

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting room Corbijn (1st floor), Tylösand Hotel, Halmstad, Sweden
09h00, Saturday, 23rd September 2017

Minutes

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed the members, particularly Mr Zoran Primorac to his first EC meeting, especially after his recent involvement in different activities in representation of the Athletes Commission such as the WADA Symposium in March.

2. SWE TTA President's welcome

Mrs Petra Sörling and Mr Mikael Peterson, President and Secretary General of Swedish Table Tennis Association welcomed all EC members, Athletes representative and staff to Sweden, for the first EC meeting in Sweden in a few years.

3. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Zoran Primorac	Athletes Commission representative

In attendance

Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General

Apologies

Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Vladimir Samsonov	Athletes Commission Chair

4. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with the following amendments:

7.1 and 7.8 will be presented jointly

In 12.3 will be added: update on the Australian Open

In 12.4 will be added: brief update on two harassment cases

In 12.5 Africa meetings

In 12.6 Dates Team World Cup 2019

5. Minutes

5.1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings (28th May and 5th June 2017)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the President.

5.2. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5.3. Report and review of task from past EC meetings

There were two points to follow-up from Dusseldorf EC1 meeting:

The appointment of the chair was deferred from the 28th May 2017 meeting. This will be discussed under 7.2.

The follow-up on the allocation of 10,000 USD to Sri Lanka (5,000 USD in equipment and 5,000 USD in cash) for recovery.

Mr President took the opportunity to mention that several Caribbean countries have been very affected by the recent hurricane, and after studying the specific situation of each table tennis association, the EC will propose some actions of support to be approved by the EC meeting in Astana in December.

6. CEO Update

6.1. Staff Structure

The CEO explained that the ITTF is working on a brand new Staff structure.

The President and the Vice President of Finance gave a short summary on the rationale behind appointing a CEO and a Secretary General, one to be business oriented and the other to be more for institutional representation.

The CEO then reported that there will be changes in the Competition, Marketing and Development departments of the ITTF. He also mentioned that it was also important to hire a Chief Financial Officer, and Mr Michael Brown had accepted the position to be based in Singapore.

The position of Marketing Director will be filled in due time.

In competitions, in the beginning there will be different portfolios, with Mr Karl Jindrak in charge of the World Cups plus Challenge Series events, Didier Leroy in charge of World Championships plus Continental events, Ms Vicky Eleftheriade in charge of the World Tour plus Competition Services and Mr Mounir Bessah in charge of the Global Junior Programme.

A new staff will be hired for Para Table Tennis. This is a new position that, according to Mrs Sörling, will be advertised.

The CEO proposed that in the future the ITTF could look at a more centralised organisational model. It was discussed that in the meantime there would be more staff meetings to leverage the lack of centralization.

The President reported that it is desirable that the EC takes a more strategical position and the staff members a more operational position. This results in less staff members being present at the EC meetings. It will be the responsibility of the CEO to keep the staff members informed about the strategic direction.

The CEO reported that that the structure would be published before the next EC meeting.

It was discussed that the senior staff members should have strong administrative support to ensure they can work in a strong way.

Mr Primorac added that athletes have great careers but education is missing. There could be educational funds for athletes to look at ways to join the ITTF structure. The President and whole EC were in full favour to look at ways to ensure it.

The President reported the situation for the Deputy CEO's departure, which was unexpected, but appreciated the work he did during so many years. Mr Tepper had informed the President that after achieving various goals he felt it was time for him to look for other opportunities. An amicable agreement had been reached with Mr Tepper and he will be attending the World Championships in Halmstad, where he will be recognized formally. He also reported that the case of the CEO, although different was also resolved and an amicable agreement was reached between all parties.

6.2. Calendar

Didier Leroy - invited for this point of the agenda – pointed out the importance to finalize future ITTF calendars in advance. It was noted that it was important to make contact with the continental federations to ensure they are aligned in the calendar.

The CEO added that, due to a new effort, it will be the first time in recent history that the calendar (2019) will be confirmed at such an early stage. However, it is not that early if compared to other sports.

The CEO stated that the goal should be to have the calendar confirmed at least two years in advance.

Mr Leroy mentioned that the dates of the multi-sport games and of other major sports events were considered while planning.

1-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to confirm the dates for the 2019 calendar before the end of January 2018 and to do so earlier for the future years calendar.

6.3. New Table Tennis Products:

The CEO reported that:

- There are new products in the market competing for market share and that the ITTF needed to consider carefully how they fit into the ITTF strategy.
- If such new products are financially attractive, it is natural that players would participate. It is therefore important to ensure the ITTF products are superior to keep its market share.

6.4. Strategic Plan

Mr James Morris, responsible for strategic planning, reported that discussions were under way to prepare the strategic plan and companies had been approached to assist. Depending on the price offers and proposals, one company will be chosen to assist.

The CEO emphasised that it is now time to undertake the process of developing a strategic plan, which must be strong and comprehensive. The strategic plan will serve as the guiding light for the new leadership moving into the future.

The SG mentioned that adopting a strategic plan will be in line with the IOC recommendations, which are not yet fulfilled by the ITTF.

Mrs Sörling mentioned it is something every organization should have.

Mr Primorac reported being involved in the strategic plan of the Croatian Olympic Committee, and pointed the importance of having the strategy as the base, and then following the strategy for developing the future.

2-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to embark into the strategic plan development once the consulting company will be chosen, with the goal to have it presented to the AGM in Halmstad as requested by the AGM in Dusseldorf.

6.5. TMS Activity

The President reported that after the conclusion of the World Championships, the ITTF has discovered many potential irregularities in past activities.

The CEO pointed out that the ITTF needs to resolve all issues from the past to work in a constructive spirit in the future.

The main issues identified in the first three months were:

The ITTF Information Technology transition and retrieval of the ITTF data was not as smooth as wished. The ITTF was disappointed that TMS, with Mr Sharara's involvement, had made a large financial proposal to the ITTF for continuing its services in managing the ITTF IT solutions.

The ITTF legal status and bank accounts in Canada were managed poorly and the ITTF Canada bank account was transferred to ITTF Africa without the President or Vice President of Finance knowledge.

The ITTF obtained a document from which it seems to be evident that the former ITTF President received an amount of 80,000 CAD from TMS in 2006.

The Oceania Federation situation was discussed again.

It was discovered that there had been irregularities of certain past bid tender processes, which needed to be checked very carefully to ensure that the ITTF did and does not act illegally.

Based on the facts mentioned before, it was proposed to the Executive Committee that the ITTF engages a law firm to further investigate the issues.

Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi stated that the above-mentioned issues put the ITTF image at risk. He asked the Executive Committee to take all necessary legal actions to ensure the ITTF image is preserved.

3-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to instruct the ITTF lawyers to seek clarification from Mr Sharara about his possible involvement with TMS and if there was or is any conflict of interest due to his positions within the ITTF and TMS. The Executive Committee also resolved to inform its lawyers of any potential irregularities or other issues for evaluation.

4-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to not conduct any further business with TMS due to on-going investigations.

5-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to ensure that proper bidding processes are in place for future tenders.

6.6. ITTF candidature for IOC membership

It was discussed that membership for the IOC was of extreme importance.

After several years of unsuccessful attempts for Mr Sharara's membership it was decided that the ITTF will take a new course of action and apply for membership for the incumbent President and to adopt this as an issue of future policy.

Mr Primorac discussed the importance of strong lobbying by all parties to try and get more table tennis persons to the IOC level.

6-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to propose Mr Thomas Weikert to be IOC member and to adopt the policy to always nominate the incumbent ITTF President.

7-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to define a strategy to be involved as much as possible the different areas and activities of the IOC (commissions, committees, attendance to workshops, etc.).

7. Operations Program

7.1. Budget 2017 and 2018-2020

Mrs Petra Sörling referred to the finance presentation given at the AGM in Dusseldorf and to the 2017 budget. The ITTF is now reviewing its accounting system, with the aim to improve it. The reviewing started with a finance meeting held in Lausanne in July. Due to the hiring of the new Chief Financial Officer, Michael Brown, it was decided to defer the presentation of the detailed budget to the December 2017 EC meeting.

Mrs Sörling also reported that a few meetings with the new auditors took place and that the risk management exercise would be held in November.

The Secretary General announced that there will be a new chart of accounts adapting our account presentation to recent standards which are common among other international sport federations.

Mr Burton requested that the EC give an indication about the budget submitted by the URC. Pending final approval in December, this was accepted.

7.2. Constitution review progress

The EC noted the report of Mr Nestor Tenca about the work being done by Jordi Serra reviewing the constitution. The revision is taking into consideration the most recent constitutional changes recently adopted by other IF's. Existing inconsistencies must be removed. The responsibilities of the governing bodies within the ITTF must be defined, including reviewing the position of Chair of the AGM.

The President suggested that some external lawyers should make a final review once the draft is completed.

Mr Francisco Lima, Senior Legal Counsel of the International Equestrian Federation and Mr Antonio Arimany, Secretary General of the International Triathlon Union were proposed as such legal counsellors by the Secretary General.

Mr Tenca also asked whether the current ITTF governing system should be reviewed as well.

The Secretary General stated that the mandate received from the last AGM is to review the constitution to align it with the good governance principles as approved in Dusseldorf. In the future, perhaps the case study from Mr Brown at his MEMOS studies could help to review the political structure of the ITTF.

The Secretary General reported that the good governance self-evaluation questionnaire submitted to ASOIF at the beginning of the year was reviewed in July 2017. The ITTF ranks in the middle among the 28 summer sport federations.

Mr Meshref asked whether the Strategic Plan shouldn't be completed before finalizing the constitution reform. The President agreed with the general idea that the strategic plan should lead any broader reform. However, there are certain constitutional changes required to be adopted in 2018 as per the request of the AGM.

7.3. Membership recognition issues

- Dr Meshref reported that during the last month and a half, some Libyan clubs have complained to their NOC, and several members of the National Association have resigned. It seems that from the 7 members of the board 4 have resigned, resulting in the fact that, according to its constitution, it has no quorum to convene meetings.
- The ITTF has received numerous communications from different parties, many of them in Arabic, and it was a complex case.
- Dr Meshref gave a summary of these communications, with the most important issue being related to the procedures of an extraordinary general assembly held by the Libyan Table Tennis Federation. Dr Meshref proposed to the Executive Committee to initiate a process of suspension of the Libyan Table Tennis Federation. He recommended the formation of a steering committee under the supervision of the Libyan Olympic Committee to conduct new elections until 31st December 2017.

8-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to initiate the procedure for the suspension of the Libyan Table Tennis Federation.

7.4. Eligibility cases

The EC noted that the Australian Table Tennis Association registered Mr Mateo Dvorani, a player not born in Australia but now an Australian citizen, on the special eligibility database for World Title events after he reached the age of 15.

Table Tennis Australia did appeal to the ITTF eligibility commission against the 5-year waiting period for the player to represent Australia at World Title events.

The EC also noted the request from the French Table Tennis Association to waive the requirements for World Title events eligibility for Ms Liu Judith, a French player born in China.

9-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved that no exception could be made to the current eligibility rule.

At the same time, a discussion was held in regards to the fact that, currently, there are three different eligibility rules. One for Olympic Games, one for World Title events and a third one for international tournaments. The CEO stated that the ITTF should find the way to have a common eligibility regulation. The EC members agreed on the concept. It was agreed that it would be important to also explore what are the limitations in regards to the IOC eligibility rule.

10-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to instruct the Secretary General to contact the IOC to determine whether the eligibility rule for Table Tennis at the Olympic Games can be defined by ITTF and to explore ways to have a more unified eligibility rule.

7.5. Racket Control (boosting, racket control procedures)

The EC noted the presentation of the research made by German Professor Hubert Motschmann, and the proposal of using a rheometric device. However, this device is very expensive, and the logistics connected with its use extremely complicated. Therefore, the EC does not recommend to use it.

In order to prevent cheating in all related to boosting, either the ITTF Changes the rule or the rubbers are dismantled from the racket to check properly whether they were treated.

Mr Primorac stated that, nowadays, this is not a health issue anymore, which was the main reason to forbid the old glues. According to him, the ITTF should not have a rule that cannot be enforced. Dr Alaa Meshref and Secretary General agreed with his opinion.

If the rubbers are to be dismantled from the blade to check its thickness, the Technical Leaflet T9 must be amended. This must be decided by the Board of Directors.

In order to implement some control until an eventual change of the regulations at the 2018 AGM, random test of rackets will be conducted at some events, for information purposes.

Dr Alaa Meshref showed his concern about how this decision could possibly affect players with less economical resources.

