



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on Monday, 22nd April 2019 at 09h00 at the Grand Ball Room, Corinthia Hotel, Budapest, Hungary.

1. President's Welcome and Opening Address

The President, Mr Thomas Weikert, gave the welcome to the Delegates and praised the work done so far by the Hungarian Table Tennis Association, introducing their President, Mr Roland Natran, to address a speech to the Delegates.

Mr Natran in turn thanked the ITTF and highlighted the goal of the Organizing Committee to have every visitor to the WTTC in Budapest enjoying and celebrating our sport.

Mr Weikert asked for a moment of silence to mourn the persons from the table tennis community that passed away since the last AGM, particularly the Qatar National Team player Abd Al-Rahman Al-Najjar, who was expected to participate at the WTTC in Budapest and passed away just a few days before the event started.

After the minute of silence, the meeting continued, and Mr Weikert indicated that the AGM would be streamed live in Internet.

2. Appointment of a Chair

Mr Thomas Weikert was nominated by the Executive Committee (EC) to be the Chair of the AGM.

20190422-AGM-01

The AGM accepted by acclamation the nomination of Mr Thomas Weikert as AGM Chair.

3. Roll Call of Associations Present and Verification of Proxies

The Secretary General confirmed that there were 144¹ associations present (annex 1).

¹ Including the late arrivals after the coffee break and before the proceedings with propositions and resolutions.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

20190422-AGM-02

The AGM appointed the following as scrutineers from the nominations provided by the Continental Federations (in alphabetical order within the continent):

Africa:	Mr Mustafa ALSAQAR (LBA)
Asia:	Ms Sukhee GALBADRAKH (MGL) and Mr Ali RASHEED (MDV)
Europe:	Ms Sara SUTCLIFFE (ENG) and Mr Mattias VATHEUER (GER)
Latin America:	Mr Jhon CRUZ (COL)
North America:	No scrutineers
Oceania:	No scrutineers

5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held on 1st May 2018 Halmstad.

The Secretary General asked the delegates if there was any question or remark in relation to the minutes. Not having any comments, the President and the Secretary General signed the minutes as factual.

20190422-AGM-03

The AGM adopted the 2018 AGM minutes as factual.

6. Presentations

6.1 Plaques to the organizers of the best events in 2018 were presented to:

- HKG TTA, for the best World Junior Circuit event
- BLR TTA, for the best Challenge event
- GER TTA, for the best World Tour Platinum event
- ENG TTA for the best World Cup event
- KEN TTA for the best Continental event

Plaques were also presented for their outstanding organization to:

- JPN TTA for the 2018 World Cadet Challenge in Tottori
- AUS TTA for the 2018 World Junior Championships in Bendigo
- KOR TTA for the 2018 World Tour Grand Finals in Incheon
- SVN TTA for the 2018 World Para Championships in Lasko - Celje

6.2 A plaque in recognition for the World Tour Title Sponsorship support was presented to:

- SEAMASTER

A plaque in recognition for the World Championships Title Sponsorship support was presented to:

- LIEBHERR

Plaques in recognition for World Championships Major Sponsorship support were presented to:

- TATA wooden door
- CHINA UNICOM

Plaques to Equipment Sponsors for their contribution to the World Championships were presented to:

- DOUBLE HAPPINESS
- BUTTERFLY
- ENLIO

6.3 Special Awards:

The CEO presented a video on the newly introduced Premium Partners program and highlighted the support given by these high-level partners “that go above and beyond” supporting Table Tennis. Premium Partner Awards were presented to:

- SEAMASTER
- LIEBHERR
- DOUBLE HAPPINESS
- BUTTERFLY

Mr CHAN Foong Keong long-time member of different ITTF Committees was presented a plaque in recognition of his contribution to Table Tennis.

On recommendation of the Board, the AGM was asked to appoint Dr KAHN Jean-François as ITTF Personal Honorary Member.

20190422-AGM-04

[The AGM appointed Dr KAHN Jean-François, as ITTF Personal Honorary Member.](#)

- 6.4 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mrs Sachiko Yokota, Tokyo 2020 Table Tennis Sport Manager made a presentation on the progress in the preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
Mr Raul Calin, ITTF Secretary General, informed the delegates that the IOC and Tokyo 2020 have approved an extra day for the Table Tennis competition in Tokyo as well as a rest day between the individuals and the team events.
- 6.5 ITTF Foundation
The Managing Director, Leandro Olvech, gave a presentation on the ITTF Foundation, established on 1st May 2018 at the ITTF AGM in Halmstad.
The ITTF President, Thomas Weikert, praised the work made by Mr RYU Seung Min whenever he is asked to assist in activities of the ITTF Foundation.
- 6.6 Unified Korea
A video was presented on the Unified Korea activities held since the WTTC 2018 in Halmstad.
- 6.7 2020 World Championships update
Mr RYU Seungmin made a presentation update of the World Championships to be held in Busan in 2020.
- 6.8 2021 World Championships Bids Presentation
The MAR TTA and the city of Agadir did a presentation of their bid
The USA TTA and the city of Houston did a presentation of their bid

6.9 2022 World Championships Bids Presentation
The CHN TTA and the city of Chengdu did a presentation of their bid
The JPN TTA and the city of Kitakyushu did a presentation of their bid
The POR TTA and the city of Lisbon did a presentation of their bid

6.10 Election of 2021 and 2022 Hosts
The AGM received the following voting results for the election of the 2021 World Championships:

Total number of votes possible:	128 votes
Total number of votes cast:	128 votes
Total number of votes spoilt:	1 vote
Total number of valid votes:	127 votes

AGADIR (MAR):	44 votes
HOUSTON (USA):	83 votes

20190422-AGM-05

The AGM allocated the 2021 World Championships to the USA Table Tennis Association to be held in the city of Houston.

The AGM received the following voting results for the election of the 2022 World Championships:

Total number of votes possible:	128 votes
Total number of votes cast:	128 votes
Total number of votes spoilt:	1 vote
Total number of valid votes:	127 votes

CHENGDU (CHN):	75 votes
KITAKYUSHU (JPN):	11 votes
LISBON (POR):	41 votes

20190422-AGM-06

The AGM allocated the 2022 World Championships to the Chinese Table Tennis Association to be held in the city of Chengdu.

7. Membership

The Secretary General informed that Kuwait Table Tennis Association had an interim committee in place since October 2018 and that their athletes were already starting to participate again in ITTF events. The mandate of the interim committee, as agreed with the IOC, included the elaboration of a new constitution, which was adopted on Saturday 20th April 2019. The elections will be held in the coming days following the ITTF AGM.

8. Annual General Report

The AGM adopted the Annual General Report, which was introduced with a supporting video.

9. Annual Reports from the Executive Committee

The AGM adopted the following reports:

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------|
| 9.1 | President: Thomas Weikert | (document A1) |
| 9.2 | Deputy President: Khalil Al-Mohannadi | (document A2) |
| 9.3 | Executive Vice President (Finance): Petra Sörling | (document A3) |
| 9.4 | Executive Vice-President: Bruce Burton | (document A4) |
| 9.5 | Executive Vice-President: Masahiro Maehara | (document A5) |
| 9.6 | Executive Vice-President: Alaa Meshref | (document A6) |
| 9.7 | Executive Vice-President: James Morris | (document A7) |
| 9.8 | Executive Vice-President: Shi Zhihao | (document A8) |
| 9.9 | Executive Vice-President: Nestor Tenca | (document A9) |
| 9.10 | Athletes Commission Chair: Zoran Primorac | (document A10) |

With the addition from Ms Petra Sörling in (A3) about a decision from the EC to establish a Strategic Plan for Para Table Tennis.

10. Annual Reports from the Continental Federations

The AGM adopted the following reports:

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|------|---------------|---------------|
| 10.1 | Africa | (document B1) |
| 10.2 | Asia | (document B2) |
| 10.3 | Europe | (document B3) |
| 10.4 | Latin America | (document B4) |
| 10.5 | North America | (document B5) |
| 10.6 | Oceania | (document B6) |

11. Annual Reports from the CEO, Secretary General, OPC, DCC and Ethics Commission

The AGM adopted the following reports:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 11.1 | Chief Executive Officer | (document C1) |
| 11.2 | Secretary General | (document C2) |
| 11.3 | Olympic and Paralympic Commission | (document C3) |
| 11.4 | Development and Continental Council | (document C4) |
| 11.5 | Ethics Commission | (document C5) |

With the addition from the CEO in (C1) about the process which the ITTF has started to look for the “Home of Table Tennis”; a potential centralized operation centre, that eventually could be the new Head Office of the ITTF if the AGM decides so.

12. Annual Reports from Committees

The AGM adopted the following reports:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 12.1 | Equipment Committee | (document D1) |
| 12.2 | Media Committee | (document D2) |
| 12.3 | Nominations Committee | (document D3) |
| 12.4 | Para Table Tennis Committee | (document D4) |
| 12.5 | Rules Committee | (document D5) |
| 12.6 | Sports Science and Medical Committee | (document D6) |
| 12.7 | Umpires’ and Referees’ Committee | (document D7) |
| 12.8 | Veterans’ Committee | (document D8) |

With the amendment from Mr Paul Schiltz in (D1) to change “sensitive to yellow” by “sensitive to orange” on page 47.

13. Finance

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 13.1 | 2018 Audited Financial Statements |
|------|-----------------------------------|

The ITTF Executive Vice-President of Finance, Mrs Petra Sörling, referred at the start of her presentation to the Finance Committee meeting held on 20th April and to the *open to all* Financial Forum held on 21st April.

The key messages from her presentation focused on the continuous improvement of the processes and procedures relating to the financial management of the ITTF.

Mrs Sörling highlighted the work done by the marketing department, increasing the revenues which in turn were primarily invested in greater prize money for the athletes at the World Tour and Challenge events and enlarging the workforce of the ITTF, to better serve the membership.

The Chief Financial Officer (ITTF CFO), Mr Michael Brown, presented visual representations of the financial statements' figures, of which a detailed presentation was given the previous day at the Financial Forum. With a decreased debt ratio compared to the prior year and reaching record levels of revenue for the second consecutive year, the decision to buy back the commercial rights from TMS International proved to be right.

Mr Brown highlighted the fact that the comparison of budget vs actual shows very similar graphics, which indicate the accuracy of the budgets presented in the prior year.

Mr Michael Ackerman, independent auditor from Mazars SA, confirmed that they have audited the ITTF 2018 consolidated financial statements in accordance with Swiss laws and Swiss auditing standards and, in their opinion, the consolidated financial statements comply with Swiss laws, the Federation's Articles of Association and the accounting policies as set out in the notes of the financial statements.

20190422-AGM-07

The AGM unanimously approved the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2018.

13.2 2019 Budget and Quadrennial Forecast

The AGM received an update on the forecast budget for 2019-2020, highlighting the main adjustments from the budget presented at the 2018 AGM.

20190422-AGM-08

The AGM unanimously approved the forecasted budget update 2019-2020.

13.3 Appointment of the Auditors 2019 & 2020

The EVP of Finances proposed to the AGM to appoint Mazars SA as the Auditor for 2019 and 2020.

20190422-AGM-09

The AGM unanimously approved Mazars SA as the Auditor for 2019 and 2020.

14. Ratification of the Work Done by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee:

20190422-AGM-10

The AGM ratified the work done by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee with four votes against.

15. Strategic Plan

The ITTF CEO and the ITTF CFO updated the delegates on the Strategic Plan adopted in the 2018 AGM.

Mr Brown presented the highlights on each of the five strategic priorities pillars as the first ever publication of an annual report, the increase in organisational capacity, with a larger workforce working on ITTF projects, the improved anti-doping processes through an agreement with the International Testing Agency, a more diversified portfolio of activities in High Performance and Development, a targeted and tailored support for national associations based on needs and an increased participation in the ITTF Hopes programme globally. In terms of international events, 2018 has witnessed an increased participation of World best players in the World Tour, as a direct result from the change in the World Ranking and an increase in Prize Money for our athletes. In the area of promotion, there has been an increased awareness of table tennis through World Table Tennis day, live broadcast of ITTF events in all continents and social media presence has placed among the top 3 of all international sport federations. Last but not least, in terms of revenue, the capacity of the marketing staff has grown and the ITTF has assisted to create platforms for star athletes.

Mr Dainton reinforced the idea that the strategic plan is a living and breathing document that will be updated as necessary as it was explained in Halmstad towards the end of the year.

Mr Robert Jjagwe, Uganda TTA Delegate, praised the work done by the ITTF in increasing the financial capacity to invest in projects. Mr Jjagwe mentioned the report elaborated by ASOIF and the fact that the ITTF direction is exactly the one highlighted in that report.

Mr Dainton in turn mentioned the importance of an institution like ASOIF and emphasized the necessity to be more business and commercially oriented.

16. The New World Championships

The CEO highlighted the key objectives intended to achieve with the reform, among them, increasing the participation in the World Championships, which nowadays is below 50% of the membership and increasing the TV exposure, with a very low 8% of visibility with the current format.

To achieve the new World Championships will have four stages: regional stages, continental stages, intercontinental stages (for the World Team Championships) and the World Championships Finals ensuring representation for all continents.

Mr Dainton also mentioned the fact that North America and Africa, (USA and Morocco), were bidding to host for the first time and that the new World Championships format is certainly the reason for these bids. Also, the fact that three bids were received for the 2022 World Championships was “an undeniable” result of the reform.

Mr Dainton expressed that although last year it was mentioned that there would be a minimum injection of one million dollars in the new format of World Championships, after the revised projections and financial modelling made with Deloitte, the minimum will be actually two million dollars to be put on the regional, continental and intercontinental stages of the World Championships.

Mr Dainton also mentioned that all concerns being raised are being carefully considered, and that the World Championships will be still the place to meet for the ITTF family. The ITTF is considering innovative ways to get all members to come to the World Championships, whether there are development projects, a Forum of Table Tennis or different ideas and opportunities as the ITTF wants all our members to feel part of the reformed World Championships.

17. Propositions and Resolutions

17.1 Propositions and Resolutions

The AGM considered the following propositions, which required a **2/3 majority (66.67%)** of the votes cast:

Proposition 1

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee

Changes of present Constitution Laws 1.8.4 and 1.8.5

WITHDRAWN

Proposition 2 - (Effective 31st May 2019)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee

Changes of Constitution Law 1.5.4.2

- 1.5.4.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Chair of the Athletes Commission, and 8 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be appointed by the President as Deputy President and another one shall be appointed for finances. **In addition, any IOC member may be an ex-officio ITTF Executive Committee member without voting rights by decision of the Executive Committee.**

PASSED

Proposition 3 - (Effective 31st May 2019)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee

Changes of Constitution Law 1.8.4.3 and 1.8.5.2.1

- 1.8.4.3 Visiting Players
- 1.8.4.3.1 If a visiting player is officially representing his or her Association **or the ITTF in Veterans events** as a result of an invitation by the visited Association, the visited Association shall acquire no rights of penalty.
- 1.8.4.3.1.2 The visited Association may protest to the visiting player's Association **or the ITTF in Veterans events** about such an offence, but his or her own Association or the ITTF in Veterans events shall retain sole jurisdiction over him or her and the right to impose a penalty.
- ..//..
- 1.8.4.3.2.1 No such penalty shall come into operation until at least 1 calendar month after its notification with an account of all the circumstances, to the visiting player's Association.
- 1.8.4.3.2.2 If the visiting player's Association makes no appeal within 1 calendar month of being notified the penalty may be imposed.
- ..//..
- 1.8.5 UNAFFILIATED PLAYERS AND ORGANISATIONS
- 1.8.5.2 A player affiliated to an Association shall not take part in any competition, exhibition or coaching
- 1.8.5.2.1 in the territory of another Association, unless the body under whose auspices the activity takes place is affiliated to and in good standing with the Association of the visited territory, except with the prior permission of that Association **or the ITTF in Veterans events;**

PASSED

Proposition 4 - (Effective 31st May 2019)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee
Adding a Constitution Law 1.8.5

1.8.5.7 Where no organising Association is available, the ITTF Executive Committee may allocate an event to an unaffiliated body, but shall cooperate with the Association controlling the event's territory.

PASSED

The AGM considered the following proposition, which required a **3/4 majority (75%)** of the votes cast:

Proposition 5

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee
Amendment of Law 2.3.3 - to permit yellow balls

2.3.3 The ball shall be made of celluloid or similar plastics plastic material and shall be white, yellow or orange, and matt.

The effective date shall be in 2021 (after the Olympic Games), and the final colour domain will be defined by the Equipment Committee to be submitted to the BoD in 2020.

⇒ CONVERTED TO RESOLUTION

Proposition 6

Proposed by HKG TTA and the ITTF Equipment Committee
Amendment of Law 2.4.6 - to permit more bright colours than red for racket coverings.

2.4.6 The surface of the covering material on a side of the blade, or of a side of the blade if it is left uncovered, shall be matt, bright red on one side and black on the other black on one side, and of a colour clearly distinguishable from black and from the colour of the ball on the other.

The effective date shall be after the next Olympic and Paralympic Games.

PASSED

Proposition 7 - (Effective 31st May 2019)

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee
Amendment of Law 2.10.1.7

2.10.1 Unless the rally is a let, a player shall score a point

.....

2.10.1.7 if an opponent deliberately strikes the ball more than once in succession;

PASSED

17.2 Composition of the Committees

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, its Chair, Mr Wahid Oshodi, presented a report on the nominations received and the recommendation for the composition of the different committees (annex 1).

20190422-AGM-11

The AGM unanimously approved the composition of the Committees for the period 2019-2021.

18. Future World Championships

18.1 Deadline for 2023 World Championships

The members were informed that the deadline of 30 September 2018 is set for the declaration of interest to host the 2023 World Championships.

19. Next AGM

The next AGM will be held in Busan, Korea Republic, in March 2020.

20. Any Other Business:

- 20.1 The Sport Science and Medical Committee Chair, Prof. Miran Kondric thanked the Associations supporting their researchers before the World Championships for the Sport Science Congress held just before the World Championships, which was a success and encouraged the delegates to further support the researchers worldwide, especially on behalf of the health and benefit of the table tennis players.
- 20.2 Mr Munir Bandakhar, Bangladesh TTA Delegate, stressed the situation with the visas not granted for two of his players, despite the promises of all organizers that visas will be secured. He proposed to establish a similar system to the Olympic Games, in which the Accreditation for the World Championships will serve as VISA for entering the countries.
- 20.3 Mr Georges Kopaly, Delegate of the Lebanon TTA expressed his concern in regard to the VOC's emanated from some of the materials utilized in the branding of the venue.
- 20.4 Mr Khaled El-Salhy congratulated the ITTF President and its Executive Committee for the fruitful meeting and thanked Mr Weikert to keep the door open for the case of Mr Sharara, while expressing his hope to get some positive news after the next Executive Committee. Mr Weikert highlighted the fact that the door "keeps being open" does not mean that the EC will make another proposal. There is a CAS case which is open, and it is up to Mr Sharara to make a new proposal as he has refused all ITTF EC proposals so far. The door will be open until the CAS decision will be made.
- 20.5 Mr Juan Vila also suggested to find a friendly agreement with Mr Sharara, for the health of the Table Tennis family worldwide.

- 20.6 Mr Stefano Bosi, delegate from Italy, asked the ITTF EC to make one more step towards solving the issue of Mr Sharara, indicating that he is ready to find a solution. Mr Weikert insisted that the case is not as easy as it may be perceived. The ITTF EC did seek the expertise by two firms, BDO and Withers, and decided to suspend Mr Sharara with the aim to protect the integrity of the ITTF. Mr Weikert insisted that the door is open, but not in Budapest.
- 20.7 Mr Alaor Azevedo, Brazilian TTA Delegate, mentioned the case of a female player that attended a Continental Event representing its national association (an event organized by the ITTF) and when she returned to her club in Germany, she was fired and didn't receive her salary for five months. Mr Azevedo expressed that it is very difficult and expensive to take this case to the court in Europe and asked the ITTF to establish regulations for Clubs, as it is not acceptable that the players are not protected when they need to represent their national associations. The ITTF CEO mentioned that a consideration on the overall international calendar has to be taken, introducing a more collaborative approach in which all stakeholders dialogue to ensure the calendar is well coordinated. In regard to the ITTF having some control on the Clubs, Mr Dainton suggested this is for consideration of the AGM to make a proposition in this respect.
- 20.8 Mr Abdulla Al-Mulla, ITTF Nominations Committee Deputy Chair, suggested conducting a workshop for the next generation of Competition Managers to learn how to control and conduct ITTF tournaments.
- 20.9 Mr Ahmer Mallick, Pakistan TTA Delegate encouraged the delegates to compliment the Hungarian Table Tennis Association for organizing the World Championships in such a perfect manner, providing all delegates the opportunity to visit this beautiful country.
- 20.10 Mr Weikert insisted in the message of the Secretary General on his annual report and of the CEO in his presentation about the World Championships, asking the delegates to give the ITTF Time and Trust. Mr Weikert highlighted the work of the ITTF EC and of the Staff, indicating that the ITTF is in a very good situation.

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 17h35.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date: 28-SEP-2020

Raul Calin
Secretary General

Date: 28-SEP-2020