

Executive Committee

Minutes

Of the Executive Committee of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on **26 June 2009** at the International Olympic Committee Headquarters, Lausanne, Switzerland at 09h00.

1. **President's welcome and opening remarks**

The ITTF President welcomed the President of the IOC, Mr. Jacques Rogge, and thanked him for hosting the Executive Committee at the IOC Headquarters.

The ITTF President welcomed all members, particularly those newly elected, to the first meeting of the new quadrennial.

2. **IOC President's welcome**

The IOC President congratulated the Executive Committee on its election and welcomed the Executive Committee to the home of the Olympic Movement. The IOC President expressed his thanks for the ITTF's great support for the Olympic and Youth Olympic Games and hoped that the ITTF would contribute to the success of the Copenhagen Congress where "the place of sport in society" would be discussed as, traditionally, major decisions were made at such a congress. The IOC President hoped that a solution to the Olympic funding issue would be found through ASOIF. The IOC president expressed his high level of satisfaction with the progress made by the ITTF within the Olympic movement and in its evident development all over the World. He accepted the President's invitation to visit the ITTF Headquarters and its Museum.

3. **Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Yang Shuan	Deputy President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Judit Faragó	Competition Director
Steve Dainton	Marketing Director

Invited to attend

Jacques Rogge	IOC President
Pierre Ducrey	IOC Sports Department
Liu Yi	Chinese Table Tennis Association

Apologies for absence

Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Mikael Andersson	Education and Training Director
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. Minutes

5.1 Approval of the Minutes of previous meetings held in Yokohama 27 April and 4 May 2009: these Minutes were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

5.2 There was no business arising from the Minutes which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.

6. World Championships update

6.1 Yokohama

6.1.1 Final report

The Executive Committee noted the summary report presented by Judit Farago and Jordi Serra, which was based on detailed departmental reports and asked the Competition Director to distribute this report to organisers of future world championships. The Executive Committee considered the recommendations, which would be introduced at future championships, noting that proposals by the Marketing Director would be submitted for VIP hospitality to its next EC meeting.

The Executive Committee noted the report from Mr Kimura and thanked the YOC and JTТА for hosting the H.I.S. 2009 World Individual Table Tennis Championships at a very high level.

6.1.2 Correspondence JTТА/ETTU

The Executive Committee noted and accepted the explanation from Mr. Kimura and hoped that the JTТА would continue its endeavours to assist other associations to develop the game, particularly where reciprocal relations existed.

6.1.3 Hotel incidents

Five (5) cases of alleged sexual harassment against hotel staff were reported by the Hotel Management in Yokohama. The Organising Committee and the ITTF investigated each case and this matter was dealt with in Yokohama to everyone's satisfaction, including the hotel. In each case, the YOC and the hotel discussed the matter with the person concerned and found in ALL the cases that this was a matter of unfortunate misinterpretation. The hotel did not file any charges.

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint Ms. Petra Sörling and the Executive Director as the ITTF Anti-Harassment Officers and asked that the existing anti-harassment policy be

re-activated and circulated to the EC and reviewed by Mr. Thomas Weikert before the next meeting.

6.2 Moscow 2010

The Executive Committee noted a report on the organisation of the 2010 World Championships.

The Executive Committee resolved to write to the Table Tennis Federation of Russia:

- 6.2.1 to establish 25 July 2009 as a deadline for the organising committee to sign all contracts, including confirming the accommodation rates, which should not be more than those charged at Yokohama (US\$169 per person in a double room and US\$190 per person in a single room or equivalent cost in Euro);
- 6.2.2 to require a written guarantee from the relevant Russian Government department, to be submitted by 25 July 2009, that visas would be issued for all member associations, including those which may not have a Russian Federation consulate in their country and in particular that visas would be guaranteed to Kosovo TTA without difficulties.

Mr. Adham Sharara confirmed that he would travel to Moscow to meet with the Russian TTF to resolve these pending issues.

