

2021

***ITTF  
AGM***

***24TH NOVEMBER 2021***

***WORKING  
DOCUMENTS***



## **INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held in Houston, USA, in a hybrid format, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, starting at 08h00 CST.

### **AGENDA**

1. President Welcome and Opening Address
2. CEO Welcome and Opening Address
3. Host Welcome and Opening Address
4. Appointment of a Chair
5. Roll Call of Associations Present (Confirmation of registered Associations)
6. Appointment of Scrutineers
7. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 on-line, conducted from Doha, Qatar
8. Membership application of Falkland Islands
9. Recognitions
  - 9.1 #RESTART - CTTA
  - 9.2 In Memoriam
  - 9.3 WTTC Sponsors
  - 9.4 Personal Honorary Membership – Jane Pinto
10. Annual General Report & Strategic Plan
11. Presentations (note all presentations will be held in the weeks leading to the virtual AGM)
  - 11.1 ITTF Foundation (Presentation on 18<sup>th</sup> October)
  - 11.2 High Performance and Development (Presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> October)
  - 11.3 World Table Tennis (Presentation on 25<sup>th</sup> October)
  - 11.4 Equipment (Presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> October)
  - 11.5 Strategic Plan (Presentation on 1<sup>st</sup> November)
  - 11.6 Finance Forum (Presentation on 4<sup>th</sup> November)
  - 11.7 Governance: Propositions and Resolutions to AGM (Presentation on 8<sup>th</sup> November)
  - 11.8 World Championships 2024 bids (Presentation on 11<sup>th</sup> November)
  - 11.9 Candidates for the Executive Committee (Presentation on 15<sup>th</sup> November)
12. Annual Reports from the Executive Committee
  - 12.1 President: Thomas Weikert
  - 12.2 Deputy President: Khalil Al-Mohannadi
  - 12.3 Executive Vice President (Finance): Petra Sörling
  - 12.4 Executive Vice-President: Bruce Burton
  - 12.5 Executive Vice-President: Masahiro Maehara
  - 12.6 Executive Vice-President: Alaa Meshref
  - 12.7 Executive Vice-President: James Morris
  - 12.8 Executive Vice-President: Shi Zhihao
  - 12.9 Executive Vice-President: Nestor Tenca
  - 12.10 Athletes Commission Chair: Zoran Primorac
  - 12.11 IOC Member: Ryu Seungmin



## **INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

13. Annual Reports from the Continental Federations:
  - 13.1 Africa
  - 13.2 Asia
  - 13.3 Europe
  - 13.4 Latin America
  - 13.5 North America
  - 13.6 Oceania
14. Annual Reports from the CEO, SG, OPC, DCC and Ethics Commission:
  - 14.1 Chief Executive Officer
  - 14.2 Secretary General
  - 14.3 Olympic and Paralympic Commission
  - 14.4 Development and Continental Council
  - 14.5 Ethics Commission
15. Annual Reports from Committees:
  - 15.1 Equipment Committee
  - 15.2 Media Committee
  - 15.3 Nominations Committee
  - 15.4 Para Table Tennis Committee
  - 15.5 Rules Committee
  - 15.6 Sports Science and Medical Committee
  - 15.7 Umpires' and Referees' Committee
  - 15.8 Veterans' Committee
16. Finance
  - 16.1 Financial Report
  - 16.2 2020 Audited Financial Statements
  - 16.3 2021 Updated Budget
  - 16.4 2021-2024 Quadrennial Forecast
17. Ratification of the Work Done by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee
18. Governance Review?
19. Propositions and Resolutions
20. Election of President and Executive Vice-Presidents
21. Confirmation of Board of Directors
22. Appointment of Committee Members
23. Election of the World Championships 2024 host
24. Future World Championships
  - 24.1 Deadline for 2025 World Championships Bids
25. Next General Meeting
26. Any other Business
27. Adjournment

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2020 was certainly one of the most challenging years in the history of the ITTF.

We were confronted with a pandemic that no one could have expected, whose development changed daily and for which it was difficult to develop plans. Covid 19 has determined the year 2020 worldwide.

Many tournaments including Olympic Games, World Championships, World Junior Championships and projects in all areas that should have taken place in 2020 have fallen victim to the pandemic and have caused considerable problems for many federations. First and foremost, we had the duty to preserve the safety of the players, coaches, officials, our fans, and all stakeholders involved in table tennis.

Nevertheless, hard work, passion, professionalism, togetherness and most importantly ensuring that everything we do has table tennis as the main interest we “survived” 2020. All ITTF staff decide taking voluntary salary reductions in 2020, with the ITTF Executive Committee reducing its honorarium/expenses, to support the sport during these challenging times.

Beside the pandemic here are some of the highlights from 2020:

In the beginning of 2020, two World Tour Platinum Events took place in Germany and Qatar, the World Team Olympic Qualification tournament was held in Portugal. Several regional Olympic singles and the mixed qualification Tournaments took place. A few Youth and Para events could be held before in March the final ball was hit at the ITTF Challenge Plus Oman.

EC meetings were held in a 2-week cycle to take into account the developments of the pandemic. Decisions had to be made, decisions had to be changed because the situation developed differently than expected. But there were also projects that emerged from the pandemic in this form.

First world table tennis at home day, physically distanced, but socially united, was the slogan of this year's world table tennis day on 6 April. 24 hours of non-stop table tennis was a great success.

The ITTF High Performance & Development department has launched a new webinar series for players, coaches, referees and also the general public to stay connected to table tennis in times of social distancing with tips and inspirations offered by a panel of experts and professionals. A “Weekly Training Lessons” series was launched.

The first global online International Umpire examination has been concluded successfully.

Home of table tennis, 18 countries across four different continents, an exciting list of 28 cities declared their interest in the chance to become the ITTF's next Headquarters, which will enable the centralization of the overall workforce and drive the continued growth of the sport. We are looking in detail for a thriving new hotspot for table tennis players, business professionals,

coaches, and officials from across the globe, to unite in a single location and collectively take table tennis to the next level among the world's leading sports.

For the first time ever, the ITTF Annual General Meeting was held virtually to enable the safest possible solution amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A six-part video conference series was aired in the weeks leading up to the AGM, with presentations focusing on ITTF Foundation, High Performance and Development, Good Governance, Finance, World Table Tennis and the 2023 World Championships Finals bidding process.

RESTART in November. The RESTART featured three of the most prestigious ITTF events: the Dishang 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup, the Dishang 2020 ITTF Men's World Cup and the Bank of Communications 2020 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals.

In November the first WTT in Macau was the start of a brand-new chapter in ITTF history. With a spectacular showcase and presentation table tennis returns. The first-ever collaboration between WTT and strategic partner IMG Productions also saw the sport reach amazing new heights in broadcast innovation, with experimental techniques and an exciting new approach to production showcasing the pulsating action from every angle.

This is just to name some of the key things, not mentioning all the development projects and competitions we hold in different ways all over the world.

In general, the ITTF can act in this area as a partner by providing support, but we also need the support and commitment of the associations; this remains a personal goal for me. It is my policy to work in a transparent and realistic way by respecting all the regulations we have in our handbook. I will not make any empty promises about funds that do not exist, and I am working hard to extend our development programmes.

May I take this opportunity to thank the continental and national associations who have supported the initiatives.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the ITTF for the trust they have placed in me. I would like to extend a special thank you to my colleagues on the Executive Committee as it has been an incredible year off the table. I thank the Chairs of ITTF Committees; the ITTF professional staff for their efforts; and last but not least, I thank all stakeholders and their athletes for their tremendous support. We are confident about receiving your support in 2021 in order to reach our ambitious goals of becoming one of the biggest sports in the world.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

Thank you!

**Thomas Weikert**  
ITTF President

## **DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Khalil Al-Mohannadi)**

### **Report to the AGM**

### **Document A2**

I do believe that 2020 will be a year to remember, as it is probably one of the most difficult years for all our ITTF Member Associations, Players, Officials, and all stakeholders due to COVID-19 crisis.

The first quarter of the year 2020 was very rich in term of meetings for the preparation of the WTTC in Busan Korea and we hoped along with the organisers to have it done till the last minute. Unfortunately, the first COVID-19 cases hit Busan the day prior to the draw, which pushed the mayor of the city, the ITTF and WTTC Management to postpone the event.

Despite the different difficulties faced everywhere in the world, we decided to go ahead with the 2020 ITTF World Tour Platinum, Qatar Open in Aspire Academy, putting the players in the best conditions and succeeding to have the best players in the world attending. Unfortunately, it was one of their last events in 2020.

During this period, and as per my duties to assist any Member Association in the world, we had the pleasure to host Team China in Qatar for more than 45 days, securing for them the best conditions of stay and training.

As per my duties of responsible EC member for WTTC, and after the official postponement of the event, we had several online meetings with the organiser aiming to find a solution and to not cancel the Championships.

Despite huge efforts from the ITTF along with my EC colleague, Mr Ryu Seungmin, President of Korea TTA, it was clear that it was not a realistic wish in a new different world that we lived in 2020, with drastic restrictions in term of travels and quarantine.

In my areas of responsibility, the most important points have been:

1. Busan 2020 WTTC follow-up during the preparation of the event with the Organising Committee.
2. Being a Board Member of WTT and working hard to prepare and launch the WTT promotional showcase event in Macao, that for sure will bring ITTF to new heights.
3. ITTF's 100 Years Anniversary, that will display to the world the federation's standout achievements throughout the century, where some arrangements are already in place, timeline and action plans agreed within ITTF EC.
4. Attending 16 EC meetings to find solutions to the most difficult year in the ITTF as EC member due to the cancellation of most of our events.
5. To fulfil all my duties as ITTF Deputy President.

#### Areas of Responsibility

- World Championships (Administration)
- World Championships (Technical)
- World Cups (Women's and Men's World Cup in Weihai China) that was a part of the #Restart of Table Tennis in 2020
- ITTF and WTT Board Meetings held online

I would like to underline the excellent collaboration between the Organising Committees, sponsors and the ITTF to face the COVID-19 crisis. I need also to highlight the big sacrifice made by our ITTF staff by accepting a huge cut in their salaries in order to keep ITTF alive and ready for the #Restart of our events; the great job done during this difficult period of the year which resulted in all #Restart events being very well organised.

In particular I would like to thank and congratulate **Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA)**'s role as the main organiser of the World Cups and World Tour Grand Finals in China. They carried out an extraordinary job, at the highest level, in the middle of the biggest crisis that the world is facing.

The very detailed reports from the World Cups, and the World Tour Grand Finals produced by the ITTF Competition Managers, are available and ready for your kind attention.

#### Attendance at ITTF Executive Committee Meetings and other meetings

- EC meeting – physically held in New Delhi
- Other 15 EC meetings organised online plus other meetings
- AGM videoconference series, Governance, HPD, and WTT meetings

On a personal note, I'm very excited about the future of our great organisation with the all-new **World Table Tennis** entity. The event in Macao was an example on what our events would look like, and how Table Tennis is entering into a new era.

I look forward to working with our Member Associations in 2021, contributing to our vision of inspiring excellence in life through Table Tennis.

**Khalil Al-Mohannadi**

ITTF Deputy President



## **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT FINANCE (Petra Sörling)**

### **Report to the AGM**

### **Document A3**

Since I was elected as an Executive Vice President in 2009, I was assigned with the responsibility for a couple of focus areas in addition to the general duties within the ITTF Executive Committee (EC).

#### **FOCUS AREAS**

##### **Para Table Tennis**

For another year, it has been a pleasure to have Para Table Tennis (PTT) in my portfolio. The number of associations that continue integrating PTT keeps growing, and others, when not integrated, are finding very good working relationship with the discipline. In 2019, we made up even bigger plans on how to develop PTT within the ITTF and make use of all our departments internally to improve our integration. As a result of this work, the ITTF EC took the decision to go ahead with a strategic plan for PTT and this work was originally scheduled to start in June 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic and is now planned to start as soon as possible.

##### **Finance & staff**

How to minimize the impact of the pandemic on business, its performance results and most importantly on our staff was for us, like all organizations and companies, our first priority at the beginning of the pandemic. By mid-March we did set up our COVID-19 Taskforce, led by the ITTF CFO. This group, made up of individuals from different parts of the organisation, met in the beginning of the pandemic daily to give the senior management and EC updates on the latest news in relation to COVID-19 and how it impacts on table tennis. In the reports, the group made recommendations for the senior management and/or EC to discuss and decide. The situation was changing on a daily basis and, having such up to date information, allowed for informed decisions to be taken.

Several meetings were held with our staff, and actions were taken such as reduced hours for staff from countries that provided financial support. In addition, salary reductions across the board to help stabilize the initial impact of the pandemic were implemented. A freeze was put in place at the beginning of the pandemic in terms of hiring new staff, however as the situation began to stabilize, one of the very few recruitments that went through during the year, was the hiring of our first Human Resources Manager.

Overall, a very difficult period of time and with our staff, who are spread out across the world, the phases of the pandemic varied from time to time, as well as the ways in which different governments managed their approach to the pandemic. This created its own challenges at times, but through the use of technology the staff were able to remain in frequent communication and adapted accordingly.

Overall, due to the outcome of 2020 and the ongoing pandemic, the decisive actions taken at the beginning of the pandemic has allowed for the ITTF to generate a positive financial situation. The Finance and Audit Committee met virtually on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, and on the agenda was the report from our auditors – Mazars. The auditor reported that there is no audit adjustments that remained

unrecorded and the approval of the 2020 audited financial statements was given by unanimous decision of the members of the Finance and Audit Committee.

The ITTF CFO has been working throughout the pandemic overseeing various scenarios that impact budgets and forecasts for the future; not only during 2020, but also into 2021 and beyond, based on the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability for international events to take place.

### **ITTF Foundation**

As the ITTF EVP in charge of finance, I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the ITTF Foundation. The Board of Trustees is the controlling body of the Foundation and appoints the external auditor to approve the yearly financial statements. As a conclusion, we have now the same audit firm, Mazars, to make our audits within the ITTF Group.

### **ITTF Sustainability Working Group**

At the ITTF EC meeting held in Chengdu, China, in October 2019, the ITTF Sustainability Working Group was created, aimed at tackling the key issue of sustainability in table tennis. As one of the largest sports federations in the world from a members perspective, it is vital that we strive to implement sustainable thinking in every action we take. Since the start, we have held several online meetings within the group and, together, we outlined the importance of the "3 P's": Planet, Profit, and People; identifying key areas of focus from events, equipment, and operational perspectives. Sustainability is one of the most important tasks that we can take on – right here, right now, and in the nearest future, and it has been a privilege to start up this group as chairperson.

### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for giving me your trust and confidence. 2020 started as a very busy year with upcoming world championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games to follow. As we all know by now, the pandemic changed all our plans and instead of a lot of events, we had to take several difficult decisions and cancel or postpone events as well as meetings. In the Executive Committee, we also started a long series of virtual meetings including our first ever virtual AGM in September managed from Doha. Just before the year end, in November, we could make our first re-start events in China with the big support from CTTA, and through WTT, four events in one trip were offered to our players. If this is the new normal is too early to say, but indeed it's a more sustainable way to compete.

I also would like to thank all my colleagues in the Executive Committee. It is my pleasure to work with you all, but this year without seeing each other in real life, indeed made our meetings more complicated. I do hope in the future we will take the best from this period but also learn from the many difficulties we faced because of lacking the opportunity to meet. It should be our highest priority to unite the table tennis family again.

My thanks also go to the Continental Presidents and your teams, Board of Director members and Committee members for your kind cooperation. I would also like to thank all my colleagues representing member associations; it all starts on the local level.

I also would like to specifically thank our Finance and Audit Committee members for their support and commitment as we are now undertaking the process to establish a new committee in line with the ITTF Constitutional requirements.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to our professional staff and its leadership; it is always a great pleasure to work together with you and a **special thank you in this report for the solidarity you showed ITTF during a very challenging time**. I'm very proud to be part of the ITTF family.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life – forever!

**Petra Sörling**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

## **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (H. Bruce Burton)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document A4**

Since my last report, submitted in early 2020, there have been profound challenges to our Federation caused primarily by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has basically impacted all areas of operations and placed everyone under duress. Our thoughts are especially with those who have lost friends and loved ones throughout this ordeal. These challenges have been compounded by internal strife that has affected the way we operate and has served to distract us, severely at times, while attempting to fulfil the essential needs of our stakeholders.

The following comments apply to the focus areas for which I have responsibility:

#### **Competition Department**

Much of 2020 and virtually all of 2021 to date has been a repetitive exercise of planning and replanning. This was especially the case for the Busan WTTC, which was regrettably cancelled. Similarly with Houston the original date was not possible, but now fortunately we have a scheduled 2021 WTTC in November. Planned qualification events preceding the Houston WTTC were not able to be scheduled - players are selected based on World Ranking with provision for representation from all Continents. For the 2022 WTTC in Chengdu, the Executive Committee decided to cancel the Regional and Final Intercontinental Qualification stages. The various Continental Championships will serve as the main qualifiers with the final 6 positions from the Final Intercontinental Qualification stage being distributed based on a BOD decision in November 2021.

We have seen the introduction of a new Youth Events structure, a very successful Middle East Hub in Qatar, a number of well-presented WTT events, and the very successful delivery of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Soon, a process to determine the qualification pathway for the 2023 WTTC in Durban, South Africa, will begin. At the time of writing there is an ongoing process to carry out virtual inspections for the 5 candidate member associations for the 2024 WTTC. Full credit goes to Gabor Felegyi and Vicky Eleftheriade, plus the dedicated staff in the Competitions Department, for all the work they have done. It has been complex and exhausting but handled very professionally throughout.

#### **High Performance and Development Department / ITTF Foundation**

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the HPD Director, Polona Cehovin, and the ITTF Foundation Director, Leandro Olvech, for their contributions and leadership during the past year. A variety of online activities, meetings, and seminars kept our membership engaged and able to receive necessary services and support during these troubling times. The staff in both these areas are to be commended for their planning, and flexibility, and I have felt privileged to be connected with them. A major frustration was that throughout the year these two Directors were rarely given a reasonable time frame to share their efforts with the full Executive Committee. Invariably their scheduled time slots at EC meetings were severely reduced or disappeared completely.

#### **Multi-Sport Games**

##### **2022 Commonwealth Games – Birmingham, England:**

This has not been a particularly active file for me this year. With the experience of Sheila Mercer as the Table Tennis Sport Manager and Richard Scruton as the Technical Delegate, I am

confident that the table tennis competition is in very good hands. At the time of writing the appeal to have a revision of the classes for the Para table tennis standing events is still pending.

#### 2023 Pan Am and Para Pan Am Games – Santiago, Chile:

This also has not been a very active file to date, but I have confidence in the ability of the Pan Am organizers and the Chilean Table Tennis leadership to ensure a successful set of competitions.

#### **Media and Promotion**

This year saw a fundamental shift in the structure of our social media platforms with 1) the ITTF platform providing institutional, governance and membership-based news, with an emphasis on high performance & development; and 2) the WTT platform providing fan focused content around events and players to increase the image and popularity of Table Tennis globally.

It is important to note that the various platforms (ITTF, WTT, ITTF Foundation) are all evolving as part of the ITTF Group, and it will take some time to adjust to this new approach. I am confident that in the end the whole table tennis community will be better served.

We continue to rank highly amongst International Federations in terms of hits on our various social platforms. I expect that the reports of Matt Pound and our media committee Chair, Arne Madsen, will elaborate more on the specifics.

#### **North America Relations and Events**

There have been no ITTF sanctioned events held in North America since the 2020 Olympic Qualification event, due to the extent of the Pandemic. The exciting news is that the 2021 WTTC will be held in Houston, Texas, in November, and this will be the first ever WTTC in the Americas! The reports of the CEO and the Director of Competitions will no doubt provide further details.

#### **Conclusion**

I have alluded to internal strife and issues in this report and feel an obligation to elaborate. For almost a full year now we have experienced an influx of anonymous accusations as well as baseless or unsubstantiated complaints. The ITTF President has chosen to accept these without any real attempt to follow due process and allow our internal mechanisms to handle them. For whatever reasons, these accusations were allowed to stand for an inordinate amount of time, presumably to inflict maximum damage on the reputations of the individuals involved, whether they are EC members or staff. This style of leadership has been damaging in several ways, particularly in terms of ability to focus on elevating our sport. Our dedicated staff and elected officials deserve better.

Despite these concerns, I am optimistic about the future of the ITTF. I believe that the proposed changes to our constitution are a good first step in overcoming these types of challenges. The new model for the expanded World Championships and the exciting new event structures in WTT all provide for an intriguing journey ahead.

#### **H. Bruce Burton**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

## EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Maehara Masahiro)

### Report to the AGM

### Document A5

Since I have been elected as an Executive Vice President, 2020 has been the most difficult year, but I believe our sport and relationship which we have developed is strong and that our Table Tennis world can overcome this difficult time and after everything has cleared, we would have the strongest bond which we have ever seen before.

#### Meetings Attended

Date	Location	Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	India, New Delhi	ITTF EC #1 <sup>st</sup>
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #2 <sup>nd</sup>
29 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #3 <sup>rd</sup>
15 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #4 <sup>th</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #5 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #6 <sup>th</sup>
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Online Seminar	WTT Introduction
4 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #7 <sup>th</sup>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jun 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #8 <sup>th</sup>
10 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #9 <sup>th</sup>
28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #10 <sup>th</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF Foundation Meeting
4 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF HPD Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF Finance Forum
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	WTT Introduction
20 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #11 <sup>th</sup>
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	2030 WTT Bid
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF Equipment Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Seminar	WTT 2021 Calendar
28 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF AGM
30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #12 <sup>th</sup>
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2020	Online Seminar	ITTF Bubble Event Introduction
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #13 <sup>th</sup>
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF BOD
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #14 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF EC #15 <sup>th</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF Nomination Committee
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020	Online Meeting	ITTF Nomination Committee

#### Events and Webinars

##### Japan All Table Tennis Championships, Osaka Japan (10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January)

JTTA managed to hold the biggest event which takes part in January of every year in Osaka. During the event Mr. Massimo COSTANTINI (ITTF High Performance Elite Coach) has joined me and we exchanged words and ideas on further development of athletes. We also talked about the ITTF Training Camp which was planned to take place just before the 2020 Japan Open.

### **ITTF World Platinum Qatar, Doha**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Qatar Table Tennis Association, and Mr. Khalil AL-MOHANNADI, for the successful organizing of the event. The event venue was very nice with practice court, secondary courts and main court all prepared at different locations and the Hotel was within walking distance.

### **ITTF High Performance Department Webinar**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

There has been many webinars operated by the ITTF and each committee within ITTF to keep the interaction between Table Tennis family through the year.

This is the first webinar which I was requested to see if Japan Table Tennis Association could organize a coach or player to attend the webinar. I was very happy and pleased to have this opportunity given from the HPD and that JTTA has made arrangement for 2 players (NAGASAKI Miyu, KIHARA Miyuu) to participate.

It is rare for ITTF and players or coach to be to interact with each other, so I hope this will be carried out again.

### **ITTF High Performance Department Webinar**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

I received a request from HPD to see if I could introduce a coach or administrator who can talk about the Japanese athlete pathway also covering the progress from when they first begin playing Table Tennis to becoming a professional player and the connection between school activity, universities, and company teams. Mr. MIYAZAKI Yoshihito (JTTA standing Director) accepted to share the information and future vision of how we Japan would like to further develop this pathway in the future.

Finally, I would like to mention that having the year 2020 being the pandemic year which we have never faced before, everyone who are involved in the Table Tennis World has suffered a lot. That may be financially, mentally, or physically from not being able to play Table Tennis. But I believe no one has given up being a part of this sport. Thinking what could be done in this situation such as finding a new way of training, how to organize an event (domestic or international), what can be done to improve the sport. The steps which we (you) have taken will become something you can be proud of in the future, and I hope you can think the same.

I will carry on putting all my efforts into further development of international table tennis and look forward in working with all our Table Tennis family for better future.

**Masahiro Maehara**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

This report covers the period from January 2020 until December 2020.

**Areas of Responsibility:**

1. Africa (Communications) – Continental Role
2. Supervise and follow up on Information Technology issues
3. Supervise and follow up on Equipment-related issues
4. Vice-President of the Arab Table Tennis Federation - Regional Role

**1) Meetings Attended (No Events Attended in 2020)****EC meetings:**

- 01 - Delhi, India, 10-11 January 2020
- 02 - On-line, 16 March 2020
- 03 - On-line, 29 March 2020
- 04 - On-line, 15 April 2020
- 05 - On-line, 01 May 2020
- 06 - On-line, 09 May 2020
- 07 - On-line, 04 June 2020
- 08 - On-line, 23 June 2020
- 09 - On-line, 10 July 2020
- 10 - On-line, 28 August 2020
- 11 - On-line, 20 September 2020
- 12 - On-line, 30 September 2020
- 13 - On-line, 11 November 2020
- 14 - On-line, 27 November 2020
- 15 - On-line, 03 December 2020
- 16 - On-line, 21 December 2020

**Governance review meeting:** 13 June 2020

**AGM:** 28 September 2020

**Equipment Conference:** 17 November 2020

**Board of Directors:** 19 November 2020

**Meeting with Continental**

**Representatives:** 21 December 2020

Despite the difference between online and live meetings, I believe the success of such online meetings may be a time-saver and financial saver for the coming era of ITTF, and it also facilitates discussions for urgent topics without the need and expenses of travel, etc.

**2) Role Related to Communications with Africa – Continental Role**

The ITTF - ATTF relations are improving dramatically with mutual trust being regained from all sides. The strategic plan is being developed and will be finalised and approved in the AGM in 2021.

The African Cup and the Continental Qualification for the Olympic Games were held in Tunisia, at end of February and start of March 2020, immediately prior to the lock downs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This saved Africa from relying on other pathways of qualification in the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

**3) Information Technology**

I would like to praise the new head of IT (Mr Ramasubramanian) for his professional and dedicated work, to establish a robust database structure to serve as a foundation for all future IT demands and goals of the ITTF. This is a huge step forward, and I'm expecting further growth of the IT department with more professional in-house developers to support the forthcoming demands of the database, and its interface with all applications whether on the website or mobile applications or web services and statistics. This is the correct pathway for full integration of all of the bits and pieces relying on our IT department.



#### **4) Equipment**

- The equipment department is growing, however, there is a need to accurately define its role in the presence of the Equipment Committee. Establishing a clear demarcation of the different roles and defining each bodies' rights and responsibilities is of paramount importance.

The following points summarise the achievements in this field:

- Approvals: even in pandemic times, approvals are increasing in every section. Reduced times to approve through professional structures are being achieved.
- ITTF T Lab - (T for Table tennis, Technology, Testing) first ever internal lab to increase our knowledge and decrease approval times to offer a better service.
- After treatments of rubbers – Under progress.  
This is a very important project, because the unfairness among players in rubbers still needs further work.
- New colours in rubbers – all the details are already finalised.
- Manuals - modern structured manuals will replace the old technical leaflets.
- Quality control market: Balls Re-Test - important insurance of a stable quality for balls which has improved significantly compared to the past, which was a problem of non-consistency with the plastic balls.
- Quality control market: Re-test pimple out rubbers – an area that has been re-visited.
- Main files, folders, and forms - further professionalisation of the department to work on equipment topics in a modern way.
- Knowledge and network - continue to learn, upgrade our knowledge and relations to the producers.

#### **5) Vice-President of the Arab Table Tennis Federation - Regional Role**

I attended the online Arab meetings during 2020.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chinese Table Tennis Association for their great effort and financial support to make TT RESTART within the pandemic era a true possibility by organising the World Cups, Grand Finals and the first test event for WTT. I would also like to thank our ITTF and WTT staff to assist in this hallmark RESTART of TT events. The staff, players and coaches adapted to the very difficult conditions and made huge sacrifices to have our game back in action.

I would also like to thank all my colleagues in the EC and ITTF staff for their professional attitude and dedication to work for the best interest of ITTF, regardless of any issues occurring in the tough times of the pandemic, and regardless of any misunderstandings from a minority of the Table Tennis family.

**Alaa Meshref**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

My AGM report as to my areas of responsibility.

### 1. STRATEGIC PLAN.

An initial survey was undertaken amongst our ITTF membership in early 2020 to gain some input and greater understanding on how the ITTF Strategic Plan could move forward in its next stage of progression. Although good responses were received, unfortunately the global pandemic hit, which put this work on hold.

However, the pandemic has proved long running and although 2020 may have seemed subdued, I must report that it was also a year that saw the introduction of WTT and the continued growth of the ITTF Foundation. I wish to thank key staff under Michael Brown's direction, who have been working to merge the new entities into the current SP to help ITTF achieve its vision. Deloitte's have again helped facilitate this process for the best outcome helping to make it robust and professional.

### 2. CONTINENTAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS.

There has been positive progress with most Continents even though restricted activities with the Pandemic have impacted ITTF's income at the time of negotiations and the uncertainty of the survival of the Olympic Games which has a large impact on global sport investment. It was good to see the Olympics being staged which secures further funding to pass on through our Agreements.

I thank Mounir Bessah for his work in this area of Continental Relations and along with Polona Cehovin working to revamp many existing agreements to specific needs.

I also thank continental staff and elected officials for their goodwill in achieving these agreements.

### 3. VETERANS

The ITTF EC made an early decision to stop all Veteran activity based on COVID-19 having a dramatic health effect on the Veteran population globally.

Unfortunately, the World Veteran Championships destined for Bordeaux, France was first postponed and later cancelled which really highlights the negative impact this Pandemic has had to Veteran participation. The next World Veteran Championships are to be held in Oman in January 2023 under the direction of ITTF, let's hope that the Pandemic has stabilized, and life is more normal.

The introduction of World Veterans Tour has seen interest with LOCs around the World, but again the Pandemic has restricted this.

ITTF staff member Jose Bentes who is responsible for Veterans affairs along with Jordi Serra, is currently looking at the restart for World Veteran Tour events.

Also of note is the staff along with the help of Gordon Kaye and his knowledge, have been proactive and produced a draft Strategic Plan for Veterans to take this important sector forward and align with all other ITTF activities.

I thank them for the work and hope this is adopted and continually updated going forward for Veterans activities to reach their potential.

Thanks to the ITTF Veterans Committee under the Chairmanship of Reto Bazzi for responding to matters when required, it is well appreciated.

#### 4. OCEANIA CONTINENT

The very sad news is the recent passing of our Oceania President Mr. Anthony Ho. Anthony was very well known in our Oceania region as a passionate advocate for our sport of Table Tennis. Not only known as an accomplished Table Tennis player but a very active and dedicated administrator at National, Continental, and International level. Anthony also was a strong voice for Para Table Tennis in the Pacific and will be sadly missed.

With no possibilities of events in the region including development activities it has been challenging times for staff, Athletes and MA's.

#### 5. MEETINGS

As most meetings became 'on line' because of COVID-19, I report I attended all except one. With the time zone difference I got the short straw and for me, most of the meetings were between 10pm to 3.30am, quite challenging I must say.

There was no travel.

Finally, as I am not seeking re-election to the EC I must record my thanks to my colleagues, for the strong commitment to see positive change in many areas of our sport. I have enjoyed working with you all very much and I feel there has been much positive progress achieved in the last five years.

I have been disappointed over the last year or so, in the way our President has seemed to have hindered due process and consequently good governance. This has caused, in my opinion, undue extra work for the EC in what has already been a challenging time with the pandemic.

I commend the staff under CEO Steve Dainton on your unstinting loyalty during COVID-19, and lengthy, reduced wage cuts to continue working for Table Tennis. Your dedication was truly uplifting so thank you all.

I take this opportunity to thank all who supported me during my term, and I send my best wishes to the new elected administration and ITTF for a strong future. Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

**James Morris**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

## EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Shi Zhihao)

### Report to the AGM

### Document A8

The year 2020 has come to an end. It is a very special year for table tennis, for all sports, even for human beings. In this year, COVID-19 attacked the world and brought great impact and challenge to our sport with all the competitions being stopped and all travels being cancelled. In this special year, I have witnessed the hardworking of all table tennis people. Now, I would like to report my work in 2020 as follows.

#### 1. ITTF Museum

The ITTF Museum established in 2003. In May 2013, ITTF decided to move it from Lausanne to Shanghai. In October 2014, the ITTF, the CTTA and Shanghai Municipal Education Commission signed the agreement. The ITTF Museum opened on March 31, 2018.

Abiding by the agreement, the Museum has paid 2 million USD to ITTF as the objects deposit, as well as the 50,000 USD license fee per year from the 5<sup>th</sup> year after signing the agreement.

From the opening day, the Museum has been established as the centre of world table tennis techniques and promotion. In 2015, 2017 and 2019, the Museum arranged international itinerant exhibitions to WTTC. It also worked for peach of the world and promotion of our sport.

Till December 31, 2020, there have been over 300,000 visitors to the museum, over 530,000 visitors to the itinerant exhibitions, over 30,000,000 people visited the WeChat official account, Weibo and internet broadcast for the museum.

In November 2020, the ITTF museum tried to maintain operation under the anti-COVID-19 control.

The number of visitors to the museum is as followed.

<b>VISITING DATA FOR THE MUSEUM 2020.1.1-12.31</b>	
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Number of People</b>
Individual visitors	14,527
Teams	5,475
VIP	463
Foreign guests	74
Students	1,798
Online	5,721,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,743,337</b>

Combined with the strict anti-COVID-19 safety control, a real-name registration online system has been established, as well as an updated online promotion system. For those who could not come for a visit because of the COVID-19, the online promotion system could offer the online visit as well as lectures about the Museum for them to visit at home.

In 2021, the Museum working team will continue the work on promotion, objects collection, electronic technique of the exhibition, etc., under the COVID-19 for the better development of the ITTF Museum and protection of the table tennis history.

## **2. Attendance in ITTF Meetings**

In the past year, because of the COVID-19, I attended 10 EC meetings on line, as well as the AGM in September.

As a conclusion, I'd like to express the gratitude to my colleagues and friends in the ITTF family for your kind support and great effort in the past year.

Sincerely hope we will have great cooperation to fight against all the difficulties together in 2021.

**Shi Zhihao**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

## **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Nestor Jose Tenca)**

### **Report to the AGM**

### **Document A9**

Unlike in 2019, where the ITTF carried out very important actions (creation of WTT to enhance the commercialization of sports rights, continuity of the ongoing strategic plan, higher quality in continental events to name just a few) 2020 was marked by a pandemic that is still ongoing and affects us all.

First, in terms of health, with the losses of life linked to the ITTF family. It then affected the schedule of international and continental competitions, with its obvious economic consequences in terms of loss of income.

All this forced the Executive Committee and its staff to redesign the strategies to face this unexpected reality. Only in 2021, with the return to major competitions, naturally including Tokyo 2020 and the upcoming WTTC in Houston, we can we enjoy the feeling that normality is returning.

My public thanks to all the staff who, under these conditions, doubled their efforts and reduced their salaries.

As part of my responsibilities as ITTF Executive Vice-President, I had the honour of representing our Executive Committee (EC) at the 2020 ITTF Pan American Cup, that took place in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, in February 2020.

Within my responsibilities as ITTF Executive Vice-President I took part in the following meetings of our Executive Committee:

- 01 - Delhi, India, 10-11 January 2020
- 02 - On-line, 16 March 2020
- 03 - On-line, 29 March 2020
- 04 - On-line, 15 April 2020
- 05 - On-line, 01 May 2020
- 06 - On-line, 09 May 2020
- 07 - On-line, 04 June 2020
- 08 - On-line, 23 June 2020
- 09 - On-line, 10 July 2020
- 10 - On-line, 28 August 2020
- 11 - On-line, 20 September 2020
- 12 - On-line, 30 September 2020
- 13 - On-line, 11 November 2020
- 14 - On-line, 27 November 2020
- 15 - On-line, 03 December 2020
- 16 - On-line, 21 December 2020

In addition, I participated in the online AGM and Board of Directors meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> September and 19 November 2020 respectively, as well as in a special meeting with the Continental Presidents or Representatives on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Together with our Legal Counsel, Dylan Mah, and our Secretary General, Raul Calin, we worked on the proposed ITTF constitutional reform, which was presented to the ITTF Executive Committee on a special Governance session on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The EC agreed to put forward to the AGM, which accepted massively, achieving an important milestone: the separation of the Judicial power from the ITTF Executive Committee.

To conclude my report, I would like to offer a sincere acknowledgment to all colleagues on the Executive Committee, to CEO Steve Dainton, to Secretary General Secretary, Raul Calin, and to all the ITTF staff for forming, in these difficult times, a team that envisions a better and bigger sport of table tennis.

I also appreciate being able to participate in a field of work and collaboration with maximum freedom of opinion.

I would like to extend my recognition to all member associations, especially from the Americas, for giving their support to ITTF projects.

**Nestor Jose Tenca**

ITTF Executive Vice-President

Our current Athletes' Commission is composed of:

- Chair - Zoran Primorac (CRO)
- Deputy Chairs - Galia Dvorak (ESP) and Dana Cechova (CZE)
- Para Athletes - Alena Kanova (SVK) and Trevor Hirth (AUS)
- Athletes - Sarah Hanffou (CMR), Alberto Mino (ECU), Wang Liqin (CHN), Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), Elsayed Lashin (EGY), Marcos Madrid (MEX) and Matthew Hetherington (NZL)
- IOC AC member - Ryu Seungmin (KOR)

#### **Pandemic, Olympic Qualification and World Ranking (March - July 2020):**

The athletes' commission engaged in many conference calls over months in the beginning of the pandemic, we discussed and consulted heavily on event cancellations and issues surrounding world ranking point compensation precedents and the road to world ranking qualification for the Tokyo Games. We liaised with many players and conducted an athlete survey during this time to gather data to present to the ITTF Executive Committee.

Our push to appoint more athletes to ITTF Committees gave us good representation through Jean Michel Saive and Lashin El Sayed in the World Ranking group as we expressed our concerns and ideas during this stage.

We were able to provide feedback on the ranking freeze, when and how it should be lifted, point compensations, and Olympic qualification via WR for singles and mixed doubles.

#### **Ryu Seungmin given full voting rights on the ITTF EC:**

We were very pleased to improve athlete representation on the ITTF Executive Committee, with our second AC representative, Ryu Seungmin, being granted full voting rights. This was a big step forward in supporting our chair Zoran Primorac and in working towards more voting power in representation of athletes on the EC.

#### **Heavy discussion and feedback on WTT World Ranking plans:**

We undertook a lot of discussion and passed feedback on the World Ranking system changes, with our feedback representing fairness to continental events and more emphasis on events we still felt were a key part of global competition. We also engaged in a lot of discussion about the Youth World Ranking system and which events should be considered eligible for inclusion to those WR systems.

#### **Events returning and WTT launch (October - Dec 2020):**

As WTT launched and athletes returned to competition at the end of 2020 there were many things to discuss as an Athletes' Commission. Athlete safety and provisions was paramount for us - and ensuring the athletes had all information necessary to prepare for these events (mainly about COVID-19 protocols). During this time, we worked closely between athletes and WTT to ensure that athletes had access to their needs and that provision was fair for all athletes participating.



### **Tokyo 2021 Paralympic Games:**

We were proud to see Alexa Svitacs competing in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics and winning a C9 Bronze medal. It was fulfilling for us to see the first athlete supported with our cooperation of the ITTF Foundation Emergency Athlete Fund, to succeed and to be boldly and positively embracing her life as a strong para-athlete. We were also proud of our own athletes' commission member, Alena Kanova, for her incredible silver medal, and Trevor Hirth competing in his first Paralympic Games.

The Commission were very pleased with the ITTF & WTTs impressive coverage of this year's Paralympics which was far better than ever before.

### **The overview of the Athletes' Commission activities within the IOC:**

Online meetings and conference calls with the IOC Athletes' Commission:

- October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

We attended the 10<sup>th</sup> International Athletes' Forum held on 26-27 May 2021 in virtual format. Owing to the digital opportunity, the invite was extended to all Athletes' Commission (AC) members along with their AC chairs.

Key discussion points were Olympic Agenda 2020+5 athlete recommendations, Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022, and how to further empower and equip ACs.

EC online meetings (since the last AGM)

We participated in up to 18 meetings of the ITTF Executive Committee since the last AGM until September 2021, when closing this report.

We are looking forward to future cooperation with all ITTF stakeholders in order to assure the progressive and sustainable future development of table tennis.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank my Athletes' Commission members for their commitment and engagement for the benefit of the table tennis as a sport, and most importantly its players.

**Zoran Primorac**

Chair of the Athletes' Commission

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (Ryu Seungmin)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document A11**

The COVID-19 situation has evolved further, and we are dealing with a significant global challenge. First and foremost, I would like to thank all the member associations of ITTF and the Executive Committee members for their effort to prepare and cope with this situation. 2020 was a tough year. Due to social distancing protocols and travel restrictions, many sports events were postponed, cancelled, or held virtually.

The following report covers my activities as ITTF Executive Committee member and a member of IOC in 2020.

### **Event and Meetings Attended**

**7<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January – 2020 Winter Youth Olympics Games & 135<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, Lausanne**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2020 and 135<sup>th</sup> IOC Session was hosted by Lausanne, Switzerland. During the IOC Session, I had the opportunity to lead the Korean delegation, when Gangwon, Korea, was announced as the host for the 2024 Winter Youth Olympics Games.

As a member of the Athletes' Commission, Olympic Education Commission and Sustainability and Legacy Commission, I attended meetings of each respective Commission and two Athletes' Commission joint meeting with Executive Board and Athletes' Entourage Commission.

In the joint meeting of the Athletes' Commission and the Athletes' Entourage Commission, I presented about Athlete365 Career+ Outreach Programme, and I had opportunity to explain about the programme, its three primary channels, and contents.

### **17<sup>th</sup> July – 136<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, via online**

Due to COVID-19, IOC Session was held virtually for the first time ever. During the session, The Organising Committees of the upcoming Olympic Games shared positive progress reports on their preparations and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee announced that it has secured all venues for upcoming Games and subsequently confirmed the competition schedule. In addition, IOC Session elected two Vice-Presidents and two Executive Board Members, and also, five new Members.

### **21<sup>st</sup> September – OCA Entourage Committee Meeting, via online**

As the Chair of OCA Entourage Committee, I conducted a virtual Entourage Committee meeting. One of the most important aspects of the meeting was to discuss the terms of reference of the committee regarding the scope of the committee's work. Also, abuse and harassment in sport of athletes and creating awareness in Asia for members of the entourage group, was discussed.

### **28<sup>th</sup> September – ITTF Annual General Meeting, via online**

2020 ITTF Annual General Meeting was held virtually for the first time in ITTF history. A number of key decisions were made during the historic online AGM. Durban (South Africa) was awarded the hosting rights for the 2023 World Table Tennis Championships and also there were major reforms to the constitution with the establishment of an ITTF Tribunal and an ITTF Integrity Unit.

There was also a special report on the impact of COVID-19 on global table tennis and preparation of return to action via the #RESTART series in November 2020, among other key decisions.

### **30<sup>th</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November – 2020 IOC Commissions Cluster, via Online**

As IOC Executive Board confirmed that the 2020 IOC Commissions Cluster will take place remotely because of the various travel restrictions worldwide, twenty commission meetings were held virtually for nine days.

Over the Commissions Cluster week, I participated in 7 virtual meeting, which were Athletes' Commission, Olympic Education Commission, Sustainability and Legacy Commission meeting and Athletes' & Athletes' Entourage Commission joint meeting.

In the Athlete Commission meeting, with the health and safety of athletes being one of the key principles in the delivery of the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, we discussed the importance of delivering the Olympic Games in a safe environment while preserving the athlete experience.

### **16<sup>th</sup> December – 39<sup>th</sup> OCA General Assembly, via Online**

The OCA hosted the 39th OCA General Assembly in Muscat, Oman on 16 December with more than half of Asia's National Olympic Committees attending in person and the remaining joining online. During the General Assembly, a number of important reports were provided and as Chair of OCA Entourage Committee, I presented the committee's report. Also, key decisions were taken, Doha was awarded the 2030 Asian Games with Riyadh subsequently being awarded 2034. The OCA also signed a host city contract with Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, as the hosts of the fourth Asian Youth Games in 2025.

In conclusion, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to our President, Mr. Thomas Weikert, my colleagues on the Executive Committee and the professional ITTF staff for all their support and hard work during unprecedented time. I also would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the members of ITTF and table tennis family and friends. I can assure you that I will do my best to continue the solid relations with IOC for the benefit of our sport, table tennis.

### **Ryu Seungmin**

ITTF Executive Committee member. IOC Member

# **AFRICA (Khaled El-Salhy)**

## **Report to the AGM**

**Document B1**

We all had a very tough year in 2020 due to the pandemic of COVID-19 with a great effect to all our activities of Table Tennis in Africa as the same happened worldwide.

After the end of 2019, ATTF had a very short time till end of February 2020 to conduct one competition and very few development activities, then by the start of March we have been enforced for a full suspension due to the precaution measures to reduce the risk of infection.

### **The African activities for the year 2020 were as follows:**

#### **2020 ITTF-Africa Top 16 Cup & the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Qualification Tournament for 2020 Tokyo OG**

The African Top 16 Cup was held in Tunisia in the last week of February 2020 with the top players from Africa either by ranking or through regional qualification. Thanks to the Tunisian Table Tennis Federation; they provided a very professional organisation and took care of hosting the event back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of qualification to 2020 Tokyo OG.

The ITTF-Africa Top 16 Cup was the qualifying event for the ITTF World Cups 2020. Egypt's Ahmed Saleh and Dina Meshref were the respective winners and thus progressed to represent Africa. We had the honour to have another qualifier by ITTF ranking for the Men's World Cup, Nigeria's Quadri Aruna. It was the third time to ensure two African qualifiers in such prestigious World Title Event with a good sign that Africa remained among the range of top-ranking players worldwide.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> African Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020 came to select 4 players in each single event plus the qualified players from Egypt those who already qualified in the previous year for the Team events. The qualifiers in Men's singles were Ibrahima Diaw (SEN), Olajide Omotayo (NGR), Adem Hmam (TUN) & Larbi Bouriah (ALG), plus the qualifiers in Women's singles were Offiong Edem (NGR), Olufunke Oshonaike (NGR), Sarrah Hanffou (CMR) & Fadwa Garci (TUN). Last but not least, the pair to represent Africa in Mixed Doubles was Omar Assar/Dina Meshref (EGY).

#### **2020 ITTF-Africa Junior & Cadet Championships**

The tournament was planned to be in Madagascar during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April 2020, but it has been postponed for the next year 2021 as soon as we find better situation for the pandemic and to receive a green light from the host.

#### **2020 ITTF-Africa Senior Championships & ATTF AGM**

The tournament was planned to be in Cameroon during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2020, but it has been postponed for the next year 2021 (also in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2021). It was decided to conduct the ATTF AGM online on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 due to the importance as an elective Congress Meeting.

### **African Participation and Top International Results**

- 48 African Associations registered & took part in the 2020 ITTF AGM online dated 28<sup>th</sup> September and the most important decision taken in such AGM was to give Africa the honour to host the 2023 WTTC in Durban – South Africa, thanks to South Africa Table Tennis Board for their top professional bidding presentation and great thanks for all attending delegates all-over the World in supporting the conduction of such World Title event in Africa.

- Dina Meshref (EGY), the winner of the 2020 ITTF-Africa Top 16 Cup, participated in the Dishang 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup in Weihai, China, during 8-10 December 2020.
- Quadri Aruna (NGR) plus Ahmed Saleh (EGY) both participated in the Dishang 2020 ITTF Men's World Cup in Weihai, China, during 13-15 December 2020.
- All the three top players took part after the World Cups in the Bank of Communications 2020 ITTF Finals in Zhengzhou, China, during 19-22 December 2020 followed by the first ever WTT event in Macao, China, during 25-29 December 2020.
- Congratulations to Egypt Table Tennis Federation in hosting the 2020 ITTF Fa20 Egypt PTT Open in Alexandria during 1-4 February successfully.
- Congratulations to Congo Democratic Table Tennis Federation in hosting the 2020 ITTF WJC Open in Kinshasa during 4-8 March 2020.

### **Online Meetings for ATTF & ITTF**

We had to conduct online meetings instead of the suspended physical meetings due to the pandemic of COVID-19, and they were as follows:

- 4 ATTF Executive Committee Meetings in (July – August – September – November) 2020
- 1 ATTF Council Board Meeting in August 2020
- 1 ITTF AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- 1 ITTF BoD on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **Essential Recognition**

On behalf of the ATTF EC and all Table Tennis family in Africa, I thank Mr. Thomas Weikert, the ITTF President, all ITTF EC group, ITTF CEO group, ITTF Secretary General & ITTF Member Relations Director for their keenness efforts to follow-up the situation all-over the World and for all Continents very closely in such critical period to find the best way and time to do the real #RESTART# successfully in December 2020.

We have to keep high spirit to come back into normal soon.

### **Khaled El-Salhy**

Continental President: Africa

#### **Number of Member Associations**

The Asian Table Tennis Union has maintained 44 member associations till the end of 2020.

#### **Competitions**

The year 2020 was full of unprecedented situations due to the sudden COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Table tennis in Asia, much like other sports, had been taking the hit. Postponements were announced on a few annual Asian events out of consideration of the participants' safety. It was regretted that we couldn't witness the 2020 Asian Cup Tournament in China in February. Similarly, we had no chance to share the joy of seeing future stars playing in 2020 Asian Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships which would have been held in Laos. The only event went as planned was the Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament for West Asia Region while the qualifications for the other regions scheduled in April had to be postponed.

Luckily, as the situation began to ease towards the end of 2020, table tennis in Asia restarted step by step in China. The local organizers there have started preparations for the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Youth Games to be held in Shantou of China in late November of 2021.

#### **Meetings**

In mid-September, three ATTU Meetings (EB/Council/Extraordinary Congress) were held online. Pending issues were thoroughly discussed and further arrangements on events were made public among member associations. The Qatar TTA and the Laos TTF were announced to be the hosts for the 2021 Asian Table Tennis Championships and for the 2021 Asian Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships respectively. The Qatar TTA was also entrusted to host the 2020 Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament. In November, the President and other Asian BOD members attended the ITTF BOD meeting to fulfil their role after attending the ITTF AGM in late September.

#### **Development Programs**

Aim for the Stars, the ATTU development program initiated in 2019 is an innovative and flexible two-year project to assist regional federations and national associations in Asia. Its goal is to have one major Regional Project that benefits all countries in the region each year while a smaller national project is provided according to each country's need. Although the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic had largely affected the whole project in many aspects, it was astonishing that many national projects have been completed prior to the COVID-19 lockdown including both local and international training camps, coach education programs, URC courses, equipment assistance and support to attend ITTF World Tour and ITTF Junior Circuit events. During the COVID-19 lockdown, self-training videos created by Aim for the Stars had been put on ATTU website to help young players do self-training exercises at home.

#### **Member Associations**

The August blast in Lebanon nearly destroyed its capital city Beirut. In response to the calling, the ATTU made donations to the Lebanon TTA to help rebuild facilities for table tennis.

The President congratulated the Singapore TTA for its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary via video message. Besides, the union was informed by its member associations of their respective election results in 2020 and then made revised its website roster accordingly.

### **Cooperation with the ITTF**

The ATTU kept contact with the ITTF via online meetings and emails during the COVID-19 lockdown to exchange opinions on matters concerning the two sides.

### **Loss of Asia**

In late 2020, the ATTU lost its two loyal old friends. Mr. Park Do Cheon, co-chairman of technical and umpires committee of the ATTU, and Mr. Piradej Pruttipruk, regional vice president for South East Asia of the ATTU. After their long-term service in the Union, they left us all, which made the days when we worked together unforgettable. It is for sure that our dear memories of them and their love and contributions to Asian table tennis in would be forever cherished by Asian Table Tennis Family.

To conclude I would like to thank the ITTF, member associations of the ATTU and all my colleagues for their support and contributions in 2020.

### **Cai Zhenhua**

Continental President: Asia

### Membership

The total membership of the ETTU is at present 58 Associations.

### Congress

On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ETTU Congress was held online for the first time. On that occasion, I was elected after a vote by the Congress.

In the current challenging times facing the whole sports movement, I want to inspire optimism by embracing new ideas and work with you to implement changes that will develop table tennis across Europe through:

- Engaging a modern generation of fans and attracting young people to the sport;
- placing athletes at the heart of all key decisions;
- empowering member Associations and increasing ETTU influence on the global stage;
- growing and promoting women's table tennis;
- increasing transparency and becoming an example of good governance;
- developing a fairer quota system in the sport.

We have made good progress in these areas and I look forward to building on this work with you in the weeks, months and years ahead.

The Congress on 16<sup>th</sup> September also elected the Deputy President, Pedro Moura (POR) the Vice President for Finance, Sandra Deaton (ENG), and 5 Vice Presidents: Heike Ahlert (GER), Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), Ina Jozepsone (LAT), Sonja Grefberg (FIN), Miguel Vicens (FRA).

### Events and Competitions

The China Construction Bank 2020 ITTF Europe Top 16 Cup was held for the 3<sup>rd</sup> occasion at Montreux (SUI) in February 2020. In a memorable location and superbly organised by our Swiss colleagues, Germany was dominant with Timo Boll equalling Jan-Ove Waldner's record of 7 victories, and Petrissa Solja retaining her title.

A month later, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Under 21 Championships was held at the Arena in the city of Varaždin (CRO); a splendid venue which will host the 2021 European Youth Championships. Vladimir Sidorenko (RUS) and Prithika Pavade (FRA) took the singles titles.

The ETTU Executive Board decided to cancel the 2020 European Youth Championships at Zagreb due to the high level of risk of COVID-19 associated with the event. It was a big disappointment for the Croatia Association which had done everything possible to try to make the event go ahead but protecting the health of our ETTU family must be our first priority.

Due to the increased cases of COVID-19 as well as travel restrictions and several national quarantines in place, a difficult decision was made to postpone the Liebherr 2020 European Championships. This had been scheduled to take place in Warsaw between 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The safety of players, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff and partners had been a priority for all organisations involved. Thankfully the President of the Polish Table Tennis Federation, Mr Dariusz Szumacher, and his Board, staff and partners in Warsaw were able to agree a new date in June 2021 for the Championships.



The Europe Youth Top 10 was successfully staged in Berlin (GER) in October with the introduction of COVID-19 protocol and guidelines for all accredited persons. Subsequently the Women's and Men's Champions League club competitions were completed as tournaments in separate bubble conditions at Linz and Düsseldorf in November and December. The Linz AG Froschberg and Borussia Düsseldorf clubs ensured excellent playing conditions and safe and secure environments using more developed hygienic guidelines and instructions.

### **Development Activities**

In March 2020, the ETTU announced the suspension of all its events including development activities due to the spread of the COVID-19 and to prioritise the health and safety of all players, coaches, officials and volunteers. To overcome the obstacles with the help of technology and enable players and coaches to come together again the ETTU launched a web camp project in May 2020. With daily online sessions led by different coaches across Europe, players and coaches were able to join the online sessions at the same time.

From August 2020 a series of coaching webinars were arranged with Matilda Ekholm, Krisztina Toth and Eva Jeler among the guest expert presenters. The response from National Associations was impressive and continued to grow.

Eleven Member Associations Assistance activities were carried over to 2021.

### **Marketing and Commercial Initiatives**

Following the September Congress, it was agreed to engage a new Marketing Manager and Mrs Beatrice Romanescu commenced her duties in January 2021. The Executive Board took the decision to create the ETTU rebranding project which will meet all the requirements of the modern global sport. ETTU has reached a number of agreements on commercial partnership and in 2020 and 2021 events sponsorship accordingly.

### **Conclusion**

The new Executive Board met virtually on seven occasions from September to December 2020. The Executive Board adopted the budget for 2021, submitted for approval to the Extraordinary Congress in February 2021. Despite the deficit budget at the end of 2020, it was confirmed that for 2021 the budget is in surplus. The Executive Board also heard presentations and working plans from the marketing, development, and competition managers, and discussed strategic planning and media relations for 2021. Committee chairs were appointed, and proposals received for the work of the committees during the next 2 years.

The Executive Board received a presentation from JTA regarding future cooperation in the areas of strategic planning, content generation, issue management, media relations and media monitoring.

I thank my Executive Board colleagues for their dedication to the improvement of ETTU's performance and the implementation of changes for the benefit of European Table Tennis.

I would also like to thank the previous ETTU President Mr Ronald Kramer. We have big respect towards the job he has done, and we will be happy to see him as our guest at our European events.

**Igor Levitin**

Continental President: Europe

The year 2020 will pass on the history of the world and in table tennis, as the year where the dreams had to rest and the health of everybody involved was the priority. Big plans for continental competitions and development programs in hand with marketing activities were ready to start aligned to the LATTU and ITTF Strategic Planning and Strategic Investment.

Only one continental event was possible in February 2020. The 2020 Pan American Cup was organized with great success in Puerto Rico, making all of us dream on a great year for table tennis in the Americas.

COVID-19 forced us from mid-March to make a pause and only two regional events were held prior to the lock-down in February and March, in Belize and Peru, plus one Para Table Tennis event in Chile in January, and a Junior Circuit in March in Peru.

All the dreams and the plans are however alive and ready to be implemented. The year 2021, now as a new and unified Pan American Continent, can only bring hope for bigger things to happen. We all look forward to the 2021 ITTF Americas Championships.

## **STAFF**

The passion and commitment the staff showed during this difficult time was awesome. The video conferences and web seminars came as a very useful tool, allowing us to be in contact and active. Programs like Table Tennis Aerobics and Latin America Table Tennis VIP Room came to life. Both online activities for table tennis fans in the continent to keep everybody in contact and interacting.

