

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

## Minutes

Of the ITTF Board of Directors Meeting held in Doha, Qatar, **5 March 2004**, at 09:00 hours

### 1. Welcome and President's Opening address

The President welcomed all to Doha and congratulated Japan for the performance of their women's team and for receiving the ITTF women's award at the Women's Forum the day before. He offered a special plaque to representatives from Liebherr for their co-operation and said he hoped that the relationship would be long and successful. The representative from Liebherr also thanked the ITTF and the Qatar TTA for their hospitality.

Mr. Aly Salam explained that he would be relinquishing his position as Continental Vice-President for North America. It was accepted that Ms Sheri Pittman would take over the position for the rest of the term, which would end in Shanghai in May 2005.

### 2. Roll call

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 (Finance)
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice President

Khalil Al Mohannadi	Continental Vice President (Asia)
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice President (Africa)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice President (Europe)
Miguel Angel Delgado	Continental Vice President (Latin America)
Sheri Pittman	Continental Vice President (North America)
Neil Harwood	Continental Vice President (Oceania)

#### Africa

Berthe Bakhary  
Henri Djombo  
Khaled El Salhy  
Olabanji Oladapo  
Jane Pinto  
Philippe Hao Thyn Voon

#### Asia

M. C. Chowhan  
Rabee Al Turk  
Koji Kimura  
Park Do Cheon  
S. H. Shah  
Sharokh Shahnazi

#### Europe

Gérard Velten  
Zdenko Kriz  
Reto Bazzi  
Radivoj Hudetz  
Yuri Posevin  
Alan Ransome  
Walter Rönmark  
Eberhard Schöler  
Miran Kondric

#### Latin America

Alaor Gaspar Azevedo  
Jorge Herrera  
Darwin Goodridge

#### North America

Bruce Burton

#### Oceania

Patrick Gillman  
Graeme Ireland  
David Jackson

#### Committee Chairmen/women

Claude Bergeret (Athletes')

Jean-François Kahn (Sports Science)

Odd Gustavsen (Equipment)  
Arne Madsen (Media)  
André Damman (Ranking)  
Rudi Sporrer (Rufes)  
Aksef Beckmann (URC - Co-chairman)

Yuri Posevin (Nomination)  
Yao Zhenxu (Technical)  
Tony Yue (Junior)  
Dorte Kronsell (Women's Group)  
Aly Salam (URC - Co-chairman)

**Invited to attend**

Tony Kiesenhofer (for item 9.5)

**PAC members**

Ranga Ramanujan  
Hans Giesecke  
Misha Kapetanic

**In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager
Roman Plese	Development Officer
Steve Dainton	Development Officer
Etsuko Enami	Executive Assistant
Li Tiefeng	Interpreter

**Absent with apologies**

Ganief Fataar (Africa)  
Choo Wee Khiang (Asia)  
Norman Carrillo (Latin America)

**3. Minutes of previous meetings (Paris, 19 and 23 May 2003)**

The Minutes of previous meetings held in Paris were signed by the President as a true record of the meetings.

**4. Update Reports**

**4.1 Calendar working group (document A26)**

Report accepted as presented. Ms Judit Faragó said that the group would be publishing the new calendar by 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**4.2 Research and Development**

Mr. George Segun reported that he had presented a written report on research and development and that he was pursuing further possibilities for research on balls, spin and racket coverings. He hoped the BOD would encourage these efforts.

**4.3 Veterans working group**

Mr. Bruce Burton acknowledged the good work done within the group and thanked the members for their contributions and for the good relationship within the group and with the ITTF. He recommended that the working group should change its status and should be made a full-fledged Veterans Committee in order to raise the profile of the veterans' activities. He said that the veterans events should be brought under the umbrella of the ITTF and should be regulated according to ITTF rules and conventions and follow the same procedures for bidding for the World Championships, studying bid documents, inspection visits etc. He said there was a requirement to reach an understanding to pass more responsibilities to the ITTF from the Swaythling Club without losing sight of the expertise of the Swaythling Club. He said that 2600 participants had already signed up for Yokohama in 2004. Bremen would host 2006 but no allocation for 2007 yet. Mr. Alan Ransome proposed a vote of thanks to the Swaythling Club for the excellent work done over the years. This issue was referred to the BOD in Shanghai. Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the Veterans Working Group and said that he would meet with the SCI and all concerned in

order to study all the implications of a possible transfer of responsibilities and activities to the ITTF.

#### **4.4 Women's working group (document A27)**

Ms Judit Farago reported that the Women's Working Group had met for the first time and had discussed many issues including terms of reference and future plans for the Women's Development Programme. She said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITTF Women's Forum had been attended by 130 participants and had been a success. Ms. Claude Bergeret reported that, 15-year-old Zeina Shaban of Jordan had been elected athlete of the year in Jordan. The report was accepted as presented.

#### **4.5 ITTF/Continental Development Plans**

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that all the development agreement plans had been signed for 2004-2005. He said that the Development Workshop held the day before had been a success and that the ITTF coaching manual had been distributed to all present.

### **5. New Structure for Committees and Commissions**

Mr. George Segun reported that the working group for this assignment had met in Athens and had looked at the political structure and administrative structure as it relates to the committees. He said that the decision should not be rushed and all implications should be studied carefully on how to make the committees more efficient in their functioning together with full collaboration with ITTF staff members. He said a comprehensive report would be presented in Shanghai with the proposed structure for further study and approval.

### **6. Deadline for nominations (Elections, Committees, etc.)**

The system currently in use for nominating Executive Committee and other committee members was discussed at length. It was decided that the deadline for nominations would be as follows:

*For Committee members:* nominations to be received at least 60 days before the AGM and all names to be made public by the ITTF Headquarters at least 15 days before the AGM.

*For EC and EC+ members:* nominations to be received at least 30 days before the AGM and names to be made public by the ITTF Headquarters at least 15 days before the AGM.

### **7. World Team Championships Playing System**

It was decided after a lengthy discussion that a full analysis of the present system would be made before a final proposal is made next year in Shanghai. It was decided that a working group chaired by the President would be formed in order to study the different proposals before submitting a final system to the next AGM.

## **8. Propositions and Resolutions (Document A28)**

**Simple majority required**

**BOD – 01 Proposed by Germany**

Regulation affected: Equipment and Playing conditions. Clothing. 3.2.2.8

**The players of a team taking part in a team match, and players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in a World or Olympic Title Competition,**

**shall be dressed uniformly, with the possible exception of socks, shoes and the number, size, colour and design of advertisements on clothing.**

**Players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in other international competitions may wear clothes of different manufacturers, if the basic colours are the same and their National Association authorises this procedure.**

*This would mean, that players in doubles are allowed to use the clothing of their personal sponsor in events other than World and Olympic Title Competitions, under the condition that the basic colours are the same and this procedure is authorised by their National Association (see 3.2.2.8). Continental Federations should prepare regulations for their own competitions, if not existing already.*

**ACCEPTED.**

---

#### **BOD - 02 Proposed by the Executive Committee**

Regulation affected: Equipment and Playing conditions. Advertisements. 3.2.4

**3.2.4.4. Markings on flooring ~~and on the ends and sides of the tabletop~~ shall not include white or orange; it is recommended that they be in slightly darker or slightly lighter shade of the background colour.**

*This would abolish any restriction on the colour of advertisements on the ends and sides of the tabletop. Furthermore the regulation of the colour of markings on flooring would be brought into line with the one for surrounds.  
Both changes correspond with present conditions.*

**ACCEPTED.**

---

#### **BOD – 03 Proposed by Finland**

Regulation affected: Discipline. Advice. 3.5.1.5

**3.5.1.5. In a team match the dismissed adviser shall not be allowed to return, except when required to play, ~~and he shall not be replaced by another adviser until the team match has ended; in an individual event he shall not be replaced by another adviser and he shall not be allowed to return until the individual match has ended.~~**

*This would mean that a dismissed adviser might be replaced by another adviser in a team match but not in an individual match.*

**DEFEATED.**

---

#### **BOD – 04 Proposed by the Executive Committee**

Regulation affected: Discipline. New wording to be added after 3.5.2 titled Bad presentation.

**3.5.3.1 Any player(s) who deliberately fails to uphold the object of good presentation of the sport shall be disciplined.**

**3.5.3.2 The discipline to be meted out may include total or partial loss of prize money in prize events and/or outright suspension from all ITTF titled events.**

**3.5.3.3 In the event of complicity proven against any coach or official such a person shall also be disciplined. The discipline in this case will be**

recommended to the Association of the coach or official and it will include a ban from playing at venue or practice halls for a specified period.

**3.5.3.4 A Disciplinary Committee comprising the ITTF Competition Manager, the Referee or his Deputy and the Tournament Director shall immediately after any such problematic match decide on whether infringement committed and the appropriate sanction.**

**3.5.3.5 An appeal against the Disciplinary Committee ruling may be made by the disciplined player, coach or official within 28 days to the ITTF Executive Committee whose decision on the matter shall be final.**

**3.5.3.6. Sanctions. First time player/offender to forfeit the whole of the prize money while second time player/offender to forfeit the prize money and be suspended from all International Competitions for one year.**

*This would enlarge the definition of "misbehaviour" by "bad presentation".*

***Referred to Rules Committee for revision and complete proposal to be presented to BOD in Shanghai.***

---

#### **BOD – 05 Proposed by Japan**

Regulation affected: Discipline. Gluing. 3.5.3

**It should be prohibited that players are to use glue containing organic solvents by the following steps.**

##### **Step I:**

1. Prohibit to use the glue containing the liquid organic solvents in the playing venue.
2. Prohibit to set up a gluing room in the playing venue.
3. Above 1 & 2 will take effect from 1 September, 2004.

##### *Procedure:*

1. *Make a surprise inspection (spot check) of the racket used by the player immediately after the end of the match.*
2. *As a result of the above inspection, if more than a certain amount of volatile organic substances (no matter what kind of volatile) were found, this player must be withdrawn from the rest of his/her competition.*
3. *A level of the above mentioned containers of the volatile organic solvents is the level of the concentration of volatile organic solvents passed 24 hours since using the common volatile organic solvents. The concrete numerical value should be determined by the ITTF Equipment Committee and the Sport Science Committee.*
4. *ITTF should develop an instrument measuring concentration of volatile organic solvents of which anyone could use simply without any special knowledge or experience.*

##### **Step II:**

1. Player to use the liquid volatile organic solvents should be prohibited.
2. Take effect from 1 September, 2005.

##### *Procedure:*

1. In the same way as Step I, a test for the organic solvent should be carried out in the playing venue. When the organic solvents were found the player should be disqualified.
2. With above-mentioned date, ITTF will remove its approval for all liquid organic adhesive solvents.
3. ITTF should press manufacturers to put a new adhesive solvent, which is not including organic solvents on the market in early stages.

**The reasons why we have proposed above are**

1. The proposition of prevent the use of speed glue was defeated at the Board of Directors Meeting in Osaka 2001, however all Board of Director members emphasized that the gluing in the playing venue should be prohibited in the future.
2. Taking account of apprehensions for damaging human body and the young players 'use of glue for a long continuous period, we have to sweep away a serious situation and criticism for our sports as the glue used by our player is not allowed to be taken into an aircraft because of its dangerousness.
3. The doping control has been tightened up strictly still more by IOC and the considerations for the preservation of environment for the sportsmen and the facilities for sports are required.  
Most of the players usually glue in the practice hall without the ventilation system today and we feel fear for such current situation.
4. ITTF which has approved the dangerous organic adhesive solvents and the associations let their players using these adhesives could suddenly be criticized one day and I strongly believe that it is time for all of us involved to take necessary action to remove from using volatile organic solvents completely an early stage in order to avoid the aggravating situation for a image of table tennis.

**ACCEPTED Step 1 for implementation on 1 September 2006 and Step 2 for implementation on 1 September 2007. A Working Group to be formed to study the implications and to propose the procedures.**

---

**BOD – 06.A Proposed by the Rules Committee**

Regulation affected: International Eligibility. 3.8

**New International Eligibility Rules (3.8)  
Annex 1 A**

*DEFEATED.*

---

**BOD – 06.B Proposed by the Rules Committee**

Regulation affected: International Eligibility. 3.8

Proposed by the Rules Committee

**New International Eligibility Rules (3.8)  
Annex 1 B**

**ACCEPTED with amendment to article 3.8.3.1 "... If he is born in, or has his main residence in, ...."**

---

**OLYMPIC ELIGIBILITY RULES presented as a late proposition**

---

**ACCEPTED.**

---

**BOD – 07 Proposed by the Executive Committee**

Regulation affected: World Championships. Jury. 4.1.8.1

**4.1.8.1. The Jury shall consist of the Technical Committee, the Chairmen of the Ranking and Rules Committees, a representative of the Umpires & Referees Committee, the Championships Director (or his equivalent), a representative of the organising committee and the referee; the referee shall have the right to speak but not to vote.**

*This would update the composition of the Jury by the latest Committee structure of the ITTF.*

**ACCEPTED.**

---

**BOD – 08 Proposed by the Technical Committee**

Regulation affected: World Championships. Events. 4.1.9.4

Proposed by the Technical Committee

**4.1.9.4. There shall not be more than 128 places in the first round proper of a singles and mixed doubles events nor more than 64 places in the first round proper of Men's and Women's doubles events, unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Committee.**

*There are more pairs in Mixed Doubles than Men's and Women's Doubles. This proposition will accommodate more pairs in the first round proper of Mixed Doubles*

**ACCEPTED.**

---

**BOD- 09 Proposed by Germany**

Regulation affected: World Championships. Events. 4.1.9.

**To introduce a Wild Card for the Host Association of the World Team Championships in the Championships Division in order to support the sporting and economic success of the event.**

**In case a team of the Host Association of the next World Team Championships has not qualified for the Championships Division, it will replace the last team qualified through the World Team Ranking List under the following conditions:**

- **the team of the Host Association must be finally placed between 9 and 12 in the Championships Division or between 2 and 7 in Division I of the previous WTC,**

or

- **the team of the Host Association must be ranked between 4 and 7 in the World Team Ranking List, without direct qualification by results in the previous WTC.**

**WITHDRAWN** with the understanding that the Working group for Team Formats will make a careful study of the proposals.

---

**BOD – 10 Proposed by the Technical Committee**

Regulation affected: World Cup. Playing System. 4.2.5.7

**4.2.5.7. All matches shall be the best of 7 games**

*In the World Cup tournaments, matches in the first (group) stage are already best of 7 games, as stipulated in the Bulletins*

**ACCEPTED.**

---

**BOD – 11 Proposed by the Executive Committee**

Regulation affected: Olympics Competition. Events. 4.3.2.

**The following paragraph shall be removed:**

~~**4.3.2.2 All singles matches shall be the best of 7 games.**~~

**ACCEPTED.**

---

**BOD – 12 Proposed by the Rules Committee and the Junior Commission**

New regulations for the World Junior Championships. New section in chapter 4

**Annex 2**

**ACCEPTED.** Concerns about the lack of information about the size of future events and the medical insurance to be provided to players were to be noted.

