

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2)

MINUTES

Of the Executive Committee Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation held on 23rd August 2008 at 15:00 hrs at Hotel Park Plaza Beijing Science Park, Beijing, China.

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

The President welcomed the EC members. As a first evaluation of the Games he expressed his satisfaction for the excellent services delivered by BOCOG, mainly through the work of the volunteers, the very good presentation of the table tennis events and a perfect technical implementation. There is still some room for improvement concerning the position of the Olympic Family stands (too low and too visible to the TV cameras) and the placement of the score devices obstructing the correct view of the field of play from part of the spectator seats.

A survey to the National Associations and media to evaluate the new format of team events will be prepared and sent out soon. The President also highlighted the presence of High officials in the table tennis events like the President of China, Mr. Hu Jintao, and the IOC President, Mr. Jacques Rogge. The President also warmly thanked Mr. Yang Shuan for all his help to the ITTF over the last years and during the Games. Finally, the President said that in his opinion the table tennis events at the Olympics in Beijing would remain in our memories as a great success.

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

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Mikael Andersson	(after point 7 of the agenda)

3. **Approval of Agenda**

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

- 11.1. World Championships- Yokohama and Moscow
- 11.2. Pro-tour changes
- 11.3. Official resignation of Ms. Judit Faragó from the EC

4. **Selection of the Education and Training Director**

16 applications were received for this position of which four were retained by the Selection Panel (Mr. Adham Sharara and Mr. Neil Harwood) for interviews. All four applications were considered very good and with very good specific skills. The 4 applications retained were from Mr. Mikael Andersson (Sweden/Canada), Mr. Bernard Bousigue (France), Dr. Zoran Djokic (Serbia) and Dr. Miran Kondric (Slovenia). Finally after concluding the interviews, the Selection Panel recommended to the EC to offer the position to Mr. Mikael Andersson, starting 1st January 2009. If Mr. Andersson declines the offer a second round of interviews will be conducted.

5. Constitution Working Group. Update and timelines

Several changes were made to the Constitution at the 2008 AGM in Guangzhou based on the propositions made by the Constitution Working Group (CWG) through the Executive Committee. On 9th August an official call for the 2nd round of constitutional changes and proposals was sent out with a deadline of 30 September to receive new proposals from the Associations.

The CWG will study all proposals and prepare its final list of propositions to be submitted to the ITTF Executive Committee at its meeting in December 2008.

As an exception for 2009, in order to avoid duplication and to streamline the process, only propositions, resolutions or suggestions for changes related to the Constitution (Chapter 1 of the Handbook) made through the CWG will be accepted.

Other propositions related to Laws of Table Tennis, international regulations and world title events regulations or anti-doping rules would be submitted the regular way and according to the usual deadlines. A specific memo from the ITTF Headquarters to that effect will be sent in due time.

6. Olympic Games review timelines

The ITTF President plans to visit IOC officials (IOC Sports Director, Olympic Games Executive Director and IOC President) to evaluate the table tennis events at the Olympic Games (current format, system of qualification, etc.).

The Executive Committee asked to Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. Jordi Serra to prepare a survey to all the Associations and Media asking for opinions and improvements to be introduced to the current system. The survey will be prepared and sent out during September with a deadline for answers till 30 October. An analysis of this survey will be presented to the Olympics Commissions to be held in Madrid in December.

7. Coach education- ITTF Manual report updates

Mr. Glenn Tepper, Director of Development Programmes, reported that following the successful release of the ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Manual in Guangzhou, combining ITTF and Para Table Tennis coach education for the first time, the Arabic version had also been recently completed and was being used for the first time in Yemen at a current course. He thanked Mr. Ahmed Dawlatly for the translation and Mr. Khaled El-Salhy for the printing of the Arabic manual.

The next stage, the Advanced Coaching Manual, which will be used for ITTF Level 2 and ITTF Level 3 courses, has now been completed in English, Spanish and French and is at the printers. Mr. Tepper thanked the author, Mr. Philippe Molodtsov for his dedicated efforts and liaison over several years in preparation. ITTF Level 2 and ITTF Level 3 Course Conductor training will be held in Sweden, immediately after the World Cadet Challenge, for a small number of targeted coaches for each language.

8. Goodwill Fund 2009

Mr. Tepper advised that while the Goodwill Fund had included several very successful projects, the number and quality of applications was disappointing. It was thus proposed that the majority of the US\$30,000 available would be used for targeted projects with the United Nations and NGO's such as "Peace and Sport" and "Generations for Peace". The first ITTF project with the United Nations was under way in a UNHCR Refugee Camp in Yemen.

9. Ranking Penalty Points extension to team matches

Ms. Judit Farago proposed that for avoidance of doubt, the Ranking Penalty Points policy should be extended to the team matches. The extension is necessary because in 2008 the ITTF included team events for certain Pro Tour events and

starting from 2009 results of the junior and cadet team events at ITTF Junior Circuit/Open Championships will be also taken into account for the World ranking. The current policy does address team events, but to avoid any misunderstanding and to ensure uniform application of the policy, the EC accepted the precision made by Judit Farago and she was asked to remind and inform the Competition Managers accordingly.

10. Next Meeting (Paris, 11 and 12 October 2008)

The next EC meeting will be held in Paris, France, on 11 and 12 October, with expected arrival on 10 October and departure on 13 October.

Following the Paris meeting, the plan for the next EC meetings was approved as follows:

- Madrid, Spain, 7/8 December 2008
- Doha, Qatar, 20/21 February 2009
- Yokohama, Japan, during the World Championships 2009

11. Any other business

11.1. World Championships. Yokohama and Moscow

Ms. Claude Bergeret informed that the next Coordination visit to Yokohama is planned for January 2009 and the Coordination team will be formed by her, Mr. Marius Widmer, Mr. Didier Leroy, Mr. Jordi Serra and Mr. Anders Thunstróm (TMS).

It would be necessary to decide soon about the results system to be used in Yokohama.

Ms. Claude Bergeret requested to speed up the signature of the contract for the World Championships to be held in 2010 in Moscow.

11.2. Pro-tour changes

The changes proposed in writing by Ms. Judit Farago at the previous EC meeting were formally approved as presented.

11.3. Official resignation of Ms. Judit Faragó

Ms. Judit Farago officially presented her resignation as Executive Vice-president from 1st September 2008 in order to start her new duties as ITTF Competition Director. She sincerely thanked the EC members for the excellent collaboration during her mandate as Vice-President and she hoped to continue the same cooperation in her new position.

Mr. Adham Sharara's final remarks were addressed to Mr. Yang Shuan, as BOCOG Sports Director. He emphasized that BOCOG should be very proud of the achievements and for the very good image of China given to the world through the Olympic Games. A big change is now coming to China through a young new generation, which is confident, happy and with big hopes for the future. The entire table tennis family thanks very much BOCOG and their representatives, especially Mr. Yao Zhenxu for the excellent organization provided to our sport.

12. Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 16:15 hrs.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara