

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held on Friday, 5 December 2014 at 09h00 in the Fujian Hotel, Shanghai, China.

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all the members of the Executive Committee and the guests invited to the meeting, in particular those, for whom it was the first EC meeting to attend. The EC agreed that Ms. Polona Cehovin would take the Minutes. The President also thanked Mr. Shi for the warm welcome in China and congratulated the Organizing Committee for the excellent organization so far.

Two presentations followed:

- The President presented to Mr. Shi two balls signed by the 2014 Youth Olympic Games champions as the latest pieces of donations to the ITTF Museum in Shanghai.
- The Deputy CEO presented a gift to Mikael Andersson, who was leaving the ITTF in 2015 after 16 years of service. The innovative projects introduced together with the Global Junior Program have represented a new approach in managing programs for promising juniors from around the World. The President – on behalf of the Executive Committee - expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr. Andersson for his contribution to table tennis. Mikael Andersson used the opportunity to thank the President, current (Thomas Weikert) and former (Adham Sharara), the ITTF EC, in particular Melecio Rivera and Chérif Hajem, and all the staff and colleagues. The President thanked him for his contribution in changing the landscape of our sport at youth level and wished him on behalf of the ITTF the best of luck with the sport consultant company, which he has established recently.

2. Roll call

Thomas Weikert	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Bruce Burton	Executive Vice-President
Patrick Gillmann	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President
Masahiro Maehara	Executive Vice-President
Melecio Rivera	Executive Vice-President
Shi Zhihao	Executive Vice-President
Petra Sörling	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
April Kwok See Yu	Athlete Representative – ex officio (Replacing Vladimir Samsonov)

In attendance

Judit Faragó	CEO
Glenn Tepper	Deputy CEO
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Raul Calin	Events & Olympic Games Expert (Competition)
Polona Cehovin Susin	Director (Education and Training)
Anders Thunström	Managing Director (TMS)
Sachiko Yokota	Japan Table Tennis Association (Item 11 only)

- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda with the addition of the following items:
15.1.3 – Eligibility case, Para athlete
15.4 – President’s position

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (22 August 2014): the minutes of the meetings held on 22 August 2014 were approved and signed by the President (Deputy President at that time) on behalf of the previous President, who chaired the meeting.
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no further business not covered by the agenda.
- 4.3 Report and review of tasks from past EC meetings: the Executive Committee noted that:
- The Constitution will be reviewed at a later date to be determined.
 - Marketing Director’s consultation with the Athletes’ Commission regarding a package of services for top ranked players is in progress
 - Online education platform to be used by the URC: the discussion is in progress.
 - The Technical Leaflet (TL) was amended as requested for the ball and the process is still ongoing for other TLs for “Made in” marks.
 - The signature of the Agreement with FISU is pending.
 - Hospitality at World Tour events: the possibility of revising the various options is under discussion, but there will be no change for 2015.
 - New hand signals testing for Umpires: the system will be tested at the Global Junior Circuit Finals in Paraguay.

5. Operations Program: the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 Museum move to Shanghai:
- With the help of the Chinese experts the collection was packed and shipped to China in November 2014, where it was successfully received. The first part payment to ITTF shall be paid in January 2015. The exhibition should open beginning of next year at the temporary place. The new building positioned in the EXPO area is planned to be finished in 2017, until that time the exhibition will be placed at the Chinese Table Tennis College in an area of 1,500 square meters.
 - The Curator, Chuck Hoey, will remotely coordinate the travelling collection for the WTTC while Mr. Yao will be responsible of the coordination of the set up on the spot. Long-time sponsor of the travelling ITTF museum, Liebherr received some items from the ITTF as a donation before the collection was shipped to China. Plans to extend the support to the Museum are in progress.
- 5.2 Merit award:
- 112 ITTF Merit Awards have been presented in the period 1988 to 2014. In order to keep the standards high the criteria are looked at

in details and with sensitivity: 40 points is the minimum to be eligible to be considered for the award; a shortlist of 10 candidates should be presented to the EC every year and the EC shall decide on the final number, with more awards in the first year;

- It is also important to be flexible when considering the duration of the service that is cumulative (min. 12 years to be in line with the Olympic cycle), while the allocation of points will be executed on a proportional method, considering 2-year ranges instead of 4 years.
- The first awarding with the new policy will occur in 2016; therefore nominations will need to be made in 2015.
- The approved criteria for the ITTF Merit Award will be published so that National Associations are familiar with them.

1-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee approved the new policy proposed by the Nominations Committee for ITTF Merit Awards with the amendments in cumulative calculation of years of service and proportional service periods. The ITTF Merit Awards will be awarded the first time with the new policy at the 2016 AGM.

5.3 Hall of Fame nomination:

- It is mainly intended for players with 5 gold medals/titles at the World Championships or Olympic Games but in few cases officials were also nominated. The registration is carried out by the Curator.
- The EC proposed to introduce also the former President, Mr. Sharara, due to his long service as President, but it was agreed that such introductions shouldn't occur as long as the nominees are active.
- The presentation of the nomination has been done during the Annual General Meetings so far, but the possibility to do it at the Star Awards instead should be analyzed.

5.4 Nominations for WADA Committees:

- ITTF nominated 3 candidates for the various positions of WADA committees; Primorac for Athletes, Kondric for Education, and Dr. Matsuo for Medical committee, but none were elected. Nevertheless, the nominations show the importance that ITTF is giving to WADA and the fight against doping.

5.5 Timelines and deadlines related to 2015 AGM & BoD:

The most crucial dates are confirmed as follows:

- 28 January 2015: deadline for AGM & BoD Proposals to be presented to ITTF;
- 28 February 2015: deadline for the nominations for Committees, and AGM & BoD documents to be published;
- All the other dates have to be fixed with the WTTC organizing committee before the Prospectus is ready in order to be published at the same time.
- The next EC meeting will be held 6-7 February 2015 and hosted by Singapore Table Tennis Association.

5.6 Junior Program Commissioner:

The Junior Commission is the last remaining commission within the ITTF structure apart from the Athletes Commission, which is very specific with a special peer-election procedure following the IOC policy.

- To be consistent a structural change to the Commission is made by keeping the continental representation with 6 members, i.e. Commissioners, whereby one of them would be nominated for the ITTF Junior Commissioner position, which is the same structure as for Technical Commissioners. The ITTF Junior Commissioner and the 5 Continental Junior Commissioners would meet once per year at the WJTTC with hospitality paid.
- The EC will present the Junior Commissioner Terms of Reference to the 2015 BoD for approval.

2-EC-12-2014

- The Executive Committee will present a Junior Commissioner "Terms of Reference" (TR) to the 2015 Board of Directors for approval. The TR will reflect a structural change of the Junior Commission introducing 6 Continental Junior Commissioners, one of them appointed as ITTF Junior Commissioner. Approval by the BoD would confirm the change.
- The nominations for the Continental Junior Commissioners would be received from the Continental Federations with the endorsement of their respective National Associations, while the ITTF Junior Commissioner would be nominated by the EC from the 6 Continental Commissioners.

5.7 Directives for Match Officials:

- The EC confirmed an increase of the per-diem payments to Officials, depending on the status of the events from US\$20 to US\$25 and from US\$25 to US\$30 from 1 January 2015, which was wrongly indicated in the Handbook, therefore the EC agrees that ITTF will cover the difference retroactively from 1 September 2014.
- Besides, there has been confusion about the regular implementation date fixed to "seasons" instead of calendar years, which is difficult to follow.
- Based on the above fact the EC proposes that in the future all the changes will come into effect in the beginning of each year, i.e. on the 1st of January unless otherwise specified, when also the new Handbook will be published.

3-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee will present a proposition to the AGM requesting that Handbook and rules changes implementation be aligned with the calendar year (January 1st).

6. Competition Program: the Executive Committee noted that:

6.1 Youth Olympic Games report

- According to the recent IOC briefing the YOG was a huge success that surpassed the expectations with 3.6 out of 4 points in the assessment (90%). When assessing the YOG, ITTF, i.e. the OPC,

shall put all the possible focus on the points of the 2020 Agenda: encouragement of mixed events, participation of women, innovations and new sports.

- The YOG summer edition will be moved to 2023 (instead of 2022) in order not to clash with the winter edition of the Olympic Games.
- As far as the Table Tennis events are concerned, the Nanjing YOG were very successful too, however, too many matches were played, which was also hinted by the Junior Commission and the Marketing Program. With the aim to make it more exciting the possibility of removing the Consolation part should be considered, which would also allow a better showcase of our sport, since more matches would be played on 1 table.
- Marketing presented the possible new concept of “Urban Table Tennis” at the Junior Commission and it was very well accepted. It needs to be checked if it would be possible to introduce it as a test discipline at ITTF events and at the 2018 YOG in Argentina.

6.2 2014 World Junior Championships

- Shanghai offered probably the best technical conditions ever, especially the layout of the hall, and equally excellent conditions were provided in the training hall.
- The original agreement concerning TV broadcasting included 2 days, while eventually it was extended covering also the semifinal matches in teams events.
- The only inconveniences that occurred were the lunch times (finishing at 14h00), but the Organizers tried to negotiate with hotels; and the relatively poor Internet connections, in the hotel and in the venue, which disrupts the administration work. This matter needs to be discussed with CTTA and the 2015 WTTC Organizing Committee in order to assure that dedicated lines are stable and not blocked.

6.3 2015 World Championships update:

- Two meetings with the Organizing Committee were held; one covering marketing and TV, while the other one was about technical matters. It was noted that:
 - The WTTC will be held in the Suzhou International Expo Center that with its 3 floors allows having everything under one roof.
 - In the main halls there will be 8 competition tables and all the remaining tables will be positioned in the second hall. The training hall is connected with the main one.
 - One floor contains all the necessary office and meeting facilities that allow also holding the AGM and all the committee meetings.
 - All meals will be served in the hotels, therefore, transportation will be crucial. However, the hotels are close to the venue.
 - The capacity of the main hall including the mobile seats is around 6,000; more could be added when some competition tables are removed.
 - Due to some changes in the system the sales of tickets will start in mid-January. The online platform will be available in Chinese and English.

6.3.1 Hospitality rate, entry, cancellation and visa deadlines:

- The Organizing Committee proposed the rate of 140€/person in double room and 180€ in single room for those not entitled to free hospitality.
- Different deadlines, including the one for Cancellations, still need to be fixed.
- It is agreed that only the Visa application deadline is relevant and it needs to be as close as possible to the Final Entries deadline, ideally one week later. On the other hand the Visa Interview deadline is not necessary.

4-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee confirms the hospitality rates for the WTTC as presented by the Organizing Committee - 140€/person in double room, 180€ in single room

6.3.2 Continental participation pre-requisite

- For Asia 2 events will be considered, i.e. the 2013 Asian Championships and the 2014 Asian Games.
- The ITTF-African Championships - scheduled for November 2014 in Sudan - were cancelled, and will be held in Egypt at the end of January; if a further delay occurs, the EC will have to decide by email regarding the policy on African participation at the 2015 WTTC.

6.4 2016 World Championships update, host team proposal:

- The Organizing Committee presented a request to add the host team to the Championship Division and the EC agreed to propose to the BoD to adopt such a system from 2016 on, provided the team isn't already qualified otherwise.
- From the marketing and promotion point of view such an intervention shall be beneficial, especially considering the other possibility, i.e. to add a table to the main hall, where the host team would play in lower division, but this would be hardly explained to the media and the public.
- It is important to note that this action won't affect the current qualification and playing system as the difference will be in having one team less from the world ranking, which will be known in advance as the selection takes place just before the WTTC (for the 2016 WTTC in January 2016)

5-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee to propose to the Board of Directors that at the World Team Championships the host association would have the option to have its teams included in the top division regardless of their ranking.

6.5 2017 World Championships update:

- The German Table Tennis Association had to confirm and chose a host city after the BoD approved changes to organizational conditions in 2014. In an internal bid, Stuttgart, Dortmund and Dusseldorf presented their bids and eventually Dusseldorf was selected.
- The venue is an exhibition center and the main hotel is connected with the venue, which has the capacity of 9,000 seats. The other hotels will be located in 10-15 minutes drive.
- The Organizing Committee will propose hospitality rates that need to be confirmed by the EC.
- The Organizing Committee proposes the dates of the Championships from Monday, 29 May to Monday, 5 June 2017; this is a holiday period in Germany, therefore, many advantages can be expected in terms of TV broadcasting and spectators/tickets. However, the possible clash with Ramadan needs to be considered too before confirming the dates.

6-EC-12-2014

- The Executive Committee confirmed the selection of Dusseldorf as host city for the 2017 WTTC. The first inspection visit to be performed by the Competition Program in January 2015, when the venue, the hotels and all the other facilities and conditions will be checked.
- The German Table Tennis Association is requested to make a presentation at the AGM in 2015, where the allocation of the event has to be reconfirmed by the AGM after all conditions and detailed are announced.

