

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Executive Committee held in the N1-3 Room, Sakura Tower Hotel, Tokyo, Japan on Sunday **27 April 2014** at 15h00.

**1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to Tokyo for the World Championships.

**2. Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Thomas Weikert	Deputy President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Senior Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Vladimir Samsonov	Athlete Representative – ex officio

**In attendance**

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Alison Burchell	Director (Operations and PTT)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)
Rudolf Sporrer	Chair, Rules Committee

**3. Approval of the agenda:** the agenda was approved as presented.

**4. Minutes**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2014 were approved and signed.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no further business not covered by the agenda. The Executive Committee noted that that the President would separately explain the issue of under-age policy for the Hopes to concerned parties.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings: the Executive Committee noted that:
  - The salary scale system would be discussed in Lausanne when the audit was done.
  - Two events had been identified to test the service, multi-ball and “no let” service proposals.

**5. Operations Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 2013 financial statements, audits, risk assessment and Finance Committee:
  - The audit would be done in Lausanne the week beginning 16 June 2014.

- The Singapore office audit had just been completed and the final signed statements would be issued once all Executive Committee members had signed them.
  - The turnover in Singapore office was in the region of USD 1m.
- 5.2 Professional staff update:
- The staff structure matrix had been updated.
  - There was now 9 ITTF and TMS staff in the office in Singapore.
- 5.3 AGM and BoD:
- 5.3.1 BoD replacements and AGM preparation:
- The President explained the possible changes on the Board of Directors due to changes in positions or retirements. The list would be presented to the BoD for approval one by one.
  - Following the announcement in the March EC minutes of the retirement of the president, which leads to a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Table Tennis Canada, in the spirit of continental representation on the Executive Committee, had nominated, in coordination with NATTU, Bruce Burton to be an Executive Vice-President although the constitution did not preclude any other nomination being considered.
  - BoD replacements and to fill vacant position in EC have to be approved and decided by the BoD according to the constitution.
  - The EC confirmed that according to the constitution, a Board member could have a maximum of 2 votes as an association delegate and holding a proxy at the AGM.
  - The Rules Committee Chair suggested that the AGM proposals, 3, 5, 10, 11 and 12 could be taken together as they all related to deleting the phrase “over or around the net assembly”.
- 5.3.2 Anti-Doping Rules:
- The draft rules had been sent to WADA to check and there had been some additional changes to be implemented and these would be presented at the Board meeting.
  - An amount for a financial sanction had to be proposed for the approval of the Board and could be “up to US\$500” so it would allow some flexibility.
- 5.3.3 New Chair position:
- Email correspondence had been distributed to clarify the reasons for the president retiring from the presidency including being able to continue his contribution to the ITTF and to be eligible to stand for election to other multi-sports organizations.
  - This new ITTF Chair position would chair meetings of the AGM, while the President would chair meetings of the Board.
  - There is already a policy and provision for a past president in good standing to become automatically an honorary president.
- 5.4 Appointments to the Nominations Committee:
- Following the last meeting, nominations from Oceania and North America had been received.
  - However, the nominee from Oceania was a full member of another committee, which was not permitted in terms of the constitution.
  - The president of the OTTF should attend the Nominations Committee meeting but if he were not able, Mr Gillmann would attend.
- 5.5 Appointments to the Athletes’ Commission: this was postponed to the next meeting.

- 5.6 National Associations recognition issues:
- 5.6.1 Ratification of the decision on the Indonesian association:
- The participation of the team entered was confirmed.
  - It was confirmed and accepted that the delegates will not be allowed to participate in the AGM.
- 5.6.2 Cote d'Ivoire: there was currently dispute over the position of president, a delegate had still been appointed by the association to represent the association at the AGM.
- 5.7 Equipment: Technical Leaflet T3 "made in...":
- Some ball suppliers reflected the country where the supplier had its headquarters on the ball whereas the balls were often made in another country.
  - In order to avoid any person being misled, the country of manufacture should be reflected on the ball and the packaging. This is a change in policy.
- 5.8 Merit award:
- Viljar Kasemaa had been nominated for the award by the Estonian association.
  - The Nominations Committee would soon present clear criteria for this award in future.

**1-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee asked the CEO to distribute the nominations for the vacancies on the Board of Directors to all Board members.

**2-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the Board that the fines for anti-doping offences be "up to US\$500".

**3-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint the following persons to the Nominations Committee:

CHAN Foong Keong (Malaysia) - Chair

Abdullah AL MULLA (Qatar) - Deputy Chair

Wahid Enitan OSHODI (Nigeria)

Ivam PASSOS (Brazil)

David JACKSON (Canada)

Sirje LUBI (Estonia)

Sandra DEATON (England)

Andreas GEORGIU (Cyprus)

Advisor: Walter RÖNMARK (Sweden)

Executive Vice-President: Cherif Hajem

Senior staff member (no voting rights): Alison Burchell

**4-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee ratified its decision to allow the Indonesian team to compete in the World Championships and to cancel the participation of the Indonesian delegates at the AGM.

**5-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to request the Equipment Committee to amend the relevant Technical Leaflet for the Board's consideration to ensure that the country of manufacture of the ball was marked on the ball and its packaging and the same to apply to all ITTF approved equipment.

**6-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to award the Merit Award to Viljar Kasemaa at the AGM to be held in 2015.

**6. Competition Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

**6.1 2014 World Championships update:**

- 114 men's and 95 women's teams had been entered leading to the Men's 5<sup>th</sup> division having 3 groups of 6 teams and having almost complete women's 4<sup>th</sup> division.
- The accreditation process was running well.
- An estimated 15 associations had not yet paid their full hospitality fees.
- The general logistical support was working well.
- 2 halls would be in operation for the full period of the event so effectively running 2 world championships in parallel.
- The competition and training halls had opened on time with no problems experienced relating to the flooring and equipment.
- The net camera had been lowered on the show courts.
- LED screens were being used and feedback would be appreciated.
- The flooring colour pantone was darker than usual and LED screens were being used on the short sides of the show courts, feedback would be appreciated both on site and for the television images.
- With "Japan Golden Week" being during the World Championships, there should be a significant number of spectators and less traffic on the road.
- On 5 May 2014, 120 children from the Tsunami affected area of Japan would attend the Championships and 2 male and 2 female top players would play with the children.
- TV Tokyo would celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- For the first time matches from lower divisions would be covered on 3 tables by live streaming on YouTube. The usual live coverage from the main hall would be streamed on itTV.
- 900 volunteers had been recruited for the World Championships.

**6.2 World Championships entry proposal possible amendments:**

- The reduction in the number of teams as proposed would affect a significant number of associations.
- 72 to 96 teams should be the range of the number of team entries manageable for potential organizers, in case of higher numbers less persons would get free hospitality.
- A modified proposition could be considered with fixed number of entries: 96 or 84 teams providing free hospitality for 5 persons or 72 teams providing free hospitality for 7 persons.

- For the individual event, all associations could have guaranteed 3 players and additional maximum 2 players for top ranking positions in singles and 2 pairs in all doubles, except the host association, which would have 6 entries in singles and 3 pairs in doubles.
  - For next organizers: in 2015 China would like to maintain or even increase the number of entries in doubles, while for Malaysia, Germany and Sweden, a reduction would help them to organize the event.
  - A reduction in the number of participants would help to strengthen the continental championships.
- 6.3 2015 World Tour provisional program: was postponed to the next meeting.
- 6.4 Next major junior event organizers: South Africa would present a bid for the World Junior Championships in 2016 and Barbados for the 2014 World Cadet Challenge.

#### **7-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee resolved to amend the proposition on numbers of teams to participate in the world championships, establishing fixed number of entries and allowing organisers to indicate whether they would be able to accommodate 96, 84 or 72 teams.

### **7. Marketing Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

#### 7.1 New developments:

- The trick-shot competition would continue.
- A number of sponsors had come in to support ITTF through YouTube.

#### 7.2 TMS International Sponsorship update and payments:

- Enlio had signed for 5 years to provide the flooring for two of the World Cups for 3 years (2014, 2015, 2016), the 2016 World Championships and the Youth Olympic Games in 2018.
- Up to now payments of sponsorship income of more than USD2m had been transferred to Lausanne and Ottawa.

### **8. Development Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

#### 8.1 New ITTF members:

- Mali and US Virgin Islands would be proposed for membership at the AGM.
- Thereafter, establishing associations in 5 countries, which have NOCs but are not ITTF members yet would be the next focus.

### **9. Education & Training Program:** the Executive Committee noted that:

#### 9.1 Road to Nanjing and YOG update:

- Oceania's qualification event would be held in May 2014.
- 8 universality places (4 men and 4 women) would need to be allocated.
- The IOC had indicated that each universality candidate is encouraged to compete in the qualification process.
- As a result, one candidate had qualified while also being a universality candidate.
- After the YOG in Nanjing, the reallocation of universality places policy should be changed. A recommendation will be made to the IOC.
- 30 places were available for the Road to Nanjing training camp in June in Shanghai and the entry would be finalized in the next weeks ahead.

- 10. Athletes' Commission report:** the Executive Committee noted that:
- The dates and times had been set for the Athletes' Commission elections.
  - Those nominated for appointment were mainly currently active players.
  - The full list of candidates should be presented for approval by the AGM, in case one of the athletes on the list would be presented to be elected to the Executive Committee in the case the proposal for voting rights on the Executive Committee was supported.
  - The plastic balls with seam had been tested by the players and some were too soft.
  - The heavier ball, which had been tested by some Chinese players, had been supported by the players.
  - The decision to play with the celluloid balls for the Asian Games in Korea in September was made by the ATTU.
  - A players' meeting had been held on 26 April 2014 and a woman player had indicated that the coverage of table tennis on ITTF's social media platforms was greater for male than female players.
  - There would be a joint meeting with the Rules, Equipment and Umpires' and Referees' Committee at the end of the World Championships.
  - 2 letters from the chairperson of the IOC Athletes' Commission and ITTF Athletes' Commission would be distributed prior to the AGM supporting the proposal for voting rights on the Executive Committee.
  - Mr Wang Liqin would attend the AGM as an observer.

**8-EC-04-2014**

The Executive Committee asked the Director of Marketing to discuss equal coverage for both genders through the ITTF's social media platforms.

- 11. Plastic ball update:** this item was postponed to the next meeting.
- 12. Planning 2014-2017, P5 and DBI:** this item was postponed to the next meeting.
- 13. Adjournment:** there being no further business, the meeting ended at 18h25.

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Adham Sharara  
President

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Date