



Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 22, 2024, 11:30am ET
Virtual via Zoom

Present:

WPC Board of Directors

- Kathleen Dawson, President
- Josée Lanouette, Vice-President
- Catherine Code
- Adam Deffett
- Gaelan Patterson, Athlete Representative
- Christine Preece
- Kyam Shell-Schnitzer
- Christina Skinner
- Hélène Tournier
- Nic Youngblud

Voting Member Delegates

- Jenna MacEachern, WPNS President
- Jana Salat, WPQ President
- Moataz Salem, OWP President
- Lisa Cupples, MWPA President
- Tara Smith, WPS President
- Matt McCormack, AWPB President
- Laura Marquez, WPW President

P/T Representatives

- J.P. Chartier, WPQ Executive Director
- Nishant Damani, OWP Executive Director
- Cyril Dorgigné, WPS Executive Director
- Dayna Christmas, AWPB Executive Director
- Keith Ryan, WPW Executive Director

WPC Staff

- Corey Conroy, League and Events Lead

- Mitch Kaufman, High Performance Manager
- Janis Loach, Safe Sport Compliance Coordinator
- Andrew Muir, Senior Manager of Leagues and Pathways
- Eric Smith, Finance and Administration Manager
- Olivier Pineau, High Performance Director

Guests

- Carolee Buckler, MWPA Board
- Valerie Koch, Sport Law
- Joanne Mortimore, WPC Interim Executive (Observer)
- Jason Robinson, Sport Law

Regrets

- Nicolle Moskven, MWPA Staff
- Rebekka Steenkamer, WPC Staff

Absent

- Water Polo Newfoundland and Labrador

Minutes recorder

- Valerie Koch, Sport Law

Scrutineer & Parliamentarian

- Jason Robinson, Sport Law

Action Meeting convened at 11:35am ET.

Item 1 Call to Order

- K. Dawson called the meeting to order at 11:35am ET.
- The traditional lands of the Indigenous peoples were recognized and acknowledged.
- K. Dawson welcomed attendees on behalf of Water Polo Canada's (WPC) Directors and thanked WPC's funding partners and staff.
- K. Dawson summarized the rules of procedure for the Annual Meeting and invited J. Robinson to review the voting process with the attendees.
- J. Robinson summarized the voting procedures that would be used during the meeting.
- A moment of silence was observed to remember lost members of the water polo community.

Item 2 Confirmation of Voting Credentials

- K. Dawson conducted a roll call of voting delegates who registered and were in attendance (no proxies). K. Dawson announced there were sixteen (16) voting members representing seven (7) provincial/territorial sections.
- **K. Dawson declared quorum.**

Item 3 Adoption of Agenda

Motion #1: To approve the agenda as circulated, moved by M. McCormack, seconded by M. Salem.

Motion carried.

Item 4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

- G. Patterson declared that he is a referee and a player in the National Champions League (NCL).

Item 5 Acceptance of previous minutes

Motion #2: To approve the minutes from the September 24, 2023, Annual Meeting as circulated, moved by A. Deffett, seconded by G. Patterson.

Motion carried.

Item 6 Business Arising from Previous Year's Annual Meeting

- No business arising from the previous meeting.

Item 7 Annual Reports from Provincial/Territorial Sections and Committees

President's Report – Kathleen Dawson

- A written report was submitted.
- Thanked the WPC staff and Directors for their hard work and support throughout the year. Welcomed new staff to the organization.
- Expanded on the information in written report and

addressed changes in WPC's leadership.

- Additionally, provided a high-level overview of WPC's Annual Report.

Athletes' Council – Nic Youngblud

- A written report was submitted.
- The past year saw a player representative added to WPC's Board of Directors providing additional representation for athletes.
- The bulk of the work during the year centered around devising ways to obtain sponsorship and increase fan engagement with the National Teams.
- Also had discussions around carding and carding decisions.

Audit & Finance Committee – Nic Youngblud

- A written report was submitted.
- Updated financial management policy this year.
- Discussed deficit was mainly due to higher costs, tournament schedules, and overruns on the budget.

Hall of Fame Committee – Adam Deffett

- A written report was submitted.
- Planned and executed 3rd successful induction ceremony and gala in conjunction with the Senior National Championships.
- Introduced the new Clifford Barry Award.
- David Hart will be stepping down as chair and Noah Miller will be taking over.
- A. Deffett acknowledged the members of the committee and the work they did throughout the year.

Governance Committee – Kathleen Dawson

- A written report was submitted.
- Primary focus was ensuring the WPC By-laws and committee terms of reference are aligned with the Sport Canada Governance Code.
- Additional changes may be needed ahead of the April 2025 deadline as the Sport Canada Governance Code is still being updated by the Government of Canada.

Strategic Planning Committee – Kathleen Dawson

- A written report was submitted.
- K. Dawson thanked the committee members for their hard work and dedication to creating a new strategic plan for WPC.
- Surveyed a lot of partners/stakeholders and took feedback into consideration.
- The plan centers on three pillars – people, systems, and business.
- The strategic plan and associated operational plan have been approved by the Board of Directors.

Risk Management Committee – Josée Lanouette

- Written report was submitted, no further comments.

Nominations & HR Committee – Josée Lanouette

- A written report was submitted.
- The committee has met monthly since the last Annual Meeting.
- Created packages and standardized procedures for Director recruitment this year.
- J. Lanouette thanked Klara Miller, Hélène Tournier, and Laura Marquez for their dedication and work.

Operations’ Council – Christina Skinner

- Written report was submitted, no further comments.

Presidents’ Council – Kathleen Dawson

- Written report was submitted, no further comments.

Member P/T Reports

WPW – Laura Marquez

- Written report was submitted, no further comments.

AWPA – Matt McCormack

- A written report was submitted.
- Seeing growth and membership is back to where it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WPS – Tara Smith

- Written report was submitted, no further comments.

MWPA – Lisa Cupples

- A written report was submitted.
- Welcomed MWPA’s new Executive Director Nicolle

Moskven.

- L. Cupples thanked the Presidents' Council for their support throughout the year.

OWP – Moataz Salem

- A written report was submitted.
- OWP is seeing continued growth and will be running three National Development Centres this season.

WPQ – Jana Salat

- A written report was submitted.
- Spent most of the year updating governance documents.

WPNS – Jenna MacEachern

- A written report was submitted.
- Highlighted and thanked the volunteers who run WPNS.

WPNL

- No report received.

All Reports were received by the members.

Item 8 Correspondence

- No correspondence received.

Item 9 Notices of Motion

Resolutions #1, 4, 6, 7: Motion to adopt the proposed Resolutions 01, 04, 06, and 07 and revise the WPC By-laws in accordance with those Resolutions, as presented to the members.

- To remove the term “group” from the by-laws, as it is not defined and is therefore ambiguous.
- To exclude the athlete representative position from the independence requirement for all WPC directors in Section 5.4 ix and to specify in Section 10.2 that the directors elected to an officer position must be independent.
- To add text to Section 10.9 of WPC by-laws to comply with the Canadian Sport Governance Code.

- To add text to the definition of “Combined Section” to clarify that they have the same rights, responsibilities, and limitations as a Provincial/Territorial Section, unless otherwise specified.

Motion moved by WPC Board of Directors, seconded by L. Cupples.

Motion carried.

Resolution #3: Motion to amend Section 4.14 of the WPC by-laws to clarify that each Provincial/Territorial Section or Combined Section must identify a single voting delegate, and they must be a Director.

Motion moved by WPC Board of Directors, seconded by J. Lanouette.

Motion carried.

Resolution #5: Motion to add text to Section 8.1 of the WPC by-laws to comply with the Canadian Sport Governance Code.

Motion moved by WPC Board of Directors, seconded by Matt McCormack.

The WPC Board of Directors proposed the following amendments to the resolution, which were approved by unanimous consent:

- Remove references to ‘NSO’ and replace with ‘Corporation’
- Insert ‘of the Board’ after the word ‘resolution’ in the final paragraph in Section 8.1.

Motion carried, as amended.

Resolution #00: Motion to recognize Water Polo Atlantic as a Combined Section of Water Polo Canada consisting of, at a minimum, Water Polo New Brunswick, and Water Polo Nova Scotia, with Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador eligible to submit a request to join.

Motion moved by WPC Board of Directors, seconded by J.

MacEachern.

The WPC Board of Director proposed the following amendment to the resolution, which was approved by unanimous consent:

- Insert ‘Effective at the conclusion of this meeting,’ at beginning of the resolution.

Motion carried, as amended.

Item 10

Financial Report

- N. Youngblud highlighted some key points of the written report and the audited financial statements.
- WPC finished the year in a deficit position due to two World Championships in the same fiscal period, unexpected increases in travel expenses, and some timing of revenue recognition.
- WPC has implemented additional procedures to help mitigate the risk going forward, including updating the Financial Management Policy.
- Moving forward, WPC will continue to be rigorous in safeguarding assets and following policies.
- T. Smith asked if there had been quarterly or monthly budget reviews in the past.
- N. Youngblud replied that the WPC Audit & Finance Committee and the Board of Directors regularly reviews the organization’s annual fiscal position, however more rigorous reviews will be implemented.
- T. Smith inquired as to why the national team’s staffing costs have increased.
- N. Youngblud indicated that costs were partly due to hiring temporary staff to fill staffing gaps.
- K. Dawson also indicated that the costs of the Olympics and the centralized training associated with the preparation also contributed to the costs.
- T. Smith inquired as to why the accounts receivables seemed high this year.
- N. Youngblud indicated that the accounts receivables were within the expected range and is not concerning given the amount of annual expenses.

Item 11

Appointment of Auditor

Motion #3: To appoint KPMG as auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

Motion moved by A. Deffett, seconded by C. Code.

Motion carried.

Item 12 Volunteer of the Year Awards

- WPC – Dee Silva, Fraser Valley Water Polo Club and Michael Wheatley, Ottawa Titans.
- Nova Scotia – Hugo D'Alesio, founded the Panda Club and Susan Allen, president of the Kraken Club.
- WPQ – Recipient has not been selected yet.
- OWP – Recipient has not been selected yet.
- MWPA – Recipient has not been selected yet.
- WPS – Paula Kashton.
- AWP – Recipient has not been selected yet.

Provincial/Territorial Sections may email the name of their winner(s) later, as needed.

Item 13 Appointment of Scrutineers

The Chair reconfirmed the Board appointed Jason Robinson of Sport Law as scrutineer for the meeting, and appointed Jason as Chair *Pro Tempore* for the elections.

K. Dawson passed the gavel to J. Robinson.

Item 14 Elections

The results from the 2024 WPC Board of Directors elections are:

- Gaelan Patterson, Athlete Representative, Alberta (3-Year Term)
- Kathleen Dawson, Manitoba (3-Year Term)
- Susan Cameron, Saskatchewan (3-Year Term)
- Alex Bushell, Ontario (3-Year Term)
- Nic Youngblud, Alberta (2-Year Term)
- Kyam Shell-Schnitzer, Ontario (2-Year Term)

J. Robinson passed the gavel back to K. Dawson.

Item 15 New Business

- No new business.

Item 16 Schedule of next Annual Meeting

- The next Annual Meeting will happen around this time next year. The exact date and location will be announced later.

Item 17 Closing remarks

- K. Dawson thanked everyone for attending the Annual Meeting.
- K. Dawson thanked the departing Directors, H. Tournier, and J. Lanouette.
- K. Dawson acknowledged the Board for their work leading up to the Annual Meeting and WPC staff for their hard work in organizing the Annual Meeting despite some unforeseen challenges.

Item 18 Meeting adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm ET.