

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

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ILS NEWSLETTER



2008/2

ILS Board Meeting in China



The ILS Board of Directors (BOD) met in Hangzhou, China. Hereunder we present the summary of decisions taken.

- 001:** The BOD unanimously approved the agenda of the Meeting.
- 002:** The Minutes of the BOD Meeting held in Porto (Portugal) were approved as amended.
- 003:** The activity report of the ILS President was unanimously received.
- 004:** The activity report of the ILS Secretary General was unanimously received.
- 005:** The activity report for the African Region was presented by Major General Dr. Yoursy Dawoud PhD (Egypt), ILS Vice-President and President for Africa and was unanimously received.

006: The activity report for the Americas Region was presented by B. Chris Brewster (United States), ILS Vice-President and President for the Americas and was unanimously received.

007: The activity report for the Asia-Pacific Region was presented by Robert Bradley (Australia - Royal), ILS Vice-President and President for Asia-Pacific and was unanimously received.

008: The activity report for the European Region was presented by Dr. Klaus Wilkens PhD (Germany), ILS Vice-President and President for Europe and was unanimously received.

009: The YMCA Venezuela (currently Associate Member) applied for Full Membership. The BOD unanimously recommend to the General Assembly to approve the YMCA Venezuela as Full Member of ILS.

010: Dr. Klaus Wilkens informed the Board that the Full Member of Portugal is a Governmental organisation. Dr. Klaus Wilkens informed the BOD that Portugal intends to create in the coming three years, a new non-governmental and not for profit organisation. Dr. Klaus Wilkens agreed to regularly update the BOD on the evolution.

011: The BOD postponed the decision on the application of the Life Saving Association of Nigeria to the next Meeting and will discuss the matter when payments have been received.

012: The BOD postponed the decision on the application of the Life Saving Association of Sao Tome and Principe to the next Meeting and will

discuss the matter when payments have been received.

013: The BOD postponed the decision on the application of the Life Saving Association of Costa Rica until they submit their application in the proper format and in English.

014: The BOD postponed the decision on the application of the Life Saving Association of Bosnia-Herzegovina to become a Full Member until payments have been received.

015: The BOD unanimously approved the names of the Commissions as follows:

- Drowning Prevention
- Lifesaving
- Sport

016: The BOD approved the split of the Rescue and Education Committee into a Rescue Committee and an Education Committee.

017: The BOD unanimously delegated the responsibility to B. Chris Brewster to develop the Terms of References for the Rescue and Education Committees.

018: The BOD unanimously approved maintaining a Finance Committee.

019: The BOD unanimously approved new ILS structure as presented above.

020: The BOD agreed that Board Portfolios are responsible for Board work and should therefore be appointed by the Board without the need to call for nominations. Board Portfolios may be comprised of one person or a working group depending on the work to be accomplished.

021: The BOD received, studied and unanimously approved the Terms of References of the Drowning Prevention Commission and its Committees:

- ILS Child Drowning Committee
- ILS Drowning Research and Information Committee
- ILS Aquatic Disasters Committee
- ILS Collaboration Committee

022: The BOD received, studied and unanimously approved the Terms of References of the Lifesaving Commission and its Committees:

- Rescue Committee (*)
- Education Committee (*)
- Medical Committee
- WWS-Conference Committee

023: The BOD received, studied and unanimously approved the Terms of References of the Sport Commission and its Committees:

- Technical and Rules Committee
- Event Management Committee
- Sport Development Committee
- Anti-Doping Committee
- Athletes Committee

024: The BOD received, studied and unanimously approved the Terms of References of the Board Committees and Portfolio's:

- Chancellery

- Commissioners
- Ethics
- Equity and Diversity
- Finance
- Governance
- Strategic Planning
- Discipline

025: The BOD received, studied and unanimously approved the Terms of References of the ILS Secretariat Committees and Portfolio's:

- Bid Oversight
- Marketing and Revenue Generation
- Communications

026: The BOD was informed of the creation of an independent Open Water Drowning Prevention task force under the leadership of Dr. Linda Quan MD. Dr. Quan had been invited to make this an official ILS task force, but had decided to keep it independent; however, several ILS officials are part of the group, including B. Chris Brewster, Dr. Steve Beerman MD, Peter George, and Norman Farmer. It was unanimously approved that the decision on how to manage liaisons with International Organisation should be left to the new BOD elected at the Berlin General Assembly.

027: The activity report of the Lifesaving Commission, presented by B. Chris Brewster (USA), Commissioner, was received.

028: The BOD unanimously approved that the Constitution, as amended, be submitted for approval to the 2008 General Assembly.

029: The BOD agreed (no vote) that the English language be the reference language.

030: The BOD unanimously approved that the Bye Laws and the Governance Policy be revised to ensure that the language is easily understood and consistent with the Constitution.

031: The BOD unanimously approved the nomination process and timelines for the upcoming elections and Commission/Committee appointments.

032: The BOD approved that the composition of each ILS Commission and Committee must include at least one representative from each gender.

033: The BOD unanimously approved the code of Ethical Principles.

034: The BOD approved:

- To change the Strategic Goal number 2 to read as follows: Position ILS as the international leader, advocate and global best practice authority for medical, education and rescue issues in lifesaving and lifeguarding.
- To change the Key Performance Indicator number 3 to read as follows: Enter into additional formal strategic alliances with... (to be identified). The BOD will look at the most appropriate organisations before the next General Assembly and accepted an E-mail vote on the issue.

- To change the Key Performance Indicator number 6 to read as follows: World Water Safety 2011 has a minimum of 300+ delegates from 50 countries and 100 presenters from across all four ILS Regions.

035: The BOD approved that the 2007 Finances will be handled at the Berlin meeting.

036: The activity report of the Business Commission given in APPENDIX 12A, presented by Robert Bradley (Australia-Surf), Commissioner, was received.

037: The activity report of the Sports Commission presented by Jelle Meintsma (South-Africa), Commissioner, was unanimously received.

038: The BOD unanimously received the progress report presented by Dr. Klaus Wilkens on Rescue 2008 to be held in Berlin and Warnemunde in July 2008.

039: The BOD unanimously received the report presented by Dr. Harald Vervaecke, who refrained from voting, on the Surfboat World Championships to be held in Doha, Qatar in November 2008.

040: The BOD unanimously received the report presented by Morrie Chiang on the 2009 World Games to be held in Kaohsiung – Chinese Taipei in 2009.

It was resolved:

- That the ILS President and Secretary General, as well as the Technical Delegate be present at this event.
- That the Secretary General would tackle the matter of medals with the International World Games Federation.
- The ILS President warmly thanked Morrie Chiang for the excellent presentation and for his dedication to the World Games.

041: The BOD unanimously received the information presented by Clive Holland (RLSS Commonwealth) on the 2009 Commonwealth Meeting and Championships that will be organised from 9 to 11 June 2009 in Edmonton – Canada.

042: The BOD unanimously received the progress report presented by John Martin (Great Britain – Surf) on Rescue 2010 to be held in Newquay in July 2010. Concerns were expressed on the guaranteed availability of the temporary pool. The Board agreed:

- That a letter be mailed to SLS-GB to inform them of the concerns of the BOD related to the temporary pool.
- That the temporary pool matters be included in the agreement as an addendum.

043: The BOD unanimously approved the following nominations for ILS awards:

- Dato Teik Lee (Malaysia): Commendation letter by the President, ILS Medal and Citation of Merit of ILS.
- President's Award (at the expense of ILS):

- Helmut Stohr (Germany)
- Tom Daly (USA)
- Robert Gear (Australia)

044: The BOD unanimously approved the awarding of the Citation of Merit to:

- Mr. Jin Zhi – Executive Director of China Lifesaving Association.
- Mr. Zhang Wei – Staff Member of the Chinese Lifesaving Federation.
- Mr. Zhang Guannan – Staff Member of the Chinese Lifesaving Federation.
- Mr. Feng Guangheng – Staff Member of the Chinese Lifesaving Federation.



