

MINUTES OF THE 22nd. CARIFTA
CONGRESS
HELD AT THE AQUATIC CENTRE,
WILDEY, CHRIST CHURCH, BARBADOS
ON SUNDAY APRIL 09, 2006 AT 12:00
Noon

PRESENT were:	Sonia O'Neal (Chairperson)	Barbados
	Mr Haresh Gopwani – Secretary	Barbados
	Mrs Velma King-Recording Secretary	Barbados
	Philip Isaacs	Antigua & Barbuda
	Martha Shaw	Antigua & Barbuda
	Ronald van den Berg	Aruba
	John Bradley	Bahamas
	Algernon Cargill	Bahamas
	Albert St. John	Barbados-Water polo
	Dominic Ross	Cayman Islands
	Perry Rombough	Cayman Islands
	Robert Marajo	French Antilles
	Stephan Veronique	French Antilles
	Graham Williams	Grenada
	Nataly Regis	Grenada
	Kendis Nagle	Jamaica
	Jacqueline Walters	Jamaica
	Mark Jones	Jamaica-Water polo
	Iwan Loth	Netherlands
Antilles		
	Diane Worrell	St Lucia
	Brian Charles	St. Lucia
	Marcel Tjon Kong Hong	Suriname
	Rik Schuitemaker	Suriname
	Najitte Abraham	Trinidad & Tobago-
Water polo		
	Hazel Haynes	Trinidad & Tobago
	Vilma Cropper	Trinidad & Tobago
	Clyde Harcrow	US Virgin Islands
	Cynrhia Whitehurst	US Virgin Islands

The Congress considered the following agenda :-

Item 1 - Welcome

Item 2 - Roll Call and accreditation

Item 3 - Confirmation of minutes of the Congress meeting held in Curacao

on April 02, 2005

Item 4 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Congress Meeting of April

02, 2005

Item 5 - Correspondence

Item 6 - Matters Arising from the Conduct of the 2006 Carifta Swimming

Championships :- Barbados

(a) Swimming

(b) Water Polo

(c) Synchronised Swimming

Item 7 - Changes or Amendments to the Rules for Conducting the Championships:

(a) Swimming

(b) Water Polo

(c) Synchronised Swimming

Item 8 - Special Terms or Conditions for Hosting the Championships

(a) Swimming

(b) Water Polo

(c) Synchronised Swimming

Item 9 - Selection of Host Country for CARIFTA 2007

Item 10 Selection of Host Country for CARIFTA 2008

Item 11 Selection of Alternate Host Countries for Years 2007/2008

Item 12 Update Contact List

Item 13 Any Other Business

(a) Selection of Candidate for CCCAN Executive (CAC Games)

(b) Amendment to the Carifta Order of Events: Inclusion of 400

IM,

800 & 1500 M freestyle in 11-12 age group

© Deadline for circulation of Minutes of last congress meeting

(d) Sanction from CCCAN for The Carifta Swimming

Championships

(e) Disclaimer - to be signed by each CARIFTA Competitor

Item 1 -Welcome

Chairperson Mrs. Sonia O'Neal, President of Barbados Amateur Swimming Association called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m after hosting lunch for the Delegates of the 2006 Carifta Swimming Championships, graciously extending welcoming remarks on behalf of the local Association.

Item 2 -Roll call & accreditation

The Delegates submitted letters of accreditation from their National Federations and were identified in the roll call as outlined in the attached register of attendees.

Item 3-Confirmation of Minutes of the Twenty First CARIFTA Congress held in Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on April 02, 2005.

Minutes were confirmed by the Representative from the Netherlands Antilles, Mr Iwan Loth and seconded by the Representative from the Cayman Islands, Mr Dominic Ross, subject to the correction of the following errors and omissions :-

Page 1 Item 3 - line 1 - change "Nicole Hoevertz" to "Ronald van den Berg"

Page 1 Item 3 - line 4 - change "Bahamas" to "Grenada"

The Representative for Jamaica, Mrs Jacqueline Walters stated that the Minutes did not reflect the discussion leading to changes for waterpolo and synchronised swimming. The Chairperson on enquiring about the nature of the changes was informed that Delegates could not remember exactly. She advised that the changes would have to be tabled again.

Item 4 Matters Arising from Twenty first CARIFTA Congress held in Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles on April 02

On the question of the dates of the Championship for 2006 The Representative for Suriname pointed out that it was agreed at the previous Congress Meeting that the Championships should be held the weekend after Easter and in a worse case the Easter weekend. The Representative for Barbados and Chairperson, Mrs Sonia O'Neal, pointed out that Barbados was not present at the 2005 Congress and was not aware of the date stipulations. Despite repeated efforts to obtain the minutes from both the previous Host Country and the Chairperson of the Congress meeting to become acquainted with the changes, the Minutes for the 2005

Championships had only been received two days prior to the start of the 2006 Championships. She went on to explain that changes introduced by the Country's education Department made it impossible to stage the Championships at the stated times. Barbados had circulated an email to the territories indicating that it was willing to concede the hosting of the 2006 Championship to another territory but no positive responses had been received. The meeting was also made aware that hotel rates for the Easter weekend in Barbados were higher and would create more problems to source accommodation in keeping with the specified US\$40.00 per day.

Ms Hazel Haynes of Trinidad & Tobago, appealed to other members to support the host country and be more flexible in setting dates; since conditions in each Country varied – Barbados endorsed those sentiments and stated that it was not in agreement with setting restrictions as there were no restrictions to CCCAN or any other meets that the territories currently attend. She stated that the Commonwealth Games were held in March and that CISC will be held in June all months not accommodating to the territories. All Countries must operate within dynamics occurring in the particular Country at the particular time.

The Representative for the Bahamas, Mr. Algernon Cargill, opined there should be no deviation from the dates set at the 2005 Congress and any territory wishing to make a change should approach the previous Congress before changing the date – The Representative for Antigua, Mr Philip Isaacs, agreed with this view. The Representative for The Cayman Islands, Mr Dominic Ross, also agreed with seeking permission but opined that communication should be with The Presidents of The National Federations and not the previous Congress.

A resolution was tabled to make an amendment to the rule approved at the 2005 Congress to read–Host Country should request permission from the Presidents of participating National Federations to make changes to the agreed dates. Any approach to make a change should be resolved before September 01 of the year preceding the Championships–.

This proposal was tabled by Mr Algernon Cargill, Representative for the Bahamas and seconded by Mr Rik Schuitemaker, Representative for Suriname and was decided by 10 in favour to 3 against. **The motion was carried.**

The Chairperson pointed out that the 400 M IM for the 11-12 age group had not been approved by any Congress but yet it was in the order of events for 2005 and this was not an issue despite the fact that it was **NOT** a Congress decision. She stated that this situation reeked of hypocrisy and unfair and unsystematic application of the rules.

Members were reminded that Carifta Guidelines as adopted in 1999 at the Congress in Jamaica stipulated 1 vote per country.

ITEM 5 Correspondence – There was no correspondence received.

Dates of birth:

Mrs Jacqueline Walters, Representative for Jamaica queried verification of dates of birth of swimmers entered in Hy Tech format and opined that the actual dates of birth must be entered should have been entered in addition to the age group. She indicated that this information should have been made available to all competing Federations. Members were reminded that the all passports were checked to support the age grouping of the swimmer. The Chairperson enquired as to whether there were any children suspected of competing in the wrong age group but delegates did not know of any.

Seed times:

Members also queried the seed times entered. The Chairperson and host Country Representative assured the meeting that the times and locations for the 400 and over events were checked as dictated by the summons.

Mr Dominic Ross, Representative for The Cayman Islands tabled the motion that –the competing Federations should identify the meets at which swimmers made the times in respect of the 400 M & over events and the host country should check the website for verification. This was being proposed citing difficulties with faxing meet results. It was felt that the electronic media should be utilised more. The motion was seconded by Rik Schuitemaker of Suriname and **carried** by a vote of 12 in favour, 1 not in favour.

Database:

Members agreed as suggested by Mr Bert Bell of The Bahamas that a regional data base of times should be set up using Hy-Tech technology and allowing 1 year for those Federations which did not have access to

obtain it. It was proposed that the host Country for Carifta 2007 would initiate this project.

Photographs:

It was noted that photos should be submitted in jpeg format and be 640cm x 480cm. The host Country cited numerous problems with both accessing and resizing photographs.

Opening Ceremony – Member Federations complained that the opening Ceremony interfered with the effect of the warm up of the distance swimmers since swimmers were required to warm up before the Ceremony. It was posited that warm up should continue during the ceremony. This was deemed disrespectful however to the host Country. The Chairperson and Representative for Barbados proposed that the Opening Ceremony take place the day before the start of the Competition. This would then be followed by the technical meeting and accreditation. The athletes would be taken back to the hotel after the opening ceremony while the coaches and Team Managers stay behind for the meeting. This proposal which was seconded by Mrs Jacqueline Walters, Representative for Jamaica **was carried unanimously on a vote of 13 in favour.**

ITEM 6 Matters Arising from the Conduct of the 2006 Carifta Swimming Championships :- Barbados

- (a)Swimming
- (b)Water Polo
- (c)Synchronised Swimming

The Chairperson requested addressing item “b” Water Polo first to allow Water Polo officials time to leave the meeting and prepare teams for the matches scheduled to start in the early afternoon. This was agreed.

(b) ***Water Polo*** – Mrs Najitte Abraham, Representative for Trinidad & Tobago, Waterpolo, suggested that the host country provide 2 impartial FINA certified referees and opined that the level of refereeing was very poor at the current Championships – The Chairperson on enquiring how the expenses of these FINA Referees would be met was told that the participating Countries could be asked to cover the expenses equally. There was no clear agreement from members on this suggestion. Mr Mark Jones, Representative for Jamaica, Waterpolo as well as Mr Albert St John, waterpolo Representative for Barbados, did not agree that the Refereeing was poor.

It was opined that more referees needed to be trained in order to improve the standard at competitions and to reduce related costs.A suggestion was

made to approach Cuba, Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic for support.

It was proposed by Najitte Abraham of Trinidad & Tobago and seconded by Mr Iwan Loth of the Netherland Antilles that –the Host Country for Carifta each year approach FINA to sponsor a Water Polo clinic to which other federations would be invited– the motion was carried on a vote of 11 in favour and 2 abstentions.

It was further stated that the waterpolo schedule at the current Championship was too late which while undesirable could not have been avoided due to the fact that there was only one pool.

It was further proposed by Mr David Farmer, Representative for Grenada and seconded by Najitte Abraham, Representative for Trinidad and Tobago that --Water Polo should be staged a weekend other than that of swimming and if warranted, at another location– the motion was carried unanimously on a vote of 13 in favour.

The Bahamas, represented by Mr Algernon Cargill proposed that –in the event that the host Country had the necessary facilities to stage all 3 disciplines, then they should be hosted together–other wise the 3 disciplines would be separated in any year that the bidding Country could not host all three sucessfully – This proposal was seconded by Mr Iwan Loth, Representative for the Netherland Antilles. The motion was carried on a vote of 11 in favour, 2 not in favour.

It was posited that waterpolo should accommodate more than one age group to allow the discipline to develop. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas would experience difficulty in handling more than one age group – Netherland Antilles had developed the discipline enough to accommodate more than one age group.

A proposal was made by The Chairperson and Representative for Barbados and seconded by Trinidad & Tobago that “Age grouping should remain the same” the motion was carried on a vote of 7 in favour, 1 not in favour and 5 abstentions.

Mrs Najitte Abraham, Trinidad & Tobago's Waterpolo Representative excused herself at 2:00 PM.

Mr Bert Bell, Representative for The Bahamas opined that Water Polo officials should be accredited by upper level bodies.

(a) ***Swimming:***

The following concerns were raised :-

(a) inadequate lighting in the pool – It was stated that inadequate lighting may have led to DQ's. The Chairperson enquired as to whether swimmers had complained, but received no response.

(b) noise levels and distraction of whistles etc. from the stands and referees not insisting on absolute quiet before starting the races.

© Representative for Suriname complained that his Country's Flag was missing from the Carifta Poster on the deck. The Chairperson reiterated her apologies. However the Suriname flag had been mounted on the flag pole with all of the other Countries.

© Concerns were raised by the Delegates from Jamaica , Trinidad & Tobago and the Netherland Antilles on the present configuration of the French Antilles where three Countries were being allowed to combine as one. Delegates were informed that the format was legal as a vote sanctioning their combined participation had been solicited at one of the Carifta Congresses. Delegates also asked for clarification on whether swimmers living in France could compete and how would one distinguish them. It was pointed out that the French Antilles were an extension of France and hence no boundaries were observed. The same situation occurred in the US Virgin Islands as outlined by Mr Clyde Harcrow where passports were not stamped when entering the USA since it was viewed that persons had not left US territory. It was noted that Carifta would have to live with this situation.

Item 7 – Changes or Amendments to the Rules for Conducting The Championships:

a) Swimming – On a suggestion to alternate CARIFTA between 25m and 50m pools, stating that Carifta could be short course one year and long course the other, Delegates did not agree. Delegates were reminded that the inaugural Caribbean Games were scheduled for 2009 and this meet, it was proposed, would alternate with Carifta.

The following rates were proposed for revision:-

The Representative for Barbados and Chairperson proposed that **meet fees** should be revised to US\$60.00 per person per night to reflect the current market rates and the inflation most economies had been experiencing. The Chairperson stated that Barbados was unable to negotiate rooms and meals for US \$40.00. Members felt that a revision to US\$ 50.00 was more reasonable and that this should be tried first rather than a steep increase of US \$ 20.00. The motion was therefore proposed by Barbados and seconded by Mr Algernon Cargill, Representative for The Bahamas, **that the meet fee for 4 persons in a room for Carifta be changed to US\$50.00** including breakfast and dinner. **The motion was carried** on a vote of 7 in favour, 3 not in favour, 3 abstentions.

Entry Fees:

Barbados also proposed a revision of the entry fees from the current US \$2.50 and proposed a change to US \$5.00 per entry per swimmer. Netherland Antilles proposed that the meeting consider US\$3.50. This was accepted. The proposal therefore for meets fees for individual events to be changed to US\$3.50 per event was put by the Representative for Barbados and Chairperson, and seconded by Mr Rik Schuitemaker, representative for Suriname and **was carried** on a vote of 10 in favour, 3 not in favour.

Relay entry fees: A revised relay entry fee of US\$ 10.00 was proposed by Barbados but revised down to US\$7.50 by the Netherland Antilles. **The motion was carried for relay entry fees per relay to be changed to US\$ 7.50** as proposed by the Representative for Barbados and Chairperson and seconded by Mr Iwan Loth, Representative for the Netherland Antilles on a vote of 10 in favour, 2 not in favour, 1 abstention.

Discussion ensued on water polo fees. It was stated that in any year where waterpolo was separated from swimming the discipline would have to stand on its own financially. Expenses incurred for each waterpolo player re accommodation and meals were exactly the same as for swimming. It was felt therefore that the fees were too low in relation to swimming to sustain itself. It was therefore proposed by Mr Iwan Loth of the Netherland Antilles and seconded by Mrs Hazel Haynes of Trinidad

and Tobago that water polo fees be increased to US\$ 100.00 per team. **The motion was carried** on a vote of 7 in favour, 2 not in favour with 4 abstentions.

© *Synchronised Swimming*—it was stated that synchronised swimming would be reviewed at the congress meeting in Curacao.

Eligibility re residency and citizenship – On the question of eligibility re the FINA rules, The Representative from the Cayman Islands, Mr Dominic Ross, stated that to become a citizen of The Cayman Islands one had to be resident there for 15 years. Both Mrs Hazel Haynes, Representative for Trinidad and Tobago and Cayman Islands felt that given the character of Carifta and its target audience that the FINA rules could be relaxed to allow participation of persons not meeting the current criteria for eligibility. The Chairman, however reminded the meeting that in the summons it was stated that the meet observed FINA rules without any qualification and that this would have to be amended if members agreed to relaxing the rules. It was further proposed by Mr David Farmer, Representative for Grenada that the rule be revisited on a three year period, and that an athlete must be resident in the Country he/she is seeking to represent for 1 year at least and must not have swum for another Country or be a member of another sport Country during this period. A proposal in this regard was tabled by Mr Dominic Ross, Representative for the Cayman Islands and seconded by Mr Rik Schuitemaker, Representative for Suriname that –for the next 3 years an athlete must have been resident in the country he/she is representing for 1 year prior to the championships and must not have swum for another Country or be a member of another sport Country within the 12 month period.–. **The motion was carried** on a vote of 11 in favour, 2 not In favour.

Item 8 – Special Terms or Conditions for Hosting the Championships –

This item was discussed as part of item 7.

Item 9 – Selection of Host Country for CARIFTA 2007 –

After much discussion members agreed that bids for hosting the three disciplines would be made separately even if the disciplines were being hosted in the same Country.

Swimming – Mrs Jacqueline Walters, Representative for Jamaica, raised a bid for Jamaica to host Carifta 2007. This was accepted by the Delegates and Jamaica was confirmed as the Host Country for Carifta 2007. Mrs Walters indicated that the dates would have to take Cricket World Cup into consideration and that Carifta on this occasion may not conform to the stated date principles previously agreed. She promised to give an indication of the dates as early as possible once the schedule for Cricket World Cup was published.

Synchronised swimming– Jamaica was also confirmed as host Country for Carifta Synchronised Swimming 2007.

Waterpolo–Netherland Antilles won the bid from Jamaica to host Carifta Waterpolo 2007 when put to the vote. Waterpolo therefore for 2007 will take place in the Curacao.

Item 10 Selection of Host Country for CARIFTA 2008 :-

Swimming – Mr Algernon Cargill bid to host Carifta 2008 in The Bahamas was successful. He indicated that he will seek to have the meet accredited as a FINA Olympic qualifier.

Water Polo – Trinidad & Tobago won the bid to host Waterpolo in 2008.

Synchronised Swimming – Aruba won the bid to host synchronised swimming in 2008.

It was agreed that the bids would be reconfirmed at the Congress meeting in Jamaica in 2007.

Item 11 Selection of Alternate Host Countries for theYear 2007

Swimming & Synchronised Swimming--Aruba alternate host Country for 2007

Waterpolo–Trinidad & Tobago–alternate host Country for 2007

Item 12 Update Contact List

Item 13 Any Other Business

(a)Selection of Candidate for CCCAN Executive at the CAC Games – Mr. John Eyre of Jamaica , Mr Errol Clarke of Barbados and Mr Iwan Loth of the Netherland Antilles were propped. Mr Loth who was

present accepted to be considered for the position of Secretary, Mr Eyre was proposed as Vice President, English speaking Caribbean and Mr Errol Clarke was proposed as President. It was the view of the Delegates that the English speaking Caribbean should have a greater presence on the CCCAN Executive. Members agreed that a firm decision would be made at CISC in Puerto Rico. Delegates were of the view that the proposed Candidates should circulate via email their endorsement statements along with their CV's.

(b)Inclusion of 400 IM, 800 & 1500 M freestyle in the order of events for the 11-12 age group – A proposal was tabled by Mr Dominic Ross of the Cayman Islands and seconded by Mrs Hazel Haynes of Trinidad and Tobago –to include the 400 IM in the order of events for the 11-12 age group- **The motion was carried** on a vote of 10 in favour, 3 not in favour.

©A proposal made by Mr Dominic Ross of The Cayman Islands and seconded by Mr Philip Isaacs of Antigua and Barbuda to include 4 x 200 M Relay in the order of events for the 11-12 age group **was defeated** on a vote of 5 in favour, 7 not in favour, 1 abstention.

(d)Deadline for circulation of Minutes of last congress meeting – It was agreed that the deadline for the circulation of the minutes of the Congress meeting would be three months subsequent to the date of the Congress.

(e)Status of Carifta vis a vis CCCAN. – Research needed to be done on the status of Carifta vis a vis CCCAN as the authorized body for staging championships. It was agreed that the next host Country would conduct such research.

(f) Disclaimer for all competitors:It was agreed that a disclaimer must be developed to be signed by each CARIFTA competitor – Jamaica would prepare a disclaimer for 2007 and devise procedures for signing.

The Delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad & Tobago and The Netherlands Antilles expressed thanks to Barbados for a well run

Championships. Their encouraging remarks were graciously accepted by Barbados.

There being no further business the meeting was terminated at 4:05 p.m.

SignedChairperson

Date.....2006