



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Saturday 7 January 2012 in the Austria-1 Room, NH Airport Hotel, Vienna, Austria at 09h00.

1. **President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all members wishing them a Happy New Year and explaining some recent developments.

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
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President
Vladimir Samsonov	Athlete Representative – ex officio

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO and Executive Director (Competitions)
Jordi Serra	Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games)
Alison Burchell	Deputy Executive Director (Operations)
Anders Thunstrom	Managing Director, TMS

By invitation

Liu Yi	Chinese Table Tennis Association
Rudolf Sporrer	Chair, Rules Committee

Apologies

Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
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3. **Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda as presented and added:

- 17.1 Status of the Deputy President
- 17.2 Anti-doping update
- 17.3 Staff

4. **Minutes**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2011: the minutes were confirmed and signed subject to a correction of item 9:
"That the Continental allocation breakdown of Olympic funding should be submitted to the EC meeting in January 2012."
- 4.2 There was no further business arising from the minutes, which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.
- 4.3 Report on tasks from the last EC meetings: the Executive Committee noted this report.

5. **Competitions:** the Executive Committee noted that:



5.1 2012 World Championships update:

- 5 officials from the ITTF and TMS had recently visited the venue.
- The playing schedule had been finalised.
- The results management system was finalised for 12 tables for the Championships division.
- The online entry system had been opened for officials and teams.
- The preliminary entry had closed with a record of 133 associations indicating an interest in participating.
- The visa application deadline was 1 February 2012; the interview deadline had also been set for 29 February 2012 and a contact at the relevant German ministry had been very helpful to date.
- The visas would be provided at no cost to the applicants.
- The ITTF hotel would be Renaissance Marriott Hotel in Bochum.
- Some ITTF staff would stay in the hotel next to the venue.
- The draw would be announced soon and would be linked to the last inspection.
- The official mascot was a dinosaur called "Rackedino".
- The ticket sales were going well and the event could be completely sold out by the end of January 2012.
- The sponsors secured were Liebherr (title), Arag and China Unicom (major), Butterfly, DHS and Gerflor (equipment); Tissot (official timer) was in progress.
- The ITTF would pay a buy-out fixed amount to the organisers as part of the sponsorship agreement.

5.2 2013 World Championships update:

- The venue was the same as in 2003 but the number of entries had increased so an additional venue was being investigated with both venues being used for the qualification matches.
- With 2 venues, there would be 60 tables but from the first round, the event would be held in Bercy.
- The sponsorship would be shared with the organisers 25%-75%.
- Liebherr, Butterfly and Gerflor had been confirmed as sponsors.
- The table sponsorship would be re-opened to bids.

5.3 ITTF World Tour 2012:

- This would start from 15 January 2012.
- The calendar had been updated and prize money announced, with \$1,000,000 prize money for the World Tour Finals.
- The detailed directives would be issued on 9 January 2012.
- The logo and the name "ITTF World Tour" had been registered in Switzerland.

5.4 Ranking rules and world ranking inclusion policy:

- The technical changes would be implemented 1 January 2013.
- The bonus points would not include the qualification events for the Olympic Games.
- The Euro-Africa Circuit had been added.

5.5 Bid for 2014 World Junior Table Tennis Championships:

- The selection process had been delayed.
- Shanghai should be recommended as the host for the World Junior Championships in 2014 and France could be recommended as the World Junior Championships host in 2015.

5.6 Bid for 2015 World Championships: the Canadian bid would be withdrawn leaving one bid from Suzhou, China.



5.7 Illegal On-Line Betting and additional rules: some proposals had been submitted for consideration by the AGM and by the BoD and a journalist who uncovered illegal betting in soccer would submit proposals for monitoring by March 2012.

5.8 ITTF support at Olympic qualification events:

- There was increased cooperation in terms of continental events and this would be extended to include Olympic qualification events with the appointment of competition managers and racket testers.
- The appointment of racket testers should follow the previous decision that a qualified umpire be appointed from the host; if none was available, an umpire from a neighbouring country and if none was available, from the same continent.

The Executive Committee asked:

- i) The chair of the URC to harmonise the directives for match officials and the ranking rules and inclusion policy.
- ii) The CEO to confirm the dates proposed and hospitality costs with the Chinese TTA for the world championships bid for 2015.

The Executive Committee resolved to:

a) Approve the changes to the ITTF World Tour as follows:

- The Tour would be called the “GAC GROUP 2012 ITTF World Tour” with prize money of US\$1 million for the World Tour Grand Finals.
- To qualify for the World Tour Grand Finals in singles, the eligibility participation requirement would be 5 events (instead of the previous minimum 6 events or 3 continents).
- A new satellite tour system would start with the 2012 Euro-Africa Circuit with a total of 6 events (4 in Europe and 2 in Africa) where the top 4 men and 4 women accumulating the most points on the Euro-Africa Circuit would be invited to the World Tour Grand Finals.
- Each World Tour would be a 5-day event with 2 days of mandatory qualification.
- The Accreditation Fee was fixed to US\$ 200 (€150) per participant (players, coaches, officials).
- A cancellation fee of €150 or US\$200 would be charged for any player who cancelled after the entry deadline and one night’s cost for any participant who cancelled after the room cancellation deadline (7 days before the competition started).
- Associations with pending payments of cancellation fees would not be allowed to enter any World Tour and Euro-Africa event as long as payment had not been made.

b) Recommend to the BoD that the World Junior Championships for 2014 be awarded to China and for 2015 to France.

c) Support the continental Olympic qualification events with competition managers and racket testers.

6. **Follow up on AGM and BoD:** the Executive Committee noted that:

6.1 Athletes’ Commission report:

- Prize money for the Pro Tour Grand Finals still had to be paid.



- The players preferred 4 to 6 World Tour events to be identified with increased prize money while the intent was to increase the prize money for all World Tour events over time.
- Having a group format of play for the first stage of the World Tour Grand Finals and some other identified World Tour events was suggested to ensure more matches for all players; this would be possible for the Grand Finals 2012.
- Some players had indicated a willingness to be involved in charity, schools and other outreach work.
- In relation to the world ranking, some players cancelled their participation in some events as the rating was low and ranking points were lost if they lost against a lower ranked player.
- So a proposal was tabled that a player should lose half the points as currently was the case and that continental championships should be rated higher.
- As a principle, the ranking system should positively encourage players to participate in events.
- The changes proposed could be included in the system immediately to be run in parallel for 2012 so that appropriate changes could be finally proposed in October 2012 for implementation in 2013.

6.2 Review of committees: terms of reference:

- Corresponding members should continue although in the longer term, they should be reduced and later phased out as gender and continental balance was continually implemented.
- The number of members on the committee was not material as voting rarely took place.
- The final terms of reference should go to the BoD for information following which they would come into effect.
- All terms of reference had been sent to the chairpersons and their comments incorporated.
- The Athletes' Commission would do a more in-depth review of its terms of reference before 2014.
- The Equipment Committee should monitor the unauthorised use of the ITTF logo for equipment and work closely with the Marketing Program in the process.
- The President would appoint the PAC member for the Finance Committee and the BoD would be requested to appoint one of its members or a committee chair at its meeting to the Finance Committee.
- The Junior Commission had included provision for the continental federations to appoint the main member as well as an alternate should the alternate not be able to attend.
- The Media Committee had incorporated all aspects of media and communication in its extended mandate.
- In the composition of the Nominations Committee, the Executive Committee should pay special attention to gender equity; if the AGM accepted the changes proposed to the term of office starting in even years, the term of office of the current Committee should be extended to 2014.
- The mandate of the Sports Science Committee should revert to include medical issues and explicitly anti-doping matters and, should the workload increase, the establishment of 2 separate committees could be considered.
- The work of the Technical Committee had largely been transferred to the Competition Program over time and as a result, the Committee could be dissolved with effect from



May 2013 while a position of Technical Commissioner would support the work of the Competition Program and various committees in an ongoing way.

- If accepted, the role of the Technical Commissioner should liaise closely with the relevant committees and the CEO.
- Members of the current Technical Committee could be nominated to serve on other committees and their nominations would be considered in the normal way.
- The URC wished to maintain the number of members due to its workload.
- The Veterans' Committee had indicated that it would be involved in the selection of the host for the World Veterans' Championships whereas only the chair was involved.
- The Women's Working Group had indicated that its lifespan should not continue beyond 2012 but that significant representation of women on the Nominations Committee and establishing a "commissioner" post should be considered.

The Executive Committee asked:

- i) The CEO to liaise with the Athletes' Commission on changes to the ranking system for 2013 and any other changes proposed for the World Tour for 2013.
- ii) the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to update the terms of reference and include in the booklet for its final approval and thereafter for the consideration of the BoD after which, all would come into effect.
- iii) The Women's Working Group to work with the continental federations and national associations to promote the nomination of women for February 2013.

