

International Table Tennis Federation

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on 10th and 11th October 2008 at the offices of the French Table Tennis Federation, Paris, France at 09:00h.

1. **President's welcome and opening remarks**

Mr. Gérard Velten, President of the French Table Tennis Federation welcomed all to Paris and wished the EC a good work session. He announced that he would not be running for the Presidency of the FTTT at the next elections but was happy to continue on the Board of Directors of the ITTF. He congratulated and thanked Mr. Yang Shuan for the fantastic Olympic Games in Beijing.

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed all and in particular Mr. Odd Gustavsen who had been invited to attend the meeting in order to address item 11 on the agenda.

2. **Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice President

Invited to attend

Odd Gustavsen	Chairman, Equipment Committee
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In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Anders Thunström	TMS Managing Director
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Mikael Andersson	Manager Global Junior Programme
Judit Faragó	Director of Competitions

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the following additional items:

Under item 11 Technical leaflet for racket covering, special fee.

20.1	Virtual Olympic Congress
20.2	ITTF hopes
20.3	Responsibilities
20.4	Trophies

4. **Minutes**

4.1 **Approval of Minutes of previous meetings**

(London, 17-18 May 2008, Beijing, 14 and 23 August 2008)

The Minutes were approved by the President as a true record of the meetings.

4.2 **Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)**

No other business except that covered by the Agenda.

5. Constitution Working Group update

Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief update on the second round of work to be done by the Constitution Working Group. The final list of proposals would be submitted to the EC in December and then presented to the BOD and AGM in Yokohama, Japan. It was said that a letter informing all National Associations to refrain from making proposals to the AGM on Constitutional matters would be sent out in due course through the Headquarters.

6. Olympic Games

6.1 Survey

According to the request made by the EC at its meeting in Beijing, a survey had been sent to all the National Associations in order to get their opinions regarding the new playing format at the Beijing Olympic Games before the ITTF reviewed the needs for London 2012. A report based on the results would be presented to the Olympic Commission in December at its meeting in Madrid.

6.2 Post-Games Report

Mr. Jordi Serra thanked all those who had given their feedback and helped to compile the post-games report, which had already been submitted to the IOC and ASOIF. He said he would attend the IOC debriefing in Lausanne where the final reports from all the sports would be available.

6.3 IOC information. President's meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara said that he would meet with the President of the IOC and the IOC Sports Department on the 10th of November, in order to discuss feed-back on the new team event at the Olympic Games, part of the classification of sports, which dated back to 1992, which affects the funding formula for the IFs and should be reformulated; as well as discussing accreditations for London 2012.

6.4 Youth Olympic Games. Table Tennis Venue

Mr. Jordi Serra said that the proposal submitted by the Singapore TTA for the table tennis venue had not been accepted due to the small size of the venue and that the ITTF was waiting for a new proposal regarding the final venue. He said it was also necessary to define the competition format as soon as possible. Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to coordinate the matter with Mr. Mikael Andersson and Ms Judit Faragó and to submit a proposal to the OC in December.

Mr. Neil Harwood said that a meeting had been held in order to discuss the development of young umpires for the YOG. It was said that the Technical Delegate for the YOG would be decided by the OC in December.

7. Paralympic Games and IPTTC meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara congratulated Mr. Yang Shuan on the success of the Paralympic Games and said he was impressed by the number of spectators that attended the event. Mr. Neil Harwood said that a very productive meeting had been held with the IPTTC and that the IPTTC was keen to be fully part of the ITTF.

8. World Championships update

8.1 Yokohama 2009

Mr. Koji Kimura said that the contractual agreement would be signed soon, after discussion with the ITTF President and TMS in Paris. Bulletin no. 1 would be finalised before the end of October. A coordination visit would take place in January 2009.

8.2 Re-allocation of 2010 (Moscow)

The circumstances surrounding the participation of Kosovo at the European Championships in St Petersburg were discussed at length. It was said that Russia would be asked to clarify all issues regarding visas at the first coordination visit and that the Russian TTA would have to arrange letters from the Ministries well ahead of time to guarantee the participation of all ITTF member associations and all participants.

8.3 Rotterdam 2011

Ms Judit Faragó said that she had met some key persons involved in the organisation of Rotterdam 2011 at the Men's World Cup in Liège and that a presentation by the OC would be made at the AGM in Yokohama.