---

**BOD – 13 Proposed by the Executive Committee and the Sports Science Committee**

Regulation affected. Chapter 5. Anti-doping Code

**To adopt the new ITTF anti-doping rules according to the World Anti-doping Code approved unanimously at the World Conference on Doping in Sport held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 3-5 March 2003.**

**Annex 3**

**ACCEPTED,** anti-doping code effective 8 March 2004.

---

## **Resolutions to the Board of Directors**

**Simple majority required**

**BOD-A Proposed by the European Table Tennis Union**

**New World Table Tennis Team Championships playing system.**



WITHDRAWN.

---

### **BOD-B Proposed by the Athlete's Commission**

*World Team Junior Championships : Wild cards allocation*

**The Wild card both for the junior boys and junior girls team competition shall be given to the highest ranked team (among the teams, which apply to get a wild card).**

**The highest ranked team will be determined according to the Ranking points of the 3 highest ranked players of this team.**

*To be very clear concerning the chosen criteria*

*To be fair to the really strongest teams which apply as wild cards*

*To avoid any political decision but to insist on the sporting decision.*

**ACCEPTED.** *This selection would not be referred to as Wild card anymore.*

---

### **BOD-C Proposed by the Equipment Committee**

**The BoD asks associations to support the Equipment Committee when they are experiencing problems with illegal use of the ITTF logo on table tennis products, i.e. advertising products that are not approved/authorised, or not paying the appropriate fees.**

**The support could be carrying such information in existing newsletters, bulletins, etc for the markets in question, or other reactions suitable for the occasion.**

**ACCEPTED.**

---

### **BOD-D Proposed by the Equipment Committee**

**The suppliers with tolerance problems in their racket coverings will have till 1. January 2005 to present modified / changed racket coverings to the Equipment Committee instead of the ones that do not comply with the technical requirements. If not, these racket coverings will be left out of the list to be published 1. April 2005, valid from 1. July 2005**

*In the ITTF Council meeting in Durban in May 1998 some decisions were made regarding the pimples on the racket coverings.*

*The first topic was about the aspect ratio, which was reduced.*

*The second topic related to pimple geometry. The background was that our Committee recently had obtained improved equipment for the control of the pimple dimensions. It then turned out that we had on our List a number of authorised rubbers that did not meet the requirements in our Technical Leaflet T4. This was related to the height of the pimples (should be min. 1,00 mm) and the distance between pimple tops (should be min. 1,00 mm), for rubbers with pimples out.*

*The decisions made in the Council meeting were:*

- 1. No new coverings to be allowed unless they meet the limits – without any tolerance.*

2. All coverings with tolerance "problems" should stay on the List until after Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.
3. After Sydney all these old coverings must meet the limit with a 0,2 mm tolerance in order to stay on the List.

*The consequence of the last item is that we still have approx. 20 racket coverings on the List that do not meet our requirements in T4. Four of these were present in Sydney Olympics and / or Paralympics. However, new coverings have to meet the minimum requirements as specified above. (This has nothing to do with the pimple irregularities that BOD discussed in their Paris meeting)*

*The proposal above is to inform the suppliers now that by 1. January 2005 we need to see modified / changed racket coverings instead of the present ones that do not comply with T4. If not, these racket coverings will be left out of the List to be published 1. April 2005 - valid from 1 July 2005. The suppliers will be notified.*

*This would give all suppliers in question the same period of having had this "advantage", instead of taking this up at the running retesting every ten years, which will make this very different for the suppliers.*

**ACCEPTED.**

---

**9. World Junior Championships**

**9.1 Chile 2003**

Mr. Tony Yue thanked the Chilean Association and the Latin American Continent for their support, hospitality and the spectators who made the event such a success. Mr. Miguel Angel Delgado thanked the ITTF for its support and said Latin America was proud to have succeeded in this mission and hoped to welcome all to the Continent once again in the near future.

