

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Hotel Mercure, La Roche sur Yon, France
09h00, Friday 4 December 2015

AGENDA

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all of the EC members and staff and thanked the French Table Tennis Federation for hosting the World Junior Championships at a difficult time, and for making all the necessary meeting arrangements. The FTTT President thanked the ITTF for the support and sympathy with French people after the terrorist attack in Paris.

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)

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Kimberly Koh	Recording Secretary

Absent with regrets

Ashu Jain	Athletes Commission Deputy Chair
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3. Approval of the agenda

The Executive Committee approved the agenda with the addition of 2 new items:

- 8.5 Urban table tennis
- 14.4 Libya request for tournament credit

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings (held 19 September 2015) - The minutes were approved and signed by the President.

4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda

- The World Championships report from Suzhou was not completed
- URC and marketing joint proposal for umpires clothing is further postponed.
- Meeting with Swaythling Club International will be held in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the future of the World Veterans Championships.
- ITTF candidates were not selected to WADA committees.

4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings

- the opening of bids for the upcoming Men's and Women's World Cups
- a Working Group to propose the Code of Ethics for the ITTF to be discussed in the agenda
- DBI-P5: staff will be nominated at the end of 2015
- Proposal for strategy for fair and equal playing conditions to be discussed during the WTTC after the bounce test project was stopped.

5. Operations Program

5.1 Updates on ITTF offices

- Singapore - ITTF Asia-Pacific & Marketing office has moved into the new place, which has a bigger space. Pictures will be provided at the next EC meeting.
- Lausanne - Renovations on the exterior of the building of the Lausanne headquarters was almost completed and costs remained within the budget.

5.2 Handbook and Directory

- Handbook has been changed to be applicable by calendar year, the latest one is valid as of 1 January 2016.
- On printed version changes are not indicated under the respective point, but these are attached as an Annex to the Handbook.
- Further changes during the year will be updated on the online version, and next edition (2017 Handbook) will be delivered in December 2016.
- Directory is regularly updated on ITTF.com, electronic version was sent in October 2015.

5.3 Merit Award applications

After the extension of the deadline for nominations, nine (9) applications were received, and six (6) fulfilled the criteria, established for the first time. All 6 candidates have been proposed for consideration after the Nominations Committee validated the applications.

Suggestions were made to consider nominations for PAC members not only from National Associations, and to have special criteria for female

applicants due to historical reasons. The EC agreed on further discussion on the Merit Award policy.

1-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to award the Merit Award at the 2016 AGM to: Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi, Mr. Jean-Francois Kahn, Mr. Koji Kimura, Mr. Zdenko Kriz, Mr. George Segun and Mr. Tony Yue.

5.4 Revision of the ITTF Hall of Fame

It was formally proposed by the Promotion Manager and Media Committee to move the hand-over ceremony of the ITTF Hall of Fame to the ITTF Star Award Gala instead of the AGM to allow more inductees to attend. Review of the Hall of Fame criteria will be discussed later.

2-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to approve that the hand-over ceremony of the ITTF Hall of Fame takes place at the ITTF Star Award Gala from 2016 on.

5.5 Governance and integrity

The President emphasized the importance of the topic within IOC, ASOIF and IFs. He listed the recent measurements of good governance in the ITTF. The Executive Committee agreed that these practices have to be promoted and communicated, but the final judgement of the ITTF will always depend on its officials' behaviour.

5.5.1 Update on IF Forum

The CEO and the Director of Operations attended presentations, sessions on good governance topic at the SportAccord and IF Forum in November 2015 and they had an update meeting with the IOC compliance office together with the ITTF Chairman, Mr. Sharara.

5.5.2 Code of Ethics

To be presented for approval at the 2016 BoD.

5.5.3 IBIS agreement

The ITTF was the 14th of the 28 Summer Olympic IFs to sign the agreement with the IOC on Integrity Betting Intelligence System to help protection against competition manipulation.

5.6 National Associations recognition issues

Disputes between National Associations recognized by the National Olympic Committee and National Associations recognized by Government, as well as autonomy issues for NOC's and NA's remain an ongoing problem.

- **Sri Lanka** - Elections were held in spite of the fact that they were advised not to hold elections in the interim period of changing the constitution. For the time being development funds are suspended and delegate entry for AGM will not be accepted, pending confirmation from the NOC that they are officially recognised.

- **Uganda** – With several groups claiming to be the legitimate NA, internal clarification from NOC and Ministry is requested, with ITTF BoD member, Tom Kiggundu to follow up on this matter and advise ITTF accordingly.

5.6.1 Kuwait

- As there was no progress in negotiations, the IOC finally suspended the Kuwait NOC and recommended to IFs to follow. At the time of the EC meeting, 11 Olympic and 2 non-Olympic IF suspended their respective national federations. The EC discussed in length the situation both regarding the Kuwait TTA status and the upcoming 2016 Kuwait Open. According to the constitution only the AGM can suspend an association and the NA has to be given an opportunity at the AGM to express their case.

3-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to recommend unanimously to the AGM the suspension of the Kuwait TTA and to ask the AGM to give the power to the Executive Committee to lift the suspension if IOC lifts its suspension on Kuwait NOC.

The CEO was requested to inform the IOC and the Kuwait TTA accordingly.

- Regarding the 2016 Kuwait Open – ITTF World Tour in March 2016, the EC discussed the possibility to deal directly with the Organising Committee exceptionally and without involvement of the National Association. The rules give possibility to establish a steering committee consisting of the ITTF and Organising Committee. It was requested to ask guarantee from Ministry of Sport to ensure that event is held properly.

4-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee agreed that exceptionally the ITTF entrusts the Kuwait Open Organising Committee with the organisation of the 2016 Kuwait Open, without involvement of the Kuwait TTA.

5.7 Umpires and Referees Committee

5.7.1 Hand signals experiment

The ITTF-Asian Championships was the second test tournament. The URC report was positive about using the hand-signals. The EC recommends to accept it and asked the URC to insert it into the Handbook for Match Officials and to propose starting date for implementation.

5-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to approve the introduction of hand-signals for umpires when officiating at matches. The ITTF Umpires & Referees Committee was requested to be in charge for implementation.

5.7.2 Advanced Referee Project

The evaluation has started after the first project in 2015 in Suzhou. The EC recommended to continue with the same leadership for the ARP2 project.

6. AGM & BoD

6.1 Key dates and timelines

Summary sheet with deadlines and key dates was distributed to the EC members. The meeting documents had to be published by 28 December 2015.

6.2 Reports

Deadline to submit annual activity reports was 15 November, the documents were collected and translated into 4 languages.

6.3 Review of Propositions and Resolutions for AGM & BoD

- There was very short time to summarize the propositions as deadline expired 3 days before the EC meeting.
- All propositions and resolutions were reviewed and explained.
- Committee chairs will be requested to make a joint meeting and to agree on common position for particular points before the official meetings.
- Proposition on renaming the Finance Committee was deferred to the constitution review.
- Propositions on inserting net camera in the rule is joint proposal from EC and Rules Committee.
- Proposal from Athletes Commission on changing balls frequently was meant for certain events and not as a general rule.
- Two different propositions were submitted by the Rules Committee on the same subject (advice).
- The propositions from Brazil TTF were too generic to deal with them properly, unless they were edited with adding references to the relevant Handbook points.

6-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee requested the CEO to contact the Rules Committee, the Athletes Commission and the Brazil TTF to clarify and/or to define their respective propositions.

7. Competition Program

7.1 2015 World Junior Championships update

Finally there were only a few cancellations in spite of the security concerns raised after the Paris attack, 20 boy's teams, 19 girl's teams, 92 boys and 91 girls participated at the WJTTC, so almost full entry. The venue and playing conditions were very good, problems were raised about the meals (limited choice in venue catering, not enough breakfast in hotels) and the transport coordination from the ITTF hotel. It was proposed to consider having official meetings during the WJTTC or moving them to the Grand Finals, as it would reduce costs for future organisers.

7.2 2016 World Championships update

7.2.1 Location and venues

There has been another change of venue, organisers came up with the proposal that marquees will be set up beside the main hall to function as the 2nd competition hall and practice hall instead of the exhibition centre in 15 minutes driving distance. After long discussion during the inspection visit in November, the new and final concept (4th version) has been confirmed, as it was better to have all venues located within the same complex, in walking distance.

7.2.2 Inspection visits update

During the inspection visit, the ITTF coordination team met the new professional event management company that just started, and things were progressing much better than before. The last inspection visit was planned in January, connected to the draw.

7.2.3 Entries

Preliminary entries closed with 96 men's teams and 87 women's teams representing 111 NAs and 774 players.

The final entry system opened on 3rd December for delegations and would be open for the ITTF officials in one week's time.

7.3 2019 World Championships bids

- In spite of getting several inquiries and higher interest is shown for the 2020 WTTC (team championships), by the deadline one definite bid was received to host 2019 WTTC (individual events), from the Hungarian TTA in the city of Budapest.
- Preliminary inspection would take place soon and the report on bid conditions to be presented to the AGM where Hungarian TTA has to make a presentation.
- The EC agreed that a strong decision is needed to reduce the size of the event, and that a concept for the future needs to be presented soon to stop the decrease in interest to bid for WTTCs.
- The EC also discussed in length how to guarantee that the allocated event takes place and bidding conditions are not changed and recommended that an organisational deposit is required upon confirmation of the host city and refunded as soon as the event was held as planned.

7-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to introduce a refundable organisational financial deposit payment to the ITTF of EUR 75,000 for the World Championships, after the successful bid and allocation of the event. It would be applied for the first time for the 2019 WTTC.

- 7.4 Recent events (ITTF-Continental, World Cups, World Cadet Challenge)
- Several major ITTF sanctioned events were held, and the EC had representation at each of them.
 - There was one player at the Men's World Cup who did not fulfil his obligation to show up at the public draw. The Director of Competitions proposed to deduct 10% from his prize money as a consequence.
 - Organisers of the Women's World Cup asked the ITTF/TMS to give more organisational support due to the high sport presentation costs at the event. It was agreed to negotiate it with JTAA.

8-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to reduce Mr. Gao Ning's prize money by 10% for no-show at the obligatory public draw during the 2016 Men's World Cup, and requested the Director of Competitions to inform Singapore TTA accordingly.

7.5 World Tour

7.5.1 2015 World Tour and the Grand Finals

- Multiple complaints were received about the 2015 Polish Open, despite efforts by the OC to improve during the event. It was proposed by the competition staff to reduce contributions by 10%, and to send a warning that the Polish Open will be downgraded to a Challenge Series if there are no improvements next year.
- A strong field will be present at the World Tour Grand Finals, only one qualified player had to be replaced with a reserve due to cancellation.

9-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to reduce the contribution toward the 2015 Polish Open by 10% for not fulfilling the organizational requirements according to the directives and requested the CEO to inform Polish TTF accordingly.

7.5.2 2016 World Tour

- Documents and information related to 2016 World Tour would be distributed after the 2015 Grand Finals is over.
- The 2016 World Tour has 20 events plus the Grand Finals, it was under negotiation to upgrade one event in order to have a balance between tiers (6 Super Series, 6 Major Series, 8 Challenge Series).
- The minimum guaranteed prize money is expected to increase, as most of the sponsorship rights were released to the organisers who in return do their best to secure additional prize money for their event. The new concept was well received by the organisers.
- The prize money breakdown was prepared by the Director of Competitions taking into consideration the Athletes Commission's input.
- Playing system and table allocation were changed in Super Series to have better sport presentation and schedule for top players.

- Point allocation was modified in Super Series to follow the concept change (winners of Doubles and U-21 receive 300 points compared to the previous 500).
- The issue of the 2016 Kuwait Open was covered under 5.6.1.

10-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee approved the changes for the 2016 ITTF World Tour including the prize money distribution and the point allocation table.

7.5.3 Future of World Tour

A working group was formed at the last EC meeting to propose ideas for future ITTF World Tour at the next EC meeting. Athletes Commission Chair is included in the group.

7.6 Proposals for competitions

7.6.1 Brazil TTF – extra accreditations for participants

Suggestion from Brazil TTF was discussed.

11-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee resolved that from 2016 at the World Cups and at the World Tour Grand Finals each qualified player may request 2 courtesy accreditations for their accompanying persons to have access to the spectator seats and without hospitality requirements. The CEO was requested to inform Brazil TTF accordingly and the Director of Competitions was requested to add this clause to the Directives of these events.

7.6.2 Oceania TTF – Continental Championships linked to WTTC

- Oceania TTF submitted a proposal to the EC to accept that the ITTF-Oceania Championships would serve as a direct qualification for the World Championships and only the top 5 men and 5 women players would receive free hospitality at the WTTC. OTTF intends to give higher value of its continental championships and to reduce costs for the WTTC organisers.
- EC agreed that such an exception is contradictory with the existing general ITTF rules and therefore cannot be accepted.
- Due to the importance of the subject, the proposal was referred back to OTTF for amendment with similar content, but related to the global qualification system for the World Championships.

12-EC-12-2015

The Executive Committee decided to request the Oceania TTF to amend their proposal related to the qualification and hospitality rules for the World Championships with direct link between the Continental Championships and the World Championships, and gave a short deadline to OTTF through the CEO to submit the amended proposition.

8. Marketing and Promotion Program

8.1 TMS International update

- The contract with TSA was terminated due to delay in payments.
- The Lagardère Sports and Entertainment company made a proposal for TV rights for 2017-2020, excluding 4 countries which are already sold by TMS: China, Japan, Singapore and Chinese Taipei.
- Negotiations are in progress with the Sportsman Group on contract extension with significant increase in rights fees.
- Priority task is to find replacement of the GAC Group for sponsoring the World Tour.

8.2 Star Awards Gala 2015

It would be held in Lisbon on 9th December 2015 in conjunction with the World Tour Grand Finals.

8.3 Website design tenders

Five (5) bids were shortlisted, tender interviews would be conducted involving the EVP in charge of promotion, EVP in charge of Finance and Promotion & Media Manager.

8.4 Promotion before Rio 2016 OG

The test event in Rio was held a couple of weeks ago. A plan will be proposed for more promotion in Rio before the start of the Olympic Games for budget approval.

8.5 Urban table tennis

The first significant launch will be held at the 2017 WTTC in Dusseldorf. It was proposed to assign one EC representative to be in charge and follow-up the project.

9. Development, Education & Training Program

9.1 Development & Continental Council Meeting

Meeting would take place on 5th December 2015 with 2017-2020 Continental Development Agreements being presented.

9.2 World Table Tennis Day 2016 & TT4All.com

- Monthly newsletters are sent to WTTD coordinators. There were 70 last year, and the aim is to do better this year.
- TT4All.com, a website setup specifically for the World Table Tennis Day, has now been translated into multiple languages.

9.3 Nepal Para TT project

Repairs of earthquake affected buildings is taking place, and the launch of the Nepal project is scheduled for 6 April 2016 to be part of World Table Tennis Day activities.

9.4 International Training Centers

Previously known as the ITTF HotSpots, the ITTF International Training Centers program is now more structured and centers have to apply for recognition in 4 different categories. This includes 2 Academies, 3 High Performance Centers, 3 Elite Centers and 4 HotSpots.

9.5 Hopes 2016

The ITTF Hopes week will be held on 29 May to 4 June 2016 at Aspire in Doha, Qatar, using the new pyramidal structure established in 2015 of National to Continental to World Hopes with 16 boys and 16 girls qualifying through a combination of continental qualifications and wild card allocations. Free hospitality will be extended to all participants.

9.6 Spin and Skills Coaching Films

Eight (8) films have been completed, and the 2nd series will be filmed after the Rio Olympics. The aim is to release the next batch at the end of 2016.

10. **Professional Staff update**

- Yu Shimin (TMS Sponsorship Coordinator) resigned and left at the end of November 2015. It is necessary to find a replacement for the duties she fulfilled for ITTF.
- Darren Leong (ITTF Equipment Coordinator) resigned and will leave on 23 January 2016. Temporarily his main administration work will be taken over by the ITTF Project Coordinator, Emese Barsai.
- Joachim Davy from Austria will be hired for 2016 and will start in February. Formerly part of the PoP duo that has been producing videos for the ITTF since 2013, he will be in charge of all videos.
- Zena Sim, former junior international player and intern at the ITTF Singapore Office, has been hired for 4 months to be the liaison of the ITTF with the 2016 WTTC Organising Committee. She started 1 December 2015 in the Singapore office, and will move to Kuala Lumpur in January 2016 until the end of the championships. The local organisers pay her hospitality, while ITTF covers her salary and travel.
- Negotiations are in progress with Françoise Dagouret on hiring her half-time for 2016 to manage the ITTF Anti-doping program. She already worked as ITTF consultant for the last 3,5 months of 2015.
- The Honorary Museum Curator, Chuck Hoey moved to the USA for family reason, and his return to Lausanne was unlikely.
- In DET program new contracts have been signed with Ahmed Dawlatly, Ramon Ortega and Dejan Papic from January 2016.

11. **Anti-doping**

11.1 Risk Assessment

The exercise was requested by the WADA and the document was prepared with the help of the Anti-doping Consultant, with input from the Sports Science & Medical Committee and with administration support from the operation staff. The conclusion of the risk assessment document is that table tennis has little risk of doping in general.

11.2 Testing program update

Strategic decision on 2016 testing program and distribution plan is based on the risk assessment document and attached to it.

It is created with smarter test planning: 60% of the tests out-of-competition and 40% of the tests in-competition; out of the total 150

tests 20% to be concluded on Para TT players; and adding few blood tests in the program plan.

