

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 1

Subang 1 meeting room, Subang Grand Dorsett Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
10h00, Saturday 27 February 2016

MINUTES

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed all of the Executive Committee members and staff.

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
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Vicky Eleftheriade	Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the agenda

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

- 9.5 Sudan
- 9.6 Athletes Commission

4. Minutes

4.1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (4 December 2015)

The minutes were approved and signed by the President.

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

- The report from the 2015 WTTC in Suzhou is to be finalized.
- Meeting with the Swaythling Club will take place during the WTTC.
- World Tour Working Group: to be added to the agenda of the second EC meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

4.3. Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings

- 4-EC-01-2014 and 2-OPC-01-2014: remain on the Task List
- 9-EC-08-2014: included in the mandate of the World Tour Working Group,

- which will be an item on the agenda of the next EC meeting
- 6-EC-02-2015: to be sent out after the WTTC
 - Status of the Kuwait TTA situation: there was no further update or progress. ITTF informed the IOC and the Kuwait TTA on the EC decision (3-EC-12-2015) and the issue is on the agenda of the 2016 AGM. The 2016 Kuwait Open is scheduled as planned.

5. Operations Program

5.1. Code of Ethics and Code of Prevention of Manipulation

- The draft is ready and at the 2016 AGM there is a proposition to refer to them in the Constitution.
- Director of Operations & Olympic Games was entrusted to prepare the draft text for the ITTF Handbook, based on the IOC Codes, with ITTF specific modifications.
- The final text will be checked with the IOC Ethics and Compliance office.

1-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to ask the Board of Directors to give the authority to the Executive Committee to approve the Code of Ethics and Compliance and the Code of Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions taking effect on 1 September 2016.

5.2. Audits

- The audit for the Singapore office was done at the end of January.
- The audit for the Lausanne office will take place in second half of March.
- After consolidating the reports, the 2015 Audited Financial Statements will be prepared and distributed later in 2016, and it will be submitted to the 2017 AGM for approval.
- A small surplus is expected for 2015 and shortage is projected in 2016 due to the loss of one major sponsor.

5.3. Umpires and Referees Committee

- ETTU proposed that the selection process of umpires for the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be reviewed for the next Games.
- The URC was entrusted to determine the implementation date for the new hand-signals, which were tested. URC targeted 1 July 2016 as starting date with careful consideration if these will be used at the Olympic and at the Paralympic Games or not.

6. AGM & BoD

6.1. AGM & BoD preparations

The Director of Operations & Olympic Games and the Project Manager met with the Organizing Committee and Hotel Staff and everything seems to be prepared well for the AGM.

Translations of the AGM documents were published a few weeks before.

It was decided to make a new design with a new trophy partner company for ITTF awards, they will be presented for the first time in Kuala Lumpur.

6.2. Update on propositions

BoD Proposition 30 will be slightly amended according to the WADA recommendation, which was received after publishing the propositions. WADA's feedback on the ITTF risk assessment report was overall positive and the only comment was on the suggested change in the text.

6.3. Membership application

- There are 4 countries remaining worldwide not yet being ITTF members: Eritrea, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Bahamas. ITTF is in contact with all four and it was anticipated that Eritrea and Cape Verde would be ready for 2016 AGM, but finally their applications were delayed, as they were not yet ready. There will be an Olympic Solidarity Course in Eritrea in near future, helping to complete the process.
- East Timor: did not apply yet and communicated with ATTU. An update will be provided after discussions are concluded with their NOC.
- Gibraltar: ETTU asked ITTF to withdraw the membership of Gibraltar due to non-payment of the annual fees. After several discussions the issue was fully resolved and Gibraltar TTA will pay majority of the pending fees to keep their good standing in agreement with ITTF and ETTU.

6.4. Appointments to the Nominations Committee

- The President proposed to keep the current composition, except for one change to replace Mrs Lubi who was not nominated by her association.
- Phil Males was a new nomination to the Committee, but at the same time he is the Deputy Chair of the Rules Committee, which is not possible according to the ITTF Constitution. Phil Males will be asked whether he wishes to resign from the Rules Committee.
- There was no change in the Chair and the Deputy Chair appointments.
- With the current nominations the gender representation is lower.
- Mr Rönmark was re-appointed as Special Advisor to the committee.
- The ITTF President will appoint Mr Rönmark to the President's Advisory Council.

2-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to appoint the Nominations Committee members for the period of 2016-2018 as follows:

CHAN Foong Keong (Malaysia) - Chair
Abdullah **AL-MULLA** (Qatar) - Deputy Chair
Sandra **DEATON** (England)
Andreas **GEORGIU** (Cyprus)
David **JACKSON** (Canada)
Phil **MALES** (Australia) - provided he resigns from the Rules Committee
Wahid Enitan **OSHODI** (Nigeria)
Ivam **PASSOS** (Brazil)
Special Advisor: Walter **RÖNMARK** (Sweden)
ITTF Executive Vice President: Cherif **HAJEM**
Senior staff member (non-voting): Raul **CALIN**

7. Competition Program

7.1. 2016 World Championships

7.1.1 General update and information:

- 88 Men's Teams / 79 Women's Teams
- 360 Men players / 309 Women players
- 129 National Associations (includes also NAs attending only with Delegates)
- ITTF CEO gave some practical information to the EC for the WTTC i.e. transport, meals, VIP, meetings, Opening Ceremony etc.
- There will be several challenges due to the repeated late changes in venues.
- Miscommunication and lack of preparation was experienced within the Organizing Committee (National Association and Event Management Company).
- Last stage problems and big delays with the installation of the venue, mainly due to unacceptable quality of the subfloor.
- During inspections it was promised that the main venue would be completely renovated. Roof, air conditioning and spectator seats were somehow repaired but the Back of House and VIP areas are not in good condition and not to the standards they should be.
- Lack of written information. First bulletin was prepared with one month delay. The second bulletin with all useful information was not done, only transport and practice schedule were available.
- Climate does not help; some equipment was damaged in heavy rains in the marquees.
- The playing conditions in the main hall, will most probably be good.
- Hotels/hospitality seem to work well.
- TV Production and Broadcasters seem to be ready for the start. A dedicated channel will be opened to broadcast the event in Malaysia.
- Overall the event won't be as good as in past years, but the Organizing Committee is doing their best with limited resources.
- The Athletes Commission Chair reported that the main hall was windy due to air-condition and probably some open doors. The Competition Management team tries to control this issue. Similar comments for the second hall.

7.1.2 Issues to be resolved

- Many of these problems related to the fact that the WTTC is too big. There is no competition for bids, so no pressure on the organizers. The question of reducing the WTTC is a tough one, but a solution has to be found.
- Everything outside the Championship Division has massive expense but no income.
- Only 4% Media are here for competition outside the Championship Division. No interest if teams in lower Divisions cannot become World Champion.
- A presentation to the BoD with some figures and implications of the real situation will create awareness.
- Reducing number of teams would be easier if the WTTC is linked to the

Continental Championships. Competition system needs a significant re-structure instead of small changes.

- There is general need to find a good qualification system to make the WTTC a good event and increase the number of potential organizers.
- It was noted that the Competition halls have to be of standard of WTTC.

3-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee asked the Marketing Director to prepare a presentation for the Board of Directors, distribute it to the Executive Committee Members in advance and present it at the 2016 Board of Directors meeting. The presentation should cover statistics and implications of the current WTTC format.

7.2. 2019 World Championships bid and inspection

- The CEO and the Director of Competitions made an inspection a few weeks before. The report on the inspection will be submitted to the AGM, where the Hungarian TTA has to make a bid presentation.
- The bid from Budapest for the 2019 WTTC may be connected to Hungary's bid for the 2024 Olympic Games.
- The ITTF asked the Hungarian TTA to obtain a written confirmation from the Government that in case of allocation, the WTTC would be supported regardless of the outcome of the Olympic bid.

7.3. 2018 World Championships – number of teams

- Halmstad is ready to meet the requirements in the bid (max. number of teams 96M – 96W), but of course with less teams the delivery of the WTTC would be much better.
- The ITTF should decide the numbers of teams for the 2018 WTTC in Halmstad after the report from the Swedish TTA to the BoD.

4-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee asked the President, the Deputy President, the Executive Vice-President (Finance), the Marketing Director and the Director of Operations & Olympic Games to meet before the BoD to discuss and prepare a proposal for numbers of teams for the 2018 WTTC.

7.4. Bids and presentations for future junior events

- World Junior Table Tennis Championships: Bids were open for 2017 and 2018. Two bids were received, Poland has withdrawn, Italy is the only bid for 2018. Presentation and decision take place at the BoD.
- World Cadet Challenge: Bids were open for 2016 and 2017. China is bidding for 2016 and Japan and Fiji for 2017. Presentation and decision will take place at the BoD.
- World Junior Circuit Finals: Bids were open for 2016 and 2017. India is bidding for 2016 and 2017. Luxembourg is interested, without a final bid submitted yet. The allocation of the World Junior Circuit Finals will be decided by the Executive Committee at the second meeting.

8. Equipment

8.1. Ball update

- In 2015, during the WTTC, the Equipment Committee received positive feedback from ball manufacturers about the development of the balls. By the end of 2015 all issues were expected to be resolved and that manufacturers would be able to meet the original tolerances of the Technical Leaflet T3, starting 1 January 2016, as decided by the 2014 BoD.
- In December 2015, some ball manufacturers requested to extend the period for relaxed tolerances with the reason that they cannot meet the original parameters, so these brands have to be suspended.
- The ITTF President and the Equipment Committee will have a joint meeting with all ball manufacturers during the WTTC to discuss the issue.
- The Athletes Commission supported to extend the relaxed tolerances, to help developing better quality balls.
- Some object to allow flexibility, saying there was enough time for the transition and that balls produced with relaxed tolerances will remain on the market until being sold, so the period of having these kind of balls is longer in practice.
- It was confirmed by the Executive Committee, that if the tolerances need to be relaxed again, an amended proposition is needed for Technical Leaflet T3 to the 2016 BoD.

8.2. Racket Testing methods

- The statement of Timo Boll in a media interview on boosting generated big discussions in public both in Europe and in Asia.
- Japan TTA has a proposition to the 2016 BoD and there is a suggestion from a German Professor, on how to detect boosters, and the Equipment Committee prepared a list of comments on these two methods.
- The issue needs more time for discussing each method and also to review the relevant rule, which cannot be reinforced in its present format, and this leads to perceptions and accusations of cheating.
- The Executive Committee agreed to communicate to the media that ITTF has done a lot in the past to solve any health issues and it was successfully achieved. ITTF has an extended Racket Testing procedure but in the meantime the Equipment Committee will discuss the methods suggested and give further feedback.
- The easiest way to proper racket control for boosting would be if players were ready to agree on removing the racket coverings after the matches, but the Athletes Commission feels it is disturbing for most players.
- It was noted that there should not be rules which cannot be controlled. It was discussed that any substance harmful for health of course should be strictly controlled, but perhaps references about other treatment of racket coverings could be reconsidered.

5-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to continue discussion if references could be removed from the rules regarding treatment of racket coverings, and to control only substances harmful for health.

6-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to ask the Equipment Committee to further explore the racket testing method suggested from the German Professor and contact him to discuss any potential implications.

8.3. Research on friction of tables (dynamic CoF tests)

After the approval of the budget from the Executive Committee, Wassing conducted the research and the report was submitted to the ITTF. The Equipment Committee will discuss further at its meetings during the WTTC in Kuala Lumpur. Further update will be given in due time.

8.4. Suspension of illegal racket coverings

7-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee ratified its earlier decision of December 2015 to suspend all Efforter racket coverings from the LARC (List of Approved Racket Coverings). Based on the appeal from the company, the EC resolved to accept Efforter's applications for authorization process, but only for new racket covering brands (models).

9. Any other business

9.1. EC representation and meeting schedule – it was distributed to the members

9.2. PANAM confederation

- There is an agreement in place with LATTU and NATTU to cooperate in joint PANAM Continental Competitions, except the Olympic qualification tournament. The new continental marketing agreements will be prepared accordingly from 2017, and as a pilot project, a PANAM Junior Championships was going to be held in 2016.

9.3. Split University Bachelor-Masters Sports Coaching Courses

- Following the successful implementation of the Split University Bachelor-Masters Sports Coaching Courses, specializing in table tennis for Balkan countries in 2014, English courses will commence for students worldwide in October 2016, following an extensive consultation between Split University, ETTU and ITTF. The course is predominantly online with 7-10 days annually anticipated in Split, Croatia, or other co-operating universities worldwide for the practical component. Full details would be published in May 2016 in case of ITTF approval.

8-EC-02-2016

The Executive Committee resolved to endorse the initiative of the Split University Bachelor-Masters Sports Coaching Courses, specializing in table tennis and approved ITTF's involvement in the project.

9.4. Libya request

- Libya players could not participate at the African Para Regional Championships and at the Morocco Open, as despite all efforts from the organizers they could not get visas.
- At its last meeting, 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, because they did not participate in any other tournament during the 2-year qualification period.
- Libya TTF made an appeal against the decision, reporting that at the last qualification event in Costa Rica, they were also denied the visa. According to the Para TT Division, they entered late for this event and they did not follow up properly the application process. Therefore, the proposal was to keep the original decision.
- According to the Deputy President's information from Libya TTF, they have proof documents to support their appeal.
- The decision was postponed to the second EC meeting, and the ITTF CEO was requested to meet the Libya TTF officials to get more details.

9.5. Sudan

- After the cancellation of the ITTF-African Championships in 2014, Sudan TTA successfully organized the 2016 ITTF-African Cup and Olympic Qualification Tournament. Mr. Hajem, who represented the EC at the event, reported on the successful organization and delivered Sudan TTA's thanks to ITTF for the opportunity.

9.6. Athletes Commission

- The Chair of the Athletes Commission announced to the EC that the Commission will withdraw one of their propositions, related to the number of candidates from the same National Association for the Executive Committee positions.
- The AC Chair asked the EC to support the proposition on the AC Chair being full member of the Executive Committee.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12h56.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date