

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

Executive Committee

Minutes

Of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation held on **5 and 6 October 2009** at the Admiral Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President of the Danish Table Tennis Union, Mr. Aksel Beckmann, welcomed the Executive Committee to Copenhagen.

The ITTF President welcomed all members to the meeting, which was combined with IOC meetings. Rio de Janeiro had been selected as the host city for 2016 and this presented an opportunity for table tennis to be developed further in Latin America. Mr Yang Shuan sent his regrets, as he was attending the national games of China and, therefore, would not attend this meeting. Mr Harwood would represent the ITTF at the remainder of the IOC meetings, which would consider the selection of sports for the 2016 Olympic programme with Golf and Rugby-7s possibly being added.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games)
Glenn Tepper	Executive Director (Development)
Judit Faragó	Executive Director (Competitions)
Mikael Andersson	Executive Director (Education and Training)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Alison Burchell	Projects Coordinator
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

Invited to attend

Claude Bergeret	Athletes' Commission
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Apologies for absence

Yang Shuan	Deputy President
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3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held in Lausanne on 26 June 2009: these minutes were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.
- 4.2 There was no business arising from the Minutes which was not otherwise covered by the agenda. The Executive Committee asked the Executive Directors to copy the relevant Executive Committee member on all correspondence related to their functions.

5. World Championships update

- 5.1 ETTU President's complaint (Yokohama): The Executive Committee noted that the financial contribution towards the costs of attending the World Championships was received and managed openly by the ATTF and LATTU and that several national associations supported others financially.

After a very long discussion and reports by Mr. Thomas Weikert and Mr. Adham Sharara, the Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations), Jordi Serra, to investigate this matter further and to submit a report to the EC for its next meeting. The President expressed his concern on preserving the integrity of the election process and requested from Mr. Weikert to propose a policy on how to manage such financial and other contributions.

- 5.2 WTTTC Moscow 2010: the Executive Committee noted that the President had met the organising committee to confirm visa arrangements for all participating countries (3 guarantees were received), hospitality rates (US\$170 pp pd double occupancy, US\$220 pp pd single occupancy or the equivalent in roubles agreed on a particular date) and to sign the contract. The organising committee had proposed a change in hotel, which would be confirmed during the next inspection visit. The dates for the AGM had been set for 26 May 2010 and the Board of Directors meeting for 28 May 2010. The new on-line result system would be implemented in Moscow. The Marketing Director, Steve Dainton, was investigating additional VIP hospitality services.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Competitions), Judit Farago, to develop a policy on determining the costs in local or an accepted international currency for hospitality.

- 5.3 WTTTC Rotterdam 2011: the Executive Committee noted that good progress had been made with the organising committee. The AGM would be held on 10 May 2011. The Executive Committee noted the proposal for hospitality:
3 star US\$210 double occupancy, US\$290 single occupancy
4 star US\$246 double and US\$355 single
5 star US\$ 290 double and US\$435 single

The Executive Committee requested the Executive Director (Competitions), Judit Farago, to liaise with the organising committee to ensure that the hospitality rates were the same or less than Yokohama and to ensure that the contract for future world championships was signed upon the decision to allocate the event, in order to confirm the hospitality rates for different types of hotels.

- 5.4 WTTC Germany 2012: the Executive Committee noted that Dortmund would be the host city and the dates had been set following a change in date of the Kuwait Open.
- 5.5 Bids for WTTC 2013: the Executive Committee noted that France had submitted an initial bid by the deadline with additional information by 15 October 2009 and that Qatar had submitted a bid by the deadline.

6. Global Junior:

- 6.1 World Junior Table Tennis Championships (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia):
 - 6.1.1 Update: the competition venue and hospitality would be high quality, security was assured, strong national government and organisational support existed, although changes in Government personnel, the lack of organising committee budget and structure as well as the conversion of the convention centre to a sports venue and lighting were causes for concern. The prospectus would be issued on 6 October 2009. The Executive Committee agreed that the hospitality cancellation policy should be implemented. The Executive Committee meeting would take place on 11 and 12 December 2009 (arrival on 10 and departure on 13 December 2009).
 - 6.1.2 Jury: the Executive Committee considered and approved a proposed amendment to the rules to be submitted to the Board of Directors that the jury for the World Junior Championships be the chairperson of the Junior Committee, the Executive Director (Competitions), the Junior Programme Director, the referee and a representative of the organising committee. For the upcoming championships, a referee was a member of the URC and representatives from the Ranking and Rules Committees would not be present.
- 6.2 Youth Olympic Games update:
 - 6.2.1 Rules for organisers of qualification tournaments: the generic rules provided by the IOC would apply and the organisers would receive them in due time. The first qualification event would be held in Egypt 21 to 24 November 2009.
 - 6.2.2 Road to Singapore, universality places: the IOC had applied the ITTF proposal and offered 1 universality place to each NOC of Paraguay, El Salvador, Malawi and Mauritius for the men; San Marino, Guyana, Sri Lanka and Congo for the women and names would be submitted to ITTF by mid-October 2009.
 - 6.2.3 Officials: the IOC would cover the costs of airfares and accommodation for officials nominated by the ITTF although the final number still had to be approved.

The Executive Committee decided that from the 18 international umpires, 9 would be "youth umpires" who would receive further training and 9 would be the youngest nominations received; and asked the Vice-President (Finance), the Executive Directors (Education and Training, Operations and Development) to decide the age criterion and to liaise with the URC on this matter.

6.2.4 Cultural programme: 7 formats had been proposed by the organising committee where a sport specific component would be included and the ITTF had submitted a request for a training exchange for the players.

6.3 ITTF World Hopes Team – 2010: the project had worked well and the screening process would be reviewed with "try-out camps" added before the team was finally selected. The camps would be held in China with Korea being considered in line with funding committed by Butterfly. Registration would open in early November till 31 December 2009.

6.4 Global Junior Programme update: the programme had supported additional athletes eligible for the Youth Olympic Games. The Junior Commission would discuss the qualification criteria for the final of the ITTF Junior Circuit. As no bid to host the World Cadet Challenge and Junior Circuit Finals in November 2010 had been received, associations would need to be approached. The "Future Spin" magazine had been distributed at the IOC Session.

7. Clean Sport Project - ESN: there was good value to ITTF for ESN becoming an education partner in terms of donating rubbers and upgrading the knowledge of coaches and players in matters relating to racket coverings.

8. Olympic Games, London 2012 update:

8.1 Schedule and test event: 11 days with 4 tables was not possible in terms of the competition schedule. Following liaison with OBS, the programme may be extended to 12 days with one or two days starting at 09h00. Issues relating to the test event would be resolved after a meeting with LOCOG to be held on 13 October 2009 and may include a specially created test event such as an "Olympic preview". LOCOG would be informed of equipment suppliers for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tinsue floor, Double Happiness tables and Nittaku balls).

8.2 Qualification rules: The first draft of the qualification rules, following the decisions of the last Olympic and Paralympic Commission has been prepared and sent to the IOC for reaction.

9. Modification to the Directives for Match Officials at World and Olympic events

The Executive Committee noted the proposed changes to the directives to add criteria of quality and neutrality in the referee while balancing legacy

with the host nation being part of the referee team as well as including that airfares for referees be paid by the ITTF in the interim.

The Executive Committee asked the URC to specify the role of the referee so that the roles of the competition manager and referees can be clarified. The Executive Committee asked the Vice-President (Finance) and Executive Director (Education and Training) to present proposals for the URC to monitor illegal services.

The Executive Committee approved the attached directives as proposed with immediate effect.

10. Follow up decisions from the Board of Directors:

10.1 Audit panel: the Executive Committee appointed the chairperson of the Rules Committee, plus Mr. Han Sang Kook, plus a member of the Board of Directors from either LATTU or African TTF with finance expertise to be nominated to the audit panel. The final Panel to be confirmed at the next meeting of the EC.

10.2 Terms of reference for all committees and commissions: the Executive Committee requested all committee and commission chairpersons to propose the role of the committee or commission, its terms of reference, the responsibilities of the chairperson and of its members. The President would send to all current committee chairpersons the official request and direction in the new year.

11. Anti-harassment policy review:

The Executive Committee approved the proposed changes to include "players" which had been omitted in point 2, that entry forms for all ITTF events include an undertaking to commit to the ITTF's anti-harassment policy. The Executive Committee also appointed the chairperson of the WWG as the second anti-harassment officer due to the conflict with section 12 of the policy in the appointment of Ms Sörling.

12. Ranking penalty appeal

The Executive Committee upheld the decision on the ranking penalty appeal and requested the Executive Director (Operations), Jordi Serra, to inform the Belgian TTA of this decision.

13. Development update

The Executive Committee noted the report and that the ITTF had submitted a nomination for the Peace and Sport award. In a review of the Women's Working Group, the continental forum had been discontinued and training programmes would be developed to get more women into the system.

14. New athletes' commission

The Executive Committee considered the review of the athletes' commission presented, and requested input to be submitted to Ms Bergeret by 21 October 2009 to incorporate into the next draft for the EC to consider in December 2009. The Executive Committee agreed to propose to the AGM that an athlete representative be a member of the Board of Directors.

15. Competition update

- 15.1 World Cups 2009: Women's World Cup with an experimental LED surround opposite the camera position and entertainment; the Men's World Cup and the World Team Cup all with a new playing system would take place in the next few weeks.
- 15.2 2011 Men's World Cup allocation: the Executive Committee confirmed the allocation of this event to Paris, France.
- 15.3 Intercontinental Cup at World Cup events (substitutions): the Executive Committee noted that there was an Intercontinental Cup held before the World Team Cup with the winning team qualifying for the World Team Cup.
- 15.4 ITTF events 2010 (new events, Pro Tour, Junior Circuit): the Executive Committee noted that the calendar for 2010 had been distributed in September 2009. Two editions of the Volkswagen Cup had been included with a "spectacular event" on a trial basis to which special exhibition matches would also be added. Other proposals being considered included a "Mayor's Challenge" and a Pro-Am with members of the public and celebrities partnering a top player. China v The World had also been included in the calendar which would also provide an opportunity to include junior matches in the morning, exposing them to top competition. 15 Pro Tour events and 25 Junior Circuit events would be held in 2010.
- 15.5 Event cancellation and no-shows: the Executive Committee noted that:
- 3 events had been cancelled in 2009. The cancellation policy would be sent to all national associations and included in the directives.
 - The Democratic Republic of Congo had been suspended from the Pro Tour and encouraged to participate in the Junior Circuit and training camps for 2010.
- The Executive Committee asked the Marketing Director, Steve Dainton, and TMS to propose ways to better promote ITTF events.
- 15.6 Continental Championships: the Executive Committee noted the proposal to link the continental championships to the world championships through qualification to raise the status and standard of the continental championships and facilitate sponsorship opportunities. The requirement that a player qualified for the junior world championships had to have participated in the continental championships already existed. Further details would be presented on this matter at the next EC meeting, in the meantime the Oceania TTA would be used as a model.
- 15.7 Pro Tour Final qualification (ATTU proposal for 2009): due to the cancellation of 3 Pro Tour events in 2009, some players may not meet the requirement of participating in 6 of 14 possible events, or

take part in events from 3 continents. However, the number of players accepted for the English Open had been increased. The Executive Committee, following a vote, approved the reduction of the minimum events to 5 (instead of 6) for the Pro Tour Final qualification for 2009 only resulting from the late cancellation of the Russian Open.

16. Marketing division and TMS update:

The Executive Committee noted that:

- work had started with CCTV on developing promotional material (general ITTF information, departmental work and sponsorship opportunities);
- innovations for broadcasting were being investigated e.g. speed of the ball and graphics for discussion with OBS;
- a marketing course for national associations was being developed and the first would be offered in November 2009 in Latin America;
- consumer research would be done during the Women's World Cup and Tournament of Champions;
- branding was being investigated for each event;
- the minimum yearly amount guaranteed by TMS to ITTF would be met in 2009;
- various sponsorship and broadcast discussions were underway;
- the ITTF logo would be protected in all the countries with known table tennis manufacturers, by the end of the year;
- SportAccord (formerly AGFIS/GAISF) had requested from the ITTF non-exclusive footage for a new TV platform and had asked if the ITTF would be interested in new Racket Sport Games.

17. Racket control

The Executive Committee noted that the Equipment Committee had decided from October 2009 to September 2010, to set the threshold (tolerance level) of VOC at a maximum reading of 4 measured with the Mini-RAE Lite according to the testing conditions described in the Technical Leaflet T9; from October 2010 to September 2011 the threshold will be decreased to 3ppm; and from October 2011 to September 2012 to 2ppm. An expert from outside the ITTF was being sought and an expert from RAE had been appointed. RAE would ensure that 2 devices were serviced, calibrated and sent to each ITTF event in 2010 provided that all the ITTF devices were initially sent to them. The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations), Jordi Serra, to ensure that all national associations were informed of the racket control processes, where to buy such equipment and which model.

18. Professional staff update

The Executive Committee noted that:

- 18.1 Projects Manager and Projects Coordinator: the Project Coordinator, Alison Burchell, had been appointed and started her duties on 1 October 2009.
- 18.2 Equipment Manager: following interviews, the selection committee recommended that Ms Evridiki Eleftheriade of Cyprus be appointed as Equipment Coordinator on a one-year contract starting in November 2009.

- 18.3 Receptionist at the ITTF Headquarters: the post had been advertised to all table tennis clubs in the vicinity of the Headquarters.
- 18.4 Deputy CEO appointment timelines: this would be considered at the next meeting.

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation made by Ms Petra Sörling and Jordi Serra, in agreement with Mr. Odd Gustavsen, to appoint an Equipment Coordinator (Evridiki Eleftheriade).

- 19. Table Tennis Illustrated future:** the Executive Committee considered options for a replacement publication for Table Tennis Illustrated either to publish Table Tennis Fascination every year, an annual development magazine or youth magazines. After listening to the views of Mr. Arne Madsen, Media Committee Chairperson, who was invited to attend the EC meeting for this item of the Agenda, the Executive Committee agreed to end Table Tennis Illustrated (two more issues to be published) and instead publish a yearly Table Tennis Fascination.

20. Any other business

The Executive Committee noted that 8 teams had participated in the Games for Small States and 27 national associations in the Francophone Games. ITTF Vice President, Mr. Cherif Hajem, attended both events.

21. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h50 on 6 October 2009.

Adham Sharara
President

Date