

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

of the Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Friday 6th April 2002 at the Opera Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia, at 9 a.m.

1. **Welcome and President's Opening Remarks**
Mr. Adham Sharara thanked all for being present in Zagreb.

2. **Roll Call**

Present

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (<i>Finance</i>)

Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (<i>Africa</i>)
M. C. Chowhan	Continental Vice-President (<i>Asia</i>)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (<i>Europe</i>)
Miguel Delgado	Continental Vice-President (<i>Latin America</i>)
Sheri Pittman	Continental Vice-President (<i>North America</i>)
Neil Harwood	Continental Vice-President (<i>Oceania</i>)

Continental Representatives

Africa

Berthe Bakary
Khaled El-Salhy
Jane Pinto
Ganief Fataar
Boniface Houegbonou

Asia

Khalil Al-Mohannadi
Rabee Al Turk
Koji Kimura
Park Do Cheon
S. H. Shah
Tony Yue

Europe

Reto Bazzi
Judit Faragó
André Damman
Radivoj Hudetz
Yuri Posevin
Alan Ransome
Walter Rönmark
Eberhard Schöler
Rudolf Sporrer

Latin America

Alaor G. P. Azevedo

North America

Bruce Burton

Oceania

Patrick Gillmann
Graeme Ireland
David Jackson

Committee Chairmen

Claude Bergeret (*Athletes' Commission*)
Arne Madsen (*Media*)
Jean-François Kahn (*Sports Science*)
Yao Zhenxu (*Technical*)

Odd Gustavsen (*Equipment*)

Colin Clemett (*Rules*)

Aksel Beckmann (*Umpires & Referees*)

Aly Salam (*Umpires & Referees*)

In Attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Peter Jensen	Media and Communication Manager
Mikael Andersson	Global Junior Programme Co-ordinator
Lilamani de Soysa	Programme Co-ordinator
Etsuko Enami	Executive Assistant
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager

President's Advisory Council (PAC)

Ranga Ramanujan
Misha Kapetanovic

Invited to attend

Georgios Seliniotakis Competition Manager for Athens 2004

Apologies for Absence

Xu Yinsheng (*PAC*)

Jimmy McClure (*PAC*)

Henry Yue (*PAC*)

Hans Giesecke (*PAC*)

Rufford Harrison (*PAC*)

Philippe Hao Thyn Voon (*Africa*)

Olabanji Oladapo (*Africa*)

Choo Wee Khiang (*Asia*)

Melecio Rivera (*Latin America*)

Stephen Blanchard (*Latin America*)

Absent

Sharokh Shahnazi (*Asia*)

Norman Carrillo (*Latin America*)

Jorge Herrera (*Latin America*)

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings (24th April 2001 & 2 May 2001, Osaka, Japan)

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items:

14.1 ITTF Approval Fees

14.2 Technical Leaflets

14.3 Performance Policy

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th April 2001 and the Board of Directors meeting held on 2nd May 2001 were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

4. Update Reports

4.1 Calendar Working Group

Accepted as presented.

4.2 Length of Matches

It was reported that the Chairwoman of the Athletes' Commission had done a survey at the Pro Tour finals in Tianjin and the Top 12 in Rotterdam and that the majority of players were in favour of 4 out of 7 games. Mr. Anders Thunström said that it was also the preference of television companies. It was recommended that, between now and 2004, for all individual events at ITTF events, 4/7 games should be used. At the Pro Tour, 3/5 games could be used only for the qualifications in doubles (optional). 3/5 games would also be used for team events.

4.3 Merit Awards

Mr. Wang Dayong, China, nominated by the Belgian Table Tennis Association, received the ITTF Merit Award at the AGM.

4.4 Veterans Working Group

Mr. Bruce Burton reported that the Veterans Working Group had been in contact and would have a meeting in the afternoon to discuss issues such as the possibility of establishing a veterans' circuit and the relations between the Swaythling Club and the ITTF as well as the necessity to establish an improved calendar. He said he believed that by running several high quality events it would be possible to attract sponsors and marketing opportunities. He reported that the next World Veterans Championship would take place in Lucerne, Switzerland in June this year and in Yokohama, Japan in 2004.

Mr. Chérif Hajem reported that the first African Veterans' tournament would be taking place in Tunisia this year.

4.5 Global Youth Programme

Mr. Tony Yue, Mikael Andersson and André Damman gave a brief update on the Global Youth Programme and explained the playing system and draw for the World Cadet Challenge in Hungary.

Representatives from Chile made a visual presentation to support their bid for the 2003 Junior World Championships.

4.6 Women's Development

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a short update report and said that the Executive Committee would be forming a working group from a list of names established already and would be presenting a plan which will be drawn up with some professional help. It was reported that Ms. Sheri Pittman and Ms. Lilamani de Soysa would be attending the 2002 World Conference on Women and Sport, to be held in May, in Montreal, Canada.

4.7 Research and Development

Mr. George Segun reported that Japan would soon be completing the Longer Reach experiment and presenting a report. He also explained that experiments would be done with another event where 3 players would play on two tables with a new team format. He also reported that he had seen a video that proved that it was possible to play controlled open-air table tennis with a proper covering and control of airflows.

4.8 ITTF/Continental Development Plans

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that for the first time all 6 Continental Development plans had been signed. He said that work with the Development Officers was going well and that he was also discussing with manufacturers for more equipment help to developing countries. He reported that the ITTF development programme for 2002-2003 was on the web site including the Olympic Solidarity Programmes as well as the Breaking Down Barriers Programme. He said several coaching manuals had also been linked to the ITTF web site. Mr. Alan Ransome congratulated all working on the development programmes.

4.9 Umpires and Referees Programme

Mr. Neil Harwood said he was happy the Commission could now meet as a full Committee. Mr. Aly Salam and Mr. Aksel Beckman gave short update reports. They both thanked Mr. Colin Clemett for his help and the Executive Committee for their support. Mr. Salam reported that an Advanced Umpire Training Seminar would be taking place on 2nd July, in Florida, USA, which included 2 days of training for 12 persons from the different Continents. Mr. Beckmann said that there had been several requests for Referees Seminars and that apart from the two that had taken place in China and Germany another one would soon be taking place in Greece. Mr. Neil Harwood insisted that these seminars should be included in the Continental Development Plans in order to minimise costs for the Associations.

5. Appointment of Committee Chairmen and co-option

- Mr. Neil Harwood was nominated and unanimously confirmed as Chairman of the Umpires & Referees Committee.
- Mr. Tony Yue was nominated and unanimously confirmed as Chairman of the Junior Commission.

6. Propositions and Resolutions (document)

PROPOSITIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (SIMPLE MAJORITY REQUIRED)

BD-01	Proposed by Spain	3.2.4.9
	<p>That all restrictions on the number and size of advertisements on players' clothing are removed.</p> <p><i>There would be a consequential amendment to 3.2.2.3</i></p> <p><i>DEFEATED.</i></p>	
BD-02	Proposed by Germany (if Proposition 1 is not accepted)	3.2.4.9.2
	<p>That there can be up to 6 clearly separated advertisements, contained within a</p>	

combined total area of 600 cm², on the front, side or shoulder of a shirt.
At present there can be up to 3 advertisements, contained within a total area of 200 cm².

ACCEPTED with the amendment that there can be up to 6 clearly separated advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 600 cm², on the front, side or shoulder of a shirt, with a maximum of 4 advertisements on the front, with the provision that there is space for the name of the player at the back.

BD-03 Proposed by Germany (if Proposition a is not accepted) 3.2.4.9.3

That there can be up to 2 clearly separated advertisements, contained within a total combined area of 400 cm², on the back of a shirt.
At present there can be 1 advertisement, contained within an area of 200 cm².

ACCEPTED with the provision that if the back of the shirt bears the player's name, this must be just below the collar.

BD-04 Proposed by Rules Committee 3.3.1.6, 3.3.2.8 (new)

That players are under the jurisdiction of the referee from the time at which they arrive at the playing VENUE until the time at which they leave it, and under the jurisdiction of the umpire from the time at which they arrive at the playing AREA until the time at which they leave it.
This would define the duration of the authority of the referee and of the umpire.

ACCEPTED.

BD-05 Proposed by Finland 3.4.1.1.2

That at a change of service the umpire need not call the name of the next server
This would mean that the next server would be indicated only by a hand signal.

ACCEPTED.

BD-06 Proposed by Spain 3.4.4.1.2

That players are entitled to a towelling break after every 5 points.
This would restore the original interval between towelling breaks.

DEFEATED.

BD-07 Proposed by Technical Committee 3.4.4.2.1

That where there is disagreement whether a time-out should be taken, in an individual event the player's decision shall be final and in a team event the captain's decision shall be final.
This would specify the authority for claiming a time-out where a player disagreed with a coach or captain.

ACCEPTED.

BD-08 Proposed by Technical Committee 3.4.4.2.4

That if both players or team captains request a time-out at the same time, play shall be suspended for up to 2 minutes.
This would define the procedure where both players or captains simultaneously requested a time-out.

ACCEPTED with the modification that if both players or team captains request a time-out at the same time, play shall be suspended for up to 1 minute but time out will be registered for both players.

BD-09 Proposed by Spain 3.4.4.6

That players need not remain in or near the playing area throughout a match.
This would allow players to leave the playing area during a match without the permission of the referee.

DEFEATED.

BD-10 Proposed by Executive Committee 3.7.4.2

It is recommended that players in Youth, Junior and Cadet events be under 21, 18 and 15 respectively on the 31st December immediately before the start of the year in which the event will take place.

This provides for an additional 6 months to the current age limits

ACCEPTED with the following wording: In World Title events, players in Youth, Junior and Cadet events be under 21, 18 and 15 respectively on the 31st of December immediately before the start of the year in which the event will take place. It is recommended for all other competitions.

BD-11 Proposed by Ranking Committee 3.7.5.5

That in the qualifying stages of World, Olympic and Open International Competitions players be assigned group positions in descending order of their current world ranking

ACCEPTED with the amendment to the text as follows: That in the qualifying stages of World, Olympic and Open International Competitions players be assigned group positions in descending order of their current world ranking, taking account as far as possible of separation by Association, and each shall be given a position number in the group in descending order of strength.

BD-12 Proposed by Luxembourg 3.7.6.1.2, 3.7.6.2.2

That the order of play in a best-of 5 team match be A v Y, B v X, C v Z or a doubles, A v X, B v Y, with the highest-ranked players in each team being named as A and X.

At present the order is A v X, B v Y, C v Z or a doubles, A v Y, B v X, and ranking does not determine playing position.

DEFEATED.

BD-13 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.1.2, 4.1.1.4, 4.1.1.5, and 4.1.1.7

That the closing date for applications to organise World Championships be specified by the Executive Committee and notified to all Associations, giving at least 6 months notice, and that bids be accepted only for the next 2 Championships.

This would formalise the current procedure for applications to organise World Championships.

ACCEPTED.

- BD-14 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.2.2.1, 4.1.2.2.2, and 4.1.2.2.3
- That the organisers of World Championships provide an Association entering a team event with free hospitality for up to 3 players in that event (3 men plus 3 women).
- This is due to the separation of the Team and Individual events*
- ACCEPTED with the following wording: that the organisers of World Championships provide an Association with free hospitality for up to 3 men and 3 women players.
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- BD-15 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.2.2 (new)
- That the organisers of World Championships provide free hospitality for up to 8 members of the Umpires and Referees Commission.
- WITHDRAWN.*
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- BD-16 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.2.2 (new)
- That the organisers of World Championships provide free hospitality for up to 3 members of the ITTF staff.
- This is to clarify in the handbook the information that is already in the technical Leaflet*
- ACCEPTED.
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- BD-17 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.4.1
- That the entry fees for World Championships be US\$ 100 for each team in a team event, US\$ 50 for each pair in a doubles event and US\$ 25 for each player in a singles event.
- This would change the currency in which World Championships entry fees are specified.*
- ACCEPTED.
-
- BD-18 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.4.2, 4.1.4.4
- That there be no levy but that entry fees be shared equally between the organisers and the ITTF.
- This would replace the present ITTF levy at World Championships*
- ACCEPTED.
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- BD-19 Proposed by Executive Committee 4.1.5.5
- That this paragraph (4.1.5.5) be deleted.
- Ranking is now determined by the ITTF ranking list.*
- It was ACCEPTED that paragraph 4.1.5.5 would not be deleted but re-worded by the Rules Committee.
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- BD-20 Proposed by Executive Committee, Finland and Technical Committee 4.1.6.5, 4.1.6.6, and 4.1.10
- That these paragraphs (4.1.6.5, 4.1.6.6, 4.1.10) be deleted
- With separate team and individual World Championships, these paragraphs are no longer*

relevant.

ACCEPTED.

BD-21 Proposed by Germany 4.1.9.1

That the players of a doubles pair may be from different Associations.
At present both players must be from the same Association.

DEFEATED.

BD-22 Proposed by Finland 4.1.9.4

That in World Championships, the 1st round of singles events consist of 32 seeds, 32 other direct entries, 32 qualifiers and 32 byes and the 1st round of doubles events consist of 16 seeds, 16 other direct entries, 16 qualifiers and 16 byes.
At present the composition of the 1st rounds are not defined.

It was decided that the Chairmen of the Rules, Technical and Ranking Committees, in consultation with Finland, would present a more detailed proposition.

BD-23 Proposed by Technical Committee 4.2.3.3

That the Technical Representative be responsible to the Executive Committee.
This would make the Technical Delegate directly responsible to the body that appointed him or her.

ACCEPTED.

RESOLUTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (SIMPLE MAJORITY REQUIRED)

A Proposed by Luxembourg

That the Handbook for Match Officials includes advice on the detection of racket coverings that are too shiny and on checking and adjusting the tension of the net.

ACCEPTED.

B Proposed by Luxembourg

That in the future authorisation be given only to rubber trademarks and types that do not begin with, or consist only of, a number.

DEFEATED.

C Proposed by Sports Science Committee

That the organisers of World and other international competitions allocate seats close to the playing area specifically for team doctors and/or physiotherapists

ACCEPTED with following amendment that the organisers of World and other international competitions provide direct access and visibility to the playing area specifically for team doctors and/or physiotherapists.

D Proposed by Sports Science Committee

That the organisers of World and other international competitions provide the medical team(s) with one or more secure lockers in the playing hall.

ACCEPTED.

7. ITTF's Marketing Division (TMS International)

It was accepted that the Marketing Division of the ITTF initiated in 1996 in Ottawa would, for commercial reasons and tax advantages, be changing its commercial structure. The titles of the two members of staff would be changed as follows: Mr. Anders Thunström, Managing Director, and Mr. Christian Véronèse, Event Marketing Manager.

8. Olympic Games

Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis, Competition Manager for Athens, gave a brief update on the progress of work at the Olympic village, training centres and the Galatsi Sports centre, which was scheduled to be completed in August 2003. Mr. Seliniotakis presented the competition schedule and the different options that were being considered. He said the Hellas Open would take place from 18-21 March 2004 as well as the test event for the Paralympics from 15-16 March 2004. He also gave a brief update on the ORIS Programme and the meetings he had attended in Lausanne with the IOC. He said that 4 International Referees, 24 International Umpires and 3 persons for racket control would be working at the Athens Games.

The BOD following the decision made at the AGM accepted for the 2004 Olympic Games, that in the doubles, if an NOC has more than one entry, the pairs would be drawn in the same half but in different quarters and that seeded players would be entitled to two byes.

Ms Claude Bergeret, Chairwoman of the Athletes' Commission and the Chairman of the Ranking Committee, formally objected to the first decision, that pairs should be drawn in the same half.

9. Future World Championships (2006+)

Mr. Eberhard Schöler reported that Germany had the intention of bidding for the 2006 World Championships and the ITTF would be officially informed soon.

The three bidding cities for the World Junior Championships made brief presentations of their bids and India withdrew its bid saying that they would present once again in the future. Chile having won the vote by 22 against 18 will host the first Junior World Championships in December 2003.

10. World Title Events

It was reported that the World Club Championships would not be taking place this year. It was also reported that the Women's World Cup would take place in Singapore at the end of August and the Men's World Cup in China at the end of October. Ms. Jane Pinto was nominated to represent the ITTF at the Women's World Cup in Singapore.

11. ITTF Pro Tour

It was reported that the Pro Tour Finals would take place in Stockholm, Sweden, from 12-15 December 2002.

In answer to Mr. Alan Ransome's question concerning calendar problems due to the Super Circuit in Japan Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the Super Circuit was now a legitimate event sanctioned by the JTTA and that players were able to participate if they had permission from their National Associations. He also said that the JTTA and the Super Circuit Organisers had been requested to make sure that there would not be any clashes in the calendar with Pro Tour and other major ITTF events.

12. Appointment of Working Groups

A working group was formed in order to better present the Service Rule comprising of the Chairman of the Technical Committee, Chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. Aly Salam, Mr. Christian Véronèse and 1 more person (to be decided by the President).

13. **Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the BOD will take place in Paris, May 2003.
14. **Any other business**
 - 14.1 **ITTF Approval Fees**
The BOD gave full responsibility to the President, Mr. Odd Gustavsen and Jordi Serra to deal with the FIT concerning new approval fees.
 - 14.2 **Technical Leaflets**
Mr. Odd Gustavsen and Mr. Colin Clemett were requested to prepare and present final versions of all Technical Leaflets for approval to the next BOD. Mr. Odd Gustavsen said that a separate leaflet would contain the fees and except the fees all other leaflets will be available on the web site.
 - 14.3 **Performance Policy**
The BOD accepted that the Performance Policy (Bad Behaviour) proposal prepared by Mr. George Segun, Claude Bergeret and Jordi Serra should be implemented at Pro Tour events on a trial basis and would be presented as a formal proposition to the AGM in 2003.
15. **Adjournment**
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 13:45.

Adham Sharara, Meeting Chairman