

# ITTF Board of Directors Meeting

---

Guangzhou, China, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008, at 09:00 hours

## MINUTES

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

The President welcomed all and presented a gift to Mr. Cai Zhenhua for the Chinese New Year.

### 2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Melecio Rivera	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice-President (North America)
Patrick Gillmann	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)

#### Africa

Ganief Fataar  
Berthe Bakhary  
Khaled El Salhy  
Olabanji Oladapo  
Jane Pinto

#### Asia

Cai Zhenhua  
Thana Chaiprasit  
Chan Foong Keong  
Park Do Cheon  
Sharokh Shahnazi

#### Europe

Gérard Velten  
Zdenko Kriz  
Alexander Murdoch  
Reto Bazzi  
Walter Rönmark  
Eberhard Schöler  
Polona Cehovin Susin  
Radivoj Hudetz

#### Latin America

Alaor G. P. Azevedo

#### North America

Sheri Pittman

#### Oceania

Anthony Ho  
Graeme Ireland  
David Jackson

#### Committee Chairmen/women

Odd Gustavsen (Equipment)  
Arne Madsen (Media)  
André Damman (Ranking)  
Rudolph Sporrer (Rules)  
Jean-François Kahn (Sports Science)  
Yuri Posevin (Nomination)  
Yao Zhenxu (Technical)  
Tony Yue (Junior)  
Albert Roojmans (Umpires & Referees)  
Hajera Kajee (Women's Working Group)

#### President's Advisory Council

Ranga Ramanujan  
Hans Giesecke  
Rufford Harrison  
Han Sang Kook  
Nils Bergström  
Colin Clemett

#### Invited to attend

Jorge Herrera (GUA)

#### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Mikael Andersson	Global Junior Programme Manager

Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Etsuko Enami	Operations Manager
Raul Calín	Competition Manager
Liu Yi	Interpreter

**Absent**

Choo Wee Khiang	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Zoran Primorac	(Athletes' Commission)
M. C. Chowhan	(Asia)
Michel de Chadarevian	(Asia)
Juan Carlos Garcia	(Latin America)
Philippe Hao Thyn Voon	(Africa)
Carlos Marin	(Latin America)
Keith Neblett	(Latin America)
Goran Vukobratovic	(Europe)

**3. Minutes of previous Meetings (Zagreb, Croatia, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007)**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Update Reports**

**4.1 Calendar working Group (Document A27)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**4.2 Glue Working Group**

Mr George Segun reported that racket controls had been made at three junior events since the beginning of the year and that the new e-nez equipment had functioned satisfactorily. However, several problems had occurred due to the non adequate airing of racket covering. Therefore, further strict racket controls would be done at three more junior events. It was reported that guidelines for racket control had been prepared by the Junior Commission and would be distributed as an information tool to all national associations.

**4.4 Women's Working Group (Document A28)**

The report was accepted as presented.

**4.5 ITTF/Continental Development Plans**

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that the Continental Agreements from 2009 – 2012 would be signed in the course of this year. He said that over 100 courses had been delivered in 2007 and over 40 countries had received equipment assistance and that a new Development Coordinator, Mr. Leandro Olvech, had been hired. The newly printed ITTF/IPTTC coaching manual had been distributed to all delegates at the AGM and that the Spanish and French versions would be available soon.

**5. Propositions and Resolutions (Document A29) – Simple majority needed**

<b>9</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</b></p> <p><i>To modify paragraph 3.2.1.3:</i></p> <p>3.2.1.3 The covering material on a side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF and shall be attached to the blade so that the <b>supplier and brand names</b> and the ITTF logo <b>plus the ITTF number (when applied)</b> are clearly visible near the edge of the striking surface.</p>	<b>ACCEPTED.</b>
----------	--	------------------

	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>The supplier and brand names are sometimes written in fonts and sizes being difficult to read. To ease the identification of racket coverings for umpires an ITTF number is being gradually introduced on racket coverings. This number is positioned inside a rectangle together with the logo. Over time this may well become the most important identification.</p> <p><i>By this racket covers could be identified by assigned numbers.</i></p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Para Table Tennis Committee</b></p> <p><i>To modify the remark of paragraph 3.2.4.2:</i></p> <p>The current ITTF testing procedures in place before 25th May 2007 will continue until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 at junior events, <b>until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 for the para table tennis events</b> and until 1st September 2008 for all other events; as of these dates respectively the new testing procedures and protocols will be implemented to detect harmful volatile solvents.</p> <p><i>By this the new testing methods for harmful volatile solvents of rackets would not be applied at the Paralympics 2008.</i></p>	<b>ACCEPTED.</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the South African Table Tennis Board</b></p> <p><i>To introduce a new paragraph (including sub-paragraphs) 4.5 "World Veterans Championships"</i></p>	<b>WITHDRAWN.</b>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p><i>To insert a new paragraph 3.8.7 (present 3.8.7 and 3.8.8 to be renumbered):</i></p> <p><b>3.8.7 In addition, for ITTF World Title events, a player who was eligible to represent an association other than the one he wishes to represent, shall register with the ITTF, through this new association.</b></p> <p><b>3.8.7.1 The player shall not represent the new association before:</b></p> <p><b>3.8.7.1.1 3 years after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 15 when registered;</b></p> <p><b>3.8.7.1.2 5 years after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 18 but at least 15 years of age when registered;</b></p>	<b>ACCEPTED.</b>

	<p><b>3.8.7.1.3 7 years after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 21 but at least 18 years of age when registered</b></p> <p><b>3.8.7.2 If the player is 21 years of age or older he will not be registered with the ITTF and will not be eligible to represent a new association at World Title events.</b></p> <p><i>This would introduce an additional eligibility clause for World title events, relating to the age of the player concerned.</i></p>	
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Swiss Table Tennis Association</b></p> <p><i>To introduce an additional sub-paragraph in 3.8 "International Eligibility".</i></p> <p><b>A player representing an Association in World Championships must have been licensed (member) of that Association in the last 5 preceding years.</b></p> <p><i>This would bring in an additional condition for eligibility in World Championships.</i></p>	<b>WITHDRAWN.</b>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Table Tennis Association of Haiti</b></p> <p><b><i>To carry out the draw of World Team Championships at least 30 days before the start of the events.</i></b></p>	<b>WITHDRAWN.</b>

## **6. World Junior Championships**

### **6.1 New Zealand (Auckland), 2008**

Mr. Tony Yue thanked New Zealand for taking up the challenge of organising the World Junior Championships in Auckland (NZL). Mr. Mikael Andersson said preparations were underway but that there was still many issues to be addressed. He asked the BOD to review the conditions imposed upon the organisers of the JWC as it was difficult to find sponsors for the event. It was said that Mr. Glenn Tepper and Mr. Steve Dainton would make an inspection visit in the near future.

### **6.2 Colombia (Cartagena de Indias), 2009**

Mr. Mikael Andersson said that a preliminary inspection had been made and that he was confident that Colombia would deliver a well organised championship.

### **6.3 Bratislava (Slovakia), 2010**

Mr. Zdenko Kriz said that preparations were progressing slowly and that the Organising Committee had been formed in 2004 and the same OC had

organised the European Venterans championships successfully. Mr. Tony Yue thanked Slovakia for accepting to be the first to organise the expanded event (from 16 to 20 teams). Mr. Mikael Andersson said that it would also be necessary to review financial implications of the junior world championships.

#### **6.4 Bids and selection for 2011**

Mr. Mikael Andersson said that a record number of bids had been received which showed the popularity of the event. After presentations from Bahrain and South Africa, the latter announced its withdrawal in favour of Bahrain. It was therefore decided that Bahrain would organise the WJC for 2011.

#### **6.5 Bids for 2012**

It was unanimously agreed to allocate the 2012 WJC to Cape Town (RSA).

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

Mr. Tony Yue said that the Global Junior Programme had matured immensely and thanked all the organisers of the World Junior Circuit and World Junior Championships for the great events delivered. He said that racket control testing still remained an issue and the lack of e-nez devices at national level was a problem. He said the Junior Commission was now busy with the rules regarding the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Singapore in 2010. He thanked the Ranking Committee for planning an U15 (Cadet) World ranking. He also thanked all involved in the Junior Programme for their hard work. Mr. Mikael Andersson said that the work of the Competition Managers should be recognised and that the programme should be reviewed after 5 years of existence to make it even more attractive for players, organisers and sponsors.

### **8. World Cup Events and ITTF Pro Tour**

It was reported that the 2008 Men's World Cup would be held in Liège (BEL) and the Women's World Cup probably in Italy, to be confirmed. In 2009, the World Team Cup would be held in Linz (AUT), the Mens' World Cup in Moscow (RUS). The Women's World Cup had not been attributed yet. It was said that the idea of increasing the number of teams at the World Team Cup would be studied.

It was reported that 4 Pro Tour events would be conducted with the Olympic team format. If the experiment were successful, it could be maintained at future events.

It was agreed that Mr. Rudi Sporrer should edit the ITTF Handbook in order to include the Olympic team playing system.

### **9. Olympic Games 2008**

Mr. Yang Shuan explained that the Olympic Games preparations were well under control, the venues built and 36 test events held with success. The Olympic Village would be opened on the 21st of July. Mr. Yang Shuan said that the relationship between the ITTF and BOCOG was very good and all facilities and services provided to the ITTF should be of high quality. It was said that the homologation tests would be attended by Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Neil Harwood in Beijing in the coming days. It was confirmed that the accreditation card would also be the entry visa for China. Mr. Ganief Fataar requested that preference should be given to the Continental players in case of withdrawals from the qualified continental quotas.

### **10. Next meeting (Yokohama, May 2009)**

The next meeting of the BOD will be held during the Yokohama WTTC, in May 2009, exact date to be communicated in due course.

### **11. Any other business**

#### **11.1 Change in BoD member**

It was announced that Guatemala had revoked its BOD member Mr. Juan Carlos Garcia and it was accepted, in agreement with LATTU, to replace him by Mr. Jorge Herrera (GUA).

#### **11.2 Limit of friction level**

It was decided to request the Equipment Committee to study the friction of treated rubbers further. However, it was agreed that the friction level of racket coverings would be **fixed at -25 mN**

#### **11.3 Retirement of a Board Member**

Ms Sheri Pittman announced her retirement from the BOD due to a change of governance within the NOC and USATT. She thanked her colleagues in the BOD and said that she would continue to work for table tennis, in particular she would strive to increase the marketing possibilities of the sport in North America.

- The Chairman of the Ranking Committee asked all present to help with the establishment of the U15 ranking by sending all competition results, continental rankings, dates or years of birth as well as the contact details of the continental representative to liaise with the Ranking Committee.
- Mr. Hans Giesecke expressed his dissatisfaction at the information and signage between the playing area and the spectators. Ms Claude Bergeret was requested to take up the issue with the OC and to improve the situation before the semi finals and finals.
- Mr. Olabanji Oladapo said that the ITTF should do its utmost to ensure that table tennis is more visible in the media in China and in particular during the upcoming Olympic Games.
- Mr. Rudi Sporrer said that a successful workshop regarding the service had been held the previous day and that a number of interesting propositions and ideas for the improvement of the service rule had been discussed.

### **12. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12h07.

---

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara