



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Executive Committee held on Saturday 19 November 2011 at 09h05 in the Awal 3 Room, Gulf Hotel, Manama, Bahrain.

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all Executive Committee members to the meeting noting that Messrs Yang and Weikert were not available due to their work and family commitments respectively.

The President of the Bahrain Table Tennis Association, Sheikh Ahmed Al Khalifa, welcomed the Executive Committee to Bahrain noting that the ITTF was an organisation which listened, adapted, applied and improved. He indicated that the playing system at the World Junior Championships should be reviewed. Bahrain wished to contribute to narrowing the gap between the east and west of the continent and to become a "hot spot" for the sport. Finally, he wished the Executive Committee a successful meeting and pleasant stay in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

- 2. Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-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
Alena Kanova	Athlete Representative - ex officio

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO and Executive Director (Competitions)
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO and Executive Director (Development)
Jordi Serra	Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games)
Mikael Andersson	Executive Director (Education and Training)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Alison Burchell	Deputy Executive Director (Operations)
Christian Veronese	Event Marketing Director (TMS)

Apologies

Vladimir Samsonov	Athlete Representative
Yang Shu'an	Deputy President
Thomas Weikert	Executive Vice-President

- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda as presented and added:

- 14.6 Peace and Sport Cup
- 14.7 Francophonie Pongiste

- 4. Minutes:**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 August 2011: the minutes were confirmed and signed noting that in 15.1.1 "The player had been correctly withdrawn by the *Slovak Association*, not by the ETTU, from the European Youth Championships".

4.2 There was no further business arising from the minutes which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.

5. Competitions: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 2011 World Junior Table Tennis Championships update:
- The standard of the event was very high with a table-tennis-specific hall contributing to the success.
 - The standard of hospitality was very high.
 - The media coverage was good.
 - The Stag floor had not arrived on time.
- 5.2 2012 World Championships update:
- The DTTB was experienced in organising major events.
 - The results management system had been tested.
 - The visa application process had been discussed at length and visa application and interview deadlines established in the prospectus.
 - A meeting with the host broadcaster had been held.
 - The hotels for the use of the ITTF family were under discussion either to be close to the venue or further away with a higher standard.
 - The restaurant facility was far from the competition areas.
 - The number of volunteers for live scoring was a concern.
 - There would be a number of hotels used for the players but all would be 4 stars.
- 5.3 2013 World Championships update:
- An inspection would have to be held soon.
 - The competition venue could not accommodate the number of tables needed comfortably.
 - As a result, the qualification matches may be played in a different venue.
 - Visas would also need to be addressed as some problems had been experienced in the recent Men World Cup.
- 5.4 Bid for 2014 World Junior Table Tennis Championships:
- 2 bids had been received from France and China.
 - The bid would be decided by the BoD in Dortmund.
 - A site inspection to France (La Roche) still had to be done.
- 5.5 Bid for 2015 World Championships:
- 2 bids had been received from China (Suzhou) and Canada (Richmond or Toronto).
- 5.6 Pro Tour Grand Final and Olympic Games test event:
- The build up preparations were in process for the event.
 - Team matches would be played to test the Olympic Results and Information System.
 - The men's team would be made up of 1 European, 1 Asian and 1 African player and the women's team would be 2 Asian and 1 African players.
 - The technical delegates for both Games would be present and issues relating to accessibility for the Paralympic Games would be assessed.
- 5.7 2011 and future World Cups:
- All 3 world cups had been held recently in Singapore (Women), Germany (Team) and France (Men) and all had been very successful.
 - The World Team Cup was usually held every second year, on odd-numbered years, although we had a special edition in 2010 in Dubai.
 - Due to possible sponsorship issues as well as scheduling issues, it may be necessary to hold the Men and Women World Cup events in even-numbered years.
 - The Continental Cups would be a qualification for the World Cups.
 - The whole competition calendar was under review for 2013.
- 5.8 2012 Pro Tour, sponsorship and change of name:
- TSA had purchased the media rights from 2011 to 2016 from TMS.
 - TSA had not succeeded in selling sponsorship rights for the Pro Tour in 2011 and TMS had found the sponsors for TSA for the Korea and China Opens
 - TSA had not found sponsors for the 2011 Pro Tour Grand Finals.
 - The President cancelled the sponsorship agreement with TSA, and TMS/ITTF found a title sponsor for the 2012 Pro Tour Circuit.

- As a result, the Pro Tour will be called the ITTF World Tour as of 2012 since the sponsor only wishes to sponsor “World” events.
 - Prize money would be US\$2,5 million including US\$1 million for the World Tour Grand Finals.
 - The top 4 of the Euro-Africa circuit would qualify for the World Tour Grand Finals directly in addition to the traditional 16 qualifiers from World Tour events.
 - The Americas and Asia-Pacific Circuits would be incorporated into the World Tour over time starting in 2013.
 - In order to guard against financial loss as a result of players withdrawing late, the organiser would receive a deposit from 2012.
- 5.9 2012 Junior Circuit:
- In 2012, there would be 35 events with events in each continent.
 - Several new hosts had been included.
 - Participation had increased in 2011 and this would hopefully continue in 2012.
- 5.10 Illegal On-Line Betting and additional rules:
- The integrity unit of SportAccord had held a seminar recently and a code of conduct for athletes and officials had been presented.
 - Similarly, an online course had been presented which would be launched in December 2011.
 - An integrity officer for ITTF should be considered.
 - As some of the larger IFs had addressed the issue of illegal betting, there was a possibility that the smaller IFs would now be targeted.

The Executive Committee asked:

- a) The CEO to present proposals to change the relevant clauses of chapter 4 to host the World Cups in alternate years in case sponsors can not be found, and also to reconsider the scheduling of these events in the 2013 Calendar.
- b) The Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to register “itTV”.
- c) The Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to brief the Executive Director (Education and Training) on the online betting course from SportAccord.
- d) The Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to consult the Athletes’ Commission on the draft code of conduct.
- e) The Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to consult IFs about the certificates they issue to approved online betting companies.

6. Follow up on AGM and BoD: the Executive Committee noted that:

6.1 Athletes’ Commission report:

- Various proposals relating to racket control and the ball had been presented.
- A questionnaire had been developed on event organisation which would be available through the website in different languages.
- The overturning of the disqualification of a player for racket testing failure was appreciated.
- Proposal 1 related to eliminating after match racket tests if the player presented their racket for a voluntary before match test, unless the player changed their racket during the match when it would be tested after the match.
- This would change the procedures for racket testing to reduce the stress caused to players but was premature, as the racket control detection group had not yet presented its report.
- Proposal 2 related to gloss being removed from the set of tests done on rackets and that tests done before match not be repeated after the match.
- The removal of the rubber to check the blade was not widely supported by players surveyed at the European Championships.

6.2 Report on the review of committees:

- Some committees had become redundant within the current structure.

- Some committees would be merged, a commissioner would be appointed and the size of committees would be adjusted.
 - The underlying principle was that the committee structure should mirror the professional staff structure more closely.
 - The Junior Commission should meet annually, not necessarily during the World Junior Championships (1.13.1.2).
 - The draft terms of reference should be sent to the committee chairs for review and comment.
- 6.3 Result of resolution A *"To discuss the service rules in terms of Law 2.13.3: the change of the serving player or pair in accordance which player or pair has scored the previous point. The next server of the rally is the player or pair who has lost the point in previous rally"*:
- This had been tested at the Baltic Championships.
 - The feedback from the majority of players had been negative.
 - The Latvian Association acknowledged that more work was needed.

The Executive Committee resolved to:

- a) Ask the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to submit a proposal for the amendment of T9 to eliminate gloss as one of the tests for racket control.
- b) Approve the report of the Committee Review Working Group.
- c) Ask the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games), Deputy Executive Director (Operations) and chair of the Rules Committee to develop proposals from the Working Group's report to be included in the overall proposals document to the AGM and BoD.
- d) Ask the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to send out the draft terms of reference to all committees for comment and to present them to the next meeting.

7. Equipment: the Executive Committee noted:

7.1 Racket control: this had been covered under 6.1 above.

7.2 Equipment testing fees:

- The fee for testing the flooring may need to be adjusted but the fee proposed should cover the costs.
- The manufacturers should be informed.

7.3 Poly ball proposal from the Athletes' Commission:

- The manufacturers had indicated that they could produce the new ball after the Olympic Games as planned.
- A period of 2 to 3 months should be allowed for players to train with the new ball after the Olympic Games.
- The players preferred the new ball to be used from 1 July 2013 although exceptions could be allowed prior to that.
- The manufacturers could meet this requirement and would need to manage the stocks of celluloid balls during the transition.
- The manufacturers would keep the poly ball properties as close as possible to the celluloid balls.
- The quality of the balls would be tested and approved to ensure quality control.
- The players are providing ongoing feedback to the manufacturers on the trial balls provided.

7.4 Stag's performance:

- Stag had paid 1 of 3 payments due to TMS.
- Various items of equipment, particularly the show court, had not been delivered timeously on several occasions or bad quality products had been provided (A-boards).
- However, the support for the Development Program had been excellent.
- A meeting was held in Rotterdam with Stag at which these issues were raised.
- The Stag sponsorship outstanding payments should be made by 15 December 2011

The Executive Committee resolved to:

- a) Approve the testing fees as proposed.
- b) Approve the change of date for introducing the poly ball to 1 July 2013 with exceptions allowed if deemed necessary in the period between the 2013 WTTC and 1 July 2013.
- c) Ask the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to ensure that “poly” referred to the material in the TL.
- d) Ask the Director (Marketing), Deputy CEO and Director TMS to meet the president of Stag to inform him of the Executive Committee’s decision:
 - i) To retract the award of the bid for the table for the 2013 World Championships.
 - ii) To reconsider the award of the bid for the equipment for NATTU events.
 - iii) To retain the award of the bid for equipment for LATTU and Global Junior Program events.
 - iv) To reduce the invoice associated with the contract.
 - v) To insist that the outstanding payments be made in full by 15 December 2011.
 - vi) To insist that any remaining equipment supplied not be deficient and be supplied on time failing which, the contract would be cancelled.
 - vii) To retain the contract in relation to the Development Program.
- e) Ask the Director (Marketing) to write to the president of Stag informing him of the decision in d) above formally.

8 Olympic Games: the Executive Committee noted that:

8.1 2012 equipment:

- The IOC had responded on 18 November 2011 that the undercarriage in 3D could not be used.
- The IOC, however, supported a 2D version so Double Happiness would be approached for an alternative proposal.
- The table for the Paralympic Games would not be affected.

8.2 2012 London pending issues

- The employment of the Technical Operations Manager had not yet been resolved.
- 2 players from Europe and Asia would check the venue just before the Olympic Games to check airflow and lighting.
- The Pro Tour Grand Finals to be held next week would unlock various issues.
- LOCOG would provide the data feed for the live scoring but the interface had to be confirmed.
- The number of accreditations requested exceeded the number available.

8.3 Eligibility rule difference for World Championships and Olympic Games (Luxembourg): an appeal had been submitted for a player to be eligible to play in the World Team Championships.

The Executive Committee resolved to uphold the decision that the Luxembourg player was not eligible for the world team championships and asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to communicate the decision to the Luxembourg association.