6.6 Ratification of the 2015 World Tour official documents

The following changes were presented and proposed:

- The rationale behind the changes is to make the events more attractive for the TV and media especially in the Super Series.
- Further investigation in sport presentation should follow, in order to have the events presented in a more professional and consistent way, including fixed schedule for the last 3 days with more matches on 1 table.
- Suggested change in the playing system for the Super series: 32 players in the main draw (16 seeded and 16 qualified).
- The minimum prize money has been raised in all 3 tiers; in the 2015 calendar there are 6 Super, 6 Major and 11 Challenge Series events plus the Grand Finals.
- For the Challenge series the number of days is set to 5 days and 6 events, whereby TV production needs to be secured for at least 1 day (before it wasn't compulsory).
- For the Grand Finals the prize money will be redistributed: from USD1,000,000 to USD500,000; the incentive didn't result in an increased interest in qualification. However, with the redistribution each tour event will have more prize money, and the total fund for the World Tour is increased to USD3,000,000 (USD240,000 increase compared to 2014).
- The documents were ready for distribution.

7-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee ratified all the proposed changes and modifications related to the GAC Group 2015 World Tour. Any possible future changes for 2016 and beyond will be analyzed after a review of the Series.

6.7 Ranking system 2015 and testing:

- For the 2015 World Ranking System a new Bonus category, B5 – “Regional Events and Other Open International Competitions (all age categories)”, will be introduced.
- In the B4 Bonus Points category the “Multi-Sport Competitions” should not be listed to avoid not being complete, instead only the general reference has to be kept.
- A compression of the January 2015 ranking will be performed (last time done in 2010) in order to make the gap between players smaller, which allows more dynamics in terms of movements.
- The conditions to enter on the World Ranking List will be relaxed, which will result in achieving initial player status easier and increase the overall number of players on the List.
- In relation to the 4 months inactivity period it was noticed that the status of these players was confusing as they were not allocated a nominal position, but they still appeared on the World Ranking List and if participating at a certain events they were considered on the seeding list. 3 different options were presented:
 - a) To continue with the current system;
 - b) To put on a separate list the inactive players, i.e. to create and Inactivity List, from which the inactive players would still be considered for seeding, but not for the selections, qualifications and invitations for specific tournaments); and
 - c) Players with 4 months inactivity are shaded and receive an inactivity warning, but keep their ranking position and consequently are considered as active players in terms of seeding, selection, qualifications and invitations, which was the former system.

8-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee approved the 2015 World Ranking System with all the presented changes, and decided to create an “Inactivity List”: Players with 4 months inactivity (grey shaded) are indicated on a separate list. Players on the “inactivity list” are considered for seeding purposes, but not for selections, qualifications and invitations to specific tournaments.

- A comprehensive analysis with different testing calculations shall be carried out based on the assumption that the World Ranking system doesn’t support in the best possible way the ITTF competition properties, which makes it very difficult to sell them effectively.
- The system needs to be reviewed together with the Athletes Commission as some anomalies are occurring, for example the participation at the World Tour has a minor impact on the World Ranking List.
- The proposal is to test different ranking systems that will be run in parallel to the current one allowing comparisons.

- There will be 5 different tests to be run, 3 of them proposed by the Athletes Commission.
- A working group will be nominated composed by the following members: the President, 1 representative of the Athletes Commission, 1 staff member, the Technical Commissioner. For the future it is recommended to involve also other external stakeholders and coaches, journalists and players from different levels/strengths in order to get an as objective picture as possible.
- No major changes should be adopted before the 2016 Olympic Games.

6.8 2014 Men's World Cup Jury decision: The EC noted that:

- The first punitive option was full disqualification of the player Zhang Jike due to misbehavior in the finals was requested by the Referee, however, the Jury decided to only forfeit the prize money.
- In case of disqualification, Zhang Jike would have forfeited title, ranking points and prize money.
- It needs to be mentioned also that Zhang Jike didn't attend the draw, which according to the Prospectus is obligatory. The provided reason was sickness, however, the Chinese Table Tennis Association claims that permission for absence was granted by the Competition Manager, which needs to be checked again.
- The Chinese Table Tennis Association accepted the disciplinary measure at the event, but in their appeal they requested the ITTF EC to specify better in the regulations the possible discipline measures/sanctions and in particular the procedures, the decision-makers and the authority of the jury; according to their understanding they can decide about appeals, but not about sanctions, which would mean that the Referee's decision would stand.
- The standing point of the jury was that the severity of the fine should be seen from a broader point of view and also that they actually didn't react on an appeal, but on the decision of the Referee.
- In order to learn from this unpleasant experience the EC agrees to review closely the rules and the definition of the roles of the Officials.

9-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee ratified the decision of the Jury taken at the 2014 Men's World Cup, which was to sanction the misbehavior of Zhang Jike in the final by forfeiting his entire prize money and use it for a Fair Play award in the next 3 years.

6.9 Junior and cadet events

6.9.1 2015 World Cadet Challenge format

- Based on the outcome of a meeting with the Team Managers at the 2014 World Cadet Challenge called by the Executive Vice-president in charge of the area, it was noted that 5 out of 6 continents were in favor of keeping the current playing system including the Hopes Team as the 8th team.
- In fact, the newly introduced concept for the Hopes Team that features having all the players accompanied by their coaches and the entries and logistics carried out by their respective

national Associations proved to work well and also to be educational in terms of legacy.

- For the future the introduced measures for the Hopes Team, new coaching concept, indemnity forms/travel arrangements and insurance should be kept and together with the gender-wise mixed management teams recommended to all the participating teams.
- Team North America: based on the team composition rules that apply for the World Cadet Challenge each team should be composed by 4 players from 4 different National Associations. In the past this composition wasn't possible for North America, but with the new member on the continent it has become feasible provided players of the appropriate age category will be developed in due time. Another option that could be analyzed and was raised at the Junior Commission meeting is the possibility to include the English-speaking Caribbean National Associations to Team North America solely for this purpose (without any other implications).

10-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee agreed to maintain the current playing system and format for the 2015 World Cadet Challenge, and maintain the Hopes Team as the 8th participating team.

6.9.2 Future World Cadet Challenge concept 2016 onwards

- The possible introduction of the World Cadet Championships wasn't supported by the Continental Team Managers present at the meeting held during the 2014 World Cadet Challenge in Barbados with the explanation that its final composition would result in moving away from the development aspect.

11-EC-12-2014

Bids for the organization of the 2015 and 2016 World Cadet Challenge events, with the current playing system and format, to be published and circulated worldwide.

6.9.3 2015 World Junior Championships update

- An inspection visit of Vendespaces in France, the host of the 2015 World Junior Championships, was carried out in mid-October 2014.
- The venue is very good, however, the level of hotels could be questionable since it's a small town.
- Nantes is identified as the main arrival Airport, but the Organizing Committee will also provide assistance for those taking the train from Paris.
- The French Table Tennis Association should always be acknowledged as the Organizing Committee of the 2015 WJTTC.

6.9.4 Ratification of the allocation of the Global Junior Circuit Finals to Paraguay

- Conditions: the same venue was used for the 2014 ITTF-Latin America Cup in June and it was successfully organized.
- The equipment has already been shipped to the destination.
- The EC already agreed by email to the allocation of the event in order to start preparations on time.

12-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee ratified that Paraguay is allocated the organization of the 2014 Global Junior Circuit Finals.

7. Marketing Program: the Executive Committee noted that:

7.1 TMS International update:

- The contract package with DHS was extended until 2020.
- Butterfly also extended their sponsorship that includes the WTTC, the World Junior Program, the Hopes Program and African events for 4 more years, whereby the contract still needs to be finalized.
- The agreement with TV Tokyo has been extended with the approval of the Japanese Table Tennis Association to 2020; the agreement features all the World Title events.
- Sportsman Group: an agreement has been reached with reasonable increase related to streaming for 4 more years until 2020 with the option for 4 more years later on.
- The contract with Liebherr for WTTC and World Cups expires in 2015; an offer was made by TMS to renew for 4 years with the possibility to evaluate the events in terms of marketing appeal and potential. One of the conditions of the sponsor is to have Eurosport coverage.
- Dusseldorf Men's World Cup: Enlio flooring quality caused problems (too slippery) so that it had to be replaced with local flooring. This deficiency must be fixed otherwise they cannot continue being suppliers for World events.
- Discussion with TV Neo Sports from India is practically concluded, which is a potential for a market with great prospects.

7.2 Marketing income received from TMS in 2014:

- USD 6,300,000 marketing income was generated, which is in line or even exceeds the expectations for 2014.

7.3 Special projects: Trick-shot contest, Star-Award Gala:

- The Star Award Gala, that generates some profit, but above all a lot of media attention, was moved to Dubai although originally planned to be held in Bangkok. The venue will be the Armani Hotel at the foot of the Burj-Khalifa tower.
- The promo video presented has been launched for the 6 awards plus a fair play award; a special Nomination Panel in combination with online voting takes the decision about the awards.
- The Trick-shot contest wasn't as successful as in the first year. It is necessary to rethink the concept and continue looking for other ways on how to involve the fans.

13-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee appoints the Media Committee Chairman as the official in charge of the area related to special awards projects.

8. Development Update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- The structural changes of Development and Education staff were presented and also communicated by email.
- Beside the expansion of the Table Tennis membership the provision of good service to the existing members is very much in the spotlight of the Development Program. In line with this objective a new philosophy, ITTF DNA, i.e. Developing National Associations, was launched and a new logo introduced; staff and course conductors will also receive new shirts with this logo in due course.
- All the Development Programs within the Continental Development Agreements were running according to the plan.
- A meeting with the representatives of the Asian Table Tennis Union was held in Shanghai with the aim to finalize the Continental Affiliation Agreement in the near future.
- "Sao Tome & Principe" presented their affiliation request on the 5th of December 2014, which needs to be endorsed by the EC before being presented at the AGM during the 2015 WTTC.
- The Deputy CEO made a visit to Haiti to inspect the new Olympic Youth Development Centre, to which ITTF and DHS provided equipment, and also met with AHTT to discuss funding and assistance. A junior tournament was also attended, and a good level of participants, which shows programs were working.
- In 2015 a World Table Tennis Day [WTTD] will be introduced, which is in line with "Sport for All" movement. 6th of April was chosen linked to the IOC and UN's "International Day on Sport for Development and Peace". A brochure with all the details and recommendations related to the various options for organization will be circulated shortly. This new initiative needs to be promoted well and above all embraced by the National Associations.
- A 3-year ParaTT project with a budget of USD70,000 was agreed with UNOSDP and allocated to Nepal.
- Awards:
 - Foundation for Global Sports Development: High level athletes that contributed significantly to humanitarian projects; ITTF nominated Peter Karlsson and Sarah Hanffou, and Peter Karlsson won in his category with an award of USD10,000.
 - Beyond Sport: ITTF was shortlisted among the top 3, and 1st place eventually went to Rugby.
 - Al Maktoum Dubai awards: Hockey won the main award in 2014, while the Egyptian PTT player, Ibrahim Hamato, received the Creative Sports Awards.
- 3 films were produced recently: a longer and a shorter version from the Uganda UNOSDP project and one about the cooperation with UNOSDP in general.
- The first ever China in Africa training camp, supported by the Chinese Table Tennis Association and DHS, was successfully held in Tunisia in September 2014. Following the very positive feedback and outcome the Chinese

Association is interested in the continuation of the project, preferably on another continent in 2015.

14-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee endorses the application for ITTF membership of "Sao Tome & Principe" to be presented to the AGM for approval to become the 221st member of the ITTF.

9. Education and Training Update: the Executive Committee noted that:

- The "With the Future in Mind" program of scholarships, financed by Olympic Solidarity, is running well and expanding. Besides the budget provided under a special agreement with ITTF, Olympic Solidarity approved also scholarships worth USD314,000 targeting athletes for Rio in the period 2015-2016.
- The "Road to Nanjing" Training Camp, supported by Liebherr, GSD and Olympic Solidarity, was according to many the best ever ITTF organized camp for juniors, thanks in particular also to the host, the Chinese Table Tennis College, and the support of the Chinese Association.
- The "Culture & Education" program at the YOG was very successful, in no small part due to the nomination of the Athletes' Role Models – Wang Liqin and Jorgen Persson, who both did an excellent job.
- The "Hopes Program" has been revised and a new concept developed for 2015: with the aim to serve as an educational tool in the area of Talent Identification and with the ambition to actively involve the Continents and National Associations. The Continental phase will be introduced and made compulsory to qualify for the 2015 World Hopes Week & Challenge that in the future will feature a limited number of participants, players and coaches.
- The "Hot Spots" network is under revision; the entrance criteria and the conditions for the maintenance of the status will be made stricter and the Academy level will be introduced.
- The "Online Educational Platform" has just been updated and modernized. In the near future more and better content will be provided, starting in the area of coach education that will include videos that will be produced in cooperation with the Singapore Office.
- The "Real-Winner" online module for anti-doping education has been made compulsory for selected categories of players and coaches such as World Cadet Challenge, World Hopes Team, and ITTF L3 Coach Education, and the plan for the near future is to adopt a similar approach for Real-Player, which is focused gambling in sport education.

10. Professional Staff Update:

- Directors, Deputy CEO and CEO presented written activity reports on the period since the last meeting.
- A Progress report was sent on 30th November 2014 regarding the restructure and changes in the Professional Staff.
- A part-time Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Claudia Vatheuer, was hired to assist the President starting in October 2014.
- Significant restructuring in Development and Education for 2015, including Polona Cehovin fully focusing on Education & Training as Director; Michael Brown continues as Oceania Development Officer, but only half-time, the other half is dedicated to ITTF Development Program; Dejan Papic becomes

full-time Education & Training Coordinator; and Ahmed Dawlatly provides technical courses as ITTF Technical Expert.

- Zita Pidl concludes her work as Consultant and Mikael Andersson commences his own table tennis consulting firm in 2015.
- Vicky Eleftheriade moved to Cyprus from Singapore remaining mainly as Equipment Manager, and also partly as Assigned Competition Manager.
- Professional restructure took place at the Headquarters after Alison Burchell's contract expired at the end of 2014 and she did not accept the new contract offer as part-time (70%) Program Director, therefore she would conclude her work with ITTF at the end of the year.
- Recruiting a Program Coordinator to replace mainly Para TT and Anti-doping functions has started in the given circumstances.
- A new position was created as "Director of Operations & Olympic Games" with advance negotiations with a potential candidate.
- Habiba Besic is promoted to "Administration & Finance Manager" with increased responsibilities; Chuck Hoey's title is changed to "Honorary Curator & Historian" after the museum transfer to Shanghai.
- The President asked all staff except CEO and Deputy CEO to leave the meeting room and the CEO gave background information to the EC members "in camera" on the staff situation and the plans for future operations confirming that all decisions related to staff were done in agreement and coordination with the President and the Vice-President in charge of staff.

11. Equipment Update

11.1 Plastic balls, balls with two stamps:

- It is noted that quality, which was a major issue at the very beginning, has been improving very fast. In general the balls still break easier than the celluloid ones, but the numbers are decreasing and also the complaints from the players are fewer.
- Unfortunately the demand is still much higher than the available supplies. According to the information provided by the manufacturers they will be able to meet the demand by next year (2015).
- 2 stamps balls: the option of adding the logo of the event (or a sponsor) beside to the existing logo of the supplier has been discussed and proposed by Marketing; this would represent a new visibility opportunity for the sponsors. The suppliers don't see any technical difficulties in the implementation; therefore, it could be already in use at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. However, the proposal needs to be checked also with the players and if acceptable, such a ball should be tested at selected events and later on included in the Technical Leaflet as an option.
- Proposal shall be presented to the 2015 BoD.

11.2 Experiments at Belarus Open

Testing of the 2-color ball and the no-let rule: the ball testing was postponed because of the quality of the available balls at early stage of introduction, but survey was conducted on the plastic ball, which was useful. The reaction of the players and umpires to the no-let rule was not positive.

11.3 Rebound Racket Test

- The testing is running for possible implementation after the WTTC. The research is done in the Singapore Laboratory, but due to the illness of the responsible staff a delay may occur. The Equipment Committee is involved and was consulted to advise and provide feedback, but the involvement of the staff in charge is crucial therefore the research is postponed.
- An internal report will be distributed to the EC, as well as the ESN report.
- The proposition would need to be submitted to the BoD in 2015 only if the device and the procedure would be ready for implementation with a reasonable timeline.

12. Athletes' Commission report: the Executive Committee noted that:

- The feedback collected from the players about the 2-color ball was positive; it is easier to read the spin, however, lights might need to be adjusted in some venues and colors of the t-shirts shouldn't be too light.
- The plastic balls are becoming better, but further improvements are still needed.
- There's still some inconsistency in the judgment about the service. Several options were discussed among the athletes: additional umpire, more training for the umpires as the interpretation should be the same or further confinement of the rule.
- The no-let service proposal: it was tested at the U-21 Belarus Open, but it was confusing for those who played in more events with different rules. Also only 11 players out of 30 responded to the questionnaire.
- The fine of Zhang Jike was found too severe by the players, although they agree that a clear and transparent mechanism, which includes also discipline measures, needs to be put in place for such cases.
- The Athletes Commission would like to recommend discussion on the hospitality rates and to lower the entry fees at World Tour events one more time; it is noted that that the rates include also other services (transportation, players' lounge etc.) therefore such a proposal might not be acceptable for the Organizers.
- It is recommended that as little changes as possible, if any at all, are adopted before the Olympic Games.
- Bounce test: the players don't support it as having doubts about the current problems that don't seem to have a solution identified in the near future, for example altitude, temperature etc.

13. Para Table Tennis: the Executive Committee noted that:

- IPC Classification Code: In general it's supported and also ITTF PTT wants to work with other International Federations, but the recommendation is to keep the standardized approach for the specific classification for Table Tennis, which was a view shared by other sports, too.
- Based on the above it is recommended not to accept the item 8.7 of the proposed Code, but ITTF to keep the authority over the classification applicable in Table Tennis.

- It is noted that the establishment of an organization similar to ASOIF within the Para Sports, which would follow better the structure for sports of the able-bodied, has been discussed within IPC.

14. Planning 2014-2017, Progress Report: P5 and DBI: the Executive Committee agreed that the item is postponed to the next EC meeting in February 2015.

15. Any other business: the Executive Committee noted that:

15.1 Eligibility

15.1.1 Continental eligibility

- The President reported that at the ETTU Congress the ETTU Executive Board proposed to implement the ITTF eligibility rules; if done, some of the top players would become ineligible to participate at the European Championships.
- Depending on the interest there could be different points of view: to implement the 3 years waiting period uniformly or to re-evaluate the rule in effect since 2008. An opinion needs to be obtained also from the Athletes Commission.
- The discussion will be carried out at the next meeting, whereby further discussion will follow with other stakeholders, however the general recommendation is not to have too many different eligibility rules and to have World and Continental eligibility rules aligned.

15.1.2 Eligibility case - Singapore

- The Singapore Table Tennis Association made a request to the EC for an exemption as they didn't register 3 players earlier for World Title events based on the assumption that they can only apply when receiving the Singaporean passport: the EC was requested to retro-activate, i.e. backdate, the registration.

15-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee did not accept the appeal of the Singapore Table Tennis Association by not making any exception to the current registration rules in place.

15.1.3 Transgender case - Ireland

- The Irish Table Tennis Association requested an explanation in relation to the gender eligibility for a transgender athlete, who changed gender from male to female.
- As ITTF has never adopted any rules on this subject the EC relies on the definition of the IOC for Female Hyperandrogenism.

16-EC-12-2014

The Executive Committee decided to consider in the cases of transgender athletes the legally stated gender, i.e. the one appearing in the passport, as the official one.

15.1.4 Eligibility case – Ukraine

- An eligibility request for a Ukrainian player, Viktoriya Safonova to waive the waiting period after changing eligibility to Russia was discussed again after consultation with IOC and IPC on the matter. The IOC will keep the existing process according to the Olympic Charter for athletes from Crimea region, while the IPC expects an agreement between the two NPCs for such cases.
- According to the current rules the athlete should be able to play for Russia in individual events since she is a Russian passport holder, while eligibility for the team events and Continental Championships would be possible after 3 years only. The ITTF EC agrees to adopt the same stance.

17-EC-12-2014

Based on the presented facts and circumstances regarding the eligibility of the athlete Viktoriya Safonova, the ITTF Executive Committee decided not to grant any exceptional permission to represent her new association (Paralympic eligibility has to be decided by IPC).

15.2 Next meeting

- The next Executive Committee meeting to be held on the 7th February 2015 in Singapore.

15.3 Meetings during the Wisdom 2014 World Junior Championships:

- The OPC and DCC meetings will be held on 6th December 2014

15.4 President's position

- The President, having dual roles as the ITTF and the German Table Tennis Association President, informed the EC about the planned timelines of his resignation from position as President of the German Table Tennis Association according to the good governance policy. He also confirmed that he intends to be a candidate for ITTF President position at the next election in 2017.

16 Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting ended at 15h50.

Thomas Weikert
President

Date