8.4 2012 candidates

It was reported that 2 bids had been received before the deadline date (30th of September) – Germany (city to be decided) and Serbia for Belgrade. Inspection visits to be organised in due course.

8.5 Egypt Cup

Mr. Jordi Serra said that a proposition to change the procedure for handing over the Egypt Cup (from the opening to the closing ceremony) would be presented to the EC in Madrid.

8.6 People at the bench at single and team events

It was decided that the future WTTC directives and prospectus would be modified to reflect the following:

- In singles events and doubles events there would be 1 seat for a coach on the playing field (behind the surrounds)
- In the team events 5 seats would be made available, for one coach and 4 players.
- No other players or personnel would have access to the area behind the surrounds or the playing area. Special provisions and seating areas would be made for the medical personnel.

9. World Junior Championships update

Ms Judit Faragó reported that she had inspected the facilities in Madrid together with Mr. Raul Calin and that preparations though a little late were well underway. The prospectus had been issued and the deadline for entry was the 25th of October. The hospitality charge had been finalised at Euros 80 per person in a double room and Euros 120 per person in a single room.

10. ITTF-TMS contract renewal

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that according to the request of the auditors a formal agreement had been signed between TMS and the ITTF from 2004-2008 whereby the amounts to be transferred annually to the ITTF had been clearly stated. In the said contract it is also stipulated that if TMS succeeds in meeting these amounts, the contract would be renewed automatically. A comparison table over the last 5 years has shown that TMS raised more than the required marketing income, so it would not be realistic to keep the pre-set amounts for the contract renewal. These amounts have to be increased according to the current reality and sponsorship revenues anticipated. As several sponsorship contracts are about to be signed and some may or may not be renewed, it was said that TMS would present a new agreement with revised amounts before the EC in Madrid.

Mr. Anders Thunström gave an update on the situation regarding sponsorship contracts with Volkswagen and Liebherr. The contract with VW had been agreed upon from 2009-2011, with VW as title sponsor for China vs. the World,

Tournament of Champions, the Women's World Cup and the World Junior Championships. However, a component within the package was yet to be finalised and TMS was waiting for some matters to be cleared up before the ITTF could countersign the agreement. Concerning the Liebherr contract, Mr. Anders Thunström said that the contract would end in 2011; therefore, negotiations would start about the renewal some time next year.

11. Racket control update (Glue, Boosters and Tuners)

Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Odd Gustavsen gave update reports on the racket control testing that had taken place since 1st September 2008. A long discussion ensued regarding boosters and tuners containing volatile substances which were now available and used by the players and the path that should be taken by the ITTF in order to limit the tolerance level and detection of such substances. Finally, based on the opinion of all EC members who were in favour of further lowering the limit of tolerance according to a recommendation of the Equipment Committee, the following path of action was decided:

- E-nez would continue to be used to detect speed glues and a new instrument capable of detecting tuners and boosters as well as VOCs would be available from January 2009. This instrument will then be used as of January 2009. Furthermore, the thickness and flatness tests will also be strictly enforced.
- Racket control procedure would be further tightened in two phases as follows:
 - Effective immediately, the racket will be tested once before the match, if the test fails, the player plays his/her match with another racket and this racket will be tested immediately after the match.
 - From July 1st 2009, all players would have the possibility to make one voluntary test but all rackets will be tested after the match.
 - Players with rackets that fail any after-the-match tests will be disqualified from the tournament. Repeat offenders would be suspended. The details of a failed test consequence will be finalized in due time.

It was also decided that Mr. Odd Gustavsen and Ms Judit Faragó should decide on a plan of action to train racket controllers between now and December 2008.

In order to avoid problems with racket coverings coming off the list without prior notice, it was decided that List 29B would be valid until 30th June 2009. The next list (List 30) to be published on 1st April 2009, valid immediately for new additions and valid from 1st July 2009 for deletions. It was decided that Mr. Adham Sharara assisted by Mr. Jordi Serra would prepare a document for the National Associations and manufacturers including all decisions made at the present meeting. The Technical Leaflet T9 on Racket Control presented by Mr. Odd Gustavsen was approved and will be published shortly. Mr. Odd Gustavsen was also requested to make a proposal to the EC in December regarding testing fees for new substances such as boosters and tuners.

