

## **Report on the 2012-2013 IGF Activities**

- By Thomas Hsiang

In 2013 the IGF Board Meeting and General Meeting are both delayed until September and there is therefore no report on the meeting agendas. Below I will instead report on the other activities engaged by IGF in the 12-month period after May 2012.

### **SportAccord and IMSA**

During the 2013 SportAccord Convention in St. Petersburg, election was held to replace the retiring president Hein Verbruggen. Marius Vizer, a Romanian national and president of International Judo Federation, was elected the new president.

Simultaneously, IMSA elected its new president, Kirsan Ilymzhinov, to replace José Damiani who retired to become the honorary and founding president of IMSA. Thomas Hsiang of IGF was elected the General Secretary and Marc de Pauw of WBF was elected the Treasurer.

Talks were held with the SportAccord general director Vincent Gaillard (who has since been replaced by Vlad Marinescu, a former US Karate champion) about the operational details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SportAccord World Mind Games. These Games will be held December 12-18 for both 2013 and 2014 in Beijing. In 2013, the Go budget will remain the same as in 2012, with a total prize fund of \$400,000. The player count will increase by 2. In view of the general decrease of overall budget, Go has done very well. The North American contingent will be doubled in size, to three men and one woman. The competition items will include men's team, women's individual, and pair Go.

In addition, IMSA has entered into negotiation with the Republic of Bashkortostan to hold a new international mind sport event in city of Ufa on June 4-10 2014. The prize structure and general terms will be similar to that of the SAWMG. The original plan was for a contract to be signed on Ufa on June 1 2013. Because of a last-minute glitch, the signing was indefinitely delayed. A subgroup of mind sport representatives have been designated to continue the discussion. They include Geoffrey Borg from FIDE, Harry Otten from FMJD, and Thomas Hsiang from IGF.

Mr. Damiani reported that the previous contract between IMSA and Mind Sport Partners (MSP) appears to be in great difficulty. The negotiations are continuing.

## **IGF Operations in 2012-13 and plans for 2013-14**

The 34<sup>th</sup> WAGC will be held during the first week of September 2013 in Sendai, Japan. The delay from the usual May time is due to the effect of 2011 earthquake in Sendai. The 35<sup>th</sup> WAGC will be held in early July 2014 in Korea. The delay is due to the Korean parliamentary election. The host city is not yet decided.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Student Oza was held 2/25-3/1, 2013, in Tokyo. This year a new preliminary selection tournament was held on Pandanet in December 2012. Maojie Xia (USA) and Leonardo Sepulveda (Chile) won the rights to represent the Americas. They placed 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the field of 16 competitors. The 12<sup>th</sup> event will be held in February 2014, using a similar format as in 2013.

IGF is the lead organizer for the new tournament Mlily Cup, sponsored by Chinese interest and replacing the now-defunct Korean BC Card Cup. The inaugural tournaments are still ongoing. All American pros were invited to enter the preliminary round at their own expense, in addition to one amateur selected by AGA.

IGF also reports the successful conclusion of the first North American Go Symposium, held just prior to the 2012 North American Go Congress. Another IGF-sponsored project, a pilot teaching program in Venezuela, is still ongoing and no final report has been filed.