

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission held on Saturday, 6 December 2014, at 09h00 in the Fujian Hotel, Shanghai, China.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks:

The President welcomed all the members and guests in attendance and thanked the Chinese Table Tennis Association and the Local organizing Committee for securing such good conditions for the Championships and the meetings.

2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Bruce Burton	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)
Khaled El Salhy	African Table Tennis Federation
Tony Yue	Asian Table Tennis Union representative
Ronald Kramer	European Table Tennis Union
Tony Kiesenhofer	North American Table Tennis Union
James Morris	Oceania Table Tennis Federation

In attendance

Nico Verspeelt	Para TT representative
April Kwok See Yu	Athlete representative (Replacing Vladimir Samsonov)
Edimilson Pinheiro	Rio 2016 representative
Richard Scruton	Technical Delegate
Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raúl Calín	Events & Olympic Games Expert
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Polona Cehovin Susin	Director (Education & Training)

Apologies

Oswaldo Borges	Latin American Table Tennis Union
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3. Approval of the agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2014:
The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2014 were confirmed and signed by the President (Deputy President at that time) on behalf of the previous President, who chaired the meeting.

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

5. **Youth Olympic Games 2014:**

5.1 Final report:

- According to the recent IOC and ASOIF debriefing the YOG was a huge success that surpassed the expectations with 3.6 out of 4 points in the assessment of the IFs.
- Interesting figures that were presented: there were 222 events, of which 18 were mixed; among the 3,760 participants 49,8% were female; 201 NOCs participated; the sports lab that included wushu, climbing and skateboard was very successful.
- The YOG summer edition will most probably be moved to 2023 (instead of 2022) in order not to clash with the winter edition of the OG.
- In relation to the Table Tennis events, which were a great success, it was noted that too many matches were played; compared to the 2010 edition in Singapore one stage in singles has been removed, but for the future it is recommended to further review the competition format, with the possibility to remove the consolation event in order to assure better presentation and TV production.
- Table Tennis was one of the 10 sports that had live TV coverage and table tennis was broadcasted for the whole duration of the YOG.
- The set up with 4 tables instead of 8 assured a much better presentation of the sport in the venue.
- The conditions in the playing hall were excellent and as well as in the training hall.
- The Road to Nanjing training camp, organized at the Chinese Table Tennis College in Shanghai in June thanks to the support of the Chinese Table Tennis Association and the great organizing efforts of the host, was the best ever and extremely positive feedback was received from the participants.
- The Culture and Education Program during the Games is an important part of the YOG principles; the Table Tennis activity held at the Wanda Plaza with Athletes Role Models, Wang Liqin and Jorgen Persson, in attendance was very successful too and served well for the promotion of our sport.
- Young Umpires Project: according to the Referee's Report the 12 Young Umpires that emerged from the online YUP course officiated at a very high level at the YOG, therefore, it is recommended to keep this project for future editions of the YOG, too.

6. **Olympic Games 2016:**

6.1 Qualification system and Continental Qualification Tournaments:

- The qualification system document was approved by the IOC Executive Board in February 2014, some references and tournament dates still have to be added by the ITTF and submitted to the IOC for approval at the end of the calendar year.

- The Continental Qualification Tournaments dates, and preferably also hosts, need to be determined by the Continental Federations and acknowledged by the ITTF by the 31st of December 2014 so that they can be announced in early 2015.
- As a practice, Continental Federations can have more than one qualification tournaments identified, for example Multisport Games or Regional tournaments could serve as qualifications beside the Continental Tournament; such system have been already announced by Europe (European Games), by North America and Latin America (Pan-American Games), while African TTF will decide in January if they have one or two tournaments. Unlike in the past Asian TTU will hold 1 Continental Qualification Tournament only.
- It has to be determined in advance which events count for participation for the May 2016 Olympic ranking selection.
- It is necessary to limit the maximum number of entries per NOC at the Continental Qualification Tournament, but each Continental Federation has an option to fix the number within this limit due to the difference in nature of the tournament (size, playing system, tradition, etc.).
- The playing system has to determine the exact final positions for qualifiers and reserves as far as possible with play-off matches.
- The playing system and the competition schedule has to be approved by the ITTF.

1-OPC-12-2014

Number of entries per NOC: not more than 4 players per NOC are allowed to take part in the Continental Qualification Tournaments, but each Continental Federation can decide the exact maximum number of entries per NOC.

2-OPC-12-2014

Playing System: each Continental Federation can decide individually, but together with the competition schedule it has to be approved by the ITTF and it has to determine the exact final ranking positions for qualifiers and reserves as far as possible with play-off matches.

3-OPC-12-2014

Events considered as participation for the May 2016 Olympic Ranking selection: only the Continental Olympic Qualification Tournament counts, any other event offering quota places (European Games, Pan-American Games) are not considered for participation. In Africa the African Olympic Qualification Tournament will be considered in case of 2 events, if only All Africa Games are organized, that one should be considered.

- Only players, who will attend the Continental Qualification Tournaments will be eligible to qualify by ranking.
- Based on past experience, the situations in which players qualified but the NOCs didn't endorse the participation should be pro-actively

explored with the aim to find compromises for the best interest of the players concerned.

- 6.2 Update on the competition system (order of events, number of days and playing system):
- The possibility of adding group matches in the team events was proposed to Rio 2016 by adding 1 or 2 additional competition days, but it wasn't accepted by the IOC and Rio 2016 due to the financial implications and possible clashes with other sports that are also popular in Asia. At the same time OBS strongly recommended to start with the singles event followed by the team event.
 - Based on the fact that the proposed changes were not accepted, the Executive Committee confirmed in July 2014 that there would be no change compared to the London Olympic Games in the competition system for Rio Olympic Games.

4-OPC-12-2014

The OPC confirmed that the 2016 Rio Olympic Games will have the same competition system as was used in London-2012, which consequently means keeping 12 competition days, to start with the singles events, and maintain the knock-out system in team events.

- 6.3 Schedule:
- The competition sessions were approved. There will be 3 sessions every day, apart from the days when medal matches are played, when there will be only 2 sessions.
 - Based on the recommendation of the Athletes Commission the possibility to avoid having 2 matches per day in singles will be analyzed, but based on the given conditions it probably cannot be avoided completely.
- 6.4 Report from Rio 2016:
- The proposal for adding competition day(s) for the possible introduction of a group stage in the Team events wasn't approved by Rio 2016, while the event schedule was approved.
 - NTOs training: The Memorandum of Understanding on the training of NTOs was signed by Rio 2016, the Brazil TTF and the ITTF. Based on the agreement, the training for National Umpires was performed during the 2014 ITTF World Tour in Santos and furthermore IU exam and Advanced Training for Umpires were held in Brazil later in the year. Training will continue in 2015 at national events.
- 6.4.1 Update
- The ticket sales will start in March 2015.
 - The "Overlay Book version 3" was released in September 2014 and the Olympic Memorandum of Understanding Principal part was signed in October 2014.
 - The mascots of the Games were launched in November 2014.

6.4.2 Test event, invitations to participants, format of play:

- The event will be held in the Riocentro venue on 18-21 November 2015. The same suppliers will provide equipment as for the Olympic Games.
- Prior to the event training will be possible for 2 days in the same venue.
- There will be 32 women players and 32 men players competing in singles events and 8 teams of each gender in the team events.
- The participants shall cover their travel and hospitality expenses. There will be no prize money at the event and it will not count for the World Ranking as it will be an invitational tournament.

5-OPC-12-2014

The OPC confirms the following system for the 2016 Olympic Games **Test** event:

- Progressive knock-out in the singles event;
- Direct knock-out in the team event;
- Top 7 teams on the May 2015 World Team Ranking will be invited plus the team from the Host NOC.
- 8 players not involved in the team event will be invited for the singles event; the highest ranked from each continent plus the 2 highest ranked players on the May 2015 World Ranking.

6.4.3 Equipment and Look of the Games:

- The contact with the suppliers, San-Ei, DHS and Tinsue, has been established and they all agreed to provide equipment also for the test event.
- Rio 2016 has released the look concept and the FOP proposal, which were presented to ITTF in September 2014.
- The presented colors concept is in line with the colors of the Olympic Games and features green flooring, which still needs to be confirmed with OBS concerning the possible visual impact. Rio 2016 will also check with the OBS the possibility of applying the Rio 2016 water virtual logo on the table, whereby it has to be noticed that the logo is different for the Paralympic Games.
- It will have to be assured that the athletes will have the opportunity to get familiar with the different color schemes, and the Athletes Commission will be involved in that.
- ITTF marketing is satisfied with the proposed concept of the look of the Games. In addition to the above, the Games logo on the ball shall be explored as an option for additional exposure and promotion.

6.4.4 Hotel for ITTF and ITOs

- The ITOs will stay at the Heritage hotel (under construction, close to the venue), while the ITTF family and guests will be accommodated in the Hotel Praia Ipanema.
- At the moment 28 extra rooms for the ITTF are under negotiation.

- During the Paralympic Games everyone will be staying in the village, 5-7 additional rooms would be needed for guests. They need to be accessible for wheelchairs and the hotel would ideally be located close to the venue.

6.5 Sports entries process

- The coordination of the sport entries will be handled according to the established practice; meaning the ITTF will communicate with NOCs and National Associations, therefore a clear process needs to be established.
- The sports names will have to be finalized by the ITTF and communicated to Sports Entries Manager, who was met in early November and agreed with the proposal.

6.6 Appointment of officials:

6.6.1 Referee and Deputy referees:

- 1 Referee, from association other than the host, and 4 Deputy Referees with one 1 from the host, have to be appointed by the URC Selection Panel.
- The only possible candidate from Brazil for the position of a Deputy Referee prefers to officiate as an International Umpire at the Olympic Games, while taking the position of Deputy Referee at the Paralympic Games. As there is no other qualified candidate from Brazil, the "local" Deputy Referee will be nominated from the region.
- The URC Panel also recommended reserves in case the proposed candidates were not available.

6-OPC-12-2014

Based on the selection of the URC Selection Panel the OPC confirms the following appointments of International Technical Officials for the Rio Olympic Games:

- Stuart Sherlock (ENG) as Referee;
- Silvia Garro (CRC) as the Deputy Referee from the region.

6.6.2 Jury (1 member per continent and chairperson):

5 Continental Federations appointed their Presidents, while the nomination from Asia was missing; it needs to be presented before the next OPC meeting.

6.6.3 Number of ITOs:

The name list of 38 persons, which is same as for London and as approved by the IOC, will be finalized at the next OPC meetings. There should be 26 IUs officiating at the Rio Olympic Games selected based on the following continental quota allocation: 2 Oceania, 2 North America, 3 Latin America, 3 Africa, 6 Asia, 6 Europe, 4 Brazil.

6.6.4 Medical Officer:

The nomination will be done at the next meeting, same as for the other Officers.

7. Paralympic Games 2016:

7.1 Update

There was nothing to add to the update presented at item 6 (Olympic Games 2016) except for the following points:

- The Technical Delegate and the Referee, together with one wheelchair and one standing player should inspect the venue before the opening of the village, mainly due to the lighting that can differ a lot for the athletes with a disability.
- The Competition Schedule of the Paralympic Games has been approved by Rio 2016 with the former rest day to be used for competition for better match allocation.
- It is recommended to appoint more ITOs, i.e. 2 umpires more and 1 additional Deputy Referee because the officials in charge of Racket Control are included in a specific quota.

7.2 Report from Rio 2016

There was nothing to add to the Report presented at item 6 (Olympic Games 2016).

7.3 Appointment of the Referee and Deputy referees:

7-OPC-12-2014

Based on the selection made by the URC Selection Panel, the OPC confirms the following appointments of International Technical Officials for the 2016 Paralympic Games:

- Chan Cheong Ki (HKG) as Referee;
- Maria Ferreira (BRA) as Host Deputy Referee.

- The Jury shall consist of the Chairperson and 2 members; proposals for nominations will be discussed at the next Para TT meeting in January 2015.
- Medical Officer: it is recommended to have the Medical Officer included in the quota of ITOs; if this will not be possible the Officer shall attend as a member of the Para Table Tennis Division.

8. Any other business

IOC's Agenda 2020:

- During the forthcoming IOC Extraordinary Session, to which International Federations are invited to attend, there will be decisions about the new IOC strategy called Agenda 2020 including new policies for the inclusion of sports in the Olympic program.
- The document includes 40 recommendations, few of them having direct special importance and interest for IFs.
- The limitation of the overall number of participants continues to be set in the framework for the Olympic Games program, however, gender equality is one of the aspects that the IOC strongly encourages, in particular the inclusion of mixed events.

- Considering the fact that the Olympic Games will in the future reposition the focus from being sport-based to become more event-based and the recommendation concerning the mixed-gender events inclusion, the ITTF shall explore again the possibility of applying Mixed Doubles or Mixed team event to be added to the Olympic Games program.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11h10.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date