9 Finance: the Executive Committee noted that:

9.1 Progress report on the transfer of finances to Lausanne:

- The transfer was ongoing with a view to the transfer would be complete by the end of March 2012.
- Training was necessary to use the accounting software in January 2012.
- The 2 signatures for Singapore were in place; an inventory for the Museum was in process.
- The accounts may be run in parallel for the first 6 months of 2012.
- All invoices should be sent to the Lausanne office.

9.2 IOC allocation 2013-2016:

- There was a reasonable expectation that the IOC would make an allocation of US\$10,33 million to the ITTF for the 2013-2016 Quadrennial
- This represented a 31% increase over the previous cycle of US\$7,872,000.
- There would be a resultant increase in the allocation for Continental Federations.

The Executive Committee approved the allocation of IOC funding as proposed for 2013-2016 and requested from the Executive Director of Development to present a Continental allocation breakdown for the next EC meeting in January.

10 Professional staff update: the Executive Committee noted that:

10.1 Update report from CEO and Deputy CEO:

- The CEO had visited all 3 ITTF offices.
- The website was being re-designed
- The ITTF database was being upgraded.
- An intranet should be considered.

10.2 Contract renewals: all contracts had been renewed and would be reviewed 3 months before the scheduled end of the contract period in an ongoing way.

11 Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted that the next meetings would be held in:

- Vienna, Austria on 7 January 2012.
- Dortmund, Germany on 24 March and 1 April 2012.

12 Legal: the Executive Committee noted that:

12.1 Update on “World Championships of Ping Pong” court case with the Sandman Group:

- Litigation was still in process.
- The Sandman Group intended to have a “World Championships of Ping Pong” in 2012.
- The name “World Championships of Ping Pong” had been applied for registration by the Sandman Group in the USA, EU and several Asian countries.
- The organisers of the Liebherr World Table Tennis Championships had been requested to register the name in Germany.
- The lawyers in the USA had asked the judge to consider a summary judgement.

12.2 Ball patent update: a full report was awaited.

12.3 Document to prevent conflict of interest: a proposal was in process.

13 ITTF logo and branding guidelines: the Executive Committee noted that:

- There was a need to reinforce the brand identity as there was a variety of logos in use.
- Using the racket as the recognition symbol was key.
- The next step included finalising branding guidelines.
- The implementation would take an estimated 6 months.

The Executive Committee approved the continuation of the development of the logo and branding guidelines.

14 Any other business: the Executive Committee noted that:

14.1 Merit award: a nomination had been received from the Kenya TTA.

14.2 Propositions and Resolutions for Dortmund: would be prepared for the next meeting.

14.3 Follow-up on any items from OPC and DCC meetings: there was none however various recommendations for the Junior Commission would be coordinated by the Global Junior Program Director.

14.4 Continental Federations’ affiliation to ITTF;

- Given the funding contribution made by ITTF to the Continental Federations, a formal relationship between the ITTF and Continental Federations should exist through direct affiliation.
 - Clear affiliation criteria need to be developed.
 - Contracts for marketing and development would need to be signed as a result.
- 14.5 Honorary Life Member: a nomination had been received from the Kenya TTA and would be decided by the BoD.
- 14.6 Peace and Sport Cup:
- The president of Peace and Sport had indicated that the next event should still include table tennis.
 - A future event could include Palestine and Israel but the time was not right currently.
 - This event could be described as “Ping Pong Diplomacy V.2”.
- 14.7 Francophone Pongiste: the status of this organisation was explained by the President.

The Executive Committee thanked the Qatar Table Tennis Association for hosting the Peace and Sport Cup.

The Executive Committee resolved to:

- a) Approve the Merit Award for Andrew Mudibo.
- b) Submit the recommendation for the award of Honorary Life Membership to the BoD for consideration.
- c) Ask the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to develop criteria for Continental Affiliation for consideration.
- d) Approve the pairings for the Peace and Sport Cup.
- e) Reinstate the Francophonie Pongiste as a recognised organisation.

15 Adjournment: there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 15h53.

Adham Sharara
President

Date