



# International Slalom Skateboarding Association

# Annual Report 2011/2012

*The mission of the ISSA is to promote  
the enjoyment and growth of  
slalom skateboarding worldwide*

## ***Description of activities performed by the ISSA***

- *Facilitation of communication through forum and FaceBook group*
- *Event management (status handling, event calendar)*
- *Attribution of Worlds, Euros and U.S. Nationals*
- *Racing rule publication and updates*
- *World Record rule publication and updates*
- *World Ranking management*
- *World Record management*
- *SlalomSkateboarder.com development and maintenance*
- *SlalomRanking.com development and maintenance*
- *FaceBook ISSA group maintenance*

*Members and racers are from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA and Uzbekistan.*

*Web presence: [www.SlalomSkateboarder.com](http://www.SlalomSkateboarder.com), [www.SlalomRanking.com](http://www.SlalomRanking.com) and FaceBook ISSA group*

# Annual Report 2011

## ISSA Board of Directors 2011

Jani Söderhäll, SWE, President  
Petr Janoušek, CZE, Vice president  
Jonathan Harms, USA, Treasurer  
Flavio Badenes, NED, Secretary  
Ron "Fatboy" Barbagallo, USA  
Peter Klang, SWE

## World Ranking and Status management

The year started off with the new BOD taking on an important part of leftover work from 2010 - gathering and entering the 2010 results into the ISSA World Ranking system. Assuring the ranking was in fact the motivation for many of the new board members to join the board.

One of the first actions was to establish two new teams of status marshals: Petr Janousek, Ricardo Damborenea and Peter Pletanek in Europe, and Jonathan Harms, Lynn Kramer and Steve Pederson in North America. Early 2011 these status marshals were all very busy contacting potential race organizers, sending them the ISSA status application form and encouraging them to apply for ISSA status for their races. During the year the status marshals maintained regular contact with the organizers to coordinate the calendar of the year so races didn't conflict with each other.

In Europe the status marshals also recruited national coordinators to manage the events on a local level. Some countries have up to 10 events in a year, and they need local management and authority to assign event status among those events. The goal of the status marshals' efforts was to set up the framework for a successful and exciting season of races in as many locations as possible.

## ISSA Forum Management

In the spring a new version of the underlying software was installed, carrying over some of the custom features that had been built into the previous version over the years. With the new forum software, images and attachments can be uploaded automatically by the members and no longer require an administrator to assist. The new forum also allows us to create sub-forums for better organization of the topics, especially old stuff that can be archived, but still kept.

A new front page design was also developed together with freestyler Stefan "Lillis" Åkesson. Apart from the visual update, a very important feature was built into the front page to allow publication of news articles and other content update, through the forum itself, using hidden sub-forums and topics. Any post in such a forum is automatically reflected on the front page of SlalomSkateboarder. This technique and basic feature of a CMS (Content Management System) was initiated by Guillaume St-Criq and perfected by George Popescu for the SlalomSkateboarder.com site and by Hans "Corky"

Koraeus for the SlalomRanking.com site. George, a PHP programmer, also helped us merge the menu system of the two sites into one.

### **Sponsoring the ISSA**

To support and help finance the activities of the ISSA, banner sponsors for the website were recruited among the skate manufacturers and retailers. The ISSA board of directors would like to thank the following sponsors for their support: Fullbag, Longboards by Fatboy, Pavel, Radikal, Seismic and Sk8Kings.

### **Funding for racers**

To support the 2011 ISSA World Championships in Ottawa, Canada, the ISSA gave away \$100 each to five long-distance European or Brazilian travelers selected through a lottery draw.

The same support was given to the European Championships in Grenoble, France, with the ISSA giving away \$100 each to four long-distance travelers.

### **Board meetings**

The ISSA Board of Directors (BOD) held a total of 12 Skype calls to discuss the management of the ISSA. These calls were generally well attended and many topics were discussed and decisions taken. The democratic management of the ISSA means that management decisions are not always fast and changes to the organization sometimes come fairly slowly. However, we feel that we still met the objectives of 2011, which was to put the basics back in place and make sure we have a well-oiled machinery. The Status Marshals and National Coordinators played an important role in making sure the 2011 season was well managed, while the ISSA BOD could allocate their time and effort into the overall management and future strategy.

### **Elections**

At the end of the year, Jonathan and Petr gave their positions up for re-election to assure we could continue the tradition of three newly elected members one year and four the next year. With one position empty (Wesley Tuckers resignation for 2011) and Peter Klang having fulfilled his latest two-year term on the board, a total of four positions were up for grabs. Jonathan and Petr were both re-elected, and two new members were welcomed into the Board: Hans "Corky" Koraeus and Ricardo Damborenea. As he had several times before, Wesley Tucker also managed the formalities of this election.

### **Membership**

At the end of the 2011 season ISSA had a total of 29 paying members.

## Noteworthy decisions, actions and statistics of the ISSA

- Updates to the current 2008 rules as well as constitution were collected and prepared by Pat Chewing and decisions were taken to implement most, if not all of the proposed changes. However, the announcement and update of the rules booklet(s) were not made, so rules remained unchanged during the year.
- Slalomcross was accepted as a slalom discipline within the ISSA. However, not a single slalomcross race was held in the year, leaving doubt as to the importance of this decision.
- The Pro class was reinstated to maintain compatibility with the current ranking. Race organizers were free to hold separate Pro/Am classes or a common Open class. Racers registered as Pro racers would get their Pro points in Open class races as long as at least eight Pro racers were racing.
- Early announcements were made for the 2012 season, and a lively debate happened spontaneously during the autumn. Despite the announcements it was difficult to find an organizer for the 2012 Worlds, supposed to be in Europe. Early 2012, Robert Thiele contacted the ISSA to present his ideas for a World Championships in Stuttgart. His application was approved in March 2012, leaving only six months to prepare for the most important race of the year.
- Fatboy initiated a collaboration between the ISSA and the Akron (Ohio, USA) Soap Box Derby hill, but actually putting together an event there proved difficult with no local slalom fans.
- *Concrete Wave* magazine continued to support the slalom scene, allowing a two-page spread with slalom coverage in every issue. Fatboy and Jonathan handled the *CW* work.
- The individual ISSA membership was discussed and a new model for an event fee was initiated by Petr Janousek and after a few revisions decided upon by the BOD. With the announcement slipping it was judged too late to implement such an important change at a time when most events had already been announced. The event fee idea was suspended and never announced or implemented.
- World Records approved:
  - 100 cones clean run, Men: 20.68, Joe McLaren, USA, Sept 17, 2011
  - 100 cones, Women Jr: 41.22 (41.12+1), Ana Damborenea, ESP, Sept 11, 2011
  - 100 cones clean run, Women Jr: 42.16, Ana Damborenea, ESP, Sept 11, 2011
- Guinness World records:
  - 50 cones: 10.02, Janis Kuzmins, LAT, Aug 28, 2011
- World Ranking statistics - Events: 88, Race results: 4969, Unique racers: 932



INTERNATIONAL SLALOM SKATEBOARDING ASSOCIATION

**2011 TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>Balances on hand as of January 1, 2011</b>	<b>\$ 2,153.15</b>	<b>€ 753.21</b>
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<b>Receipts, January 1-December 31, 2011</b>		
Membership dues	\$ 800.00	€ 15.00
Advertiser payments – Sk8Kings, Radikal, Seismic, Fullbag, Longboards by Fatboy	\$ 500.00	€ ---
Site sponsorship payments	\$ 125.00	€ 40.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 1,425.00</b>	<b>€ 55.00</b>

<b>Disbursements, January 1-December 31, 2011</b>		
Programming for SlalomSkateboarder.com and SlalomRanking.com – George Popescu	\$ ---	€ 630.00
Reimbursement of travel fees to “European Indoor Championships” for G. Avramov, O. Glushko, A. Nikulin	\$ 375.00	€ ---
PayPal fees	\$ 46.19	€ 2.26
Refund – Inadvertent double membership payment	\$ 25.00	€ ---
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 446.19</b>	<b>€ 632.26</b>

<b>Balances on hand as of December 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$ 3,131.96</b>	<b>€ 175.95</b>
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Respectfully submitted,  
*Jonathan B. Harms*  
 ISSA Treasurer

Date: February 11, 2013

# Annual Report 2012

## ISSA Board of Directors 2012

Jani Söderhäll, SWE, President  
Jonathan Harms, USA, Treasurer, VP  
Ricardo Damborenea, ESP, Secretary  
Hans "Corky" Koraeus, SWE, World Ranking Administrator  
Ron "Fatboy" Barbagallo, USA  
Flavio Badenes, NED  
Petr Janoušek, CZE

## World Ranking and Status management

After a successful organization with status marshals and national coordinators in 2011, 2012 was all set and the planning for 2012 was already well under way in late 2011. It was decided not to change any aspect of this successful organization, although it is generally desired to rotate the status marshals' positions every few years to avoid bias. Let's not change a winning concept! For the record, it should be stated that the success of the ISSA these last two years is largely thanks to the relentless work and commitment of the EU and U.S. status marshals and the national coordinators who kept the seasons 2011 and 2012 rolling smoothly.

For the attribution of the Euros, Worlds and U.S. Nationals, the ISSA Board of Directors took the formal decisions, but they followed the strong recommendations of the status marshals.

With consistent result reporting from all involved, Corky kept the ranking up-to-date monthly in both 2011 and 2012 and used some of his free time to further advance the ranking software in particular to allow racers to register for events on the slalomranking.com website. With a centralized engine for race registrations, race organizers do not have to allocate efforts to program and publish a race registration module. We intend to promote this method in 2013. Recent work also includes a CMS module for event organizers to update event articles concerning their races.

Mary-Beth Lavoie replaced Steve Pederson as U.S. status marshal.

We had difficulties to establish status marshals for Brazil and Australia, but results obtained were included and their event statuses determined by attendance. Hopefully we can get a better collaboration going for 2013 with these two large countries, and also with Japan where slalom seem to be reappearing.

## **Allocation of Euros, Worlds and U.S. Nationals for 2013**

- Worlds 2013 was attributed to Texas Outlaws for a Houston/Austin event in October 2013
- Euros 2013 was attributed to UKSSA to be held at Hog Hill in August 2013
- Attribution for the U.S. Nationals 2013 has not been done yet

## **ISSA Forum Management**

Jani and Wesley Tucker carried on the daily maintenance of the forum, eliminating spam users, making sure people post with their full names, moving and splitting posts etc. Robert "Robo" Gaisek continued the task of updating the monthly site sponsor and ensured updates were done in a timely manner.

More and more monthly sponsors used the possibility to incorporate images, logos and other artwork into their sponsorship message.

The forum saw a considerable reduction in attendance in the last two years, most likely due to the increased use of FaceBook. It seems the daily chat, spontaneous photo posts, race thanks and even race rumours have completely moved from the forum to Facebook. Looking back in time, such information was initially at NCDSA, then at SlalomSkateboarder and at several local forums, then Silverfish seemed to attract more and more slalom coverage, but it has pretty much all now moved to Facebook. With a larger readership it may actually mean that slalom information is now spreading to a larger group than in the previous years.

Race status discussion and ISSA formalities are still discussed primarily in the forums.

The BOD maintains their discussions in BOD-only forums at SlalomSkateboarder.com, one for each year, as board members change with the new elections. Previous discussions and BOD Skype call minutes are kept for future reference.

Using the new CMS (Content Management System), the ISSA tried to make sure that MAIN and MAJOR races got instant race coverage with results posted in the 24-48 hours following the race. The SlalomSkateboarder.com and SlalomRanking.com front pages should be the number 1 location to go for accurate, last-minute news on important races.

## **Sponsoring the ISSA**

No new forum sponsors were recruited, so the 2011 sponsors' banners were kept online until late autumn, when recruitment for site sponsors 2013 started and the first new sponsor banners were put in place.

## **Funding for racers**

No travel bursaries were allocated during 2012, but we followed up on the 2011 bursaries that had been delayed and made sure all recipients got their money.

## **Board meetings**

The ISSA Board of Directors (BOD) held a total of 13 Skype calls during the year to discuss the management of the ISSA. These calls were slightly less well attended than in 2011, and the fire fighting nature of the meetings led to less constructive actions than we had initially thought and hoped for.

## **Elections**

At the end of the year, Jani, Flavio and Fatboy had fulfilled their two-year terms, so three positions were available. The three outgoing board members all volunteered for re-election and no other nominees accepted their positions, so voting process volunteer Wesley Tucker could conclude at the end of the nomination period that no voting was necessary and the three outgoing BOD members would be automatically reinstated for another two-year term.

## **Membership**

At the end of the 2012 season ISSA had a total of 52 paying members.

During the BOD Skype calls it was suggested that in 2013 we should move from individual membership to national (or team) membership, but the discussion could not be concluded prior to the end of the 2012 season and it was decided to maintain the individual membership for 2013.

## **Noteworthy decisions and actions of the ISSA**

- Late candidacy and decision for Worlds 2012. It was held in Stuttgart in July and was organized by Robert Thiele. The event became the largest ISSA slalom event ever with 119 participants.
- Updates decided in 2011 were implemented in the rules during 2012, but complete consistency has not been reached, so some rules booklets still have the 2008 rules.
- Ricardo Damborenea performed a state-of-the-art analysis of the sport, which has yet to be finalized and published. The analysis was done with data from the ISSA World Ranking database. Expected for publication in spring 2013.



- Follow-up and coordination on the prize money issue at the Worlds 2012 due to uncertainties and late completion of the event's financing.
- Event fee, decided in 2011, postponed.
- ISSA ombudsman position (up to now held by Joe Iacovelli) removed.
- *Concrete Wave* magazine coverage of slalom continued, and going forward we should try to make even better use of this publication possibility that Michael, the editor of *CW* offers us.
- A specific ISSA FaceBook group was established and it gathered 700 members in less than half a year. The ISSA specific FB page has been initiated, but has not been made public yet.
- World Records approved (in order of approval):
  - 50 cones, Men: Janis Kuzmins, LAT, 9.77, Aug 18, 2012
  - 50 cones, Women: Lienite Skaraine, LAT, 11.99, Aug 18, 2012
  - 50 cones, Women, jr: Anna Gailite, LAT, 12.40, Aug 18, 2012
  - 50 cones, Men: 9.436, Viking Hadestrand, SWE, Aug 5, 2012
  - 50 cones, Masters: 9.826, Mikael Hadestrand, SWE, Aug 5, 2012
- World Ranking statistics - Events: 104, Race results: 5702, Unique racers: 1073



INTERNATIONAL SLALOM SKATEBOARDING ASSOCIATION

**2012 TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>Balances on hand as of January 1, 2012</b>	<b>\$ 3,131.96</b>	<b>€ 175.95</b>
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<b>Receipts, January 1-December 31, 2012</b>		
Membership dues	\$ 405.00	€ ---
Advertiser payments – Longboards by Fatboy, Concrete Surfer Skateboards, Cosmic Skateboards	\$ 300.00	€ ---
Site sponsorship payments	\$ 225.00	€ 20.00
Conversion of Euros to Dollars	\$ 230.79	€ ---
Payment mistakenly sent to ISSA	\$135.00	€ ---
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 1,295.79</b>	<b>€ 20.00</b>

<b>Disbursements, January 1-December 31, 2012</b>		
Programming for SlalomSkateboarder.com and SlalomRanking.com – George Popescu	\$ 510.00	€ ---
Travel reimbursement for 2011 European Championships (Gustavs Gailitis)	\$ 125.00	€ ---
Travel bursaries for five racers to 2011 Worlds	\$ 500.00	€ ---
PayPal fees	\$ 40.29	€ 1.13
Refund – Payment mistakenly sent to ISSA	\$ 135.00	€ ---
Conversion of Euros to Dollars	\$ ---	€ 175.95
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 1,310.29</b>	<b>€ 177.08</b>

<b>Balances on hand as of December 31, 2012</b>	<b>\$ 3,117.46</b>	<b>€ 18.87</b>
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Respectfully submitted,  
*Jonathan B. Harms*  
 ISSA Treasurer

Date: February 18, 2013

## ISSA World ranking – statistics 2003-2012

	Events	Race results	Unique racers
2003	32	1690	494
2004	44	2341	568
2005	49	2860	634
2006	51	3132	740
2007	59	3289	787
2008	25	2772	479
2009	75	4623	829
2010	69	4154	772
<b>2011</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4969</b>	<b>932</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>5702</b>	<b>1073</b>

*Note: Race statistics of 2008 may be incomplete.*