



PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

LUDIS IUNGIT

To **Panathlon International**
Club Presidents
Presidents of PI University Clubs
Presidents of PI Junior Clubs

c.c. To Panathlon International
Board Members
A.C. Members
C.A.B. Members
Members of the Commissions
District Presidents
Area Governors

Circ. 31/24

Mestre, 12 December 2024

Dear Presidents,
Dear friends,

we are now ready to meet, online, at our Assembly scheduled for next Saturday.

In recent months, I have been pleased to observe a lively and stimulating debate on the issues that will be the focus of this important meeting. Never before has such strong and participatory attention been perceived. This is, in my opinion, an extremely positive sign, a clear indicator of a movement that is dynamic, aware and deeply committed to its mission.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to give you a summary of the activities over the past six months from the Agrigento assembly, both in terms of current management and with a view to the challenges of the next two years.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire Secretariat for its extraordinary daily commitment. With dedication, and often even beyond working hours, the Secretariat tirelessly supports International Board members, District Presidents, Governors, Club Presidents and every single panathlete, providing useful information, documents and suggestions always in time. This choral work is the beating heart of our movement, and it is thanks to this energy that we can grow and achieve our goals.

I would like to emphasise the important work done, also at territorial level, by the International Board Members, with whom we have established an excellent understanding. Together, we have analysed and defined the proposals that I am now going to present to you, with the aim of facilitating your understanding and sharing.



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PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

LUDIS IUNGIT

I am pleased to inform you that, thanks to careful management of ordinary activities, we will close the year with a small loss of only €50,000.00, compared to an initial forecast of around €70,000.00. This is the result of a collective effort and constant attention to economic sustainability. This will allow us to draw on our reserves significantly less than initially planned. Turning to the spending cuts and savings planned for the next two years, I would like to point out that in recent months we have acted considering the indications that emerged and were received during the Agrigento Assembly. For the first time in our history, we have decided to organise the assembly online. The General Secretariat has already sent the necessary operating instructions to all participants, including instructions on how to carry out a preliminary test of the platform.

I would like to draw your attention to two fundamental points:

1. **Access to the assembly works and voting operations**

All interested members will be able to attend the assembly works via a dedicated platform. The access link will be published in our Newsletter. Voting operations, on the other hand, will take place on a separate platform. The link will only be sent to Clubs in good standing with payments and to the person designated to vote, i.e. the Club President or his delegate. Please note that proxies between Clubs will not be allowed.

2. **Connection and Voting**

A system was chosen that, besides being simple and intuitive, guarantees maximum confidentiality and secrecy. During the voting operations, only the number of voting Clubs will be known. The designated scrutineers (Ghio and Tabaroni) will have access to the list of voting Clubs, but not to the details of the preferences expressed. At the end of the vote, the system will provide the result, thus ensuring transparency and impartiality.

Turning to the reading of the proposed 2025-26 budget, which you have already received, I confirm what was explained to many of you during the meetings that took place online and in which I participated with pleasure. There has been a reduction in personnel costs of some €19,000.00.

In this regard, I would like to provide a clarification: in the past, the staff consisted of 8 employees and a Secretary General, a total of 9. Currently, the structure is reduced to 6 employees, with the following hourly commitment:

- One employee at 34 hours per week
- One employee at 30 hours per week
- Three employees at 25 hours per week each
- One employee at 40 hours per week (one full-time unit)

That corresponds to a total of 4.5 units.

This rationalisation was implemented to optimise resources while maintaining an adequate level of operability. In this regard, I would like to emphasise that the Secretariat's activities are not limited to administrative and accounting management, but also include the communication and management of many circulars, letters and information, and the management of the website.





PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

LUDIS IUNGIT

Moreover, since September, the sending of International Board (IB) and President's Committee (PC) resolutions, which require translations into several languages, has been introduced.

I would also like to highlight an aspect closely related to both staff working hours and expenditure items. Over the past few months we have managed to obtain the renewal of the lease (concession) from the municipality of Rapallo, a circumstance that was far from a foregone conclusion, considering that other entities were interested in the building. Not only did we keep the building, but also the rent unchanged, a significant achievement. However, the contract stipulates that Panathlon International is the custodian of the villa, with the obligation to guarantee its opening to the public both in the morning and in the afternoon (until 5pm). This commitment implies the need to have staff present throughout the working day.

As far as the magazine is concerned, it was decided to no longer proceed with the printing and mailing of the magazine, a decision that allows us to realise a saving of approximately €13,500.00.

We still have the costs of the translations and we hope, in the near future, to reduce this cost as well by using the ever-evolving technology of Artificial Intelligence.

In agreement with Past-President Giacomo Santini, whom I would like to thank for the valuable work he has done with passion and professionalism over the past few years, it was decided to appoint Dr. Filippo Grassia as Communications Officer. Filippo is already working to create a network of journalists who will collaborate free of charge for our communication, primarily for the Newsletter.

Another important saving was achieved by deciding that all meetings of the Institutional Bodies (I.B., PC, AC, CAB) will be held online, except for an annual in-person meeting. The same choice will apply to the meeting of the District Presidents. We are aware that in-person meetings have a different effectiveness but, with the I.B., it was decided to operate in this way in order to achieve a saving of approximately EUR 10,000.00, considering that now the I.B. only needs two translators.

Another issue that had long been the subject of attention (and sometimes criticism) is our Lausanne Representation. Savings have been realized and achieved on this issue as well. The cost of the rent (maintained at about e. 3,000.00) of the office inside the "Maison du Sport International", an essential presence to maintain relations with all the other Organizations, first and foremost the IOC itself, has been reduced. It was decided to modify the work contract with our secretary, moving from a predefined amount to recognition on an hourly basis, with a contractual limit with the clause that the hourly commitment will be verified by a member of the IB: this has enabled us to reduce this cost to about e. 7,000.00, with savings of at least e. 7,000.00., subject to the rent mentioned above.

As far as events are concerned, it was decided to postpone the awarding of the Flambeau d'Or for this year, considering the costs that would be involved. However, in 2026, we will have to hold the mid-term assembly, the cultural conference and the celebration of our 75th anniversary,





PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

LUDIS IUNGIT

combining all these events to give them the right emphasis and making significant cost savings on side events.

In general, we estimate that we have achieved a total saving **of about 50,000.00** euro.

We plan, as a precaution, to set aside a provision of 15,000.00 euros. In addition, we will implement the spending rationalisation plan strictly, with the aim of closing the budget in balance or with a small surplus.

On the other hand, we plan to implement some initiatives to be considered not as an expense but as a necessary **investment** to ensure the growth of our Movement and of the Clubs.

Let's talk about Expansion: on this topic, International Board Member Mr. Perin is already moving towards Eastern European countries, but also started an important work with American clubs.

We have set aside an allocation of e. 7,000.00/8,500.00.

As you may recall, the PI Code of Ethics was approved in Agrigento. Now the PI Ethics Commission will have to prepare its Regulations.

In order to enable operations even with online meetings, we have allocated an expense of e. 2,000.00.

We must not forget the importance of our PCUs and Junior Clubs (for which we will maintain the same fee): these youngsters must be considered a resource and our future.

In order to allow them to do activities, we have set aside a budget of e. 3,000.00 per year.

I would like to remind you that we already have some ready-made and operational **Projects** that cost the Clubs nothing (I am thinking of the Fair Play Project with the presentation keys and the ready-made project translated into various languages that few have requested and that would allow them to enter the school world in a big way, or the ONE OCEAN Project with the Charta Smeralda that would also allow Clubs to meet various nautical Clubs - sea, lake, river, again without cost).

But that is not enough.

We are working on three new projects that will give us wide international visibility and recognition from the IOC, but we feel it is essential to have resources available to the clubs for projects, such as the Erasmus, even local but targeted ones: for this purpose we have provided an allocation of e. 5,000.00.

As mentioned, the format of the communication was changed, and for the sake of prudence, a budget of e. 2,000.00 was set aside for this purpose.





PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

LUDIS IUNGIT

The provisions have already been mentioned, and for the time being, the IOC contribution is to be maintained at e. 55.00,00.

To realize these savings and projects, in addition to guaranteeing the coverage of costs as expressed in the budget, it is necessary to approve the quotas as well as the proposals with an increase after about 20 years.

Lastly, I must point out two issues.

Someone asked me why we do not present at the assembly with a different budget, with a lower forecast of expenditure calculated on the basis of current fees, therefore without increases.

This is not possible.

The Statute requires a single balance sheet to be presented.

Turning to the second: for the hypothesis of not approving the new fees as proposed, I would like to point out that the PC already knows where action will have to be taken, having well in mind the various budget items.

It will be a question of reducing all activities to a minimum, thus putting our entire Movement under severe strain: we will not be able to hold meetings of the Institutional Bodies, including District Presidents, we will not be able to carry out Expansion, Communication, Projects, we will not be able to help PCUs and Junior Clubs, and we will no longer be able to distribute material, awards and contributions.

More precisely :

- the costs for I.B. and PC meetings will be reduced to zero, saving e. 15,000.00;
 - nothing will be devoted to Commissions with a saving of e. 4,000.00 - 5,000.00;
 - nothing will be dedicated to events and the Ethics Commission with a saving of e. 12,000.00;
 - no District Presidents' meetings will be organised with a saving of e. 10,000.00 /15,000.00;
 - nothing will be dedicated to Expansion with a saving of e. 7,000.00 - 8,500.00;
 - nothing for PCUs and Juniors Clubs with a saving of e. 3,000.00;
 - nothing for the Pan-American Congress, with the participation of the International President and I.B. members delegates as a matter of practice, saving e. 7,500.00;
 - nothing for projects with a saving of e 5,000.00
 - reduced round table with a saving (2026) of e. 8,000.00.
- for a total cost saving of about e. 70,000.00 / 77,000.00.

I will close with a final remark: as in Agrigento, even during some meetings, someone asked if and why we are not looking for sponsors.





PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

LUDIS IUNGIT

When I entrusted the delegations to the IB members, I had proposed this task to a Board Member who had worked on this issue, but he refused the delegation as he did not consider himself up to it.

In conclusion, I invite you to take an active part in the discussion of our budget and to follow the Assembly works with the attention they deserve, always bearing in mind that every decision we make will contribute to the strengthening and consolidation of our organization for the future.

Warm greetings and good work to all.

Thank you for your attention and see you on Saturday.

Giorgio Chinellato
International President