11.3 RTP-TP players 2016

For 2016 the number of Registered Testing Pool players is reduced from 40 to 10 at the same time with creating a Testing Pool players group with 30 players (including 10 Para TT players).

The EC acknowledged that the new testing program requires higher budget than before, however in the Olympic year and to be compliant with the new WADA code, it was strongly recommended and necessary.

13-EC-09-2015

The Executive Committee approved the ITTF Anti-doping Risk Assessment document including the Test Distribution Plan for 2016 and requested the Operations Programme staff to submit it to the WADA to review.

12. Equipment

12.1 Ball update

- Report was submitted on the balls quality at recent ITTF events by the Competition Managers, the Referees and the Athletes Commission. The quality differs depending on tournaments and brands, however, generally improvement is needed.
- The President was organizing a meeting with supplier representatives attending the World Tour Grand Finals.

12.2 Research on friction of tables

According to the 2015 BoD decision, the Equipment Committee was entrusted to make dynamic tests related to the coefficient of friction of tables. The Committee submitted the proposal and an approximate budget of EUR 10.000 for the research to get precious information about interaction of the table surfaces and the balls. Furthermore they would like to add another test on durability of the balls, for which the committee was asked to provide a price quotation.

14-EC-09-2015

The Executive Committee approved the research plan and budget of the ITTF Equipment Committee for testing the coefficient of friction of tables in line with the 2015 BoD resolution.

13. Athletes' Commission report

Written report was presented to the EC and could not be discussed in details as AC representative could not attend the meeting. It has been confirmed that players can bring in their own food and drinks to the playing hall at the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur.

14. Para TT Division report

14.1 Update on Para TT Division meeting

The meeting was held in Denmark on 10-11 October 2015, prior to the European Para Table Tennis Championships. 15 people were present, all continents were represented except Latin America. The ETTU President made short visit. The next meeting is planned at the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur.

It would be time to consider that Para group could be a committee in the future, to have same rights as other committees and to involve them more in development, competition and other activities.

14.2 IPC General Meeting

Raul Calin attended the meeting in Mexico, as he was on way to Rio for the test event.

14.3 Online system service agreement

The Para TT Division proposed to make a contract with an English company, Sport80 Ltd. to provide online entry system for the para events. The Para TT Division has sufficient income to cover the costs, which is GBP 15'000 for a year and GBP 5'000 for every 3 months extension.

Para TT Division was requested to make a 1-year contract as a start and was offered to use the ITTF online entry system at no costs if it can be introduced uniformly for all kind of events starting from 2017.

15-EC-09-2015

The Executive Committee resolved to agree that the Para TT Division signs a contractual agreement with Sport80 Ltd. for management and administration of the ITTF para online entry system.

14.4 Libya request for tournament credit

Libya could not participate at the African Para Regional Championships and at the Morocco Open, as despite all efforts from the organisers they could not get visa. They appealed their players to be considered for the Paralympic Games wild card despite not reaching the minimum tournament credit points which is a criteria for wild card selection. The EC studied their case carefully and came to the conclusion that even if they would have received the credit points for these two events, they had not reached the minimum credit of 110 points required for African players, because they did not participate in any other tournament during the 2-year qualification period.

16-EC-09-2015

The Executive Committee decided to refuse the Libya TTF request to consider their players for the Paralympic Games wild card selection for the reason that they did not have any tournament credit points to make them eligible for the selection.

15. Junior Commissioner meeting

There were 6 proposals raised at the meeting held during the World Junior Championships:

- To add mixed doubles to the World Junior Circuit
- To have more favourable bidding conditions for junior events
- To consider junior events as development activity in order to receive more funding from the ITTF
- Not to make TV production compulsory at the WJTTC, instead to focus on live streaming
- To study the reduction to 16 teams and 80 players at the World Junior Championships, previous consultation with the different continents by each junior continental commissioner.
- Proposal regarding North American representation criteria at World Cadet Challenge was withdrawn.

16. Any other business

16.1 PANAM confederation

Progress was achieved and parties were close to sign a technical agreement to start joint Pan-Am Junior Championships from 2016 and with the plan to have Pan-Am Championships, Pan-Am Cup and Pan-Am Junior Championships from 2017 onwards by rotating the events in different regions.

16.2 Sport Accord General Assembly

At the extraordinary GA in November there was one proposal only to merge the SportAccord and SportAccord Convention, but the draft statute was not even discussed in details, it was referred to the next meeting in April 2016.

16.3 Next EC meeting

The next EC meeting will take place on 27th February 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during the World Championships.

17. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 17h10.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date