The Executive Committee resolved to request the President to confirm with members of the Executive Committee telephonically the alternative host for the World Championships, should the above requirements not be met.

6.3 Rotterdam 2011

The Executive Committee noted that the Rotterdam organising committee had attended the world championships in Yokohama. It was reported by the marketing Director that equipment sponsorships had been secured (Tibhar tables and Double Happiness balls) and a draft of the contract and directives would soon be sent to the organising committee.

7. Youth Olympic Games update

7.1 Road to Singapore (Youth Olympic Games)

The Executive Committee noted the qualification process and calendar, which would be provided to the IOC once the place of the European qualification event had been decided. The Executive Committee noted that 54 athletes had applied for 4 men's and 4 women's universality places and that a ranking of NOCs had been submitted to the IOC which would make the final allocation.

7.2 Asian Junior Games (observer)

The Executive Committee noted the late invitation to attend the Singapore Asian Youth Games and asked Mr Kimura to represent the ITTF.

7.3 YORIS (Youth Olympic Games Result Information Technology Service)

The Executive Committed noted that feedback had been submitted to the IOC on the second version of the draft guidelines.

7.4 Test event (Pro Tour)

The Executive Committee noted that the Pro Tour would be held from 10 to 14 March 2010 in Singapore but not in the venue for the Youth Olympic Games.

8. Olympic Games, London 2012

The Executive Committee noted a report on preparations for the Olympic Games covering presentation, seating, possible innovations for broadcasting, competition schedule, progress on equipment procurement and a possible test event in the venue in 2012. The Executive Committee noted that a meeting with LOCOG would be held soon and would be attended by Mr. Adham Sharara, Mr. Neil Harwood, the Competition Director and the Executive Director.

9. EC members responsibilities and work-plans

The Executive Committee noted that consultations had been undertaken between the president and the EC members and final areas of focus would be distributed by the President (see attached chart).

10. Francophonie Pongiste

The Executive Committee, having heard the background about the election process for Francophone Pongiste, and having received claims from two presidents for the organization; resolved to apply its usual policy of not to recognise the Francophonie Pongiste until it submits a new request for recognition as a united group after the internal issues are resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

11. TT Master case

The Executive Committee noted that the court case had been settled out of court with each party paying its own costs. The 2 racket coverings in question (Insider and Swing Back) being no longer authorised by the ITTF effective 30 June 2009 in accordance with the original decision taken by the ITTF that was disputed by TT-Master.

12. Development update

The Executive Committee noted the report presented covering the development of coaching manuals; a project run in conjunction with Peace and Sport called "Ping Pong Paz" in Colombia; follow ups on Palestine and East Timor; a UNHCR project; the inclusion of table tennis in the course offered by the University of Leipzig; and the outcomes of a development meeting with the Brazilian Olympic Committee.

13. Competition update

13.1 Event cancellation policy

The Executive Committee approved the proposals to amend the cancellation policy for the Pro Tour and to included in the directives that:

13.1.1 if a Pro Tour event was cancelled at any time before the event start date, the national association would not be awarded a Pro Tour event for the next calendar year;

13.1.2 if a Pro Tour event was cancelled within 4 months before the event start date, the organising committee would be fined US\$20 000 plus any loss of income from television rights or sponsorship suffered by the ITTF or costs incurred by the ITTF or national associations (item 13.1.1 above would also apply).

13.2 Ranking penalty policy

13.3 The Executive Committee noted that the process of this policy would be simplified by the Competition Manager submitting detailed explanation in the reports only for cases to be considered by the Ranking Penalty Policy Commission.

The Executive Committee approved:

13.3.1 the change in name of the policy to "Ranking Default Policy"; the change in the name of the Commission to "Ranking Default Commission"

13.3.2 the composition of the Ranking Default Commission to be the Executive Committee member in charge of ranking, the Executive Director of Competition Programs or his appointee and the chairperson of the Rules Committee or his appointee;

13.3.3 amendments on the wording without changing the policy.

