

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION

MINUTES of a meeting of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission held on Saturday 12 December 2009 at 09h00 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

1. **President's welcome and opening remarks**

The President welcomed all members and introduced Carlos Marin as a newly appointed member of the audit panel. The President welcomed the continental representatives. In turn, the Commission was welcomed to Colombia by the President of the Organising Committee of the World Junior Championships, Mr. Jairo Orlando Paez. The ITTF President complimented the organising committee on the high level of organisation of these Championships.

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
Nico Verspeelt	Para Table Tennis representative
Tony Yue	Asian representative
Khaled El Salhy	African representative
Michel Gadai	European representative
Jairo Orlando Paez	Latin American representative
Mike Cavanaugh	North American representative
Patrick Gillman	Oceania 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)
Alison Burchell	Projects Co-ordinator
Carlos Marin	By invitation (for introduction)

Apologies

Yang Shu'an	Deputy President
Richard Scruton	LOCOG representative

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Minutes**

- 4.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Yokohama, 28 April 2009, were approved.
- 4.2 There was no business arising from the minutes which was not covered in the agenda.

5. Olympic Games 2012

5.1 Update including test event

- There had been 4 meetings with LOCOG.
- There had been a meeting with ORIS and, for the first time, results would go directly to the ITTF website without the need to re-enter.
- Some innovations for the improvement on the sports presentation had been proposed to LOCOG.
- LED surrounds had been tested at the Volkswagen Women's World Cup, which had not disturbed the players and could be used in the Olympic Games.
- The innovations would be implemented for the test event.
- The test event would be held from 16 to 19 November 2011 with eight teams invited.

5.2 Schedule

- The draft schedule could not be finalised until the IOC/LOCOG approved the 12th day of competition.
- The views of the players and television schedules had been taken into account in preparing the schedule.
- The format of the team match, regarding the position of the doubles, needs to be finalised in Moscow.

5.3 Qualification system

- Following the vote on item 5.6, the Commission noted that the qualification system may need to be amended.

5.4 Equipment (including for the Paralympic Games)

- Double Happiness would provide tables, umpires chairs, nets, manual score boards and surrounds
- Nittaku would provide balls
- Tinsue would provide the floor mats.

5.5 ITOs (International Technical Officials). The following proposition had been presented to IOC and required IOC approval:

- 24 IUs (up to 4 from Britain with all nominations to be sent to the continental associations for confirmation)
- 7 Jury members: 6 to be appointed (continental presidents or their nominees) with the chairperson to be appointed in Moscow by the Executive Committee
- 1 referee (to be appointed in Moscow)
- 3 deputy referees (to be appointed in Moscow)
- 3 racket controllers (senior racket controller to be appointed by the end of 2010)
- 1 medical officer (to be appointed in Moscow)
- TDs had been already appointed (Messrs Yao Zhenxu and Graeme Ireland)
- In Beijing, there were 42 ITOs and, as a result of going from eight to four tables, this number would be reduced to 39.

5.6 Number of entries per NOC

- The Executive Committee proposed that from the London 2012 Olympic Games, the number of entries per NOC should be:
 - Men's team: 1 (3 players)
 - Women's team: 1 (3 players)
 - Men's singles: 2
 - Women's singles: 2
- This proposal may be falsely interpreted as prejudicial to China, but was in the best interest of the ITTF to ensure better competition, involvement of more countries in the Olympic Games and increased support for the event and sport overall

- The qualification for the Youth Olympic Games allowed one boy and one girl qualified per NOC and more countries were able to participate as a result
- Other options could include two bronze medals being awarded, but this had been rejected by the IOC, and pursuing mixed doubles with a limit on the number of entries for five events be restricted could be considered in the future
- In speaking against the proposal, the representative from Asia indicated that this was not in the best interest of sport and promoting quality entries, the proposal discriminated against China, which had raised the standard of table tennis. As an International Federation, the ITTF should always encourage players to strive to do their best by rewarding them with medals. While limiting participation, some of world's best players would not be able to compete, particularly when London was less than 3 years away. Other proposals should be considered, including greater development initiatives, to address the number of medals won by different NOCs in line with the proposal from the IOC. Further negotiations should be undertaken with the IOC to institute double bronze medals or mixed doubles as ways to diversify medals. Out of respect to China being the top promoter of our sport, the ITTF should first discuss the issue with them to gain their understanding as much as possible.
- The President would personally meet the Chinese TTA to explain the benefits of such a change, he would also try to meet the Minister of Sports of China to seek China's support for this change.
- It was noted that several sports, including Swimming, had already reduced the number of entries per NOC to two or even one entry, especially all the combat sports.

The Commission resolved to recommend, following a vote of 13 in favour and 1 against (representative from Asia), to the IOC and, if accepted in principle by the IOC, to the Board of Directors that the number of entries per NOC in singles events be reduced by one as proposed.

The Commission resolved to recommend again to the IOC that two bronze medals be awarded in all table tennis events for 2016 and that the Mixed Doubles be added.

6. Youth Olympic Games

6.1 Update (including players qualified)

- The final competition format and sport explanatory brochure had been finalised and were on the ITTF's website.
- The results system had been finalised.
- The Singapore indoor stadium would be shared with Badminton.
- The qualification system had been approved by the IOC and six boys and six girls had already qualified and more qualifications would take place in early 2010.

6.2 Universality places: a number of places had been approved by the IOC for "smaller National Olympic Committees" as a result of which, four boys and four girls may qualify but the IOC would confirm with the NOCs which had nominated the players.

6.3 Schedule

- The schedule had been approved and published on the website
- Eight competition tables would be used.

6.4 ITTF representatives

- President

- Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games)
 - ITTF event delegate (Raúl Calín)
 - 4 Executive Committee members (Jury)
 - 36 umpires (18 from Singapore, 18 IU)
 - 3 racket controllers (1 from Singapore)
 - 1 Referee, 2 Deputy Referees (1 from Singapore)
 - 1 media liaison and 1 photographer
 - 5 ITTF staff
 - 1 athlete role model (Jean-Philippe Gatien)
 - Of 57 officials, 20 would be from Singapore
 - An additional 8 accreditations were available of which 4 had been allocated to equipment manufacturers
 - The selection of the 18 IUs (9 from the young umpires programme and 9 IUs already trained) was being coordinated with the URC.
- 6.5 Cultural programme: the IOC had encouraged IFs to promote culture and education as part of the programme for the Youth Olympic Games

The Commission asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to request additional accreditations.

The Commission approved the appointment of Ronald Wee as referee for the Youth Olympic Games.

The Commission asked Messrs Harwood, Serra and Andersson to work with the URC on the umpire selection for the Commission to ratify in Moscow.

7. Paralympic Games 2012

7.1 Update

- The equipment would be the same for the Olympic and Paralympic Games accommodating wheelchair users
- 40 tables overall would be needed.

7.2 Qualification system

- 19 events would be organised with 8 tables for all competition days.
- The IPC still had to confirm the number of medal events.
- In the 4 PTT regions, the gold medal winner would qualify for the Paralympic Games in each class in the first instance following which, players would qualify based on their position on the ranking list and finally some wild cards would be allocated to promote universality.
- Applications would be sent to national associations and NPCs to confirm qualifications and submit requests for wild cards.

7.3 ITOs and NTOs (technical operations manager, jury): the same system for selection of officials would be followed for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Commission noted a request that Continental Presidents facilitate the integration of Para Table Tennis into national associations and continental associations.

The Commission approved the appointment of Mr. Steven Lee as assistant TD and to propose to LOCOG Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis as technical operations manager for the Paralympic Games.

8. Olympic and Paralympic Games 2016

The Commission agreed to postpone this item to its next meeting. The Commission congratulated Brazil and Rio de Janeiro on their selection as the host for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

9. Any other business

There was no other business considered.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11h30.

Adham Sharara
President

Date