



## INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Board of Directors held on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, at 09h00 in Meeting room 802, Hall 8b of the Congress Centre Dusseldorf South, Dusseldorf, Germany.

1. President: Welcome and Opening Address:

The President welcomed the BoD members, particularly those elected for the first time, highlighting the presence of an Olympic Champion, Ryu Seung Min, and one World Champion, Jorgen Persson. He also welcomed the three new EC members, Dr Alaa Meshref, Nestor Tenca and James Morris. The President also expressed appreciation for the work done by the three EC members finishing in Dusseldorf, Melecio E. Rivera, Cherif Hajem and Patrick Gillmann, asking for an applause for them.

2. Roll call and welcome of new members: there were 46 voting members of the Board present with 2 apologies (Alaor Azevedo and Henry Reimberg).

Also present in the meeting was the former BoD member, Francesco Sciannimanico.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the BoD held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:

The minutes were confirmed, and signed by the President.

4. Annual reports from the athletes and the commissioners:

The Board approved the following reports:

- 4.1 Athletes' Commission (document G1)
- 4.2 Junior Commissioner (document G2)
- 4.3 Technical Commissioner (document G3)
- 4.4 Women in Sport Commissioner (document G4)

5. Appointment of committee chairs:

The Board considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee:

- |      |                                     |                      |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5.1  | Equipment Committee:                | Paul SCHILTZ (LUX)   |
| 5.2  | Media Committee:                    | Arne MADSEN (DEN)    |
| 5.3  | Rules Committee:                    | Rudolf SPORRER (AUT) |
| 5.4  | Sport Science and Medical Committee | Miran KONDRIC (SLO)  |
| 5.5  | Umpires and Referees Committee      | Young Sang Ma (KOR)  |
| 5.6  | Veterans Committee                  | Reto BAZZI (SUI)     |
| 5.7  | Para Table Tennis Committee         | Dorte DARFELT (DEN)  |
| 5.8  | Junior Commissioner                 | Heike AHLERT (GER)   |
| 5.9  | Women in Sport Commissioner         | Hajera KAJEE (RSA)   |
| 5.10 | Technical Commissioner              | Graeme IRELAND (AUS) |
| 5.11 |                                     |                      |

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The Board unanimously approved the appointments of chairs and commissioners.

6. Propositions and resolutions (document G):

The Board considered the following propositions, which required a simple majority of the votes cast:

5	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 3.2.5.1 and 3.2.5.1.1 and to delete 3.2.5.12:</i></p> <p><b>3.2.5 Advertisements and Markings</b></p> <p>3.2.5.1 Inside the playing area, advertisements shall be displayed only on equipment or fittings listed in 3.2.3.2 <b>or on players and umpires clothing or on players numbers</b> and there shall be no special additional displays.</p> <p>3.2.5.1.1 Advertisements or markings in or next to the playing area, <b>on playing clothing or numbers and on umpires clothing</b>, shall not be for tobacco goods, alcoholic drinks, harmful drugs or illegal products and they shall be without negative discrimination or connotation on the grounds of race, xenophobia, gender, religion, disabilities or other forms of discrimination.</p> <p><del>3.2.5.12 There shall be no advertisements on players' clothing or numbers for tobacco goods, alcoholic drinks or harmful drugs.</del></p>	<b>Passed</b>
6	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee and the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 3.2.5.5</i></p> <p>3.2.5.5 There may be up to 4 advertisements on the floor of the playing area; <b>such markings</b></p> <p><b>3.2.5.5.1</b> may be placed 1 at each end, each contained within an area of 5m<sup>2</sup>, and 1 at each side of the table, each contained within an area of 2.5m<sup>2</sup>;</p> <p><b>3.2.5.5.2</b> shall not be less than 1m from the surrounds and those at the ends shall not be more than 2m from the surrounds;</p> <p><b>3.2.5.5.3 shall be of the same uniform colour different from the colour of the ball in use, unless other colours have been agreed in advance with the ITTF;</b></p> <p><b>3.2.5.5.4 shall not alter significantly the surface friction of the flooring;</b></p> <p><b>3.2.5.5.5 shall consist only of a logo, wordmark or other icons, and shall not include any backgrounds.</b></p>	<b>Passed</b>
7	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 3.2.5.6 and to introduce new sub-paragraphs 3.2.5.6.1, 3.2.5.6.2, 3.2.5.6.3, 3.2.5.6.4 and 3.2.5.6.5.</i></p> <p><del>3.2.5.6 There may be 1 permanent advertisement of the manufacturer's or supplier's name or logo and 1 temporary</del></p>	<b>Passed</b>

	<p><del>advertisement on each half of each side of the tabletop and 1 on each end, and each contained within a total length of 60cm. The temporary advertisements shall be clearly separated from any permanent advertisements; they shall not be for other table tennis equipment suppliers and there shall be no advertisement, logo, name of table or name of the manufacturer or supplier of the table on the undercarriage, except if the table manufacturer or supplier is the title sponsor of the tournament.</del></p> <p><b>3.2.5.6 Advertisements on the table shall comply with the following requirements:</b></p> <p><b>3.2.5.6.1</b> There may be 1 permanent advertisement of the manufacturer's or supplier's name or logo on each half of each side of the table top and on each end.</p> <p><b>3.2.5.6.2</b> There may be 1 temporary advertisement, which also can be of the manufacturer's or supplier's name or logo, on each half of each side of the table top and on each end.</p> <p><b>3.2.5.6.3</b> Each permanent and each temporary advertisement shall be contained within a total length of 60cm.</p> <p><b>3.2.5.6.4</b> Temporary advertisements shall be clearly separated from any permanent advertisements.</p> <p><b>3.2.5.6.5</b> Advertisements shall not be for other table tennis equipment suppliers.</p> <p><b>3.2.5.6.6</b> There shall be no advertisement, name of table, name or logo of the manufacturer or supplier of the table on the undercarriage, except if the table manufacturer or supplier is the title sponsor of the tournament.</p>	
8	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 3.5.2.1</i></p> <p>3.5.2.1 Players and coaches or other advisers shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, offend spectators or bring the sport into disrepute, such as abusive language, <b>deliberately delaying play</b>, deliberately breaking the ball or hitting it out of the playing area, kicking the table or surrounds and disrespect of match officials.</p>	<b>Withdrawn</b>
9	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Sports Science and Medical Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 4.1.2.2.4, 4.1.2.2.8 and 4.2.2.2.5:</i></p> <p>4.1.2.2 Organisers shall provide accommodation and meals from the evening before the Championships begin until the morning after the Championships end for:</p>	<b>Passed</b>

	<p>4.1.2.2.4 up to 3 <del>members of the</del> Doping Control <b>Supervisors Panel</b> appointed by the Sports Science and Medical Committee;</p> <p>4.1.2.2.8 up to 7 members of the ITTF staff including 1 assisting the Doping Control <del>Panel</del> <b>Supervisors.</b></p> <p>4.2.2.2 Organisers shall provide accommodation and meals from the evening before the Championships begin until the morning after the Championships end for:</p> <p>4.2.2.2.5 up to 2 <del>members of the</del> Doping Control <del>Panel</del> <b>Supervisors</b> appointed by the Sports Science and Medical Committee;</p>	
10	<p><b>Proposed by the Chinese Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p>To amend 4.1.9.6</p> <p>4.1.9.6 "...<b>The maximum entry for each association is 4 players for men's doubles, 4 players for women's doubles and 2 men and 2 women for mixed doubles; all players may be different, however, each association can only enter a maximum of 2 combined pairs (players from different associations) per doubles event.</b>"</p>	Passed
11	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee</b></p> <p>To amend 4.2.9.2</p> <p>4.2.9.2 The system of play and the system of qualification in the team and individual events, shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the <b>Junior Commissioner, Technical Commissioner and the Competition Program</b>, and shall be notified to all Associations not later than 6 calendar months before the start of the Championships.</p>	Passed
12	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee</b></p> <p><b>LIEBHERR 2018 World Championships Qualification System</b></p> <p>4.1.9.3 The system of play in team and individual events, the system of qualification in the team event and their implementation dates shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Technical Commissioner and the Competition Program.</p> <p><b><u>2016 ITTF Board of Directors decision</u></b></p> <p><b>4-BOD-03-2016</b></p> <p>Based on the Swedish organisers' update report, the Board decided to have a maximum 72 men's and 72 women's teams at the 2018 World Championships, and gave the mandate to the Working Group to propose further changes within this limit if their conclusion on future ITTF events is different and if the implementation of the changes is realistic.</p>	Passed

At its meeting during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the ITTF Future Event Working Group agreed and proposed to the Executive Committee to have the 72-teams system at the LIEBHERR 2018 World Team Championships in Halmstad (SWE). This is the same what the BoD decided in 2016, but it was left open, pending the Working Group's recommendation.

After the number of teams was confirmed (72 men and 72 women), the ITTF Executive Committee discussed the subject on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and resolved to submit the following proposal to the ITTF Board of Directors in 2017:

1. To follow the same principle and system of qualification as in 2016, proportionally reducing the number of teams.
2. Participation is guaranteed for the top 2 finishers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division in 2016 (teams finishing on 73<sup>rd</sup>–74<sup>th</sup> places).
3. Latin America and North America are considered as Panam, because the 2017 Panam Championships will serve as the qualification tournament for them.

The list of the ITTF-Continental Championships identified for the qualification criteria:

2016 ITTF-Oceania Champs. Bendigo (AUS) – 20-24 March 2016

2016 ITTF-African Champs. Agadir (MAR) – 24-30 October 2016

2017 ITTF-Asian Champs. Wuxi (CHN) – 9-16 April 2017

2017 ITTF-Panam Champs. Cartagena (COL) – 11-17 Sep 2017

2017 ITTF-European Team Champs, Luxembourg (LUX) – 13-17 Sep 2017

	2016	2018
<b>Previous WTTC result</b>	48	36
<b>Continental Qualification</b>		
Africa	7	5
Asia	12	9
Europe	12	9
Latin America	7	
North America	1	
Pan America		6
Oceania	3	2
<b>Host Association</b>	1	1
<b>World Team Ranking</b>	5	4
	96	72

	<p><u>Notes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Previous WTTC result quota includes top 2 of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions (top 32 finishers + 49<sup>th</sup>-50<sup>th</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup>-74<sup>th</sup> places)</li> <li>b) Continental qualification quota is fixed and in addition to the previous WTTC result quota</li> <li>c) Any unused qualification quotas by deadline will revert to World Team Ranking</li> </ul> <p>Only an Association which has taken part with at least one player or team in its preceding Continental Championships, including qualification tournaments, or Continental Games, shall be eligible to enter teams or individual players in the Championships.</p>	
13	<p><b><i>Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee and the ITTF Technical Commissioner</i></b></p> <p><b>2019 World TT Championships Playing System</b></p> <p>1. <b>STRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 There will be 5 individual events – Men’s Singles, Women’s Singles, Men’s Doubles, Women’s Doubles and Mixed Doubles.</li> <li>1.2 The first round proper of Men’s Singles and Women’s Singles will have 128 places and the first round proper of Men’s Doubles, Women’s Doubles and <b>Mixed Doubles will have 64 places.</b></li> <li>1.3 <b>Singles events will have 64 seeded players and 64 qualifiers. Doubles events will have 32 seeded pairs and 32 qualifiers.</b></li> <li>1.4 Qualification for singles will comprise groups of 3 or 4. If there are more than 64 groups a knockout round will be played to determine qualifiers. If there are less than 64 groups all group winners and some second placed players will qualify for the main draw. <b>The method for determining which second placed players qualify will be decided once final entries and number of groups are known and will be advised no later than 2 weeks after the closing date for entries.</b></li> <li>1.5 Qualification for doubles will be by knockout.</li> <li>1.6 All singles matches will be best of 7 games. Doubles matches will be best of 5 games in qualification matches and best of 7 games in the main draw.</li> </ul>	Passed

	<p><b>2. DRAWS</b></p> <p><b>2.1 <u>Singles</u></b></p> <p>2.1.1 Singles groups will comprise 3 (or 4) players with each group winner proceeding to a qualification knockout draw (if more than 64 groups) or first round proper. The draw for the groups will use a snake system.</p> <p>2.1.2 The draw for the first round proper will have 2 stages with the first stage split. The initial first stage draw will take place on XXX and draw the players seeded 17 – 32 and 33 – 64 into appropriate positions at random. The final first stage draw will occur on XXX (but separately from the initial first stage draw) when seeds 1 – 16 will be drawn. Seeds 9 – 16 will be drawn first, followed by seeds 5 – 8, then seeds 3 – 4 and finally seeds 1 and 2.</p> <p>2.1.3 The second stage draws of qualifiers will be drawn following the completion of the qualification rounds and be drawn at random into the remaining 64 positions, subject to clause 2.3.</p> <p><b>2.2 <u>Doubles</u></b></p> <p>2.2.1 The initial draw for the first round proper will take place on XXX when the seeded players will be drawn into appropriate positions.</p> <p>2.2.2 The second stage draws of qualifiers will be drawn following the completion of the qualification rounds and be drawn at random into the remaining 32 positions, subject to clause 2.3.</p> <p>3.2 Players of the same Association shall be separated according to 3.6.3.1, 3.6.3.3, 3.6.3.4 and 3.6.3.5 only in preliminary rounds and groups and in the first round of the draw but not in further rounds.</p> <p>The World Ranking list that will be used for seeding and for the draws shall be the WR to be published in XXX 2019 (No.X).</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b><i>Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee and Junior Commissioner</i></b></p> <p>To return the World Junior Championships Teams to 16 men’s and 16 women’s teams, consisting of Africa-2, Asia-3, Europe-3, Pan America-3 (2+1), Oceania-1, Host-1, World Ranking-3, with maximum 5 teams per continent (excluding the host). All qualified teams must have participated in their continental junior championships.</p>	<p><b><i>Passed</i></b></p>

	Men's and Women's Singles would then have a corresponding decrease in numbers from 96 to 80, being 16 teams x 4 players + 16 World Ranking.													
15	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee</b></p> <p>To amend in Chapter 5</p> <p><b>Scope – Definition of IL Athletes</b></p> <p>...The <b>first 8 Men and Women in each Class following Athletes</b> in the Para Table Tennis rating, available on <a href="http://www.ipttc.org/rating/">http://www.ipttc.org/rating/</a>:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Men</th> <th>Women</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><del>Class 1-5 (Sitting)</del></td> <td><del>Top 80</del></td> <td><del>Top 30</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>Class 6-10 (Standing)</del></td> <td><del>Top 90</del></td> <td><del>Top 30</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td><del>Class 11 (Mentally impaired)</del></td> <td><del>Top 15</del></td> <td><del>Top 10</del></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Men	Women	<del>Class 1-5 (Sitting)</del>	<del>Top 80</del>	<del>Top 30</del>	<del>Class 6-10 (Standing)</del>	<del>Top 90</del>	<del>Top 30</del>	<del>Class 11 (Mentally impaired)</del>	<del>Top 15</del>	<del>Top 10</del>	Passed
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16	<p><b>Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee</b></p> <p>To amend Technical Leaflet T4 for Racket Coverings (update)</p> <p><i>Rationale for Changes in T4, 2017</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Link changes due to the new ITTF web site.</li> <li>○ References to “the ITTF web site” are changed to “ITTF.com”.</li> <li>○ Fixes to typographical errors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Page 5: The unit for measuring gloss was shown as %, but this was technically incorrect; the correct unit is “gloss units”. From <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossmeter">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossmeter</a>:  <i>“The measurement results of a glossmeter are related to the amount of reflected light from a black glass standard with a defined refractive index. The ratio of reflected to incident light for the specimen, compared to the ratio for the gloss standard, is recorded as gloss units (GU).”</i></li> <li>• Page 7: A slight clarification in the text about packaging of assembled rackets.</li> <li>• Page 7: There was a lot of temporary text here, dealing with the transition to require country of origin statements on the rubber packaging. We are no longer in the transition period so the temporary text is no longer needed.</li> <li>• Page 10: What we call the “simplified” procedure is actually more complex than the normal procedure, so we should not call it “simplified”. It is more accurate to call it “expedited” as it allows the supplier to accelerate the process.  <i>This became especially obvious when a couple companies broke some rules and were punished by not being permitted to use the simplified procedure. It looked inappropriate to punish a</i></li> </ul>	Passed												



	<p><i>company and tell them they may not use a simple process; implying they must use a complicated process. The reality was that they were not permitted to use a faster process.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Page 11: Companies that sell boosters should not be permitted to have ITTF authorized equipment.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Boosting is an illegal practice, and companies that sell the boosters are enabling and encouraging players to do this. At the same time, those companies are able to use the fact that they produce boosters for a special marketing advantage that can make their products seem more appealing. For example (these are not actual statements they have made):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>“Our rubbers are specially formulated to be used with our boosters.”</i></li> <li>○ <i>“If you like our boosters, you can buy our rubbers that are pre-boosted to save you the trouble of boosting.”</i></li> <li>○ <i>“If you like our rubbers but want something slightly different, just buy our booster and use it on a different rubber.”</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Furthermore, as a general principle, the ITTF should avoid association with companies that encourage practices that violate ITTF rules.</i></p>	
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The Board considered the following resolution, which required a simple majority of the votes cast:

	<b><i>Proposed by the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association</i></b>	
<b>E</b>	ITTF Umpires and Referees Committee to work towards a plan to increase the honorarium of Technical Officials (Referees and Umpires) invited to major international tournaments.	<b><i>Passed</i></b>

7. Code of Ethics update:

The final version of the Ethic code was presented to the BoD as effective on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 after having been revised by the Ethics and Compliance Office.

Mr Tony YUE suggested, and Mr Bruce BURTON and Mr Thomas WEIKERT agreed, that this is a good first step and a work in progress, but in the future, and once the constitution is updated, independent members should compose the Ethic Commission, with the capacity to also take decisions independently.

The Board considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee as Ethic **Commission representatives:**

Executive Committee	Nestor TENCA (ARG)
Athletes Commission	El-Sayed LASHIN (EGY)
Rules Committee	Rudolf SPORRER (AUT)

Staff in charge:	Raul CALIN (ESP)
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**Reserves:**

Executive Committee  
Athletes Commission  
Rules Committee

James MORRIS (NZL)  
Ashu JAIN (USA)  
CHAN Cheong-ki (HKG)

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The Board unanimously approved the appointments of the Ethic Commission representatives and reserves.

8. Updates of Technical Leaflet 4:

The update was considered covered when presenting proposition 16.

9. Update of Terms of Reference:

The Board noted that the terms of reference were distributed on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, with the most significant change being in the former Para Table Tennis Division, now Para Table Tennis Committee, with the aim to fully integrate Para Table Tennis into the day to day operations of the ITTF, not only in the development area, but also in the competitions, education, marketing and operations areas.

Mr Fede Lineros expressed to the Board of Directors his concern in regards to the selection process for the members of the different committees, particularly the Equipment Committee. He mentioned that only four of the members have a technical background and, for such a very specific committee as the Equipment Committee, dealing with the technical specifications for the equipment to be used, etc, then he would suggest that either i) there be specific regulations for the selection of the committee members or ii) addition of technical advisers should be considered in the future.

Mr Rudolf Sporrer mentioned that from the 20 applications received for the Rules Committee, 19 were of umpires or referees. In the future, he would hope receiving applications from different backgrounds.

Mr D.R. Choudary suggested establishing qualification requirements to be member of the different committees.

10. World Junior Championships:

10.1 2017 World Junior Championships (Italy) – the Board noted that the work is in progress without any specific presentation being made.

10.2 2018 and 2019 World Junior Championships bids – The Board noted the presentations of Australia / ITTF Oceania and Thailand to host the 2018 World Junior Table Tennis Championships. After both presentations, and in agreement with the representatives of AUS and THA, it was recommended that the board allocate the 2018 and 2019 World Junior Championships as follows:

- 2018 World Junior Championships to be held in Bendigo, Australia
- 2019 World Junior Championships to be held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

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The Board resolved to allocate the 2018 and 2019 World Junior Championships as proposed.

11. World Cups and World Tour update:

Mr Steve Dainton reported to the Board that a new sponsorship agreement was made in early 2017 and this would help to push for much better presentation.

The 2018 World Tour calendar is already on-line and a good number of bids have been secured, with 6 Platinum events, 6 Regular events and the Grand Finals. Negotiations are in place for the 2017 Grand Finals, hopefully a decision will be made very soon.

Mr Dainton finished by adding that ITTF has made much progress in improving the image and brand of the World Tour in the last 6 months thanks to the sponsorship deal and the work of the staff in charge.

Mr Weikert added his thanks to the marketing team responsible for these improvements as well as to Mr Frank Ji and Seamaster for his support, which has been extended also to some organizers of Challenge events. Also Mr Weikert announced the signing of an agreement with GoDaddy for the top tier World Tour events, and both Mr Weikert and Mr Dainton thanked USA Table Tennis for hosting the 2016 Women's World Cup, which provided the initial contact with GoDaddy.

Mr Dainton informed the Board about the hosts for the following World Cups:

2017 Women's World Cup in Markham, Toronto, Canada

2017 Men's World Cup in Liege, Belgium

2018 Men's World Cup in Disneyland, Paris, France

A request from China to host the 2018 Women's World Cup and Joint 2019 Men's and Women's World Cup was received and will be confirmed by the EC

12. Global Junior Programme:

12.1. The board noted the report of the Junior Commissioner, Heike Ahlert, on the 2017 World Junior Circuit. Ms Ahlert also informed the board that the 2017 World Junior Circuit Finals will be in the beginning of February 2018 in Luxembourg.

The board noted that the 2016 World Cadet Challenge was hosted in an excellent manner in Shanghai, China and preparations are in progress for the 2017 World Cadet Challenge to be held in Fiji, as reported by Mr Anthony Ho.

10.3 The board noted the presentations of Poland to host the 2018 World Cadet Challenge in Cetniewo, of Japan to host it in Tottori and of Thailand to host it in Bangkok. After all three presentations, and in agreement with the representatives of JPN, POL and THA the Board was proposed to allocate the 2018, 2019 and 2020 World Cadet Challenge as follows:

- 2018 World Cadet Challenge to be held in Tottori, Japan
- 2019 World Cadet Challenge to be held in Cetniewo, Poland
- 2020 World Cadet Challenge to be held in Bangkok, Thailand

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The Board resolved to allocate the 2018, 2019 and 2020 World Cadet Challenge as proposed.

13. Ratification of the work done by the committees, commissions and commissioners:

Mr Thomas Weikert informed the Board about the legal case of Mrs Judit Farago as agreed in the AGM. Given that this is an ongoing legal issue, it was proposed for the EC to deal with the matter in order to protect the associations without making further comments. The President would update the BoD once the case is resolved.

**5-BOD-20170602**

The Board resolved to ratify the work done by the Executive Committee, committees, commissions and commissioners.

**14. Next meeting:**

The Board noted that its next meeting would be held in Halmstad on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

**15. Any other business:**

Mr El-Hajji Monqid, Board member from Morocco, proposed:

- For the board to meet twice a year (instead of once a year)
- For each EC member to be allocated four BoD members to support him and discuss with him directly in order to allow each member of the BoD to give input and advices
- For the Para Table Tennis integration to progress at the national level, in order to ensure that the National Associations affiliated to ITTF are in charge of the sport
- For the simultaneous translation to be also put in place for the Board of Directors

At the end of his intervention, Mr El-Hajji congratulated the German TTA for the superb organization of the Championships, hoping everyone can “close a chapter” after the elections, and being again together.

Mr Jorgen Persson suggested that the use of technology (e.g. PowerPoint) would be appreciated especially when discussing technical matters, such as certain propositions, in order to better understand the topics being discussed.

Mr Shi Zhihao thanked the BoD members that entrusted him as Chair of the Future Events Working Group, and particularly the members of the Working Group itself, Continental Presidents or representatives, and other members.

Mr Shi reported that the working group has done a tremendous job during and between the three meetings.

Mr Steve Dainton continued with a presentation on the Future Events Working Group progress, starting by dispelling some of the rumours spread and circulating around the World about reducing the size of the World Championships.

