

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission held on Monday, 27 April 2015, at 09h00 in the Kempinski Hotel, Suzhou.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks:

The President welcomed all the members and introduced those who attended the meeting for the first time: newly elected LATTU Treasurer, Mr. Jorge Herrera as representative of Latin America and Mr. Carlos Leon, Consultant to Rio2016 Organizing Committee and appointed as Table Tennis Sport Manager with effect of 1 September 2015. The OPC noted the apologies of Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi for health reason.

2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Khaled El Salhy	African Table Tennis Federation
Ronald Kramer	European Table Tennis Union
Jorge Herrera	Latin American Table Tennis Union representative
Tony Kiesenhofer	North American Table Tennis Union
James Morris	Oceania Table Tennis Federation

In attendance

Nico Verspeelt	Para TT representative
April Yu Kwok See	Athletes' representative
Edimilson Pinheiro	Rio 2016 representative
Carlos Leon	Rio 2016 representative
Richard Scruton	Technical Delegate Rio 2016 Olympic Games
Graeme Ireland	Technical Delegate Rio 2016 Olympic Games
Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)

Apologies

Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
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Absent

Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Asian Table Tennis Union representative	

3. Approval of the agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented with addition of 6.5 (Oceania Paralympic Qualification)

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 December 2014:

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the President with the following amendment on page 3-4, requested by the OTTF President:

- “Based on past experience, the situations in which players qualified but the NOCs didn’t endorse the participation, *mainly in Oceania*, should be pro-actively explored with the aim to find compromises for the best interest of the players concerned.”

4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: There was no further business not covered by the agenda.

5. Olympic Games 2016:

5.1 Qualification system and tournaments update:

- The qualification system document was approved by the IOC Executive Board in February 2014 and since then regularly updated with new information in the Qualification Timeline. The latest version is posted on the Rio2016 Olympic Games’ event page.
- The Continental Qualification Tournaments dates and hosts were finalized except the dates of the African (announced verbally during the meeting) and dates and location of the Oceania tournaments.

5.2 Schedule and ticketing:

- After the ITTF request was refused by Rio2016 for adding more competition days to the table tennis program, the competition schedule was agreed and approved from 6 to 17 August 2016, having 3 sessions every day except the days of the medal matches when there will be 2 sessions per day. Ticket sales started in April after the schedule for all sports was agreed.

5.3 Equipment and “Look of the Games”:

- It was difficult to find good balance and colour coordination between the look of the Games created by Rio and the preference of the Table sole supplier, especially for the table-top colour. The discussion involved OBS (TV broadcaster), the Rio2016, the manufacturers and the ITTF.
- The agreed look was part of the Rio2016 report and presented to the OPC with green floor, blue surrounds, wooden coloured table legs and a “blueish” green for the table-top (new colour).
- It was confirmed that the same equipment would be used at the test event.

5.4 Test event:

- According to the playing system and invitation policy agreed at the last meeting, the Prospectus and the invitations were scheduled to be sent out in May based on the May 2015 World Ranking.
- Hospitality package seemed to be the main issue, as Rio2016 did not want to offer it to participants (preferring they make their own

arrangements), while ITTF insisted to follow the ITTF event regulation policy.

- There will be no test event for the Paralympic Games but Rio will invite some Para athletes before the Paralympic Games to check and test the facilities.

5.5 Inspection visit and meeting update:

- Mr Raul Calin made an inspection visit on 8-9 April for discussion of the ITO/NTO training, the overlay development, the look of the Games, sport presentation and to visit the hotel for ITTF family (Hotel Praia Ipanema).
- The main concerns about venue installation issues (rigging, leaking, air-condition, lights) were addressed to top officials of Rio and IOC by the ITTF President and the CEO at the SportAccord conference two weeks after the inspection
- Rio 2016 sport presentation team has good ideas to enhance the presentation of the sport, i.e. asking the players hitting signed balls to the audience when matches are finished.

5.6 Report from Rio 2016:

- Some of the earlier agenda points were also covered in the presentation.
- Table tennis will be played in Barra Zone. The ITTF hotel (Hotel Praia Ipanema) and the ITOs hotel (Blue Tree Premium – under construction) were presented, the accommodation contract was signed off by ITTF.
- Riocentro Pavillion is 30 years old. The venue capacity will be 6,607 for the Olympic Games with 4 competition tables + 8 warm-up tables + 16 practice tables and 4,852 for the Paralympic Games with 8 competition tables + 16 warm-up tables + 20 practice tables.
- Finalizing the contracts with San-Ei, DHS and Tinsue is in progress.
- The overlay plans were under discussion and will be improved following ITTF inspection and the discussions with the Technical Delegates.
- NTO's training was confirmed to be held at the end of May with one of the ITTF TD's, Richard Scruton as the lecturer.

5.7 Sport Manager and Technical Operations Manager:

- Mr. Carlos Leon, Consultant to Rio2016 Organizing Committee was appointed as Table Tennis Sport Manager with effect of 1 September 2015 and at the same time Mr. Edimilson Pinheiro would become Competition Manager for the Games and Sport Manager for the Paralympic Games.
- As a result of Mr. Raul Calin's new function within the ITTF after the staff structure change, ITTF recommended Mr. Mohamed Dawlatly replacing Raul Calin as Technical Operations Manager. Rio2016 verbally agreed, official ratification of his position would be expected in May.

