

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee (2nd meeting) held on Sunday, 3 May 2015, at 09h00 in the Kempinski Hotel, Suzhou.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks: the President opened the meeting. He welcomed and introduced representatives of Shanghai Double Happiness Co. Ltd. (DHS), invited for agenda point 11.

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)

Vladimir Samsonov Athlete Representative – ex officio

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)
Vicky Eleftheriade	Equipment Manager – for point 11

Lou Shihe DHS General Manager – for point 11

Li Zhen Deputy Director, Research & Development – for point 11

3. Approval of the agenda: the Executive Committee approved the agenda but moved point 11 as first on the agenda not to keep the invited guests waiting.

4. World Championships

4.1 2015 Update on organization:

- Organizers implemented very strict and unreasonable security arrangements, which caused a lot of discussions and problems during the event, especially to allow the ITTF and its guests to get their daily passes and accreditations. Security level was exaggerated.
- Too many concerns were expressed by the organizers about seating capacity in the VIP section, which could be finally easily handled.
- The venue configuration did not allow sufficient spectators' seats and proper visibility from some sectors. Venue planning was a focus of negotiations for a long time, but with no real progress.
- TMS/Marketing was dissatisfied that sponsor rights were not being respected; sponsors complained mainly about the exhibition hall completely separated from the public access areas.

- TMS/Marketing felt that involvement of the ITTF and Chinese TTA should have been much more.
- VIP service was not according to the directives. It was not acceptable - very low level compared to the previous Championships.
- TMS will seek compensation due to sponsors' complaints.
- On the other hand the playing and practice conditions were excellent and it was the best TV covered WTTC ever.
- Athletes Commission was very satisfied with the playing halls, only note was to preferable have all 8 courts the same and to have a light meal possibility in the players' lounge.
- Great work and contribution of the volunteers was highlighted and acknowledged.

4.2 2015 Payments: the payment situation was better than before, the associations who traditionally have outstanding payments, did not attend the championships. As always, 2 ITTF staff helped the accreditation service.

4.3 2015 EC medal presentations: The last day's presenters were decided and announced. The CEO praised the sport presentation part of the event, in which organizers worked closely with ITTF promotion staff.

4.4 2016 World Championships update: the Executive Committee noted that meetings took place with Malaysian organizers; that inspections are planned in June and July 2015; that it was agreed to provide meals in hotels. Due to the early dates, the CEO alerted that preparations have to start very soon, while TMS expressed concern that only 3 staff are involved at this point in the Organizing Committee. The Athletes Commission repeated the request to have light meals at players' lounge.

5. Competition Program: the Executive Committee noted:

5.1 2016 World Tour provisional calendar:

- A provisional calendar was sent together with the bidding call to National Associations with protected (reserved) and recommended dates for the 2016 World Tour events.
- Deadline to submit applications was set for 29th May 2015.

5.2 Oceania Cup & Championships:

- Report was submitted by Executive Vice President, Mr Patrick Gillmann, ITTF representative at the event in Bendigo (Australia). It was the first time Para Championships were also held in conjunction with the ITTF-Oceania Cup & Championships. The event was organized on a high level with good sports presentation.
- It was noted that integration of para table tennis in Oceania is not reality as long as organization and participation is so much more expensive than at other ITTF events, and the qualification for the Paralympic Games more complicated than for the Olympic Games.

6. Operations Program: the Executive Committee noted that:

6.1 National Associations recognition issues - Niger: Nine (9) National Associations, including table tennis, were disbanded by the Ministry with

interim committees appointed and new constitutions. IOC strongly rejected this and requested IF intervention. ITTF asked African TTF to discuss the matter at their meeting and make a recommendation, which was provided as follows:

- Allow the election to take place but MUST be supervised by the NOC in accordance with IOC/ITTF set rules for national association elections.
- Any deviation from IOC/ITTF election rules for NTTF will render the election null and void.
- ATTF Executive Committee recommends that Niger Table Tennis Federation should be suspended thereafter if the election was not held or not in accordance with IOC/ITTF election rules.