Mr Dainton highlighted the following facts:

- That only once the World Championships was hosted outside Asia or Europe, and it was in 1939 in Cairo, Egypt.
- That in 2016 in Malaysia, only one female team, USA was among the top 24 from outside Asia and Europe.
- That the average is less than 1 bid per year in recent times.
- That only 8% of the matches at World Championships has a good media coverage, therefore is very difficult to get commercial value for the majority of the activity at the World Championships.
- That the ITTF hired Deloitte to assist the Working Group and as result of their cooperation they produced a 100+ page report to the ITTF with their analysis. From that report, the main conclusions are:
  - o Limited connection between the World Championships and other ITTF events
  - o The qualification criteria and frequency of international competitions vary, resulting in a complicated and unclear hierarchy.
  - o The frequency and meaning of the continental competitions is unclear and vary between continents.
  - o There is a clear dominance of international competitions by certain nations.

- Many countries struggle to host the World Championships: number of attendees, players, delegates, etc.
- The limited media exposure for the sport outside of the core Asian market.

Based on the comprehensive report, the key recommendation is:

- Every national association should have the chance to compete at the World Championships. The goal is 100% participation. Currently it is between 50 and 65 % participation depending on the year and location.

How to reach this goal?

- The recommendation is to start having continental qualification events for the World Championships (both teams and individuals).
- A final stage of the World Singles Championships after the qualification is finished with either 64 or 128 singles and 32 or 64 pairs.
- A final stage of the World Team Championships with either 32 or 48 teams.

Next steps:

- Continue the work
- Further financial analysis if the continental qualification pathway is chosen.
- Better understand how the changes can give much more benefit to the continents.
- The EC has already approved in Doha the financial support for this process but decided to wait until the World Championships were over.
- Ultimately, the BoD will have to decide the final structure and format of the World Championships, based on the working group report.

Finally, Mr Dainton asked the Board to confirm the same working group to continue with the work in progress, with the goal to come with a concrete proposal to the Board of Directors meeting in Halmstad.

Mr Herrera appreciated also the work done by the Working Group, highlighting the fact that all associations would compete at the World Championships with this new structure. He also pointed out the necessity to obtain the financial figures for this model, so the Board can have all elements in hands to take a decision.

#### **6-BOD-20170602**

The Board resolved to confirm the mandate to the Future Events Working Group to continue their analysis, with the goal to come with a concrete proposal, including a financial analysis, to the 2018 Board of Directors meeting in Halmstad.

Mr Oladapo initiated a discussion about the competition among the different sports worldwide. Our sport is not visible in Television and we need to make extra efforts to make it visible on TV. In addition, he showed his concern about the “regionalization” of our sport, and expressed his desire to focus on ensuring a more “international” spread of medals at the top events. Some of the reactions include:

- Mr Dainton reported that with the new strategic agreements with the continents, the ITTF hopes to help them to ensure a better TV presence worldwide and to achieve better results.
- Mr Weikert added that the situation in Germany, Japan and China has improved in terms of TV exposure, particularly for this World Championships, and the ITTF looks forward to bring hopefully this experience to other markets. With the venue sold out for the last four days, the general feeling is that there is an improvement in the market and it is important to show this confidence when approaching potential sponsors and partners.
- Mr Tony Yue mentioned the necessity to improve in all areas, including also affordable equipment, and accessibility of our sport to everyone.

- Mr Dainton added that this is the reason why the Strategic Plan is now a must, and Mr Weikert, who has already discussed with Mrs Sorling, also endorsed this.
- Mr Ronald Kramer suggested the Working Group report will assist in the strategic plan development.

Mr Juan Vila wanted to thank and congratulate the DTTB and the ITTF for the excellent WTTC and the detailed attentions offered to the participants, being in his opinion one of the best World Championships ever.

Mr Fede Lineros mentioned that being his last BoD meeting, he wanted to thank everyone for the confidence given during these 34 years involved in table tennis.

Mr Thomas Weikert wanted to thank Mr Lineros on behalf of the BoD for the incredible work during the last few years.

Mr Thomas Weikert also thanked the PAC members present in the room, and thanked once more the members of the EC who finished their mandate on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

He stated that the new Executive Committee members are looking forward to work with all of the BoD members and National Associations and they are looking forward to the future.

16. Adjournment:

The Board noted that its next meeting would be held in Halmstad on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 13h15.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Weikert  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Raul Calin  
Secretary General

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPENDIX - ATTENDANCE REGISTER

FUNCTION	NAME	PRESENT
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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

President	Thomas Weikert	✓
Deputy President	Khalil Al-Mohannadi	✓
Executive Vice-President	Petra Sorling	✓
Executive Vice-President	Bruce Burton	✓
Executive Vice-President	Masahiro Maehara	✓
Executive Vice-President	Alaa Meshref	✓
Executive Vice-President	James Morris	✓
Executive Vice-President	Shi Zhihao	✓
Executive Vice-President	Nestor Tenca	✓

### CONTINENTAL PRESIDENTS (CP)

Africa	Khaled El-Salhy	✓
Asia	Cai Zhenhua	✓
Europe	Ronald Kramer	✓
Latin America	Juan Vila	✓
North America	Anton Kiesenhofer	✓
Oceania	Anthony Ho	✓

### CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES - AFRICA

Member	Yusuf Carrim	✓
Member	Mongid El Hajji	✓
Member	Abdelrahman Elsallawi	✓
Member	Thomas Kiggundu	✓
Member	Balla Lo	✓
Member	Andrew Mudibo	✓
Member	Phillipe Hao Thyn Voon	✓
Member	Olabanji Oladapo	✓

### CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES - ASIA

Member	Abdulla Al-Mulla	✓
Member	Thana Chaiprasit	✓
Member	Dhanraj Choudhary	✓
Member	Ryu Seungmin	✓
Member	Mohammad Sibtain	✓
Member	Tony Yue	✓

### CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES - EUROPE

Member	Heike Ahlert	✓
Member	Dorte Darfelt	✓
Member	Sandra Deaton	✓
Member	Sonja Grefberg	✓
Member	Zdenko Kriz	✓
Member	Ivo-Goran Munivrana	✓
Member	Jorgen Persson	✓
Member	Cristinel Romanescu	✓

### CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES - LATIN AMERICA

Member	Alaor Azevedo	Apology
Member	Marquerita Felix	✓
Member	Jorge Herrera	✓
Member	Teddy Matthews	✓
Member	Henry Reimberg	Apology
Member	Alexander Zamora	✓

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPENDIX - ATTENDANCE REGISTER

FUNCTION	NAME	PRESENT
<b>CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES - NORTH AMERICA</b>		
Member	Gordon Kaye	✓
<b>CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES - OCEANIA</b>		
Member	Graeme Ireland	✓
Member	Paul Kyle	✓
<b>ATHLETES COMMISSION</b>		
Member	Ashu Jain	✓
<b>INVITED TO ATTEND (with speaking rights but no vote):</b>		
<b>PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)</b>		
PAC Chair	George Segun	✓
PAC Member	André Damman	Apology
PAC Member	Eberhard Schöler	✓
PAC Member	Shahrokh Shahnazi	Apology
PAC Member	Radivoj Hudetz	✓
PAC Member	Jane Pinto	✓
PAC Member	Neil Harwood	✓
PAC Member	Koji Kimura	✓
PAC Member	Igor Levitin	Apology
PAC Member	Walter Rönmark	✓
<b>COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND COMMISSIONERS</b>		
Equipment Committee Chair	Federico Lineros	✓
Media Committee Chair	Arne Madsen	✓
Nominations Committee Chair	Chan Foong Keong	✓
Rules Committee Chair	Rudolf Sporrer	✓
Sport Science & Medical Committee Chair	Miran Kondric	✓
Umpires and Referees Committee Chair	Ronald Wee	✓
Veterans Committee Chair	Reto Bazzi	✓
Women in Sport Commissioner	Hajera Kajee	✓
<b>FORMER BoD representative</b>		
Former BoD representative	Francesco Sciannimmanico	✓
<b>ATTENDING STAFF</b>		
Staff	Glenn Tepper	✓
Staff	Raul Calin	✓
Staff	Steve Dainton	✓
Staff	Etsuko Enami	✓
Staff	Vicky Eleftheriade	✓
Staff	Emese Barsai	✓
Staff	Silvia Bernhard	✓
Staff	Claudia Vatheuer	✓
Staff	Polona Cehovin	✓
Staff	Michael Brown	✓