

**Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 4 September 2011**  
**Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia**

Present: Mr Vidhya Lakhan, President PGC (Chairman)  
Mr James Tobin, Vice President PGC  
Mr David Boyd, Secretary-General PGC  
Mr John Tierney, Treasurer PGC  
Ms Mel Donald, Board Member PGC  
Mr Andrew Minogue, Executive Director PGC  
Mr Roger Kaddour, Past President PGC  
Sir John Dawanincura, Past President PGC  
Mr Ricardo Blas, Past President PGC

Reverend Ken Tupua, President, American Samoa  
Mr Ed Imo, Secretary-General, American Samoa  
Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE, President, Cook Islands  
Mrs Rosaline Blake BEM, Secretary General, Cook Islands  
Mr Robert Graham, General Team Manager, Cook Islands  
Mr Daniel Sweeter, Chef de Mission, Federated States of Micronesia  
Mr Chris Yee, Vice President, Fiji  
Ms Lorraine Mar, Secretary-General, Fiji  
Mr Robert Steffy, Secretary-General, Guam  
Mr Roger Wahl, Chef de Mission, Guam  
Mr Paul Shimizu, Assistant Chef de Mission, Guam  
Mr Peter Birati, President, Kiribati  
Mr Jeimata N Kabua, Vice President, Marshall Islands  
H.E. Marcus Stephen, President, Nauru  
Mr Pres Nimes Ekwona, Secretary-General, Nauru  
Ms Marjorie Deireragea, General Team Manager, Nauru  
Mr Charles Cali, President, New Caledonia  
Mr Jean Marc Domergue, Secretary-General, New Caledonia  
Mr Michel Quintin, Executive Director, New Caledonia  
Mr Des Hipa, President, Niue  
Mr Hagen Siosikefu, Chef de Mission, Niue  
Mr Michael White, President, Northern Mariana Islands  
Ms Rose Igitol, Secretary General, Northern Mariana Islands  
Mr Milton Bradley, Secretary-General, Norfolk Island  
Ms Cheryl Lecren, Assistant Secretary General, Norfolk Island  
Sir Henry ToRobert, President, Papua New Guinea  
Ms Auvita Rapilla, Secretary General, Papua New Guinea  
Ms Tamzin Wardley, Chef de Mission, Papua New Guinea  
Mr Frank Kyota, President, Palau  
Ms Baklai Temengil, Secretary-General, Palau  
Fuimaono Sam Teo, Vice President, Samoa  
Mr Fred Maetoloa, President, Solomon Islands  
Mr Aldrin Bekala, Financial Administrator, Solomon Islands

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Mr Tauhiti Nena, President, Tahiti  
Mr Thierry Hars, Secretary General, Tahiti  
Mr Charles Villierme, Chef de Mission, Tahiti  
Mr Tavita Poe, President, Tokelau  
Ms Susan Perez, Chef de Mission, Tokelau  
Lord Tevita Tupou, President, Tonga  
Mr Takitoa Taumoepeau, Secretary General, Tonga  
Mr Mainaga Taape, Chef de Mission, Tuvalu  
Mr Antoine Boudier, President, Vanuatu  
Mr Cyrille Mainguy, Secretary General, Vanuatu  
Ms Aurelie Jacquier, Chef de Mission, Vanuatu  
Mr Manuele Tuia, President, Wallis & Futuna  
Mr Atoloto Malau, Secretary-General, Wallis & Futuna

**Observers:**

Mr Jean Claude Briault, Minister for Sport, New Caledonia  
Ms Pascale Bastien-Thiry, President, New Caledonia 2011  
Mr Pascal Sordet, Advisor, New Caledonia 2011  
Mr Vahai Tuulaki, President, Wallis and Futuna 2013  
Mr Stephane Parbrun, Treasurer, Wallis and Futuna 2013  
Mr Christian Filipponi, Sports Director, Wallis and Futuna 2013  
Mr Eddy Filipponi, Directeur Executif, Wallis and Futuna 2013  
Mr Pascal Potrick, Conseiller Technique, Wallis and Futuna 2013  
Mr Alesio Katoa, Conseiller Territorial, Wallis and Futuna 2013  
Mr Atma Maharaj, PGC Marketing Committee

Dr Robin Mitchell, President, ONOC  
Mr Dennis Miller, Executive Director, ONOC  
Ms Helen Brownlee, Chair Women & Sport Commission, ONOC  
Ms Margaret Eastgate, Stop HIV Program Manager, ONOC  
Ms Sainimili Talatoka, OSEP Coordinator, ONOC  
Ms Joanna Ferris, NOC Continental Manager, Oceania, LOCOG 2012  
Ms Nana Ah Yuk, Voices of the Athletes, ONOC

Mr Steve Smith, President, Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania  
Mr Chet Gray, Secretary-General, Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania  
Mr Colin J. Clapper AM, President, Oceania Squash Federation  
Mr Ron Finlay, President, Baseball Confederation of Oceania  
Mr Paul Coffa, General Secretary, Oceania Weightlifting Federation  
Mr CK Tan, Penang (Malaysia) Weightlifting Federation  
Mr Matai Akauola, Manager Training Coordinator, PINA  
Ms Alexandre LeQuere, Team Journalist, France TV  
Ms Geraldine Coutts, ABC Australia  
Ms Florence Walme, Journalist RRB

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*Vanuatu 2017 Bid Delegation*

Hon. Ham Lini Vanuaroroa, Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon. Morking Stevens Iatika, Minister of Sports  
Mr Joe Carlo, VASANOC Vice President and Bid Chairman  
Mr Clifford Bice, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister  
Mr Marcel Manua, Advisor to Sports Minister  
Mr Rex Willie Semeno, Government Official  
Mr Frank Albert, Security Officer  
Ms Olga Tariweu, Commissioner, Port Vila Municipality  
Mr Jesse Dickjoe, Director General of Education, Youth, Sports & Training  
Mr Jean-Pierre Serel, Deputy Town Clerk Port-Vila Municipal Council  
Mr Rayomd Manuake, Consul General  
Mrs Alice Manuake, Vice Consul  
Mrs Henlyn Saul, Foreign Affairs Officer, Dept of Foreign Affairs  
Mr Salonga Saby, Vanuatu Football Coach  
Mr Sam Florian, Vanuatu Football Team Manager  
Mr Harry Attison, Vanuatu Football Media Manager  
Ms Eileen Nganga, Deputy Chef de Mission  
Mr James K. Malau, VASANOC

*CNMI 2017 Bid Delegation*

H.E. Benigno Fitial, Governor  
Mrs Josie P. Fitial, First Lady  
Hon. Edmund Villagomez, Congress Representative  
Ms Danyela Salmon, Attaché Delegation  
Ms Emelinda Cabrora, Graphic Designer  
Mr Tony Rogolifoi, CNMI Baseball  
Mrs Rose C. White

*Nauru 2017 Bid Delegation*

Mr Vinson Detenamo, President Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation  
Mr Rayong Itsimaera, Secretary for Sports, Nauru  
Mr Trent Dabwido, Delegate  
Mr Itte Detenamo, Nauru Team  
Mr D.J. Maaki, Nauru Team  
Ms Johannah Akuber, Nauru Reporter

Ms Ele Opeloge, Weightlifter, Samoa  
Ms Tauimunu Ahkusi, Weightlifter, Samoa  
Ms Debra Toribiong, Coach, Women's Va'a, Palau  
Mr Jackson Rengiil, Official Photographer, Palau

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Vidhya Lakhan (Chairman of the meeting), called the General Assembly to order at 9.00am on Sunday 4 September and asked the Reverend Ken Tupua (American Samoa) to lead the General Assembly in prayer.

**2. ROLL CALL AND APOLOGIES**

Andrew Minogue (Executive Director) called the roll and two Pacific Games Associations (Marshall Islands, Samoa) were noted as running late. (They later joined the meeting.)

The Chairman announced that with 20 Pacific Games Associations (PGAs) present, the meeting had obtained the necessary quorum as per Article 13.4 of the Charter, and was thus declared open.

**3. OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESSES**

The Chairman formally welcomed all participants to the meeting and acknowledged the presence of the New Caledonia Minister for Sport, Mr Jean Claude Briault, NC2011 President Ms Pascale Bastien-Thiry, past Presidents of the Council, Mr Roger Kaddour, Sir John Dawanincura and Mr Ricardo Blas, members of the International and Oceania Federations, members of the 2017 Mini Games Bid Committees, and those PGA delegates attending their first ever General Assembly. He also introduced each member of the Executive Board, including Ms Mel Donald, who was attending her first General Assembly as an Executive Board member.

The Chairman thanked the President of the host Pacific Games Association (CTOS-NC), Mr Charles Cali, the President of the NC2011 Organising Committee, Ms Pascale Bastien-Thiry, and the New Caledonia Minister for Sport, Mr Jean-Claude Briault, representing the host Government, for their warm welcome and the courtesies extended to the members of the Pacific Games Family attending the 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Games. He offered his congratulations to them and the people of New Caledonia for a splendid opening ceremony of the 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Games, with the very rare honour of the President of the French Republic declaring the Games open.

The Chairman said that despite some early hiccups, the Games competitions had started well and there was a very successful conclusion to the first week's sporting program with very high levels of intense competitions in a number of sports with full stadiums. He expressed his certainty that this would continue into the second week and the Games would conclude on a very high note. In that regard, the Chairman thanked all of the members of the NC2011 Organising Committee, the hundreds of volunteers and the representatives of International and Oceania Federations for the part they were playing in delivering a wonderful Games.

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The Chairman said that since the 2010 General Assembly in Noumea, the work of the Executive Board had continued towards positioning the Pacific Games Council and its two Games products well into the future. The Executive Board had engaged a law firm to review the Council's operations and structure with the view to establishing the Pacific Games Council as a company. A full report with recommendations would be presented to 2012 Annual General Assembly for consideration and possible adoption. Furthermore, and in line with international best practice, elections were being held at these Games to select an Athlete's representative on the Executive Board.

The Chairman said that a major task for the Council, after the 2011 Games, would be the review of the Sports Program, as required by the Constitution. The cost of hosting the Games, as well as the escalating cost of participation, is of concern. He said questions of whether there should be minimum entry standards for individual sports and/or a regional qualification system for team sports would be examined as would the appropriate number of sports in the Games programs.

The Chairman expressed the real need to add value to the Games. Whilst preserving the culture and identity of the Pacific Games, ways and means must be found to provide qualifying pathways for the athletes from the Pacific Games to World Championships and Olympic Games and other international events. This was amongst the most critical of issues facing the Council today. In carrying out its review, the Sports Committee would consult extensively with ONOC, OSFO, individual International and or Regional Federations and member PGAs and other stakeholders.

The Chairman said that the Sponsorship and Marketing Committee, whilst continuing its work in joint marketing programs with host Organising Committees, would also continue focusing on new sources of revenue for the Council. He said he was very conscious of the high costs of participation in the Games for many PGAs. The Sponsorship and Marketing Committee would explore the possibility of reducing costs by finding ways and means of reducing per-diems post the 2015 Pacific Games.

The Chairman said that the Pacific Games had survived its first fifty years, but that the next fifty years would not be easy as the movement will face many challenges. In order to sustain the Pacific Games as a viable entity and in order to ensure its status as a truly continental Games, he said the Council had some serious thinking to do as to where it wished to position the movement. He looked forward to the full co-operation, understanding, and support of the PGAs as the Council charted its future path.

In conclusion, the Chairman congratulated the PGAs on the good work being undertaken to develop and promote sport in their respective countries. He wished all PGAs continuing success at these Games, and then invited CTOS-NC President, Charles Cali, to welcome the delegates.

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Charles Cali said it was an honour to welcome everyone to the 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Games. He said that the real winners at these Games were not the medalists, but rather the Pacific sporting movement itself. He expressed his sincere hope that all delegations would enjoy their stay in New Caledonia, and he wished them the very best of luck in their respective competitions throughout the Games.

The Chairman thanked Charles Cali for his welcoming remarks and then invited the New Caledonia Minister for Sport, Mr Jean Claude Briault, to address the meeting.

Minister Briault said it was an honour for New Caledonia to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Pacific Games and thanked the membership for placing its faith in New Caledonia to deliver the Games. He thanked all of the PGAs for supporting the Games and for accepting New Caledonia's role as the hosts. He said that New Caledonia had tried very hard at every level of government and society to deliver a successful Games, and expressed his hope that they had gained the trust of the Pacific sporting movement.

Minister Briault highlighted the visit by the President of the French Republic and said that the coverage of the Pacific Games back in France would ensure a great legacy of these Games and for the Pacific region. He concluded by wishing all delegations a very successful second week and reiterated the pledge for New Caledonia to assist Papua New Guinea in any way that it could in the organisation of the 2015 Pacific Games.

The Chairman noted that a host PGA cannot organise the Games without the support of its government, and so he thanked Minister Briault for the New Caledonia government's critical role in the success of the Games and for the courtesies shown to all of the visiting delegations.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOUMEA, 26-27 AUGUST 2010**

The Executive Director advised that the minutes of the 2010 General Assembly had been circulated electronically last September and again in early August before the meeting, plus a copy was provided on a memory stick for each PGA.

The Chairman asked that the minutes be taken as read and be approved as a true record of the meeting. It was moved by Guam and seconded by Tonga, and then formally approved by the meeting as a true record of the 2010 General Assembly.

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

The Chairman asked the delegates if there was any business arising from the minutes that they wished to raise.

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Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) said that he had several matters to raise. Firstly, he said he was in sympathy with New Caledonia's position that the President - as Chairman of the General Assembly - should participate in the first round of any voting in order to avoid a hung vote and also to avoid exposing the President to breaking a tie.

Secondly, Sir Geoffrey Henry expressed his full support to Norfolk Island athletes with New Zealand passports being able to participate in the Games. Thirdly, he supported Tonga's proposal for rotation of the Games hosting rights. He said there was no correlation between a competitive bidding process and the performance of athletes in competition. The Games should be rotated just like the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum was. Fourthly, he said more emphasis within the bid documents needed to be placed on travel logistics and how a host country would assist delegations with travel. He said that perhaps the Council could examine the possibility of negotiating a Games airline.

Finally, Sir Geoffrey Henry commended NC2011 for the wonderful gesture of welcoming the 13 athletes from the first South Pacific Games in 1963 to attend this year's Games.

Lord Tevita Tupou (Tonga) said in reply that the President should be responsible enough to break a tie by using a casting vote, as the President had been elected to be leader of the movement. He said Tonga still believed that the bid process was a waste of money which would be better applied to athletes and facilities. Rotation was a better approach. On the question of eligibility and Norfolk Island, he asked whether the General Assembly had conferred a discretionary power on the Executive Board to address such matters. Finally, Lord Tupou referred to Page 11 of the minutes and sought clarification on the deferral of Tonga's proposals on the size of the Games, the compulsory sports, and the Mini Games. In particular, he asked whether these items were still going to be reviewed.

Des Hipa (Niue) said that he supported Sir Geoffrey Henry's position on the need for some arrangement with an airline as it was very difficult to get to the Games for a reasonable price. He said bidding PGAs should address this matter directly.

The Chairman said that all of the comments had been well noted and promised that the Sport Committee and Executive Board would fully review the Pacific Games sports program post the 2011 Games, including Tonga's 2010 proposals, and recommendations flowing from this review would be placed before the 2012 General Assembly. The Chairman said that the 2010 General Assembly did provide the Executive Board with a discretionary power on eligibility and that two Norfolk Island athletes had applied for and received a dispensation to compete in the 2011 Pacific Games. He said that the dispensations policy would be reviewed in time for the 2013 Mini Games.

The Chairman said that the Marketing Committee would review travel cost issues and examine what the most practical approach would be to reduce PGA travel costs.

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**6. REPORTS**

**A. Executive Board Report**

David Boyd (Secretary-General) welcomed the delegates to his home country and wished them all a successful Pacific Games. He presented the Executive Board and President's Report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation) and noted that the Executive Board had worked diligently through some complex issues over the past year.

**B. Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director presented his report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation), which included, amongst other things, the work of the Council in negotiating agreements with International Federations.

Charles Cali (New Caledonia) said the Council's negotiation with the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) had led to problems with the Football tournament for the 2011 Games. New Caledonia had done everything asked of it by OFC to prepare FIFA-standard pitches so that the Games could serve as a World Cup qualification event. However, without adequate explanation, this qualification status was withdrawn and CTOS-NC and NC2011 then had to explain this situation to their government in light of its heavy investment in the facilities. He asked for an explanation from the Council as to how this occurred, and noted that CTOS-NC had warned about the risks of negotiating eligibility agreements with international federations. He said New Caledonia was not at fault.

The Chairman agreed that no fault could be attributed to New Caledonia, or indeed the Council. He said the whole episode was very complex and was very challenging for the Council to manage. In essence, he explained that in 2009 Guam had confirmed that it would not take part in the event. The Council then entered into an MOU agreement with OFC, who were at that point satisfied with the likely participants in the 2011 Games. Subsequently, in November 2010, OFC through FIFA had agreed to give World Cup qualifying status to the 2011 Pacific Games.

The Chairman said that Guam changed its position in February 2011 and the issue of its participation was taken up by the Council with OFC. However, because Guam Football was a part of the Asian Confederation, OFC said that only OFC members in Oceania could take part in a FIFA qualification event. Whilst the Council insisted that Guam could take part in the Games, as a result OFC withdrew the FIFA qualification status.

The Chairman added that for a time, the Council was concerned that Football would drop off the 2011 Games program, but he was pleased that common sense prevailed and the tournament proceeded without its quality being diminished. In summary, he said the Council had to protect the right of all 22 PGAs to participate in all of the sports.



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Lord Tevita Tupou (Tonga) said this matter was an OFC/FIFA matter based around membership rather than eligibility. He recalled the 1999 Guam South Pacific Games where the OFC withdrew altogether over the Council's eligibility rules allowing for expatriate participation. He said the 2011 situation was very different. He suggested the Council approach OFC to allow Guam to play in future Games whilst retaining FIFA qualifying status for the event. He said the Council should continue to work with OFC.

Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) said that the quality of technical officials needed to be addressed urgently with the International and Oceania Federations. Poor decisions could make or break an athlete's chances at the Games and he had witnessed such problems during the first week of the Games. He commended the Executive Board on its work and the Executive Director for being very cooperative and available at all times.

Charles Cali (New Caledonia) responded that he had met with the OFC President in Noumea two years earlier and made it clear that all Council members could take part in the Football event. New Caledonia did not want any country to be blocked from participating just because OFC may have wanted to use the Games a qualifying event. He said the issues around eligibility and qualification was problematic with Football.

The Chairman said that the Sports Committee would re-examine the MOU with OFC and try to make it stronger and allow for FIFA qualifying status to be enjoyed at future Games. He said he was also concerned that other Micronesian countries might be encouraged to join the Asian Confederation which would make the issue even more difficult to manage in future Games. This membership issue would also be referred to the Sports Committee for addressing in a revised MOU agreement with OFC.

The Chairman asked the meeting to formally note the reports from the Executive Board and the Executive Director. The General Assembly duly noted both reports.

### **C. Treasurer's Report**

John Tierney (Treasurer) presented his report to the meeting (refer attached PowerPoint presentation and the copy of the audited 2010 financial statements distributed prior to the meeting and on the memory sticks). There being no discussion from the floor, the Treasurer's report and the 2010 audited financial statements were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

### **D. Marketing Committee Report**

John Tierney (Treasurer, and Marketing Committee Chairman) presented the Marketing Committee report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation).

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The Treasurer thanked NC2011 for their participation in a wonderful marketing program, which he said would support the Council's future endeavours. He urged PGAs to continue to develop their Council brand and he asked that each PGA provide a full report on their 2011 Games Team costs so that the Marketing Committee could address the issues of cost in its initiatives and future recommendations.

The Chairman asked the meeting to formally note the Marketing Committee's report. The General Assembly duly noted it.

**E. Sport Committee Report**

James Tobin (Vice President) presented the Sport Committee report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation), including a preview of the compulsory Sport Program Review process to be formally commenced by the Sport Committee on 5 September. In answer to Tonga's question under the Business Arising agenda item, the Vice President said the Sports Committee would certainly examine Tonga's proposals as submitted in 2010 during the Sport Program Review.

Des Hipa (Niue) said the decision to allow the Rugby Sevens event to be a qualifier for the Sevens World Series was an excellent idea which had assisted Niue tremendously. He commended the Council for its good work in this area.

The Chairman asked the meeting to formally note the Sport Committee's report. The General Assembly duly noted it.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting at 10.45am for a morning tea break and the group photograph.

**7. CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSALS**

The Chairman invited the Executive Director to take the meeting through each of the proposals, and the General Assembly would then vote separately on each issue.

The Executive Director noted that the proposals from Fiji and Papua New Guinea had been circulated to all PGAs in accordance with the Constitution. He said copies of all of the proposals were also on the memory sticks distributed at the start of the meeting.

The Executive Director explained that amendment to the Constitution required a two-thirds majority, or 15 votes in favour. He said proposed amendments to the Protocols and Regulations would require a simple majority of 12 votes. Each PGA would have one vote and the Executive Board no longer voted under the amendments to the Charter made by the 2010 General Assembly.

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**1. *Fiji PGA – Article 25.1.d(iii) Eligibility***

The Executive Director explained that the Executive Board had agreed to the submission by the Fiji PGA that six months prior to the Games was too short a timeframe for the adoption of international federation eligibility regulations by the Executive Board, and that the timeframe should be extended to two years prior to the Games.

The Executive Director explained however that the Executive Board sought a resolution by the General Assembly for some additional flexibility for the next two Games (WF2013 and PNG2015) where the sport program may not be confirmed until two years before the Games. For the 2017 Pacific Mini Games and beyond, he said the issue would be much easier to manage as the bid documents must now contain the final sport program.

The Chairman asked for any comments or questions on this proposal.

Bob Steffy (Guam) said Guam was concerned that the Charter's five-year residency requirement could be compromised. He cited the example of Softball, which only had a one-year residency requirement under International Softball Federation regulations; a requirement that can indeed be waived. He said that position would be unacceptable to Guam. He said Guam accepts the Fiji proposal of a two year timeframe for the adoption of international federation eligibility regulations, but was worried by those international federations which did not have residency requirements in their eligibility regulations.

The Chairman responded to Guam's concerns by assuring them that the Executive Board took a conservative approach to this matter and would ensure that the interests of PGAs were protected.

The Chairman called for a vote on the Fiji PGA proposal and the Executive Board's request for additional discretion for the 2013 and 2015 Games. With 18 votes counted in favour, the Chairman declared the proposals adopted.

**2. *Papua New Guinea PGA – Article 25.4 and Protocol 7.10***

The Executive Director outlined the proposal from Papua New Guinea PGA to allow the entry deadline for team sports to be brought forward from 60 days prior to the start of the Games, to 30 days prior. He stated the Executive Board's position was not to recommend these amendments in the absence of a more comprehensive review of the entire entries process, which would occur after the 2011 Pacific Games.

The Chairman said he had spoken with the Papua New Guinea PGA and they had agreed to withdraw the motion, subject to this matter being fully examined as part of the post-2011 Games Sport Program and Charter Review. Sir Henry ToRobert confirmed this agreement.

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**3. Archery – Regulation 5.1**

The Executive Director explained the amended wording to Regulation 5.1 of the Charter as suggested by the Oceania Archery Confederation to remove the word “double” from the FITA Round and to more accurately reflect the nature of the Mixed Teams events being contested at the 2011 Pacific Games.

The Chairman asked that this amendment be ratified, and the General Assembly passed the amendment unanimously.

**4. Powerlifting – Regulation 5.12 and 6.12**

The Executive Director explained the new International Powerlifting Federation weight categories as endorsed by the Executive Board for use at the 2011 Pacific Games, and detailed the required amendments to Regulations 5.12 and 6.12 of the Charter.

The Chairman asked that these amendments be ratified, and the General Assembly passed the amendments unanimously.

**5. Regulation 22 – Participants Declaration**

The Executive Director explained the amendment to Regulation 22 suggested by the Guam PGA was to ensure that the WADA Prohibited List be provided to athletes in hard copy or preferably electronically as a more environmentally friendly solution. He said the Executive Board fully supported the amendment.

The Chairman asked that this amendment be ratified, and the General Assembly passed the amendment unanimously.

Finally, the Executive Director outlined a decision the Executive Board had taken under the powers of Article 24.5 of the Constitution to sanction concurrent events. It had been agreed that during the 2013 Pacific Mini Games in Wallis and Futuna, the Oceania Weightlifting Federation (OWF) Championships could be held concurrently as a test case, subject to the development of an MOU agreement with the OWF to ensure that the Pacific Mini Games properties and traditions were kept at the forefront of the sport’s presentation at all times. He explained that this decision was presented to the General Assembly for ratification.

Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) congratulated Wallis and Futuna on a ‘coup’ as the Cook Islands would have liked to have hosted the OWF event in 2013.

With no further comments, the Chairman asked the General Assembly to ratify the decision, and with no opposition recorded, he declared the decision ratified.

**8. ORGANISING COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS**

***a. New Caledonia 2011***

Pascale Bastien-Thiry (President, NC2011) thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to update the Council on the first week of the 2011 Pacific Games. She started by thanking the host PGA, CTOS-NC, as well as the Council President, Secretary General, and Executive Director for all of the support they had provided in the lead up to the Games.

Pascale Bastien-Thiry said the Games were progressing well, and had started with an excellent Torch Relay, an emotional Opening Ceremony, and very good public support for the first week of sport competition. She acknowledged some difficulties during the opening phase of the Games Village, but paid tribute to the hard work of her team led by Director Philippe Lepoul to resolve outstanding problems and issues.

In previewing the second week of the Games, Pascale Bastien-Thiry said she wished all of the delegations every success and said the Games would culminate in a spectacular fireworks display on Anse Vata beach after the Closing Ceremony, which would be sure to create many special memories for the athletes. She closed her presentation by expressing the hope that NC2011 had lived up to the expectations and faith the PGAs had placed in New Caledonia as the host of the 2011 Pacific Games and she thanked the General Assembly for a beautiful adventure.

Following a standing ovation by the General Assembly, the Chairman paid tribute to the work of NC2011 and CTOS-NC in looking after all of the delegations so well. He said the Pacific Games movement was overwhelmed by the excellent facilities and sporting program. He thanked Pascale Bastien-Thiry for the cooperative spirit her team had shown to address issues of concern with the Council, which were now resolved. He said he was confident NC2011 would organise an excellent second week of the Games and he wished her the best of luck in completing the task.

In conclusion, the Chairman said the Council had a lot to learn from the experiences of NC2011 and he looked forward to a robust Transfer of Knowledge program for the future Pacific Games hosts.

***b. Papua New Guinea 2015***

Sir Henry ToRobert (Chairman, PNG2015) thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to update the Council on preparations for the 2015 Pacific Games. He presented the first part of the PowerPoint presentation, which is attached. He paid particular emphasis on the support the new PNG Government was providing to the Games and reported that the governing legislation was about to be passed by the national parliament.

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The second part of the presentation was presented by Mel Donald, and focused on the work of the Venues, Infrastructure and Equipment Committee, of which she was a member. And the third part of the presentation was delivered by Tamzin Wardley, which focused on the work of the Games Organising Committee, of which she was presently the Acting CEO.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman invited questions.

Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) congratulated PNG2015 on an impressive presentation. He asked what arrangements were being made to ensure all delegations could travel easily to Port Moresby.

Tamzin Wardley responded that the PNG2015 bid document had made a commitment to examining transport hubs and that the Organising Committee had commenced discussions with Air Niugini on this matter. There was no detail to report as yet, but she affirmed that it was on the Organising Committee's agenda.

The Chairman thanked Sir Henry and the PNG2015 delegation for their informative presentation. He noted that valuable time had been lost but he was encouraged by the expectation that once the governing legislation passed through the Parliament, planning would speed up considerably. He noted that the Executive Board would visit Port Moresby for its next meeting in early April 2012, and he looked forward to the next progress report by PNG2015 on that occasion.

**c. Wallis & Futuna 2013**

Vahai Tuulaki (President, COWF2013) thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to update the Council on preparations for the 2013 Pacific Mini Games. He presented a PowerPoint presentation, which is attached as well as a video presentation.

As part of his presentation, Vahai Tuulaki confirmed the dates of the 2013 Pacific Mini Games would be 2-12 September, and also confirmed the eight sports on the program – Athletics, Beach Volleyball, Rugby 7s, Sailing, Taekwondo, Va'a, Volleyball and Weightlifting. He said it was likely that some of the Beach Volleyball event would be held on Futuna.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman invited questions.

Des Hipa (Niue) asked how delegations could travel to Wallis.

Vahai Tuulaki responded that Air Calin flew to Wallis via Noumea or via Nadi. He said the Organising Committee would start discussions with both Air Calin and Air Pacific.

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Bob Steffy (Guam) asked for more detail on the accommodation to be provided to athletes in the villages.

Vahai Tuulaki responded that communal houses would be utilised for some delegations. He said these houses had beds, ablution services and laundries, so the athletes would be comfortable.

Sir Henry ToRobert (Papua New Guinea) asked how the local population would manage the language barriers and communications difficulties with the visiting delegations.

Vahai Tuulaki responded that a training program in basic English would be developed for the community.

With no further questions, the Chairman thanked Wallis & Futuna 2013 for their presentation and asked that they keep in close contact with the Council which was ready to offer any assistance necessary. He said a lot more detail on the Games planning was needed, and the sport and marketing programs were a high priority. He noted that delegates would get their first opportunity to assess Wallis Island as a Games destination during the 2012 General Assembly.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1.00pm.

## **9. ONOC REPORT**

Upon the resumption of the meeting at 2.00pm, the Chairman invited ONOC to present its report to the meeting.

Dennis Miller, Executive Director of ONOC, presented the ONOC Report in a PowerPoint presentation, which is attached. The presentation had a particular focus on the ONOC Voices of the Athletes program which was in operation during the 2011 Pacific Games. Joanna Ferris, Oceania Manager for LOCOG provided an overview of the latest planning for the London 2012 Olympic Games in a PowerPoint presentation which is attached.

With no questions from the floor, the Chairman thanked ONOC and LOCOG for their reports and said that the Council valued its partnership with the Olympic movement.

## **10. OSFO REPORT**

Steve Smith (President) and Chet Gray (Secretary General) from the Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO) presented the OSFO Report in a PowerPoint presentation, which is attached. The presentation had a particular focus on OSFO wishing to work cooperatively with the Pacific Games Council to develop better athletes and better sport competitions.

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The Chairman then invited questions on the OSFO presentation.

Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) returned to his earlier comment concerning the quality of technical officials and said that PGAs looked to OSFO and the international federations to develop a better standard of officiating in the region, backed by appropriate certification.

In response, Steve Smith said national federations had a responsibility in this area as well. He said that Organising Committees could spend a lot of money by importing Australian and New Zealander technical officials, but the more sustainable proposition for the Games was for better technical officials to be developed within the region. He gave an example from his sport of Basketball, and the requirement for all participating countries to bring a suitably qualified referee with them to the Games. In conclusion, he made the point that unless local officials are nurtured the quality of sport cannot improve, and he called upon PGAs, their national federations and Organising Committees to invest more in the support for bringing international technical officials to the Pacific Games.

Dennis Miller (ONOC) said that OSEP was starting to develop a program to assist with the accreditation of technical officials in the Pacific. He commended NC2011's approach to the Swimming competition with four FINA-list officials invited to participate, assisted by a large number of well qualified and capable New Caledonian officials.

The Chairman said the Sport Committee would examine the issue of technical officials because it was one that the Executive Board had identified as a continuing issue at successive Pacific Games. He added that the Council would insist on a strong focus on this issue in the development and/or review of MOU agreements with the International and Oceania Federations. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked OSFO for their report and for the good work they were doing in the region. He stressed that the Council highly valued its partnership with OSFO.

## **11. 2010/11 PACIFIC SPORTS AWARDS**

The Chairman asked the Executive Director to present the names of the nominees in each of the categories (refer attached PowerPoint presentation). Each of the following winners (or their nominating PGAs) was presented with a trophy by the Chairman:

1. Outstanding Sports Administrator of the Year  
Laisiasa Puamau (Basketball, Fiji)
2. Outstanding Coach of the Year  
Jone Delai (Athletics, Fiji)



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3. Outstanding Technical Official of the Year  
Thierry Coleux (Taekwondo, New Caledonia)
4. Outstanding Junior Athlete of the Year  
Steven Kari (Weightlifting, Papua New Guinea)
5. Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year  
Ele Opeloge (Weightlifting, Samoa)
6. Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year  
Itte Detenamo (Weightlifting, Nauru)
7. Outstanding Team of the Year  
New Caledonia Men's Volleyball Team
8. Lifetime Achievement Award  
Sir John Dawanincura (Papua New Guinea)

**12. 2017 PACIFIC MINI GAMES – BID PRESENTATIONS**

The Chairman asked the Executive Director to outline the order of presentation of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games candidacies.

The Executive Director advised that in accordance with Protocol 1, lots had been drawn and the order of presentation would be Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, and Vanuatu.

Nauru was invited to present its candidacy, which was led by His Excellency President Marcus Stephen. At its conclusion, the Executive Director invited questions.

Fuimaono Sam Teo (Samoa) asked for clarification on the per diem.

His Excellency, President Stephen replied that it would be \$50 as per the bid documents.

With no further questions from the floor, the Executive Director thanked Nauru for its presentation and invited Northern Mariana Islands to make its presentation, led by His Excellency, the Governor, Benigno Fitial, and PGA President Michael White.

At its conclusion, the Executive Director invited questions from the floor.

Fuimaono Sam Teo (Samoa) said that the lower per diem of \$30 was good news, but he asked who would be responsible for the costs of obtaining the travel visas. He wanted an assurance on the refunding of any visa-related costs.

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Michael White responded by confirming that Northern Mariana Islands does not have jurisdiction over immigration matters, but that informal approaches had been made to the U.S. authorities for temporary visa waivers for the Games period. There was no budget allocated to assist PGAs financially with visa costs.

His Excellency, Governor Fitial added that his Government could provide special consideration for special occasions like the Pacific Games, and that he would work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for a definitive position by next year.

With no further questions from the floor, the Executive Director thanked Northern Mariana Islands for its presentation and invited Vanuatu to make its presentation, led by His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister Ham Lini Vanuaroroa, PGA President Antoine Boudier, and Bid Chairman Joe Carlo.

At its conclusion, the Executive Director invited questions from the floor.

Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) made the observation that Vanuatu, like the Cook Islands in 1985, had the laudable objective of making a profit from the hosting of the Mini Games which could be a legacy to sports for years into the future.

With no further questions or comments from the floor, the Executive Director thanked Vanuatu for its presentation.

**13. 2017 PACIFIC MINI GAMES – ELECTION OF HOST PGA**

Following the completion of bid presentations, the Chairman asked the Executive Director to brief the meeting on the election process for the selection of the host PGA for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

The Executive Director explained that under the provisions of the Charter, each PGA had one vote, and that the Executive Board no longer had the power to vote under changes made to the Charter at the 2010 General Assembly. Twelve votes were therefore required to obtain a majority. PGAs were asked to clearly mark their preference for one candidate on the ballot paper. In the absence of a winner on the first ballot, a second round of voting would be held with the PGA receiving the lowest number of votes from the first round thereby eliminated.

The Vice President, Secretary-General and Executive Director thereafter scrutinized the ballot process. On the first ballot, the Chairman announced that Vanuatu and Northern Mariana Islands each received eight votes, whilst Nauru, with six votes, was therefore eliminated. On the second ballot, the Chairman announced that by a margin of thirteen votes to nine, the 2017 Pacific Mini Games would be hosted by Vanuatu.

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The Chairman thanked the three bidding PGAs for their commitment to the Mini Games and to the bidding process. He then called upon the Vanuatu PGA President and the Vanuatu Deputy Prime Minister to join him to sign the Host City Contract.

**14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

The Chairman invited PGAs intending to bid for the 2019 Pacific Mini Games to express their interest and circulate a letter in accordance with Protocol 1 of the Charter.

Tauhiti Nena (Tahiti) expressed Tahiti's intention to bid and circulated a letter to all PGAs accordingly.

Fred Maetoloa (Solomon Islands) likewise expressed Solomon Islands' intention to bid and provided the Chairman with a letter to that effect.

Lord Tevita Tupou (Tonga) expressed Tonga's interest and circulated a letter to all PGAs. He said the wording of Protocol 1 was clear; that PGAs intending to bid "shall" issue a letter of intent at this General Assembly. He asked the Chairman to ensure that no other PGA could lodge a bid for the 2019 Pacific Games unless they had issued a statement of intent at this meeting.

The Chairman thanked the three PGAs for their letters of intent and wished them all the best over the next year. Regarding the question from Tonga, the Chairman said that the Council had not yet written the formal request for bids to all PGAs as the dates for the 2012 General Assembly, and thus the bidding timeframe, had yet to be established. Interests expressed by PGAs were noted.

Mainaga Taape (Tuvalu) asked whether the Council would consider a request for a late entry for a Tuvaluan Weightlifting athlete, whose entry was inadvertently omitted.

The Chairman responded that the Constitution allows no latitude for the Executive Board to consider late entries and that the episode was a clear lesson for administrators to ensure they complete these important Games functions on time.

**15. NEXT MEETING AND CONCLUSION**

The Chairman asked the Executive Director to provide advice on the next meeting.

The Executive Director said that the likeliest timeframe for the 2012 General Assembly was early September on Wallis Island. He noted that the 2012 General Assembly would be responsible for selecting a new Executive Board and a host for the 2019 Pacific Games. He said he would work with CTOS-WF to finalise the dates as quickly as possible.

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The Chairman thanked all of the delegates for attending the General Assembly and extended warm thanks to the host PGA (CTOS-NC), the NC2011 Organising Committee, the New Caledonia Government, and the SPC and its interpreting and technical staff for assisting with the meeting arrangements.

The Chairman wished all delegations the best of luck for the remaining week of the Games, and advised all delegates to attend the reception that evening in the Games Village to honour the athletes from the first South Pacific Games in 1963.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.20pm.

DRAFT