The Executive Committee resolved to:

- a) Establish a Finance Committee in 2013.
- b) Recommend to the AGM that the term of office of the Nominations Committee be extended to 2014.
- c) Dissolve the Technical Committee and Women's Working Group with effect from May 2013.
- d) Recommend the establishment of posts of Technical Commissioner and Women in Sport Commissioner with effect from May 2013.

7. Racket Control Detection Group report: the Executive Committee noted that:

- The Group was not able currently to present concrete proposals.
- Thus the Group had proposed it continue so that proposals could be submitted by the end of March 2012.
- The Athletes' Commission had expressed some reservations about the process.
- If a racket covering had been identified as being non-compliant, it would be difficult to prove it was the player who had added a substance even if it was removed in an after-match test.
- As "adapted rackets" were produced by some manufacturers, the approval and authorisation process was under review.
- Pre-match testing was the preferred option for the Athletes' Commission.
- The impact of the racket control function on other players around the world should be considered carefully.
- Currently, players could request a racket to be tested on the second miniRAE machine at events.
- Top players had access to measuring devices, to better equipment and thus more controls would only benefit the top players.



- Most of the top players, with the exception of the Japanese, supported personal choice on the thickness of the racket covering.

The Executive Committee requested the Racket Control Detection Group to submit its final report by 15 March 2012.

8. TMS International update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- NHK had covered the 3 world cups for Japan in 2011 and had signed for 2012.
- Volkswagen had agreed to continue its sponsorship for 2012.
- Tissot had received a draft contract, which had to be concluded soon as official timer for the WTTC.
- China Unicom continued the sponsorship on an annual basis for the world championships.
- GAC had signed for 2012.
- Donic had agreed to sponsor the men's world cup to 2015.
- The bid for the table sponsorship for 2013 would be re-opened.

9. Propositions for the AGM: the Executive Committee noted that:

9.1 Propositions and Resolutions: the proposals and resolutions submitted were reviewed.

9.2 Membership application St. Maarten Table Tennis Federation:

- St. Maarten was part of the Netherlands Antilles which no longer existed.
- The application had not met the timeline requirement for applications for new membership to be submitted 6 months before the AGM.
- There may be 2 additional applications for membership from Africa.

The Executive Committee requested:

- a) The chair of the Rules Committee, Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) and the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to update the proposals for the AGM according to the discussions at the meeting.
- b) The chair of the Rules Committee, CEO and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to review the proposed changes relating to eligibility and jurisdiction.

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend the application for membership from St Maarten Table Tennis Federation be considered by the AGM.

10. Propositions for the BoD: the Executive Committee noted that:

10.1 Propositions and resolutions: the proposals and resolutions were reviewed.

10.2 Format of play for the World Junior Championships: this had been addressed by a resolution for the BoD to consider.

10.3 Format of play for World Cups: this would be addressed by a proposal presented to the BoD.

The Executive Committee requested:

- a) The chair of the Rules Committee, Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) and the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to update the proposals for the BoD according to the discussions at the meeting.
- b) The CEO to prepare a presentation for the format of play for the world cups to be considered by the BoD.



11. London Olympics: the Executive Committee noted that:

11.1 Equipment update:

- The Double Happiness table had been approved by the IOC.
- The colour for the surrounds had been resolved.
- The floor colour would be much darker than at the Pro Tour Grand Finals.
- The results system would be tested before the end of January 2012.
- The period for the build up of the venue for the Games would be short and the lighting and airflow would need to be tested just before the Village opened.
- Double Happiness would present the full colour scheme and elements for the courts for final approval before the end of January 2012.

11.2 Other pending issues:

- All aspects of accessibility for the Paralympic Games had been checked during the Pro Tour Grand Finals.
- The book "From London to London", by Colin Clemett, was progressing well and could be launched on 24 July 2012.
- All accreditations for ITOs for the Olympic Games had been submitted and 4 ITOs still had to finalise their flight bookings.
- The draw would be held on 25 July 2012 and, if approved, the museum would open on 26 July 2012 in the lead up during the Opening Ceremony on 27 July 2012 to try to maximise media coverage for table tennis.

The Executive Committee asked:

- a) The Athletes' Commission to nominate 2 players to test the venue for the airflow and lighting.
- b) The Vice-President (Finance) to confirm the colours for the equipment for the Olympic Games.

12. Finance: the Executive Committee noted that:

12.1 Report on the transfer of finances to Lausanne:

- All operations would have been transferred by the end of March 2012.
- The audit panel requirements were being implemented simultaneously.
- Training for the new accounting system would be done at the end of January 2012.

12.2 Olympic Fund distribution timelines:

- The allocation for the continents had been calculated according to the formula.
- Should a new member be added, the allocation to the Continents may be slightly affected.
- An amount of US\$3,190 million would be added to fixed assets to contribute to developing the ITTF reserve fund.

12.3 Congo DR debt:

- There was an outstanding debt since 2010.
- Due to internal circumstances, the Association had requested an extension until 15 March 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the continental allocations for the Olympic Fund.



The Executive Committee requested the Congo DR to pay 50% of its debt by 2 February 2012 and the balance by the beginning of the 2012 world championships.

13. Directives for world title events, Olympic and Paralympic Games: the Executive Committee noted that:

- The definition for “sanctioned events” should “include all events published on the annual competition calendar and designated as sanctioned events by the Executive Committee”.
- The directives provided for a certified international referee who could officiate in their home language.
- Match officials had now been defined and included racket testing coordinators together with the number of umpires needed for an event.
- Racket testing coordinators should be appointed as previously decided i.e. umpires from the host; if none was available, from a neighbouring country and if none available, from the same continent.
- The provision for the selection of umpires for the Paralympic Games had been brought into line with the Olympic Games.
- The proposal to have organisers pay the airfares for referee teams would add costs to the event but it was increasingly difficult to get referees and associations to pay these costs.

The Executive Committee approved the directives in principle but requested the document to be amended; including at which events the payment of travel costs should be implemented, for final approval at its next meeting.

14. Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted that meetings would be held:

14.1 Dortmund, Germany:

EC-1: 24 March (14h00)
AGM: 27 March 2012 (09h00)
OPC: 28 March 2012 (09h00)
BoD: 29 March 2012 (09h00)
EC-2: 1 April 2012 (09h00)

14.2 Next EC meetings:

27 July 2012 in London (morning session)
September-October 2012 to be decided
December 2012 in Cape Town

14.3 Next DCC meeting: would be held during the World Junior Championships in South Africa.

15. Legal

15.1 Update on “World Championships of Ping Pong” and court case with the Sandman Group: the Sandman Group had agreed to mediation in February 2012 in New York.

15.2 Update on registration of ITTF titles:

- “ITTF World Tour” had been registered in Switzerland.
- “ITTF World Championships” had been registered in countries hosting or bidding to host world championships.
- “itTV” was too close to “ITV” in the UK and so this would be registered in Switzerland and selected countries.



16. ITTF logo and branding guidelines: the Executive Committee noted the draft guidelines and thanked Ms Kim Koh for the quality of work done.

The Executive Committee approved the guidelines for implementation and asked the Marketing Director to present guidelines for the use of the logo on equipment.

17. Any other business: the Executive Committee noted that:

17.1 Status of the Deputy President:

- Mr Yang Shu'an explained his current professional obligations in his work for the Chinese government and the ever-increasing workload and responsibilities, which had prevented him from fully attending ITTF meetings.
- Mr Yang submitted his resignation to take effect after the AGM in Dortmund.
- Mr Yang indicated that the Chinese TTA would support the nomination of Mr Cai Zhenhua as an EC member
- The president thanked Mr Yang for his work since 1999 and for his support to the president in all his work. The president also welcomed a future nomination from China for the EC.

17.2 Anti-doping update:

- All players would have to sign an agreement accepting the anti-doping rules, only to use CAS for appeals and this would be implemented in 2012 starting at the world championships.
- The composition of the hearing panel had not been renewed but SportAccord had established a mechanism to form hearing panels as necessary.

17.3 Staff:

- 1 full time service provider did not have a formal agreement and the offer presented had been declined; his previous agreement had been extended till the end of March 2012.
- The IT manager would complete the tasks to which he had committed in 2012 at the rate he would have been paid as a staff member.
- The contract for the server in Canada would end in 2013 and other quotes had been received.
- The job title and specifications of another staff member were being finalised before a contract was issued.

The Executive Committee approved the hearing panel established by SportAccord as the hearing panel for anti-doping matters.

18. Adjournment: there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 17h30.

Adham Sharara
President

Date