

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Shanyrak meeting room - Rixos President Astana Hotel, Astana, Kazakhstan
09h00, Thursday 14th December 2017

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening

1.1. President's opening remarks

The President welcomed the members, particularly Mr Serik Kaskabassov, Director General of Kazakhstan National Olympic Committee, and Yelena Druzhkova, representing the Kazakhstan Table Tennis Federation. The President thanked them for the excellent arrangements made for the World Tour Grand Finals and Star Awards, as well as for the meetings being held.

1.2. Local Organizers welcome

Mr Kaskabassov made an introduction on the progress sports have made in recent years in Kazakhstan and invited the EC members to visit some sport facilities during their stay in Astana, expressing his satisfaction for hosting for the first time the ITTF Executive Committee in his country.

1.3. 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
Vladimir Samsonov	Athletes Commission Chair

In attendance

Steve Dainton	CEO
Raul Calin	Secretary General
Michael Brown	CFO (for the financial part)

Apologies

Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
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1.4. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

- Addition of 9.1 Merit Awards
- Addition of 9.2 BoD composition
- Addition of 4.5 Service Working Group

2. Minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting

2.1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

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

2.2. Business arising from the Minutes

In regard to the situation in Caribbean countries after the hurricane, the CEO reported that the ITTF has already taken a first step helping Puerto Rico, an Association particularly active in the region, and there will be a follow-up with other Caribbean Associations.

3. CEO Update

3.1. Staff Structure

The CEO reported about the recent updates in the staff structure since the last EC meeting, with the incorporations in October of Michael Brown as CFO and Mounir Bessah as Head of Junior Events, and of Jordi Serra in November as Operation Manager. Some contracts have been renewed also during the last two months and five positions were advertised in GlobalSportJobs.com, hoping to have the selected candidates identified in early 2018. Ms Habiba Besic and Ms Daniela Gomes will finish their services with the ITTF by 31st December 2017.

3.2. Strategic Plan

The CEO reported that Deloitte has been chosen as the company to assist ITTF to develop its strategic plan. Two of their staff are present in Astana to conduct as many interviews as possible and interact with ITTF officials.

Mr James Morris, EVP in charge of the strategic plan pointed to the short time available but he is confident that with good coordination and cooperation the draft can be presented to the AGM in Halmstad, as work is already in progress.

3.3. TMS Activity

Since the previous meeting, and based on the EC decision of the previous meeting, several legal letters had been exchanged between ITTF Lawyers and Mr. Sharara's lawyers in connection to TMS International. Mr. Sharara had provided many explanations to the various open related matters which were shared with the EC. So far unfortunately most of these explanations were without proof.

After many years of cooperation, the ITTF decided it would prefer to close this chapter and also see how to normalize relations with Mr. Sharara and TMS. The EC decided that TMS must disclose their full accounts in detail for the ITTF to be able to verify all explanations. Assuming this will fully verify all Mr. Sharara's explanation then the parties should meet and re-establish friendly relations.

3.4. ITTF Africa update

A meeting will be held on 15th December with Khaled El-Salhy and Hajera Kajee, with the attendance of Thomas Weikert, Petra Sorling and Steve Dainton.

3.5. Information & Technology

The company Bornan S.A. was selected to implement the Information & Technology services for the ITTF. They did already provide services to the Men's and Women's World Cup in Belgium and Canada in October and will be in charge of the results system in the World Tour Grand Finals in Astana. The goal is to have operative the new result

management system at the beginning of 2018 and gradually all other services being incorporated, such as historical results, different databases, etc. during the first months of 2018 and to reach the Halmstad 2018 WTTC with most of the systems working.

3.6. ITTF candidature for IOC membership

The ITTF submitted to IOC the application for Thomas Weikert to be IOC member as the current ITTF President.

Thomas Weikert, Khalil Al-Mohannadi and Steve Dainton met Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, ANOC President, in Prague, during the ANOC session, and had a discussion on this matter.

4. Athletes' Commission Report

4.1. IOC Athletes Commission Forum

It was held in November in Lausanne, with the attendance of Ryu Seung Ming and Ashu Jain. Their interactions with other sports athletes and IOC members were very positive.

4.2. Conditions at some World Tour events

Mr Samsonov stressed the fact that in some tournaments there are not enough practice tables, which makes preparation for the matches difficult. A question was raised also on whether packages with transport but without food could be provided. These questions will be shared with the competition department to take care of it.

4.3. Disciplinary panel

Ashu Jain was part of the last disciplinary panel formed to deal with the cases that occurred at the China Open. The President stated that hopefully the new constitution will articulate new methods which will lead to faster resolutions of these cases.

4.4. Athletes Commission elections

Mr Samsonov highlighted the fact that there will be elections for the Athletes Commission in Halmstad. It will be important to ensure a good communication plan is in place. It is recommended for the deadline for nominations to be 28th March, one month before the start of the World Championships.

4.5. Service Working Group

Mr Samsonov mentioned that some ideas of the working group could be explored, like the one of the cameras on the net post, which also could be good for the Tv production, offering new angles of vision.

The CEO mentioned that in the near future, collaboration with T2 will be a reality, and T2 could be a good platform to test some of the possible innovations.

In terms of implementation, Mr Samsonov asked if a proposition could be presented to be approved "based on the success of the experiments", which would be possible if the BoD delegates the decision to the Executive Committee.

Mr Samsonov mentioned that perhaps steps to further simplify the rule of service should be explored so it is much easier to implement in all competitions.

5. Operations Program

5.1. Finances

5.1.1. Overview

The EVP of Finances, Ms Petra Sorling reported on the work in progress since the appointment of the ITTF Chief Financial Officer on 1st October 2017.

She informed the EC members that on the 14th November, the Risk Assessment Exercise was made, as announced at the AGM in Dusseldorf. Mr Gualtiero Falchini, Head of Advisory Services of Mazars and Mr Michael Ackermann, ITTF auditor, attended from the auditing firm, while the ITTF was represented by the EVP of Finances, the CFO, the Secretary General and the Operations Manager.

The CFO gave an overall update on the ITTF Financial status, with the highlights being an increase in the marketing income in 2017 and in overall reserves.

For 2018 both an increase of marketing income and expenditures are foreseen, but still with also a proportional increase of the reserves, to be in line with the policy of trying to have always one year of operations provision in the reserve fund.

A recommendation to close the Credit Suisse accounts in Switzerland was made, due to the commissions and different level of service offered, compared to UBS. In this way, all finances will be centralized in one single bank in Switzerland, and another in Singapore, making much clearer the management of the finances.

5.1.2. Committee budgets

A clarification was made in regard to the new structure, in which staff appointed would be responsible to control the expenditure, based on the approved budgets.

5.1.3. Research

Similarly, in the new budgets for 2018, a provision will be made for research and development projects, such as those may be approved by the AGM, BoD or EC from time to time based on needs.

5.1.4. Finance policy

The CFO presented the new Finance policy to the EC, which main goal is to have very clear and transparent procedures. This will be a live document being updated from time to time as deemed necessary. The EC received it with pleasure.

01-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved to close the Credit Suisse accounts.

02-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the new Finance policy.

5.2. Constitution review

Mr Tenca presented to the EC the work done by the ITTF in recent months. This constitution review, which had been pending for many years, was coordinated by Mr Jordi Serra. Mr Burton praised the job done by Mr Serra.

Once the feedback from different contributors has been received, Mr Serra will produce a draft for circulation, to be sent to all National Associations no later than 15th January.

It was noted that once this first reform hopefully passes at the AGM in Halmstad, and the Strategic Plan will be adopted, the reform should continue to align the ITTF constitution with the most modern principles of good governance.

5.3. Anti-Doping update

The EC noted that on the same date of the EC meeting WADA is hosting an important meeting with anti-doping officers of the different international federations, which is being attended by Françoise Dagouret.

5.4. Integrity update

The ITTF has entered into an integrity partnership with Sportradar. Under the new deal, the ITTF will be able to utilize Sportradar's monitoring, intelligence and prevention solutions to help safeguard the sport against match fixing.

5.5. Eligibility update

The Secretary General reported on the meeting held on 7th December with Mr Jerome Poivey, Head of Institutional Relations and Governance of the IOC and Coralie McConnell, from the IOC Summer Sports Department. Mr Poivey explained that the ITTF is ultimately responsible to define the eligibility criteria for the Olympic Games. A recommendation based on experience, was made to ensure that ultimately the Executive Committee could have the capacity of making exceptions, whichever is the final rule to be adopted.

The Executive Committee reacted positively to this information and there was a consensus on the EC that the eligibility rules in the ITTF competitions should be aligned, to make our sport eligibility easier to understand for the Media.

5.6. Transparency update

In the first quarter of 2018, the new section "Transparency" will be opened in ITTF.com, in line with the recommendations received from ASOIF following the Good Governance exercise and workshop of 2017.

5.7. Membership recognition issues

The ITTF Secretary General and CFO received in November the visit from the President of the Comoros NOC and the Minister of Sports of Comoros. They were interested to know the evolution of the Comoros Table Tennis Association and it was agreed to keep a communication in order to ensure the activity of our sport in the country.

Dr Alaa Meshref reported that the situation of the Libyan Table Tennis Federation was positively solved with a fluid communication with the National Association and National Olympic Committee, not making necessary following-up with any suspension.

03-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved to close the case of the potential suspension of the Libyan Table Tennis Federation without any further action.

The IOC helped to clarify the situation of the Kuwait Table Tennis Association, through an email received on 8th November, confirming that, at that time, Mr Abdulaziz Jaafar Al Mutwaa was the recognized President of the Kuwait Table Tennis Federation by the NOC of Kuwait (currently suspended but still recognised by the IOC).

5.8. Pan American confederation creation

By initiative of Mr Henry Reimberg, Chilean TTA President, the ITTF Secretary General visited the new PanAm Sports (former PASO) Headquarters in Miami on 4th October, being received by Mr Neven Illic and Mr Ivar Sisniega, President and Secretary General. The meeting was also attended by Mr Ricardo Probert, from the development department.

Mr Illic emphasized the necessity of creating the Pan American Table Tennis Confederation, as the only valid interlocutor representing the sport in the Americas, together with the ITTF. The Pan American Table Tennis Confederation should be an umbrella gathering all American National Table Tennis Associations under the same roof, with a simple constitution.

04-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved to work closely with the Latin American Table Tennis Union and ITTF North America so the Pan American Table Tennis Confederation is created in 2018.

Mr Jordi Serra will be asked to assist with the constitution creation after the work with the ITTF constitution is finalized.

The goal is the creation of the Pan American Confederation by the time of the PanAm Championships in November 2018, at the latest.

5.9. Para Table Tennis Classification Rules

The 2015 IPC Classification Code established the compliance criteria that all Para sport classification rules should fulfil by 31st December 2017. Under the supervision of Dr. Sheng K. Wu, ITTF Para TT Medical Officer, and with the cooperation of Dr Juraj Stefak, former ITTF Para TT Medical Officer, Mr Pablo Perez has developed the new classification rules, in close cooperation with the IPC.

The new classification rules will be implemented into four phases. Firstly, the adoption of the IPC procedural rules and some minor adjustments in classification criteria by 1st January 2018. Secondly, the starting of a research project that will include a massive revision of players during World Championships in 2018. Thirdly, major adjustments in the classification criteria will be published in a new classification rules in January 2019. Finally, all affected players by new classification rules will be reviewed during 2019 before the end of qualification process for Tokyo 2020.

05-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved to adopt the new Para Table Tennis Classification Code.

5.10. Ranking default policy appeals

The ITTF Executive Committee considered the communication from ITTF side was not the best and under these conditions, the appeal of the Israel NPC and the Israel Table Tennis Federation should be considered.

06-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved to accept the appeal from Israel and to ensure in the future communications about the ranking default policy are clearer.

5.11. Harassment case

The Executive Committee resolved to request that President Thomas Weikert and Vice President Nestor Tenca review the recommendations received from the harassment officers from a juridical perspective.

5.12. Racket control

Following the decision taken at the EC meeting in Halmstad, Mr Samsonov expressed the need to discuss further the situation with the athletes' commission before starting the voluntary controls. The EC agreed to provide such extension as requested by the Athletes Commission. Independently of this procedure, the idea is to present a proposition to change the current rule to the next Board of Directors.

5.13. World Veterans

A meeting was held on 1st October in Dusseldorf, attended by Eberhard Schöler, Dianne Schöler, Hans Westling, Reto Bazzi, Gloria Wagener, Thomas Weikert, Petra Sörling and Raul Calin. Progress keeps being made in the cooperation between Swaythling Club and the ITTF joining forces for the future of the World Veteran Championships and a new meeting is foreseen in March at the German Open.

5.14. Special Advisors

The conditions to appoint special advisors were discussed.

07-EC-20171214

The Executive Committee resolved that each Committee can have a maximum of one special advisor as per recommendation of the President or Executive Vice-President of that area, in agreement with the Committee Chair.

5.15. President Advisory Council

The President informed the Executive Committee that from now onwards, the President Advisory Council (PAC) term will not be of a fixed period of 10 years, but will coincide with the mandate of the President, allowing any new President to form his own PAC. Mr Weikert ratified as members Mr Andre Damman, Mr Radivoj Hudetz, Mr Eberhard Schöler, Mr Shahrokh Shahnazi, Mr Neil Harwood, Mr Koji Kimura, Mr Igor Levitin, Mr Walter Rönmark and confirmed the inclusion of Mrs Jane Pinto (with the old rule her mandate would have finished) and of Eng. Melecio Eduardo Rivera.

There will not be age limit on the PAC as the limited term of four years allows each new President to choose the composition every four years.

6. Competition Program

6.1. World Championships update

Progress is being made in the preparations for the 2018 World Team Table Tennis Championships. The draw will be held on 27th February, during the next inspection.

The CEO visited Budapest in November to discuss the contract. The venue and dates were adjusted, but Budapest has recent experience in hosting major events and the work is in progress.

For 2020, the situation is very good, with three bids received from Busan in Korea, Ekaterinburg in Russia and San Jose in the United States of America. Inspections will be held in 2018.

6.2. World Tour update

The CEO reported that all documents for 2018 have been circulated and the Mixed Doubles will be introduced already in 2018.

The CEO reported that there are no Challenge events in Latin America and only one in Africa. The ITTF will try to increase the number of Challenge events in the developing continents.

Mr Burton reported about the desire of the URC to try the new Umpires System tested at the 2017 Austrian Open in some of the Platinum events in cooperation with the local organizers. The proposed directives are not ready, but will be for the next EC meeting.

The documents for 2019 have been already distributed and the plan is to have the 2019 calendar defined before the next EC meeting.

6.3. World Cups update

The President reported about the experience in both World Cups in Liège and Markam. The Women's World Cup had a very good venue with many spectators and it was an overall success.

The President also reported on the increase of the prize money for the Men's and Women's World Cup for the next year. Disneyland Paris in France and Chengdu in China are the host of the Men's and Women's World Cup 2018.

For 2019 the plan is having both Men's and Women's World Cups in consecutive weekends in Chengdu.

6.4. Junior Program update

The CEO reported that at the Development and Continental Council there would be a more extensive report, but basically with the incorporation of Mounir Bessah as Head of Juniors, hopefully the Junior Program will receive a boost.

6.5. Multi-Sport Games update

Mr Burton reported on the preparations for the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, where Mr Burton and Mr Morris will represent the Executive Committee.

The Secretary General also confirmed that the Pan Am Games 2019 qualification system has been finalized.

6.6. New World Ranking

The new World Ranking is ready to implement as of January 1st 2018. Details also to be discussed in the DJCC. It was again clarified that in the beginning the ITTF and World Ranking Working Group would evaluate the system and make adjustments where necessary.

6.7. Future Events Working Group

The next meeting will be held in San Jose in January and hopefully the working group will come up with conclusions for taking a decision at the BoD in Halmstad.

7. Marketing and Promotion Program

7.1. Continental Commercialisation update

The CEO reported that Oceania is quite advanced in the development of the KPI's for the implementation of their commercialisation agreement.

North America was signed in the first half of the year and work is in progress. The work is also quite advanced with Europe, hoping to sign in Astana.

Latin American discussions already started as well and hopefully will be finalized soon.

For Africa the ITTF is ready, and just waiting the clarification of the situation in this continent.

Asia the discussions will start very soon.

7.2. ITTF Marketing subsidiary

This point was deferred to the meeting in London in February.

7.3. New Sponsors

The President reported on new companies joining the pool of sponsors of the ITTF, with British Airways being almost finalized as one of the sponsors for the Team World Cup. Uncle Pop was also being negotiated for a multi-year deal and renewals were also in progress with Liebherr, TATA and GoDaddy. As well there were numerous other discussions and the CEO mentioned that it was the most discussions regarding Sponsorship that he had ever had during his time working with the ITTF.

7.4. Seamaster World Tour agreement

Following the EC meeting, a signing ceremony will be held with the ITTF President and Mr Ji Wen Yuan for strengthening the cooperation between the ITTF and Seamaster and their T2 league. This way the ITTF could test certain new innovations etc for the future benefit of the sport.

8. Development, Education & Training Program

Leandro Olvech reported to the EC members of the progress being made since Halmstad in the development of the "World Table Tennis Foundation", as well as the advantages and inconveniences of establishing it in Germany or Switzerland.

The presentation covered the objectives, proposed structure, methods to obtain funds, possible programs and contents and outlined the date of 6 April 2018 as the potential date for the launch.

9. Any other business

9.1. Merit Award 2018

The procedure for the Merit Award was discussed and the call for applications will be circulated in January, with deadline for submission of candidates on 15th February 2018.

9.2. Board of Directors membership for IOC members

Mr Maehara asked about the possibility to consider automatically IOC members as ITTF Board of Directors members. The current regulations don't contemplate this, therefore if changes are desired, a proposition should be made to the Board of Directors in Halmstad.

10. Next EC meeting

It will be held in London, United Kingdom, on 23 and 24 February, during the Team World Cup.

11. Adjournment

Not being any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 16h15.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date