5.8 Remaining nominations for the Jury:

- The Asian Table Tennis Union nominated Mr. D. R. Choudhary as Jury member.
- Due to recent election in Latin America, the Latin American Table Tennis Union modified its nomination, appointing its new President, Mr. Juan Vila as Jury member.
- The Executive Committee proposed Mr. Chan Foong Keong, Chair of the ITTF Nominations Committee, Tournament Director of two World TT Championships (2000, 2016) as Chairman of the Jury.

1-OPC-04-2015

The Commission appointed Mr. Chan Foong Keong as Chairman of the Jury for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

5.9 Nomination timelines for ITOs:

- Except the Referee and the Deputy Referee from the region (approved in December 2014), the name list of the ITOs will be submitted for approval at the next OPC meeting to allow sufficient time for the selection group to make the proposal.

6. Paralympic Games 2016:

6.1 Update:

- There was nothing to add to the update presented at item 5.6

6.2 Schedule:

- The competition schedule was approved with 10 days from 8th to 17th September 2016.

6.3 Report from Rio 2016 - Covered under item 5.6

6.4 Remaining nominations for the Jury:

- Para TT Division proposed 3-member Jury: Mr. Nico Verspeelt (ITTF PTT Vice Chairperson) as Chairman; Mrs. Susan Stevenson (Australia National Development and Inclusion Manager); Mr. Doru Teodor Gheorghe (USATT COO & High Performance Director).

2-OPC-04-2015

The Commission appointed Mr. Nico Verspeelt as Chairman of the Jury, Mrs. Susan Stevenson and Mr. Doru Teodor Gheorghe as Members of the Jury for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

6.5 Continental Paralympic Qualification

- Patrick Gillmann attended the ITTF-Oceania Cup and Championships integrating first time the Continental Paralympic Championships, a great opportunity as they could play on the same show courts with TV coverage.

- However, the problem was the requirements of having a minimum of countries and players in certain classes, which resulted in playing only in 4 classes out of the possible 21. Some athletes present could not play due to the lack of entries.
- The rules are not adapted for a continent where Para TT is still on grass-root level. Oceania needs help in development of Para TT. The first continental championships held recently were good for media interest.
- African TTF announced that the continental championships would take place in October in Agadir, Morocco.

7. Youth Olympic Games 2018:

7.1 Date change:

- After consulting with the ASOIF members, the IOC Executive Board approved and announced the change of date for the Buenos Aires 2018 YOG in order to ensure more hours of daylight and higher average temperatures. The new dates are 1 to 12 October 2018 (instead of the originally planned mid-September).

7.2 Table Tennis Event Program:

- The IOC Executive Board confirmed that all 28 sports – including table tennis - on the Nanjing 2014 YOG will be included in the program of the 2018 YOG.
- Approval of the list of events, athletes' quotas and age groups will take place later in 2015, but no significant change is expected compared to Nanjing as IOC announced no increase on number of events and quotas.
- After evaluating the table tennis event at Nanjing 2014 YOG, there was a general feeling to keep the same events, to use the same age category (U-18) and to eliminate position matches in playing system.
- Within the available number of total quotas, consideration should be given to reduce the number of universality places and to reallocate for qualification places as it was difficult to make maximum use of these places (4 boys and 4 girls) in Nanjing.

3-OPC-04-2015

The Commission agreed to propose to IOC:

- a change in the playing system to eliminate position matches;
- no change in the events (boy's singles, girl's singles, mixed team event);
- no change in the age category (U-18).

8. Any other business:

8.1 Meeting with IOC President:

- The President reported on his meeting with the IOC President on 22 April in Lausanne.

- Application to IOC to add one more event to the table tennis Olympic program was discussed in line with Agenda 2020, the IOC President recommended to consider mixed doubles application instead of mixed team event.
- Membership application of South Sudan was accepted positively as they apply also for IOC membership for which they need to be member of at least in 5 IFs.

8.2 IOC membership application:

- Nomination of the Chairman, Adham Sharara was submitted to the IOC.
- The nomination was discussed with the IOC President who informed that no new IOC member on IF quota would be elected before Rio Olympic Games.

8.3 Agenda 2020:

- During the IOC Extraordinary Session in December 2014 all 40 recommendations of the new IOC strategy called Agenda 2020 were accepted unanimously. The decisions were distributed to the OPC members.

8.4 Application for inclusion of additional event for Tokyo 2020 – covered under item 8.1

8.5 NOC confirmation for qualified players:

- The Oceania TTF President asked if a Continental Federation has the right to stop a NA from entering the Olympic Qualification event because their NOC would not endorse the participation.
- OPC agreed there was no such authority for the Continental Federations, disputed cases could be challenged at CAS or could be prevented by separate agreement between the NOC and the NA.
- However, the Continental Federation can propose to the ITTF the requirements for participation, including for example the endorsement of the entry by the NOC to which the NA belongs.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11h15

Thomas Weikert
President

Date