Jin Zhi – Executive Director of China Lifesaving Association.

045: The BOD received the document of the Membership Task Force and commended the Task Force (John Martin, Dr. Dirk Bissinger and Ian Fullagar) for an outstanding job. The following was unanimously resolved:

- Refine the document where needed.
- Add financial implications to the decisions.
- Distribute the document to the ILS membership for comments.
- Refine the document with the input of the ILS membership.
- Present the resolutions at the 2012 General Assembly.

046: The BOD unanimously agreed to create a FEE Task Force composed of the ILS President or Secretary General, Dr. Klaus Wilkens, Martin O'Sullivan, B. Chris Brewster, Doug Fergusson, Norman Farmer and Jelle Meintsma to resolve the FEE – Blue Flag matters.

047: The BOD agreed that working groups can be created by the Commissions without going through the BOD.

048: The BOD unanimously agreed that the process and reporting structure be the same in all commissions/committees.

049: The BOD unanimously agreed that ILS should set up a policy for Intellectual Property Protection. The Secretary General volunteered to guide this operation.

050: The BOD approved that the BOD ratifies all ILS Position Statements and all policy/standard documents that have financial implications outside of the budget.

European Board of Directors met in Croatia



This year's Board of Directors meeting of the European Branch of the International Life Saving Federation was held once again in Cavtat, close to Dubrovnik in Croatia from April 18th to 20th. The last BOD-meeting in Croatia took place in 2001; last year's BOD-meeting took place in Belgrade, Serbia and in 2009, the BOD will meet in Cyprus. Great thanks have to be given to our Croatian Full Member for all preparatory work before and the efforts and hospitality during the meeting.

The President Dr. Klaus Wilkens (Germany), the Vice Presidents Bertil Werner (Sweden), Frank Nolan (Ireland) and Jerzy Telak (Poland) as well as the Secretary General Dr. Dirk Bissinger (Germany) and the present Directors and Observers from all over Europe could run an efficient and productive meeting, including the preparation of this year's General Assembly later this year in Berlin (Germany). Observers from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia took the chance for personal meetings with the President and Board Members.

After the Commission Meeting in January this year, each Commission presented an activity report resulting in several applications from Education, Rescue, Sport and Management and Administration Commission where discussed and decided to enhance the work and mission of ILSF: The Education Commission chaired by Gerald Innerwinkler (Austria) continues to harmonise training and education throughout Europe, e.g. towing techniques, the Rescue Commission chaired by Martin O'Sullivan (Ireland) is

enhancing the Risk Assessment system for a higher level of Beach Safety after the good experiences in the last years and discussed a standardised approach for training of Lifeguards, the Sport Commission chaired by Bob Dekkers (The Netherlands) organised upcoming events like 2009 European Lifesaving Championships and European Junior Lifesaving Championships whereas the Management and Administration Commission led by Di Standley (United Kingdom) presented several applications to help young and smaller Associations to become completely self-sustainable.

Furthermore some amendments to the Bye-laws were proposed to be implemented at the General Assembly in Berlin and the Development Advisor of ILSF, Helmut Stöhr (Germany) presented the successful projects and measures which took place in 2007 and also informed on running projects and courses to be held in 2008. Altogether, much work was done to promote Water Safety in Europe!

The official meeting was finalised by a wonderful dinner with traditional Croatian food on Saturday evening, followed by a visit to the beautiful town centre of Dubrovnik on Sunday.

*Article received by Dr. Dirk Bissinger
Secretary General, International Life Saving
Federation of Europe (ILSF)*

2008 Australian Water Safety Conference in Sydney



The 2008 Australian Water Safety Conference was held on 15-16 May at the Sydney Crowne Plaza, Darling Harbour with a traditional welcome to country by Allen Madden from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council followed by the official opening by Noeline Brown, Ambassador for Ageing.

The 2008 Australian Water Safety Conference allowed a range of Australian and International experts to present and share best practice, research and innovations in water safety, as well provided the perfect forum to launch the draft of

the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2008-2011 aimed at significantly reducing drowning deaths in Australia.

The Australian Water Safety Council emphasizes that water safety is everyone's responsibility and by uniting Australian and International water safety experts at the conference the Council will review and incorporate the information presented into the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2008-2011.

"The Australian Water Safety Council collaboratively have set an ambitious however entirely achievable challenge in the latest Australian Water Safety Strategy covering 2008-2011 and that is to reduce the total drowning deaths by 50% by 2020," Australian Water Safety Council Convenor and Royal Life Saving CEO Rob Bradley said.

"After the encouraging decrease of 20% in drowning deaths between 2000-04, there have been a number of disturbing trends emerge recently", added Bradley.

This year's international keynote presenter was Dr Michael Linnan, Technical Director of The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) who focussed on how we hope to assist Asia to adopt the Australian culture of water safety.

Australian Water Safety Council - Member Organisations are:

- AUSTSWIM,
- Royal Life Saving Society Australia,
- Surf Life Saving Australia,
- Swimming Australia,
- Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport,
- Farmsafe Australia,
- Kidsafe Australia,
- Australian National Sportfishing Association,
- Aquatic and Recreation Institute,
- Surfing Australia,
- Australia and New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group,
- Australian Local Government Association,
- Australian Swimming Teachers and Coaches Association.

The 2008 Australian Water Safety Conference is supported by The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

More information on the 2008 Australian Water Safety Conference: www.watersafety.com.au

Beach Safety and the Law: Australian Evidence



A landmark publication outlining the latest legal developments on coastal safety has been released by Surf Life Saving Australia, Queensland Law Society and Queensland University of Technology.

This book presents an expert assessment of current legal issues related to beach safety in Australia. Prominent judges and leading legal practitioners examined case law, statutory regulations and legal trends affecting:

- Local government
- Tourism operators and accommodation providers
- Emergency services, and
- The general public by way of duties of care owed to them by those in charge of beaches, and also their personal responsibility to safely enjoy the beach.

Major conclusions from the summit

The responsibilities of local government, surf lifesaving volunteers, tourism operators or police and emergency services personnel is to take reasonable care to protect beach users from risks. In discharging this reasonable care constant attention must be given to regular review of obligations and systems in place for beach safety. The law has long recognised the hazards and potential dangers involved with surfing and beach

use. A 'Good Samaritan' response to help someone else at the beach, however, is now largely protected by legislation and this extends to volunteers such as surf lifesavers who are serving the community and acting in good faith.

Under Australian civil liability legislation beach users must largely take personal responsibility for 'obvious' risks. However, a person's age and general knowledge are relevant in deciding if they should have recognised an obvious risk.

A consistently repeated observation by the experts was that tourists are an 'at risk' group requiring special attention. Risks may not be obvious to them due to a lack of local knowledge about beach conditions, poor swimming ability and language barriers.

Recognising the vulnerability of tourists, the experts recommended that tourism operators take steps to train their staff in beach safety and to educate their clients about swimming between the red and yellow flags on patrolled beaches.

Beach safety across the nation would be greatly enhanced by standardised guidelines and signage, consistent safety messages and by improved coordination between volunteer surf lifesavers, salaried lifeguards and government emergency services.

Civil liability legislation in all Australian jurisdictions is relatively new. Provisions relating to 'obvious risks' and 'dangerous recreational activities' were examined for the first time in relation to surfing and beach recreation.

Beach Safety and the Law: Australian evidence is available for purchase online at the SurfTrade Online Store:
http://www.shop.creatata.com/wcsstore/CreatataCatalogueAUS/surftrade_index.html

For more information contact Surf Life Saving Australia: <http://www.slsa.asn.au/>

LIFESAVING SPORT NEWS

Australian Lifesaving Team Rescue 2008

The Australian Lifesaving Team for the Rescue 2008 World Life Saving Championships has been announced.

Some of the stars making their Australian Team debut for the World Lifesaving Championships is recently crowned Australian Ironman and

Ironwoman, Shannon Eckstein and Alicia Marriott, along with NSW Ironwoman Naomi Flood, Royal Lifesaver of the Year Mitch Parkes and Australian Open Surf Champion Chris Allum.



World Ironwoman Champion Kristy Munroe will captain the team, with the long time Australian Team member looking to retire from the sport on top by taking her third consecutive World Ironwoman title.

"I received the phone call last night to say I made the team - it's always a big relief when they finally name the team because it is something you train for two years to make.

The Australian Team is always a tough team to be selected in because you need to be versatile especially if you're a water competitor because you need to be able to cover more than 20 events. I think we have a really good team with strengths in both the pool rescue and the surf events. It's good to see some new faces in the team and especially Alicia Marriott, who has had such a great season.

Being named captain is real honour - I think it's a great acknowledgement of my career. Most people have had a couple of weeks off after the nationals so it will be back to training now. Being named in the Australian Team is great motivation to get back into training during the winter months and with less than three months to the Worlds (Lifesaving Championships) everyone will be working hard," she said.

A new look Australian Lifesaving Team has today been announced to travel to Germany in July to defend Australia's number one world ranking at Rescue 2008 - the World Lifesaving Championships.

Competitors at the championships have their skills tested in events such as the Simulated Emergency Rescue (SERC), 200m Super Lifesaver, Ironman & Ironwoman and Surf Race. Australian Team Coach Brett Dowker said the

World Lifesaving Championships will test competitors both in the pool and in the surf.

"Most of the European countries are in the peak of their season and although Australia and New Zealand are in their off-season, both countries are expected to do very well.

"Obviously Australia hopes to defend their number one world ranking however we're expecting our toughest competition to come from our friends over the Tasman, New Zealand, who are proving very strong in both the pool rescue and surf events," said Dowker.

Australian Team Manager Jeannie Baxter-Reid said that recent results suggested that competition in the pool events would be intense, with a mounting challenge coming from the European teams.

"The very close results in the recent German Cup and Asia Pacific Championships signal the most intense international lifesaving competition seen for years," Baxter-Reid added.

Australia will be competing against teams from more than 30 other nations, and fending off the mounting challenge from hot favourites New Zealand, and the top performers from Europe and South Africa.

The Australian Lifesaving Team for Rescue 2008 is:

- Kristy Munroe (Captain)
- Chris Allum (Cronulla SLSC)
- Andrew Bowden (The Hills LSC RLSSA)
- Shannon Eckstein (Northcliffe SLSC)
- Naomi Flood (Manly SLSC)
- Cara Langendam (Bulli SLSC)
- Downie Langthorne (Bulli SLSC)
- Alicia Marriott (City of Perth SLSC)
- Thomas Noland (North Cottosloe SLSC)
- Mitch Parkes (Port Hacking Lifeguards RLSSA)
- Jenny Parry (QLD Sharks LSC RLSSA / North Burleigh SLC)
- Sarah Windsor (Port Hacking Lifeguards RLSSA)

Source: <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/>

From the Calendar

20 Jun 2008	IRB Championships	Australia
18 Jul 2008	Rescue 2008 - Life Saving World Championship	Germany
07 Aug 2008	United States Lifesaving Association National Lifeguard Championships	United States of America
22 Aug 2008	Baltic Open Water Championships (BOWCH)	Poland
08 Sep 2008	European Junior Championships Life Saving	Netherlands
19 Oct 2008	Coolangatta Gold	Australia

NEWSLETTER COMPILED BY
 DR. HARALD VERVAECKE - SECRETARY GENERAL
 SANDRA HARTHOORN – ILS COMMUNICATION CTTEE.
 CHAIR