**9.2 Japan 2004**

Mr. Koji Kimura reported that preparations were in progress under the guidance of the Junior Commission. There would be 16 boys and 16 girls' teams participating in Kobe from the 28<sup>th</sup> of November to the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2004 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior World Championships.

**9.3 Austria 2005**

Mr. Rudi Sporrer said that Linz was looking forward and preparing to host the Junior World Championships in 2005. A new arena was being built and a special school project was put in place to secure a full-house of spectators.

**9.4 Egypt 2006**

Mr. Khaled EL-Salhy said that Egypt was ready and keen to host the Junior World Championships in Egypt in 2006. However, the venue would probably be Alexandria and not Cairo as planned earlier. The final decision would be taken in Kobe regarding the venue.

**9.5 Bids and selection for 2007**

Mr. Tony Kiesenhofer announced the intention of Canada to bid for the 2007 Junior World Championship. However, the Canadian TTA would like to wait until the Directives for the Junior Worlds have been officially published in order to make a final bid. He said there were two concerns holding them back regarding the number of teams and free medical care for participants. It was also reported that Slovakia was interested in bidding for 2007 but was holding back due to the Continental rotation

system. However, if there were no bid from anyone else, Slovakia would present a bid for 2007. It was decided that the Junior Commission would make the decision in Kobe in December 2004.

**10. Global Junior Programme (Junior Circuit, JC Finals and Cadet Challenge)**

Mr. Tony Yue said he was very happy with the progress of the Global Junior Programme, which was constantly expanding and said that the past year had been in general very fruitful. The next step he said was to study the team system and to gradually increase from 16 teams to more. He said that visas for teams were a concern and that early planning and better communication were needed in order to make the procedure easy. He said that more funding would also be needed. He said that the cadet challenge was a very important event for that age category. The next event will take place in Madeira, Portugal in October 2004 together with a coaching conference. He thanked the President for his guidance and all others who had helped to make it a success.

**11. World Cup Events and ITTF Pro Tour**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the 2004 Men's and Women's World Cup beheld jointly in China. The 2005 Men's WC will take place in Liege, Belgium while the Women's World Cup would probably be held in Asia. He said there had been interest from Brazil, France and Germany to host a World Cup event but no concrete arrangements had been made yet. He said the Pro Tour dates for 2005 would be published in the near future. He also said that the Volkswagen contract would be expiring in May 2005 and re-negotiations would be taking place soon but that the ITTF was also looking for other sponsors as well.

It was said that each Association had the right to hold two open international competitions per year.

**12. Olympic Games 2004 and 2008**

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the Olympic Qualification process was going smoothly and that a final document would be distributed once the World Final Qualification Tournament was held. Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the IOC supported the idea of team events in 2008 but that the final decision would be taken only in 2005.

Mr. Sharara said that table tennis would be very well represented at the 2008 Games in China where the ITTF had it's own top representative there, Mr. Yang Shuan, Deputy Minister of Sport and Vice president of BOCOG.

**13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place in Shanghai, China in May 2005. The exact date will be communicated in due course.

**14. Any other business**

- Mr. Adham Sharara explained that there was a movement for the Paralympics to come under the responsibility of the ITTF and that a working group composed of Mr. Alaor Azavedo, Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Raul Calin would be studying the implications of this move.
- Mr. Yao Zhenxu made a brief report about the playing system and said that there were more close matches. However, he said that the Technical Committee would continue to find ways to improve the system for the future.
- Mr. Hosny Sonbol of Egypt was admitted as full-member of the Equipment Committee in replacement of Mr. Keith Powell (deceased).
- Mr. M. C. Chowhan thanked the Qatar TTA for their hospitality but remarked that hospitality charges were too high and that a maximum charge should be set by the ITTF.

- Mr. Aksel Beckman asked if it was possible to improve the system for paying players their prize money and Mr. Adham Sharara promised that the ITTF would do its best.
- Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the EC members for their work and continuous support throughout the year.

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 13h42.

---

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara