



IRV Member Countries

IRV
International Wheel
Gymnastics Federation

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IRV Report 2016

Dear IRV Member Countries,

It is already 2017 and the Team World Cup in Salzburg (Austria) on 22 April 2017 is just around the corner. Ticket sales have started and we are looking forward to a world-class sporting event and a wonderful day in Salzburg.

Before we get that far, however, I would like to look at our activities in 2016.

The World Championships 2016 gave us the opportunity to witness the international flavour of our federation for the second time in a relatively short period. We were able to welcome 120 gymnasts from 15 countries in Cincinnati (USA). Five days of competition at Mount St. Joseph University are still clear in the memories of many gymnasts, supporters and judges. We send our thanks for an exciting time in the USA to Renee Harris, Wolfgang Bientzle and their organisational team.

Competitions – such as the World Championships and the Team World Cup – are the calling card of the IRV. This is where the results of many hours of hard work, diverse discussions and countless emails are on public display. Yet this is just the tip of the iceberg. The IRV encompasses many other activities, all working to create future structures and improve the activities and events available within our sport. With the presentation of our “Agenda 2020” during the World Championships in Cincinnati, we provided a first insight into our ideas and thoughts about the future of the IRV and international wheel gymnastics. The feedback from many officials, coaches, judges and gymnasts has been carefully noted and will be integrated into our ongoing discussions.

In Cincinnati we already put some of our initial ideas into practice. We organised the All Around Qualification and Final for the senior category for the first time. This approach – trying things, evaluating and improving afterwards – will be an essential part of our thinking in the future. It is therefore vitally important for us to have an objective, open and fair-minded discussion with all participants.



This is why we are in the process of establishing an Athletes' Commission and Working Groups, which will enable the involvement of volunteers in the work of the IRV. The Athletes' Commission will be an elected board of Gym Wheel and Cyr Wheel gymnasts and coaches that will serve as a sparring partner for the IRV Executive Board. All participants and accredited coaches at the 2018 World Championships in Switzerland will be eligible to vote for the first IRV Athletes' Commission. Furthermore, we have initiated an additional format for collaboration – the Working Groups – that will enable us to work together with qualified volunteers to discuss ideas, produce documentation and implement plans of action in specifically defined areas within the development of wheel gymnastics.

For example, the Code of Points Working Group discussed the introduction of the “vertical spiral” and “R elements” into the spiral difficulty catalogue. The amended rules defining music selection for straight-line routines were also prepared by the Code of Points WG.

We have introduced a “freeze” period until 2020 for the Gym Wheel Code of Points. 2017 will be spent working on updated versions of the regulations for all Gym Wheel disciplines, which will summarize and specify already existing versions and training tips. By 2020 the team will have developed a strategy for future regulations and created a concept for the training of judges.

Education is a good keyword. We have reached agreement on various plans of action during the last year. With the “InsideWheel” project we want to make general information about wheel gymnastics accessible to a global audience. The goal of this “community & knowledge platform” is to improve access to our sport and make it more comprehensible. We established an InsideWheel Working Group last year in order to build the necessary structures. Linde Wester from the Netherlands coordinates and leads the activities of this Working Group, and in February 2017 she met with some experts for a first workshop meeting.

We are particularly happy to have been able to strengthen our partnership with Zimmermann Rhönradbau within the context of InsideWheel. Holger Zimmermann (rhoenradbau.com) and his team will support our activities to build this platform through the company's long experience in the manufacturing of Gym and Cyr wheels.

Our special thanks go to the gymnasts, coaches, judges and officials who have sent us feedback about our events, activities and plans. Electronically or face-to-face, we are able to improve our ideas with each discussion. We are also aware that we need to become even more transparent in our communication. The structures that we are currently building from scratch are not easy to understand for a wider audience. An international sports federation is bound to have a complicated structure, but it is our task to present our activities in a transparent manner and explain our organisational structure. This will be one of our challenges for 2017, and communication will be one of our key topics for the year.



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Coming back to the present, the Team World Cup will take place in Salzburg, Austria, on Saturday 22 April. This will be the highlight of the "Wheeling Year" 2017. One year later, in May 2018, we look forward to welcoming Gym and Cyr Wheel gymnasts and delegations to the IRV's home country. Magglingen, Switzerland, will host the 13th IRV World Championships in Wheel Gymnastics from 6 - 13 May 2018. It is worth making a note of these dates in your calendar.

We are looking forward to the upcoming, sporting highlights and hope to see you again soon.

Henning Henningsen
and the IRV Team