

September 1, 2011

Greetings country-members, coaches, athletes, judges and volunteers,

It's my pleasure to be a part of FISAC-IRSF as the newly elected president. The excitement that has been generated by the new board is inspiring, and I'm honoured to be a part of the group. My name is Billy Smale. I'm from western Canada, and I'm a rope skipping athlete, judge and coach. I am a former member of the Rope Skipping Canada Board of Directors, and currently a member of the Pan American Rope Skipping Organization's Board of Directors. There are many changes on the horizon for FISAC-IRSF, and I'm pleased to be able to share some of them with you in this letter.

Starting this year, and continuing into the future, the FISAC-IRSF Board of Directors is committing to increasing volunteer engagement in order to allow for coaches, athletes, judges and volunteers to have greater opportunities to participate in FISAC-IRSF organizational initiatives. With a solid base of volunteers working with the FISAC-IRSF Board of Directors, there's no doubt that rope skipping will continue to flourish and develop. A newsletter will be released soon which will include information on how to get more involved with upcoming FISAC-IRSF initiatives. Some of the initial programs FISAC-IRSF will develop this year include:

- online-judging webinars (web-based seminars)
- emerging-country competition frame-work
- coaching development programs
- online competition and membership registration software

FISAC-IRSF is committed to open and transparent communication. As a tool to assist in this pledge, the Board of Directors has started developing a modern website which has launched at <http://www.fisac-irsf.org>. Staying in close contact with skippers, coaches and judges is important to us, as it will keep the organization's members up-to-date on the progress of this year's new initiatives. FISAC-IRSF will also be keeping members engaged by increasing our social-media presence on both Facebook and Twitter.

I would like to send out a huge thank you to the recently retired members of the FISAC-IRSF Board of Directors.

- Ron Kappert, FISAC-IRSF's long-time President has worked tirelessly for 12 years to bring the organization to the prestigious level we enjoy today.
- Greg Bannerman, past Senior Vice President and Interim President did a tremendous job of preparing the new board for this year's AGM in Hungary, and has been a FISAC-IRSF board member since it was formed.
- Lorraine Bannerman, the former Rules Committee Chair who also sat on the FISAC-IRSF board from the beginning, ensured the FISAC-IRSF rulebooks were always in top-condition, amongst dozens of other tasks.
- Kajsa Murmark also one of the founding members, with her considerable experience in the sport, has always played a major role in FISAC-IRSF affairs.
- Chris Dale, the organizer for the 2010 World Rope Skipping Championships, did an unbelievable job last year with FISAC-IRSF's largest and most successful Championships to-date, and has sat on the FISAC-IRSF Board for many years.

The newly formed Board of Directors is a wonderful group of volunteers with a strong shared-vision for FISAC-IRSF's future and the future of rope skipping. I'm honoured to introduce to you the current FISAC-IRSF Board:

Senior Vice President – Richard Stannard (Germany)

Interim Secretary – Molly Metz (USA)

Treasurer – Kata Sasvari (USA/Hungary)

Vice President, Africa – Sandile Ntombela (South Africa)

Vice President, Asia – Janet Locke (Japan)

Vice President, Europe – Mia Mønster (Denmark)

Vice President, Oceania – Nicole Krause (Australia)

Vice President, PanAm – EJ Boillot (USA)

Member at Large – Antony Doyle (Australia)

Member at Large – Pieter Himpe (Belgium)

If I've not done so yet, I look forward to meeting you at the 2012 FISAC-IRSF World Rope Skipping Championships in Tampa, Florida, USA.

Billy Smale

FISAC-IRSF President