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To WCF Member Associations

Following a call today the World Curling Federation Board has taken the difficult decision not to attempt to reschedule the World Women's, LGT World Men's, World Mixed Doubles and World Senior Curling Championships 2020, which were cancelled in March due to the global spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

This decision has consequences for world championship qualification in the 2020-2021 season, both for competing Member Associations and the various qualification events to be played in the new season. Also, there are consequences for the Olympic Qualification Points process for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 – a process approved by the International Olympic Committee.

This decision was taken following a detailed review of a number of different options and following discussions with various stakeholders including our Marketing and Media rights holders, and our Competition & Rules and Athlete Commissions.

The challenges we faced when looking at rescheduling were varied, firstly the biggest unknown is how long the current situation will last, the virus has spread across the world and the impact could continue for some time, it is difficult to see when we could reschedule the events with any confidence.

We are also in the position that both the WCF and the various event hosts will face significant deficits following the cancellations. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the insurance policies that were in place were not as comprehensive as thought and will not provide cover for this situation.

Finally, we are not the only sport to have faced cancellations and postponements to their events, trying to find a new slot in the calendar where we would have received the broadcast attention that our sponsorship deals would need to ensure they were fulfilled was going to be very difficult when you took into consideration events that would normally be scheduled then and potentially other events also be moved.

As noted, this decision will have implications on both next year's World Championships and the Qualification Process for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

The Board has approved the changes to the systems used for deciding the make-up and format of next year's World Championships under the powers granted to it in the constitution to take emergency decisions.

The relevant part of the constitution is:

16.13.5. when urgent, take decisions normally assumed by the General Assembly (as per Art. 15), except election of Board Members, expulsion of a Member Association, changes to the Constitution and dissolution of the WCF. In addition, in emergency situations between General Assemblies, the Board may propose changes to the Rules of Curling and the Rules of Competition. Any changes proposed by the Board in an emergency situation will be circulated to the Member Associations and if more than 10% of the Member Associations, holding full membership and being in good standing object in writing to the Board within 3 working days of notice being given, the rule change will not be implemented and the matter will be referred to the next General Assembly of the WCF. Otherwise the Board's decision to revise the rule(s) for the emergency situation will stand until the next General Assembly

16.13.6. In such a case the decision must be approved by the next General Assembly in accordance with the constitutional requirements at the next General Assembly.

The Board felt that it was not possible to wait until the Annual General Assembly to make these decisions as event planning needs to take place as soon as possible to allow Member Associations plan their seasons and budgets.

World Curling Championships 2021 qualification

First of all, for the women's and men's events, qualification for the 2021 world championships will be as follows:

For the women, Switzerland (1) will qualify as the host, with the LGT World Women's Curling Championship 2021 taking place in Schaffhausen, Switzerland. Then, two (2) Pacific-Asia Zone Member Associations will qualify from the Pacific-Asia Curling Championships 2020 and another seven (7) European Member Associations will progress from the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships 2020.

The women's Americas Challenge, in 2021, will qualify two (2) Member Associations for the World Women's and will include both Canada and United States as obviously there was no way to determine who finished lower in the 2020 World Women's Curling Championship. Finally, given one of the Federation's three regional zones will not lose a guaranteed place in 2020 – as per the 'Qualification – World Championships Men & Women' portion of The Rules of Curling – just one (1) Member Association will qualify for the world championship via the World Qualification Event in 2021.

For the men, it varies slightly, Canada (1) will qualify as the host. The host city of the World Men's Curling Championship 2021 has yet to be announced, but is guaranteed to be in Canada as part of the long-term hosting arrangement between the World Curling Federation and Curling Canada.

A further two men's (2) Member Associations will qualify from Pacific-Asia and eight (8) from Europe. One (1) will qualify via the Americas Challenge and one (1) will qualify from the World Qualification Event in 2021.

For the Mixed Doubles the intention is that the 20 Member Associations qualified in 2020 retain their places for 2021. However, due to these unique circumstances the 2021 world



championship will be expanded to 24 Member Associations, with the four that qualify from the World Mixed Doubles Qualification Event in 2021 also taking part. Eight MA's will be relegated from the 2021 World Championship to return the number competing at the 2022 event to 20 teams.

Under the WCF Constitution Clause 16.13.5 any full Member Association that objects to these may object in writing within 3 working days (ie by close of business – 1700 – UK time on Wednesday 8th April 2020. If more than 10% of the Member Associations object then the changes to the format and make-up of the World Championship will not be implemented and it will be referred to the Annual General Assembly. Objections should be sent to colin.grahamslaw@worldcurling.org

Please note the decision on the Olympic Qualification procedure is not subject to the same approval as this is agreed with the IOC.

Olympic Qualification Points procedure

With the World Curling Championships not taking place in 2020, no Olympic Qualification Points will be awarded.

The World Curling Federation will seek approval from the International Olympic Committee, for the new proposal, that the top 6 teams in the World Curling Championships 2021 (for the Mixed Doubles it would be the top 7 teams plus China as hosts or the top 8 teams if China finish in the top 7 places) will qualify for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 and that remaining Member Associations that do not qualify for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 from the 2021 World Curling Championships, will join any Member Association that had a place in the 2020 World Championships but has not qualified to compete in the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, in an expanded Olympic Qualification Event, in December 2021.

This will mean that in the Men's and Women's OQE there will be four qualification places available (unless China have failed to qualify from the World Curling Championships 2021 in which case, they will be automatically awarded a qualification spot leaving three places available). In the Mixed Doubles there will be two places available.

World Rankings

The current world rankings in women's, men's and mixed doubles will remain unchanged for another year.

With respect to the European C Division, attempts will be made to complete this event prior to the 2020 European Curling Championships A and B Divisions.

Finally, there are no additional consequences to the World Senior Curling Championships 2020 not taking place, given it does not lead to another event and is an open entry competition.

On behalf of the Board can I express our thanks for your positive understanding during this difficult time. Please look after yourselves and your families, stay safe and well and I hope life can get back to normal in the not too distant future.



Best Wishes,

Kate

Kate Caithness CBE
President
WORLD CURLING FEDERATION