

International Mounted Games Association
2nd International Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 -19:00 GMT
Via Zoom

IMGA Officials

Conor O’Leary	Chairperson	online
Quentin Voeltzel	Vice Chairperson	online
Jens Martin	Finance/Administration	apologies
Lizzy Franck	Communication	online
Widu Moormann	Development	absent
Mark Crowe	Chief Referee	online

International Representatives (V – Voting member; A – Associate Member)

Jemima Gardiner (V)	Australia	online
Rachel Lechner (V)	Austria	online
Robin Donnay (V)	Belgium	online
Michelle Cruikshanks (V)	Canada	online
Leo Liang (A)	China	absent
Amalie Dahlmann (V)	Denmark (for Jette Holst Jonsson)	online
Elaine Trevor Jones (V)	England	online
Stéphane Tardif (V)	France	absent
Volker Baasch (V)	Germany	absent
Suresh Kumar (A)	India	absent
Jerome O’Connor (V)	Ireland	online
Andrea Farinetti (V)	Italy (for Andrea Piazza)	online
Lizzy Franck (A)	Luxembourg	online
Sue Robertson (V)	New Zealand	online
Allister Hamilton (V)	Northern Ireland	absent
Anne Kjensli Strøm (V)	Norway	online
Ali Fawad Chadhary (A)	Pakistan	absent
Ewa Obrycka-Blaut (A)	Poland	absent
Bridget Scott (V)	Scotland	online
Nick Sloane (V)	South Africa	absent
Quentin Voeltzel (V)	Sweden	online
Marino Kammermann (V)	Switzerland	online
Quentin Gargallo	Switzerland	online
Paul Greiling (V)	USA	absent
Nikki Beach (V)	Wales	online

Meeting Agenda

Item 1 Introduction

Welcome and Attendance

Question? Do we have quorum? - Brief discussion since five (5) representatives are in attendance at the start of the meeting. Reference to a previous meeting where question of quorum came up and resulted in consultation of Constitution and Procedural documents: from those documents no indication of number or percentage of representatives needed to constitute a quorum was located. Chairperson Conor made the decision to proceed with informational items and to confirm representative numbers at the time of voting on Items 4.1 and 4.2.

Note – attendees continued to log in with over half in attendance by the midpoint of Item 2 material.

Item 2 Board Meeting Report – 14 April 2026

- **Agreed-upon proposals to be presented to Council regarding Under 12 teams at ETIC** – see Item 5
- **Director and Officer corporate legal liability insurance has been put in place** – document had been shared with representatives some time ago, including an invitation to comment. Coverage is very reasonably priced - under £300.
- **All new games will be removed from this year's international competitions** - Mark will be changing the championships' games in the next couple of weeks and will redistribute the lists. The races will be replaced with those from the same categories so the changes will not be major.
- **Luxembourg to move to Associate Member status on the basis of current numbers and activity.**
- **Lizzy has produced exceptional promotional materials, to be made available to all** – Lizzy shares that she has developed videos and made slides to be available for mounted games promotion in our respective countries – e.g. How to run a competition; How to best use social media, etc. The USA and Canada had specifically requested this material which came up at the AGM. Lizzy moved ahead with this initiative and will be posting these PowerPoint presentations for use by member countries.
- **Several membership payments remain outstanding** – updated: Membership fees of one country due at this time.
- **Concerns were raised regarding the reduced activity levels in some countries, which have not rebounded since COVID.**

- **2026 competition hosts will receive:**
 - **Detailed checklists**
 - **A preparatory video meeting with the Competition IMGA Officer and the Chief Referee prior to competition**
- Pre-competition check – of this year’s competition hosts, only Germany is not known to IMGA in recent years. In the next month, a video call will occur as summarised above.
- Question – Is this meeting for all referees officiating at the competition? Mark confirms that the meeting is remote and includes the Chief Referee. For World Individuals, Mark won’t be there so has appointed Jerome as Chief Referee for that competition. As such, Jerome will join in the pre-competition remote meeting.

Item 3 2027 Fixtures

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
• 10-17 July 2027	World Team Championship	la Bonde, France
• 26 July - 1 August 2027	World Pairs Championship	Stadl Paura, Austria
• 2-8 August 2027	European Team & Individual Championship	Flyinge, Sweden
• 11-16 August 2027	World Individual Championship Wales	David Broomes, Chepstow,
• (Added to the list – Date TBD	Nations Team Championship	South Africa)

Noted, with thanks, that Wales has moved WIC to 11 – 16 August, helping to reduce the bottleneck in 2027 scheduling. It is still a tight schedule and involves significant distances; riders may wish to consider selecting from among the competitions.

- Question - It seems physically impossible to travel from Austria to Sweden with adequate rest for ponies between August 1 and 2? Answer – ETIC organiser Quentin confirms that the competition location is in the south of Sweden with an expected 1.5-hour trip from Austria. There is the chance for rest for ponies as the actual competition is going to begin on August 4.

Item 4 Motions Previously Discussed

4.1 Proposal from Jerome O’Connor (IRE)

Motion for Vote: “Any teams or riders who still owe entry fees from a previous year will not be allowed to compete until all entry fees due have been settled in full.”

Brief overview and background information reviewed by Jerome. Clarification provided that the proposal is directed at the non-payment of entry fees rather than any other incidental fees related to the competition.

Voting Representatives - 9

Voting Results - 100% (9) acceptance of the proposal.

4.2 Proposal from Development Officer Widukind Moormann

All agreed to the suggestion to delay discussion and voting on this proposal until Widu's arrival to the meeting.

Item 5 Proposal from the Board Regarding Under12 teams at ETIC

Composite Teams – Under 12 European Team Championships

Purpose

The purpose of composite teams is to provide riders from member countries that do not ordinarily field a team at the Under 12 European Team Championships with the opportunity to participate in the Championships.

Eligibility

1. Only riders from member countries that have not previously achieved a podium placing at the European Team Championships shall be eligible to compete as part of a composite team.
2. A rider whose member country already has an official Under 12 team entry in the competition shall not be eligible to compete as part of a composite team.
3. All riders competing as part of a composite team must have the permission of their home member country.
4. A composite team may consist of riders from two or more member countries.

Entry and Administration

5. The official entry for a composite team shall be submitted by the member country providing the greatest number of riders.
6. The member country submitting the entry shall assume responsibility for the composite team and its riders in the same manner as for a full national team entry. This includes:
 - Appointment of team officials, who may be from any member country
 - Compliance with child protection requirements
 - Provision of team kit

Discussion/Questions

- Purpose of the proposal was reviewed – seeking to encourage entries to the European Team Championships for the U12 division where entries tend to be very low and difficult to successfully generate. These are the riders of the future for which encouragement is generally felt to be beneficial
- This composite team option would be for countries not having sufficient riders to enter a team and which have not previously achieved a podium finish with a team in this division; some consideration being given to limiting the latter provision to 'within the past two years'

Note - ordinarily such a motion would require introduction, discussion and consideration at the current meeting with voting held at the next International Council meeting. If we wish to move ahead with voting on this proposal, a two-stage vote would be required:

1. Vote to approve moving this item forward from the usual motion/decision timeline
2. Vote to accept or reject the proposal itself – Item 5 as above

Continued Discussion

- The concept of 'loading' teams generated some discussion; agreed that this is to be strictly avoided
- Competition entry administration is up to the countries involved using whoever they wish for the various roles required for the team.
- Concern expressed that all U12 riders for involved nations be asked i.e. need to avoid shutting out home country rider(s), intentionally or unintentionally, in favour of accepting another country's rider(s). This relates to the earlier discussion of 'team loading'; process for team selection considered an internal matter for each country.
- Suggestion made that a call for riders be publicised on e.g. website so that it is public knowledge, increasing accountability for the team selection process.
- Several opinions expressed suggesting general agreement that there is a strong need for bolstering the U12 competition and of the concept that were a composite team to win, they would not be taking the title and the trophy. They could win the competition but not the title which has to be won by a country.
- Chief Referee Mark further notes that a composite team could be the winner on points but not the recipient of the championship title and confirms that teams can't ride HC because they are then not subject to the rules and consequences.
- Question - How many teams would be anticipated? Any limit? Answer - Conor – not anticipating a limit and the team and entry really need to be administered from within the countries involved – not through IMGA Board. A delayed entry acceptance deadline for composite team(s) entry could be implemented to ensure that all countries have the opportunity to thoroughly poll their riders to make up a country team. Need to allow enough advance planning time for any composite, late-entry team.
- Quentin comments on the stabling requirements as potentially limiting the number of composite teams: he usually allows 12 spare stables, and this would probably fulfill the needs of a later entry composite team.
- Question – Could there be consideration to opening this opportunity for U12 composite team participation to a non-European rider? Answer - Conor – the Board had considered this, and it needs to be further discussed i.e. a composite team has no effect on the outcome as far as the championship title is concerned, the composite team no matter how composed, can win the competition but not the title.
- Opinions expressed that this should be permitted and would represent "an amazing experience."

- Question – How many U12 teams are currently entered to ETC? Answer: Quentin – five.
- Question – What happens if future numbers eliminate the need for composite team entries to create a viable competitive division? Answer – Conor – Revisit the matter.
- Chief Referee Mark confirms that the proposal needs to be specifically worded to exclude winning of the Championship title.

Note – Chairperson Conor has technical difficulty in launching the proposal and assigns Chief Referee Mark as co-host to enable launching of the poll/vote. Mark successfully launches the poll.

- **Proposal One** – allow variance from voting protocol.

Voting representatives – Eleven (11)

Voting results – 100% (11) in favour of the proposal in order to allow an exception to voting protocol in the case of this item. Voting on the actual proposal to follow immediately.

- **Proposal Two** – Item 5 with amended wording.

Voting on the proposal for the acceptance of composite U12 teams at ETIC - the following stipulation has been added to the original proposal:

Any composite team, although able to win the competition based on points, is not eligible to be awarded the Championship title which is awarded to the highest scoring country team.

Voting Representatives – Eleven (11)

Voting results – 100% (11)

The proposal is accepted.

Action Item: Continue discussion re: composite teams, eligibility requirements, etc., at the IMGA 2026 AGM.

Item 6 Correspondence from Denmark regarding ETIC Entry

Conor has received updated correspondence from Denmark concerning this matter –a fifth rider has been named, and Denmark will field a team for the upcoming ETC. Denmark’s representative Amalie seeks consideration of engaging a rider from another country to fill out a team, beyond strictly the U12 division.

Note: Today’s expedited voting and approval of Item 5 (*Proposal from the Board regarding Under12 Teams at ETIC*) were with the express intent of facilitating an immediate change to assist in facilitating team entries to the undersubscribed U12 division. The deviation from the usual IMGA decision-making protocol is accepted as occurring on a ‘one time’ basis.

Action Item: Continue discussion of the topic of mixed country teams at the AGM.

Item 7 Correspondence from New Zealand regarding the cost of pool ponies at IMGA competitions

- Michelle and Jemima speak to the concern expressed by New Zealand: seeking clarification regarding the cost of borrowed ponies for the upcoming NTC in Florida; conflicting information provided to New Zealand rider inquiring about self-sourcing ponies. Differentiated pricing quoted with the reason given that this was based on the rider's country.
- Nations countries called a meeting hopeful of discussing this question in advance of the IMGA meeting. There was no response from the USA to email seeking meeting or to the meeting invitation. AUS, NZ and CAN attended and discussed this matter – perhaps a misunderstanding on the part of the rider making the inquiry? We will continue to work at getting information from the USA. Chairperson Conor shared that he had contacted the USA to make them aware of the agenda item in advance – no response. All express the hope that everything is okay.
- Nations countries' concern includes late information adversely affecting the ability to attend e.g. South Africa. South Africa has previously shared this concern, unable to participate as visa application deadline is months in advance.
- Chairperson Conor suggests the possibility of late competition pricing and general information as due to current USA political climate. Paul had shared that initial delays with pricing for teams were due to suppliers' slow responses and contract finalization.
- Chief Referee Mark clarifies that pool pony cost is controlled by the organisers but not the self-source pricing. He notes that the particular case of South Africa's participation in championships is a concern as they are a country requiring lengthy visa application time allowances. They missed out on the opportunity to attend a recent World Team Championship due to insufficient information in time for their deadlines; disappointing to hear that once again this has occurred.
- Another opinion expressed regarding recent pony borrowing costs is that the UK, Italy, and Ireland have been higher priced exceptions to the figure historically charged for borrowing ponies. Pony availability, pony cost, and escalating transport costs were briefly highlighted as recent and continuing challenges.
- Australia given as an example of a host country making significant efforts to ensure reasonable costs for attending, including provision of ponies at a very reasonable rate. Pony owners did not necessarily cover their costs but on the whole, the organisers and pony lenders were chiefly interested in providing excellent ponies, competition, and overall experience for visiting riders.

Action Item: Further discuss the topic of pony costs and pricing at the 2026 AGM.

Item 8 2026 Competition Updates

Europeans Team and Individual Championship – Quentin Voeltzel

- Entries are coming in but it is relatively early in the team entry process. The system is working; not that many inquiries at this point as teams are selected by their countries and decisions are made regarding entries to Individuals.

- Lots of nice sponsorship coming in – although potential donors were contacted as long as two years ago, there have been very recent significant new partnerships being formed – this has resulted in a total of €10K for the podium prizes
- Provision of Jerseys has been sorted; Pony rugs and jackets have been sponsored for the winners. There are also prizes for the winning trainers. The prizes are significant!
- Stables are across the road from the small arena and locked within fencing; safe access is also controlled with traffic light.
- The main competition arenas are open and encouraging to the public with additional spectator seating. There is an all-day Arena party refreshment area as a gesture of thanks to parents/arena crew. Camping amenities and a bar are in another secure area of the facility with security service. The security fencing is being installed now so that this is all in place well in advance of the competition.
- Question - A reserve rider for the team wants to participate in the Individuals but has to pay a separate starting fee in addition to the Team fee that they already paid? Answer - Quentin describes their 'made to order pricing' such that if a rider using same pony, enters the Individuals, the fee is €240. The system of pricing is linked to the number of entries – fixed costs like security, etc. are a factor. €120 per stable is being charged to them for stabling. In general, the organisers are very happy to discuss individual cases so please contact directly for this special rate. Quentin manually makes these changes, safeguarding the special code system from unauthorised sharing. Quentin further notes that his company is sponsoring particularly the U12 division so that they will be covered in case of need for financial support.
- Clarification sought and provided regarding double entry i.e. if entering two categories - Individuals and Team. Organisers working through to ensure that there is no clash or conflict.
- Additionally, Quentin notes that he will follow up regarding the original question of double entry fees having been paid in this case as he can view this in his database.
- Conor notes the excitement building about this competition with exciting news that the Czech Republic will be sending a U12 team by special arrangement and support of the French Federation and the organisers! Austria is also attending for the first time with four teams!

World Team Championship and World Pairs Championship

Chairperson Conor provides an update report from Valentin – both WPC and WTC are receiving entries and the organisers are seeking confirmation regarding the status of entries and pony procurement from competing (overseas) countries. Thank you for responding with your country's information.

Item 9 Any Other Business (AOB)

Item 4.2 - Conor suggests that we return to Widu's Item – 4.2 *Proposal from Development Officer Widukind Moormann* - at the next meeting of the International Council. It would be beneficial to have Widu present to speak to the proposal and answer questions. Conor and Mark (Board members) consider whether such a delay would negatively impact actions included in the proposal. They note that

Widu and Lizzy are seeking participating rider numbers from member countries as part of this process but feel that tabling the item to the next meeting won't cause a delay in this work.

Use of AI for mounted games advertising – Conor reports for Lizzy that accuracy is an issue with the use of AI in formulating advertising and marketing; please contact her for IMGA marketing materials and any questions regarding advertisement.

Related to this item, Chief Referee Mark notes that a scam Facebook page is already operating - IMGA World Pairs Championship - which names 'friends' and shows images of non-games horses, etc. Beware!

Assistant Referee Online Exam - Question – More than one country has recently experienced difficulty in accessing the Assistant Referee online exam. Difficulties encountered included no response to requests for setting up accounts, extensive time spent circling through the platform trying to access accounts that had been established. Answer - Chief Referee Mark speaks to this issue, reviewing the history of this course as having been set up and administered by Warwick on a Moodle platform which is no longer current and has been problematic for a significant period of time.

- A new person registering requires manual acceptance including a confirmation email. Particular email account types – e.g. Gmail – are very problematic.
- As part of the new IMGA website design, a new Assistant Referee module is being introduced and is close to ready; at his earliest opportunity, Mark is finalising his review of the material.
- Noted that Mark's publication of his next Referee and Assistant Referee list update is helpful.
- Two countries will send names for confirmation/addition to the list as courses were completed successfully but the candidates are currently not showing on the list.

Recent tragic loss - Chairperson Conor expresses sympathy to the Lockyer family in Wales and to Nikki and the Welsh organization. The loss of Sarah came as a big shock and tragedy for the family and to the many who knew Sarah. Nikki indicates that the family is being very private – Sarah's private funeral is this weekend. The family is accepting condolences. Please remain off social media.

Item 7 continued - Sue (NZ) has joined the meeting and provides an overview of the issues related to earlier presentation of Item 7 regarding Nations Team Championship.

- Sue highlights the critical need for timely competition information and for encouraging countries' participation by reducing as much as possible the cost for ponies.
- She notes that we are trying to grow the sport and avoid as much as possible turning mounted games into a 'Sport of Kings'.
- Mounted games has always featured an element of pride in making competitions as financially feasible as possible for countries to attend. There is a deep history of country reciprocation and mutual goodwill in this respect.

Chairperson's Closing Comments

Thank you to everyone for attending. Note that the next meeting of the IMGA International Council will be held at the World Team Championships with an online option for those not attending in person at the competition.

Adjournment – 20:48 GMT