## **CONTINENTAL EVENTS**

In the city of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico a big stage for Table Tennis was presented. Three days of competition at the Continental Cup from February the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> with the hall full of spectators supporting the local heroes. The streaming production and social media broke all records of audience. Congratulations to the winners, Adriana Diaz (PUR) and Hugo Calderano (BRA) for their outstanding performances.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

The development programs started at the beginning of 2020 with special attention to the DNA Program. In March 2020, all activities stopped due to COVID-19. Slowly after the initial hit, and in close cooperation with the ITTF, the development activities turned digital, ensuring to keep the table tennis family united.

## **INSTITUTIONAL**

It is with great pride I report on the second ITTF Americas General Assembly, held virtually on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. On that occasion, I was elected ITTF Americas President, and Paul Calle was elected ITTF Americas Secretary General – Treasurer.

I want to thank all ITTF member associations in the Americas for their commitment to make this happen. The continental union was a dream for decades, and since the modernisation of PASO into

Panam Sports in 2018, under the leadership of the IOC Member Neven Ilic, it became even more evident the necessity to work together.

From 2021, the ITTF Americas is signing the continental agreement with the ITTF, and I'm very pleased with the cooperation and dialogue with all stakeholders.

Our thanks to the ITTF also for their support during these difficult times of the pandemic. It was difficult to navigate, but we always felt the support.

At the time of writing this report, I'm proud to say that for the first time in history, an American Association will host the World Championships in 2021. It will be in Houston, in November 2021, and I look forward to welcoming all delegates from the five continents and show them the American passion for sports.

Yours faithfully,

**Juan Vila**

Continental President: Latin America

**NOT PROVIDED**

2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, we did our best to deliver programs, activities and a limited number of events.

Here are some of our highlights from 2020.

ITTF-Oceania continued to foster the development of table tennis by supporting 3 development activities to 86 participants (61% female) across 11 Oceania countries and this also included online activities for the first time, with the support of Table Tennis Australia. Our Smash Down Barriers (SDB) participation program engaged 2,743 Pacific Islanders and employed 19 staff members across Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu. And our schools' program, Bounce it Back (BiB), continued in Tonga and Fiji despite COVID-19 restrictions, however our plans to expand across other Pacific countries had to be postponed.

Supported by the ITTF and the Smash Down Barriers program, ITTF-Oceania partnered the Tonga Table Tennis Federation (TTTF) to continue the Developing National Associations (DNA) program. Although 2020 was a challenging year, the second half came with the opportunity to expand the DNA program, with Fiji Table Tennis Association being supported to employ a full-time Operations Manager to oversee their development activities, work towards improving the organisations governance and policies as well as focusing on creating stronger links with local ministries and governments.

In 2020, with pandemic restrictions preventing many in-person table tennis activities, including the handful of Hopes training camps during the year, ITTF, ITTF-Oceania and its members remained optimistic by turning to digital solutions.

In April, the World Table Tennis Day was held virtually with countries getting creative and sending in clips of tricks and skills and passing the ball onto the next country/person. Ten Oceania countries got involved; Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Tonga.

Our 2020 AGM was held online for the first time. Prior to the AGM, our staff conducted surveys with all members, as well as training sessions for attending online meetings and using software for election voting. This proved to be a great success with a record 23 out of 24 members in attendance, as well as staff from our world body, ITTF.

Table Tennis Australia (TTA) has an excellent online program for their own players and graciously extended their support by collaborating with ITTF-Oceania to allow Oceania Hopes players and coaches to be involved in the sessions. This provided a unique opportunity, particularly for the island nations, to be part of a structured program with high level coaches and a unique learning environment.

Our 2020 event schedule was ravaged by COVID-19 and all other events were either postponed or cancelled, including:

- Olympic Qualification
- Oceania Championships
- Oceania Junior Championships
- Oceania Cup
- Australian Open

The 2019 ITTF-Oceania Tour Tonga event took place in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2020 at the Atele Indoor Stadium. It was streamed on ITTF-Oceania's digital platforms. ITTF-Oceania partnered with the Tonga Table Tennis Federation, with 37 athletes from Australia, Fiji and Tonga. The competition offered the last chance to qualify to the 2020 ITTF-Oceania Cup and with several places still to be confirmed, the competition proved to be exciting and entertaining.

Table Tennis was one of 24 different featured sports at the Cook Islands Games, as the island of Rarotonga hosted an event like never before. The Table Tennis consisted of 8 different events, a combination of singles and doubles across Men's, Women's and Under 16 categories.

Medallists hailed from 8 different islands and fought hard for their results over the course of the contest. Cook Island Sport streamed events live to their Facebook page, creating a great buzz for the event, not just in the Cook Islands but across the Pacific and the region.

The big titles were the Men's and Women's Singles events, won respectively by Mel Ivaiti and Marenga Tua, both of whom also claimed gold in the doubles events and Mel going one further to also pick up a bronze in the Open Mixed Doubles. The two young players represent the best that Cook Island table tennis has to offer, both having represented the nation at the Oceania Junior Championships last year and in other events in the Oceania Region prior.

We are grateful for the continued support of DFAT for our Smash Down Barriers program in the Pacific. DFAT support enabled us to continue activities as much as possible and retain key staff and contractors.

We wish to thank our world body, ITTF, who also provided financial support for staff and events. Despite the substantial reduction in funding and cancellation of most of our events due to the impact of the pandemic, we were extremely pleased to make a small profit through the great efforts made by our staff and management committee.

We wish to express our appreciation for the wonderful support we have received from sponsors, local governments, and other stakeholders.

ITTF-Oceania wishes to thank everyone for their support and participation in 2020 and we look forward to new beginnings in 2021.

**Anthony Ho**

Continental President: Oceania

### **Overview**

2020 was my third year serving as ITTF CEO and I believe it is fair to say it was the most complicated and challenging one. An unprecedented year impacted by the largest global crisis in our lifetimes – the COVID-19 pandemic.

Countries, cities and almost all borders around the world were shut down and/or closed and all organisations that were involved in business that relied on international travel suffered massively. Table tennis activities all over the globe were ceased, from major international events to the friendly social matches at the millions of clubs all over the world. In one way or another all persons connected to our sport have been affected.

The ITTF was forced to suspend international activities and competitions, freeze our World Ranking, and we were unable to organise Development, High Performance, and Foundation activities for most of the year. The postponement of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games made it clear to us that this would not be a normal year. For the first time in decades, we were not able to host the World Championships at the originally planned dates, and despite the huge effort and tremendous work done together with the Korean Table Tennis Association, the ITTF had to take the heart-breaking decision to cancel the 2020 WTTC in Busan.

As a result, the ITTF and all our stakeholders have seen huge ramifications. After several years of extremely positive results and growth and having embarked on some large projects, unfortunately we all needed to scale our operations accordingly and make cuts in all our projects and programs.

It is not easy to take positives but there were some: From a financial perspective, the ITTF has managed through difficult and prudent measures to weather the unpredictable times and achieve stable financial results in 2020. This puts the ITTF in a much stronger position compared to many other international federations during this crisis.

The entire ITTF team did their best to bring the entire table tennis community together through new available technological tools, while adapting to the current situation by offering more activities online and overcoming the various difficulties to ensure that ITTF continues to move forward with its bold, progressive, modern, and professional approach as originally laid out in our Strategic Plan, as well as through the newly established World Table Tennis.

Despite the complications, as a professionally led organisation, I do believe in the future we will look back at 2020 with some pride. It is easy to judge the work when there is a positive global environment to work in, when the growth is positive and quantifiable and when expansion is clearly visible. How an organisation and its leadership is able to adapt to an unfavourable environment and cope with a crisis is also equally important. From a professional management perspective, I believe there are also many reasons to be satisfied with our approach and this will be the focus of my report.

## **Staff commitment and sacrifice**

As early as April and together with our Finances team, we knew that in case the pandemic was going to last for a long period of time, it was necessary to make some sacrifices. Fortunately, we could maintain most of our staff and they all understood the measures adopted during this crisis and agreed to take salary reductions in order to survive 2020. The staff's understanding and dedication to the ITTF, will one day be remembered as one of the main reasons why the ITTF could pull through the difficult times of COVID-19 from a financial perspective.

## **Events 2020 ITTF #RESTART**

Ensuring a safe return to international table tennis was our number one priority ever since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, not only for our athletes and partners but also for our millions of fans around the world, who were craving to watch their stars do battle once more.

Through our #RESTART series in China, together with the Chinese Table Tennis Association's (CTTA) powerful support, we were able to deliver hope for our sport and for international table tennis events and in the process, proving that even during a crisis, when we work together, our sport can prevail.

When most of the Olympic Sports around the world were still trying to return to international competition – table tennis did it. All with not one single health issue during the pandemic – zero COVID-19 cases.

The work, the sweat, the tears and the absolute joy of watching our favourite players competing for the top prizes in our #RESTART series will go down in history as one of the most important things that the ITTF and table tennis has ever achieved.

It was also testament to partnership working and support from our players that WTT Macao could take place in November and in doing so offering a first glimpse into the future of the sport. The WTT Macao proof-of-concept showcased a thrilling, original playing format with the world's biggest table tennis stars battling it out in brand-new WTT surrounds.

## **Table Tennis United**

Ever since the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, ITTF Foundation and our partners have worked side by side with the Table Tennis community to overcome the obstacles that keep those in need from getting help. The #TableTennisUnited fundraising campaign powered by the ITTF Foundation and supported by the ITTF and WTT, was created to provide financial support for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis and continues to support various initiatives and individuals from all over the world thanks to multiple generous donors.

## **Organisation and Governance**

In the recent years we have constantly proven that table tennis is an integral sport and that ITTF is following the modern good governance principles which have led us to a significant improvement in the IF's Rankings as published by the 2020 Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Report in comparison to previous terms.



The ITTF remains committed to continue working on improving its overall Governance structure and commenced development plans for the establishment of a more independent Disciplinary Tribunal, and even more robust Control Mechanisms to keep raising the ITTF's profile among the International Federations in the Olympic Programme.

### **Future World Table Tennis Championships**

The 2020 ITTF AGM provided history-making news that South Africa will host its first ever World Table Tennis Championships when Durban will be host city in 2023. This is also the first time that the World Championships will be held on the African continent since Cairo, Egypt, in 1939.

This historic South Africa vote vindicates the new format for the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals, coming into place in 2021, which sees continental qualification precede the Finals event, thus making it more feasible for more countries to host.

### **Professionalization**

In 2020, despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic we continued developing the different areas of the sport and improve professionalization. Through the newly established equipment department located in Cologne, Germany, the ITTF is slowly building a team of professionals working tirelessly to develop new equipment testing and approval schemes, with the main objective of creating a new equipment laboratory where major projects can be brought to life.

The IT team have continued to do an amazing job creating the foundations for the state-of-the-art IT infrastructure and software, which will be at the core of everything we do.

### **Sustainability**

In 2020, the ITTF Sustainability Working Group has been officially formalised aiming at tackling the key issue of sustainability in table tennis. In the first year of activity the Working Group outlined the importance of the "3 P's": Planet, Profit and People, identifying the key areas of focus from event, equipment, and operational perspectives. Sport has the power to inspire people, and as a governing body, it is our responsibility to set new standards to ensure a better world for the future generations.

### **World Table Tennis**

Having been birthed as an idea many years ago only to take root and achieve realisation in 2020, WTT represents our dedication to the sport and is a proud moment for the whole ITTF family. Despite the extremely difficult circumstances under which we began this monumental project, it has been both exciting and satisfying to finally begin the official journey of World Table Tennis. Starting an international sports event company during a global pandemic has been the most complicated task that our whole team has ever had to deal with. Amidst the backdrop of the pandemic and its challenge we are fully committed to this project and will continue to strive for these positive goals, to ensure that WTT and table tennis are major successes.

### **Conclusion**

Table Tennis still has an enormous way to go to grow into one of the elite international sports, but this remains our ultimate goal and I feel that we are on the right path to getting where we want to be, even in these incredibly difficult circumstances.

There are many challenges along the way, and we might not always be able to avoid errors, but we continue to work hard to develop our sport, by adopting symbolic changes, bringing in influential people to help us deliver success and to make all our events and operations better and more professionally run than ever.

We look forward to the whole table tennis Family supporting each other in difficult times. Whilst it may be easy to slip into a negative mentality in tough times, we at the ITTF will continue to try and be positive, we will look for solutions to continue to improve our sport and we will try to support all our Member Associations and Stakeholders to the best of our abilities during a crisis. I am sure Table Tennis will come out stronger from this crisis, and we are more motivated than ever to make Table Tennis the biggest sports on earth. This crisis won't slow us down, let's stick together and grow together.

The current environment still poses many challenges, encouraging us to reconsider the way we operate as well as how we deliver our events. We are living in a new reality and a new normal, compelling us to become acutely aware of the world around us and act in a more sustainable manner. Armed with the knowledge and experience of 2020, we are in better shape to deal with the current situation, and you can expect to see the ITTF continuing its pathway towards professionalization, whilst adapting to a new complex reality. While we are still very much restricted by COVID-19 which is out of our control, but we are buoyant, confident, and trying to be as optimistic about what we can achieve together in the years to come!

Many thanks to the entire table tennis community for their patience as we try to navigate the new world to bring back activities in these uncertain times.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

**Steve Dainton**  
ITTF CEO

## SECRETARY GENERAL (Raul Calin)

### Report to the AGM

### Document C2

The report refers strictly to ITTF activities from January to December 2020 and complements the report of the CEO.

#### **A year of pandemic**

The year 2020 started at the same pace of frenetic activity as 2019 ended, the World Team Qualification for the Olympic Games being held in Gondomar, Portugal. Additionally, a visit was made alongside the CEO, to the Paris 2024 Organising Committee and the IOC headquarters in Lausanne.

In February, when news about the pandemic was distant, a visit was made to the fourth Pan America Cup, where we continued strengthening relations with the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee. We witnessed once again that relatively small associations can not only produce global stars, but also organise international events at the highest level.

The trip to the Caribbean region was complemented with visits to the National Olympic Committees and Ministries of Sports in El Salvador and Mexico, to discuss issues related to the ITTF member associations in these two countries. Reported in 2020, governance of our member associations is of importance to the ITTF, the ITTF can no longer remain a mere spectator. Regulations are needed to be put in place to ensure our members self-governance does not negatively affect our sport globally. As the IOC President, Dr Bach, states often, *change, or be changed*.

Two weeks after this trip, and while being in Busan, Korea, the hard decision to postpone the 2020 World Championships had to be taken. Another two weeks later, table tennis activity worldwide stopped completely. It was 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. A day we will need to remember for a long time.

From that moment, activity turned into planning, re-planning, and elaboration of contingency scenarios. The ITTF Executive met no less than 16 times in a year of the biggest crisis the ITTF has known since World War II. There were many uncertainties, worries, and difficulties.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation for the volunteer work done by members of the Executive Committee (EC) during this exceptional year; work that I'm sure wasn't enjoyable for any member. It was work that required hours and hours of on-line meetings, sometimes in the early morning, sometimes in the middle of the night.

Our appreciation goes also to the appointed officials who served the ITTF without hesitation. Commissioners and Committee chairs who, in most of the cases, worked shoulder to shoulder with staff to ensure the ITTF could continue operating and even further developing in the areas in which it was possible.

Some staff had to leave due to the pandemic, those stayed, had salary reductions, but all of them continued working with the same passion, and in some cases, even harder than before,

responding to the necessity. Each and every one stood up for our sport when it was required. A sincere thank you to all.

Such an extraordinary year required, more than ever, advice and guidance. A year in which working together became the norm for the majority; with rare exceptions, a year in which unity was shown by most ITTF members,

### **Institutional Relations (External)**

In June 2020, the ITTF received with satisfaction and pride the news that our sport moved from group B to the group A2 in the standings of the self-governance review made by ASOIF, progress for the third time. It meant escalating 10 places among the 28 Summer Olympic international sport federations, from the position 21 to the position 11. A proof that the reforms in the governance area the ITTF had initiated were starting to produce results.

July 2020 was the month in which the IOC organised for the first time in their history an IOC session virtually. As every year, an invitation was extended to the ITTF to attend, it served to better prepare for our first ever virtual ITTF AGM. It was a learning experience, and a proof of how synergies can help an organisation grow.

During the months of July and August, the ITTF worked closely with the IOC and the ASOIF to prepare and present our next round of governance reforms, which we will include in the governance section.

Last, but not least, the IF Forum was held virtually in November, and ratified the fact that the pandemic has been an accelerator for the digitalisation of the world, especially in the sport field.

### **Institutional Relations (Internal)**

Our thanks to ITTF Oceania and to the European Table Tennis Union, for their invitations to attend their annual gatherings. Congratulations to the late Mr Anthony Ho, and to Mr Igor Levitin for their respective elections at their congresses as well as for the overall running of these virtual meetings for the first time.

Our appreciation also to the leadership of ITTF Americas, our youngest continental federation, a leading example of working together from diversity for the benefit of our sport. Mr Juan Vila became its first President during the elections held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the ITTF was invited to participate actively the General Assembly.

### **Membership**

In 2020, the Falklands Islands initiated contact with the ITTF in order to become our 227<sup>th</sup> member association. The application is supported by the Commonwealth Games Federation, and it will be presented to the 2021 AGM, for consideration.

### **Governance**

We mentioned before the sentence written by Dr Bach: *change or be changed*, in terms of governance, we need to make again reference to the IOC leader's comment: *Reforms never end*.

In 2020, it was surprising to see a number of ITTF member associations in opposition to having an ITTF General Assembly being organised virtually, and further, attempting to block the necessary constitutional reforms.

Pursuing my role as Secretary General, you can only imagine, or hope, that it was only a problem of communication. How can a member association prefer to keep the judicial power within the Executive Committee when it is the EC itself who proposes the separation of powers?

How can a Member Association try to block the constitutional right and necessity of having our Annual General Assembly? Either misguidance or misunderstanding is the only way to understand such positions. We hope it was a question of misunderstanding.

Luckily, the ITTF membership supported those reforms endorsed by both IOC and ASOIF with a large majority of over 90 per cent. I would like to invite those who do not wish to embrace good governance to reflect on their positions. It is the ITTF and the image of table tennis that is at stake. Political battles should not affect the image and the course of the sport we all love.

The incorporation of an ITTF Tribunal and the creation of an Integrity Unit were necessary steps, but once again, I would like to emphasise *Reforms never end*. We need to continue pursuing excellence in governance.

## **Operations**

Praise must go to our CFO, CEO and EVP of Finance in the area of financial control; when the pandemic hit the world, the ITTF reacted quickly and firmly. It is certainly one of the reasons for the healthy situation in which we find ourselves today.

## **Committees and Commissioners**

The pandemic helped to strengthen relations with those volunteers who humbly serve the sport, but also exposed frictions. The balance between volunteerisms and the need for professionalisation regarding the management of the sport is not always easy. On many occasions both, staff and volunteers work together, the sport as the primary concern, the result is very positive. Examples are there, with Ms Ahlert, Ms Crotta, Ms Kajee, Mr Ireland, Mr Oshodi and Mr Sporrer just to mention a few names of committee chairs and commissioners that work very closely with the ITTF staff and elected officials in harmony.

Conflicts arise in some cases; the efforts of all parties must be to ensure that the service to the ITTF family is kept as the priority. *Change or be changed*. It is inevitable.

## **Athletes' Commission**

In this year of pandemic, our thanks also go to the Athletes Commission and particularly to its Chair, Zoran Primorac, the two deputy chairs, Galia Dvorak and Dana Cechova, and the two Para TT representatives, Alena Kanova and Trevor Hirth, for their tireless work, particularly during the period of adjustment of the Olympic and Paralympic Games qualification system.

## **Multi-Sport Events**

The communication with the different multi-sport organisations has continued through 2020, although with a moderate pace compared to past years.

## **Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

At the time of presenting this report, luckily both the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been successfully organised. We will include details in our 2021 report.

## **A Life of Service to our Sport**

Countless people died during 2020 due to the pandemic, but three names are coming inevitably to my mind: the former ITTF EC member, Eng. Melecio Rivera, the President of the Thailand Table Tennis Association, Mr Piradej Pruttipruk, and one of the key organisers of the 2010 World Cadet Challenge and the 2012 World Junior Championships in Hyderabad, Mr Sultan Moosavi.

In their memory, and on the memory of all those passed away in 2020, we will hold a minute of silence at our next AGM.

## **Conclusions**

At the beginning of this report, I mentioned the exceptional circumstances in which everyone had to work in 2020. Once again, I want to thank the EC members for their devoted work in unprecedented times. My appreciation to the Continental Presidents, for their patience and understanding during the challenging pandemic period; to the CEO for keeping the calm and continuing guiding staff even in the darkest moments in which he was personally attacked in November 2020.

The utmost respect to the staff, for their sacrifices in a year which we will not easily forget but also, and primarily, to every member association that attended the 2020 virtual AGM, and supported–governance reforms, deciding to continue trusting this administration, working and developing table tennis in their territories.

In challenging times, it is time to be united for the sport we love; those who want to sow discord will never find peace, as they don't pursue noble causes, those who put their love for the sport as the primary goal will be rewarded sooner than later.

Working, certainly you will make mistakes. Some would have preferred the ITTF did nothing in 2020, but then, we would have remained in the middle tier of international federations, rather than making progress.

I must stress, particularly for those to be elected for positions on the ITTF EC and the Board in November 2021, to put global importance before personal, regional, or continental interest.

The precautionary measures taken in 2020 helped the ITTF to be today in a healthy situation. Let us profit from this position and start a new quadrennial working in unity to progress, to excel, to bring table tennis to new heights.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

Respectfully submitted,

**Raul Calin**

Secretary General

### Meetings

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no meetings of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission (OPC).

### Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Games were postponed to 2021, and exceptionally the Executive Committee, in close consultation with the Athletes' Commission and the IOC, dealt with the necessary adjustments of the Qualification System.

### Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games

The Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games were postponed to 2026.

### Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

In December 2020, the ITTF received the confirmation that the same five events as in Tokyo 2020 will be included in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games programme.

At the time of writing this report, the ITTF is still waiting for the IPC confirmation on the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games programme.

Respectfully submitted,

**Raul Calin**

Secretary General

(On behalf of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission)

# **DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINENTAL COUNCIL**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document C4**

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no meetings of the Development and Continental Council (DCC).

The Directors of High Performance and Development, Polona Cehovin, and Members Relations, Mounir Bessah, had meetings with the Continental Federations together with the ITTF EC Members in charge of each continent, to work on the necessary adjustments on the Development plans due to the pandemic.

With the World Championships being held in Houston in 2021, the meetings of the DCC will be hopefully resumed.

**Raul Calin**

Secretary General

(On behalf of the Development and Continental Council)



2020 and 2021 are being fruitful years in further strengthening sports integrity within ITTF.

Following the propositions and resolutions passed in the 2020 AGM, the ITTF Tribunal and the ITTF Integrity Unit were established.

#### **Appointment of the ITTF Head of Integrity**

The ITTF Integrity Unit is an operationally independent unit, headed by the ITTF Head of Integrity. After reviewing over 20 applications, Mr. Kevin Carpenter was eventually appointed to that role. Mr. Carpenter has over 10 years of sport integrity experience, having worked with the Council of Europe, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, IOC, FIFA, other sport governing bodies, Genius Sports, athletes and more. His impressive experience in this field extends to being counsel, investigator, arbitrator, lecturer, and researcher, as well as having played a part in setting up Badminton World Federation's integrity unit.

#### **Proposed reorganisation of the Ethics Commission**

With the establishment of the independent ITTF Integrity Unit, it is practical to consolidate the different sport integrity responsibilities into a single unit, instead of splitting overlapping roles between the ITTF Integrity Unit and the Ethics Commission. It is hoped that this consolidation will make ITTF's integrity framework easier to understand and increase accessibility to justice in sport. Therefore, it is intended for the Ethics Commission to be reorganised into the ITTF Integrity Board, which acts as an independent supervising body of the ITTF Integrity Unit. This reason forms the basis of Proposition A-06 presented by the ITTF Executive Committee to the 2021 AGM.

#### **Proposed implementation of the ITTF Integrity Regulations**

To provide greater clarity on the structure of the ITTF Integrity Unit and the process of investigation and prosecution, the ITTF Integrity Unit Regulations were formulated, submitted as the Annex to Proposition A-06, and is intended to form Chapter 9 of the 2022 ITTF Handbook.

#### **Appointment of Ethics Commission Members**

With 2021 being the year to appoint new members of the Ethics Commission, we are heartened to have received over 40 applications for two members and one chair. Interviews were conducted with outstanding applicants and shortlisted ones will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee before being presented to the ITTF Board of Directors for appointment. Following the proposed reorganisation of the Ethics Commission, the eventual appointed persons will be redesignated as ITTF Integrity Board members.

#### **Ethics and integrity complaints**

About ten complaints relating to ethics and integrity were processed in 2021. Three cases were resolved and closed, two complaints did not receive follow-up from the complainants, and the remaining matters are ongoing.

On behalf of the Ethics Commission,

**Dylan Mah**

Legal Counsel. Ethics Commission Officer

# EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (Paul Schiltz)

## Report to the AGM

Document D1

### Duty assignment since the meetings in Budapest

Paul **Schiltz**, chair, tables, racket control, racket coverings, research / Torsten **Küneth**, vice-chairman, balls / Phil **McCallum**, nets / Atsushi **Hasegawa**, floors / Wendy **Chim** and Ian **Zubar**, field-of-play in cooperation with URC / Fred **Yuanhua**, net gauges. Other full members: Piet **van Egmond** (resigned during 2021), Kagin **Lee** and corresponding members: Peyman **Abolhasani**, Anne **Boileau-Demaret**, Chong Il **Kim**, Sultan **Moosavi**, Rachel **Ramos**.

### General

The Equipment Committee is continuously working to maintain and improve the quality of table tennis equipment in order to provide reliable and safe playing conditions; new good equipment was approved.

Not all EqC members involved regularly or usefully to the work or discussions. Three did not give any feedback. Thank you to those, who contributed, especially by handling the approval of equipment.

### Approved/authorised Equipment – Evolution since 2015 – Label “ITTF approved”

Equipment (31.12.)	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Balls</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>97</b>	88	91
<b>Tables</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>130</b>	116	119
<b>Nets</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	52	54
<b>Floors</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	18	17
<b>Racket Coverings</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>1607</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>1548</b>	1483	1483

### Label “ITTF approved”, equipment research, consultancy, testing and certification

The EqC recommended to join the ITF (Tennis) Technical Centre in London for guiding research before implementation of equipment changes, and not set up an own expensive centre, requiring highly qualified personal, not only devices and space. Tennis and table tennis games follow the same law of the physics, except for racket, and this centre has best qualified staff and outside advisors.

Accredited independent Testing Institutes, with their qualified and experienced personal, shall provide the measurements, run the tests, verify the declarations of the suppliers about their equipment and also advise ITTF technically. It is most important that these Institutes remain distributed all over the world, and will not be located in only one country. Certification should then be given to the equipment by ITTF according to the test results. The performance of the institutes shall be supervised so that test results of the same item may only differ slightly.

An ITTF Equipment lab may provide some specific measurements as a consultancy for manufacturers and may achieve single measurements on already approved equipment, if a change is or will be operated, but not if safety is involved. It would be risky for the label, and not professional, if advice, test and then approval of an item would be in the hands of the same body. For “authorized” equipment, like racket coverings, this may be handled in a more flexible way. ITTF shall not purchase expensive laboratory apparatus, without getting independent advice of subsequent costs, maintenance and usefulness for more topics.

### Racket coverings, Racket control after the match

The Equipment Department took over all parts of the racket covering authorizations; the Committee was not involved nor informed.

Racket control shall include after-match dismantling, based on a prior decision of the referee, for items, which cannot be verified before a match. The dismantling shall exclusively check the legality of the blade. No measurement of the thickness of the dismantled rubber shall be operated.

## **FIT – Working groups about balls, tables, racket coverings and blades**

Numerous fruitful online meetings were held. These WG were initiated to have deeper understanding of each other. Manufacturers should deliver the best advice before ITTF makes decisions about equipment. Their help ITTF finding good issues for our sport is precious.

Unfortunately, FIT members consider that their (economical) considerations prevail and are decisive for the ITTF! By their approach and the echo that they get from the Equipment Department, projects like new materials for blades, friction harmonisation for tables blade authorization ... are obstructed or delayed.

## **Research: general – new materials for blades – friction - balls**

The proposition to permit new materials for blades failed by one vote at the AGM 2015. The EqC already reported that the subsequent research about a possible impact of new materials on table tennis was not successful. Despite of 3 theoretical and practical studies from 1994\* and 1996\*, which suggest that the strokes with spin may not be affected much by different properties of the solid, rigid blade but by other factors, the EqC could not agree on a proposition in favour, as members see no need and no other good reason for such a change. The manufacturers of the actual blades are opposed to a change.

The friction coefficient of the various table surface – ball combinations create very different playing conditions, with different bounces and table tennis games. The research data show it clearly and explain the influence. Subsequent measurements with a spinning ball dropped onto the table surfaces confirm. The manufacturers did not agree with change: neither with an information to the players about the friction (class, coefficient of friction) nor about a strong reduction of the permitted range. The EqC is still hesitating how to reduce the range of the actually measured coefficients of friction to half of it; unfortunately, the Athletes Commission until now did not officially inform if they prefer table surfaces with more or less grip. Compress the range less will not help out of the different games forcing the players to adapt their body position, their stroke movements to always new playing conditions and that the learnt simplifying processes are not valid. This affects the players' health and self-confidence, and finally is detrimental to our sport. Several studies and publications have proved it.

The research about tables has shown that the frictional properties of the ball also affect the bounce, but only half as much as the tables.

## **Technical leaflets – Changes and improvements to be implemented**

Efforts are made by the Equipment Department and Committee for a better structure, presentation and illustration of the Technical Leaflets and the administrative documents related to the approval and authorization process. Their web-design should permit to easily scroll through, but also “open and read more” interesting details, which may inform about equipment.

BoD is the constitutional body for the final and prior decision of contents of the technical leaflets; layout and design into well – presented manuals shall be entrusted to Equipment Committee and Department, with the substantial expert help of professional designers.

## **Paul Schiltz**

Chair of the Equipment Committee

### **Bibliography:**

\* *The Impact of the Table Tennis Ball on the Racket (Backside coverings)*, by Konrad Tiefenbacher (University of Karlsruhe, Germany) and Alain Durey (Ecole normale supérieure de Cachan, France) – International Journal of Table Tennis Sciences N.2 (August 1994).

\* *Collisional properties of ball-racket interactions in terms of normal and tangential coefficients of restitution* by Suguri Araki and Shinichi Sato and (Hofstra University, Hempstead, USA), Hitoshi Yamazaki (Tokorozawa Lb, Tamasu Co Ltd, Saitama, Japan) - International Journal of Table Tennis Sciences N.3 (August 1996).

\* *Research work and the development of rotation theory of table tennis in China* by Jiazheng Wang and Tianyung Liu (Beijing University of Physical Education, China) and Xin Wang (Tsinghua University, China) - International Journal of Table Tennis Sciences N.3 (August 1996).

## **OLYMPIC GAMES**

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 was played in 2021. It is just a sign, that nothing has been normal since the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the whole world and locked down almost all sports events in 2020.

Even without spectators we could all in distance follow a great table tennis event with a lot of fantastic and beautiful matches. Mixed doubles were introduced successfully.

In the teams event the playing format was changed. The first match was doubles and then in most matches the two highest ranked players against each other. There were no longer breaks in the match.

The new format did not make the matches more exciting. Too many matches still finish 3-0.

The 32 contests in the team event finished:

In Beijing 2008

Men 19: 3-0, 10: 3-1, 3: 3-2, Women: 24: 3-0, 4: 3-1, 4: 3-2

In London 2012:

Men 9: 3-0, 5:3-1 and 2: 3-2, Women: 14: 3-0 and 2: 3-1

In Rio 2016

Men 6: 3-0, 8: 3-1 and 2: 3-2. Women: 9: 3-0, 4: 3-1 and 3: 3-2

In Tokyo 2020

Men 9: 3-0, 4: 3-1 and 3: 3-2, Women 12: 3-0, 3: 3-1 and 1: 3-2

It would make the team event more exciting if the highest ranked team would enter in the second or third round like in the individual events.

In the total events 31 % of all games ended with a margin of 2 points, 15 % with 3 points margins, and in all games played there were an average of 18,38 points, or with other words, most games are very exciting.

### **TV ratings:**

Table tennis is the number one and most-watched sport in China at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Close to 350 million tuned in to watch CCTVs coverage from the women's team final. Both finals were ranked among the top 3 sports.

On WTT's official Chinese social media channels, the entire platform gained an increase of 270,000 followers. Weibo had over 100 million impressions and 300,000 engagements whilst

Douyin, its short video platform enjoyed over 200 million video views and reached more than three million engagements.

More than 17% of Japanese polled ranked table tennis as one of their most popular sports. 16% chose judo, followed by 12% in baseball, 6% in softball and track and field.

In the same poll, 22% of the female audience believed the most impressive event at the Games was table tennis. 12% of male audiences choose table tennis too.

### **Sport on social**

Redtorch research Sports on social League Table ranks all the Olympic federations by performance across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. ITTF is ranked 6 in 2021 (7 in 2020) of the 39 sports.

### **ITTF online video archive**

ITTF has established an on-line video archive. All the member associations will have the possibility of watching its own players matches through this dedicated service. You can watch and download any match your players have participated in, and every final of ITTF/WTT competitions from 2017.

### **WTT**

The Media and Marketing Department has brought the promotion and the coverage of table tennis to the next level. There have been a lot of discussions about the creation of WTT. But most people have agreed that the level of the presentation of the Games, the new design of the court, new colours, new tv angles and a new APP has reached a new level for promotion, presentation, and coverage of the sport.

The launching of the WTT was not perfect timed with the COVID-19 pandemic, but fortunately it was possible to complete some tournaments and see some of the potentials the new format has.

2020 was not a fantastic year but wait and see, 2021 will be better and the years after look pretty and prosperous for table tennis.

### **Arne Madsen**

Chair of the Media Committee

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Wahid Enitan Oshodi)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document D3**

The composition of the Nominations Committee as at the time of the proposed 2020 AGM which sadly could not hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic remained unchanged since the 2018 appointments:

Chair: Wahid Enitan OSHODI (NGR), Deputy Chair: Abdulla AL-MULLA (QAT), Members: Andreas GEORGIOU (CYP), Sandra DEATON (ENG), Lotfi GUERFEL (TUN), Henry REIMBERG (CHI), David JACKSON (CAN) and Matthias VATHEUER (GER).

Thereafter having served out their terms, the Executive Committee of the ITTF duly appointed the following persons into the Committee for a two-year term commencing on 21st day of December, 2020 for the 2020 – 2022 term. The appointees are: - Chair: Wahid Enitan OSHODI (NGR), Deputy Chair: Abdulla AL-MULLA (QAT), Members: Andreas GEORGIOU (CYP), Sandra DEATON (ENG), Lotfi GUERFEL (TUN) and Kook-Hee AN (KOR). The other statutory members and Ex-Officio members include ITTF EVP Masahiro MAEHARA (JPN), the ITTF President, ITTF CEO and Presidents of the Continental Federations. The Committee was completed with ITTF Secretary-General Raul Calin. It is heartening to see that a large majority of the 2018 – 2020 membership have been reappointed. This is a great testimony to the satisfactory work of the Committee.

The main duty of the Committee under its Terms of Reference is to validate and forward recommendations to the Executive Committee in respect of nominations by Member Associations to the various permanent committees and commissions, taking into consideration important criteria as gender representation, competence, experience, skills, commitment, diversity, relevant area specific knowledge and a fair and equitable distribution among member associations and continents. The Committee is also empowered to review the work of Committee members.

The Committee is also saddled with the important task of recommending worthy candidates to the Executive Committee from nominations made by National Associations for receipt of the ITTF Merit Awards.

The scope of the work of the Nominations Committee has duly increased with the addition of the following under listed tasks to its Terms of Reference: -

a. Review of Applicants suitability for appointment as Chairperson and Members of the ITTF Tribunal (the judicial/arbitral body for the ITTF) and Recommendation of most suitable Applicants in line with the ITTF Tribunal regulations to the ITTF Board of Directors who make the necessary appointments. This has been satisfactorily completed and it is noteworthy that the Committees recommendations were duly accepted by the ITTF Board of Directors.

b. Review and screening of Applicants for the position of ITTF Head of Integrity and thereafter forward the names of suitable Applicants to the ITTF Executive Committee who are statutorily empowered to make the final appointment.

c. Conduct a Review of the Rules and Electoral Processes to be considered in the Appointment or Election of persons into ITTF Key positions. This has been completed and the recommendations incorporated into the Rules and same have been sent out to all Member Associations along with the Forms for nominations into ITTF Key positions. This Rules are in line with the best practices of the best international organizations.

d. The Nominations Committee has also been tasked with the ad-hoc duty of reviewing the bids from Member Associations for the hosting of the Annual General Meeting and making due recommendations to the ITTF Executive Committee for selection of the most suitable Host Association.

The work of the Committee has been greatly hindered due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, virtual meetings and communications via email assisted us in no small way in achieving most of our tasks.

The ITTF had requested for member associations to submit names of nominees for membership of its committees to serve a two (2) year term from 2021 – 2023. In fulfilling this task, it is hoped that member nations will heed the call of the Executive Committee in making nominations that will lead to an increase in the diversity of our committees, especially with regard to female candidates, thereby increasing the gender balance as recommended by the International Olympic Committee and other global bodies. It is also hoped that more nominations will be received from a wider group of nations as we note sadly that less than one fifth of the total membership of the ITTF had submitted nominations for these positions in the past. A concerted effort has to be made in increasing awareness and it is suggested that Continental Presidents would be a good ally in reaching out to their members to put forward qualified candidates for nominations into the committees as this would help greatly in spreading the work of the ITTF to more of its members.

## **CONCLUSION**

The ITTF Nominations Committee working in conjunction with the ITTF CEO, Secretary General and the ex officio members and Continental Presidents hope to continue to ensure that all tasks remitted to our committee will be dealt with fairly, transparently and with dispatch. We are quite aware of the importance of the work of the committee, and it is very important that we continue to carry out our tasks without bias. We also hope to continue to make progress by adhering to the criteria which we had earlier formulated in the selection of future committee members in the fervent hope that this would result in more qualified members being appointed into the various committees, while also increasing the diversity and inclusivity of all those serving in our committees.

The most important work in this regard will again include proffering advice on the relevant criteria for all Member Associations to take on board when nominating candidates to serve on the various committees. In our last recommendations it is noted that although we had increased the participation for female members, but we are still below the threshold proposed by the IOC and various international organizations.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On behalf of the Committee, I must extend our heartfelt thanks to the ITTF General Secretary, Raul Calin for his tireless support for the work of the Committee.

We must also give thanks to the ITTF President and the Executive Committee for finding us worthy of being reappointed to the Committee. The ITTF CEO Mr. Steve Dainton and special thanks to my Deputy Chair and all our committee members, for taking out the time to make their excellent contributions timeously. I must commend our departing colleagues Messrs. David Jackson, Henry Reimberg, and Matthias Vatheuer, who had served the committee diligently. We shall miss their insightful contributions and we wish them well in all their pursuits.

Finally, I also offer up our great thanks to the staff of the ITTF with special regard to Charlotte Lourdes and Dylan Mah for providing the needed support to the work of the Nominations Committee.

Thank you.

**Wahid Enitan Oshodi**

Chair of the Nominations Committee



## **PARA TABLE TENNIS (Constantina Crotta)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document D4**

The year 2020 will remain in the history of sport not as example of outstanding sporting excellence, but as the year that due to the pandemic, Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were forced to be postponed.

In order to protect the health of the players, spectators and all others involved in Para Table Tennis, all Para events from April 2020 were postponed or cancelled.

In the beginning of the year before the lockdown, four competitions took place in Chile, Egypt, Poland and Spain.

Waiting for the restart of Table Tennis the Competition Managers for Para Competitions received several seminars in order to be familiar to the OVR software.

### **Constantina Crotta**

Chair of the Para Table Tennis Committee

## **RULES COMMITTEE (Rudi Sporrer)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document D5**

I suppose this is not the only report to the AGM mentioning the strange pandemic situation as a significant hindrance for committees' actions. However, the ITTF Rules Committee can report about some significant activities during the 2020-2021 period:

### **Questions / Interpretations on Rules**

Understandably the Rules Committee had to deal with a reduced number of questions and inquiries about table tennis laws and regulations than in former years (2020/21: 63, early 2020: 78, 2019: 90, 2018: 168). This time most requests referred to players' eligibility, but there was a number of other interesting matters which were discussed at length within our Committee.

One of the major eligibility issues was the Great Britain Olympic eligibility of a Northern Irish player being eligible to represent the Irish Table Tennis Association. Actually, the interpretation of our rules at this case was not really difficult, but it should be mentioned that the unique situation of our Irish member Association, controlling table tennis at territories of two different countries occasionally might be considered a challenging one.

Another comprehensive debate within the Committee related to the introduction of the "Table Tennis Review" technology (TTR). Such system would be welcomed unanimously as an important step forward but would require some thorough rules modifications in the future.

### **Preparation Meetings for the 2020 AGM and Board of Directors Meeting**

The Rules Committee had two fruitful and well attended virtual meetings (on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep and on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020) for discussing propositions and resolutions to the 2020 AGM and BoD.

At another online meeting in November 2020 some essential issues affecting our Committees were discussed with the Chairman of the Umpires & Referees Committee, Mr. Ma Young-Sam.

### **World Table Tennis (WTT)**

There were a few minor issues on the introduction of WTT events. It seems that questions regarding deviations from the ITTF Regulations for International Competitions will be under control soon.

### **Open Questions**

One mainly formal problem to be solved at the time of writing this report seems to be the inconsistency between denominations of recently introduced new youth age categories (3.7.4.2) and the "World Junior Championships" rules (4.2). We can be positive to find a perfect solution in 2021.

### **Ethics Commission**

It was intended by the AGM to have a new and entirely independent composition of the Ethics Commission from the beginning of 2021 on. Nevertheless, during a transition period the Rules Committee chair is still officiating ex officio as chair of the ITTF Ethics Commission.

## **Committee Structure and Composition**

I am pleased to state that the communication within this ITTF Committee works really well. All members were participating in discussions and were frequently answering whenever replies were requested. As the Chairman of this ITTF body I am especially proud to mention that three out of six full members of the Rules Committee are females and another 2 women act as corresponding members.

Another time my sincere thanks go to all committee members and in particular to the Deputy Chairman, Prof. Chan Cheong Ki, for their highly appreciated contributions.

Let me also express my special thanks to our Secretary General, Mr. Raul Calin; to the young but competent ITTF legal counsel and Ethics Commission Officer Dylan Mah; to my colleagues - the chairpersons of the Athletes Commission; the Umpires & Referees Committee; and the Equipment Committee; as well as to the Technical Commissioner, Mr. Graeme Ireland, for their great support.

## **Rudi Sporrer**

Chair of the Rules Committee

In year 2020 the ITTF's Sport Science and Medical Committee (SSMC) has proceeded with the work on different fields of sports science and sports medicine. Even though 2020 was marked with COVID-19 situation, we have been active through active help to the ITTF EC. Our primary responsibility at the start of 2020 was cooperation with the ITTF regarding information's on COVID-19 situation and prevention, as well as the next ITTF Sports Science Congress, which was appointed to Houston in 2021.

We have accomplished some activities since the beginning of 2020, and we expect to accomplish others prior to the next Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020 (in 2021).

1. The most important activity at the start of year 2020 was follow up on COVID-19 spread around the world. At the beginning of the year Dr. Matsuo and Prof. Kondric have informed the ITTF EC on development of disease and spread of the virus. After pandemic was announced ITTF SSMC has actively cooperated in preparation of COVID-19 guidelines for member associations.
2. In February, Prof. Miran Kondrič was invited as a guest speaker at the International Scientific Conference "*Youth in the perspective of the Olympic movement*" in Brasov, Romania.
3. Between March 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> International Federations' Medical Commission Chairpersons meeting was organized in Monaco. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Congress on illnesses and injuries in sport was cancelled.
4. The ITTF SSMC has been playing an active role in the development of global university-level coach education project, which has been run by the SSCM member Prof. Goran Munivrana. In year 2020 six candidates (*Soma Fekete (HUN)*; *Matas Skučas (LTU)*; *Darko Arapović (CRO)*; *Jason David Luini (ITA)*; *Dominique Plattner (AUT)*; *Tomislav Kolarek (CRO)*) have successfully graduated and by doing so obtained the professional title BACHELOR OF KINESIOLOGY - SPORTS COACHING (Professional bachelor of Table Tennis).
5. Members of ITTF SSMC are actively involved in review procedure of the and editorial work for the *International Journal of Racket Sports Science*.
6. During ITTF BoD meeting in November JTТА and ITTF Sports Science and Medical Committees launched the book JTТА meets ITTF on the way to Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The book includes content of all the meetings which have been organized every year in period 2014 - 2019.
7. In December we have received notice from Clarivate Analytics that the book *Science and racket Sports V*, which was published in connection with 14<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress in Suzhou in 2015 was included into Web of Science. After proceedings books from 2015 and 2017 this is already third book which was included in most important scientific database.
8. In December we have also sent 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Science and racket sports* to Clarivate Analytics for evaluation and inclusion into Web of Science. This scientific monograph is

the result of the 6<sup>th</sup> *World Congress of Racket Sport Science* and ITTF is one of the publishers. We expect final decision on inclusion by the end of year 2021.

9. During the whole 2020 year and especially at the end of the year we have been working on Proceeding's book of the 16<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress which was organized last year in Budapest. Editorial work is in final phase and the book will be published in first part of January 2021.
10. Following the conclusion and decision of 2018's gathering in Tokyo, postdoctoral student Kei Kamijima in July completed her postdoctoral study at the University of Ljubljana. Kei has worked at the University of Ljubljana where she has spent 10 months period during the 2019-2020 academic year under the supervision of Prof. Miran Kondrič. This grant was a result of our previous JTТА/ITTF SSMC meetings. We thank JTТА-SSMC and Niigata University for their cooperation.
11. ITTF SSMC members took part at several webinars organized by ITTF.
12. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Masahiro Maehara, for his contribution to the work of the ITTF SSMC regarding scientific topics and cooperation with the JTТА/SSMC. Thanks also to all members of the ITTF SSMC who have shown a great dedication to fulfil all the tasks that have been put in front of them, by successfully conducting the work in sports science, education, anti-doping fight and sports medicine, especially in those hard COVID-19 times. I also would like to thank CEO Steve Dainton for his support of our activities in the field of sports science and medicine as well as the Secretary General Raul Calin.

#### **Tasks to Be Fulfilled prior to Tokyo 2020 OG:**

- Conducting activities for the "17<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress.
- Finalising Proceedings book of 16<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress.
- Inclusion of Proceedings book of 16<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress into Web of Science.
- Proposing to the ITTF EC studies which should be supported by the ITTF.

#### **Prof. Miran Kondrič, PhD**

Chair of the Sport Science and Medical Committee

**1. Selection and Work of "Match Officials"**

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 situation, only in two World Tour Platinum events, two World Tour events and the World Team Qualification and the Europe Top 16 ITTF URC has selected the referee team and the umpires for the events and the presence during the event as well as the daily allowance and the travel costs have been according to the Directives for Match Officials.

The invitation for the World Tour and World Tour Platinum events 2020 were published in October 2020 and the selection started in December 2020.

The selection system did not only ensure that umpires with excellent performances in the recent years have been selected but also an excellent distribution between associations has been in place. In each event at least one official has/had to come from another continent and as far as possible it was ensured that only one official per country was present in the final stage of an event (except the host).

**2. Performance Assessment**

In 2020 ITTF URC officially started with performance assessment instead of evaluations at Category A events (World Tour, World Tour Platinum, World Titles) due to the results of the pilot project in 2019.

Umpires working in Category A events are selected based on expected high level of performance; these umpires have been assessed during the whole event in all fields and the result will be used for future selections.

Guidelines have been published to guarantee a transparent procedure.

**3. International Referee School**

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation ITTF URC had to cancel International Referee School and International Referee Conference.

**4. Referee Toolbox**

A toolbox with 13 documents is available for all referees and is updated regularly; this is to provide guidelines and help standardise procedures in all tournaments.

**5. Referee Career Development**

The Referee Career Development document, which provides a clear pathway for all referees, has been updated.

A total of 130 active referees have been working in 2020 for ITTF and 15 referees are Advanced Referees. 88 referees are inactive.

**6. Umpire Career Development**

The Umpire Career Development document, which provides a clear pathway for all referees, has been published and a new status "Gold Badge" has been introduced.

**7. Selection and Work of Match officials in WTT-Events**

A working group led by Dimosthenis Messinis is in the phase of drafting standards for match officials for WTT events. ITTF URC is presented by Werner Thury in this working group.

**8. IU Exam**

2020 was the biannual International Umpire Examination year. It was also for the first time the examination was conducted online, thanks to the initiation and collaboration with ITTF

Education. In total there were 350 new International Umpires from 65 countries. A subsequent Webinar was held to discuss in general the areas that most candidates had difficulties with. This was very well received.

#### **9. AUT, ARE and Evaluations**

There were only two events held early in the year with Evaluations. All other planned events were cancelled due to the pandemic.

#### **10. Revised AUT Structure**

The current 1-day Advanced Umpire Training (AUT) along with the writing of Advanced Rules Examination (ARE) have been in place since the Blue Badge Programme was introduced back in 2003. Contents of the AUT have been updated as time goes, but the basic course structure remains the same. The most frequent feedback has been that the 1-day course is insufficient to cover all the critical information. A working group of experienced trainers was formed to examine the current AUT structure and comes up with a revised AUT structure. The revised structure composes of 3 parts. Part A is a self-study with supervision from designated trainers. Part B is an on-line course composed of 2 sessions, 3-hour each. Part C is a 1-day face to face onsite course similar to the current practice.

#### **11. Acknowledgement**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow URC members, mentors and special advisors for their kind help and guidance. I also want to thank the ITTF leaders and their staff members for providing their full support to the work of the URC.

**Young-sam Ma**

Chair of the Umpires and Referees Committee

### **1. Composition of the committee (Period 2019 - 2021)**

Reto Bazzi (Switzerland / Europe), Chair; Galal Ezz (Egypt / Africa), Hyunsook Chung (Korea / Asia), Ina Jozepsone (Latvia / Europe), Christine Jones (Australia / Oceania), Hans Westling (Sweden / Europe), Swaythling Club International (SCI) / World Veterans Championships Committee (WVC).

### **2. Committee meetings / Communication**

Because the World Championships 2020 in Busan/KOR have been cancelled, meetings were during the last year unfortunately not possible.

The Chairperson communicated with the committee members mainly through e-mail correspondence.

### **3. Committee's activities**

#### **3.1 Support SCI in organising World Veteran Championships**

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic situation, the 20th World Veteran Championships (WVC) in June 2020 in Bordeaux / FRA could not be organised. The next World Veteran Championships are scheduled for January 15th to 21st 2023 in Muscat / Oman and will be under the full responsibility of the ITTF.

I attended all the meetings of the SCI Executive Committee and the meetings of the WVC Committee.

**3.2 Encourage continental and national federations to promote veterans' table tennis activities**  
There was a continuous good exchange and co-operation with Chairpersons of Continental Veterans Committees.

**3.3 Support continental and national federations in preparing ranking lists for veteran players**  
With the start of the World Veterans Tour (WVT) a special ranking system was introduced by the ITTF.

#### **3.4 Update veterans' activities on the ITTF Website**

Due to the cancellation of most of the veteran's events, not many articles about such events could be published on the website.

As usual at least the veterans' calendar was regularly updated by Hans Westling and published on the website.



#### **4. Appreciation**

I take the opportunity to express my thanks to the committee members for their support and contributions during the last year.

I also express my sincere thanks to the chairpersons of the continental veterans' committees, the EC and WVC Committee members of the SCI and all ITTF staff members for the always good co-operation.

**Reto Bazzi**

Chair of the Veterans Committee

## 2020 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Report to the AGM

Document E1

**DISTRIBUTED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT**



## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-01 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.1.3.3.1

1.1.3.3.1 The ITTF Tribunal ~~shall~~ **has jurisdiction to** impose appropriate disciplinary sanctions from warnings to exclusions from all kind of activity in the ITTF, when a complaint of harassment has been substantiated **or** ~~The same disciplinary sanctions shall be imposed~~ if a false accusation has been substantiated.

To amend Article 1.2.3.6

1.2.3.6 The ~~ITTF Tribunal~~ **Executive Committee** may act to propose the termination to the AGM, suspend or otherwise sanction an Association pending the AGM or EGM, provided that: if it infringes the ITTF Constitution, other Regulations, and ITTF Tribunal decisions. **Such decision is subject to an appeal to the ITTF Tribunal.**

To amend Article 1.8.2.2

1.8.2.2 The ITTF Tribunal shall have a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, and up to six **other** members ~~at large~~.

To amend Article 1.8.3.1

1.8.3.1 The ITTF recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes arising from this Constitution or other ITTF rules and regulations, or decisions of the ITTF which cannot be settled by the ITTF internal or external ~~appeal~~ **dispute resolution** processes **(including the ITTF Tribunal)** as established in these regulations except for ITTF Para Table Tennis classification matters, which final appeal body shall be the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal of Classification (IPC BAC). The parties concerned shall undertake to comply with the Statutes and procedural rules of this Court of Arbitration for Sport and to accept and enforce its decisions, which are final.

*Rationale:*

*To refine terminology and phrasing after the first year of operations of the ITTF Tribunal.*

*To clarify powers provided under Article 1.2.3 should be exercised by the Executive Committee but the Association sanctioned under Article 1.2.3 may appeal such decision to the ITTF Tribunal.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-02 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Articles 1.1.4.1.5 and 1.1.4.1.12 and to add Articles 1.1.4.1.13, 1.1.4.1.14, 1.1.4.1.15 and 1.1.4.1.16

1.1.4.1.5 to establish and enforce the Constitution, the Laws of Table Tennis, the Regulations for International Competitions, the Regulations for World, Olympic and Paralympic Title Competitions, the Anti-Doping Rules, the Code of Ethics, the Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures, the ITTF Tribunal Regulations, the ITTF Integrity Regulations, ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations, and any other ITTF regulations.

....

1.1.4.1.12 to promote gender-parity and equity in all levels of table tennis ~~to encourage and to support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and to ensure significant representation of women in ITTF committees, commissions and working groups.~~

1.1.4.1.13 to promote Para Table Tennis;

1.1.4.1.14 to advocate for the physical and mental health of players and officials;

1.1.4.1.15 to represent the sport of Table Tennis before the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and other international organisations;

1.1.4.1.16 to direct, develop, regulate, control and discipline any and all virtual / electronic table tennis activities and competitions under all forms worldwide and to organize world championships of which it is the sole holder and owner;

*Rationale:*

*To update the provision with new ITTF regulations sought to be added during 2021's AGM and BoD meeting and to define new objectives needed currently.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-03 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.2.3.4

1.2.3.4 An Association which ~~seriously and persistently fails to maintain~~ is in serious, repeated, or continuous breach of this Constitution, any other rule or regulation of the ITTF Handbook, any decision of the Executive Committee, or any decision of any judicial body, ~~the principles or to respect the Constitution and decisions of the ITTF~~ may be censured, fined, suspended or expelled by an AGM or EGM by a two-thirds majority; ~~a suspension may be cancelled by an AGM or EGM by a two thirds majority.~~

1.2.3.4.1 A suspension pursuant to Article 1.2.3.4 may be lifted by an AGM or EGM by a two thirds majority.

1.2.3.4.12 In a case of a suspension, the AGM or EGM may allow players from the suspended Association to compete in events under the jurisdiction and flag of the ITTF.

*Rationale:*

*To lower the threshold of “seriously and persistently” (conjunctive) to “or” (disjunctive) for the supreme governing body.*

*To tidy up the provision by moving the second sentence of Article 1.2.3.4 to Article 1.2.3.4.1*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-04 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.2.3.7

1.2.3.7 ~~The Association which has been suspended or expelled may appeal to the Court of Arbitration of Sport.~~ This Article 1.2.3 is in addition to and does not limit any other powers that exist under this Constitution or any other rule or regulation of the ITTF Handbook to suspend, remove, or otherwise sanction any Association.

*Rationale:*

*To clarify that this route of sanction by the AGM or EGM is in addition to any other powers to sanction (e.g. the ITTF Tribunal) and is not the only Article by which an Association can be sanctioned.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-05 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend article 1.3.1.1

1.3.1.1. There shall be five continental federations, one each from the geographical regions of Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

~~Associations may group themselves into Continental Federations for the purpose of promoting and regulating table tennis within a given continental area; s~~ Such Federations shall be supported and encouraged by the ITTF, which shall co-operate with them in all matters, provided that the constitution, general principles, rules and policy of the Continental Federation conform to those of the ITTF.

*Rationale:*

*To ensure alignment with the five continents recognised by IOC and IPC and to explicitly indicate the continental federations recognized by the ITTF.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-06 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.4.1

1.4.1. The ITTF defines the following Honorary positions. In order to obtain or maintain its Honorary positions, individuals may conduct or be subject to, under the request of the ITTF ~~Ethics Commission~~ Integrity Unit, annual checks, including but not limited to the signature of conflict-of-interest declarations, and remain available for background checks as required by the ITTF ~~Ethics Commission~~ Integrity Unit. In the occurrence of a lack of cooperation, ~~the Ethics Commission may refer the case to~~ the ITTF Integrity Unit ~~for prosecution before the ITTF Tribunal~~ may take further actions pursuant to the ITTF Integrity Regulations. ~~If the case of a lack of cooperation is made out, the ITTF Tribunal may issue sanctions in accordance with the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.~~

To amend Article 1.5.1.8.1.7

1.5.1.8.1.7 the receipt of reports from the Olympic and Paralympic Commission, the Development and Continental Council, ~~and the Ethics Commission~~ the ITTF Integrity Unit, and the ITTF Tribunal.

To amend Article 1.5.3.1.2

1.5.3.1.2 to appoint the committee Chairs according to 1.5.3.6 and all the members of the Finance and Audit Committee and all the members of the ~~Ethics Commission~~ Integrity Board with voting rights.

To amend Article 1.5.5

...

1.5.5.2 The ITTF Integrity Unit shall be supervised by the Integrity Board and shall consist of the Head of Integrity and such other officers necessary for the ITTF Integrity Unit to carry out its responsibilities.

1.5.5.3 As an independent unit of the ITTF, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall ~~directly report to the ITTF President, subject to Article 1.5.5.4~~ be directly accountable to the AGM (or EGM).

1.5.5.4 ~~Where a case under investigation or prosecution involves the ITTF President, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall report to the Board of Directors. Where a case under investigation or prosecution involves a Board of Directors member or an Executive Committee member other than the ITTF President, the ITTF Integrity Unit will report to the ITTF President and the AGM (or EGM).~~ The ITTF Integrity Unit shall carry out its duties and exercise its powers and authority in accordance with the ITTF Integrity Regulations.



## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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To amend Article 1.5.8.4

1.5.8.4 The ~~Ethics Commission~~ Integrity Board

1.5.8.4.1 The ~~Ethics Commission~~ Integrity Board shall be composed of at least 3 independent members (each with voting rights) appointed by the Board ~~plus one ITTF staff (without vote)~~, one member of the ITTF Executive Committee (without voting rights) and the ITTF Head of Integrity (without voting rights).

1.5.8.4.2 ~~The terms of office of the Ethics Commission shall coincide with that of the Executive Committee.~~

To amend Article 3.5.2.13

3.5.2.13 ~~Sanctions for offences under the provisions of 3.5.2 may be presented by the ITTF Integrity Unit to the ITTF Tribunal in accordance with the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.~~ The ITTF Integrity Unit may take further action for any serious, repeated or continuous violation of any provision under Article 3.5.2 and seek an imposition of one or more sanctions pursuant to the ITTF Integrity Regulations or the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

To amend Article 3.5.3.4

3.5.3.4 ~~Sanctions for offences under the provisions of 3.5.3 may be presented by the ITTF Integrity Unit to the ITTF Tribunal in accordance with the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.~~ The ITTF Integrity Unit may take further action for any serious, repeated or continuous violation of any provision under Article 3.5.3 and seek an imposition of one or more sanctions pursuant to the ITTF Integrity Regulations or the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

To amend Article 6.6.1

6.6.1 The principle of confidentiality shall be strictly respected by the ~~Ethics Commission~~ ITTF Integrity Unit in all its activities. It must also be strictly respected by any person concerned ~~by~~ with the activities of the ~~Ethics Commission~~ ITTF Integrity Unit.

To amend Article 6.7.1

6.7.1 The Table Tennis ~~p~~Parties shall inform the ~~Ethics Commission Officer~~ ITTF Integrity Unit, in the strictest ~~confidentiality~~ confidence and ~~by using the appropriate mechanisms of any information~~ through the prescribed mechanisms related to a violation of the Code of Ethics, ~~with a view to possible referral to the Ethics Commission~~. Any disclosure of information must not be for personal gain or benefit, nor be undertaken maliciously to damage the reputation of any person or organisation.

To amend the following provisions under Article 6.8

6.8.1 The ~~Ethics Commission~~ ITTF Integrity Unit may set out the provisions for the implementation of the present Code in a set of Implementing Provisions, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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6.8.2 The ~~Ethics Commission Officer is available to~~ ITTF Head of Integrity shall ~~the Ethics Commission to~~ disseminate and implement the present Code.

6.8.3.1 The ~~Ethics Commission~~ ITTF Integrity Unit, considering that

### 6.8.3.3.1 **Candidature documentation**

Candidates may present to the national associations their plans and views as the future President, in the form of a written document, whatever the means used to distribute it.

A copy shall be submitted to the ~~Ethics Commission Officer~~ ITTF Integrity Unit.

### 6.8.3.3.6 **Visits**

Visits to Member Associations organised specifically in connection with a candidature shall be reported to the ~~Ethics Commission Officer~~ ITTF Integrity Unit.

### 6.8.3.5.3 **Concealed Promotion**

Concealed promotion in the form of technical meetings or other events is prohibited. These may be added to the official calendar of events only with the approval of the ~~Ethics Commission~~ ITTF Integrity Unit.

### 6.8.3.6.1. **Competent body**

Any interested party shall bring any breach of these Directions to the attention of the ~~Ethics Commission~~ ITTF Integrity Unit, which will undertake ~~an inquiry~~ further actions in accordance with the ITTF Integrity Regulations.

### 6.8.3.6.2 ~~Sanctions~~

~~6.8.3.6.2.1 If there is proof of a breach of these Directions, the Ethics Commission may make to the candidate in question:~~

~~6.8.3.6.2.1.1 observations, which could be made public,~~

~~6.8.3.6.2.1.2 or issue a warning, which will be automatically made public on the ITTF website.~~

~~6.8.3.6.2.2 In the event of a serious breach of these Directions, the case shall be referred to the Executive Committee for possible sanctions.~~

### 6.8.3.6.3 ~~Specific provisions~~ Application of the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations

~~Prior to examination, by the Nominations Committee, of a candidature for election as President, a candidate must declare any risks of conflicts of interests to the Ethics Commission Officer. The attention of the candidate may be drawn to any potential conflicts of interests identified. This does not exempt the candidate concerned from making subsequent declarations pursuant to the Rules Concerning Conflict of Interests.~~ The ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations shall apply to the procedures set out in Article 6.8.3 and if any conflict or ambiguity arises, the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations shall prevail.

To delete Article 6.9.4, 6.9.5, 6.9.10 and 6.11 as they are already covered under the proposed ITTF Integrity Regulations.

### ~~6.9.4 INVESTIGATING A BREACH~~

- ~~6.9.4.1 Any allegation or suspicion of a violation of any provision under rule 6.9.2 shall be reported to the ITTF Integrity Unit for investigation and possible charge in accordance with this rule. The ITTF Integrity Unit may conduct an investigation into the activities of any participant that it believes may have committed a violation of these rules and may appoint one or more persons for this purpose. Such investigation may be conducted in conjunction with relevant competent national or international authorities (including criminal, administrative, professional and/or judicial authorities) and all participants must co-operate fully with such investigations. The ITTF Integrity Unit shall have discretion, where it deems it appropriate, to stay its own investigation pending the outcome of investigations conducted by other competent authorities.~~
- ~~6.9.4.2 As part of any such investigation, if the ITTF Integrity Unit reasonably suspects that a participant has committed a violation of these rules, it may make a written demand to such participant for information that is related to the alleged violation and/or require the attendance of such participant for interview, or a combination of the two. Any interview shall be at a time and place to be determined by the ITTF Integrity Unit and the relevant participant shall be given reasonable notice in writing of the requirement to attend. Interviews shall be recorded and the participant shall be entitled to have legal counsel and an interpreter present.~~
- ~~6.9.4.3 By participation in a competition, each participant shall be deemed to have agreed for the purposes of applicable data protection laws and other laws, and for all other purposes, to have consented to the collection, processing, disclosure or any other use of information relating to his or her activities (including without limitation personal information) to the extent permitted under these rules and shall confirm such agreement in writing upon demand.~~

### ~~6.9.5 ISSUING A NOTICE OF CHARGE~~

- ~~6.9.5.1 Where following an investigation the ITTF Integrity Unit determines that there is a case for the participant to answer under rule 6.9.2, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall issue the participant with a written notice of charge setting out the following:~~
- ~~6.9.5.1.1 The specific violation(s) that the participant is alleged to have committed;~~
- ~~6.9.5.1.2 The facts upon which such allegation(s) are based;~~
- ~~6.9.5.1.3 The range of sanctions applicable under the rules for such violations;~~
- ~~6.9.5.1.4 Details relating to the participant's response to the notice of charge within a specified deadline; and~~
- ~~6.9.5.1.5 The participant's right to have the matter determined by a hearing.~~
- ~~6.9.5.2 The notice of charge shall also specify that, if the participant wishes to exercise his or her right to a hearing, he or she must submit a written request for a hearing so that it is received by the ITTF Integrity Unit as soon as possible but in any event within 14 days of receipt of the notice of charge. The request must state how the participant responds to the charge and must explain (in summary form) the basis for such response.~~

## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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- ~~6.9.5.3 — If the participant fails to file a written request for a hearing by the specified deadline, he or she shall be deemed to have:~~
- ~~6.9.5.3.1 — waived his or her right to a hearing;~~
- ~~6.9.5.3.2 — admitted that he or she has committed the violation(s) specified in the notice of charge; and~~
- ~~6.9.5.3.3 — acceded to the range of applicable sanctions specified in the notice of charge.~~
- ~~6.9.5.4 — Where the participant requests a hearing in accordance with rule 6.9.6.1, the matter shall proceed to a hearing in accordance with the ITTF Tribunal Regulations. Where the participant is deemed to have waived his or her right to a hearing and to have admitted the violation(s) in accordance with rule 6.9.5.3.2, any hearing held at the ITTF Tribunal's discretion shall be limited to determining the applicable sanctions only.~~
- ~~6.9.5.5 — In any case where the ITTF Integrity Unit decides to charge a participant with a violation under these rules, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall have discretion, in circumstances where it considers that the integrity of the sport could otherwise be seriously undermined, to provisionally suspend the participant pending the relevant tribunal's determination of whether the participant has committed a violation. A provisional suspension shall be effective from the date of notification to the participant in accordance with these rules. Alternatively, the participant may accept a voluntary suspension from competition provided that it is confirmed in writing to the ITTF Integrity Unit. A voluntary suspension shall be effective only from the date of receipt of the participant's written confirmation of such to the ITTF Integrity Unit.~~
- ~~6.9.5.6 — A decision to impose a provisional suspension on a participant shall not be subject to appeal.~~
- ~~6.9.5.7 — If a participant retires whilst a disciplinary procedure under these rules is underway, the ITTF Tribunal shall retain jurisdiction to complete the relevant procedure. If the participant retires before any disciplinary procedure has begun, the ITTF Tribunal shall nevertheless have jurisdiction to conduct the relevant procedure.~~

### ~~6.9.10 — STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS~~

- ~~6.9.10.1 — No action may be commenced under these rules against a participant for a violation of these rules unless such action is commenced within eight (8) years from the date on which the violation occurred.~~
- ~~6.9.10.2 — Subject to 6.9.10.1 above, the ITTF Integrity Unit may temporarily suspend any investigations under the rules to avoid prejudice to and/or to give precedence to, investigations conducted by the relevant authorities into the same or related matters.~~

### ~~6.11 — Ethics Commission~~

#### ~~6.11.1 Organisation~~

- ~~6.11.1.1 — The Ethics Commission shall be independent, as defined in the ITTF Constitution 1.5.7.4.~~

## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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- ~~6.11.1.1.1 The staff member will act as secretary to the Commission, with who shall have speaking rights but no voting rights~~
- ~~6.11.1.2 The members, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the nomination committee.~~
- ~~6.11.1.3 The Ethics Commission meets when convened by its Chair, at least once a year.~~
- ~~6.11.1.4 The required quorum for any recommendation decision is constituted if all three members are present. Each member will do whatever they can to be present at the meetings and participate in them. Teleconference meetings may be held.~~
- ~~6.11.1.5 The administrative organisation of the Ethics Commission, and support to it, are overseen by the Ethics Commission Officer.~~
- ~~6.11.2 Terms of reference of the commission~~
- ~~6.11.2.1 The terms of reference of the Ethics Commission are:~~
- ~~6.11.2.1.1 to define and update a framework of ethical principles, including a Code of Ethics, based upon the values and principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter, of which the said Code forms an integral part;~~
- ~~6.11.2.1.2 to refer to the ITTF Integrity Unit any complaints raised in relation to the non respect of such ethical principles, including breaches of the Code of Ethics.~~
- ~~6.11.2.2 The Ethics Commission presents an annual report on its activities to the AGM. This report will be published.~~
- ~~6.11.3 Conflict of interest~~
- ~~6.11.3.1 Members of the Ethics Commission shall not take any measure nor exercise any influence in relation to a matter where any conflict of interests or any other conflict exists or is perceived to exist.~~
- ~~6.11.4 Terms of appointment of commission members~~
- ~~6.11.4.1 The duration of the term of appointment of an Ethics Commission member is four years. Such term is renewable.~~
- ~~6.11.4.2 The term of an Ethics Commission member takes effect on the day of his/her election by the Board of Directors (BoD).~~
- ~~6.11.4.3 In the event of death, resignation or inability of a member to perform his or her functions, the member shall be replaced. In such a case, or cases of urgency, the Executive Committee may designate a replacement member for the remaining period until the next BoD meeting.~~
- ~~6.11.4.4 In the event of a breach of the present Regulations, an Ethics Commission member may be removed from office only by a specific vote by the BoD, the member concerned being heard by the ITTF Tribunal.~~
- ~~6.11.5 General provisions~~
- ~~6.11.5.1 These Rules apply to all cases brought before the Ethics Commission.~~

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~~6.11.5.2 The proceedings opened through application of these Rules of Procedure are confidential. All the parties concerned undertake not to divulge to third parties any of the facts or other information linked to the proceedings.~~

~~6.11.6 Procedure for analysing complaints, denunciations or acts.~~

~~6.11.6.1 All complaints or denunciations received by the Ethics Commission, and all acts brought to its attention which might constitute a breach of the ethical principles of the Olympic Charter, the Code of Ethics or its implementing provisions are analysed by the Ethics Commission.~~

~~Such analysis will address the likelihood of a breach of the ethical principles of the Olympic Charter, the Code of Ethics or its implementing provisions.~~

~~6.11.6.2 A complainant may request that his/her identity not be revealed and that all precautions be taken so that his/her identity is protected.~~

~~6.11.6.3 The Ethics Commission Officer informs the person who is the subject of a complaint or denunciation. Such person may submit their first observations if they deem it necessary to do so.~~

~~If the subject of the complaint or denunciation is a corporate body, the Ethics Commission Officer will inform its representative, who may submit their first observations if they deem it necessary to do so.~~

~~6.11.6.4 With a view to facilitating the analysis of the likelihood of a breach and to writing a referral report for the Ethics Commission, the Ethics Commission Officer may:~~

~~6.11.6.4.1 consult all the relevant documents;~~

~~6.11.6.4.2 ask to be provided with all the relevant documents and the written observations of the person concerned, in particular with regard to the evidence;~~

~~6.11.6.4.3 seek the advice of any relevant expertise;~~

~~6.11.6.4.4 travel to the place concerned if this may facilitate an understanding of the facts; and~~

~~6.11.6.4.5 hear the person concerned. In such cases, the interview will be recorded and a copy of the recording given to the person concerned.~~

~~6.11.6.5 If the likelihood of a breach of the ethical principles of the Olympic Charter, the Code of Ethics or its implementing provisions and of the competence of the Ethics Commission is established, the Ethics Commission Officer will officially forward the complaint to the Chair of the Ethics Commission with the complete file, including the referral report.~~

~~6.11.6.6 In the event that the likelihood of a breach of the ethical principles of the Olympic Charter, the Code of Ethics or its implementing provisions and of the competence of the Ethics Commission is not established, the Ethics Commission Officer will record this accordingly in a specific report. This specific report will be an agenda item at each meeting of the Ethics Commission.~~

~~The person behind the complaint or denunciation will be informed of this decision, and may ask the Chair of the Ethics Commission to re-examine the file if the analysis by the Ethics Commission Officer has not determined that the file should be referred to the Ethics Commission.~~

### ~~6.11.7 Referral and procedure before the Ethics Commission~~

~~6.11.7.1 — Referral to the Ethics Commission is made in writing by the Ethics Commission Officer, based on the referral report, and including the complete file.~~

~~The Ethics Commission Officer may assist the Chair of the Ethics Commission, at his/her request, with any additional information and/or support.~~

~~6.11.7.2 — The Ethics Commission takes note of the referral report, the complete file and the various written observations made by the person concerned.~~

~~6.11.7.3 — The Chair of the Ethics Commission may appoint one of the Commission members as a rapporteur. The Chair may delegate to the rapporteur all or part of the measures provided under article 14 below, in particular hearing the person concerned. The rapporteur then presents their report to the Ethics Commission.~~

~~6.11.7.4 — The person concerned may exercise his/her right to be heard by the Ethics Commission or its rapporteur, either through written observations or orally, during an interview for which the circumstances will be decided by the Commission or its rapporteur. Such interviews will be recorded and a copy of the recording given to the person concerned.~~

~~6.11.7.5 — When conducting an investigation, the Ethics Commission or its rapporteur may take any other appropriate measures, including:~~

~~6.11.7.5.1 — asking for written information or documents from the parties concerned;~~

~~6.11.7.5.2 — deciding to hear witnesses at its own discretion or at the request of the parties concerned;~~

~~6.11.7.5.3 — travelling to the place concerned, or sending one of its members, or delegating a person to go there if it deems that such action may clarify the proceedings under way;~~

~~6.11.7.5.4 — appointing one or more experts tasked with assisting it on one or more points, and establishing the scope of their terms of reference and remuneration within the limits of its operating budget.~~

~~The person concerned will have to fully cooperate with the Ethics Commission or the rapporteur, in particular by communicating any information or document judged necessary by the Commission for the investigation and formulation of its recommendations. Any lack of cooperation will be taken into account when assessing the situation.~~

~~6.11.7.6 — The Ethics Commission freely assesses the evidence.~~

~~Regarding the measures or sanctions against the person concerned, the Ethics Commission makes recommendation to the ITTF Integrity Unit which takes a decision whether to bring a claim before the ITTF Tribunal.~~



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~~6.11.7.7 The Ethics Commission deliberates in camera and takes the decisions of provisional measures or the recommendations of measures or sanctions it deems appropriate.~~

~~The Commission's deliberations are led by the Chair. The Chair may ask the Ethics Commission Officer to attend the deliberations as an observer. The Chair may also ask the CEO to answer questions on the referral report.~~

~~The Commission's decisions of provisional measures and/or recommendations are taken by a simple majority of the members present. The required quorum is constituted if all three members are present.~~

~~Voting takes place by secret ballot if the Chair of the Commission so decides, or if a majority of the members present request it. Voting by proxy is not allowed.~~

~~If necessary, the members may take part in the deliberations via telephone or video conference. In certain circumstances, the Commission members may be consulted by circulating the documents.~~

~~All deliberations and votes are confidential.~~

~~6.11.7.8 Within the framework of the Olympic Charter, the Ethics Commission may, during an investigation and after having heard the person concerned, take a decision regarding provisional measures, in particular with regard to provisional suspension of all or part of the rights, prerogatives and functions deriving from such person or organisation's membership or status.~~

~~This decision of provisional measures, including the reasons, takes the form of a written decision signed by the Chair of the Commission.~~

~~The Ethics Commission Officer informs the person concerned of any decisions and the reasons regarding provisional measures and shall forward to the President the decision on provisional measures for the Executive Committee's information.~~

~~The decision on provisional measures may be made public.~~

~~The provisional measure will be taken into consideration by the Ethics Commission when assessing the recommendations for the measures or sanctions to be made to the Executive Committee.~~

~~6.11.7.9 The Ethics Commission recommends to the ITTF Integrity Unit the measures or sanctions provided under Rule 59 of the Olympic Charter or any other appropriate measures, in particular those provided by one of the implementing provisions of the Code of Ethics.~~

~~Such recommendation takes the form of a written decision signed by the Chair of the Commission.~~

~~The Ethics Commission Officer forwards the Ethics Commission's final recommendations to the President for referral to the ITTF Integrity Unit.~~

~~The recommendations remain confidential.~~



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~~At the same time, the Ethics Commission Officer informs the person concerned of such transmission, and, if the Ethics Commission recommends any sanction or measure, of the evidence against them and the reasons given by the Ethics Commission.~~

To introduce the ITTF Integrity Regulations as new Chapter 9 of the ITTF Handbook (see annex on the following page).

### *Rationale:*

*To further progress integrity reform within ITTF. The various aspects of sport integrity will be streamlined to simplify procedures and provide greater certainty to the ITTF Family, to improve operational efficiency, and to align practices with ASOIF Good Governance Practice. Therefore:*

- 1. Aspects of sport integrity such as anti-doping (Chapter 5), ethics (including anti-match-manipulation, anti-corruption etc.) (Chapter 6) and anti-harassment procedures (Chapter 7) will be addressed by a single independent ITTF body (the ITTF Integrity Unit), instead of different bodies, to reduce complexity.*
- 2. The ITTF Ethics Commission's scope of responsibilities will expand to overseeing the other integrity matters, instead of only the ITTF Code of Ethics (Chapter 6), and be renamed accordingly as the ITTF Integrity Board, which will still comprise independent members.*
- 3. The independent ITTF Integrity Unit will be led by the ITTF Integrity Board, which ultimately be accountable directly to the ITTF AGM, instead of any non-independent body or person.*
- 4. The ITTF Integrity Unit's organisation and work will be regulated according to the new ITTF Integrity Regulations (annexed below), providing greater clarity to the ITTF Family.*
- 5. References to "Ethics Commission" will be replaced by "Integrity Board" or "ITTF Integrity Unit", as appropriate.*
- 6. References to "Ethics Commission Officer" will be replaced by "ITTF Head of Integrity" or "ITTF Integrity Unit", as appropriate.*
- 7. Provisions that repeat what is covered under ITTF Integrity Regulations or ITTF Constitution will be amended or deleted.*

*To also correct typing errors.*

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# 9 ITTF INTEGRITY REGULATIONS

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## Part I: Preliminary

### 1. Citation and commencement

These Regulations may be cited as the ITTF Integrity Regulations and shall come into operation on 25 November 2021.

### 2. Definitions

2.1. The capitalised terms used in these Regulations are as defined in the ITTF Handbook or as follows, unless the context otherwise requires:

2.1.1. **"Absolute Majority"** means majority (more than 50%) of the total number of persons entitled to vote, regardless of whether absent or present but not voting (abstentions).

2.1.2. **"AGM"** means an annual general meeting of ITTF.

2.1.3. **"Alleged Person"** means the person or party who is suspected to have committed a violation of the Applicable Rules.

2.1.4. **"Applicable Rules"** has the meaning given to it in R4.2.

2.1.5. **"Appropriate Person"** has the meaning given to it in R24.1.

2.1.6. **"CAS"** means the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

2.1.7. **"EGM"** means an extraordinary general meeting of ITTF.

2.1.8. **"Independent Member"** means a member of the Integrity Board that meets the Independence Requirements and has voting rights.

2.1.9. **"Independence Requirements"** has the meaning given to it in R6.1.

2.1.10. **"Investigation Notice"** means a written demand to a Table Tennis Party for information relating to any potential breach of any Applicable Rule, as further described in R17.6.

2.1.11. **"ITTF Handbook"** means the ITTF Handbook as published and amended from time to time.

2.1.12. **"ITTF Integrity Board"** means the supervising body of the ITTF Integrity Unit, consisting of the ITTF Integrity Board Members.

2.1.13. **"ITTF Integrity Board Members"** means the individuals listed at R5.2 in these Regulations, who make up the composition of the ITTF Integrity Board.

2.1.14. **"ITTF Integrity Officer"** means an employee(s) assigned to be part of the ITTF Integrity Unit, working under the instruction of the ITTF Head of Integrity, and any external specialist person or entity engaged by the ITTF Head of Integrity to perform a specific function for the ITTF Integrity Unit.

2.1.15. **"ITTF Tribunal"** means the highest judicial body within ITTF to hear and decide cases at first instance or as an appellate body as set out in the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

2.1.16. **"Prima Facie Case"** means a likely case of any breach of any Applicable Rule considered by the ITTF Head of Integrity to warrant investigation.

2.1.17. **"Qualified Majority"** means two-thirds majority of persons taking part in the vote, not counting abstentions.

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- 2.1.18. “**Referral**” means a referral to an Appropriate Person to deal with a minor violation of any Applicable Rule, as further described in R24.1.
- 2.1.19. “**Regulations**” means these ITTF Integrity Regulations.
- 2.1.20. “**Report**” means a report made regarding any alleged breach of any Applicable Rule, as further described in R15.1.
- 2.1.21. “**Simple Majority**” means majority (more than 50%) of persons taking part in the vote, not counting abstentions.
- 2.1.22. “**Table Tennis Parties**” means the parties listed at R4.1 in these Regulations. Where reference is made to any one of the parties mentioned in R4.1 below, the said party may be referred to as “**Table Tennis Party**”.

### 3. Interpretation

- 3.1. These Regulations are adopted pursuant to the ITTF Handbook and shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with applicable provisions of the ITTF Handbook. In case of any conflict, the ITTF Constitution prevail over these Regulations.
- 3.2. The headings and sub-headings in these Regulations are for convenience only and shall not be deemed to be part of the substance of these Regulations or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 3.3. Words used regardless of the number and gender specifically used, shall be deemed and construed to include any other number, singular or plural, and any other gender, masculine, feminine or neuter, as the context requires.
- 3.4. Any words following the terms “including”, “include”, “in particular”, “such as” or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.
- 3.5. If any provision of these Regulations is held to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, it shall be deemed to be deleted and the remainder of these Regulations shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.
- 3.6. For the avoidance of doubt, these Regulations will not replace or in any way affect or alter ITTF’s ability to pursue appropriate disciplinary action against ITTF employees, directors, consultant or such other staff (“**Staff**”) under the terms of any employment or consultancy contract with any ITTF Staff and/or pursuant to any of ITTF’s employment rules or policies in force from time to time. Where conduct prohibited under the Applicable Rules and/or the ITTF Handbook also amounts to a breach of the terms of an ITTF Staff’s employment or consultancy agreement with ITTF, ITTF (including the ITTF Integrity Unit with respect to ITTF Integrity Officers) will be entitled, at its absolute discretion, to elect to pursue disciplinary action against such Staff pursuant to the applicable employment or consultancy contract, and there is no requirement for any action to be taken under these Regulations.
- 3.7. Alleged Persons may also be subject to other rules that govern discipline or conduct and that the same conduct of such persons may constitute not only a

violation of the Applicable Rules but also such other rules that may apply. For the avoidance of doubt:

3.7.1. These Regulations and the Applicable Rules are not intended to limit the responsibilities of any person under such other rules; and

3.7.2. Nothing in such other rules will be capable of removing, superseding or amending in any way the jurisdiction of the ITTF Tribunal to determine matters properly arising pursuant to these Regulations and the Applicable Rules.

#### 4. Application of these Regulations

4.1. These Regulations shall apply to the following Table Tennis Parties (see ITTF Code of Ethics Preamble and Scope of Application):

4.1.1. the ITTF, its administration, each of its members (Member Associations), affiliated organisations (Continental Federations and other groups of associations), World Table Tennis, and their officials, decision-making bodies, honorary members, officers, employees, services providers, delegated third parties and their employees, players, players' entourages and such other persons involved in their operations at all times and in all circumstances;

4.1.2. all participants in ITTF Sanctioned Events;

4.1.3. all members and their officials taking part in any type of candidature procedures of the ITTF, throughout the procedure in question;

4.1.4. the Organising Committees for the ITTF events and their officials, throughout the existence of each such Committee; and

4.1.5. any other persons who agree to be bound by the ITTF Handbook or these Regulations.

4.2. The ITTF Integrity Unit shall have the duties, powers, and authority as set out in these Regulations to investigate and prosecute alleged violations of:

4.2.1. the rules and regulations under the ITTF Handbook, including the ITTF Constitution, the ITTF Anti-Doping Rules, ITTF Code of Ethics, the Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures, the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations; and

4.2.2. any such other rules and regulations relating to sport integrity connected to ITTF that any person agree to be bound by (collectively, the "**Applicable Rules**").

### Part II: Organisation of the ITTF Integrity Unit

#### 5. The ITTF Integrity Board

5.1. The ITTF Integrity Board shall be the supervising body of the ITTF Integrity Unit and will be responsible for governing the ITTF Integrity Unit and ensuring that it carries out its roles and responsibilities in accordance with the ITTF Handbook and these Regulations.

5.2. The ITTF Integrity Board shall comprise of:

5.2.1. three Independent Members, including appointing one of them as the ITTF Integrity Board Chair;

5.2.2. one ITTF Executive Committee member (as determined by the ITTF Executive Committee) to be a non-voting member of the ITTF Integrity Board; and

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5.2.3. the ITTF Head of Integrity ex officio who will also be a non-voting member of the ITTF Integrity Board. If at any point, the position of ITTF Head of Integrity is vacant, their position on the ITTF Integrity Board will also be vacant.

5.3. The ITTF Integrity Board shall report directly to the AGM annually or as requested by the AGM or EGM.

5.4. The ITTF Integrity Board's powers include the following:

5.4.1. approve and review any strategic plan, where implemented, for the ITTF Integrity Unit and regularly monitor progress against such strategic plan;

5.4.2. approve and amend policies and procedures for the operation of the ITTF Integrity Unit, in particular to ensure that it is operationally independent from the ITTF (provided that such policies and procedures are not inconsistent with the ITTF Constitution or ITTF Handbook);

5.4.3. appoint (including all terms and conditions of such appointment) and monitor the performance of the ITTF Head of Integrity and if necessary, terminate such appointment;

5.4.4. approve decisions of the ITTF Head of Integrity, including:

5.4.4.1. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should bring proceedings for violations of the Applicable Rules;

5.4.4.2. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should agree to the outcome of any proceedings with an Alleged Person or Respondent without reference to the ITTF Tribunal;

5.4.4.3. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should appeal decisions of the ITTF Tribunal; and

5.4.4.4. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should participate in any appeal or other proceeding before the CAS or any other forum to which ITTF is not a party;

5.4.5. identify and manage the risks arising in relation to the ITTF Integrity Unit and these Regulations;

5.4.6. approve and amend policies and procedures for the making of other decisions permitted or required of the ITTF Head of Integrity under these Regulations or the ITTF Handbook;

5.4.7. if requested by the ITTF Head of Integrity, make decisions permitted or required of the ITTF Head of Integrity as set out in the ITTF Handbook or these Regulations;

5.4.8. consider applications submitted by the ITTF Head of Integrity for a provisional suspension of an Alleged Person pending determination of the charge(s) and issue such provisional suspension if appropriate;

5.4.9. supervise the control of expenditure and prudently use the funding allocated to the ITTF Integrity Unit;

5.4.10. establish policies and procedures containing delegations or authority and limits of authority for the ITTF Head of Integrity and the ITTF Integrity Officers to ensure the necessary control of funds and expenditure of the ITTF Integrity Unit;

5.4.11. approve major transactions relating to the ITTF Integrity Unit in accordance with the limitations and applicable policies;

5.4.12. engage, contract or otherwise agree to obtain the assistance or advice of any person or organization to assist in carrying out the ITTF Integrity Unit's mandate;

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5.4.13. consider and recommend to the ITTF Executive Committee any amendments to the ITTF Handbook and these Regulations that are relevant to the mandate of the ITTF Integrity Unit and to uphold and maintain integrity within and outside of ITTF;

5.4.14. report to the AGM, EGM, or the ITTF Executive Committee (as applicable) in accordance with the ITTF Handbook and these Regulations;

5.4.15. to do all things necessary to fulfil the mandate of the ITTF Integrity Unit as set out in Article 1.5.5 of the ITTF Constitution.

5.5. An Independent Member may be suspended or removed from office:

5.5.1. by the ITTF Integrity Board Chair if:

5.5.1.1. that member is found to be not eligible under these Regulations;

5.5.1.2. that member is found to have been in serious breach of the ITTF Handbook, these Regulations, or any other ITTF regulations, including the ITTF Code of Ethics; or

5.5.1.3. that member is unable or unwilling to perform their duties as an ITTF Integrity Board member, has neglected their duties, or has engaged in any material misconduct;

5.5.2. by the AGM or EGM, if:

5.5.2.1. the person to be removed under R5.5 is the ITTF Tribunal Chair; or

5.5.2.2. the AGM or EGM considers that the ITTF Tribunal Chair's decision made pursuant to R5.5.1 should be reviewed.

5.6. Before an Independent Member is removed, that member shall be given reasonable written notice of the proposal by the ITTF Integrity Board Chair, the AGM or EGM (as applicable) to remove them as an ITTF Integrity Board member, the basis for such proposal and the relevant facts supporting such proposal. That member may respond to that proposal within 14 days of being notified in writing of the proposal and that member's response must be taken into account by such decision maker.

5.7. If an Independent Member resigns, dies, or is removed from office, the position shall either:

5.7.1. remain vacant until the next AGM or EGM; or

5.7.2. if the ITTF Integrity Board Chair considers it necessary, the ITTF Board of Directors may appoint a replacement member to fill the vacancy on the ITTF Integrity Board until the next AGM or EGM.

### 6. ITTF Integrity Board Chair and Independent ITTF Integrity Board Members

6.1. No ITTF Integrity Board Chair or Independent Member themselves and their immediate family members may:

6.1.1. hold any official function in ITTF, a member association of ITTF or an associated organisation of ITTF; and

6.1.2. have any material business relationship with ITTF, a member association of ITTF or an associated organisation of ITTF, during their term of office as ITTF Integrity Board member and for four years prior to their initial appointment to office (collectively, the "**Independence Requirements**").

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6.2. Before assuming office, the ITTF Integrity Board Members shall first take an oath, an affirmation or otherwise make an undertaking that they will discharge their duties independently and impartially.

6.3. The term of office of the Independent Members shall be four years and each Independent Member may be appointed by the ITTF Board of Directors for a maximum of twelve consecutive years. This will not apply to the ITTF Head of Integrity, however, who will remain a member of the ITTF Integrity Board throughout.

6.4. The ITTF Integrity Board Chair must:

6.4.1. be fluent in English; and

6.4.2. have at least ten years of professional legal experience in sport and demonstrates substantial experience in sport governance, anti-doping, anti-match-manipulation, athlete safeguarding, anti-harassment or such other relevant areas in sport integrity.

6.5. The ITTF Integrity Board Chair shall be responsible for matters including:

6.5.1. to lead and represent the ITTF Integrity Board in official matters within and outside of ITTF, together with the ITTF Head of Integrity, in accordance with the policies decided by the ITTF Integrity Board;

6.5.2. To promote the ITTF Integrity Unit and liaise and co-operate with other sports organisations, public and private organisations and authorities and other stakeholders, including the media;

6.5.3. To chair meetings of the ITTF Integrity Board and lead the work of the ITTF Integrity Board, including ensuring it implements good governance practices, functions effectively, acts within its powers and meets its obligations and responsibilities;

6.5.4. To support, monitor and liaise with and to form a strong collaborative working relationship with the ITTF Head of Integrity;

6.5.5. To authorise transactions and sign documentation binding the ITTF only (a) together with at least one other member of the ITTF Integrity Board; and (b) in accordance with decisions, policies and procedures decided by the ITTF Integrity Board, or as otherwise specified in these Regulations; and

6.5.6. To suspend or remove of any other Independent Member pursuant to R5.5.1.

6.6. The Independent Members of the ITTF Integrity Board are required at all times to:

6.6.1. act at all times in good faith and in the best interest of the ITTF Integrity Unit;

6.6.2. exercise the powers of the ITTF Integrity Board for proper purposes;

6.6.3. act and ensure that the ITTF Integrity Board acts in accordance with the ITTF Handbook, the Applicable Rules and these Regulations;

6.6.4. make reasonable efforts to attend and actively participate in all ITTF Integrity Board meetings;

6.6.5. maintain a reputation for high standards of business conduct;

6.6.6. exercise the care, diligence and skill that any reasonable ITTF Integrity Board member would exercise in the same circumstances;

6.6.7. comply and do not publicly disagree with the ITTF Integrity Board's decisions, even if the Independent Member privately does not agree with them;

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- 6.6.8. act and operate independently from the other organs of the ITTF, unless specified in these Regulations;
- 6.6.9. not agree to the ITTF Integrity Unit incurring any obligations unless they reasonably believe at that time that the ITTF Integrity Unit will be able to perform the obligations when it is required to do so;
- 6.6.10. except for the ITTF Integrity Board Chair, not speak or make statements publicly on behalf of the ITTF Integrity Board unless authorised to do so by the ITTF Integrity Board Chair or in accordance with delegated authority in writing from the ITTF Integrity Board;
- 6.6.11. disclose to the ITTF Integrity Board the nature and extent of any interest they may have in a transaction or proposed transaction of the ITTF Integrity Board as soon as they become aware of such interest or such transaction; and
- 6.6.12. participate in the annual review of the ITTF Integrity Board's performance in the manner decided by the ITTF Integrity Board.

### 7. The ITTF Head of Integrity and ITTF Integrity Officer(s)

- 7.1. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall be required to meet the Independence Requirements. The ITTF Head of Integrity is accountable to the ITTF Integrity Board alone.
- 7.2. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall lead and carry out the responsibilities of the ITTF Integrity Unit, as specified in Article 1.5.5.1 of the ITTF Constitution, and within such limitations and delegated authority as may be established by the ITTF Integrity Board.
- 7.3. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall be responsible for:
  - 7.3.1. Developing any ITTF Integrity Unit's strategic plan for the approval of the ITTF Integrity Board;
  - 7.3.2. Regularly reporting to the ITTF Integrity Board on progress against such plans;
  - 7.3.3. Defining and monitoring delegations of the authority of the ITTF Head of Integrity to the ITTF Integrity Officers;
  - 7.3.4. Controlling expenditure and allocating funding prudently in accordance with the approved budget;
  - 7.3.5. Subject to the prior approval of the ITTF Integrity Board in accordance with R5.4.4, making decisions to:
    - 7.3.5.1. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should bring proceedings for violations of the Applicable Rules;
    - 7.3.5.2. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should agree to the outcome of any proceedings with the Alleged Person or Respondent without reference to the ITTF Tribunal;
    - 7.3.5.3. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should appeal decisions of the ITTF Tribunal; and
    - 7.3.5.4. whether the ITTF Integrity Unit (in the name of ITTF) should participate in any appeal or other proceeding before the CAS or any other forum to which ITTF is not a party.
  - 7.3.6. subject to any policies and procedures that may be adopted by the ITTF Integrity Board from time to time, making other decisions permitted or required by the ITTF Head of Integrity as set out in these Regulations or in the ITTF Handbook, including:
    - 7.3.6.1. Conducting investigations in accordance with these Regulations;



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- 7.3.6.2. Imposing a provisional suspension pending determination of the charge(s); and
- 7.3.6.3. Issuing Investigation Notices in accordance with R17.6 of these Regulations;
- 7.3.7. Reporting to the ITTF Integrity Board on all decisions made by the ITTF Head of Integrity in relation to R7.3.6, in such manner as the ITTF Integrity Board may require, and by no later than the time of its next meeting;
- 7.3.8. Requesting the ITTF Integrity Board to make any decision permitted or required of the ITTF Head of Integrity, whenever the ITTF Head of Integrity considers it necessary or appropriate for the ITTF Integrity Board to do so;
- 7.3.9. Convening ITTF Integrity Unit meetings, as and when necessary;
- 7.3.10. Managing the caseload of the ITTF Integrity Unit and assign (or reassign) cases to any ITTF Integrity Officer, according to their specific expertise and/or experience;
- 7.3.11. Engaging and/or monitoring the performance and conduct of the ITTF Integrity Officer(s) and investigate (or assist in the investigation of) complaints made against them, in accordance with the ITTF Handbook;
- 7.3.12. Working with the ITTF Integrity Officer(s) on all matters relevant and necessary for the operations of the ITTF Integrity Unit;
- 7.3.13. Supporting the ITTF Integrity Board Chair in engaging with external stakeholders of the ITTF;
- 7.3.14. Developing systems, policies and procedures for the effective functioning of the ITTF Integrity Unit;
- 7.3.15. Developing, reviewing and assessing new programmes, projects and innovations for the improvement of the ITTF Integrity Unit's performance, for approval by the ITTF Integrity Unit Board;
- 7.3.16. Supervising and approving all reporting to external bodies as necessary; and
- 7.3.17. Ensuring compliance by the ITTF Integrity Unit with all applicable laws, the ITTF Handbook, and these Regulations.

7.4. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall be assisted by other ITTF Integrity Officer(s), pursuant to Article 1.5.5.2 of the ITTF Constitution, and the ITTF Head of Integrity may delegate to any of the ITTF Integrity Officer any powers and authority that may be vested in the ITTF Head of Integrity.

7.5. If the ITTF Head of Integrity office is vacant, the ITTF Integrity Board shall appoint an ITTF Integrity Officer or an ITTF Integrity Board Member to temporarily assume that office until a new ITTF Head of Integrity is appointed.

7.5.1. No provision of these Regulations or the ITTF Handbook shall be prejudiced by the vacancy of the ITTF Head of Integrity office.

### 8. Meetings of the ITTF Integrity Board

8.1. The ITTF Integrity Board shall meet at least once a year and each ITTF Integrity Board meeting shall be convened by the ITTF Integrity Board Chair.

8.2. The ITTF Integrity Board Chair shall set the agenda of the ITTF Integrity Board meetings, taking into consideration any proposal regarding the agenda made by other ITTF Integrity Board Members.

8.3. The agenda of the ITTF Integrity Board meetings shall be communicated to the ITTF Integrity Board Members prior to the ITTF Integrity Board meeting in a

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timely manner and whenever possible, at least 7 days before the date of the ITTF Integrity Board meeting.

8.4. Any issue arising after the agenda of the ITTF Integrity Board meeting has been communicated to the ITTF Integrity Board Members shall be resolved by a Qualified Majority.

8.5. The ITTF Integrity Board meeting may be conducted remotely through, without limitation, telephone, videoconference, or any other generally acceptable electronic communication means, if requested by any ITTF Integrity Board Member.

### **9. Quorum and meetings of the ITTF Integrity Board**

9.1. The quorum to pass resolutions in an ITTF Integrity Board meeting is an Absolute Majority.

9.2. If any ITTF Integrity Board meeting takes place without meeting the quorum, any resolution proposed shall be:

9.2.1. communicated to the ITTF Integrity Board Members within seven days of the date of the ITTF Integrity Board meeting; and

9.2.2. be voted on by the ITTF Integrity Board Members within a period specified by the ITTF Integrity Board Chair.

9.3. If the total number of votes during the ITTF Integrity Board meeting and pursuant to R9.2 exceed the number required to form a quorum, the vote cast according to R9.2 will be deemed as having been validly cast at the ITTF Integrity Board meeting.

### **10. Voting and resolutions**

10.1. For an in-person meeting, the passing of resolutions by the ITTF Integrity Board requires the approval of a Simple Majority of the ITTF Integrity Board Members physically present.

10.2. For a remote meeting, the passing of resolutions by the ITTF Integrity Board requires the approval of a Simple Majority of the ITTF Integrity Board Members attending the meeting.

10.3. The use of electronic mail and other generally acceptable electronic communication means is permissible for the purposes of passing a resolution by correspondence.

### **11. Minutes of ITTF Integrity Board meetings**

11.1. The ITTF Integrity Board shall keep minutes of its deliberations and resolutions at each ITTF Integrity Board meeting.

11.2. The minutes shall contain:

11.2.1. the names and designations of persons attending;

11.2.2. a summary of the deliberations;

11.2.3. the proposed resolutions;

11.2.4. the result of resolutions with the number of votes; and

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11.2.5. the declarations requested by any ITTF Integrity Board Member requests to be recorded.

11.3. The draft of the minutes shall be promptly communicated to the ITTF Integrity Board Members for their review and the approved minutes must be signed by the ITTF Integrity Board Chair.

### 12. Indemnity

12.1. No ITTF Integrity Board Member will be personally liable for any act or omission when carrying out their duties and exercising their powers or authorities in good faith.

### 13. Expenses

13.1. Where applicable, the ITTF Integrity Board Members will receive compensation and reimbursement for expenses incurred on matters of the ITTF and such payments shall not be deemed to compromise their independence and impartiality.

### 14. Confidentiality

14.1. Unless otherwise set out in these Regulations, the ITTF Integrity Board's affairs are confidential.

14.2. The ITTF Integrity Board Members shall ensure that information disclosed to them during the course of their duties remains confidential and disclosures to any third party may be deemed as breach of confidentiality.

## Part III: Procedures of the ITTF Integrity Unit

### 15. Reporting Obligation, Gathering and Sharing intelligence

15.1. All Table Tennis Parties have an obligation to report, as soon as practicable, any act, thing or information which the person becomes aware of, which may constitute (on its own or with other information) a violation of any Applicable Rule, including any approach or request to engage in conduct that may constitute a violation of the Applicable Rules ("**Report**").

15.2. Any such information shall be reported to the ITTF Head of Integrity or to the ITTF Integrity Unit in the manner deemed appropriate by the ITTF Head of Integrity.

15.3. If the ITTF Head of Integrity considers it appropriate to do so, the party filing a Report may be asked to provide further information in respect of the Report and the ITTF Integrity Unit may make other enquiries into the matters set out in the Report.

15.4. In addition to receiving Reports in accordance to R15.1 above, the ITTF Integrity Unit may put in place mechanisms to gather intelligence that may assist in assessing the compliance (or otherwise) of Table Tennis Parties with the Applicable Rules from all available sources, including law enforcement, other regulatory and disciplinary bodies, investigative journalists, members of

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the public, and third parties. In particular, the ITTF Integrity Unit may facilitate anonymous reporting by third parties where it considers appropriate.

15.5. The ITTF Integrity Unit may share intelligence that it holds about any Table Tennis Party with other appropriate authorities, including law enforcement and other regulatory and disciplinary bodies, where the ITTF Integrity Unit consider that such sharing is necessary in order to:

15.5.1. Effectively carry out an investigation or prosecution under these Regulations or to administer or enforce any matter falling under these Regulations;

15.5.2. Protect the integrity of the ITTF, the Table Tennis Parties, or the sport of Table Tennis, generally;

15.5.3. Prevent or detect crime or other offences or preserve the health or well-being of any person; or

15.5.4. Fulfil any legal obligation of the ITTF or the ITTF Integrity Unit, including the obligation to demonstrate the ITTF Integrity Unit's compliance with the ITTF Handbook.

15.6. Any intelligence shared by the ITTF Integrity Unit shall be done so in accordance with applicable data protection laws and/or regulations.

### 16. Prima Facie Case

16.1. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall first assess whether the Report relates to a likely breach of the Applicable Rules. They may appoint one or more persons to act on its behalf for this purpose.

16.2. If, upon review, the ITTF Head of Integrity considers the Report to be frivolous, vexatious, malicious, or otherwise an abuse of process, they may decide to take no further action.

16.3. If, upon review, the ITTF Head of Integrity considers the Report or a particular violation to be a minor violation, they may make a Referral pursuant to Rule R24.

16.4. If the Head of the Integrity Unit considers it appropriate to do so, they may ask any person filing a Report to provide further information or may make other enquiries before a decision is taken as to whether a Prima Facie Case is established.

16.5. If the evidence submitted with, or subsequent to, any Report is considered by the ITTF Head of Integrity to establish a Prima Facie Case, the ITTF Head of Integrity will cause an investigation to be commenced, unless in their view and in consultation with the Integrity Unit Board, there is a good reason not to cause an investigation to be commenced either immediately or at all.

16.6. In addition to information provided in a Report, the ITTF Head of Integrity may consider information that has come to their attention by whatever means to establish whether there is a Prima Facie Case, and in such circumstances, they shall initiate an investigation against the Alleged Person in accordance with these Regulations.

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16.7. If the ITTF Head of Integrity determines that no Prima Facie Case is established, the ITTF Head of Integrity may at their discretion suspend or terminate case.

16.7.1. Grounds do not need to be given for the commencement, suspension or termination of an investigation for any alleged breach of any Applicable Rule.

### 17. Investigations

17.1. After establishing a Prima Facie Case, the ITTF Head of Integrity shall conduct further investigations. They may appoint one or more persons to act on its behalf for this purpose.

17.2. The objective for each investigation is to gather information necessary to determine whether a Table Tennis Party has a case to answer for violation of the Applicable Rules (i.e. whether or not to bring a charge(s)). This includes gathering and recording all relevant information, developing that information into reliable and admissible evidence, and identifying and pursuing further lines of enquiry that may lead to the discovery of such evidence.

17.3. The ITTF Head of Integrity will conduct each investigation fairly, objectively and impartially.

17.3.1. The ITTF Head of Integrity will be open to and consider all possible outcomes at each key stage of the investigation, and will seek to gather not only available evidence of a violation but also any available evidence indicating that there is no case to answer.

17.3.2. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall fully document their conduct of investigations, the evaluation of information and evidence identified in the course of investigations, and the outcome of investigations.

17.4. The ITTF Head of Integrity will notify the Alleged Person of the investigation and of the possible violation(s) to which the investigation relates, and will give the Alleged Person an opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation. The ITTF Head of Integrity shall decide when this notification should be made.

17.5. Where it deems appropriate, the ITTF Head of Integrity may coordinate or stay its own investigation pending the outcome of investigations or prosecutions by other competent bodies, including law enforcement and/or other regulatory or disciplinary bodies.

17.6. Where the ITTF Head of Integrity suspects that an Alleged Person may have committed a violation of the Applicable Rules and/or may have information about a potential violation of the Applicable Rules by an Alleged Person, it may make a written demand (an “**Investigation Notice**”) to the Alleged Person for information relating to the potential violation.

17.6.1. The ITTF Head of Integrity may issue such Investigation Notice at any time after a Report has been filed, including during its initial investigation or at any point after a Notice of Charge has been issued.

17.6.2. If necessary, the ITTF Head of Integrity may issue more than one Investigation Notice in the same investigation.

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17.7. As part of an Investigation Notice, the ITTF Head of Integrity may require the Alleged Person to:

17.7.1. Attend before the ITTF Integrity Unit for an interview, or to answer any question, or to provide a written statement setting out their knowledge of any relevant facts and circumstances.

17.7.1.1. Any interview will take place at a time and place determined by the ITTF Head of Integrity, and the Alleged Person will be given reasonable notice in writing of the requirement to attend.

17.7.1.2. Interviews may be recorded and/or transcribed and the Alleged Person will be entitled to have legal counsel and an interpreter present, at the Alleged Person's own expense;

17.7.2. Provide (or procure to the best of their ability, the provision by a third party) for inspection, copying and/or downloading any records or files (whether existing in hard copy or electronic format) that the ITTF Head of Integrity reasonably believes may contain relevant information (such as itemised telephone billing statements, bank statements, ledgers, cryptocurrency wallets, transaction histories for any money transfer service or e-wallet, Internet service records, notes, files, correspondence, emails, and text of SMS, Whatsapp, Telegram, WeChat or similar messages received and sent);

17.7.3. Provide (or procure to the best of their ability, the provision by a third party) for inspection, copying and/or downloading any electronic storage device that the ITTF Head of Integrity reasonably believes may contain relevant information (such as cloud-based servers, computers, hard drives, tapes, disks, mobile telephones, laptop computers, tablets, and other mobile storage devices);

17.7.4. Provide full and unlimited access to their premises for the purpose of securing information, records, articles or things that are the subject of an Investigation Notice;

17.7.5. Provide full and unlimited access to any social media accounts and data accessed via cloud services; and/or

17.7.6. Provide passwords, login credentials and other identifying information required to access information that is the subject of an Investigation Notice.

17.8. The Alleged Person must cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely and in good faith with an Investigation Notice, including providing the information or access requested within the deadline specified in the Investigation Notice, at the Alleged Person's own cost.

17.9. Where an Investigation Notice relates to any information, record, article or thing that the ITTF Head of Integrity reasonably believes is capable of being damaged, altered, destroyed or hidden (any electronic storage device or electronically stored information will be deemed to meet this criterion), then for the purposes of evidence preservation, the ITTF Head of Integrity may require the Alleged Person to comply with the Investigation Notice immediately upon receipt of it. In such a case:

17.9.1. The Alleged Person must immediately comply with the Investigation Notice in full, including permitting the ITTF Head of Integrity to take immediate possession of, copy and/or download the information, record, article or thing;

17.9.2. A refusal or failure by the Alleged Person to comply immediately with the Investigation Notice will constitute an independent violation of these Regulations and the ITTF Code of Ethics; and

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17.9.3. Any attempted or actual damage, alteration, destruction or hiding of such information, record, article or thing upon receipt of or after the Investigation Notice will constitute an independent violation of these Regulations and the ITTF Code of Ethics.

17.10. If the Alleged Person obstructs or delays an investigation in any manner, whether or not in relation to an Investigation Notice (for example; by providing false, misleading or incomplete information or documentation or by tampering or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation), it may also constitute a violation of these Regulations and the ITTF Code of Ethics.

17.11. The ITTF Head of Integrity may at any time require a Table Tennis Party:

17.11.1. To assist in an investigation into a potential violation by one or more persons under its jurisdiction (where appropriate, acting in conjunction with any other relevant national authority or body); and

17.11.2. To provide a written report on such assistance within a reasonable time period stipulated by the ITTF Integrity Unit.

17.12. The ITTF Head of Integrity may request any person (whether the Alleged Person or not) to assist an investigation by producing documents, information or material and/or answering questions and providing information.

17.13. Where during the course of any investigation the ITTF Integrity Unit identifies any additional Alleged Person(s) that may also have violated any Applicable Rule, the investigation may be expanded to cover such potential violations as well, or a separate investigation may be commenced.

17.14. A refusal or failure by the Alleged Person(s) or Table Tennis Parties to cooperate with the ITTF Integrity Unit's investigations may constitute a violation of these Regulations and the ITTF Code of Ethics.

### **18. Conduct of prosecutions by the ITTF Integrity Unit**

18.1. After conducting an investigation, the ITTF Head of Integrity shall determine whether the Alleged Person has a case to answer for violation of the Applicable Rules.

18.2. If the ITTF Head of Integrity determines that the Alleged Person has a case to answer for violation of the Applicable Rules, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall:

18.2.1. charge the Alleged Person with violation of the Applicable Rules;

18.2.2. present that charge before the ITTF Tribunal for hearing and determination; and

18.2.3. pursue and defend (as applicable) any application and/or appeal arising in relation to such proceedings.

18.3. If the ITTF Head of Integrity determines that the Alleged Person has no case to answer for violation of the Applicable Rules, the ITTF Head of Integrity may at their discretion suspend or terminate investigations relating to the Investigation Notice and/or the Alleged Person.

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18.4. The ITTF Integrity Unit will discharge its rights and responsibilities in good faith in all cases, taking into account both at the point of determining whether to issue a Notice of Charge and throughout any proceedings that follow:

18.4.1. The likelihood of a charge being upheld (including considering the strength of any evidence relied upon, the merits of the ITTF Integrity Unit's case, and how the defence case is likely to affect the ITTF Integrity Unit's case); and

18.4.2. Whether bringing or continuing to pursue the charge is necessary and proportionate to the achievement of the imperatives underlying these Regulations.

18.5. The ITTF Integrity Unit will respect the duty of procedural fairness owed to the Alleged Person who has been charged with violation(s) of the Applicable Rules.

### 19. Notice of Charge

19.1. If the ITTF Head of Integrity determines that the Alleged Person has a case to answer for violation of the Applicable Rules, the ITTF Integrity Unit will prepare and send a written notice of charge to the Alleged Person ("**Notice of Charge**"), which will contain the following information:

19.1.1. The specific provision(s) of the Applicable Rules that the Alleged Person is alleged to have violated;

19.1.2. The facts alleged in support of such charge(s);

19.1.3. where applicable, the details of any provisional suspension imposed on the Alleged Person pursuant to R20 pending determination of the charge(s); and

19.1.4. the sanction(s) that the ITTF Integrity Unit says should be imposed under the Applicable Rules if the charge(s) is/are upheld;

19.1.5. the Alleged Person's right:

19.1.5.1. to admit the charge(s) and to accept the sanction(s) specified in the Notice of Charge;

19.1.5.2. to admit the charge(s) but to dispute (or seek to mitigate) the sanction(s) specified in the Notice of Charge, and to have the matter of sanction(s) determined by the ITTF Tribunal in accordance with R28 if it cannot be agreed between the parties; or

19.1.5.3. to dispute the charge(s) and to have the charge(s) determined (along with any sanctions, where a charge is upheld) by the ITTF Tribunal in accordance with R23; and

19.1.6. the deadline for the Alleged Person to provide a response to the charges (which shall be no fewer than 14 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Charge by the Alleged Person).

### 20. Provisional Suspension

20.1. In any case where the ITTF Integrity Unit issues a Notice of Charge to the Alleged Person, the ITTF Head of Integrity may submit an application to the ITTF Integrity Board for a provisional suspension of the Alleged Person pending determination of the charge(s) after considering one or more of the following factors:

20.1.1. the likelihood that the integrity of the sport of Table Tennis will be undermined;

20.1.2. the seriousness of the alleged violation(s);

20.1.3. the necessity or desirability of the provisional suspension in facilitating the conduct of any investigation or proceeding by ITTF Integrity Unit or any other relevant body; and



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20.1.4. the potential prejudice to the Alleged Person in imposing provisional suspension.

20.2. The application by the ITTF Head of Integrity to the ITTF Integrity Board for a provisional suspension of the Alleged Person may be submitted when the Notice of Charge is issued or at any time thereafter.

20.3. The provisional suspension will be effective from the date determined by the ITTF Integrity Board and it may be made public (including posting a notice on the ITTF's website) at any time after the effective date.

20.4. During the period of any provisional suspension, the Alleged Person may not participate in any capacity in any competition, programme or other activity authorised or organised by the ITTF or any Table Tennis Parties, and may not associate with other Alleged Persons.

20.5. An Alleged Person who is provisionally suspended has the right to apply to the ITTF Tribunal for an order lifting or limiting the provisional suspension. The provisional suspension may be lifted or limited if the Alleged Person demonstrates to the satisfaction of the ITTF Tribunal that:

20.5.1. the facts alleged in support of the charge(s) do not give rise to a Prima Facie Case;

20.5.2. the case against the Alleged Person has no reasonable prospect of success;

20.5.3. there is no real risk that the integrity of the sport of Table Tennis would be undermined; or

20.5.4. other facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all circumstances of the case, to make the Alleged Person serve a provisional suspension prior to the determination of the charge(s) against the Alleged Person. This ground is to be construed strictly, and applied only in truly exceptional circumstances.

20.5.4.1. The fact that the provisional suspension would prevent the Alleged Person from participating in a particular Table Tennis competition or event or to stand or election or appointment will not qualify as exceptional circumstances for these purposes.

20.6. An Alleged Person who is not provisionally suspended by the ITTF Integrity Unit may, at any time, notify the ITTF Integrity Unit that the Alleged Person will accept a voluntary provisional suspension pending determination of the charge(s). Such voluntary provisional suspension will come into effect only upon receipt by the ITTF Integrity Unit of written confirmation of the Alleged Person's acceptance of the provisional suspension. No adverse inference will be drawn from such acceptance.

20.7. A period of provisional suspension served by the Alleged Person may be credited against any final period of ineligibility imposed on the Alleged Person.

### 21. Exclusion Order

Where the ITTF Integrity Unit has sufficient evidence and is satisfied that any person (including a person who is not a Table Tennis Party) has likely breached an Applicable Rule and may undermine the integrity of the sport of Table Tennis, the ITTF Integrity Unit may issue an order directing that person to be excluded from any Table Tennis

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Party's competition, event, or activity and the Table Tennis Parties shall comply with such order.

### **22. Resolving Charges without a Hearing**

22.1. Where the Alleged Person:

22.1.1. Admits the charge(s) and accepts the sanction(s) specified in the Notice of Charge (or accepts other sanction(s) proposed by the ITTF Integrity Unit); or

22.1.2. Fails to respond by the deadline specified in the Notice of Charge (which will be deemed to amount to (a) a waiver of the Alleged Person's right to have the charge(s) and/or sanction(s) determined by the ITTF Tribunal; (b) an admission of the charge(s); and (c) an acceptance of the sanction(s) specified in the Notice of Charge),

the ITTF Integrity Unit will issue a public notice confirming the violation(s) committed and the sanction(s) imposed, and that notice will take effect as if it were a final decision of the ITTF Tribunal made in accordance with R29.

Alternatively, where they sees fit (such as where the ITTF Integrity Unit has specified a range of potential sanction(s) in the Notice of Charge), the ITTF Head of Integrity may refer the matter to the ITTF Tribunal to determine the sanction(s) to be imposed in accordance with R28.

22.2. Where the ITTF Integrity Unit considers it appropriate to do so (for example; to minimise the burden on resources, or to achieve an expeditious and proportionate outcome to a case), the ITTF Head of Integrity may agree terms with an Alleged Person who has been charged with a violation of the Applicable Rules for disposition of the charge without a hearing.

22.2.1. Such disposition will include confirmation of the commission of the violation(s) charged and acceptance of the sanction(s) to be imposed under these Regulations.

22.2.2. Any such discussion between the ITTF Head of Integrity and the Alleged Person in relation to the possibility of an agreed sanction will take place on a "without prejudice" basis and in such a manner that they will not delay or in any other way interfere with the proceedings.

### **23. Hearing before ITTF Tribunal**

23.1. If the Alleged Person wishes to have a hearing before the ITTF Tribunal to contest liability and/or sanction, the Alleged Person must provide a written request for a hearing to the ITTF Integrity Unit that is received by the ITTF Integrity Unit within 14 days of the Alleged Person's receipt of the Notice of Charge (or such longer period as may be specified in the Notice of Charge or as agreed by the ITTF Integrity Unit). The request for a hearing must explain how the Alleged Person responds to the charge(s) and set out (in summary form) the basis for such response.

23.2. The procedures and proceedings for a hearing before the ITTF Tribunal, including appeals, shall be as set out in the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

### **24. Alternative Procedures for Minor Violation**

24.1. Notwithstanding the provisions of these Regulations, where the ITTF Head of Integrity considers, at their discretion, a particular violation to be a minor violation, rather than to follow the procedures set out above, the ITTF Head of

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Integrity may refer the case (a “**Referral**”) to the ITTF Secretary General, any other appropriate person within the ITTF or a suitable qualified person (the “**Appropriate Person**”), to be dealt with in accordance with the following provisions of this R24.

24.2. The Referral will set out:

24.2.1. The name of the Alleged Person who is the subject of the Referral (the “**Respondent**”);

24.2.2. Full details of the alleged violation, including where, when and how it is alleged to have occurred;

24.2.3. The specific provisions of the Applicable Rules alleged to have been violated;

24.2.4. Details of any relevant evidence, including copies of any relevant documents; and

24.2.5. What sanctions proposed from the list of potential sanctions set out in R28.

24.3. The Appropriate Person will perform an inquisitorial function, investigating and determining the merits of the Referral.

24.4. Save where the ITTF Head of Integrity orders otherwise, all Referrals will be dealt with in writing, without any oral hearing.

24.5. The Appropriate Person will send a copy of the Referral to the Respondent, specifying a deadline within which the Respondent must file a written answer (the “**Answer**”) with the Appropriate Person, with a copy to the ITTF Integrity Unit. In the Answer, the Respondent may:

24.5.1. Admit the charge(s) set out in the Referral and accept the sanction(s) sought in the Referral;

24.5.2. Admit the charge(s) set out in the Referral but to seek to mitigate the sanction(s) proposed in the Referral; or

24.5.3. Dispute the charge(s) and/or the proposed sanction(s), in which case the Respondent must set out in the Answer their response to each of the allegations made in the Referral, identify any defences that they wish to assert, set out the facts on which the defence(s) is/are based, and attach copies of any evidence upon which they wish to rely.

24.6. The Appropriate Person may undertake such investigations in relation to the Referral and/or the Answer as the Appropriate Person deems necessary, including consulting with persons with knowledge of the facts and/or appointing experts to advise on specific issues.

24.7. If upon investigation, the Appropriate Person identifies facts that suggest the sanctions set out in R24.10 may not be sufficient, given the conduct of the Alleged Person, the Appropriate Person may raise this with the ITTF Head of Integrity, who will then decide whether to maintain the Referral or else withdraw the Referral and pursue the matter in accordance with the ordinary procedures set out above.

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24.8. The Appropriate Person is not bound by judicial rules governing the admissibility of evidence. Instead, facts may be established by any reliable means, including witness evidence, expert reports and documentary or video evidence.

24.9. The Appropriate Person will not uphold the charge(s) in a Referral unless satisfied that they are proven on the applicable standard of proof.

24.10. Where a charge in a Referral is upheld, the Appropriate Person will have the power to impose one or more of the following sanctions:

24.10.1. A caution or reprimand, or an oral or written warning;

24.10.2. Removal from a competition;

24.10.3. Removal from a venue;

24.10.4. Removal of accreditation;

24.10.5. A fine of not more than CHF 5,000; and

24.10.6. A ban on taking part in any table tennis-related activity of not more than three months.

24.11. The Appropriate Person will issue a reasoned decision in writing to the ITTF Integrity Unit and the Respondent, stating why the charge has or has not been upheld, and (if applicable) what sanctions are imposed.

24.12. The ITTF Integrity Unit will bear the costs incurred by the Appropriate Person in resolving the case. The Respondent will bear their own cost they incurred in relation to the Referral. Neither party may shift its cost to the other party.

24.13. There is no right to appeal from decisions of the Appropriate Party.

### **25. Transfer of cases from ITTF Members etc.**

25.1. In the event that any ITTF Member Association, affiliated organisation, or World Table Tennis undertakes any investigation or proceeding against a Table Tennis Party and the ITTF Integrity Unit reasonably deems that such investigation and/or proceeding is not conducted in a satisfactory manner, the ITTF Integrity Unit may direct for such investigation or proceeding to be transferred to the ITTF Integrity Unit.

25.2. Where the ITTF Integrity Unit makes a direction pursuant to R25.1, the relevant ITTF Member Association, affiliated organisation, or World Table Tennis shall take all necessary steps to effect the transfer of investigation and/or proceeding promptly and to assist the ITTF Integrity Unit in conducting the investigation and/or proceeding efficiently, including providing the ITTF Integrity Unit access to or copies of relevant documents, records, articles, and such other information.

### **26. Confidentiality of ITTF Integrity Unit Procedures**

26.1. Except in exceptional circumstances where the ITTF Integrity Unit reasonably deems it necessary for the purposes of protecting the integrity of Table Tennis and/or any of Table Tennis Party (for example in circumstances where there is significant damaging and/or incorrect media speculation), the ITTF Integrity Unit shall not publicly identify any Alleged Person until they have been formally charged, at which point the ITTF Integrity Unit shall be entitled to publicly

announce the name of the Alleged Person charged and the offences with which they have been charged. Thereafter, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall not comment publicly on the specific facts of a pending case, except in response to public comments made by (or on behalf of) the Alleged Person or their representatives or where otherwise necessary to preserve the public's confidence in the ability of the ITTF Integrity Unit to fight corruption in Table Tennis.

26.2. Without prejudice to any form of privilege available in respect of any such publication, the ITTF Integrity Unit shall be entitled to publish as it thinks fit and through whatever channel, reports of any proceedings pursuant to these Regulations, or any written decision of the ITTF Tribunal or any other recognised judicial body (in full or in a redacted form), whether or not it reflects adversely on the character or conduct of any Alleged Person. The Alleged Person shall be deemed to have provided their full and irrevocable consent to such publication.

### **27. Protection of Threatened Persons**

The ITTF Integrity Unit shall take reasonable and proportionate measures at its discretion to protect any Table Tennis Party who has a honest and reasonable belief that there is a serious threat to their life or safety, or to the life or safety of another person.

### **28. Sanctions**

28.1. Where the ITTF Tribunal decides that a violation of the Applicable Rules has been established, it may impose such sanction(s) as it deems appropriate in accordance with the Applicable Rules, in particular R8.35 of the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

28.2. Where the ITTF Tribunal determines that an appropriate sanction is not prescribed in the ITTF Tribunal Regulations, the ITTF Handbook or the ITTF Constitution, the ITTF Tribunal shall have the power to impose any sanction(s) as it deems appropriate and which commensurates with the violation of the Applicable Rules, taking into consideration the Applicable Rules, in particular R8.35 of the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

### **29. Decisions**

29.1. The ITTF Tribunal's decision shall be rendered in accordance with R8.36 of the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

### **30. Appeals**

30.1. The ITTF Integrity Unit and the Alleged Person will each have the right to appeal decisions of the ITTF Tribunal in accordance with R8.38 of the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

### **31. Communications**

31.1. Communications to the ITTF Integrity Unit may be by email to [integrity@ittf.com](mailto:integrity@ittf.com) or by mail to a stipulated address.

31.2. Notices or other communications to a person who is a member of a member association of ITTF or of an associated organisation of ITTF may be

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accomplished by delivering such notice or other communication to that member association of ITTF or that associated organisation of ITTF, respectively.

### 32. Time Limits

32.1. Unless otherwise set out in these Regulations, any time period to be calculated under these Regulations shall begin to run the day following the date of receipt of a notice or other communication.

32.2. The time limits fixed under these Regulations are respected if the communications by the parties are sent before midnight, time of the location of their own domicile or, if represented, of the domicile of their main legal representative, on the last day on which such time limits expire.

32.3. Non-working days and official holidays are included in calculating time limits. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the last day of the time limit is an official holiday or a non-business day in the location from where the document is to be sent, the time limit shall expire at the end of the next working day.

32.4. For the purposes of these Regulations, a “working day” means any day other than (i) Saturday or Sunday, or (ii) any day that is an official holiday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

32.5. Upon application on justified grounds and after consultation with the other party (or parties), the ITTF Head of Integrity may extend any time limit provided in these Regulations, if the circumstances so warrant.

### 33. Limitation Period

33.1. Unless expressly specified in the relevant Applicable Rule, there shall be no limitation period to investigate or prosecute any potential violation of any Applicable Rule or these Regulations.

33.2. Where a limitation period is stated in the relevant Applicable Rule,

33.2.1. the limitation period commences:

33.2.1.1. from the date of the commission of the alleged violation;

33.2.1.2. from the date of the most recent commission of the alleged violation, if that infringement is recurrent; or

33.2.1.3. from the date on which the alleged violation had ended, if that infringement lasted for a period of time; and

33.2.2. Where, in the case of any alleged violation is concealed by the fraud or deceitful behaviour of the Alleged Person or Respondent (or their representative), the limitation period shall not commence until the fraud or deceitful behaviour was discovered or could have discovered it with reasonable diligence.

33.3. For avoidance of doubt, this R33 prevails over the R8.24 of the ITTF Tribunal Regulations in the event of conflict.

### 34. Breaches

34.1. A refusal or failure by any party to comply with any provision of Part III of these Regulations will constitute an independent violation of these Regulations.

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34.2. Violation of any provision of Part III of these Regulations shall be sanctioned with a fine of up to CHF 20,000 and/or a ban on taking part in any table tennis-related activity for a maximum of two years.

34.2.1. For violations committed by an individual, sanctions shall be increased accordingly if the individual holds a high position in table tennis.

### Annex 1 – Key Procedures of the ITTF Integrity Unit

For reference, the general key procedures of the ITTF Integrity Unit are highlighted as follows.



\*The ITTF Head of Integrity may instead refer a case to an appropriate person for a simplified proceeding if it deems that the potential violation in question is a Minor Violation – see R16.3 and R24.

#The ITTF Tribunal's jurisdiction excludes hearing para table tennis matters (to be heard before the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification) and anti-doping rule violations (to be heard before the CAS Anti-Doping Division) – see R8.16 of ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

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**Proposition A-07 – Effective 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To insert a new Article 1.5.1.13

### **1.5.1.13 APPLICATION OF ELECTORAL AND APPOINTMENT REGULATIONS**

1.5.1.13.1 The election or appointment of individuals to the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Permanent Committees, Integrity Board, or such other key bodies or key individual roles (such as Commissioners) are subject to such terms as specified in the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations.

To insert a new Article 1.8.2.4

1.8.2.4 The appointment of individuals to the ITTF Tribunal are subject to such terms as specified in the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations.

To amend Article 6.5.2

6.5.2 The Table Tennis parties will respect the requirements of the various candidature procedures published by the ITTF, particularly regarding the selection of World Title hosts, ~~as well as~~ the Regulations for World Title events, and the Electoral and Appointment Regulations.

To introduce the new chapter 10 of the ITTF Handbook (see annex on the following page) including the Electoral and Appointment regulations.

*Rationale:*

*To incorporate a set of electoral and appointment regulations (annexed below) as Chapter 10 of the ITTF Handbook to govern the process of election and appointment of key bodies and individual roles.*

*To include the appointment of individuals to the ITTF Tribunal under the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations.*

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### Annex to Proposition A-07

# 10 ITTF ELECTORAL AND APPOINTMENT REGULATIONS

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## Part I: Introduction

The Executive Committee, Board of Directors, the Integrity Board, the Finance and Audit Committee, the ITTF Tribunal, and various Permanent Committees are key bodies in the worldwide governance of table tennis.

These Regulations are developed in accordance with the ITTF Handbook and the principles of good governance and adopted to govern the Election Process and Appointment Process of these bodies

## Part II: Application and Governing Principles

### 1. Application of these Regulations

These Regulations shall be enforced towards the Election Process (Executive Committee and Board of Directors) and Appointment Process (Integrity Board, Finance and Audit Committee and Permanent Committees) and shall apply to the Nominations Committee, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Integrity Board, Finance and Audit Committee, the ITTF Tribunal, Permanent Committees, Nominating Associations, each member of the foregoing bodies, Candidates, Existing Officials, ITTF staff, and such other persons who agree to be or are otherwise bound by these Regulations ("**Covered Persons**")

### 2. Principles Governing the Election Process and Appointment Process

2.1. The Election Process and Appointment Process are governed by these Regulations and the ITTF Handbook. In particular, Article 6.8.3 of the ITTF Handbook applies to the Election of the President, in addition to these Regulations and the other relevant provisions of the ITTF Handbook.

2.2. Candidates must meet the requirements as set out in these Regulations and the ITTF Handbook.

2.3. Interference in the outcome of any Election or Appointment for any Key Position is not permitted.

### 3. General Obligations of Candidates for Election and Appointment

3.1. Candidates for Election are entitled to promote their candidacy, subject to these Regulations and the ITTF Handbook. Candidates for Appointment shall not engage in any promotion.

3.2. Candidates shall act fairly and in good faith and respect the other Candidates, ITTF, its Member Associations and Associated Organisations.

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3.3. Candidates shall not act in a way likely to tarnish the reputation of ITTF, its Member Associations, its Associated Organisations, or the sport of table tennis, or to bring ITTF, its Member Associations, its Associated Organisations, or otherwise breach these Regulations or the ITTF Handbook. In particular, each Candidate shall not harm or do anything likely to harm the image of another Candidate or cause any prejudice to them.

3.4. The candidacy of all Candidates is subject to them being Eligible, satisfying the requirements of these Regulations and the ITTF Handbook, and adhering to the directives, guidelines, or such other documents issued by the Nominations Committee.

### Part III: Supervision of the Election and Appointment

#### 4. Supervising Body

4.1. The Nominations Committee shall be the responsible body to oversee and supervise each part of the Election Process and Appointment Process in accordance with these Regulations and the ITTF Handbook.

4.2. The Nominations Committee shall operate and carry out its duties, responsibilities, and obligations in accordance with these Regulations, its terms of reference, and the ITTF Handbook and shall have and exercise all powers and authority necessary to carry out its duties, responsibilities, and obligations as set out in these Regulations.

4.3. The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for Vetting a Candidate to be Appointed or Elected to a Key Position.

4.4. The Nominations Committee may issue directives, guidelines, or such other documents to govern the Election Process and the Appointment Process.

4.5. Subject to R26, decisions made by the Nominations Committee will be final and binding

### Part IV: Application Process

#### 5. Application

5.1. A Nominating Association (for the Elections of Executive Committee and Board of Directors Members and for Appointments for Permanent Committees) or the Candidate (for the Appointment to the Integrity Board, the Finance and Audit Committee, or the ITTF Tribunal), shall submit an Application by completing the prescribed nomination form or application form (as applicable). in which shall include the following information:

5.1.1. The Candidate's name, date of birth and office address;

5.1.2. The Candidate's contact number and email address;

5.1.3. A copy of the Candidate's curriculum vitae;

5.1.4. A copy of the Candidate's Declaration Form;

5.1.5. The Key Position for which the Candidate is applying; and

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5.1.6. A declaration that the Application is true, accurate and complete and that the Nominating Association or Candidate (as applicable), understands and accepts the Vetting Process, the Election Process or the Appointment Process (as applicable) and agree to be bound by these Regulations.

### 6. Declaration Form

6.1. The Candidate shall provide the necessary information and shall further complete a prescribed Declaration Form to represent and warrant that any and all information provided by the Candidate in the Application is true, accurate and complete.

6.2. The Declaration Form shall form part of the Application as a supporting document.

### 7. Submission of Application

Each Nominating Association (for Key Positions on the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or Permanent Committees) or Candidates (for Key Positions on the Integrity Board, the Finance and Audit Committee, or the ITTF Tribunal) (as applicable) shall submit its Application in the prescribed manner and form by the stipulated deadline.

### 8. Vetting Process

8.1. The Vetting Process shall apply to each Candidate and towards each Application submitted in accordance with this R8.

8.2. The Nominations Committee shall screen the Candidate by way of their Application to determine their Eligibility to be Elected or Appointed to a Key Position in accordance with R10.

8.3. The Candidate and the Nominating Association (if applicable) shall ensure that any and all information in his Application and Declaration Form is up-to-date.

8.4. The Candidate shall ensure that they remain Eligible, to the best of their knowledge, for an Election or Appointment to a Key Position.

8.4.1. If it is to the knowledge of the Candidate that they are no longer, or unlikely to be, Eligible, the Candidate shall immediately notify the Nominations Committee in writing of such knowledge.

8.5. The Nominations Committee shall submit to the AGM a report, setting out any rejection of Application due to an incomplete Application or a failure to meet the Eligibility Requirements.

### 9. Publication of List of Candidates

The Nominations Committee shall publicly make available the final list of Candidates upon completing the Vetting Process.

### 10. Eligibility Requirements

10.1. All Candidates must be determined as Eligible for recommendation and Election or Appointment to a Key Position to the full satisfaction of the Nominations Committee.

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10.2. In addition to any other applicable provision of the ITTF Handbook, the eligibility criteria to which the Nominations Committee shall observe and ensure that a Candidate must satisfy are as follows:

10.2.1. Is at least 18 years old or has attained the age of majority in the country of their citizenship (whichever is higher);

10.2.2. Is able to work collaboratively within a diverse group of individuals;

10.2.3. Is able to work with integrity, objectivity, openness, honesty, and selflessness;

10.2.4. Is able to meet the standards expected and required of an Official in the relevant Key Position;

10.2.5. Is physically and mentally fit and able to perform the duties and obligations of an Official in the relevant Key Position;

10.2.6. Is of good character and reputation;

10.2.7. Does not have an interest in any Member Association or Associated Organisation, which is not stated in the Declaration Form;

10.2.8. Is not an undischarged bankrupt or is not subject to any condition not yet fulfilled or order under bankruptcy law any jurisdiction;

10.2.9. Is not barred from being a director of a company in any jurisdiction;

10.2.10. Is not convicted of any offence by a term of imprisonment of two or more years (whether or not a term of imprisonment is imposed), unless that person has obtained a pardon or served the sentence imposed upon them;

10.2.11. Has not been subject to an order that they lack competence to manage their own affairs;

10.2.12. Is not serving a period of ineligibility or suspension for a breach of any legislation, rules and regulations pertaining to any sport by the ITTF Tribunal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, a court of law, or such other competent judicial body;

10.2.13. Has not been removed from office for a breach of any legislation, rules and regulations pertaining to any sport by the ITTF Tribunal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, a court of law, or such other competent judicial body; and

10.2.14. Is not prohibited from holding the relevant Key Position under any other circumstances provided by law, these Regulations, or the ITTF Handbook.

### Part V: Restrictions on Promotion and Prohibition of Gifts etc.

#### 11. Restrictions on Candidates for Appointments

11.1. Candidates for Appointments shall not engage in any promotion of their candidacy.

11.2. R12 to R14 shall not apply to Candidates for Appointments.

#### 12. Specific obligations of Candidates for Election

12.1. In addition to R3, Candidates for Election shall ensure that their promotion of their candidacy adheres to the regulations set out in this Part V.

#### 13. Promotion and Promotional Materials

13.1. Candidates shall ensure that the content and presentation of all materials produced by or on behalf of them to promote their candidacy (including any manifestos) must be fair, honest and respectful of other Candidates, ITTF, its

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Member Associations, its Associated Organisations, and the sport of table tennis.

13.2. Candidates may make public statements, give interviews or issue written materials to promote their candidacy, provided that they shall not:

13.2.1. pay journalists or such other persons affiliated with the media to promote their Candidacies; and

13.2.2. not produce, or permit the production of any promotional material (including any manifestos), which harms or is likely to harm the image or reputation of another Candidate, ITTF, any Member Association, any Associated Organisation, or the sport of table tennis.

13.3. Candidates may engage the services of a public relations firm or public relations consultant, provided that R13.2 is adhered to.

### 14. Funding

Candidates shall declare, as part of their Application, all funding for their campaign coming from third parties, including donations and fundraising. Where the Candidate purely finance their campaign personally, such declaration is not required.

### 15. Gifts etc.

15.1. Candidates shall not offer or give any gift, donation, advantage, or benefit of any nature or value to any Member Association (or its representative) that is entitled to vote in the Election or Appointment.

15.2. Despite R15.1, it is permissible for exchanges of tokens of courtesy to be given if they are of nominal value, in that they have insignificant or no commercial value.

15.3. Candidates shall not offer any assistance of any kind (whether financial or otherwise) to any Member Association (or its representative) or any other person to enable them to attend the Election or Appointment.

### 16. Promises etc.

16.1. Candidates shall not enter into any promise or undertaking to act either as an Official or personally for the advantage or benefit of a Member Association, Associated Organisation, or individual within any such body.

16.2. Candidates shall not enter into any promise or undertaking with any person that is likely to affect the Candidate's freedom of decision or action, or otherwise bind the Candidate, if Elected or Appointed.

16.3. Candidates shall not solicit or accept any advantage or benefit of any nature intended to influence decisions within their authority once Elected or Appointed, or which may reasonably be perceived as intending to have that effect.

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### 17. Collusion

Candidates shall not engage in any act, collaboration or collusion by or between Candidates, Member Associations and Associated Organisation with the intent or knowledge to defraud or manipulate the result of the Election or Appointment.

### 18. Assistance from Staff

18.1. Unless in the ordinary course of duties as an Existing Official, Candidates shall not solicit or receive individual or special support or services from ITTF staff (including any consultants, agents or advisors) to assist with the conduct of their candidacy.

18.2. Despite R18.1, it is permissible for general administrative support and services to be provided to ensure that the Election or Appointment is conducted in a fair, open and consistent manner.

### 19. Breach of a Regulation under this Part

Without limiting the application of these Regulations or any other provision of the ITTF Handbook, the breach of any Regulation under this Part V shall be construed to be a breach of the relevant provision under Article 6.2 of the ITTF Handbook.

## Part VI: Election Day Procedures

### 20. Application of the ITTF Handbook

20.1. Without affecting the general application of the ITTF Handbook, pursuant to Article 1.5.1.10 of the ITTF Handbook:

20.1.1. Where there are more Candidates or options for a post or posts than the number of vacancies, as long as the simple majority (more than 50%) is not reached, additional ballots will be required. In this case, the Candidate or option obtaining the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated;

20.1.2. If there is a tie for the lowest number of votes, a further vote shall be held amongst them to determine who is eliminated;

20.1.3. Consecutive ballots will be organised until the Election is decided; and

20.1.4. At an Election a ballot paper shall be considered valid only if the number of votes cast on this ballot equals the number of vacancies.

### 21. Candidates' Presentations

21.1. Each Candidate for the Key Position of the President shall given an opportunity to make a presentation on the Election day or the day before for approximately 10 minutes and under similar conditions, prior to the voting procedure.

21.2. Each Candidate for the Key Position of an Executive Vice-President shall given an opportunity to make a presentation on the Election day or the day before for approximately 5 minutes and under similar conditions, prior to the voting procedure.

21.3. The AGM Chair may give any direction necessary for the expediency and fairness of each Candidate presentation.

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### 22. Voting Procedure

22.1. Member Association (or its representative) that is entitled to vote in the Election shall cast their vote in the manner set out in Article 1.5.1.9 of the ITTF Handbook and as follows.

22.2. Votes to elect Candidates to each Key Position shall be cast by secret ballot and may be done in person or electronically, in the manner prescribed or directed by the AGM Chair.

22.3. The voting procedure shall be overseen by scrutineers approved according to Article 1.5.1.9.5 of the ITTF Handbook.

### 23. Announcement of Results of Elections

The AGM Chair shall verify the results of the voting procedure and announce the result of the Election of each Key Position.

### 24. Retention and Destruction of Ballots

After the Election has been completed, the ballots (whether physical or electronic votes) shall be retained for a period of one month and after which, the Nominations Committee shall call for, oversee, and confirm the destruction of the ballots.

## Part VII: Breaches and Appeals

### 25. Suspected Breach

25.1. Covered Persons shall promptly report any suspected breach of these Regulations to the Nominations Committee:

25.1.1. Any suspected breach of any Regulation under Part V must be reported within 24 hours following discovery of the circumstances.

25.1.2. Any suspected breach of any other Part of these Regulations must be reported within 30 days following discovery of the circumstances.

25.2. Upon receiving a report of any suspected breach, the Nominations Committee shall promptly:

25.2.1. review the report for any alleged breach of these Regulations;

25.2.2. the Candidate in question accordingly; and

25.2.3. provide the Candidate with an opportunity to respond to the alleged breach within a period that the Nominations Committee deems appropriate, taking into consideration the proximity of the Election.

25.3. The Nominations Committee shall provide the relevant Candidate with a written decision as to the alleged breach of the Regulations as soon as practicable.

25.4. Where a report of an alleged breach of these Regulations is made after the Election, the Nomination Committee shall refer the matter to the Integrity Unit.

### 26. Appeal

Any Covered Person may appeal the decision of the Nominations Committee to the ITTF Tribunal in accordance to the ITTF Tribunal Regulations.

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### 27. Jurisdiction of the ITTF Tribunal

27.1. The ITTF Tribunal shall have the original jurisdiction to hear and decide in accordance with the ITTF Tribunal Regulations:

27.1.1. any suspected breach of these Regulations, as described in R25; and

27.1.2. any appeal of the decision of the Nominations Committee, as described in R26.

## Part VIII: General Terms

### 28. Citation and commencement

These Regulations may be cited as the ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations and shall come into operation on 25 November 2021.

### 29. Definitions

29.1. The capitalised terms used in these Regulations are as defined in the 2021 Handbook or as follows, unless the context otherwise requires:

29.1.1. “**Application**” means an application for a determination to be Appointed or Elected to a Key Position, which shall include the Letters of Recommendation and Declaration Form.

29.1.2. “**Appointment**”, “**Appointment Process**”, and “to appoint” means the process by which Candidates undergo to be appointed or stand to be appointed to a Key Position of the Permanent Committees, the Integrity Board, the Finance and Audit Committee, or the ITTF Tribunal and includes the Vetting Process.

29.1.3. “**Candidate**” means any person, which shall include any Existing Official, who has applied for an Appointment or Election to a Key Position to be determined by the Nominations Committee.

29.1.4. “**Covered Person**” means each person as defined in R1.

29.1.5. “**Declaration Form**” means the declaration form that shall be submitted in support of an Application.

29.1.6. “**Election**”, “**Election Process**”, and “to elect” mean the process by which Candidates undergo to be elected or stand to be elected to the Key Position of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors and includes the Vetting Process.

29.1.7. “**Election Day**” means each day during the Election when votes are cast to Elect Eligible Candidates to any Key Position.

29.1.8. “**Eligibility**” and “**Eligible**” mean that the Candidate has satisfied the Eligibility Requirements.

29.1.9. “**Eligibility Requirements**” means the requirements for a Candidate to satisfy to be Eligible.

29.1.10. “**Existing Official**” means an Official holding the present Key Position in view of the upcoming Appointment or Election.

29.1.11. “**ITTF Handbook**” means the ITTF Handbook as published and amended from time to time.

29.1.12. “**Key Position**” means the key position of an Official.

29.1.13. “**Nominating Association**” means any ITTF Member Association that nominates a Candidate.

29.1.14. “**Official**” means a key position within ITTF in either the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, Integrity Board, Finance and Audit Committee or any Permanent Committee.



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29.1.15. “**Regulations**” means these ITTF Electoral and Appointment Regulations.

29.1.16. “**Referee**” means an individual preparing and recommending a Candidate by way of a Recommendation.

29.1.17. “**Vetting**”, “**Vetting Process**” and “to vet” mean the process by which the Nominations Committee screens and recommends a Candidate to be Eligible for Appointment or Election.

### 30. Interpretation

30.1. These Regulations are adopted pursuant to the ITTF Handbook and shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with applicable provisions of the ITTF Handbook. In case of any conflict, the ITTF Constitution prevail over these Regulations.

30.2. The headings and sub-headings in these Regulations are for convenience only and shall not be deemed to be part of the substance of these Regulations or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

30.3. Words used regardless of the number and gender specifically used, shall be deemed and construed to include any other number, singular or plural, and any other gender, masculine, feminine or neuter, as the context requires.

30.4. Any words following the terms “including”, “include”, “in particular”, “such as” or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.

30.5. If any provision of these Regulations is held to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, it shall be deemed to be deleted and the remainder of these Regulations shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

30.6. A “Candidate” shall include any and all Existing Officials intending to be re-Elected or re-Appointed to his respective existing Key Positions, and the Application process shall be applicable to such Existing Officials.

30.7. A “Candidate” shall include any potential Candidate if their Nominating Association (for the Key Positions of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or any Permanent Committee) or themselves (for the Key Positions of the Integrity Board, the Finance and Audit Committee, or the ITTF Tribunal) has submitted an Application or that they have conducted themselves in a manner reasonably understood that they are a Candidate, whether or not the Vetting Process or Election Process has been completed.

30.8. A “Nominating Association” shall include any potential Nominating Association if it has submitted an Application or that it has conducted itself in a manner reasonably understood that it is a Nominating Association, whether or not the Vetting Process or Election Process has been completed.

30.9. References to “Integrity Board” shall only apply to the positions of Independent Members of the Integrity Board, as defined in the ITTF Integrity Regulations.

## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-08 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.5.4.2

1.5.4.24 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Chair of the Athletes Commission and eight (8) Executive Vice-Presidents of which the President will nominate one for the position of Deputy President and another for the position of EVP of Finances, one representative of the ITTF Foundation and one representative of the WTT. In addition, any IOC member may be an ex officio Executive Committee member by decision of the Executive Committee.

*Rationale:*

*We are now transforming the ITTF to the ITTF Group, which includes the Foundation and WTT and in this way they are also represented in the ITTF.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-09 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To remove 1.5.10.6, to add a new 1.5.3.3 and to renumber current 1.5.3.3 to 1.5.3.8

~~1.5.10.6 — No person shall at the same time serve as a member of the Executive Committee and as a President of a Continental Federation.~~

**1.5.3.3 For the Continental Federations which President is also member of the ITTF Executive Committee, the Continental Federation may appoint another member of their Continental Board for the ITTF Board.**

*Rationale:*

*Continental presidents should not be forbidden from being part of the ITTF Executive Committee because they are in close contact with their member associations and can bring their voices to the EC. In other IFs continental presidents are members of the EC by their continental position.*

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**Proposition A-10 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To insert a new Article 1.5.4.2

### 1.5.4.2 Powers of the Executive Committee

1.5.4.2.1 The powers vested in the Executive Committee pursuant to Article 1.5.4.2. shall be exercised by way of a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

1.5.4.2.2 Despite Article 1.5.4.2.1, unless otherwise expressly provided under this Constitution, the Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to any of its members or other persons within ITTF expressly or impliedly and any such delegation of power may be revoked (fully or partially) by the Executive Committee at any time.

*Rationale:*

*To clarify any doubt that any power that the Executive Committee has vests in the Executive Committee (as a whole) and not in any individual member of the Executive Committee, unless specifically stated in the Constitution.*

*To clarify that the Executive Committee's power may be delegated but such powers are revocable.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-11 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To insert a new Article 1.5.4.3

### 1.5.4.3 Duties of the Executive Committee

1.5.4.3.1 The Executive Committee members shall at all times:

1.5.4.3.1.1 promote the principles of the ITTF and advance its objectives;

1.5.4.3.1.2 act in good faith and carry out their responsibilities in the best interests of the ITTF and the ITTF Member Associations as a whole;

1.5.4.3.1.3 comply, and ensure that the ITTF complies, with applicable laws, this Constitution, any other rule or regulation of the ITTF Handbook, and decisions of any judicial body;

1.5.4.3.1.4 not engage in any act of dishonesty, gross misconduct, or willful neglect of duty;

1.5.4.3.1.5 not do anything (by act or omission) that is likely to bring the ITTF or the sport of table tennis into disrepute or that is contrary to the best interests of the ITTF or the sport of table tennis;

1.5.4.3.1.6 exercise the care, diligence and skill that any reasonable Executive Committee member would exercise in the same circumstances;

1.5.4.3.1.7 disclose to the Executive Committee and the ITTF Integrity Unit the nature and extent of any interest that they have (or any person connected with them has) in a transaction or proposed transaction of or involving the ITTF as soon as they become aware of such interest or such transaction and refrain from making an opinion and voting on any connected resolution;

1.5.4.3.1.8 maintain confidentiality as to the communications and affairs of the Executive Committee and confidential information (except as needed to be disclosed through its meeting minutes) and not disclose it to any other person, unless for the benefit of the ITTF, as agreed by the Executive Committee, or as required by law or the ITTF Handbook; and

1.5.4.3.1.9 make reasonable efforts to attend and actively participate in all Executive Committee meetings.

*Rationale:*

*To codify some fundamental duties expected of EC members which are similar to director's duties to a company.*

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**Proposition A-12 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend (current) Article 1.5.4.3

~~1.5.4.35 Meetings of the Executive Committee and conduct of business outside meetings The Executive Committee shall meet during the period of the World Championships and otherwise when convened by the President.~~

1.5.4.5.1 The Executive Committee shall meet during the period of the World Championships and otherwise when convened by the President or by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

1.5.4.5.2 The quorum for any Executive Committee meeting shall be more than 50% of the members of the Executive Committee then in office and entitled to vote.

1.5.4.5.3 Meetings of the Executive Committee may be conducted remotely through, without limitation, telephone or videoconference.

1.5.4.5.4 Each Executive Committee member present and entitled to vote shall have one vote per motion, provided that any Executive Committee member having a conflict of interest on any motion shall not vote on that motion.

1.5.4.5.5 Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, motions of the Executive Committee require a simple majority of the Executive Committee then in office and entitled to vote in order to be passed. In the event of an equality of votes in favour of and against the motion, the President will have the casting vote.

1.5.4.5.6 Motions of the Executive Committee may be passed by correspondence, without conducting any physical or remote meeting, and the use of electronic mail and other generally acceptable electronic communication means is permissible for such purposes.

1.5.4.5.7 A written motion that is signed or consented to by electronic mail or other generally acceptable electronic communication means by a simple majority of the Executive Committee will be valid as if it had been passed at an Executive Committee meeting. Any such motion may be made up of several documents in substantially similar form, each signed or consented to by one or more Executive Committee members.

1.5.4.5.8 Unless specified otherwise above, the Executive Committee may regulate the conduct of its meetings and all other matters concerning its meetings through its Terms of Reference or relevant document.

*Rationale:*

*To add a subheader for clarity.*

*For flexibility, to permit an alternative for an EC meeting to be called instead of solely by the President.*

*To clarify that meetings may be conducted remotely.*

*To clarify that decisions may be made by correspondence.*

*To provide that other aspects of EC meetings may be regulated through terms of reference.*

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**Proposition A-13 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.5.4.4

1.5.4.46 Vacancies at the Executive Committee

1.5.4.46.1 If the President resigns or is unable to continue in office, he or she shall be replaced by the Deputy President.

1.5.4.46.2 A vacancy arising in the post of Deputy President or in the Executive Vice-President – Finance position shall be filled by an Executive Vice-President ~~nominated by the President~~ appointed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

1.5.4.46.3 A vacancy arising in the posts of Executive Vice-Presidents during the first three years of the running term of office shall be filled by simple majority vote at the next AGM (or EGM) for the remaining years of the running term.

1.5.4.46.4 A vacancy arising in the post of the Chair of the Athletes Commission shall be filled by one of the Deputy Chairs elected by this Commission.

*Rationale:*

*To clarify what happens in case of vacancies in the Executive Committee.*

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**Proposition A-14 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To insert a new Article 1.5.4.7

### 1.5.4.7 Suspension or removal of Executive Committee members

1.5.4.7.1 The Executive Committee may, by two-thirds majority, pass a motion to suspend any Executive Committee member, subject to such terms it deems appropriate, if that member:

1.5.4.7.1.1 is charged with commission of a criminal or a disciplinary offence, such as violation of the ITTF Code of Ethics or breach of the rules of an ITTF Member Association or ITTF Associated Organisation Member and in the Executive Committee's reasonable opinion, there is a real risk that the integrity of the sport of table tennis or public confidence could be seriously undermined; or

1.5.4.7.1.2 is, in the Executive Committee's reasonable opinion, in breach of one or more of their duties under 1.5.4.2 of this Constitution.

1.5.4.7.2 If a suspension pursuant to Article 1.5.4.7.1.1 is imposed, such suspension will remain in place pending the outcome of such charges before the ITTF Tribunal or such other judicial body.

1.5.4.7.3 The Executive Committee may by two-thirds majority pass a motion to remove any Executive Committee member before the end of their term of office, subject to such terms it deems appropriate, if that member:

1.5.4.7.3.1 is clearly, in the Executive Committee's reasonable opinion, in serious, repeated, or continuous breach of one or more of their duties under 1.5.4.2 of this Constitution; or

1.5.4.7.3.2 fails to meet the terms imposed by the Executive Committee for lifting a suspension imposed under Article 1.5.4.7.1.

1.5.4.7.4 Before suspending or removing any Executive Committee member pursuant to Article 1.5.4.7, the Executive Committee shall provide that member with:

1.5.4.7.4.1 written notice of the proposed suspension or removal, including the reasons for such proposal; and

1.5.4.7.4.2 the opportunity to present their case to the Executive Committee within a reasonable period (not less than 48 hours).

1.5.4.7.5 Any Executive Committee member who is suspended or removed pursuant to Article 1.5.4.7 shall automatically be suspended or removed (as applicable) from any position which they hold ex officio in relation to their membership in the Executive Committee.

1.5.4.7.8 This Article 1.5.4.7 is in addition to and does not limit any other powers that exist under this Constitution or any other rule or regulation of the ITTF Handbook to suspend or remove any Executive Committee member from office.

1.5.4.7.9 Any Executive Commission member who is suspended or removed pursuant to Article 1.5.4.7 may appeal such suspension or removal to the ITTF Tribunal.

*Rationale:*

*To expressly provide the conditions where an EC member may be suspended or removed from office.*



## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-15 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.5.12.1

1.5.12.1 Rule change propositions and resolutions may be submitted to the AGM or the Board by Associations, the Executive Committee, Continental Federations, committees, and commissions, the ITTF Integrity Unit and the ITTF Tribunal and to the AGM by the Board.

*Rationale:*

*To permit also the independent ITTF Integrity Unit and ITTF Tribunal to submit propositions and resolutions.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Proposition A-16 – Effective immediately if it passes (2/3 majority required)**

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend Article 1.5.3.7

1.5.3.7 The Board shall meet at the place and date decided during the last Board meeting and in case of emergency, or if not decided during the last meeting, at such other place and date as the Executive Committee may determine, but shall otherwise conduct its business by correspondence. A Board meeting may be convened remotely (wholly or partly) if considered appropriate.

*Rationale:*

*To clarify any doubt that the Board may hold its meetings in hybrid form.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Proposition A-17

(2/3 majority required)

Proposed by the Morocco Table Tennis Association.

To amend Article 1.1.2.1

Only States recognized by the United Nations have the right to be members of the ITTF and therefore, participate in competitions or other international manifestations organised by the ITTF.

*Rationale:*

*Not provided.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Proposition A-18

(2/3 majority required)

Proposed by the Athletes Commission.

1. To develop statutes for the ITTF Athletes Commission and to adopt the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration from the IOC as integral part of the ITTF Athletes Commission statutes.
2. To include in the ITTF Objectives (1.1.4 of the ITTF of the ITTF Handbook) the promotion and respect of the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration;
3. To develop a section in the ITTF Handbook that recognizes the Athletes as the core element of the sport and to include their Rights and Responsibilities, as outlined in the Athletes' Declaration, as a pledge of the ITTF.

#### *Rationale:*

*The Athletes' Declaration was adopted by the Olympic Movement in October 2018. It outlines a common set of aspirational rights and responsibilities for athletes within the Olympic Movement and within the jurisdiction of its members.*

*It is inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognised human rights standards, principles and treaties. Its objective is to guide the Olympic Movement's actions.*

*The Athletes' Declaration has subsequently been expressly endorsed by different sporting bodies, namely ANOC, ASOIF, Panam Sports Athlete Forum, Olympic Council of Asia Athletes' Forum, ONOC, Olympic Summit, New Zealand and Australian Olympic Committees, International Sky Federation, International Surfing Association, International Hockey Federation, World Archery, World Rowing, International Federation of Sport Climbing, International Federation of Luge, International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation and International Skating Union.*

*The Table Tennis Athletes and their interests are integral to the ITTF.*

*As a Member of the Olympic Movement, the ITTF should strive to promote respect for these rights and responsibilities.*

*It is the time for the ITTF to also adopt it, create more awareness and ensure athletes are well represented and considered in all instances of the institution.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Proposition A-19

(2/3 majority required)

Proposed by the Athletes Commission.

To amend 1.5.4.2

*The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, two members of the Athletes Commission, from different genders, 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 Executive Committee member by decision of the Executive Committee.*

*Rationale:*

*Already nine Olympic Sport Federations have at least two Athletes in their Executive Boards: World Athletics, World Taekwondo, International Tennis Federation, International Triathlon Union, International Volleyball Federation International Surfing Federation, International Federation of Sport Climbing, International Boxing Federation and World Baseball Softball Federation).*

*The Athletes Commission seeks to ensure both male and female athletes are represented in the Executive Committee and, also, to ensure a higher degree of representation (currently below 10%).*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

### Proposition A-20

(2/3 majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Member Association of SWE.

To amend 1.5.6 and 1.5.7 into a new 1.5.6

#### 1.5.6 ~~ITTF Continental Council (ITTF CC)~~ ~~Olympic and Paralympic Commission~~

~~1.5.6.1 The Commission shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee, Presidents of Continental Federations or their appointees, the Chair of the Para Table Tennis Committee or his or her appointee and a representative of the organising committees of the next Olympic and Paralympic Games.~~ The ITTF Continental Council is an extended arm of the ITTF Executive committee and shall meet on a set yearly schedule approved by the ITTF Executive committee and at other times when convened by the ITTF President. The ITTF CC consists of the members of the Executive Committee and the Presidents or their representatives from the recognized continental federations.

1.5.6.2 The ~~Commission~~ **Continental Council** shall be responsible for;

1.5.6.2.1 planning, control and supervision of the table tennis event in Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**1.5.6.2.2 Co-opting and call upon relevant technical experts, representatives for the ITTF Para TT Committee and the Olympic Games organizers to join one or several ITTF CC meetings on a per need basis decided by the ITTF Executive committee.**

~~1.5.6.2.2~~ **3** liaising with the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees, National Olympic and Paralympic Committees and Associations on all matters concerning Olympic and Paralympic competitions.

~~1.5.6.2.3~~ **4** enforcement of the eligibility regulations and confirmation of the eligibility of entrants for Olympic and Paralympic events and all other world title events.

~~1.5.6.2.4 drafting and submission to the Board of proposals for a qualifying system for entry into Olympic and Paralympic events;~~

1.5.6.2.5 appointing a jury, technical representatives and all match officials for the Olympic and Paralympic table tennis events.

1.5.6.2.6 ensuring that the table tennis events at Olympic and Paralympic Games comply with the letter and the spirit of the Olympic charter and IPC Handbook respectively;

1.5.6.2.7 initiating and reviewing proposals for the table tennis events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**1.5.6.2.8 to provide input and strategic guidance related to the building of the international calendar of events.**

**1.5.6.2.9 drafting and submission of proposals for qualifying systems and pathways for entry into Olympic and Paralympic and ITTF World Title Events applying to all recognized continental federations and designated qualification pathways.**

**1.5.6.2.10 Co-opting and call upon relevant technical experts, representatives for the ITTF Major World Title events organizers to join one or several ITTF CC meetings at times requested by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

#### ~~1.5.7 Development and Continental Council~~

## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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~~1.5.7.1 The Development and Continental Council shall be composed of the President, the Executive Vice-President in charge of Development and the Presidents of Continental Federations or their appointees.~~

~~1.5.7.2 The Development and Continental Council shall~~

1.5.6.2.11 propose development programme and high performance related initiatives to support the future overall development orientations of the ITTF, giving specific consideration to the promotion of gender equity, youth development and member associations rights and duties in co-operation with Continental Federations.

~~1.5.7.3 The Development and Continental Council shall also~~

1.5.6.2.12 discuss all other matters of common interest to the recognized Continental Federations and the ITTF.

~~1.5.7.4 The Development and Continental Council shall meet at the same occasion as the Olympic and Paralympic Commission.~~

1.5.6.2.13 One or several members of the ITTF staff, appointed by the President, shall attend all meetings of the ITTF Executive Council and shall draft its minutes and reports.

~~1.5.7.5 The Development and Continental Council shall submit a written report to the AGM.~~

1.5.6.2.14 The meetings of the ITTF CC shall be minuted with a yearly report submitted to the AGM.

*Rationale:*

*To create the optimal organizational platform and to secure the proper continental input for strategic decisions related to all world title events and the international calendar, with the table tennis events in the Olympic and Paralympics Games included. The ITTF Continental Council shall replace the ITTF Future Events working group as well as the Olympic and Paralympic Commission and also absorb the Development and Continental council responsibilities.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Proposition A-21

(3/4 majority required)

Proposed by the Equipment Committee.

To amend 2.4.5

The blade, any layer within the blade and any layer of covering material or adhesive on a side used for striking the ball shall be continuous and of even thickness. **Material suitable to shape a handle for holding the racket may be added on.**

To change 2.4.7.1

Slight deviations from continuity of surface or uniformity of colour ~~due to accidental damage or wear~~ **as well as helpful or protective fittings** may be allowed provided that they do not significantly change the characteristics of the striking surface.

To switch the numeration of paragraphs 2.4.4 and 2.4.5.

*Rationale:*

*2.4.5 A most important part of a racket is not introduced in the Laws or in the Regulations: the handle. Adding these sentences does not change anything to the actual, practical situation.*

*2.4.7.1 Deleting the “accidental damage or wear” for acceptable slight deviations may (for instance) allow roughening the surface of the rubber, where the player grips it with the finger. A helpful and protective deviation may (for instance) be a slight overlap of the tape; in para-TT, players often protect their rubbers, which may touch the table, when players recover balance after having hit the ball. As the end of the sentence clearly says “provided that they do not significantly change the characteristics of the surface”, there is no danger, and the referee takes care, as he/she does now.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Proposition A-22

(3/4 majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Member Association of IRI.

To amend 2.6.3

As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his or her court and then touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver or it shall touch successively the left half court of server and receiver.

*Rationale:*

*The extension of the service rule removes the disadvantage for right hand players and allows more flexibility to use their best position when starting a rally.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Resolution A-01 – Effective immediately if it passes (Simple majority required)**

**Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To resolve and to dispel any doubt that this 2021 ITTF AGM is validly constituted in a hybrid format – partly physical and partly remote. In no manner will the 2021 ITTF AGM, any of its decision, or any part of it be rendered invalid because of it being convened in a hybrid format.

*Rationale:*

*Art. 1.5.1.5.2 of the 2021 ITTF Handbook permits an AGM to be convened remotely (wholly or partly) if considered appropriate. Swiss association law also confers power upon the ITTF AGM, being the supreme governing body, to make such decisions.*

*Due to the complex implications of COVID-19 on travel, health and holding major events physically, it is necessary to hold the 2021 ITTF AGM in hybrid manner. Measures are put in place to allow delegates to attend in-person where possible. However, not every delegate can do so, because of visa, travel restrictions and other such matters. Measures are also put in place for delegates who cannot attend in-person, such as providing IT support and allowance for better internet connection. A notary public is also in place with an established e-voting platform to verify and ensure the integrity of the results at the 2021 ITTF AGM.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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**Resolution A-02 – Effective immediately if it passes (Simple majority required)**

**Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To establish a Working Group to review, reorganise and take such other steps it deems necessary to improve the ITTF Handbook, in consultation with Member Associations, the Board of Directors, ASOIF, the IOC and the IPC.

The Working Group shall report on the progress of their work regularly and eventually propose the implementation of the new Handbook at the 2022 AGM.

*Rationale:*

*In line with the slogan of IOC Agenda 2020 “Change or be changed”, and reflecting on the fact that the ITTF Handbook has undergone annual edits in a patchwork manner over the last few years, it is proposed to create a working group to work on the review and reorganisation of the ITTF Handbook, to minimise conflict within its provisions and to improve its clarity for readers. At the same time, to consider if additional amendments are needed to be in line with the current, practical, modern, and international practices and remain competitive in the sport and entertainment industry.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Resolution A-03

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Member Association of ENG.

The AGM asks the ITTF executive to undertake a meaningful consultation with member associations, the Athletes Commission, the ITTF Gender Commissioner, clothing manufacturers and any other relevant bodies on competition clothing to ensure greater flexibility and choice of competition clothing for all players. The consultation should be conducted with a view to submitting a proposition to amend Regulations 3.2.2.1 at the next AGM.

*Rationale:*

*The current regulation provides*

*3: Regulations for International Competitions Page 44 ITTF Handbook 2019 v2 3.2.2 Playing Clothing*

*3.2.2.1 Playing clothing shall consist of a short-sleeved or sleeveless shirt and shorts or skirt or one-part sports outfits, socks and playing shoes; other garments, such as part or all of a tracksuit, shall not be worn during play except with the permission of the referee.*

*Research conducted by Table Tennis England and its partners has concluded that the inflexibility of kit options has been a key theme or a barrier leading to women and girls dropping out of the sport. Also, the current dress code is restrictive for people from certain religious communities to adhere to and females in particular can find it embarrassing and a perceived barrier to seek 'permission' to wear a particular type of clothing.*

*Table Tennis England would like to see the regulations amended to allow for full length clothing such as long sleeved tops and leggings/tracksuits in competition without the need to seek permission from the referee. The regulations should not be gender specific.*

*This is a relevant and topical issue in all sports for example the German female gymnasts who wore unitards at the Tokyo Olympics and the WTA amending its regulations to include full or mid length leggings with or without a skirt. The ITTF needs to bring its regulations up to date with global developments.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Resolution A-04

(Simple majority required)

#### Proposed by the ITTF Member Association of GER

That the World Ranking regulations are based on both the ranking of the opponent (head to head results) AND the final position/round at a tournament (bonus points); that results from Continental and World Championships TEAM matches, including qualifications, are included; that the World Ranking system is ratified by the BOD; and that the new system is effective as soon as practical in 2022.

The WTT rules for Grand Smash, Champions and Cup Finals have to be modified in a way that mandatory entries should be applied up to two thirds of these events per year.

#### *Rationale:*

*Until 2018 this was the basic principle of the World Rankings. While everyone would acknowledge that the previous World Ranking needed modifications these 3 basic principles should form the backbone of the system. In the current World Ranking system it is almost impossible for lower-ranked and/or younger players to earn points and to make progress on the ranking. The gap between top and bottom players increases, which means that a growing number of players will not have a chance to compete at the tournaments, where entries are based on the ranking position.*

*If you look through particularly age group rankings currently, you will also note what is clearly inaccurate rankings being based only on the final position/round that lead to the credibility of the rankings being questioned.*

*Team matches have always formed a strong part of our ITTF history and should be included in rankings as they were previously, and allows a wider group to access ranking points.*

*Finally rankings need to have the final ratification made by elected officials to ensure changes are in the best interests of ITTF and its member associations, with the BOD being the obvious body to do that. The initial ranking could be voted upon online to speed this transfer and ensure this happens in the first quarter of 2022.*

*Mandatory participation should be limited due to the fact that a non-played mandatory event entails a zero point rating in the world ranking.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Resolution A-05

(Simple majority required)

#### Proposed by the ITTF Member Association of SUI

That the World Ranking regulations are based on both the ranking of the opponent (head to head results) AND the final position/round at a tournament (bonus points); that results from Continental and World Championships TEAM matches, including qualifications, are included; that the World Ranking system is ratified by the BOD; and that the new system is effective as soon as practical in 2022.

#### *Rationale:*

*Until 2018 this was the basic principle of the World Rankings. While everyone would acknowledge that the previous World Ranking needed modifications these 3 basic principles should form the backbone of the system. In the current World Ranking system it is almost impossible for lower-ranked and/or younger players to earn points and to make progress on the ranking. The gap between top and bottom players increases, which means that a growing number of players will not have a chance to compete at the tournaments, where entries are based on the ranking position.*

*If you look through particularly age group rankings currently, you will also note what is clearly inaccurate rankings being based only on the final position/round that lead to the credibility of the rankings being questioned.*

*Team matches have always formed a strong part of our ITTF history and should be included in rankings as they were previously, and allows a wider group to access ranking points.*

*Finally rankings need to have the final ratification made by elected officials to ensure changes are in the best interests of ITTF and its member associations, with the BOD being the obvious body to do that. The initial ranking could be voted upon online to speed this transfer and ensure this happens in the first quarter of 2022.*

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## Propositions to the 2021 ITTF AGM

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### Resolution A-06

(Simple majority required)

#### Proposed by the ITTF Member Associations of GER and SUI

That the weighting (level of importance) of events for Ranking purposes be according to the level of importance of the competition according to the following order of descending order:

1. Olympic Games
2. World Championships - individual
3. World Championships - team

All other competitions to be allocated lower weighting than the above listed events.

#### *Rationale:*

*The ranking has to represent the importance of the competitions. Maybe in future, the WTT Grand Smashes will be almost as popular and important then a world championship. Tokyo 2020 was an impressive proof that the Olympic Games are by far the most important competition for table tennis.*

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