

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION
Meeting room Newton, Nikko Hotel, Düsseldorf, Germany
09h00, Thursday, 1st June 2017

Minutes

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

- The President welcomed everyone to his home country and wished that everyone is enjoying the event so far.

2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Alaa Meshref	Executive Vice-President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
James Morris	Executive Vice-President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Nestor Tenca	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Khaled El-Salhy	Continental President (Africa)
Tony Yue	Continental Representative (Asia)
Ronald Kramer	Continental President (Europe)
Jorge Herrera	Continental Representative (Latin America)
Tony Kiesenhofer	Continental President (North America)
Antony Ho	Continental Representative (Oceania)

In attendance

Sachiko Yokota	Tokyo 2020 Representative
Ashu Jain	Athletes Commission Representative
Ryu Seungmin	IOC Athletes Commission Member
Graeme Ireland	Rio 2016 Olympic Games Technical Delegate
Nico Verspeelt	Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Technical Delegate
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Raul Calin	Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing & Commercial)
Claudia Vatheuer	Assistant to the President
Vicky Eleftheriade	Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the agenda

The OPC approved the agenda adding few points under "any other business".

4. Minutes

4.1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 December 2017

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the President.

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

- There was no further business.

4.3. Confirmation of the appointment of Sachiko Yokota as Tokyo 2020 representative

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:
 - At the last OPC meeting it was decided to send an official request to Tokyo 2020, which has confirmed that Sachiko Yokota will be the Tokyo 2020 representative at the OPC.
- The OPC acknowledged the decision.

5. Youth Olympic Games

5.1. Qualification events

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:
 - There were some small changes on the calendar of qualification events.
 - Already some continental events were completed and some more events will follow in the next few months, all-concluding in December 2017.
 - The "Road to Buenos Aires 2018" events will be held in 2018 and locations will be decided soon.

5.2. Universality

- The Deputy CEO reported that:
 - There will be 2 male and 2 female universality places.
 - There has been an extensive communication process taking into consideration the unique combination on NOC's priorities, IOC priorities and ITTF priorities.
 - The official announcement will be made in July 2017 but the 2 male places will be probably allocated to Belize and Nigeria and the two female places to Fiji and San Marino as per the current proposal from IOC.

5.3. Venue

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:
 - Most updates were given on the last OPC meeting but the main point to note is that the 4 tables will be accommodated in the main hall, with a setup of 1 show-court and 3 regular competition courts, having seats for both areas and improving the presentation for the show court in which most of the matches will be played.

5.4. Schedule

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:
 - The YOG dates has been moved as per the request of Buenos Aires 2018 to IOC to 7 days later, being scheduled now from 6 to 18 October 2018.
 - Table tennis official training days will be 2nd to 5th October 2018, as with the Opening Ceremony, the 6th October will have limited practice time.
 - Table tennis competition days will be from 7th to 15th October 2018, with a break day between singles and teams (11th October).
 - In regards to players finishing their competition being allowed to depart earlier or not, it is still under discussion and the IOC is looking to make a fly-in, fly-out blocks concept, which will then depend very much on the NOC's organization of their travels.

5.5. Equipment

- The Director (Marketing & Commercial) reported that:
 - Equipment for the competition is solved.
 - The flooring will be donated to the LOC, which is a positive outcome.

5.6. Youth Umpires' Project

- The Deputy CEO reported that:

- The plan is to continue this project for the 2018 YOG and the ITTF is ready to go ahead, aiming to register 40 young umpires with a final goal to select 16 of them by the end of 2017.

5.7. Appointment of Technical Delegate

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The OPC approved the appointment of Mr. Raul Calin as the Technical Delegate for the 2018 YOG.

6. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

6.1. Request for extra events update

- The President gave a short update to all new members of the OPC, about the application already submitted for the mixed doubles and the discussions had about it with the IOC.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) noted that:
 - A maximum of 16 pairs would ideally compete, taking in to consideration that most likely Tokyo 2020 would agree only to extend the competition schedule in one day and that no extra places are allowed for table tennis (86 women and 86 men in total).
 - The IOC feedback was that the ITTF application was very professional. The chances look very good for the Mixed Doubles and if approved we can then work on getting the Men and Women Doubles added for the 2024 Games.
 - The OPC noted that with this new application, there is no restriction for an NOC in the number of events that they can compete. Every NOC can participate in all five events if we get the XD.
 - The ITTF Singapore marketing office helped with videos for the applications and special notes of thanks were addressed to Tokyo 2020 for their support.

6.2. Olympic Team Format working group update

- The Continental Representative – North America, also coordinator of the working group, gave an update on the work done, based on the update already sent to the group by e-mail.
- It was noted that if the OPC is satisfied with the format suggested, then the decision should be published very soon.
- On discussion several opinions were expressed with the following key points noted: top players playing the decisive matches can help improve the drama, considering changing from 5 games to 3 games for the individual matches, TV time - long range of time for a team match, marketing strategies instead of changing playing format that might affect players. The conclusion was that all these ideas need more time for thinking and research.
- The Working Group coordinator further noted that if for example not having best of 3 games for individual matches at the WTTTC and then have it at the Games it's very difficult for players and spectators to understand and it's therefore best to maintain what we currently have and not experiment at the Games.
- The Director (Marketing & Commercial) noted that we need to wait and see if we get a new event also for the Olympic Games. If we get the mixed doubles, then we are maybe forced to decrease time from team events.
- On discussion it was further noted that the main question is how can we get exciting table tennis matches; Short, emotional team matches, with likely more upsets. And it's not a must to have this system only for Tokyo 2020.
- It was further noted that we should think of changing in a way that matches can be shorter and have a consistent format that can work in most of our major events.
- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) noted that a holistic approach should be taken after the decision for the mixed doubles is announced, but this work could also be

combined with the work done on the qualification system working group. He recommended thus the same group to be appointed for this duty.

- The Director (Marketing & Commercial) highlighted that IOC seems to be pushing all sports to think more about the youth and also that viewing habits of people change from day to day and very fast, points on which we need to research more.
- On the discussion a concern was raised about receiving proper feedback from the athletes, and the ITTF President noted that the athletes are represented on the OPC, and the two representatives were encouraged to seek the opinion of athletes.
- The Athletes Commission Representative noted that they would go back and collect the opinion of athletes.

6.3. Establishment of a Tokyo 2020 Qualification system working group

- On discussion the OPC agreed to continue with the same structure of the Olympic Team Format Working Group, so that the work can be combined.
- The members are: ITTF President, ITTF Vice President (in charge of Olympic Games), Continental Representative – North America, Director (Operations & Olympic Games), IOC Athletes Committee Member, Athletes Commission Representative, Marketing Representative, Media Representative, Technical Commissioner.

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The OPC approved to assign the work of the Tokyo 2020 Qualification System working group to the same structure as the Olympic Team Format Working Group.
Detailed structure as listed above.

6.4. First inspection plan

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:
 - The first inspection will take place in 17-19 June, including two inspection days and one meeting day with Tokyo 2020. This first inspection will focus on the competition venue as the practice venue proposed is still under construction. For Tokyo 2020, IOC and Tokyo 2020 recommend smaller groups for inspection than for Rio, suggesting ideally not more than 2 people for each inspection.

6.5. Appointment of Technical Delegate/s

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) noted that:
 - It's been a tradition that the Sport Manager of the previous Games is one of the Technical Delegates for the next Games, due to the experience acquired.
 - The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) proposed to the OPC to appoint Carlos Leon (Rio 2016 Sport Manager) for one of the two positions of Technical Delegates for Tokyo 2020 and the appointment of the second one to be done at the next OPC meeting.

3-OPC-20170601

The OPC approved the appointment of Carlos Leon (Rio 2016 Sport Manager) as one of the Technical Delegates for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

7. Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

7.1. Request for extra events update

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:

- A similar process than for Olympic Games took place for the Paralympic Games programme with the help from Nico Verspeelt and Georgios Seliniotakis, with the aim of having two extra events added. The proposal to the IPC is to split the current female team event classes 6-10 into two events (6-8 and 9-10) and current male team events classes 6-8 into two events as well (6-7 and 8). This would help the more impaired athletes to have more realistic chances for medals, what is in line with IPC's vision.
- The application is filed and we are now waiting for the decision by the IPC.

7.2. Request for two bronze medals update

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) reported that:
 - A request was submitted to the IPC for having two bronze medals in Paralympics. An analysis on how the number of matches can decrease significantly was filed together.
 - The application is presented to IPC and we are now waiting for their decision by September 2017.

7.3. Appointment of Technical Delegate

- The Executive Vice President, in charge of Para TT noted that:
 - The Para Table Tennis Division just moved in to a Committee, and therefore the recommendation is to postpone the decision on the appointment of the Technical Delegate for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.
- The OPC agreed to postpone the decision.

8. Any other business

8.1. Contributions to Continental Associations for the Continental Qualification events

- The Executive Vice President (in charge of Finance) reported that:
 - This point, arising from the minutes of the previous OPC meeting, was already discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting, but it was decided to defer until the formation of the new Executive Committee after the elections. The new EC will take care of this request during the September meeting, making a proposal to the next OPC in December.

8.2. Tokyo 2020 Test Event

- Tokyo 2020 Representative noted that Tokyo 2020 would like to request OPC to schedule the 2019 World Team Cup as the test event for Tokyo 2020, middle of November 2019.
- The Director (Marketing & Commercial) noted that the dates of the event is one thing and can be sorted somehow as the calendar is still not finalized but the approval of the event is under the jurisdiction of the EC and therefore was put in the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.
- The Technical Delegate of Rio 2016 Paralympic Games requested Tokyo 2020 representative to try to organize a test event for Para Table Tennis. The Tokyo 2020 Representative informed that they will try to organize a Japan Para TT Open event in 2018.

8.3. New World Ranking

- On a question about the new WR the ITTF President noted that ITTF will be receiving feedback until end of June or July 2017. He further noted that the data was taken down from the website because of inaccurate information and the Director (Marketing & Commercial) confirmed that this will be put back on-line as soon as it is fixed.

8.4. IOC Olympic Day 23rd June 2017

- The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) noted that IOC has installed the Olympic Day for 23rd June 2017 and they have chosen Taekwondo, Archery and Table Tennis as

exhibition sports for the 2017 event to take place in Lausanne in few weeks time. Two tables will be set up at the Olympic Museum outdoor area and two professional international players and two junior players from Switzerland will participate. It was further noted that the fact that IOC selected table tennis as one of the three sports was a positive sign. The Director (Operations & Olympic Games) thanked the involvement of the Swiss Table Tennis Association and its President, Nicolas Imhof.

8.5. IOC President's attendance to the OPC meeting

- At this point the IOC President, Mr. Thomas Bach attended the meeting and was warmly welcomed by all the OPC members.
- On discussion with the OPC members, the IOC President noted that:
 - In regards to the sport of table tennis and the Olympic Games, IOC is aware about the success in Rio 2016.
 - For Tokyo 2020 the stage is set for a great table tennis competition and ITTF should maximize that opportunity.
 - In regards to the applications for additional events for Tokyo 2020, the IOC Executive Board will meet and discuss the second week in June 2017. The IOC President noted that in general there are three goals to be achieved: (1) More Youthful Games, (2) More women, trying to get closer to the gender equity, (3) To go where the people are. To open the sport to all. But IOC has to pursue these three goals, without increasing the quota, as already the size of the Games is in the limits. With the promotion of women's participation, the ITTF is on the right track, and the IOC President noted that he hope finding a good solution.
 - The IOC President suggested that the ITTF should make use of the major events like WTTC, YOG etc., to invite public to events, to make them more interactive and by engaging public in activities, this can help the sport to grow.
 - ITTF can be very proud with the full membership, but highlighted that activity is the most important thing.
 - IOC has invested in Rio 2016 more than in any Games before. The IOC President encouraged ITTF to keep participating in Olympic Solidarity programs and inviting the National Associations to apply through their National Olympic Committees for scholarships.

9. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10h30
- The Executive Committee members went to the competition venue with the IOC President.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date