WABA Board 2024 for Co-Chair report: key discussions and decisions

This Co-Chair Report summarizes the key discussions and decisions of the WABA (Worldwide Aquatic Bodywork Association) Board of Directors and the ESAC, as documented in the meeting minutes from January to December 2024.
This report highlights the diverse range of issues and decisions the WABA Board addressed throughout 2024, demonstrating their ongoing efforts in managing the association's operations, standards, and global presence.

Registry (WABR)

The potential purchase of the Registry from Dull's lawyer was a significant and ongoing issue throughout the year. Board is bringin on this issue started in 2019 by the previous Board.
The Board provided a response to Dull's Lawyers deal by February. No reply by May, the lawyers were still involved in the deal, though no substantial reply was received.
In September call with Drew Kundtz, Registry technician and Dull's friend chosen as reference after closing correspondence with the Lawyers.
Discussion continued throught the year with Drew as a mediator of Dull's family, and the lawyers were not involved in deal anymore. The purchase of the Registry was considered a priority and was still in progress at the end of December 2024. Board tried all the time to communicate with Dull's family but it wasn't successfull.
The urgent need to update functionalities of the Registry was raised.
The purchase deal for the Registry is still pending.

Ethical Standards situations

- February: Board Meeting with Tatyana Penzina about her posts and communication on social media: The Board asked Penzina to be more respectful of other cultures and maintain an appropriate social media presence, mindful of her role as an Senior Instructor.

- Tomasz Zagorski proposal to work on ethical standards for instructors and assistants was discussed multiple times, with the Board requesting a detailed proposal. The matter has remained pending throughout the year; no solution has been found for this proposal yet.

- A complaint from Watsu Italia Team regarding Zagorski 's posts about a conference in Poland, a Territory in 2025, was discussed; A letter was eventually sent, then a Board members spoke with Zagorski: Tomasz decided to postpone the IC to 2026.

- Trudy Jagger was approved as a second member for the US Ethics Committee.

- The WABA Board received several complaints from Tomasz Zagorski and against him. The Board spent many hours and lots of energy writing letters and organizing meetings with Tomasz and other parts involved in the complainrts. A Zoom meetings with them on 12th December was organized by the Board; the board supported the instructors in helping them to try to resolve their conflicts. No solution came form the meeting.

- WABA Board approved new members for its Advisory Committees for next 4 years. List of members can be found on www.waba.pro

Training and Instructor Guidelines:

Review of Guidelines for Watsu 3® Instructors was ongoing with ESAC in 2024:
It was approved to reduce the number of coteaching of W3 level from 3 to 2 coteaching + a coach advising.
The possibility of removing the timeframe of 2 years between Watsu 2 level and starting coteching of Watsu 3 has been discussed and rejected.
The timeframe between Wta 2 and Watsu 3 IIT was reduced from 3 to 2 years.

Issue of different kind of Watsu 3 have been brought to IC 2024 in Sardinia. No decision was taken at the time.

New proposals for Continuing Education (CE) guidelines were discussed and brought IC in Sardinia. The approval of the changes was still pending by the end of 2024.

Tantsu Instructor path documents were **approved**

The proposal brought by ESAC that no one should do Coach Advising with a close relationship (familial or romantic) to the IIT was approved.

Membership and Board Matters

Proposal to increase the number of members in the WABA Board was discussed and approved.
aimed to increase membership to a maximum of 7 and have one more member from Europe.
Elections for new Board members took place, new members joined in November/December.
A new member for Europe was added to the Board: Jurgita Svediene, Natalia Chaverri replaced Wellington Oliveira for Latin America, Ankit Sha replaced Prashant C.G. for Asia.

Financial Matters

The Board discussed and approved the purchase of software for financial support;
After checking several programs. Banana Accunitng program was adopted.

Search for new Audit: Marcela Kavpilova was approved as the new auditor for the Financial report at IC in Sardinia.

Website and Communication

Some WABA members asked the Board to take positions regarding wars and conflicts situations still happening in 2024.
A new long stext about WABA Board's vision of the Worldwide war's situation was approved and published on watsu.com.

The establishment of a Communication and Social Media Committee was discussed.
New Instagram accounts were created, and the need for a new OFFICIAL WABA Facebook page was discussed and approved.

Global Events and Partnerships:

- Communication with Korea regarding exclusive license granted by Harold Dull in 2003. Other 2 Instructors from Korea requested a second TI. Board checked old written Agreements with Dull's Family. This matter is still under discussion.
- Watsu Polska TI's request to maintain old fees was discussed, and the Board decided to propose a change in the percentage based on US GDP. The new calculation method has been approved, so Poland and other territories maintain the lower registration fees.
- Hungary received formal authorization as a TI to use the TM.
- The request from Eurasia TI (Russia) regarding DOM and practitioners was approved for DOM and Providers, but not Practitioners initially; their request to use the TM for a new non-profit association was approved with non-exclusive use.
- The Board prepared points for discussion at the Instructor Conference in Italy (October 2024) and 3 members of the Board were present at the IC; in November, a report on the conference was issued and published on WABA.pro

Various Topics

Following letters from WABA members situation with Aguahara's marketing and website was discussed.

NAK German Association's request to enter WABA: approved.

Issues related to Watsu training in Brazil were raised and discussed, reiterating the importance of following the training guidelines and complying with WABA regulations.

TM issue in Spain with Watsupath was addressed: WABA Italia sent letters, but there were no replies from the company advertising online courses of Watsu®.



