

## General Assembly 07.09.2024

**Place:** BZZ Zofingen

**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00

**Attendants Board:**

Cris Hengartner, Lotta Eklund, Nadja Arévalo, Marion Schweizer, Florence Lehot, Claudia Bartolini

### Agenda items

1. Opening of the Meeting / Roll Call
2. Input on the Minutes of the GA2023
3. Annual Report
4. Financial Matters
5. Proposals
6. General Information
7. Openings in the Association
8. Board Member Elections
9. Date and Place of next meeting
10. Questions/Discussion
11. Varia

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#### 1. Opening of Meeting / Roll Call

Jerome Bonnet does the vote count: 31 votes

Nadja Arévalo and Florence Lehot write the protocol

#### 2. Input on the Minutes of the GA22

Nothing unclear.

Voted: 29 accepted

#### 3. Annual Report

- Skillsdays and Coaches Courses throughout the season
- successful ICU&IASF championships
- Very successful ECU participation (3rd Place for Senior Coed, 1st Place for Senior Allgirl)
- Various camps and competitions
- Board retreat and restructuring/reorganization of SCA
  - 'new' Mission and Strategic Goals
- Association analysis by Swiss Olympic
  - We need to be more transparent to the public
  - For Swiss Olympic there need to be a gender quote (40% Male in the Board is needed)
  - Swiss Olympic says the mandate of the board members need to be statutorily limited,

that means, that a board member' position in the board is finite.

- There will be changes, which we will communicate throughout the year

#### **4. SCA Mission and Strategic Objectives**

Our mission as the Swiss Cheerleading Association is to build a strong foundation for our sport and facilitate the development and growth of cheerleading in Switzerland.

- encourage participation in the sport at all levels, from grass-root to elite
- provide education opportunities for our members
- organize and support championships in Switzerland
- increase the recognition of cheerleading as a sport

#### **5. Financial Statement 2020/2021**

There is a big plus this year, but this is because we received a lot of payments from national team athletes in this season, where the expenses were in the last season.

The revision couldn't be done on time. The option is offered to vote on this online after the GA if the clubs do not accept the financial statement.

Question: Is it planned to have more sponsors in the future?

Answer: At the moment we have nobody in charge of sponsors. With Swiss Olympic, we should get more funds but this takes time, since according to the industry standards we still need to fulfill more criteria to be placed in a tier.

Motion from TVL and Fire Allstars to go in the vote.

Votes: 27

Against 2

Abstentions: 2

#### **6. Annual Plan 2024/2025**

- Coaches Courses
  - November and February
- Skillsdays@Clubs
  - Stunts, Tumbling
- Championships
  - National, international and open championships
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- National Teams
  - Tryout Performance Cheer National Team
  - Participation at ICU Cheerleading World Championship with three national teams (Juniors and Senior Allgirl, Performance Cheer)

- Building up a coed national team, the goal is to compete in 2026
- Workshops/Conferences
- Rules Comprehension Course on 7th December (not yet confirmed, waiting for ICU approval)
- Swiss Olympic Education
- Board Get-away

#### 7. **Budget 23/24**

- Biggest point is the national team
- More investments for education
- Would like to hire somebody fee-based to be more professional, as it is too much to work on a volunteer basis

**Question:** is the amount of unexpected costs based on previous years? Because it seems quite low.

**Answer:** yes it's based on previous years, and we have buffers in each category

**Question:** why is the amount of the championship revenue and expense the same as the year before, with the Swiss Cheer Open implemented this season?

**Answer:** We already had it planned last year, but had to cancel the SCO.

**Question:** with this big plus, are we planning to support the national team more?

**Answer:** We planned 4000.- because the amount of athletes in the national team is only 5% of all cheerleaders in Switzerland. We want to invest our money in all the cheerleaders, not only in the national team.

**Question:** where is the money in the budget for the lower level cheer?

**Answer:** in Education

**Question:** how will you help the grassroots teams? Last year the clubs had to pay for skillsday.

**Answer:** They didn't have to pay the full amount, as the costs were much higher.

**Question:** are there more SCA Meetings throughout the year to get more information?

**Answer:** there are board meetings every month and if you wish you can always ask to be part of it. In the past during covid we had some delegates and coaches calls.

**Input:** Tina says that in other Federations they send out a letter after every board meeting with the newest information.

**Question:** what are the costs in Athletics?

**Answer:** we are planning a new concept to send coaches for free to grassroots teams, where they only have to pay for the gym

**Question:** how many coaches are planned to be sent for free to the clubs?  
5000 sounds quite low if we remember the price for coaches we had before.

**Answer:** we don't plan to send a coach every weekend

**Question:** when is it planned to send out the information about the new Skillsdays?

**Answer:** the concept is not finished yet, as we have to be sure it works for everybody. It should be until the end of the month.

**Question:** what would you define as a grassroots team?

**Answer:** Small clubs in low levels 1-3

**Question:** if a team is not chosen, can we request a coach and pay for it?

**Answer:** Yes, this is possible

**Question:** Do the staff need special requirements to be a coach for SCA?

**Answer:** yes, must have ICU Coaches Course and other certifications

Motion: Warriors and Lausanne Angeles

Votes: 29

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

## 8. Proposals

### **Art.9.8.2**

*Propositions of Member Associations, as well as candidate proposals have to be handed to the Board at least two weeks before the General Assembly.*

### **Art.9.8.3**

*Non-agenda items and candidate proposals which have not been handed in two weeks prior to the General Assembly have to be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the delegates with voting rights.*

## **Board Proposals**

### **Paid office Job at SCA**

Proposal to appoint a paid job to office to help with the workload and communication within the association and special projects.

**Question:** what is the salary planned for that?

**Answer:** 30-40 CHF per hour

**Question:** what is the timeline to find the person?

**Answer:** as soon as possible, November the latest

Motion: TVL and INC

Votes: 31

Motion: INC: we reassess the paid position in 6 month

Votes: 27

Against: 3

Abstentions: 1

#### New Club Membership: La Cote Cheerleaders

- 2 years now
- Kids from 8 to 12
- Very grassroots
- Basic and Lower Level Cheer
- Near Nyon

Motion: Lausanne Angels and HBC

Votes: 31

#### Canceling of Memberships

Bienna Jets Cheerleaders

No voting needed

#### Club Proposals

##### Qualification ICU ECC 2025

Proposal that there is a transition rule so that the teams who have won their respective categories at the Swiss Nationals be one team qualified for Europeans and the winner of the respective category at the SCO25 will be the second team qualified.

Proposal that Performance Cheer is not qualified for the ICC ECU 2025 through the SCO15 because of point in time in the season.

***The Board supports this proposal since a transition period is understandable and feasible. However, there is no exception for Performance Cheer.***

Motion: TVL and Basel

Votes: 30

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

**Side Note:** According to the ECU rulebook, the Swiss Senior Allgirl Teams have to start in premier. Junior teams will have to compete in Level 5. We will make a proposal to the ECU to stay in the Elite Level for Seniors. For Junior Allgirl we need to talk to the ECU.

**Inputs:** For the canton of Zurich the SCO is in the middle of the School Holidays and 2 out of 3 dance teams are in Zurich. Geneva will not even be ready as they start preparing in February.

**Answer TVL:** Schedule for Comps can't check all the school holidays, as in Switzerland there are school holidays from mid January until end of March. It should also be a qualification for Elite Teams going to ECU and in this case you should be ready by February.

**Question:** Why should we change the qualification from Nationals to SCO?

**Answer:** to have the Europeans in the same year as the qualifying competition with enough time to prepare. Like this the teams will have less struggles with age restrictions or athletes leaving the team and can make sure the same team and level is representing Switzerland at ECU.

**Question:** Can it then be in March instead of February?

**Answer:** In March, there is the Mountain Cup, and we don't want to have too many competitions in the same month. We need to keep the whole overview.

**Input Tina:** if you really want to participate at ECU, you maybe should talk to the Athletes if they want to go and organize themselves to be in practice during holidays and compete at the SCO. Remember you need a score more than 70 points to participate

**Information:** Biene says in Germany they also changed the whole system. It was the same as in Switzerland in the past, where they always qualified for the next year, but now they changed it so that the qualification is for the same year. They now have championships in November. Every team had to reorganize their season and it also worked.

#### Scoresheet Access

Proposal that participating clubs are granted access to the scoresheets of other clubs where the scores are visible. The judges' comments shall stay confident.

***Granting access to individual score sheets is problematic and can't be done for the judges discretion and safety.***

***The judges & rules committee decided that we will provide an average of all the judges points to the teams for each category. This can easily be done with the judging system and will give the teams a deeper understanding of the distribution of the points.***

***No score sheets will be handed out. You can always decide to discuss the scoresheets with other clubs.***

**Question:** why should the judges be protected?

**Answer:** ICU/ECU have the same policy and we're going with them. If we hand out individual score sheets, judges can be identified and therefore they can be attacked personally. Judging is a group effort and therefore the points as a whole are important.

**Input:** the main point on this proposal was to understand what can be done better and to analyze other teams and scoring

New Proposal: An average of all the judges points will be given to all teams for each category.

Motion: INC and Lausanne Angeles

Votes: 31

#### International Judges at the Swiss Nationals

Proposal that future Swiss nationals will only have international judges in the panels and that there is an additional safety judge. This proposal is to ensure independence and fairness as well as safety standards during our national competition.

***In agreement with the safety judge issue. Will be budgeted for in future championships.***

***However, to further the judges' education and sustainability of Swiss judges, having only international judges at the Swiss nationals is counter productive. Independence and fairness has always been ensured.***

**Question:** for the safety judge would it be planned to have one in the warm up area?

**Answer:** yes this would be the plan, depending on how many safety judges we can have

#### Example of the Swiss Nationals 2024

4 out of 6 Scoring Judges were international Judges

- Panels of three judges
- Head judge was always an international judge
- Performance cheer was a complete international judges panel
- 1 overview judge for both panels and the judging system
- additional Quality Judges (comments and points)
- No judges judged teams that they coach

**Question:** in partner stunt and group stunt there were comments of elements which were not shown at the performance. Why is that?

