

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

Executive Committee

Minutes

Of the Executive Committee held at 09h00 on Friday 11 December 2009 at the Hotel Almirante, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all Executive Committee members to Cartagena and reported that the Colombian Table Tennis Association had delivered a well-organised tournament.

The President informed the meeting that Mr. Yang Shu'an would not attend the meeting due to work commitments in China.

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 & Olympic Games)
Glenn Tepper	Executive Director (Development)
Judit Faragó	Executive Director (Competitions)
Mikael Andersson	Executive Director (Education and Training)
Christian Veronese	Events Marketing Manager, TMS (for item 12)
Alison Burchell	Project Co-ordinator

Apologies for absence

Yang Shu'an	Deputy President
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3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of items:

- 20.1 Board of Directors nominations
- 20.2 International Paralympic Committee.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting:

The Executive Committee noted that, as agreements had already been signed with some organising committees, the travel costs of referees would not be covered by those organising committees. The Executive Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 5 and 6 October 2009 as were distributed with the following changes:

5.4 second sentence to read: Following changes in dates for the Pro Tour events to be hosted in Qatar and Kuwait in 2011, Germany would be able to host a test event (the German Open) in February 2011 in the same venue as the WTTTC.

13 to read:

- the ITTF Advanced Coaching Manual was available in English, French and Spanish and that the Arabic version would be completed in March 2010.
- the ITTF Level 1 Coaching Manual has been completed in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Estonian and the Farsi and Portuguese manuals would be completed soon.
- ITTF-Peace and Sport “Ping Pong Paz” Project would be completed in 3 regions of Colombia on 3 November 2009 with 2 players from each region attending the World Junior Championships.
- the ITTF had reached the final 3 for “Peace Projects by an International Sports Federation” at the prestigious “Peace and Sport” awards to be announced on 26 November 2009.
- together with German Embassies, German Government and German Table Tennis Federation, the University of Leipzig, offered a 4 month course for different sports and different languages including table tennis for Spanish speakers from 1 September 2009 to 31 January 2010 where 12 coaches from Latin America were currently enrolled including coaches from Uruguay, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia.
- following a meeting to discuss the future direction for the women’s programme, the continental forum had been discontinued in favour of training programmes targeted at specific areas such as coaching, URC, marketing, and administration. A strategic planning meeting of the Women’s Working Group will be held in South Africa in November to map out the future direction.

15.6 second sentence to read: The requirement that a team qualified for the world junior championships had to have participated in the continental championships already existed.

4.2 There was no business arising from the minutes, which was not covered in the agenda.

5. World Championships update

The Executive Committee noted:

5.1 Inspections schedule for future world championships: would take place in mid-January 2010 to Paris (bid for 2013), mid-February 2010 to Rotterdam (host for 2011) and dates still had to be confirmed with Doha (bid for 2013) but the inspection would hopefully be in February 2010.

5.2 WTTTC Moscow 2010:

- the Men’s World Cup was a successful test event for the WTTTC;

- after the site inspection, the ITTF delegation felt comfortable as the Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy together with the Department of Physical Culture and Sport of Moscow City and Russian Table Tennis Federation would be responsible for the organisation;
- the change in President of the national association would not affect the organisation;
- the organisers had requested the ITTF to complete all its arrangements by the end of April 2010 including the import of equipment;
- the Hotel Cosmos had been inspected, with a capacity of 1 700 rooms, two dedicated restaurants for the WTTTC; the distance between the hotel and the venue was between 15-25 minutes by shuttle depending on the traffic;
- the AGM will take place in the Concert Hall of Hotel Cosmos with a capacity for 1 000 attendees and the notice of the AGM had been issued;
- the competition venue had recently been renovated, three VIP lounges had been agreed and playing areas would be finalised;
- an online registration system would be integrated with the organising committee to include visa application details necessary to simplify the process and avoid duplication;
- the hospitality rate had been confirmed in roubles and agreed for accompanying persons;
- the prospectus would be released before the end of December 2009, with the title sponsor included, specifying the entry deadline of 23 March 2010. The draw would be conducted on 20 April 2010.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Competitions) to clarify the hospitality rate discrepancies with Mr Al-Mohannadi.

5.3 WTTTC Rotterdam 2011:

- the inspection would be done in February 2010 prior to the Executive Committee meeting with a focus on hotels (hospitality fees) and transport;
- the official signature of the contract would follow the Executive Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Directors (Competition) and (Operations & Olympic Games) to analyse hotel fees for events not yet allocated within a range to guide the establishment of hospitality costs for future events taking Yokohama rates as top reference.

5.4 World Junior Table Tennis Championships (Cartagena): following a close working relationship developed since the event was allocated in 2006, there were five inspections leading to the successful competition.

5.5 Number of entries per association at WTTTC: the Executive Committee agreed to discuss this at its next meeting.

6. Global Junior update

6.1 Junior Commission update:

- following an increase in the number of teams at the World Junior Championships from 16 to 20 teams for 2010, the Commission would propose a new playing system for the next Executive Committee meeting;
- eligibility requirements for individual events did not require citizenship whereas the team events for team and world title events required the player to be a citizen; this system was introduced for the long-term to prevent players being recruited by some associations so ensuring that associations developed their own players.

The Executive Committee resolved to maintain the current eligibility system.

6.2 ITTF World Hopes Team 2010:

- 58 players had registered from 28 countries to date with the closing date 31 December 2009 for the age group 1998 and 1999;
- Dejan Papic would continue to coach and Zita Pidl coordinate the group in 2010;
- a budget US\$65 000 had been allocated for 2009;
- the training camp may be held in Korea in conjunction with the Korean Open.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Education and Training) to:

- a) develop a budget for 2010 and future years;
- b) prepare the selection criteria to be distributed in advance to associations and put on the website;
- c) track the players on the programme to see when they participated in world championships.

6.3 Global Junior Program update:

- the 2009 Cadet Challenge was well organised by Japan;
- an update of the 2010 calendar with 25 events had been considered;
- no bids for the Cadet Challenge had been received although discussions were underway with France;
- eligibility for the team events had also been discussed;
- an update on the Hopes Programme was considered;
- Japan had proposed some educational sessions to be held during the Cadet Challenge in future;
- the Junior Commission had supported six teams in the Cadet Challenge and one player per country per team in the Continental Challenge.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Competitions) to contact several associations about hosting the Cadet Challenge.

- 6.4 YOG update and specific web site:
- six boys and six girls had already qualified;
 - communication with the organising committee was positive;
 - there was a limited number of eight additional accreditations, some of which had been allocated to equipment sponsors;
 - a project to create a new website or to enhance the current YOG Section was being considered to promote the YOG and enhance the ITTF's reputation with the IOC.

7. Follow-up on decisions from the Board of Directors

- 7.1 Audit Panel: the Executive Committee noted that the chairperson of the rules committee had been appointed not as an individual but due to the position held, and Mr Han Sang Kook had been nominated by Asia.

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint Carlos Marin from Honduras to the Audit Panel. The Executive Committee noted that, as this was a new group, nominations would be solicited from the associations for the next term of office. The Audit Panel, therefore, was composed of Mr. Han Sang Kook (Chairperson), Mr. Rudi Sporrer (Chairperson of Rules Committee) and Mr. Carlos Marin.

- 7.2 Terms of reference for all Committees and Commissions: the Executive Committee noted that the President and Ms Sörling would ensure that chairpersons of committees and commissions developed terms of reference in the future.

8. Development update

The Executive Committed noted:

- the Ping Pong Paz had targeted three disadvantaged communities in Colombia and 22 selected young players had come to the World Junior Championships to train, attend the finals and meet some of the top players, Peter Karlsson and Ms Colombia; the President and Executive Director (Development) would visit the Cartagena project and meet Los Colombianitos, the NGO partner in the project;
- the WWG had met the players in Guangzhou during the Women's World Cup in an interactive discussion to get input on the athletes' commission and the players' future after competition;
- the WWG would continue to meet but not combined with the Women's World Cup;
- the WWG met to review the WWG strategy recently, with thanks to the South African Table Tennis Board which hosted the meeting, with the focus moving from awareness to implementation through courses and toolkits; the WWG members needed support from their continental associations; WWG meetings would in future be held separately from events; and meetings at the world championships would be part of the development programme meetings;
- in 2009, 86 courses had been held (coaching, training camps, URC, tournament organisation and women) and coaching manuals had been distributed at these courses; a marketing course had been held in Latin America and this course would be offered in Africa in February 2010;

- in four years, over US\$1m had been spent on coaching courses alone.

The Executive Committee congratulated the development department on its achievements.

9. Applications for ITTF membership 2010

The Executive Committee considered the following membership applications and resolved to recommend to the Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting that:

- 9.1 Abkhazia (Europe): not be accepted as a member as it did not meet the ITTF's constitutional requirements
- 9.2 Anguilla (Latin America): be accepted as a member.
- 9.3 Swaziland (Africa): be accepted as a member.

10. New Athletes Commission

The Executive Committee noted that input had been received from members and incorporated into the draft terms of reference. The Executive Committee noted that proposals incorporated included:

- eleven members with five appointed by the Executive Committee to ensure representativity;
- the first term of office from 2011 in Rotterdam would be two years but four years following 2013;
- the chairperson should be an active or former player, who would be elected by the Commission;
- the chairperson would be a full member of the Board of Directors and co-opted on to the Executive Committee;
- travel costs of the five nominated members would be covered by the ITTF together with accommodation costs for all members for the duration of the meeting.

Following discussion, the Executive Committee suggested that:

- travel costs only be paid if the Commission members were not already participating in the world championships, as well as for the chairperson whose costs would be covered by the ITTF in line with other chairpersons of committees and commissions;
- there be five members elected at the world championships, one at the PTT world championships and five appointed by the Executive Committee so maintaining the majority of the membership being elected;
- a process for nominations and elections should be considered including ensuring that there were more than five nominations for election;
- the AGM would need to approve the chairperson being a member of the Board of Directors;
- the chairperson should be part of the Executive Committee ex officio without voting rights;
- the chairperson should ideally be a retired player;
- the final draft should be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting.

11. Competition update

11.1 General update:

- the inter-continental cups had been organised prior to the 3 world cups held and had been well accepted;
- the women's world cup had good spectator numbers and presentation;
- the men's world cup had good quality competition;
- the team world cup had good spectator numbers;
- the competition and attendance list for 2010 had been distributed with 67 ITTF events;
- more competition managers would attend junior events as part of their assessment.

The Executive Committee noted that the Competition Department had an assessment form for all events on the calendar and that the top three organisers could be acknowledged at the AGM.

11.2 Events counting for ranking

- Messrs Gautreau and Jackson had been asked to simplify the events counting for ranking purposes;
- a proposal had been submitted for events to generate points of Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup (weighting of 2 for all wins), all ITTF events (weighting of 1,5) and all other events (weighting of 1 for all wins) with the same number of points across all events for losses;
- the modified system would be circulated to all concerned and would come into effect in February 2010 (results from 1 January 2010)

11.3 Classification of international events

- a new process was proposed that:
 - world and Olympic title events (weighting of 2) would be automatically approved and included on the calendar for ranking;
 - ITTF sanctioned events (Tournament of champions, China vs. World, Volkswagen Cup, Pro Tour and Grand Finals, Global Junior Circuit and Global Cadet Challenge) would not require approval as they were ITTF events (weighting of 1,5) and would be automatically approved and included on the calendar for ranking;
 - recognised events would be multi-sport events, continental championships, continental cup, regional events, international open tournaments (weighting of 1) in which table tennis was an official part of the programme would be automatically approved and included on the calendar for ranking;
 - other events, approved events, would need applications to be submitted by the organisers (weighting of 1) for approval.
 - The competition department will circulate the pertinent information to all associations

12. TMS update

The Executive Committee noted the report tabled by TMS on itTV and further that:

- the contract for Liebherr had been agreed in principle till 2012 but not yet signed, including an upgrade of the sponsorship to title sponsorship for the 2010 WTTTC;
- for the ITTF Pro Tour and Pro Tour Grand Finals, discussions were underway for 2010 to 2012 with one potential sponsor;
- the extension of the partnership to 2012 with Eurosport was not concluded yet;
- China Unicom had been signed as the major sponsor for the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals to take place in Macau with further discussions underway;
- Universal Sports (USA) had signed for three years including all world championships to 2012 and this was a first in recent times that a US network would pay a rights fee for the images;
- discussions had been held with the Sportsman Group (itTV) about a full sponsorship package for rights for broadband (internet) including technical support and costs for six dedicated channels (all ITTF events, selected junior tour events, development, education and coaching) with the addition of English commentary for some events.

13. Racket control

The Executive Committee noted that:

- racket controllers were not applying the procedures consistently following their training;
- there were no criteria to guide a referee in deciding to disqualify a player;
- the President had requested that a simple step-by-step process be set out in one document;
- initially an insufficient number of caps (attached to RAE instrument) were available;
- better coordination was in place following the appointment of the Equipment Coordinator;
- training should be more systematic.
- the mini-RAE Lite machine would go back to the manufacturer for calibration after each series of events.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to ensure that:

- a) the rules were clarified and distributed as soon as possible;
- b) the step by step process was developed and distributed to all racket controllers;
- c) the appointment of racket controllers be appropriately coordinated;
- d) training was done systematically and racket controllers were briefed before going to events;
- e) reports from racket controllers were received and evaluated in a timely manner;
- f) procedures to ensure the discipline of players and coaches be considered.

14. Professional staff update

14.1 Receptionist at the ITTF Headquarters: the Executive Committee resolved to approve the recommendation that Safia Aboutahir be appointed with effect from 4 January 2010.

14.2 Deputy CEO timelines: the Executive Committee agreed that the ITTF President (and current CEO) together with the Vice President responsible for staff matters would oversee the process as follows:

- By 15 March 2010, the job description for the position of Deputy CEO would be developed
- By 15 April 2010, the position of Deputy CEO would be announced within the table tennis community (ITTF and National Associations)
- By 15 June 2010, the successful candidate for the position of Deputy CEO would be selected
- 1 September 2010, the Deputy CEO would be appointed for up to one year
- September 2010 to April 2011, duties would be transferred from the President/CEO to the Deputy CEO
- July-August 2011, the work of the Deputy CEO would be evaluated
- By 1 September 2011, if the evaluation were positive, the Deputy CEO would be promoted to CEO, or at an earlier date if all responsibilities were transferred earlier.

The Executive Committee noted that should no candidate be found within the table tennis community, the post would be advertised externally.

14.3 Update of all staff job descriptions and terms of reference:

The Executive Committee noted that all job descriptions would be updated in the near future in a process led by the Vice-President responsible for staff matters after the WTTTC.

15. 2009 Elections

ETTU President's Complaint, Yokohama

The Executive Committee received the report tabled and resolved to approve it with some minor amendments. The adjusted report would be signed by all concerned and a copy would be sent to the ETTU President, Mr. Stefano Bosi.

16. ITTF Merit Awards, Hall of Fame and ITTF Museum awards

16.1 Hall of Fame: after consideration of proposals for the Hall of Fame, the Executive Committee approved the proposal that once a player reached the required standard, he or she would automatically be admitted to the Hall of Fame.

The Executive Committee resolved not to approve the proposal to include gold medals in world cups and Pro Tour Grand Finals as part of the criteria for admission to the Hall of Fame.

The Executive Committee asked the Para Table Tennis Division to consider criteria for players to be incorporated into the Hall of Fame.

- 16.2 Museum awards: the Executive Committee approved the proposal to recognise contributors to the Museum as ambassadors and to award “lifetime achievement” awards, requesting that it be kept informed of such developments.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to ensure that criteria for acceptance of items for the museum were developed for consideration at its next meeting.

17. Recommendations to the Olympic and Paralympic Commission

17.1 Application to add mixed doubles to 2016 Games: the Executive Committee noted that badminton and tennis had successfully proposed the inclusion of mixed doubles in the Olympic Games. The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Olympic and Paralympic Commission and the Board of Directors that the ITTF apply for mixed doubles to be included in the programme for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games.

17.2 Number of entries per NOC as of 2012: the Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Olympic and Paralympic Commission and the Board of Directors that as of the 2012 Olympic Games, the number of entries per NOC at the Table Tennis events be as follows:
Men’s Team: 1 team (3 players)
Women’s Team: 1 team (3 players)
Men’s Singles: 2 players
Women’s Singles: 2 players

18. ITTF Future Structure

18.1 FIBA model

The Executive Committee noted the proposals to link the continental associations more closely to the ITTF and the model being implemented with the Oceania Association where:

- in order to participate in the world championships or world cup, the national association would have to participate in the continental championships or continental cup respectively;
- the winner of the continental cup would be eligible to compete in the world cup;
- the ITTF would give permission to Oceania to use the “ITTF logo and “ITTF” nomenclature for Oceania as a “brand name” to enhance its marketing and promotion possibilities;
- a sponsorship for the world championships could include funding for the continental championships, which are connected.

18.2 Continental Unions

The Executive Committee noted that the proposals would be discussed in more detail at the Development and Continental Committee the next day.

19. 2010 EC meetings plan

The Executive agreed that its meetings for 2010 would be held:

- a) in Rotterdam on 13 and 14 February 2010;
- b) in Moscow on 22 and 30 May 2010;
- c) in Singapore, between 21-26 August 2010 (exact date to be decided);
- d) in Korea between 20-29 October 2010 (exact date to be decided);
- e) in Bratislava in December 2010 (exact date to be decided).

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to contact the Korean Table Tennis Association to accept their kind invitation to host the Executive Committee meeting and propose that it be held during the ITTF Para Table Tennis Championships in Gwang-Ju.

The Executive Committee noted the offer from Germany to host the Executive Committee meeting in February 2011.

20. Any other business

20.1 Board of Directors nominations (Europe and Asia):

The Executive Committee noted that the two nominations received for vacant positions would be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

20.2 International Paralympic Committee:

The Executive Committee noted a report on the IPC General Assembly that:

- ITTF was well respected within the IPC;
- the major issue discussed affecting the ITTF was the inclusion of athletes with an intellectual disability in the 2012 London Paralympic Games subject to a table tennis specific classification system being finalised by September 2010 following a meeting of experts to be held in January 2010;
- the elections of the IPC Governing Board were held and Sir Phillip Craven had been re-elected president;
- nominations had been submitted for the IPC development committee and Paralympic Games committee.

21. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16h15.

Adham Sharara
President

Date