

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission held on Saturday, 05 December 2015, at 09h30 in the Vendéspace, Mouilleron Le Captif, France.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks:

The President welcomed all the members and apologized for the late start of the meeting due to delay in transport service. The OPC noted the apologies of Rio 2016 representatives and the Athletes' representatives who were absent.

2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy 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
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Afshin Badiie	Asian Table Tennis Union representative
Khaled El Salhy	African Table Tennis Federation
Ronald Kramer	European Table Tennis Union
Juan Vila	Latin American Table Tennis Union
Tony Kiesenhofer	North American Table Tennis Union
James Morris	Oceania Table Tennis Federation

In attendance

Nico Verspeelt	Para TT representative
Richard Scruton	Technical Delegate Rio 2016 Olympic Games
Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)

Absent

Ashu Jain	Athletes' representative
Rio 2016 representative	

3. Approval of the agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented with addition of:
 - 8.4 (Olympic Team format)

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 April 2015:
 The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the President.
- 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 tournaments update:

- Three Multisport Games qualifying for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games took place in 2015.
- The Continental Qualification Tournaments dates and hosts were all finalized.
- In order to prevent competition manipulation, eliminating walkovers (W.O.) and unfinished (retired) matches, it was discussed to implement special rules at the Continental Qualification Tournaments to check injuries by assigning an official doctor, and to apply triple ranking penalty points for players not showing up for matches.
- The playing system and schedule for these tournaments are determined by the Continental Federations, subject to final approval by the ITTF.

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The Commission resolved to appoint an official doctor and to impose a penalty of 75 ranking points for no-shows and unfinished matches at the 2016 ITTF-Continental Olympic Qualification tournaments.

5.2 Olympic ranking:

- In line with the Olympic Qualification System, starting as of January 2016, the monthly ITTF Olympic ranking list (singles and team) will be to be published for information purpose.
- The Olympic singles ranking lists show only players eligible to represent their NOC at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games; taking into consideration a maximum of 2 players per NOC; and inactive players are not considered.
- The Olympic team ranking takes into account the 3 highest rated Olympic eligible players; and players with 4 months inactivity are included. The virtual team matches are coded with fixed order of matches: AvX, BvY, B-CvY-Z, AvZ, CvX.
- Both in singles and in team the May 2016 Olympic ranking will be used for qualification.
- It was requested to highlight differently players who already qualified for the Games to distinguish them from those still in the process to qualify.

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The Commission approved the description and the visual presentation of the ITTF Olympic Singles and Team Rankings to be published from January 2016 for information purpose.

5.3 Tripartite Commission invitation places:

- Deadline for eligible NOCs to apply to IOC will be 16 January 2016.
- IOC Tripartite Commission will analyse the applications in cooperation with the IFs.
- Athletes must participate in their relevant qualifying event.

- ITTF distributed and communicated the detailed information for universality places to the National Associations on multiple occasions with the request to coordinate with their NOCs.
- Tripartite places will be confirmed after the last Olympic Qualification.

5.4 Schedule:

- The competition schedule includes 3 sessions per day for 8 days and 2 sessions on 4 days (when medal position matches are played).

5.5 Test event report:

- There was lack of interest for the Test event on 18-21 November 2015.
- There were multiple reasons for the low entries (busy competition calendar, venue was different, there was no prize money and world ranking points).
- (report summary under 5.7)

5.6 Equipment and "Look of the Games":

- Event was used to test equipment of the Games.
- After the test event the following points were raised for further discussion:
- Should the colour of the green floor be darker to ensure contrast with the ball and the table top, TV-pictures to be checked by OBS and by the ITTF.
- Should the light wooden colour of the undercarriage be modified and if Olympic rings could be added to the table undercarriage.
- No remark or objection was received about the second logo stamp (Rio2016) on the ball.
- Corner doors on the surrounds have to be improved.
- NATTU President made positive comment on the Olympic table, as it was launched at the Pan-American Games before. It was well received in Toronto in spite of previous reservations because of the new table-top colour.

5.7 Inspection visit and meeting update:

The test event provided a good opportunity to organise meetings between ITTF and Rio 2016 executive officials and key staff. The quick internal report draft was shared with OPC members, the following key issues were mentioned:

- Lighting is one of the main concerns as at the time of the visit there was still not yet sufficient information on technical specifications (load capacity and distribution, height for hanging the lights, shutters etc...) The meeting with Mr. Alexandre Techima, Rio 2016 Infrastructure Integration Director, proved to be very useful.
- Installation timelines project completion between 15 and 20 July, ITTF requested to advance it at least by 5 days, as it has to be approved before the floor is installed.
- Noise level of the air condition has to be reduced by isolating the chillers and fan coils. Air-flow was not an issue during the test event.

- Professional staff and sport team from Rio 2016 was very cooperative and efficient, but there was lack of volunteers, similar problem is foreseen due to volunteer selection process.
- Service level is planned to be reduced for T1 transport and Olympic family lounge during the Games, a general problem for all sports, not only table tennis.

5.8 Report from Rio 2016:

Power Point presentation was shown at the meeting in absence of the representatives, some points not covered under previous agenda points:

- The ITOs/NTOs hotel construction was almost finished, the ITTF officials visited the building during the test event.
- White Badge umpires exam is planned for January 2016 for NTOs training.
- Overlay Book 4.1 was ready to be sent both for OG and PG, with 6,644-seat capacity for OG.

5.9 Appointment of remaining ITOs:

- Except for the Referee and the Deputy Referee from the region (approved in December 2014), the name list of the ITOs was submitted for approval both for Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.
- Continents also approved the list of reserves in case of non-acceptance by National Associations.

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Based on the selection of the URC Selection Panel, the OPC confirmed the appointments of the International Technical Officials for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and for the 2016 Paralympic Games.

6. Paralympic Games 2016:

6.1 Update:

- Provisional qualified list of players will be published on 15 January 2016, giving NPCs one month to confirm.
- Bi-partite places (24 wild cards) serve universality purposes and to complete teams, Para TT Division Selection Committee meet on 19-20 February.
- It was noted that the qualification period is too long (2 years) and very expensive for smaller associations and have to be taken into consideration for the 2020 system.
- Para TT Division ensures comprehensive competition calendar by adding the minimum tournament credit as criteria and they need a system for 11 categories.

6.2 Schedule:

- The competition schedule was finalised, but subject to small modifications based on how many teams will be composed. Changes will not affect session times.

- 6.3 Specific regulations:
 - Draft document was submitted to the OPC.
- 6.4 Report from Rio 2016 - covered under item 5.8
- 6.5 Appointment of remaining ITOs - covered under 5.9

7. Youth Olympic Games 2018:

- 7.1 Update:
 - Competition schedule draft was submitted to organisers.
 - Equipment suppliers have to be confirmed.
 - Qualification system will be finalised in December 2016.

8. Any other business:

- 8.1 Meeting with Tokyo 2020:
 - On 1st September 2015 the ITTF President visited the Tokyo-2020 Headquarters during his stay in Tokyo, where he was welcomed by Tokyo-2020 President, Mr. Yoshiro Mori. Accompanied by Japan TTA officials and EC colleague, Mr. Maehara, Mr. Weikert explained the ITTF proposal to IOC to include Mixed Doubles in the Tokyo OG program.
- 8.2 Agenda 2020 follow-up:
 - The IOC published a mid-year status report on the Agenda 2020 implementation plan, which was distributed to IFs.
- 8.3 Bids for 2024:
 - After Hamburg pulled out due to the referendum result, four (4) cities confirmed their candidature for the 2024 Olympic Games: Budapest, Los Angeles, Paris and Rome.
 - According to Agenda 2020, International Federations' involvement will be more intensive than before both in bidding phase and in delivery of the Games.
 - As part of the IF involvement, ITTF has to send back a questionnaire to the IOC on the bid concept of all 4 bidding cities in March 2016.
 - Paris 2024 Bid Committee appointed Jean-Philippe Gatien as Sports Director.
- 8.4 Olympic team format:
 - Technical Delegate for Rio 2016 (Sports Manager for London 2012) proposed to review the Olympic team playing format after the Olympic Games in Rio as with the present system No.1 ranked players do not play against each other. It was suggested to collect statistics from past and at the upcoming Games for better evaluation of the system.

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The OPC appointed a Working Group to review the Olympic Team format after the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and to propose to OPC the system for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The Working Group is composed by Richard Scruton (TD for Rio 2016), Graeme Ireland (ITTF Technical Commissioner), Tony Kiesenhofer (Continental President) and Raul Calin (Director of OOG).

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.05

Thomas Weikert
President

Date