**Answer:** this shouldn't happen.

**Input:** if we want to bring Swiss Cheerleading to an international level, we should also get international



feedbacks and views.

**Answer:** we agree that international feedback is very important, but with the amount of international judges we have, it is enough.

**Question:** Would Shadow Judging be an option?

**Answer.** Yes, this will be discussed later for next year

**Question:** what is the reason for having a overall head judge?

**Answer:** to make it smoother and easier for the other judges, and keeping an overview. it's also common in other countries

**Question:** why is it only 3 judges per panel? It is less than internationally

**Answer:** yes, that's true und it's a plan to have more judges per panel in the future

**Input from Warriors:** if we need to pay more to have more judges, we would be willing to pay

**Question:** Switzerland is such a small country, it should be possible to have all judges from other countries

**Answer:** It is possible, however, the judges committee does not doubt the neutrality and skill or our national judges. In other countries they also have national judges and they even judge clubs they are associated with.

**Question:** Tina asks if it is possible to fix a quote to have for example 3 out of 5 from another country

**Answer:** Claudi says she wouldn't fix a quote, as it depends who's available. There are criteria on who's judging who, so that you can't judge your own clubs.

**Question:** Can we make a commitment on having 5 judges per panel?

**Answer:** yes, this should be possible

Initial proposal was changed, and replaced by these 3 motions.

**Motion from Warriors and INC seconded by Fire All Stars, to have 5 judges per panel for future Swiss Nationals, so that the top score and bottom score will be dropped and also add a safety judge at Swiss Nationals**

Votes: 31

**Motion from Wildcats seconded by HBC that the head judge of each panel needs to be an ICU international judge for Swiss Nationals.**

Votes: 30

Against: 1

Obsentions:0





## **Motion from TVL second by HBC bringing out a written requirements statement to be a transparent judge in Switzerland**

Votes: 31

### Communication within the SCA

Proposal to suggest changes concerning communication that will foster transparency, efficiency, and stronger relationships within our association. Implementing response time guidelines, regular and transparent updates, communication committee and dedicated feedback channels.

### ***Consideration of the Board***

***In agreement with the suggestions.***

***However, the association needs people to step up and take over some of these tasks.***

**Input:** This is the reason why we opted for opening a position for a paid job. We struggled as we didn't have a communication department. However it's a big step to get someone paid in office, but we still need people willing to work for SCA.

**Input:** Biene proposes to have a timeline for example of 2 weeks. Because it's very frustrating to not get an answer at all.

**Answer:** If you don't have the people you can't follow a timeline

**Input:** Noemi says she remembered that SCA doesn't want to have another person in the board.

**Answer:** this is true as we want to have the board small, to decide quickly on topics and have an easier organization, but we have a lot of committees outside of the board with a lot of open positions.

**Input:** The most urgent open position to fill is Communication. The role would be to communicate to the public. Some examples of the tasks : filter messages received on the website in order to facilitate communication, creating content, CGI, public image, written media.

**Input:** Have a standard message to acknowledge that the email was received and that we will come back in 2 weeks - 1 month.

**This proposal was changed to a motion from INC and FireAllstars to discuss further commitment concerning communications in a breakout room this afternoon.**

Votes: 30

Against: 1

### Restructuring of the Board

Proposal to either include or exclude all departments in the board.

### ***Consideration of the Board***

***To have a solely strategic board and operative departments of the association is the goal.***

**However, people need to step up to take on roles in the departments and committees to enable the association to move forward in that direction.**

**Question:** what does the swiss olympic suggest?

**Answer :** Swiss olympic suggests to keep it separated

**Question:** how many positions would be open if we do that?

**Answer:** Athletics, Nationalteam, Members, Ethics, Rules, Communication, Office

**Inputs:** Biene says she doesn't understand why the championship department is not on the board. As she think this is financially the most important department

**Input:** if championship is not in the board, championship should have someone in the board representing the votes for championship.

**Answer:** Biene can always take part in the board meetings.

**Motion from INC second by TVL to postpone this proposal to an extraordinary GA in 6 months**

Votes: 29

Against: 1

Obstensions: 1

**Request from TVL:** Provide the same number of mats for the SCO and judge according to the ECU rulebook.

As SCO will be an European Cheer League event, it will judge according to the ECU rulebook (which our SCA rulebook is based on). Swiss National will be judged according to the SCA rulebook.

## **9. Board Members**

The following people have to be voted on to remain in the board of the SCA:

Claudia Bartolini, Florence Lehot, Marion Schweizer

Vote : 29

Against : 0

Abstention : 2

Minutes: Nadja Arévalo



For the board: Cristina Hengartner

