WORLD FEDERATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING & THERAPY

WFATT

Annual All Members Meeting | Minutes

Date: November 2, 2026 **Location:** Zoom (virtual)

Call to order: 6:03 p.m. (EDT) **Adjournment:** approximately 6:52 p.m.

Presiding officer: Dr. Matthew Kutz, President

1. Call to Order and Quorum

President Matthew Kutz called the Annual All Members Meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m. via Zoom. He confirmed nine directors in attendance and declared a quorum. The meeting recording was to be made available through the WFATT website approximately two weeks after the meeting.

Directors or officers identified during the quorum check and introductions included Sinéad O'Keeffe, Colin King, Sue Nakaniida , Jennifer Rizzo, Rick Griffin, Heng-Ju Lee, Norikazu Hirose, and Ellie Daniels.

2. Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Notes

Rick Griffin moved approval of the agenda; Colin King seconded. Unanimous approval. The chair proceeded with the agenda.

A motion to approve the notes from the October meeting in Dublin was made by Heng-Ju Lee and seconded by Sue Nakaniida . Unanimous approval. The chair proceeded to the next item.

3. Executive Committee Introduction

President Kutz acknowledged Past President Brian Zeller and introduced four vice presidents: Sinéad O'Keeffe, Sue Nakaniida , Colin King, and Jennifer Rizzo. He thanked the Executive Committee and committee volunteers for their service.

4. President's Report

4.1 Membership

The Federation reported ten voting members, six Allied Health members, and 48 academic institution members, representing a net increase of six academic institutions. The CISG was recently approved as an Allied Health member, and an additional application was anticipated. A geographic breakdown of academic institution members was presented.

Voting-member representatives were encouraged to identify recognized or accredited athletic training, athletic therapy, and related sports rehabilitation programs in their countries for targeted academic membership recruitment. The President indicated that supporting outreach materials and a follow-up request would be circulated.

4.2 Education and Research Committee

The committee, chaired by Stavros Daoukas, reported launch of an online webinar-speaker application and review process. It is developing a proposed virtual, student-led global exchange to facilitate international engagement and research exchange. Priorities include expanding webinars, supporting peer review of World Congress abstracts, and designing a pilot for the student exchange.

4.3 Marketing and Communications Committee

The committee reported continued website maintenance, refreshed branding, and increased engagement on LinkedIn and Instagram, together with promotional collaboration on the AT Chat / Let's Chat podcast. International Athletic Training and Therapy Day activity showed increases in impressions (approximately 10%), page views (150%), and unique visitors (200%); the President also reported substantial Instagram reach growth. Contributors to the day's promotion were acknowledged.

The next International Athletic Training and Therapy Day is scheduled for February 18, 2027, under the theme "Ready Worldwide." Committee priorities include campaign materials, member spotlights, website updates, event promotion, and member engagement.

4.4 Academic Institutions Committee

The committee, chaired by Matt Lewis, reported work supporting student research submissions for the prior World Congress, updated member-benefits information, a member newsletter, podcast participation, a current institutional contact database, and planning for virtual student and faculty networking opportunities. Collaboration with the University of South Carolina was also under development. Priorities include academic member recruitment, increasing participation at the 2027 World Congress, and recruiting ad hoc reviewers for student research submissions. A Canadian committee representative is sought.

4.5 International Development Committee

The committee, chaired by Kathy Ortega, reported work on a process for annual reviews of member classification and status, directory and attendance information, potential collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and exploration of recognition or

engagement opportunities with the United Nations. The committee is recruiting one or two additional members, including replacement international representation.

4.6 World Congress Committee

The committee, chaired by Pete Dewar and supported by Chris Schomer and Kristen Kidd, reported planning for the 2027 World Congress at Surgeons Quarter in Edinburgh, Scotland, October 21–23, 2027. The theme is “Rehabilitation, Resilience, and Readiness: The Roles of Sport Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy in Health and Exercise Rehabilitation.” Venue, program streams, case-study formats, sponsorship, exhibitors, accommodations, and event logistics remain in development. BASRaT was acknowledged for its support.

The deadline for scientific abstracts is January 15, 2027; the speaker-submission deadline is February 1, 2027. Registration is expected to open in spring 2027. Members were encouraged to circulate the calls for submissions and identify potential sponsors and exhibitors.

4.7 External Advocacy and Partnerships

The President reported continuing engagement with the International Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS), regional sports medicine organizations, and WADA. Participation in the FIMS World Congress in Santiago, Chile, resulted in discussions with international leaders and new contacts in Latin America. The Executive Committee prepared a proposal outlining potential collaboration with WADA; discussions were described as ongoing. Additional international outreach is being explored through the International Development Committee.

4.8 Legal and Risk Management

The President disclosed a copyright claim concerning a photograph used in WFATT promotional materials without authorization from its copyright holder. The original demand was US$7,500; the matter was settled for US$2,500 through counsel engaged under the Federation’s board insurance coverage. The President stated that there was no additional out-of-pocket cost to the Federation beyond its regular insurance premiums. Changes to image sourcing and marketing-material authorization practices were anticipated to reduce future risk.

4.9 Continuing Education and Proposed Journal

The Federation reported continued approved-provider status with the BOC, CATA, ARTI, and BASRaT.

The President also announced the exploratory development of a WFATT scholarly journal. Colin King will chair the journal initiative. A steering committee is being formed to assess the journal's title, aims and scope, publication and access models, and governance; a subsequent editorial board is contemplated.

5. Financial and Governance Business

5.1 Financial Report

The President presented the financial report in Canadian dollars and described a positive year-end operating surplus, increased unrestricted net assets (approximately CAD 30,000), lower total assets and liabilities, and higher expenses associated in part with the World Congress cycle. He described the Federation's cash position as strong with minimal liabilities and raised the possibility of a more intentional investment strategy.

A motion to approve the financial report was recorded; Sue moved and Sinéad O'Keeffe was acknowledged as seconding. Unanimous approval. The chair proceeded.

5.2 Retention of Accountant

Rick Griffin moved to retain Jeffrey Milgram as the Federation's accountant. Sue Nakaniida seconded. Unanimous approval. The chair proceeded to the next item.

5.3 Reappointment of Directors

The following five directors were presented for reappointment: Ellie Daniels, Colin King, Norikazu Hirose, Heng-Ju Lee, and Jennifer Rizzo. A motion was made by Sinéad O'Keeffe and was seconded by Sue Nakaniida . Unanimous approval. Congratulations board members.

5.4 Election of Vice Presidents

Sinéad O'Keeffe and Jennifer Rizzo were presented for renewal as vice presidents. Jennifer Rizzo was noted as completing the balance of the President's former term and beginning her own two-year term. Colin King moved their approval; Sue Nakaniida seconded. Unanimous approval.

5.5 Amendments to Membership Bylaws

The President presented changes to the non-voting membership provisions in Bylaw 3.1. No change to voting membership was proposed. The changes eliminate the former Associate Member category and substitute Conditional Member status for nationally organized associations intending to qualify for voting membership within five years, subject to eligibility and Executive Committee oversight. Only one eligible conditional

association per country is allowed, and the category is unavailable where that country already has a voting member association.

The Academic Member category was renumbered and clarified. The Allied Health Member category was broadened to include qualifying subnational organizations, special-interest organizations, approved corporate partners, and allied health professions with collaborative interests. Honorary Member wording was revised to recognize individuals for distinguished long-term service or work in a parallel field. Conforming terminology and numbering changes throughout the bylaws were also described.

Jennifer Rizzo moved approval of the proposed amendments; Rick Griffin seconded. Members indicated support by voice or gesture. Unanimous approval. The chair declared the amendments approved.

6. Questions and Open Discussion

The President invited questions and comments first from voting members and then from all members. No questions or comments were raised during the recorded discussion period.

7. Adjournment

President Kutz thanked officers, directors, committee volunteers, Past President Brian Zeller, and former President Glenn Bergeron. He adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:52 p.m.