



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held at 09h00 on Saturday, 27 August 2011, at the Marriott Hotel, Suzhou, China.

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President welcomed all the EC members with special mention to Vladimir Samsonov for his first EC meeting.

Mr Wang, the Vice-Mayor of the City of Suzhou, welcomed the Executive Committee to Suzhou on behalf of the Suzhou City Government, a city with a history of over 2 500 years.

- 2. Roll call**

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| Adham Sharara | President |
| Yang Shu'an | Deputy President |
| Chérif Hajem | Executive Vice-President |
| Neil Harwood | Executive Vice-President (Finance) |
| Koji Kimura | Executive Vice-President |
| Melecio Rivera | Executive Vice-President |
| Petra Sörling | Executive Vice-President |
| Thomas Weikert | Executive Vice-President |
| Vladimir Samsonov | Athlete Representative - Ex officio |

In attendance

| | |
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| Judit Faragó | CEO and Executive Director (Competitions) |
| Glenn Tepper | Deputy CEO and Executive Director (Development) |
| Jordi Serra | Executive Director (Operations & Olympic Games) |
| Alison Burchell | Deputy Executive Director (Operations) |
| Anders Thunström | Managing Director (TMS) |

Apologies

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| Khalil Al-Mohannadi | Executive Vice-President |
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- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Executive Committee approved the agenda as presented and added:

- 3.1 Hall of Fame (15.2)
- 3.2 Patent of the ball (15.3)

- 4. Minutes**

- 4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings held on 7th and 15th May 2011 were approved and signed.
- 4.2 There was no further business arising from the minutes which was not otherwise covered by the agenda.

- 5. Competitions:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 5.1 Report of the 2011 World Championships, Rotterdam:
 - the report had been sent to the BoD, all future organisers and the summary to all associations.
 - the organising committee had also provided its own report.
 - 10 responses from teams had been returned for the tournament evaluation.



- The request from the Organizing Committee for the ITTF to provide additional funding was reviewed but not accepted.
- 5.2 2011 World Junior Table Tennis Championships, Bahrain, update:
- the venue had been custom built for table tennis;
 - the contract would be signed in the near future;
 - the competition would be in 2 halls
 - 3 hotels would be used for players, event officials and ITTF officials respectively.
- 5.3 2012 World Championships, Dortmund, update:
- the date of the next inspection would be coordinated with the World Team Cup;
 - the dining area was quite a distance from the competition venue, although in the same facility;
 - ticket pre-sales had started in July 2011.
- 5.4 Bid for 2014 World Junior Table Tennis Championships:
- Shanghai is offering 2 different venues for the WJTTC and France has presented another bid.
 - the inspection of both options in Shanghai would be done on 29 August and the inspection in France (La Roche) would be done in the near future;
 - the BoD would allocate these Championships at its next meeting in Dortmund.
- 5.5 Bid for 2015 World Championships: the deadline is 30 September 2011.
- 5.6 Pro Tour Grand Final and Olympic Games test event:
- the look and feel of the event would mirror that of the Olympic Games as much as possible;
 - most of the officials and LOCOG staff would be the same as for the Olympic Games;
 - the project team was meeting regularly and the project board would meet in mid-September 2011;
 - the lighting would be slightly different;
 - the colour of the equipment would be the same as for Olympic Games;
 - the input of the players following the Pro Tour Grand Final would be taken into account to improve for the Olympic Games;
 - as there was little interest in the host broadcast rights for the event, an independent production was being considered;
 - TSA was investigating a title sponsor.
- 5.7 2012 Pro Tour system:
- the point system and the prize money allocation is being reviewed and changes will be introduced for 2012 and 2013;
 - the amount of the prize money for the Grand Final will be considerably increased to increase media visibility and awareness, the target is to offer one million dollars;
 - 15 events plus the Grand Finals were on the calendar for 2012;
 - these would be complemented by the Euro-Africa circuit so that events would be held in Egypt and Morocco and 4 hosts in Europe, from which 4 players would join the Pro Tour Grand Final;
 - satellite circuits for Asia-Pacific and for the Americas may be added in 2013;
 - TMS had taken back the rights from TSA to find title sponsor for the Pro Tour from 2012.



5.8 2012 Global Junior Circuit: the full calendar had been announced with 34 events across all continents in 2012.

5.9 Illegal On-Line Betting:

5.9.1 ASOIF and SportAccord proposals:

- both organisations had presented draft rules for inclusion by IFs in their own rules;
- the ASOIF proposal formed the basis of a recommended change to the rules for the ITTF;
- the SportAccord document presented common standards.

5.9.2 MoU with European Sports Security Association (ESSA):

- most of the online betting companies were a part of ESSA;
- through ESSA, these companies would provide the ITTF information on any illegal betting which they may detect;
- the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) had been authorised by the President to sign the MoU with ESSA.

The Executive Committee asked Mr Weikert and the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to present to the next meeting their recommendations for additional rules on illegal betting for its consideration.

6. Follow up on AGM and BoD: the Executive Committee noted that:

6.1 Ghana, India:

- the IOC had re-instated Ghana;
- the Indian government had approved a new sports law which conflicted with the IOC requirement for sports autonomy and so India could be suspended;
- Kuwait NOC remained suspended by the IOC, but ITTF lifted the suspension of the Kuwait TTA at the AGM in Rotterdam.

6.2 Athletes' Commission first report:

- a meeting would be held during the Austrian Open;
- developing an athletes' commission in each continent was proposed;
- the quality of food at some Pro Tour events was poor and should be improved;
- the world ranking should be adjusted and recommendations will be provided for implementation in 2013;
- a recommendation that entries for world championships should be restricted to 3 per country was being considered;
- Ashu Jain had been nominated to attend the IOC's athletes' forum.

6.3 Review of ITTF's committees timelines: the Review Group (Adham Sharara, Petra Sörling and Alison Burchell) would meet on 19 September 2011 in Frankfurt, with recommendations to be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting in November.

6.4 Training camp budget and host contribution at the World Cadet Challenge:

- the costs for the training camp were covered through the continental agreements;
- the training camp was compulsory;
- allocating additional funding for the training camp directly to the organiser was simpler.



6.5 Future model of the World Cadet Challenge:

- the proposed model included separating the World Junior Circuit Finals from the World Cadet Challenge;
- 2 hosts would then be selected starting 2012;
- packaging the World Junior Circuit Finals with a number of top quality events could be investigated for sponsorship purposes.

6.6 Trophies for singles events at the World Junior Championships:

- currently 2 of the equipment sponsors awarded trophies but not the third;
- the Swaythling Club International (SCI) presented a trophy;
- similarly the SCI awarded trophies for fair play and the best player at both the world individual and team championships;
- awarding the best player at the team championships may be better as the best player at the world individual championships should be the winner of the event.

The Executive Committee approved:

- a) an allocation to the organisers of the World Cadet Challenge for the training camp starting at the World Cadet Challenge for 2012.
- b) the separation of the World Junior Circuit Finals from the World Cadet Challenge with effect from 2012 to be hosted by 2 different associations.
- c) the 3 trophies to be presented by the 3 equipment sponsors, and the fair play trophy to be presented by the SCI.
- d) the award of the fair play trophy at the world individual championships and the best player at the world team championships to be presented by the SCI.

7. **Equipment:** the Executive Committee noted that:

7.1 Racket control detection group composition:

- the group had been formed as a result of the decision of the Board of Directors;
- the introduction of the thickness restriction dated back to the 1950s;
- some changes to the rules may be necessary to ensure fair play;
- the detection system to be proposed should be easily used at national level events.

The Executive Committee approved:

- a) the composition of the racket control detection group: Mikael Andersson (lead), Joachim Kuhn, Norman Tang, Koji Kimura, Vladimir Samsonov with the Equipment Manager (Vicky) as the staff support.
- b) the mandate to investigate a new device, or devices, to detect additives and to propose a method to detect additives by measuring the thickness of the racket covering.
- c) the timeframe for the report to be submitted by the EC meeting in January 2012.

8. **Olympics:** the Executive Committee noted that:

8.1 Equipment:

- the production of the equipment was on track;
- the colour of the table would be dark blue and the pantone colour numbers had to be provided;
- issues relating to the undercarriage had to be resolved;
- the look and feel of the Games involved having orange on the inside of the surrounds and a counter-proposal of red inside would be submitted to LOCOG.



8.2 2012 racket control function for the test event (2011):

- the proposed racket testing system for the Olympic and Paralympic Games should be piloted in the test event;
- following the test event and feedback from the players, the system would be implemented for the Games.

8.3 2012 London other pending issues:

- a dry run for the Olympic Games with nominated players should be done when the venue was fitted out to check all conditions including airflow;
- various arrangements for the ITTF competition manager still had to be finalised;
- final confirmation of the accommodation was awaited;
- the numbers of accreditation had been finalised but the number of guest accreditations was to be finalised;
- a book about previous Olympic champions would be produced at ITTF's cost (called "From London to London") with a public presentation being made at an historical venue to increase awareness of the sport;
- the Museum would be on show during the Games if it is possible to agree with LOCOG on this project;
- a professional presenter for the draw was being considered.

8.4 PAC recommendation for ITTF representation at the IOC:

- the PAC had proposed that the President be nominated as an IOC member as the ITTF had never had an IOC member before;
- there are 15 positions for IF Presidents membership of IOC, an investigation will be made to find out how many positions would be open in 2012;

The Executive Committee approved:

- a) the amended racket control process for the test event.
- b) the recommendation that the ITTF presents the President to become a member of the IOC.

The Executive Committee asked the President, Deputy President and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to propose a plan on how best to approach the nomination of the ITTF President to IOC membership.

9. Peace & Sport Event (Doha): the Executive Committee noted that:

- invitations had been issued to the participating associations;
- the prospectus would be issued once the associations had accepted the invitations;
- Qatar Table Tennis Association invited all Executive Committee members to the event.
- the next Peace and Sport project was for the border between Burundi and Congo, and funded by DTTB, 1 boy and 1 girl from each of the 4 villages would be selected to attend the world championships.

10. Finance: the Executive Committee noted that:

10.1 Audit panel recommendations:

- arising from the last audit, the auditors had made several recommendations on improving the internal control systems;
- these recommendations had been discussed by the audit panel;
- the recommendations related to: 2 signatories on each financial transaction; budget and budget analysis; follow up of competition finances; asset inventory; follow up of



accounts receivable; registering the ITTF on the Swiss commercial register and presenting the accounts in Swiss francs;

- several of the recommendations were already being implemented and adjustments were made to implement all recommendations.

10.2 Transfer of finances to Lausanne:

- a plan had been prepared to transfer all the finances to Lausanne by the end of 2011;
- an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages would need to be done to maintain financial and tax efficiency related to current transactions done from Ottawa.

The Executive Committee approved the recommendations of the audit panel:

- i) that as a general policy: the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) or the CEO plus one of the following: the President, Vice-President (Finance), the CEO and EC-designated staff members to be empowered to manage ITTF bank accounts.
- ii) that the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) or the CEO plus one of the following have signing power for the accounts held in Switzerland: the ITTF Vice-President (Finance), or the Deputy Executive Director (Operations), or the Executive Assistant.
- iii) to authorize the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) or the CEO to perform financial transactions on the payroll account.
- iv) to close the current Credit Suisse Para TT account (linked to the payroll account) and to open a separate one with the same authority as in ii) above.
- v) to authorize the President and Executive Secretary (2 of 2) to perform financial transactions on the accounts held in Canada.
- vi) to authorize the Marketing Director and Office Manager (2 of 2) to perform financial transactions on the accounts held in Singapore.
- vii) to request the Museum Curator and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to update the fixed asset register for the museum by 31 December 2011.
- viii) to request the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) together with the Marketing Director (Singapore) and the Executive Secretary (Canada) to update the fixed asset registers for all offices by 31 December 2011.
- ix) to request the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to follow up accounts receivable related to PTT; the Equipment Manager for equipment invoices; the Executive Assistant on all other receivables and for the relevant persons in the Canada and Singapore offices to follow up their accounts receivable on a monthly basis.
- x) to authorize the President and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to sign collectively the documents necessary to register the ITTF on the Commercial Register of the Canton de Vaud.
- xi) to request the auditors to present the financial statements in US dollars and Swiss francs with effect from 31 December 2011.

The Executive Committee asked:

- a) the Executive Vice-President (Finance) and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to implement the recommendations and report to the next meeting.
- b) the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to present an update on the transfer of finances at its next meeting.

11. New ITTF regional Offices: the Executive Committee noted that:

11.1 Singapore update:

- 2 staff had been appointed as an office administrator and marketing officer;
- the tax free status was being investigated as the application to register as a charity had been declined.



11.2 Vienna:

- was the base for the Competitions Department;
- had hosted the Hopes week recently;
- the competition manager workshop would be held there in September.

12. Professional staff update: the Executive Committee noted that:

12.1 Update report from CEO and Deputy CEO:

- the transfer of responsibilities from the President to the CEO was going well and progressing faster than expected;
- once the full transfer had been completed, this may lead the CEO and Deputy CEO to relinquish their current executive director duties;
- the draft matrix of general staff responsibilities was being developed and should be completed by the end of the year;
- an equitable salary scale system would be refined;
- job descriptions for each staff member would be reviewed and adjusted in due time;
- once all the changes are in place, the next phase would be developing a strategic and operational plan and budget guidelines.

12.2 Contract renewals:

- 6 of the 7 outstanding contract renewals had been already renewed;
- The CEO would develop a schedule for future renewals of contracts.

13. Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted the dates of future meetings:

- Manama, Bahrain: 18 November 2011 (DCC and OPC), 19 November 2011 (EC);
- there would need to be an EC meeting in the first week of January 2012.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to propose a date and place for the meeting in January 2012 as soon as possible.

14. Legal and Administration: the Executive Committee noted that:

14.1 Update on “World Championships of Ping Pong” and court case with the Sandman Group:

- a group in the USA had organised a “world championships of ping pong” in Las Vegas in February 2011;
- “ping pong” was used interchangeably with “table tennis” in the USA and this event was not sanctioned by the ITTF, so the ITTF had objected on the use of the title “World Championships” and informed the national associations with entered players accordingly;
- the organisers agreed to change the name and remove “world championships” from the title. On this basis, the ITTF gave permission to the organisers to continue and for players to participate without any consequences;
- the organisers, despite the agreement, continued to use “world championships”;
- after a meeting with the organisers and a further agreement, a legal document had been sent to the organisers who, in turn, had submitted a counter-proposal to the ITTF in which they demanded for US\$1 million as compensation to relinquish the title “world championships”;
- in the USA, registration of names and trademarks is very important, but support letters from IOC, ASOIF, USOC and USATT had been received stating that the ITTF was the recognised federation governing the sport of table tennis internationally and was the only organisation entitled to organise world championships in table tennis;
- the judge had agreed to hear a motion to dismiss the case in the near future;



- a month before the world championships in Dortmund, the organisers from the USA plan to organise the “world ping pong championships” in Asia, which could be very confusing.

14.2 Appointment of new lawyers in Switzerland: a group of lawyers specialising in sport, based in Lausanne was recommended by the Executive Director (Operations).

14.3 Changes to the 3-letter country codes to those used by the IOC:

- the ITTF’s current system (ISO) did not correspond fully to the system used by the IOC;
- 12 associations would be affected if this change was implemented;
- the ISO system would continue where there was no IOC code.

14.4 PTT Oceania: the separation of Asia and Oceania as a continent would be considered at the next PTT Division meeting to be in line with the ITTF continental structure.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to:

- i) investigate what measures other IFs were taking to protect themselves in relation to use of word marks and logos.
- ii) inform the associations affected by the change in the 3-letter codes immediately.

The Executive Committee agreed to:

- a) appoint “Libra Group” as its new lawyers in Switzerland.
- b) change the 3-letter code system to mirror that of the IOC and to use the ISO system where no IOC equivalent existed.

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

15.1 Eligibility:

15.1.1 a Chinese origin player from Slovakia had been registered 3 times in the ITTF database with 3 different dates of birth. The correct date of birth was obtained from the Chinese TTA and Chinese Olympic Committee. This is the date that the ITTF adopted as the correct date and registered it as such in the Database. The player had been correctly withdrawn from by the ETTU from the European Youth Championships.

15.1.2 a player from Brazil was not correctly registered in the ITTF’s database and eligibility list. The Executive Director (Operations) indicated that it was an administrative error as the registration information was actually received.

15.2 Hall of Fame: players who had won 5 gold medals in world championships and/or Olympic and Paralympic Games were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

15.3 Ball patent: the President and Mr Kimura raised a question of a possible conflict of interest in relation to the non-celluloid ball. Mr. Weikert was asked to investigate further into the matter and report to the EC at its next meeting.

15.4 Late payments to players:

- some prize-money payment delays were linked to late payments by sponsors;
- in other instances, the organisers were supposed to pay on site but did not do so, and the ITTF took the responsibility to pay the players.

15.5 Beyond Sport Awards: the ITTF had been nominated in this category.

15.6 Francophone Games: would be held in Nice, France with 40 countries entered for table tennis.



The Executive Committee agreed on item 15.1.2 to register the player for Brazil backdated to 1 September 2008.

The Executive Committee asked on 15.3:

- a) the President to contact the individual with a possible conflict of interest and to copy Mr Weikert on the correspondence;
- b) Mr Weikert and Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to develop a document for all volunteers to sign to prevent conflicts of interest in the future;

16. Adjournment: there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 15h23.

Adham Sharara
President

Date