

## **IGLA Position Points to 1QE Discussion – Las Vegas – January 17, 2013**

### **Background**

Aquatics participants at the 1986 Gay Games II held a meeting and agreed to begin holding annual championship tournaments during the three years between Gay Games. IGLA is the governing body for aquatics at the Gay Games, working in cooperation with local organizers to ensure competitions are held in accordance with FINA masters regulations.

IGLA has been a full member of the Federation of Gay Games since 1991 and has never missed an FGG meeting. Three FGG co-presidents have been members of IGLA teams. IGLA has taken lead roles supporting creation and implementation of the Gay Games sports guidelines (the Red Book) and has been a strong advocate for financial responsibility.

The proliferation of multi-sport events since the early 1990s and, in particular, since the founding of Outgames, has divided individual members' attention from attending the one declared IGLA Championships event and, of course, the Gay Games and Outgames events themselves. We are proud of our swimmers' history of setting world and national records with some regularity at past quadrennial events. But as more and more events are held we never achieve one of our goals, of having all the most talented aquatics sportspeople at one event on a regular basis.

### **III. Purpose of the Town Hall and overview of the day**

- A. Update you on what's happening in the global LGBT sports and culture scene.
- B. Get input on what you want a quadrennial global LGBT sports/culture event to accomplish.

**IGLA** An event that brings LGBT athletes together from multiple sports to showcase all levels of our talents and abilities; sports must be run according to internationally accepted rules; participation must be reasonably priced and the overall event run without incurring debt.

- C. Get your input on how you want global LGBT sports and culture events to be run better.

**IGLA** Every host has unique opportunities and challenges. IGLA has had generally successful collaboration with Gay Games hosts since becoming the official governing body for aquatics events following Gay Games V in 1998. IGLA's member team in Copenhagen ran the World Outgames II competition according to IGLA's rules and regulations. The addition of culture events to quadrennial sports events is nice but not necessary to the overall success of the event. The recent further addition of human rights conferences has created more distractions from the original reason we came together, has served to confuse messages and strain personnel and financial resources. Sports organizations did not ask that human rights conferences be added to these events; they've been imposed on the events by individuals with interests not specific or even related to sport.

- D. Create North America and Latin America operational plans to increase individual and organization participation and collaboration in quadrennial LGBT sports/culture events.

**IGLA** North America-based organizations are already very experienced at running tournaments and can provide advice and, to a certain extent, in-person management assistance in organizing tournaments in Latin America. IGLA looks forward to holding its championships in Latin America and there are a number of existing facilities where this would be possible (San Juan, Rio, among others). However, there are no LGBT aquatics teams in Latin America. IGLA could assist organizing and operating a tournament should there be interest at the level of the small number of local individuals in Reykjavik where we held our 2012 championships.

IV. CDG Brazil/Pride House (where things are, how they are progressing)

- Jef Sousa
- 10 min, 10:35-10:45

V. GG9 Promotion

- Tom Nobbe, Rob Smitherman, with audio/visual
- 10 min, 10:45-10:55
- What you can do to help (specific steps to take)

VI. History of 1QE

- Shamey
- 10-15 min, 11:55-11:05
- Historic overview of timeline: Johannesburg 2001 - Lubljana 2014 (no details)

**IGLA** Jason Stone was part of the most recent round of 1QE negotiations and can offer his perspective there. Several others attending the meeting were involved in the process from 2001 forward.

VII. What FGG is working on: review of strategic projects

- 20 min, 11:05-11:25

VIII. Full-Audience Survey (live text-response survey)

- Race
- 30 min, 11:25-11:55
- Questions:
  - A. Practice question: what continent do you primarily live in?
  - B. Practice question: (yet to be determined)
  - C. What do you want quadrennial world-wide LGBT sports and cultural events to accomplish? (Multiple choice)

**IGLA** See comment on III.B. above.

- D. What are your three most-important expectations of world-wide quadrennial LGBT sports and cultural events? (Multiple choice)

**IGLA** IGLA delegates to the FGG have supported, in fact were instrumental in creating, the tenet within the FGG that our quadrennial event should be: 1) sports focused; 2) community based; 3) financially sound.

- E. If you attended GG 8, how well were each of those expectations met? (Multiple choice)

**IGLA** First two were very well met. Cologne ended with a deficit that was minimal in comparison with previous Gay Games losses, closest to Vancouver's than other hosts. We understand most of this debt has been successfully retired.

- F. How important is it to you to have a human rights component in such events? (Multiple choice)

**IGLA** Nice but not necessary. LGBT sports rights are human rights; should conferences be held, they should predominantly be about sports issues. That is our participants' and leaders' strengths, and there are many opportunities still left unaddressed in this area.

- G. How important is it to you to have a cultural component in such events? (Multiple choice)

**IGLA** Nice but not necessary. Cologne and Chicago have had an appropriate balance.

- H. How important is it to you to have a greater selection of mixed-gender team sports in such an event? (Multiple choice)

**IGLA** Men and women compete in mixed relays in swimming, compete on the same teams in water polo and synchro, and can participate in mixed teams in synchronized diving. What we continue to hope for is greater participation by women in all of our sports.

- I. What is the single most important reason to have 1QE instead of two or more? (Open ended)

#### IX. Break

- 15 min, 11:55-12:10

#### X. Small-groups/breakouts

- Each breakout has two co-moderators (one also works as a scribe)
- 60 min, 12:10-1:10
- Attendees choose one to participate in

#### A. Response to Sochi // Moderators needed

- 1. Agree on the outcome we want our response to have
- 2. Review all of the responses happening out there
- 3. Brainstorm: How can we bring these all together for one powerful response that will have the outcome we have agreed on?
- 4. What do we do next (break-out participants) to achieve this more coordinated response?

**IGLA** Perhaps it's necessary to have this on the agenda due to the timing of Sochi between the Las Vegas and Ljubljana meetings, but this is a separate topic from 1QE.

#### B. Participants' needs. // Martha Ehrenfeld and Mike Meyers?

- 1. Outcome we want from this breakout: create ideas for focusing quadrennial events more on participants' needs; such as: attracting more participants, for attracting younger participants, for increasing mixed-gender sports, deliberate if the cost of quadrennial events should be higher or lower.
- 2. Take each sub-topic (immediately above) and brainstorm ideas.
- 3. After done: other ideas to consider?

**IGLA** We don't see how this breakout session assists in solving matters regarding focus and scheduling.

#### C. Global visibility and impact // Dave Kilian and Doug Litwin?

- 1. Outcome we want from this breakout: ideas to take forward for improving visibility and impact.
- 2. Brainstorm: what are the unique needs of non-traditional markets (Caribbean, Asia, Africa, etc.)
- 3. Brainstorm: how can we increase visibility in non-traditional markets?
- 4. Brainstorm: how can we increase involvement in non-traditional markets?
- 5. The June 2013 stakeholder survey showed that simply putting on world-wide quadrennial sports and culture events doesn't change as greatly as needed the hearts and minds of people world-wide who have the greatest influence over LGBT acceptance and equality. What efforts could we undertake that align with putting on sports and culture events that would have a bigger impact on changing these hearts and minds?

**IGLA** Limited ability to do more than the mission of putting on a successful quadrennial event. There are certain things that an FGG or GLISA can do between quadrennial events to have an impact on other LGBT concerns, but arguably these organizations could do more to support the efforts of hosts already chosen for quadrennial events –

so how much dreaming is realistic and how much a distraction from making the quadrennial events successful? All of the above need money to accomplish much more than what can be done through the Internet – and it's money our organizations have, to date, not successfully raised.

#### D. Latin America Operational Plan // Derek and Jef

#### E. North America Operational Plan // TBD

- Process for both operational plan breakouts:
- 1. Review what an operational plan is. Idea to start with: an informal process or organizational structure that organizes "tier 1" events, then 2, 3, and finally large regional events that lead up to quadrennial events -- similar to the NCAA basketball playoffs structure, where many college games lead up to 16 games then 8 then 4 then 1; this structure could coordinate events (calendars), could create between-event events that build interest and attention, organize PR, etc.
- 2. Would such a structure work for our region? If not, how could we modify it so that it does?
- 3. What are the elements such a structure would need to coordinate, such as calendars, PR, newsletters, etc.?
- 4. Do we have a list of all the groups that we would like to be part of such a structure? If not, make a plan to get it or create it.
- 5. Make a list of all the things such a structure could do: to increase group participation and spectator audience (local, regional, quadrennial); to increase funding for local groups and regional groups; to build awareness in the wider community. Try to include how Pride House 2014-2016 could help.
- 6. What would be the first steps necessary?
- 7. Create a task-force of people to begin the work. Decide when they will first meet and how they will meet.

**IGLA** Where is the demand coming from for a North American organization to govern regional multi-sport events? We've never heard of this, and we question whether North America's IGLA teams would benefit from it. Some years ago IGLA's officers developed an "IGLA Series" idea that was supposed to be held on an annual basis but which our local teams showed no interest in formalizing

Perhaps sports groups with fewer teams and participants as IGLA might find strength in numbers for such a project. But our organizations have a problem getting people to volunteer or run for positions so who will staff such a governing body? Do we expect groups to reserve spots on calendars far enough in advance to make this a success?

The breakout here should be how already successful North American-based organizations can assist Latin American organizations to develop successful sports groups and hold local and regional tournaments.

#### XI. What is next for 1QE?

- Race + 4-6 moderators
- 40 minutes, 1:10-1:50
- Proposed process: audience breaks into 4-6 groups; each group brainstorm answers to the question: "Given what we heard today, what are the three next steps to get to 1QE?"; each group makes a list of all ideas, votes on top 3 ideas; each group moderator texts the three ideas to a live audience accumulator so that all can see the ideas. (12-18 ideas total).

**IGLA** IGLA was born from the inspiration of the Gay Games. IGLA supports the continuation of the Gay Games name for the 1QE event. IGLA welcomes the addition of regional multi-sport events potentially under the Outgames brand in areas of the world that are still developing an LGBT sports structure.

Possible contribution to discussion:

There was a successful structure for only a few years following Gay Games II. The founding of EGLSF and establishment of Eurogames halted the progress several international sports groups were having building connections within Europe – it was, if we're being honest, the first kink in successful structure. This is not to minimize the enormous success that EGLSF has had regarding LGBT sports issues. Montreal's break from the existing quadrennial program might very well have been limited only to 2006 had it not been for the support of key people within EGLSF. Without passing judgment on why those individuals chose that path, it is inarguable that the addition of Outgames events to the then-existing schedule has diluted the success of all organizations' events, locally, regionally and internationally.

EGLSF could probably end the situation by declaring it is going back to the previously existing schedule, holding Eurogames during the three years between Gay Games, and no longer giving up Eurogames should an event under the Outgames brand be held in Europe.

>>>> Do we call for World Outgames to end after 2017? We expect Miami to ask IGLA to call the World Outgames aquatics competitions there the official IGLA championships – that would be for the IGLA board in 2015 to decide. Our dilemma is we expect aquatics will be run very well in Miami that year. However, based on how few Europeans traveled to Ft. Lauderdale for the 2004 IGLA Championships we do not anticipate much attendance from outside North America in 2017.

## **XII. Thank You and Wrap-Up**