13.4 2011 World Team Cup

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation that Germany host this event in 2011.

13.5 Junior events 2010

The Executive Committee noted that the competition calendar for 2010 would be published including the qualification events for the Youth Olympic Games and that "premium junior events" would be designated to the events that met the additional organisational requirements and standards.

13.6 2010 calendar

The Executive Committee noted that the calendar would include 8 ITTF world title events, 18 Pro Tour, 26 junior circuit and 6 Youth Olympic Games events for a total of 58 ITTF events in 2010.

13.7 Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Mongolia

The Executive Committee noted that these associations had entered several events in 2009 without arriving at the event. The Executive Committee advised that these associations should provide copies of valid air tickets prior to the draw to the Competition Manager in order to be included in the draws.

14. Marketing update

The Executive Committee noted the report from TMS including that the television coverage of the 2009 World Championships was the "best yet" and sponsors were very satisfied with the World Championships held in Yokohama. Similarly, the itTV service was working well and 2 episodes of the "world of table tennis" had been added. A broadcast contract had been signed with ESPN-Brazil for ITTF Pro Tour and Pro Tour Grand Finals. Volkswagen had renewed its agreement for 3 years in late 2008 for 5 events. The equipment for the Youth Olympic Games had been finalised. Video clips for presentations to sponsors would be developed and copies supplied to the Museum.

15. Racket control

The Executive Committee noted the background to the various racket control systems available and their validity. The Executive Committee resolved to instruct the Equipment Committee that:

- 15.1 the RAE system be used at all official ITTF events with effect from 1 September 2009;
- 15.2 the threshold (tolerance level) would be 4ppm from 1 September 2009;
- 15.3 the results from the tests be visible to the player to instil confidence in the system;
- 15.4 the amount of the tolerance level be further reduced and announced in due course.

16. Professional staff update

The Executive Committee noted that the new titles for staff would come into effect from 1 July 2009. The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation that a full-time Equipment Manager be recruited through an advertisement. The Executive Committee accepted that the Executive Director would appoint a receptionist on a half-time basis in Renens/Lausanne head-office. The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation that a person (title to be decided by the president) be appointed to support the URC, Para Table Tennis and cover part of the work done by the current Project Manager. It was decided to offer this new position to Ms Alison Burchell with an effective starting date of not later than 1 September 2009.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director to circulate the job description and timelines for the appointment of the Equipment Manager.

17. Any other business

- 17.1 New travel policy Development and Continental Council (DCC)
The Executive Committee noted that US\$2 000 for airfares for Continental Presidents or nominees to attend ITTF meetings was provided in the Continental Development Agreements and approved that ITTF would pay:

17.1.1 25% of an economy airfare to members to attend the Board of Directors meeting at the World Championships;

17.1.2 100% of an economy airfare for the Committee Chairpersons attending the World Championships, and Continental Presidents or their appointees to attend meetings of the DCC.

17.2 Eligibility

The Executive Committee considered the recommendation of the Rules Committee and agreed that players from China moving to Hong Kong would be considered to have already acquired the nationality. This would be considered as a move from one association to another and therefore the waiting periods according to the ITTF eligibility rule would apply, but the nationality would be considered obtained. This would be consistent with the eligibility applied in the case of change in association within Britain.

The Executive Committee reconsidered the detailed appeal presented by the Norwegian TTA and resolved to maintain the decision made by the previous EC, therefore rejecting the new appeal.

17.3 2010 Men's world cup

The Executive Committee noted that the President would address this issue with the Russian TTF when he visits Russia later in July.

17.4 Referees for World Championships and Olympic Games

As there was a lack of referees outside Europe, the Executive Committee asked Mr Harwood, the Competition Director and chairperson of the URC to make proposals at the next meeting to rectify this situation. In the meantime it would be acceptable to appoint the Referee from another association other than the host association as long as a Deputy Referee from the host association would also be appointed for the event.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17h59.

Adham Sharara. Meeting Chairman

Date