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The Executive Committee resolved to approve the recommendation of the African TTF Executive Committee on ITTF's intervention in recognition of the Niger TTF.

6.2 ASOIF Sports Data project:

- After checking with other IFs, the letter of intent was signed by the President in April at the SportAccord to join the project.
- The first draft of the licensing agreement was received, it would be studied and considered by the President and Operations Program staff.

6.3 Anti-doping program:

- Director of Operations & Olympic Games and Program Coordinator had two meetings with WADA representatives in Lausanne.
- Program Coordinator was introduced through access to 3 online seminars to be familiar with the anti doping program administration.
- Director of Operations explained to the EC the proposal to reduce the number of players on Registered Testing Pool (40 at present), which is considered too high and almost impossible to manage for an IF of our size, both in terms of cost and management. Instead of having such a large group which requires a yearly 3 out-of-competition tests for each athlete, WADA suggests keeping a smaller group in RTP and identifying a second group with softer whereabouts requirements and having these athletes controlled perhaps once a year.
- WADA recommended making a risk assessment for doping in ITTF before making strategic decisions.
- Outsourcing services would be necessary, perhaps not for the entire anti-doping program, but for specific projects.
- Director of Operations asked to include in the minutes the big support provided by Dr Shiro Matsuo in the anti-doping program.

6.4 Code of Ethics:

It was requested at the Board of Directors meeting to introduce a Code of Ethics for the ITTF. The Executive Committee created a Working Group to prepare a proposition for the EC and for the 2016 BoD meeting.

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The Executive Committee resolved to appoint a Working Group to propose the Code of Ethics for the ITTF to be submitted to the 2016 ITTF Board of Directors meeting for approval.

Members of the Working Group: Thomas Weikert - President, Petra Sörling – EC member, Koji Kimura – PAC member, Raul Calin – Staff coordinator.

7. **Education & Training Program update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- Development and Education Workshop was very successful with over 50 participants attending including ITTF President, and EC VPs Petra Sörling and Patrick Gillmann.
- Hopes Program: new structure starting in 2015, with National Hopes leading to Continental Hopes, which becomes the qualification for World Hopes Week with a maximum of 16 boys and 16 girls. This year to be held in Shanghai, China, under the guidance of the Chinese master coach, Li Xiaodong. The top 4 boys and 4 girls, based on all continents being represented, will attend further training prior to participation in World Cadet Challenge. Coach Education has become an important component at each level with online, theory and practical education.
- Olympic Solidarity, WFIM Junior Scholarships: 12 athletes following gender equity and continental representation have scholarships of US\$10,000 each for a total of US\$120,000 to assist with qualification and preparation for Rio Olympics. An additional 44 players applied for scholarships through their NOC's of which 23 were approved with a total budget of over US\$380,000.
- ITTF Hot Spot Network will be renamed ITTF International Training Centre Network with a revised structure and requirements. To be released in the second half of 2015.
- Online Education- ITTFEducation.com is continuing to expand and ITTF Coaching Videos are being prepared called "Spins and Skills".
- There was an excellent response for the Nepal project. The Deputy CEO thanked the Athletes Commission and Vladimir Samsonov in particular for their support.
- Affiliation agreement with ATTU was signed at the BoD meeting. The next step is to prepare jointly the development agreement.

8. **TMS/Marketing Program update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- Three deals were concluded and agreements would be signed: 3-year contract renewal with LIEBHERR for WTTTCs and Men's World Cups even without guaranteed Eurosport coverage; Butterfly continues to be equipment sponsor for several ITTF events; Donic signed contract for 4 years as table supplier for Men's World Cup.
- GAC Group World Tour Grand Finals was confirmed for Lisbon, Portugal.
- Negotiations with GAC Group for contract renewal from 2016 were in progress.
- Continental Marketing Agreements were in place with 4 Continental Federations, plus a special TMS-ETTU marketing agreement is ongoing.

- Director of Operations noted that it would be necessary to increase contribution to the organizers for World Junior Championships and World Cadet Challenge, with or without more marketing income.

9. Para TT Division update:

- Petra Sörling highlighted the need to integrate para table tennis more and faster. World Championships in Beijing was a good step, with the support of the ITTF Asia-Pacific Office.
- Director of Operations had a meeting with the Para TT Division Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. While the Division has very good volunteers, it was agreed that in a few cases there is conflict of interest regarding positions in Para TT Division and in National Federation's management.
- The Paralympic Games format of play has changed at the last three consecutive games and always in different direction. Now the Division has introduced new system for the World Para TT Championships (to have team event every second year, singles events every four year). Wider study and consistency would be needed for such important decisions.
- The Athletes Commission Chair asked if it would be possible to introduce prize money at some Para TT events.

10. Athletes Commission report: the Executive Committee noted that:

- Remarks on the plastic ball situation are discussed under separate agenda.
- The Commission proposed to set up two Working Groups: one for studying service rule implementation and one for the new world ranking system (the last one was already decided by the EC in December 2014).
- It was requested to review the bonus point allocation at World Tour Super Series events where there is a main draw of 32 only instead of the former 64, so only half of the players get bonus points.
- It was requested to provide light meals in the players' lounge at World Tour events where there is no catering or restaurant in the playing area or nearby.
- Meeting with the players and the President during the WTTC was appreciated and well received.

11. Plastic ball update: the Executive Committee invited representatives of DHS to give update on plastic balls' quality, quantity and price, the main issues raised by the Athletes Commission. Mr. Lou reported that:

- During the one-year period since February 2014 balls broke easier and the quality was not good enough due to instability of the raw material. The company recently contracted new raw material supplier; this caused temporary shortage on stocks and higher price. As soon as number of balls increases on market, the price will be lower.
- In the meantime DHS is also looking for reusable material, which would further improve the quality.
- Most of the manufacturers are using the "relaxed" tolerance of the Technical Leaflet T3 until it is allowed (January 2016). It was requested to give in the future more time for manufacturers to meet new requirements.
- Durability is a main issue and cannot be tested so quickly with the new raw material, but it seems it can be improved quickly.

- Price would go down once there are more manufacturers and also depends on the price of the raw material.
- At the WTTC in Suzhou quality was not an issue at all, these balls were hand-selected.
- Athletes Commission Chairman called for changes in T3 to get better balls and more constant bounce but Mr Lou confirmed that the current requirements in TL are OK for them and that they will send input to the Equipment Committee and EC in case they feel change is needed.
- DHS wants to collect information from players as they have different opinions.
- Mr Lou invited the AC Chairman to visit their factory.

The Executive Committee thanked the DHS representatives for being ready to give an update and to answer questions.

12. Any other business:

- 12.1 Travel policy for Continental Presidents: as a result of the affiliation agreement concluded for all 6 continents, the President proposed to change the internal travel policy for the Continental Presidents to reimburse their travel costs for the World Championships as well and to apply it already for the 2015 WTTC.

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The Executive Committee resolved to modify the internal travel policy for the Continental Presidents to reimburse 100% of their Economy Class airfare when attending the meetings at the World Championships in addition to attending Development and Continental Council meeting, with immediate effect, as of the 2015 World Championships.

- 12.2 Eligibility request – Algeria TTF: Algeria TTF submitted an appeal from world title eligibility rules for its player, Sannah Lagsir stating that she was not registered earlier due to an administration mistake. Since the request was received late, the Executive Committee decided to postpone the decision to its next meeting to give more time for careful consideration.
- 12.3 New web site and mobile application: the President expressed that development work on ITTF.com and its mobile application has to be considered as a priority task in the next period.
- 12.4 Umpires clothing: in order to be in line with modern trends there was a discussion on the necessity of reforming the clothing and the march-in procedure of the umpires. Promotion and Marketing staff would coordinate the project with the URC. The Deputy President suggested to have uniform clothing also for ITTF staff working on Field of Play.
- 12.5 World Veterans Championships and the Tour should be considered to be integrated into the ITTF competition program in the future.

12.6 Next EC meeting: date was fixed as of 19th September 2015 with two possible locations in Canada, to be confirmed later.

13. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11h30 am

Thomas Weikert
President

Date