



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held at 09h15 on Saturday 13 March 2010, at the Hilton Rotterdam Hotel, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks:

The President welcomed all members to the meeting noting the full attendance of the Executive Committee and thanked Mr. Yang Shu'an for changing his work schedule to attend the meeting.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Yang Shu'an	Deputy 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)
Judit Faragó	Executive Director (Competitions)
Alison Burchell	Secretariat
Anders Thunstrom	Managing Director, TMS International

By invitation

Liu Yi	Observer
Claude Bergeret	Chairperson, Athletes' Commission (Item 9)
Konstantin Pashkov	Vice-President, Russian Table Tennis Federation
Roman Markov	Secretary General, Russian Table Tennis Federation

3. Approval of Agenda:

The Executive Committee added the following items:

- 18.2 London Olympic and Paralympic Games
- 18.3 Para Table Tennis
- 18.4 Review of the constitution

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting: the Executive Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held in Cartagena on 11 December 2009 noting the clarification on the classification of international events 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 an approval application as they were ITTF events (weighting of 1,5) and would be automatically approved and included on the calendar for ranking;
- Recognised Events (weighting of 1) would be multi-sport events, in which table tennis was an official part of the programme would be automatically approved and included on the calendar for ranking;
- Continental championships, Continental cups, regional events, international open tournaments (weighting of 1) would need applications to be submitted by the organisers for approval by the Competitions Department.
- Registered Events (no ranking) were events for the purpose of the calendar only but would not count for ranking.
- A detailed document had been circulated to all concerned and was available on the ITTF's website.

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

5. World Championships update

5.1 WTTTC Moscow 2010:

- the last site inspection was 11 and 12 February 2010 and another 2 visits would take place prior to the World Championships.
- issues to be addressed included the flooring for the practice area, host broadcaster, bulletins for information to be sent to the associations and participants, exhibition stands and museum, other events happening before the World Championships, which were a greater priority for the city.
- 51 associations and 70 ITTF officials had completed their entries online so far and a total of 513 people had been registered as of 12 March 2010; but the final deadline for entries was 23 March 2010.
- the regulations of the foreign ministry of Russia only allowed letters of invitation to be sent 45 days before the world championships; this may be waived but there was no clarity whether it was for individuals or every person needing a visa.
- information from the database had been extracted into excel format to meet the requirements of the organising committee.
- during the President's visit in 2009, all relevant senior Government officials in Russia had committed to meet the ITTF's requirements as far as visas were concerned.
- Double Happiness, Butterfly and Gerflor had been confirmed as sponsors together with the title sponsor, Liebherr.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Competitions) to ensure that the logins and passwords for ITTF officials were sent again with clarification that they needed to do their own entries and not work through the association as in previous years.

To simplify matters the Executive Committee agreed that any costs incurred by the ITTF would be deducted from the payment due to the organising committee.

The Executive Committee heard a presentation from the Russian Table Tennis Federation that:

- letters for sports visas would be issued from 15 March 2010 rather than waiting for entries to close on 23 March 2010.
- for those who did not have a Russian embassy or consulate in their country, visas would be issued at the airport on entry into Russia and a letter of confirmation would be sent to ensure they were allowed to board the airplane in the country of origin.
- a special team at passport control would facilitate entry into Russia and contact numbers for the teams would be available through the RTTF website.
- following a meeting to be held on 15 March 2010, a decision would be taken on whether visas for Kosovo would be issued in Kosovo or at the airport in Russia.
- a letter of confirmation for the host broadcaster would be available by 17 March 2010 (RTR2 or NTV+).

The Executive Committee noted that the Kosovo flag recognised by the United Nations should be used.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to provide the RTTF with a list identifying those needing a visa letter urgently and the names of ITTF guests who were not registered through the ITTF system.

In relation to the application from Abkhazia for membership, the Executive Committee noted that according to the constitution the Georgian Table Tennis Federation must support the application, which was not the case, and this would be communicated formally to the RTTF by the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games).

5.2 WTTC Rotterdam 2011:

- the venue was being renovated and the roof was under construction but the venue would be used for other events prior to the world championships.
- all facilities more than met the needs and a consolation event could be included in the programme as a result.
- 8 hotels were visited but 11 would be available finally, all 4 star.
- transport may be a challenge as a result of so many hotels being considered.
- hospitality would cost €140 per person in double and €190 per person in single occupancy.

5.3 Inspection visits to Paris and Doha for the WTTC 2013:

- both candidates could present high quality world championships.
- Paris would have similar arrangements as in 2003, there was no domestic interest in broadcasting and the hospitality rate was favourable.
- Doha's venue exceeded the ITTF's needs, visa arrangements were easy to manage but arrangements would need to be made to encourage spectators to attend.

5.4 World Junior Championships 2009 to 2013:

- congratulations were expressed again to the Colombian Table Tennis Association and the competition managers concerned.
- there was an expectation created by the invitation to apply to host the 2013 world junior championships that a host from North America or Oceania was preferred and no application had been received.

5.5 Number of entries per Association for the WTTC: discussed under 16.2

6. YOG update

6.1 Athlete Role Model:

- Jean-Philippe Gatien had accepted the role of athlete role model and Deng Yaping could also be present.
- a training camp would be held for the players including educational programmes.

6.2 International Technical Officials Nominations:

- officials for the Youth Olympic Games were recommended by the URC and Equipment Committee and had to be approved as soon as possible as accreditation had to be submitted to the organisers by 1 May 2010.
- 23 candidates were writing the umpires' examination over the weekend through the online system being tested.
- the proposal to train the young umpires in Singapore in racket testing would begin the process of ensuring umpires were rotated at events to do the racket testing, reporting to the referee.

6.3 Accreditations status:

- current accreditation included 37 persons including ITOs, President, Executive Director, 3 jury members, athlete role model, media liaison and photographer.
- the 8 additional accreditations would be allocated to the Executive Committee, chairperson of the Junior Commission, the staff and sponsors in order of priority.
- accreditation would not be transferable.

6.4 Junior Commission attendance

- due to the lack of accreditation, only the chairperson would be able to attend.
- if more accreditations became available, this would be reviewed.

The Executive Committee resolved to approve:

- a) the ITOs as recommended by the URC and Equipment Committee with the Chinese umpire to be finalised.
- b) the proposal and expenditure for training to be done in racket testing for the young umpires.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to distribute the list of ITOs for Singapore to the Olympic and Paralympic Commission for comment.

The Executive Committee noted that the final 9 umpires recommended following the YUP would be approved by Mr Neil Harwood and Ms Petra Sörling on its behalf.

The Executive Committee congratulated the People's Republic of China on being awarded the 2nd Youth Olympic Games in 2014.

7. Equipment update: the Executive Committee noted:

7.1 Proposed approval fees 2010: the recommendation that the testing fees for VOC and thickness, rubber and sponge be US\$190.

7.2 T9 update:

- aimed to eliminate the discrepancies in the measurement of the covers.
- a filter could be added to the miniRAE to remove the effect of humidity.

- a new leaflet was being produced to describe the testing procedures.

7.3 Racket control:

- the risk to health had been eliminated.
- each player should be entitled to one voluntary test and the result would only be given as “pass” or “fail”.
- random tests after the match should only be done for players who had not had their rackets tested before the match.

The Executive Committee approved the:

- a) testing fees for VOC and thickness, rubber and sponge at US\$190.
- b) amendment of the technical leaflet T9 to confirm the measurement of the racket covering thickness.
- c) use of filters for the miniRAE.
- d) racket testing randomly after the match for players whose rackets had not been tested prior to the match.
- e) voluntary racket testing results would only be “pass” or “fail” for one test per racket.

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Board of Directors that, with effect from 1 September 2010 following 4 accumulated failures over 4 years on any aspect of racket testing (including gloss), a player would be suspended for 12 months and to request the Equipment Coordinator to keep a register with effect from 1 September 2010 for this purpose.

- 8. ITTF Museum - criteria for acceptance of items:** the Executive Committee noted the guidelines as advertised on the website and requested that they be applied.
- 9. New Athletes' Commission - final draft:** the Executive Committee noted that:
 - the composition had been amended to 11 members (3 a)) to include a Para Table Tennis athlete.
 - the Athletes' Commission would be represented at the Executive Committee as an ex-officio member without voting rights (7 b).
 - the travel costs of the Commission members (8 c) were clarified.
 - the first election should be held in 2011 for 3 years, then in 2014 to separate the elections of the Executive Committee (2013) from the Athletes' Commission.
 - the option of the chairperson being an active or a retired player was proposed.
 - athletes being at least 16 years of age is in line with the IOC Athletes' Commission.

The Executive Committee noted that Ms Claude Bergeret would continue as chairperson of the Athletes' Commission until the elections in 2011 in Rotterdam.

The Executive Committee noted, in further discussion, that:

- section 4.2.1 d) would read “must have been selected by his or her national association”.
- section 4.2.1 would read that “eligibility of each candidate is verified and confirmed by the Executive Committee at its meeting held at least one month prior to the world championships”.
- section 4.2.3 d) would read “elected athletes: the candidates who obtain the highest number of votes are elected to the Commission”.
- section 8 e) would read “the working language of the Commission will be English”.

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the final draft of the Athletes' Commission with amendments and to request the chairperson of the Rules Committee and Executive

Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to draft consequential proposals to be presented to the AGM to make the necessary changes to the constitution where matters affected the Constitution, however, the full policy would be presented to the Board of Directors in Moscow for approval..

10. Competitions update:

10.1 General update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- the Pro Tour Grand Final was very successful in Macao.
- India would host the 2010 ITTF Cadet Challenge/Junior Circuit Final and a site inspection was underway.
- the Pro Tour 2010 had started with more players participating than usual.
- the Pro Tour event in Chile had been cancelled due to the earthquake.
- the Junior Circuit was continuing and entry deadlines were being enforced.

If there were problems with suspicious entries (for visa purposes only), the Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Competitions) to contact the President and the relevant continental association to confirm whether they should be accepted or not.

The Executive Committee confirmed that no prize money should be paid if a player was disqualified for any reason, including racket testing infringements.

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Board of Directors that any player disqualified from a tournament forfeit the medal, trophy, prize money and ranking points.

The Executive Committee agreed that the debt owed by Chile to the ITTF of US\$6 480 should be paid.

10.2 Ranking Default Policy: the Executive Committee noted that, following the change to the ranking points system and the change in event classification, the policy needed to be amended.

10.3 World Club Championships: the Executive Committee noted that this would be discussed and finalised in Moscow.

10.4 LED screens proposal: the Executive Committee noted that:

- Double Happiness had proposed that the ITTF rent or buy LED screens so that they could recoup the development costs.
- this would be discussed in more detail in Moscow.
- the possible conflict with other London Olympic and Paralympic Games sponsors should be assessed.

10.5 Participation at ITTF events: this had been discussed under 16.2.

The Executive Committee approved the amendment to the ranking default policy to take effect from 1 January 2010 that:

“... When a player does not show up for a competition or for a match after the draw is made, the player will be penalized by **a flat penalty permanent Bonus Points deduction of 25 points per “no-show” per tournament.**

“This would, however, affect only the first non-played match scheduled for that player within the tournament.

“I. Extent of the Ranking Default Policy effective 1 January 2010 at:

- **ITTF Events and Olympic Games**
 - a) **Olympic and World Title Events**
 - b) **ITTF Sanctioned Events...**

- 11. TMS update:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- Liebherr’s contract had been signed till 2012, identifying when they would be the title or major sponsor at various ITTF events.
 - Eurosport had also been confirmed and signed (2010-2012) as this had been linked to Liebherr’s sponsorship.
 - itTV could be developed fully with the sponsorship from the Sportsman Group.
 - a deal had been signed with Tinsue (sports floor) with other sponsorship opportunities for them were being explored.
 - a clothing sponsor was being investigated.
 - the targets for sponsorship had been exceeded for 2009.
- 12. “Hello Future” conference**
The Executive Committee noted the arrangements for this conference in Barcelona at which the World Hopes Team for 2010 would be announced.
- 13. Professional staff update:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- 13.1 Receptionist at the ITTF Headquarters: the receptionist had not worked out and a new process would begin to find a replacement.
- 13.2 New staff:
- in order to fill the media vacancy, interviews had been held in February 2010 in Copenhagen.
 - administrative support for the Executive Directors had become necessary and therefore a multi-task offer would be made to Ms. Polona Cehovin-Susin.
- 13.3 Staff leaving the ITTF Headquarters:
- Ms Lila de Soysa had left after 10 years of service and her contribution would be acknowledged later that day by the Executive Committee.
 - Mr Marius Widmer had decided not to accept the ITTF’s offer to extend his contract and thus finished his work with the ITTF effective 31 December 2009.
- The Executive Committee resolved to make to Mr Dong Wang an offer as Media and Promotions Manager; and to Ms Polona Cehovin-Susin an offer to provide support for the Executive Directors with effect from 1 April 2010. The Executive Committee asked Ms Petra Sörling to meet Ms Cehovin-Susin to finalise the necessary arrangements and finalise the job description for the first year’s contract.
- 14. Umpires and Referees update:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- the database was now operational with updates being required as necessary.
 - the URC was working with the Competition Department on the appointment of referee teams for events.
 - the appointment of referees for events in terms of the new directives were being implemented cautiously with two referees having been appointed in terms of the previous directives (Russia and Singapore).

- the Young Umpire Project had been a success and the implementation had been run by the URC and the Education Department.
- the URC trainers in Moscow could be trained in racket testing to integrate racket testing into the URC training.

15. Personal Honorary Member proposal

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Board of Directors that George Segun be appointed ITTF Personal Honorary Member.

16. Preparation AGM and BoD

16.1 Propositions and Resolutions

The Executive Committee noted the proposals for amendments to the constitution to go to the AGM and chapter 3 and 4 to go to the Board of Directors, which would be finalised by the Rules Committee.

16.2 EC propositions

- Proposal 1 (changing the eligible entries for world championships): the Chinese TTA noted the proposal to reduce the number of players who could be entered in the singles events at the Olympic Games, it respected the ITTF decision in the best interests of the full membership of the ITTF and accepted to support this proposal for the overall development within the Olympic system. However, with the world championships being under the jurisdiction of the ITTF, the Chinese TTA would prefer that the number of entries in the singles event not be reduced.
- Proposal 2 (entries for ITTF events by associations): resulted from private companies using table tennis events for the purposes of betting. In order to protect the ITTF, associations needed to approve the entries of their players for ITTF events, recognised and approved events (for ranking) and all other table tennis events with such other events being registered by the ITTF (no ranking) on application from the host association. Failing this, players should not participate in any event not registered by the ITTF.
- Proposal 3 (use of ITTF name and logo by continental associations): approval could be given by the Executive Committee.
- Proposal 4 (creation of "ITTF Honorary President"): was aimed at ensuring past presidents were available in an advisory capacity while recognising their prior contribution.
- Proposal 5 (filling of vacancies in the Executive Committee): would be reviewed and discussed with the Constitution Review Group for 2011.

The Executive Committee asked the Technical Committee and Competition Department to analyse the entries from previous world championships and make recommendations for the future on the ideal number of entries per association as well as on the competition format.

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors or AGM that:

- a) with effect from 2011, the number of players per association entered at the world championships (individual events) be as follows:
 - singles: 5 men and 5 women (no change)
 - doubles: 2 men and 2 women pairs
 - mixed doubles: 2 pairs

- an additional player may be entered for each player from the association appearing in the top 20 (instead of top 10) from the ranking up to a limit of 2 men and 2 women in singles
 - all players may be different
 - the host association: 7 men and 7 women in singles; doubles with 2 men and 2 women pairs and 2 pairs in the mixed doubles.
- b) upon request by a Continental Federation and approval by the ITTF's Executive Committee, a Continental Federation may be allowed to use the ITTF name and logo as part of the "brand name" of the Continental Federation.
- c) players from affiliated ITTF member associations, when competing internationally, can only participate in ITTF Events, ITTF Approved events and ITTF Registered events entered through their national association, as well as in ITTF Recognized events entered through their National Olympic or Paralympic Committee. Participation in any other type of event can only be allowed with the express written permission of the national association of the player and the ITTF.
- d) new sections on the composition of the jury be added to sections 4.3.7 (men's and women's world cups) and 4.4.7 (world team cup) made up of the ITTF Executive Vice-President responsible for World Cups or World Team Cup, the Executive Director (Competitions), a representative of the organising committee and the referee (speaking but no voting rights) be formed.
- e) players may only play in ITTF events, recognised, approved and registered events if entered by their association or their NOC (recognised events).
- f) any past President of the ITTF be automatically bestowed the title of "ITTF Honorary President" with a set of privileges decided by the Executive Committee from time to time. This title can only be revoked by a majority vote of the ITTF's General Meeting.

16.3 Board of Directors vacancies: the Executive Committee noted that:

- at the 2009 AGM, 13 candidates from Europe were nominated for 9 positions on the ITTF Board of Directors but 5 eventually withdrew leaving one position vacant. This position would be filled at the 2010 Board of Directors meeting.
- with the passing of Mr Yuri Posevin, an additional position was vacant, however, 5 nominations had been received subsequently for the 2 vacant positions.
- the President and Mr Thomas Weikert would discuss the nominations from Europe with the ETTU, but the ITTF staff would prepare for a possible election during the Board of Directors meeting to fill the 2 vacant positions from Europe's quota.
- the candidate from Thailand would fill the sole vacancy from Asia, as only one nomination was received.

16.4 Merit awards, Hall of Fame: the Executive Committee noted that:

- players who had won 5 gold medals but not yet inducted in the Hall of Fame had been identified.
- there were players who were also coaches who had received 5 gold medals and these people had been identified.

- the PTT Division had proposed 11 players who had made the 5 gold medal criterion in singles events at world championships and Paralympic Games.

The Executive Committee approved the list of names to be admitted to the Hall of Fame.

17. Kuwait: the Executive Committee noted:

- the IOC had requested the ITTF to suspend the Kuwait Table Tennis Association.
- 7 other IFs had suspended or would suspend their respective national associations in Kuwait.
- the problem arose from the lack of proper elections in another federation (FIFA).
- with concern, the negative impact this had had on the Olympic Movement in Kuwait and which had affected table tennis. This matter would be studied and discussed further in Moscow.

The Executive Committee supported fully the IOC's action. The Executive Committee agreed to consider recommending the suspension of the Kuwait Table Tennis Association and asked the International Olympic Committee to provide supporting documentation for the ITTF's AGM.

18. Any other business

18.1 Amendment to the anti-doping rules and Technical Leaflet T13: the Executive Committee noted:

- WADA had changed the TUE procedures and all IFs had to amend their anti-doping rules as a result.
- the change of the size of the registered testing pool with the inclusion of PTT players.

18.2 London Olympic and Paralympic Games: the Executive Committee noted:

- Mr Richard Scruton was now operating formally as Competition Manager for both Games.
- the date for the test event had been proposed to take place a week later than originally scheduled.
- the competition schedule was dependent on the number of players.
- the PTT schedule should be ready by the OPC meeting in Moscow.
- the technical officials were under discussion with the IOC and IPC.
- nominations for the referees from England would be submitted in time for the OPC meeting in Moscow.

18.3 Para Table Tennis: the Executive Committee noted:

- the inclusion of athletes with an intellectual disability was being pursued by PTT at the request of IPC as one of four identified sports on the Paralympic programme.
- the integration of PTT at a national level was being followed up with various national associations.
- the integration of rules was also being considered and URC training had already included PTT.

18.4 Review of the constitution: the ad-hoc committee would review the constitution for the 2011 AGM under the leadership of Mr Walter Rönmark.

18.5 Audit panel: the Executive Committee noted the audit panel would meet in Lausanne in April 2010 and asked Mr Harwood to invite Mr Han San Kook to the audit panel meeting.

18.6 Women's forum: had been organised from 28 to 31 January 2010 in Tunisia and a target of 50% of women involved by 2012 had been established.

The Executive Committee accepted the amendment of the anti-doping rules and Technical Leaflet T13 section 8.2.1 provisionally subject to the final approval from the Board of Directors to take effect from 1 January 2010.

19. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 18h12.

Adham Sharara
President

Date