11-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to instruct the Secretary General to establish, together with the Athletes Commission and the Vice-President in charge of equipment, a procedure for checking thickness of rubbers by randomly testing rubbers dismantled from the rackets. The procedure shall be established until the time of the next Executive Committee meeting.

7.6. Affordable equipment

Dr Alaa Meshref reported on the high price of table tennis equipment, and how, in recent years, the prices have increased, particularly for rubbers, blades and balls. This is seriously affecting the development of table tennis in the countries with low economic resources.

The CEO reported that he had contacted the equipment manager in order to get more information on the latest situation. It seems that, after an initial phase with high prices due to the lack of good quality balls available, there are now more manufacturers producing balls, and the different companies are starting to have more and more good quality balls on the market. That should result in lower prices.

Mrs Sörling mentioned that the ITTF could speak with the manufacturers to ensure there are different levels of available equipment, at affordable prices, particularly for beginners.

12-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to invite FIT members to have a discussion with the ITTF to exchange information and ideas and to ensure there is affordable equipment available for beginners.

Furthermore, the CEO proposed to organize a "Symposium of table tennis" involving the different stakeholders and informing them about the ideas and plans the new ITTF has.

7.7. Information & Technology

The CEO reported on the issues the ITTF is facing regarding the former IT provider. To overcome these issues, the ITTF shall collect the data and software property of ITTF and install it at a new server.

In addition, the ITTF is preparing the documents to initiate a bid tender process for the future IT management. The ITTF is looking for a modern system of results management, and, hopefully, the new system can be built over the next 12 months, starting with the most urgent areas.

7.8. Finances

Was covered under 7.1

7.9. Travel and indemnity policy

The Secretary General reported that it was time to review the travel and indemnity policy. Currently, the Executive Committee members receive a daily allowance when travelling representing the ITTF, which results in numerous cash transactions.

The new proposed system provides for a yearly allowance, in the amount of three thousand US Dollars (3,000 USD), instead of a daily amount.

Due to the higher responsibility of the Deputy President, his yearly allowance shall be six thousand US Dollars (6,000 USD).

Additionally, a flat rate amount of one thousand US Dollars (1,000 USD) will be paid every year to each Executive Committee member, to cover their phone expenses, postage, Internet, etc. This applies unless they wish to claim the exact amount spent per year. In this case, reimbursement will be based upon actual receipts/invoices submitted to the ITTF in accordance with the respective policy.

In regards to the President's honorarium, the Executive Committee, at its meeting held in Nanjing 2014, as per recommendation of the former President and CEO, initially approved an amount of five thousand Euro (5,000 EUR) per month as "compensation for the equivalent of one day a week or 20% of his salary".

After an evaluation of the first three years of Mr Weikert in the position, the Vice President of Finances explained that the level of involvement and exigencies related to the current position of President of the ITTF are much higher than the compensation received until now.

Taking further into consideration the circumstances in other summer sport federations, all EC members accepted the proposal to pay Mr Weikert an honorarium of eight thousand Euro (8,000 EUR) per month effective from 1st June 2017.

13-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the travel and indemnity policy for EC members and the honorarium for the President.

8. Competition Program

8.1. World Championships Update

The CEO reported that:

8.1.1 The LIEBHERR 2017 WTTC in Dusseldorf was one of the best World Championships if not the best ever.

The figures of the WTTC were impressive: more than 900 hours of TV air and over 355 million of TV viewers. There was TV and OTT broadcast in 122 countries, thousands of press articles, and social media making a very big impression.

Together with Sportcal, an independent company, the ITTF conducted a study on the economic impact, which shows, among others, the following figures: over 15,000 visitors came to Dusseldorf, massive economic impact, over 53,000 tickets were sold, and over 30,000 hotel nights were booked.

8.1.2 The LIEBHERR 2018 WTTC blueprint from Halmstad was distributed to the EC members during the meeting; there will be two days of site inspection of the facilities and proposed hotels on 24th and 25th September 2017.

The Deputy President, in charge of World Championships, suggested facilitating a "meet and greet" service at Copenhagen airport, as many delegations may prefer to travel there. This will be discussed during the inspection.

8.1.3 The organizers of the 2019 WTTC in Budapest requested a change of venue and dates. Following the request, the ITTF coordinated an urgent visit to Budapest, which was conducted by Mr Karl Jindrak and Mr Didier Leroy. Both of them confirmed the suitability of the new venue proposed, the Budapest Expo, and the new dates, which were checked with the ITTF and international sports calendar, suggesting to the EC to approve the new dates.

14-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee, on behalf of the BoD, resolved to confirm the new venue and the new dates for the 2019 WTTC in Budapest, to be held in the Budapest Expo from 21st to 28th April, pending the ratification of the AGM in Halmstad.

8.1.4 The CEO reported about the website launched for the 2020 World Championships bid process. Expression of interest is due by 15th October 2017, and the ITTF will follow-up with the interested parties to organize potential inspections to shortlisted candidates.

8.2. World Tour Update

The CEO reported that the World Tour Grand Finals will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan. It is good to have the event in a new region of the world, and the local organizers are very excited to have a large table tennis event coming there. The Star Awards will be held in connection with the WTGF.

8.3. World Cups

Belgium and Canada will host the 2017 Men's and Women's World Cups.

The CEO praised the work done by Mr Tony Kiesenhofer, CEO of Table Tennis Canada, in order to secure new sponsors and supporters for the Women's World Cup.

Hosting events in USA and CAN is very beneficial for the ITTF.

In 2018, the Men's World Cup and Women's World Cup will be in Disneyland Paris and Chengdu, China, respectively; negotiations of contracts are in progress.

8.4. Junior Program Update

The CEO reported that Mohamed Dawlatly and Mounir Bessah inspected Riva del Garda, Italy, for the World Junior Championships. The ITTF is confident that it will be a good event. Also the EC noted that the junior calendar for 2018 is set and published.

8.5. New World Ranking

The President welcomed Ms Iulia Necula, who gave a presentation to the EC members on the new World Ranking.

The EC noted that a more unified event structure is needed in order to strengthen ITTF brand awareness. Also this will help to increase exposure and commercial revenues.

To increase the media interest, it is important that the top players will take part in the major events, and this will be facilitated through the new world ranking system.

The new world ranking will be based on the final positions of the players at the tournaments, and players will not lose points when playing matches. The best 8 results (6 for juniors) will be considered, with 1 continental event being included.

The new world ranking will be simpler, easier to predict (and to be read by the media) and will require a minimum participation.

The CEO reported that there will also be a new World Team Ranking, which will be based on team events results only. For the moment it is only a concept, but the precise system will be decided at a later stage.

The CEO explained that following the decision at the EC meeting held in December 2016 in Doha to adapt the principles of the new World Ranking, a survey was made to get further feedback from the players and to come back to the EC one more time for a final decision.

Based on this, the CEO proposed to the EC to ratify these principles and to allow the WR Working Group to work on the minor details of the new system.

15-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to ratify the new World Ranking system to be in place on 1 January 2018 with possible final small adjustments to be made by the World Ranking Working Group.

8.6. Future Events Working Group

The CEO reported that:

Mr Shi Zhihao has been leading the group for one year and a half and he would be happy to be the EC responsible. However, he prefers someone else leads the group as Chair.

After some discussions, there was a proposal to have Tony Kiesenhofer as the Chair.

The next meeting should be scheduled soon to be able to accomplish the mandate of the BoD meeting in Dusseldorf and present a final proposal in Halmstad.

8.7. Multi-balls trial

The EC noted a report from Ms Iulia Necula about the multi-balls trial at the Czech Open. The system consists in the players receiving a new ball from the umpire for the next point without having to collect the ball from the last point, and thus, reducing the time lost between points. The time saved was four seconds on average from the final in Bulgaria Open compared to the final in Czech Open, where the same players were playing. Overall, the time saved in the different matches was two seconds.

16-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved to continue testing this system during the 2018 ITTF World Tour.

9. Marketing and Promotion Program

The CEO presented a video about the progress made in the field of marketing in 2017.

9.1. ITTF Marketing subsidiary

The CEO reported about the meeting held in July by the VP of Finances, the CEO and the Secretary General together with Mr Frank Lenders, General Director of FIBA. Mr Lenders

explained the structure FIBA used to establish their own marketing department within FIBA, thus having full control of it.

Based on that meeting and on further discussions held in Singapore with the ITTF commercial lawyers, the CEO presented recommendations regarding steps to be made if the ITTF wants to follow the same way, but with a company/department 100% controlled by ITTF.

9.2. New Sponsors

The CEO reported that, during the WTTC in Dusseldorf, an agreement was signed with GoDaddy for sponsoring five events within 2017.

Soon after Dusseldorf, Uncle Pop signed in Chengdu as a new sponsor for the 2017 Women's World Cup to be held in Markham, Canada; with the possibility to extend the deal for the future.

Also in the months that followed, Polar Naturals was announced as another sponsor for the 2017 Women's World Cup.

Finally, 12BET will become sponsor for the 2018 Team World Cup in London.

The CEO reported that newly hired sales staff are helping in finding more sponsors.

9.3. Investments

The CEO reported on the continental investments. After the Oceania and North America strategic investments were signed earlier in the year, discussions with the ETTU were held in the second week of September and with African Associations earlier in the week. On 6th 7th October 2017, discussions will be held with Latin America. Discussions with Asia will be initiated in Astana.

9.4. TTX

The CEO reported on some delays in the deadlines expected for TTX implementation, but the work is ongoing. There have been some positive discussions with some manufacturers. The aim is to finalize the regulations for equipment within 2017 and to start rolling out TTX events in 2018.

Iulia Necula is moving to work from Singapore offices and she will lead this project.

9.5. Seamaster World Tour agreement

The CEO reported that, in principle, SEAMASTER has agreed to continue in 2018 its sponsorship, with at least the same prize money as in 2017.

9.6. 2017 Star Awards

The CEO reported that the 2017 edition will be held in the Rixos President Hotel in Astana.

Mr Burton reported that the Media Committee Chair has informed about a change in the system of nomination for the Para TT athletes. The Para TT Committee will nominate for the Para Male and Female Stars of the year and the selection of the winner will involve one designated Executive Committee member, one ITTF nominated expert and the Para athlete in the Athletes Commission.

The Executive Committee noted those changes.

10. Development, Education & Training Program

10.1. 2018-2021 High Performance & Development Plan

The CEO reported that he has been discussing with Mr Burton as the new VP in charge, and the key staff working in this area, about the new direction of the department.

Firstly the ITTF has been discussing what kind of development is currently being done and what is the aim for the future. There has been an agreement to rename the department to "High Performance and Development". The new name implies a more athlete' development model orientation. It is important to continue the activity in the CSR activities ITTF does, and to promote growth. Together with the Development Director, it was decided to propose the establishment of the ITTF Foundation, which will manage all the social programmes and activities.

10.2. ITTF Administration Course

Mr Burton reported that since the course was put online, 421 individual users have enrolled in the course, coming from 104 different national associations. 52 users have completed the course and over 1400 hours of e-learning have taken place, with participation from all six continental federations. It is important to note that 81% of the participants were male and only 19% were female, which certainly requires attention.

In general, this is a very positive initiative, which may require additional budget for translation into other languages.

10.3. ITTF Young Umpires Project

The Secretary General reported that after the EC approved in Dusseldorf to conduct the Young Umpires Project in connection with Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires for the third time, the course has been launched already. Mr Burton said that already 23 applications from 14 different associations were received within the first days of the availability of the platform.

10.4. ITTF Dream Building Foundation

The ITTF is considering, as advanced in 10.1, establishing an ITTF Foundation. Mr Leandro Olvech is studying the options and legalities in different countries with the aim to launch such foundation in 2018. Further discussions will be held at the next EC meeting.

11. Athletes' Commission Report

The Executive Committee received the report of the Athletes' Commission presented by Mr Zoran Primorac, who praised the work being done by Mr Vladimir Samsonov in leading the Commission.

Mr Primorac thanked the ITTF and the IPC for the steps done to secure 37 extra medals for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and the additional event, Mixed Doubles for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The ITTF President said that special thanks should be given to the Secretary General for the work done with both the IPC and the IOC to achieve these goals. The SG in turn thanked all those who contributed to make this possible.

There were two IOC Athletes Career Program workshops in Dusseldorf, which counted on the valuable assistance of Ms Claudia Bokel, former IOC Athletes Commission Chair. Earlier in 2016 both Vladimir Samsonov and Zoran Primorac had attended the train the trainers' seminar. Mr Primorac thanked for the financial help from IOC to deliver the sessions, what was part of the program after the training of 2016.

The survey on World Ranking was already discussed and the AC agrees with the new system.

There will be Athletes' Commission elections in 2018. Ideally, information to the national associations should be sent early in advance, allowing many athletes to candidate. Having some small tokens for participating in the vote is maybe an idea to encourage active participation.

Dr Alaa Meshref proposed a joint meeting of the Executive Committee together with the Athletes Commission. Such meeting might take place after the AC elections in 2018.

12. Any other business

12.1. Tokyo 2020 suppliers:

The EC discussed the current situation of ITTF suppliers.

12.2. Disciplinary panel – China Open

Following the case of the three Chinese players not showing up for their matches, a disciplinary panel was formed. The disciplinary panel is dealing with the case and they will report to the Executive Committee in due time.

12.3. Australian Open

Mr James Morris reported on the heavy financial losses for Table Tennis Australia, in hosting the Australian Open, which has resulted in numerous changes to the professional staff structure of Table Tennis Australia, as well as impacting the make-up of the Table Tennis Australia Board.

The Australian Open is a very important for Oceania, and ITTF-Oceania hopes that the event can take place in 2018.

The President agreed that it is very important to have a World Tour event in Oceania, and therefore the ITTF will try to help.

12.4 Harassment cases

Mr Burton reported having been involved in organizing two panels of harassment officers for two cases of potential harassment.

The first case was resolved recently with no action being recommended.

There is a second ongoing case in which, despite the expected confidentiality, Mr Burton received unsolicited details on the case from two different sources.

In conclusion, Mr Burton suggests:

- Training a group of at least 6 harassment officers, 3 male and 3 female, for possible cases arising in the future.
- Review the timelines, as 14 days is unrealistic for a formal protest, and no deadlines are suggested for arbitration or mediation approaches.
- Reviewing this overall policy. The ITTF needs to advertise the policy and the first point of contact for any potential case should be the Competition Manager.
- Attention being given to record keeping e.g. the summary of the first case.

17-EC-20170923

The Executive Committee resolved that the anti-harassment policy should be reviewed, particularly in regard to timelines and to establishing a record keeping system.

12.5 African meeting in Lausanne

Dr Alaa Meshref reported on the meeting held in Lausanne a few days before with the ITTF Africa President, Mr Khaled El-Salhy, together with representatives of the national associations that are organizing ITTF events in Africa on a regular basis.

Dr Meshref pointed out that the current constitution of ITTF-Africa is very basic, that there is not a registered office and that there is not bank account for ITTF Africa. Proper finances are not maintained nor are the accounts audited.

Together with Mr Michael Brown, a working group started in July to review the constitution, and the work is still in progress. ITTF Africa request from the ITTF financial support to organize their EB meeting, as they have no money. However, until there is a bank account in place, the ITTF cannot make further payments.

There is an amount in the ITTF – ITTF Africa Development Agreement called “Olympic allocation”, which is considered “for free use”. Upon request at the meeting in Lausanne, Mr Khaled El-Salhy responded that he gave 500 EUR to certain African delegates to attend the AGM in Dusseldorf. These “travel contributions” were paid from this “Olympic allocation”.

Dr. Meshref emphasized that “for free use” does not mean that it must not be reported.

Mr Khalil Al-Mohannadi suggested the EC to send a formal letter demanding for an official answer on the use of the “Olympic allocation” budget.

12.6 Test Event for Tokyo 2020

Mr Masahiro Maehara reported on the change of the dates for the Tokyo 2020 Table Tennis test event, the World Team Cup, which will be held from 7th to 10th November 2019.

12.7 Miscellaneous

Mr Maehara informed the EC members that on 23rd and 24th September 2017, Tokyo is hosting 12 ITTF Sport Science Committee members, who together with 29 Japanese members are taking part in the congress.

Mr Nestor Tenca informed that as per request of the ITTF President, he has been mediating in the matter of the Central America Confederation elections, and that an agreement was reached recently.

Mr Bruce Burton asked about the situation with the Special Advisers and with the PAC members. It was agreed to include this issue in the agenda of the next EC meeting.

13 Next EC meeting

The next meeting will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 14th December 2017.

14 Adjournment

Not being any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 18h20.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date