30** AGAINST - 03 ABSTAIN - 01 **MOTION 1 - CARRIED**
2. Articles of Association and By-laws The IDBF President explained that to register the IDBF in Hong Kong, Articles of Association (AoA) and related By-laws were needed. Ideally this could be done whilst he was in Hong Kong immediately after the International Dragon Boat Festival Races (6th to the 8th June). Therefore, with regard Motion 2, the adoption of the AoA, there were two options available for the members to consider. • Option One – approve and adopt the AoA as previously distributed and before the Members today, • Option Two – to leave the AoA as tabled for a further period for members to gain a better understanding of the AoA and for further review. Option 2 would require the meeting to adjourn and then reconvene to formally vote on Motion 2. The President said to consider Option One only if there was unanimous consent. There was considerable discussion on when the congress should reconvene to pass Motion 2. Delegates from Switzerland; Germany; Sweden; Great Britain, Cyprus and Ireland suggested to reconvene in Brandenburg, during the World Championships in July but in debate it was the view of other delegates that this would not be a viable option for logistically, financial and practical attendance reasons. The delegates from Australia, Canada and the United States, asked for clarification on the ongoing process.	**MOTION 2** To adopt the Articles of Association (AoA) and associated By-laws for the registration of the IDBF Ltd in Hong Kong. IDBF President asked for a show of hands and there was not a unanimous vote for the Option One.

President Schermi said that the Congress had been scheduled by the Council for 5 April and delayed until 17 May and that there was a need to incorporate in Hong Kong, as soon as possible for two main reasons: 1. Taxes due in the UK for IDBF Ltd UK would be very high this year and 2. Bank account – IDBF funds were held in the Netherlands stitching (foundation) company and were at risk of being frozen if incorporation in Hong Kong was delayed. IDBF President said that he could understand the need for more time to consider the AoA but this really needed to be proceeded with as soon as possible, given the above situation The President proposed to reconvene the Congress on Saturday the 7th of June 25 so that the Incorporation could start in the week beginning Monday the 9th of June 2025, when he was in Hong Kong. Vice-President Matt Smith stated his support to moving to Hong Kong with its opportunities. He also thanked President Claudio Schermi for listening to everyone's concerns and wanting to move the process forward. He said that a proper balance was required to review the document. 3 weeks was a very tight timeline. He had offered to Chair a working group to move it forward. EDBF President Anna Sokratous agreed with Matt Smith and that if only a few people were going to be reviewing the AoA, she could not see why it could not be done in 3 weeks. UAE believed that if a team could be put together to do this in 3 weeks, then it would be in the best interest to do this. USA asked Matt Smith if he was on the working group. Matt said that was correct with him as the WG chair. USA asked if Matt agreed with 3 weeks. Matt said that his duty was to perform for the IDBF and if 3 weeks was what the Members wanted then he would try. USA could not see anything wrong with trying. Matt Smith asked to contact him directly if any voluntary ready to help, so he can select a WG of 5/6 people	IDBF President called for a formal vote on Option Two, which was to authorize a Working Group to review the AoA on behalf of the IDBF Members and then to reconvene the congress within 3 weeks, to vote on Motion 2 – the adoption of the AoA for IDBF Ltd, Hong Kong. **FOR - 24** AGAINST - 07 ABSTAIN - 0 **RESOLUTION PASSED** **MOTION 2 – DEFERRED – Congress to reconvene on Saturday 7th June 2025**
Congress resolved that Vice-President Matt Smith, would head up a working group to review and work on the IDBF Articles of Association and By-laws, with the aim of 2 meetings per week to be able to achieve the 3 week timeline. The WG were tasked to look at the functionality of the AoA & By-laws to make sure that everything is reviewed to present acceptable AoA for the IDBF Members to adopt on 7th June 25. VP Matt Smith to consult with the IDBF President Claudio to ensure that there would be nothing in the AoA that could delay or prevent the members from accepting the AoA at the reconvened congress.	**MOTION 2** **ADJOURNMENT CONDITIONS**

3. Appointment of the Chair of the Ethics Committee Germany suggested waiting until Brandenburg to get to know Prof Rostam before voting on the Motion. The IDBF Treasurer, Loretta Lewis advised the Congress that Prof Rostam had already notified her that he could not attend Brandenburg. IDBF President Claudio Schermi said that Congress should not delay this motion and should now vote on it.	**MOTION 3.** To appoint Prof Rostam as the Chair of the IDBF Ethics Committee **FOR - 27** AGAINST- 0 ABSTAIN - 04 **MOTION 3 – CARRIED**
4. New Membership Applications Applications for IDBF Membership received from:- (a) Azerbaijan (b) Jamaca (c) Pakistan Vice -President, Nigel Bedford informed the Congress that the Executive Committee working group had reviewed the applications. None of them were complete applications. Jamaca have since completed their application and were recommended by the Executive & Council to be accepted as Ordinary Members. Azerbaijan and Pakistan applications were still incomplete. However, they were suitable candidates for Ordinary Membership in the future. It was recommended that they be granted Associate Membership which would enable them to attend Congress, with no vote and Championships without having to pay a membership fee.	**MOTION 4** 4.1 To accept Jamaca into Ordinary Membership of the IDBF. **FOR - 31** AGAINST - 0 ABSTAIN – 0 **MOTION 4.1 - CARRIED** Motion 4.2. To grant Azerbaijan Associate IDBF Membership **FOR - 28** AGAINST - 01 ABSTAIN - 0 **MOTION 4.2 - CARRIED** Motion 4.3. To grant Pakistan Associate IDBF Membership FOR - 27 AGAINST - 01 ABSTAIN - 01 **MOTION 4.3 - CARRIED**
5. Review of Membership Status – Report only. Vice-President Bedford reported that the Executive Committee's Membership Working Group had reviewed every IDBF Member Federation. 29 Federations scrutinized had not been financial for many years, 2 Federations had not been heard from for years. These Federations were requested to show cause and reply but only a small handful have: • 3 have rectified their Membership • 26 have not been heard from since the letters were sent out earlier this year This review remains ongoing and at an appropriate time a further check will be completed with recommendations to Council and then on to the Members for final consideration. The review has highlighted that contacts and names have changed which the IDBF needs to update. IDBF President Schermi advised that we are not excluding members but trying to bring them back into our family.	

6. Approval of 2024 Financial and Auditor's Report	
The Treasurer Loretta Lewis advised the Congress that the Auditors report which covered the period 1 January – 31 December 2024 and that the accounts are recorded in POUNDS sterling. • Page 3 indicated a significant profit of £95,803. • Page 5 showed that the CCWC provided more profit than the World Nations • 2023 brought through a lot of old losses and no provision had been set up • Travel, accommodation and conferences had increased for the IROs. Thailand in 2023 they gave all the accommodation – the hosting guidelines only require 20 IRO rooms and 10 for executives. Italy only gave this set amount. • Tax in the UK was based on 25% of the 126k and scaled backwards so the tax to pay was £31,664. • Chances of registering in Hong Kong before World Championships was very unlikely so the tax most likely for 2025 will be based on the 25% scaling backwards. • To register in Hong Kong, we have to prove that we are a fit company to deal with to avoid money laundering. Balance Sheet £244k being carried forward of which £100k is kept as a contingency fund for emergency Accounts Receivable - Nothing carried forward from 2024 Assets & Liabilities - All have been written off. A computer and mobile phone purchased for the President and depreciated. Surplus - £ 247k Audit Report - Auditors review for potential risk. It is their responsibility to report to the Members that the accounts meet the accounting standards and, in their opinion, the financial reports fairly represent the accounting situation. The Treasurer advised that the Hong Kong tax rate was said 8.5% tax but the control factors were stronger than the UK with audits potentially in more depth.	**MOTION 5** To approve of 2024 Financial Statement and Auditor's Report **FOR - 27** AGAINST - 0 ABSTAIN - 01 **MOTION 5 - CARRIED**
CONGRESS ADJOURNED at 14:15 UTC, to reconvene on 7th JUNE 2025	

PART. 2

EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGRESS OF 17 MAY 2025 RECONVENED ON 7 JUNE 2025 @ 10.30am UTC

LUMI advised that votes made on the Platform would be checked to ensure that votes given directly to the scrutineers by members, who could not access the voting platform, would not be duplicated.

Roll Call **Full Members (34)**

Australia	Serbia
Canada	Singapore
China	Slovakia
Chinese Taipei	Spain
France	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Great Britain	Trinidad & Tobago
Hong Kong China	UAE
India	Ukraine
Indonesia	USA
Ireland	
Italy	
Japan	
Korea	
Macau China	
Malaysia	
Netherlands	
New Zealand	
Norway	
Panama	
Philippines	
Poland	
Puerto Rico	
Russia	

Ordinary Members (6)

Bahrain,	Brazil
Egypt	Israel
Romania,	Uganda

Bulgaria raised question on their Members status. The Treasurer advised that all payment had been completed - fees paid.

Resolution
Congress agreed that Bulgaria's membership would be valid from 8 June 25, but as they were not recorded as voting Members at the commencement of this Extraordinary Congress on 17 May 2025 they would not be able to vote at this re-convened meeting

Ukraine and Indonesia. Ukraine queried they had not been called. The Treasurer advised the Congress that Ukraine had not paid their 2025 Membership Fee. Ukraine said that due to banking difficulties they normally pay their fees in cash at IDBF Championships.
Indonesia reported that they had similar problems to pay fees by bank transfer.
Scrutineer, Mike Thomas advised Congress that the Ukraine had voted on 17 May but Indonesia had not

Resolution
Congress resolved that both could vote at this re-convened congress.

(Total 40 voting members)

IN ATTENDANCE

Claudio Schermi (Italy)	IDBF President	Congress Chairman
Peter Tang (Macau)	IDBF Secretary-General	
Loretta Lewis (Australia)	IDBF Treasurer	
Matt Smith (Canada)	IDBF Vice-President	
Nigel Bedford (Gt Britain)	IDBF Vice-President	
Anna Sokratous (Cyprus)	EDBF President	
Franco Sui Chong (Trinidad)	Pan Am DBF President	
Belinda Chung (Australia)	Chair Media & Marketing Com	
Mike Haslam (Gt Britain)	IDBF Founder & Hon President	
Mike Thomas (Gt Britain)	IDBF Honorary President	Scrutineer
Meri Gibson (New Zealand)	IBCPC President	Scrutineer
Sylvia Wong (Australia)		Scrutineer
Janine Lette (Australia)		Minutes Secretary
LUMI staff members		Electronic voting system

Agenda Item 2 - Articles of Association and Bye-laws – for IDBF Ltd Hong Kong The President updated the Congress on actions that had been taken since the congress was adjourned. He informed the meeting that the Philippines and USA had put forward to amendments to the AoA which had been reviewed and included in the AoA now before the meeting. Both Countries confirmed that they accepted the amendments as now made The President asked VP Matt Smith (MS)to speak about the Working Group. MS advised that there were 114 proposed amendments provided from the Working Group but not all of them had been implemented. The purpose of the Group was to ensure that the AoA provided good guidance. He advised that there were references in the AoA to the By-Laws which the Group had not reviewed. The President advised that the new supporting By-laws will be reviewed by Council after IDBF Ltd is incorporated The President confirmed that, as for the adjourned meeting, both Full and Ordinary Members were entitled to vote on the AOA motion. Cyprus asked whether the Council had reviewed the documents before coming to this meeting. The President advised that time precluded a formal meeting of the Council but that the Council Members had received all the AOA and were able to make individual proposals if they had wished to. UAE asked if CW / Vivienne could explain who they are, what they do, why they have been engaged and what their role is. Vivienne advised the congress that CW are a company in Hong Kong who provide incorporation services as well as being the nominated Company Secretary in Hong Kong, for IDBF Ltd HK.	**MOTION 2** To adopt the Articles of Association (AoA) and associated By-laws for the registration of the IDBF Ltd in Hong Kong. **FOR – 15** AGAINST – 15 ABSTAIN – 2 [32 votes out of a possible 40] **MOTION 2 - NOT CARRIED**
Discussion following vote Germany said that the vote shows the interest from Congress to get this correct. Australia said that lots of work had now been done on the AOA and that if we could get the differences sorted out by the World Championships in Brandenburg (Germany), then we could move forwarded with all on board.	IDBF President to call a meeting of the IDBF Council, to discuss the way forward.
Re-convened Congress Closed 12.48pm UTC	

Signed

Date 2025, June 11th

Claudio Schermi
President, IDBF

PART. 3

EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGRESS OF 17 MAY 2025 and 7 JUNE 2025 RECONVENED IN PERSON IN BERLIN-BRANDENBURG ON 21 July 2025 @9.00am UTC

Opened – 10am Berlin time

Full Member Attendees in PERSON	Australia –Peter Campos and Sylvia Wong Canada – Julie Robitaille China – He Yi Chinese Taipei – Chin-Te Wang Cyprus – Nicole Ioannov and Eleni Roussounidou France – Giraudet Hugues Germany – Ute Becker-Frenzel, Christian Taenzer-Backendorf and Saed Britain – Neil Pickles and Andy Menzies Hong Kong China – Simon Wan Hungary –Peter Jarosi and Thomas Varga Ireland – Michael Doyle Italy – Antonio de Lucia Jamaica – Geraldine Fernandez-Calienes and Raul Fernandex-Calienes Macau China – Vong ka Hou Netherlands – Rene de Block Norway – Lars Haga Panama – Ricardo Chu Philippines – JayPee Villanueva and Marcia Cristobel (online) Puerto Rico – JoMarie Martinez and Carlos Rivera Singapore – Kai Yi and Yi Ling Slovakia – Michala Dusicka Switzerland – Matthias Marbes and Bridget Walter Thailand – Pu Naphol Trinidad & Tobago – Keith Dalap Ukraine – Valeri Morgan USA – Tommy Leonardi
Full Member Attendees ONLINE	Austria – Peter Widhalm Egypt – General Nader India – Regi Sudhakara Japan – Makato Shobu Malaysia – Girlie Tan and Lesley Lim New Zealand – Nick Sicklemore Russia – Vitaly Smirnov Serbia – Svet Iana Blagsjevic Spain – Pep Junca Sweden – Linda Kartfors United Arab Emirates – Jason McKenzie
Ordinary Members	Argentina – Noelia Yamila Lunardelli (in person) and Natalia (online) Bahamas – Van Kei Lok-Tong (only) Bulgaria – Martin Marinov (online) Israel – Ami (online and stayed for 1 hour) Qatar – Alexander (online) Romania – Radu Radulescu and Alina Matei (online)
Associate Members	Pakistan – Mokanara Ali (online)

Non-Financial Members	Myanmar – Thant Kyaw (online) Uganda – Deo Solomon (online)
Executives	President – Claudio Schermi Senior Vice President – Raymond Ma 2nd Vice President – Mathew Smith 3rd Vice President – Julie Doyle 4th Vice President – Nigel Bedford 5th Vice President – Li Haigang (absent) Secretary General Peter Tang Treasurer – Loretta Lewis Deputy Treasuer – Franco Siu Chong Competition & Technical Commission – Melanie Cantwell Marketing & Media Commission – Belinda Chung Athlete Commission – Sue Holloway
Honorary	Mike Haslam Mike Thomas
Scrutineers	Alan van Caubergh Meri Gibson Sylvia Wong
Minute taker	Janine Lette

1.	**Welcome Address of the President** President Claudio Schermi thanked all Members for attending following a very successful Championships. He noted that this was the first hybrid Congress of the IDBF, with Members participating both in person and online. A welcome video message from Stephan Fox, President of AIMS, was played to all participants. Mike Thomas conveyed his best wishes for a successful Congress. Alan van Caubergh after many years of service on the Executive, expressed that he was deeply honoured to have received Honorary Membership in 2024.	
2.	**Roll call Members and Confirmation of voting rights**	

	See above list	
3.	**Approval of the minutes of the Extraordinary Congress 17 May and 7 June 2025** Secretary General Peter Tang moved that the minutes be accepted. No amendments came from the floor.	Minutes accepted
4.	**Incorporation of the IDBF Limited Hong Kong** President Claudio Schermi invited Vice President Matt Smith to assist in the conduct of the Congress and to chair this specific item on the agenda. Applause was noted. • President Claudio Schermi informed the Congress that on 17 May 2025, a majority approved the incorporation of the IDBF in Hong Kong. The purpose of today's meeting is to approve the Articles of Association (AoA). This process has been lengthy and involved many contributors, including a Working Group comprising Vice President Matt Smith, Vice President Julie Doyle, Peter Campos (Australia), JoMarie Martinez (Puerto Rico), and Meri Gibson (New Zealand). The draft was subsequently submitted for an independent review by Squire Patton Boggs, Legal Advisors in Hong Kong. • Three sessions were held, totalling eight hours of work with the Council. On 26 June 2025, the Council recommended the final version of the AoA for presentation to Congress, with only three Council Members not supporting it. It was acknowledged that significant costs and time had been invested in this process. • President Claudio Schermi explained that what is being presented concerns solely the incorporation of IDBF Hong Kong as a legal entity. Following registration, the AoA will continue to be reviewed and developed within 12 months. • Vice President Matt Smith stated that everyone should feel comfortable voting today and invited any comments or questions.	1st MOTION: Council moves the following – Do the Members, both Ordinary and Full, agree by simple majority to allow Ordinary Members the right to vote on Agenda Item 4. Scrutineers confirmed that the vote will be secret and a simple Yes or No is required. Online Members can vote and this will be given to Sylvia Wong. Count includes Online votes received: Yes – 19 (48%) No – 21 (52%) 2nd MOTION: Do the Members approve the presented Articles of Association for the Incorporation of IDBF Limited in Hong Kong for submission to the Hong Kong Company Registry. Count includes Online votes received: Yes – 16 No – 13 Abstain – 5 Votes were recounted and result amended to:

	• Ireland asked who was entitled to vote. • President Claudio Schermi responded that this had been discussed previously and decided by vote that the process should be inclusive so that all Members could vote. Ireland disagreed, stating this was not his recollection. • Vice President Matt Smith noted that under the current Statutes, only Full Members are normally entitled to vote, but clarification was required. • After deliberation, it was observed that this debate could be prolonged. • Meri Gibson advised that there were 85 Members: 35 Ordinary and 50 Full. Of these, 34 Full Members were present (in person and online), and all were financially current. • Ireland referred to Item 4, paragraph B, noting that the letter from Squire Patton Boggs recommended that it was for the IDBF to decide whether all Members could vote. • President Claudio Schermi reiterated that this issue had been discussed in previous Congresses, as it is governed by the Statutes. He stressed the need for inclusiveness and avoiding repetitive debate. Ireland replied that the matter was unrelated to inclusion. • Vice President Matt Smith observed that this was a grey area and that Squire Patton Boggs had recommended the Congress itself decide who could vote. • Hungary stated that this was an important discussion, as the IDBF appeared divided on this fundamental question. • Germany said that the Statutes must be followed, and that voting rights were clearly limited to Full Members. Therefore, only Full Members should vote on this matter. • Great Britain requested a Secret Ballot.	Yes – 20 No – 12 Abstain – 2 22 yes votes were required, Motion NOT CARRIED

	• Switzerland stated that according to the current Statutes, only financial Full Members are entitled to vote. • President Claudio Schermi explained that the vote concerns the AoA of a new company to be incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in Hong Kong. He emphasised that this was not an amendment to the Statutes but the adoption of Articles for a new legal entity collectively decided upon by the Membership. • Switzerland asked whether the Bylaws were also being voted on. President Claudio Schermi clarified that the Bylaws could be considered and amended at any time, but not during this session. • Cyprus stated that although this process marked a new beginning, existing rules must still be followed, warning against setting a precedent for disregarding them. • Australia advised that he had participated in the Working Group, which worked hard to finalise the registration. He expressed support for focusing efforts on the AoA, noting that the Bylaws should not be considered now. He stressed the importance of working solidly toward achieving majority support for the AoA. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned for 20 minutes while the Council discussed voting rights. Vice President Matt Smith reported that, following the Council's discussion and input from Jay Pee Villanueva (Philippines), a constitutional lawyer, both interpretations regarding voting rights were considered valid. The Council proposed a motion for all Members present to vote. Count including online votes received: Yes – 19 (48%) No – 21 (52%) According to the vote, Vice President Matt Smith, chairing this part of the meeting, confirmed that only Full Members would be allowed to vote. He then asked if there were any further	

	clarifications or questions regarding the decision. President Claudio Schermi noted that the decision was unconstitutional, as it contravened a specific Statute provision, and that the exclusion of Ordinary Members had been accepted by a simple majority, not by the required two-thirds majority. Canada sought clarification regarding the separate votes on the AoA and the Bylaws, asking whether the Congress was voting only on the AoA. Motion: Canada moved that the votes be split into two — one for the AoA and one for the Bylaws. Seconder: Australia Agree: 30 Object: Nil Abstain: 4 Great Britain asked what majority was now required. Vice President Matt Smith advised that 22 votes were needed. Australia emphasised the importance of establishing a clear pathway to incorporation and supported the President's recommendation to review the AoA and set a date for a Special General Meeting to amend them. Vice President Matt Smith replied that changes could be made at any Congress and a special meeting was not necessary. Australia asked whether the meeting could be hybrid, to which Vice President Smith replied yes. Switzerland asked whether, if the AoA were adopted as presented, there would be an opportunity to make amendments within the next 12 months, with such amendments then to be filed in Hong Kong. Vice President Matt Smith confirmed that the Hong Kong authorities might suggest changes, and that amendments could be proposed by Members at any Congress. President Claudio Schermi explained that the AoA had two components: first, the technical/legal section to comply with Hong Kong law; second, the operational section, which could be amended by Congress as required.	

	He agreed with Australia that a review and further refinements should be undertaken within the next 12 months. Hungary asked to see the question regarding the Bylaws before voting on the AoA. Australia clarified that, by withdrawing the motion, it was assumed that a review process would follow. President Claudio Schermi agreed, confirming that a review of the Bylaws would be undertaken by the Council, and, if necessary, by Congress. He proposed forming a Working Group, and Australia agreed to submit names. The motion failed, and Vice President Matt Smith formally handed the chair back to President Claudio Schermi while the point of the agenda remained open. Scrutineer Meri Gibson asked whether anyone wished to argue the vote. President Claudio Schermi responded, arguing the result and expressing the IDBF President's opinion on the majority vote for the AoA (attached as Annex 1, extracted from the meeting transcript).	
5.	**Strategic Plan** Presentation and discussion to be addressed for final approval at the Ordinary Congress 2025 • Christof provided an overview of both his background and the development process of the IDBF Strategic Plan. • He noted that it had been a truly collaborative process involving input from across the IDBF community. • He emphasized that Dragon Boat represents a strong and valuable platform for future promotion and growth. Going forward, the IDBF requires Members to provide input on the following questions:	

	1. Is there an area you wish to lead, support, or propose? 2. How can you contribute to this strategy? 3. What are we missing, and what matters most to your community? President Claudio Schermi stated that the Strategic Plan will be submitted for approval at the Ordinary Congress in November 2025. President Claudio Schermi expressed his expectation that Members will come forward to assist with the next stage of development. Norway asked why All Cancers, Youth, and LGBTQ+ initiatives had not been included. President Claudio Schermi confirmed that the relevant documents will be circulated to all Members for review and further discussion.	
6.	**IDBF Membership** Loretta Lewis advised that new membership applications had been received from the following: • **Azerbaijan** – Additional information had been requested and is still required before the application can be accepted. The requested details remain outstanding. • **Pakistan** – Additional information had been requested and is still required before the application can be accepted. The requested details remain outstanding. • **Jamaica** – Membership was accepted at the previous Congress. Loretta Lewis reported that membership renewals had been received from several Members in good standing. All renewed Members remain financial and in full compliance with IDBF requirements. No further issues or outstanding matters were reported in relation to renewals.	

7.	**Update of IDBF Rules of Racing** President Claudio Schermi spoke on behalf of Melanie Cantwell, who had left the meeting. President Claudio Schermi informed the Congress that updates to the IDBF Rules of Racing had been proposed and that feedback from Members was now requested. All feedback received will be reviewed and incorporated as appropriate, and the final version will be presented for approval at the **Ordinary Congress**.	
8.	**Presentation by Chinese Taipei for the 2026 15th IDBF Club Crew World Championships (CCWC)** • A video presentation of the host city, Hualien, was shown. • A video of past events at the same venue was also presented, noting that another event will be held there later this year to ensure that preparations for the **2026 CCWC** remain on schedule. **Hong Kong, China – 2027 18th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships (WDBRC)** • The representative noted that the event is two years away and assured that Hong Kong, China will do its utmost to deliver an excellent Championships. **Loretta Lewis** thanked the Hong Kong China Dragon Boat Association (HKCDBA) for all their efforts. She noted that **Simon** and she have already commenced discussions and expressed confidence that it will be an outstanding Championships. 1. Ordinary Congress Agenda Items (as per the Statutes) Vice President Matt Smith noted the following items arising to be considered on the agenda, if ready: • Rules of Racing – to be presented for acceptance • Strategic Plan • Articles of Association for IDBF Limited Hong Kong	

	Australia recommended that the By-Laws be reviewed and that a Working Group be established to discuss them over the next three months. **President Claudio Schermi** noted that today's Congress had cost approximately EUR 15,000, and stated that if proposals are continuously opposed, such sessions become financially burdensome. **Australia** responded that they were happy to work with **President Claudio Schermi**, provided that the Council agreed. 2. **Hungary** stated that above all, the IDBF is a family and should act with mutual respect. They expressed deep gratitude to **Jason Chen** for his work with the **International Race Officials (IROs)** and the competition, and to **Germany** as the host nation of these Championships. On behalf of Hungary, sincere thanks were extended to all participating Nations, with best wishes for good fortune to the IDBF Presidency. 3. **Loretta Lewis** commented that she had listened carefully to all remarks. She emphasized that collectively, Members must reflect on how to move forward effectively and remain strong for the thousands of athletes worldwide. She urged everyone to work together in unity. 4. **Tommy Leonardi,** President of the **United States Dragon Boat Federation (USDBF)**, stated that Members need to support one another despite personal differences. He noted that the organization appeared to be at a stalemate and must find a way to progress. He expressed concern that underlying issues seemed to extend beyond the specific matters under discussion and urged everyone to remember the purpose of their service and focus on unity. 5. **Barb Michaels** stated that the IDBF was at a serious crossroads and that it was essential for all Members of Council to move forward together.	

	6. **Meri Gibson** expressed disappointment with the tone of the meeting and stated that she would consult her IBCPC Board on whether to remain within the IDBF structure, as she found the situation unhealthy and divisive. She added that it was not possible to progress while remaining anchored in the past. President Claudio Schermi concluded by reiterating the need to move forward without wasting additional time or resources. He called upon all Members to work together constructively for the benefit of the IDBF. President Claudio Schermi wished everyone safe travels.	

Closed: 1:55pm Berlin time

ATTACHED n.1:

IDBF PRESIDENT'S OPINION ON THE MAJORITY VOTE FOR THE AOA

Transcript from the video recording of the Extra-Ordinary Congress on 21st July 2025

CS. I am a little concerned about the outcome of this vote. Before moving on to the strategic plan, we will wait for the final result, as a recount of the online votes is currently taking place.

Unfortunately, it seems that the motion has not passed. I say "appears" because I require advice from a legal firm—more than one if necessary because this is not a resolution of the IDBF it is the Articles of Association for the new IDBF to be incorporated. Now, we have a majority of Full Members who want these Articles to be the Articles of the Limited Company in Hong Kong and I as President, I have the responsibility not to allow a minority to stop the job of this Federation.

So I will ask whether if this a resolution of the IDBF unincorporated IDBF, or the start of a new federation and if it is a new federation that is the IDBF Limited Hong Kong, we have the majority required to move forward. I will keep you informed.

It is also time to be transparent about our corporate structure. At present, we have three companies: There are no contracts between the Stichting, the unincorporated IDBF, and the UK

Limited Company. This situation concerns me greatly. We organise our Championships under the name of the IDBF, but all the money you pay to the IDBF Treasurer Stichting, while our accounts are presented in Great Britain under IDBF Limited UK.

We pay substantial taxes in the UK—£44,000 this year.

We do have a majority, and if legal advice confirms that we can proceed, we will do so.

Unfortunately, my friends, you are not the legal owners of the IDBF Ltd UK —individuals are. I am one of those individuals, and I will resign from the IDBF Limited UK, because I am currently the owner of IDBF Limited UK. I serve the Federation and all of you, its members.

CS to Michael Doyle (MD) - Michael Doyle, you have your wife. Can speak her, not always you. If you want to speak Julie (*note: referring to Vice President Julie Doyle),* you can speak but this is something that we have to go (note: to be read as *"to resolve"*) and so let's move forward and let's go (note: to be read as *"let's move")* to the next step. The point is closed. Thank you.

(note: this last comma needs to be contested to the situation and to the fact that having Vice President Matt Smith handed back to President President Claudio Schermi the chair of the meeting before the concerned point of the agenda was closed, nobody was moderating the Congress mantaining order. It had an effect on the possibility of the President Claudio Schermi to express his opinion and he had to finally close the meeting to avoid further escalations)

CS – (*again to MD)* Your opinion has been heard very much. Ok thank you very much.

CS – What ?! *(MD words not picked up by the video as he did not have a microphone)* we are still continuing the discussion. So now is the time for them (the scrutineers) to say the results (after the re-count). Anyway, we have to check the situation in a transparent way. Because there are some people that has an interest not to move forward with these things (note: to be read as "with these Articles) and the minority is blocking us.

Comment*: No further discussion was held on the AOA and there was no apparent reaction in the video recording from the delegates to the exchange of words between CS and MD, but it was recalled that the exchange of words led to an uproar within the meeting.*

The result of the vote recount and the presentation of the Strategic Review followed the above section of the meeting.

Signed ____________________ Date 2025, November 11th

Claudio Schermi
President, IDBF