

## IFSC Europe Newsletter – Winter 2021

Welcome to Europe IFSC's Winter Newsletter.

**Dear all, Dear NFs, Dear athletes,**

As well in 2021 we cannot expect a "normal" season, we still will have impairments, the continuation of "pandemic rules" and even cancellations of Events. The IFSC European Board is convinced that we shall do Events if possible, and in a responsible manner. We are aware that some teams might have problems to travel, and even last minute changes might occur. More Sport decisions have been taken and will be reported.

With great pleasure, we publish the regulations and more information regarding the IFSC Sustainability Award. In accordance with the IFSC and IFSC Europe Strategic Plan, we would like to act and not only talk in order to be a model for Sport Climbing events. In our last NF Call we felt a big support from your side that motivates us to go on with this subject. Thanks to all for their work and contributions, mainly to Colin Knowles and the Panel providing expertise on this project.

At the same time, another great project is launched: the CORS. An EU funded project driven by Jan Bloudek and five European partner federations to develop a high level Coach and Routesetters' education license and programme. It will be a great input to grow our sport and to support all those federations which have not such own programmes. IFSC and IFSC Europe will follow up this project until 2023.

Unfortunately we will not meet in person on the IFSC GA in Paris end of April, as it will be held virtually. I'm still looking forward to seeing you all, at least on screen!

All the best, stay healthy and in shape, best regards

**Wolfgang Wabel**, IFSC Europe President

### IFSC Europe Sustainability Award



Since the publication of the [IFSC Sustainability Guidelines](#) IFSC Europe (IE) has been considering ways in which we could play our part in reducing carbon emissions. We were very pleased to launch our [Sustainability Award](#) at the [National Federations Call](#) on February 10<sup>th</sup>.





Apart from influencing Events in our own calendar, we hope that it will stimulate you to take a close look at how your Events could become sustainable. A good place to start would be to take a close look at the [Event Organiser's Briefing Notes](#).



We have introduced an online [Sustainability reporting requirement](#). This simple form not only provides a report, which is forwarded to the IFSC Sport Department, but also enters the Event into the Sustainability Award scheme. This rule change has immediate effect.



### **CORS (Coaches and Routesetters Erasmus+ Project) is moving forward strongly.**

CORS is an Erasmus Plus funded project with the aim of creating training methods and materials for Coaching at European and National Level, and Routesetting at European Level. The project's partner countries are CMF (Czech Republic) (lead), JAMES (Slovakia), NSAS (Bulgaria), PZS (Slovenia), PZA (Poland), SKF (Sweden).



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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Since December a small task-finish group from the CORS partners and IFSC/IE have been putting place the fundamentals of this project. Practical arrangements for the Steering Committee and the Working Groups have been agreed.



The project's content will be developed by the Working Groups. The Content Guarantor will curate this content. Candidates for the Content Guarantor role have been interviewed; we hope that the successful candidate can take up this crucial post rapidly.



Membership of each Working Group is now being decided, with most participants being from the partner National Federations. Announcements on all these matters are expected imminently.

## **IFSC Europe Executive Board – recent Sports decisions.**

**COVID/Events** As COVID remains in pandemic status, advance reviews are still required to check if Events can be run. Last year we had a '60 day rule'. For this year your EB has decided that for all Youth Events this rule would become the '45 day rule'. The Perm EYCH has already been reviewed; it will take place, and its Info Sheet will be available this week.

Last year practical considerations led to a reduction of the quota by one for all EYC (B) Events down to **three** per Age group/Gender/National Federation. Following a review, we have decided to continue with this quota reduction for 2021. The quota for EYC (L) is yet to be finalised; the EYC (S) quota remains unchanged at **four**.

Special restrictions have are in place for the **Klagenfurt EC (B)**, due to official requirements:

- the registration deadline is 30 days before the event (i.e. 11<sup>th</sup> March);
- the NF quota will be reduced pro-rata if there are more than 100 competitors registered;
- each NF must pay €6/person for an antigen rapid test for all participants at the day of the event.

**EYCH Combined Qualifiers** The Combined final at the Perm EYCH will follow the Tokyo format and ranking system. After that, from 2022 onwards, all European championship Events will follow the finalised Paris format and the finalised Paris format ranking system.

**Cancelled Events** Sadly we have lost two of this year's Events – the Soure EYC (B) April 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Belgrade EC (B) May 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Munich 2022 European Championship** Plans are developing rapidly for this high-profile Event. Your EB discussed which was the best Combined format for Munich. We agreed that, in principle, we will adopt the Paris 2024 Combined format.

**2022+ Events** With the 2021 Calendar now underway, the call has gone out for MoU's for 2022. Most elements for 2022 are already in place; bids are coming in for the years ahead.

**Routesetters – Workshop & Exchange** The call has gone out to National Federations to nominate a routesetter to join one of two small Continental Routesetters Workshop later



this year. These workshops will enhance the pool of Continental Routesetters in Europe. The curriculum includes Safety, Organisation, Rules and Mode of operation.

Our Sports Department has launched a Routesetters Exchange program initiative. In this Exchange program, a nominated routesetter from one country sets routes for a national competition in one of the other countries (and so on). The visitor's federation meets the travel costs; in-country costs are met by the host federation. The exchange can be bi-lateral, tri-lateral (or even multi-lateral!). To register interest please [email](#) our Sports Department.

**Routesetting guidelines** Following the Moscow ECH, our Sports Department questionnaire was followed by a Feedback Call with National Federations. A strong message was that Coaches, in the preparation of athletes for a championship competition, feel they require the routesetting guidelines for that event to be published well in advance of the Event itself.

## Other updates

**Europe IFSC Strategy** The [IFSC Strategic Plan](#) was adopted at the November 2020 Plenary Assembly. Likewise, your EB has started to develop a strategic plan for Europe for 2021-2029. A draft version will be circulated for comment, probably after the Paris GA, and then a final version presented for adoption at our own GA in Portugal on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Paris GA 2021** It is a matter of great regret that, because of the practicalities imposed due to the pandemic, the Paris GA will be a virtual event. It will be spread over three days – April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> - to help manage the timezone challenges and increase personal interactions.

This GA will be notable for the election of a new Executive Board (President, Secretary-General, 2 Vice Presidents and Treasurer). The Nominations Committee is scrutinising nominations; we understand that there are four nominations for the two V-P roles, including Nils Glatthard (SAC) and IE President Wolfgang Wabel (DAV).

**Moscow WCH to go ahead** Following a recent decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) the IFSC has confirmed the World Championships scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September will go ahead. As noted above, the EYCH in Perm (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May) will also go ahead.

**Social Media specialist required!** IE wishes to use social media to raise the sport's profile across Europe. We need a volunteer with expertise in this area. If you know such a person, ask them to forward their CV via your National Federation to [europa.sg@ifsc-climbing.org](mailto:europa.sg@ifsc-climbing.org).

Wolfgang Wabel (President)  
Colin Knowles (Secretary-General)