12. Women's Working Group update

12.1 Meeting in Malaysia

Ms Claude Bergeret made a comprehensive report of the activities of the WWG since the WWC in Malaysia, 6-8 October, including the WWG meeting, meeting with players and the Pan American Women's Forum in Argentina. It was said that all the directors would be invited to the WWG meeting in Yokohama to discuss gender equity strategies to be implemented within their new departments.

12.2 Budget 2009-2012

The budget submitted by the WWG to the EC was discussed at length. Item referred to the EC meeting in Madrid for final decision.

13. Anti-doping

13.1 2009 Anti-doping code

It was reported that the new WADA anti-doping code would come into effect on 1st January 2009. The EC accepted the new rules as application of the new code with the provision that these rules have to be finally approved by the BOD in Yokohama.

13.2 Controls anti-doping in Pro-tour events

A plan for conducting anti-doping controls at specific events was presented and accepted.

13.3 Out-of-competition tests

It was reported that the ITTF, in accordance with WADA recommendations, would conduct a certain number of out-of-competition tests during this year. The EC accepted that 20 tests for 10 men and 10 women would be conducted before the end of 2008, in case of any positive tests, the number of tests would be increased in 2009.

14. Ranking Penalty Appeals

Three ranking penalty appeals were presented. The appeals from Hong Kong and the USA were rejected. The appeal from Australia to be investigated further by Mr. Jordi Serra before a final decision is rendered.

15. New eligibility rule. Implementation/ waiting period

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the new rule had been accepted relatively well by the table tennis community in general, however, it was necessary to clarify the eligibility waiting period and interpretation of retroactivity as was promised to the Board of Directors. After discussion it was decided that the interpretation of the retroactivity would be as follows:

That a player who has obtained nationality before 1st September 2008, and that was otherwise eligible to represent a new association by the rule in effect immediately before 1st September 2008, would maintain the eligibility and would not be subject to the new rule. This interpretation would come into effect immediately.

16. Competition Managers Duties

A list of duties and a checklist for the Competition Managers was presented by Ms. Judit Farago and discussed. It was reported that a Competition Manager seminar was being organised, February 2009, in Doha. Dates and type of training course to be confirmed.

17. World Cup playing system

Ms Judit Faragó was requested to present a new playing system for the world cup events, which would give the continental representatives more exposure and better chances of playing against each other. Item referred to the EC in Madrid before submitting to the BOD for approval in Yokohama.

18. Continental Development Agreements of Understanding

Mr. Glenn Tepper reported that the negotiating process was in progress and the Continental Federations had been informed of the way the funds would be

distributed. It was said that all agreements would be signed by the next EC meeting in Madrid.

19. Next Meeting (Madrid, 7 December 2008)

The next EC meeting will take place on the 7th of December 2009 in Madrid.

20. Any other business

20.1 Virtual Olympic Congress

Information was distributed about the IOC virtual Olympic congress and all were encouraged to participate in the congress.

20.2 ITTF hopes

Mr. Mikael Andersson explained that it would be good to invite on a trial basis some players under the cadet age to participate in junior events. He was requested to present a pilot project to the EC in Madrid.

20.3 Responsibilities

Due to the fact that Ms. Judit Farago was now a Director and vacated her Vice President position, it was decided that Ms Judit Faragó would continue to be responsible for the media until the next issue of the TTI after which Mr. Adham Sharara would take on the responsibility. She would continue to be in charge of Ranking and that she should discuss with Mr. André Damman a new policy and functions regarding ranking. Mr. George Segun would assist Mr. Kimura in all "Equipment" issues and Mr. Segun shall be responsible for the Junior Programme until the next WTTC in Yokohama, however, Ms Claude Bergeret shall attend the next Cadet Challenge as an ITTF EC representative.

20.4 Trophies at Junior World Championships

Mr. Mikael Andersson said that there was an urgent need to find a permanent solution regarding trophies to be given at the Junior World Championships and Junior circuit events. Mr. Andersson will take the necessary steps as needed.

- Mr. George Segun reported that the next AGM of the African TTU would take place in November during the African Championships (November 22-29, 2008).

21. Adjournment

The meeting on Saturday was adjourned at 17h12. Meeting resumed on Sunday at 9h00 and ended at 11h46.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara