



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Executive Committee held at 09h00 on Thursday **9 December 2010** in the Hotel Bratislava, Slovakia

- 1. President's welcome and opening remarks:** the President introduced Zdenko Kriz, President of the Slovak Table Tennis Association, who welcomed the Executive Committee to Bratislava on behalf of the Slovak Association and the organising committee.

The ITTF President welcomed the Executive Committee to the meeting noting the difficult weather conditions in Europe and that one team had not been able to get visas on time to participate in the World Junior Table Tennis Championships. The President congratulated China's men's and Japan's women's teams, which won the team events respectively.

The President then introduced Marcus Luer, Group CEO of Total Sports Asia (TSA), who explained their credentials and plans to seek sponsorship for the ITTF Pro Tour and to distribute the ITTF's Media (TV) content in concert with TMS International.

- 2. Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Executive Vice-President (late due to weather delay)
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

**In attendance**

Mikael Andersson	Executive Director (Education and Training)
Alison Burchell	Deputy Executive Director (Operations)
Steve Dainton	Director (Marketing)
Vicky Eleftheriade	Equipment Coordinator
Judit Faragó	Executive Director (Competitions)
Odd Gustavsen	Chairperson: Equipment Committee
Jordi Serra	Executive Director (Operations & Olympic Games)
Glenn Tepper	Executive Director (Development)
Anders Thunstrom	Managing Director (TMS)

**Apologies**

Yang Shu'an	Deputy President
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- 3. Approval of the agenda:** the Agenda was approved as presented.

- 4. Minutes**

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: the Executive Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held in Singapore on 22 August 2010.

4.2 Business arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda: there was no business arising from the minutes that was not otherwise covered by the agenda.

**5. Competition update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

5.1 World Championships update:

5.1.1 WTTC Rotterdam 2011:

- all arrangements were proceeding smoothly with 3 site visits having been completed and another would be held in February 2011;
- a title sponsor had yet to be found to support the organising committee's budget;
- 2 bulletins had been issued to the associations, ticket sales had begun and a positive meeting with the host broadcaster had been held;
- some side events were planned including consolation events, a PTT competition and leisure events;
- the draw would be held on the evening of the opening ceremony;
- a maximum of 12 hotels would be used and the transport system would have to be well planned;
- TMS would help the organisers to find additional funding.

5.1.2 WTTTC Dortmund 2012: the first inspection would be held after the German Open in February 2011 which was regarded as a test event.

5.1.3 WTTC Paris 2013: nothing to report.

5.1.4 World Junior Championships Slovakia 2010:

- technically, the event was very good;
- the transport worked well at the arrivals, despite the weather conditions;
- the promotion of the event was adequate but the meals did not accommodate all cultures;
- one player had been disqualified by the referee for bad behaviour and sent home by his team;
- the organisers had ensured that the visas for the teams would be issued but the Schengen visa system did not allow visas to be issued without complete information.

5.1.5 World Junior Championships Bahrain 2011:

- a delegation was present in Bratislava;
- 3 halls would be used for the event with 4 show court tables in the main table tennis hall;
- a test event would be held in July 2011;
- the organisers had requested that the dates be changed from 2 to 9 December 2011 to 10 to 17 December 2011 so the dates of the Pro Tour Grand Finals may move earlier in December 2011 (currently 15 to 18 December 2011).

5.1.6 World Junior Championships South Africa 2012: Cape Town had been confirmed as the venue and the African Youth Championships and SA Junior Circuit Open 2011 would be held as test events.

5.1.7 World Junior Championships India 2013: the Global Junior Challenge and Circuit Final in Hyderabad had been well organised and a site inspection would be finalised in the near future.

5.1.8 PTT World Championships 2010 and 2014:

- the organisers had presented a good event with support of the Korean TT Association for Disabled, the Korean Paralympic Committee and the Korean Table Tennis Association;
- as a result of voluntary tests done, some newly purchased rubbers had been found to be illegal;
- several matches had been included on itTV and this would be increased in 2014;
- the open event would no longer take place from 2011 following a review of the events organised at tournaments;
- Alena Kánová from Slovakia had been elected to the Athletes' Commission;

- 2 bids to host the 2014 PTT World Championships had been submitted for Lignano, Italy and Beijing, China and, following site inspections, the recommendation on the host would be submitted to the Executive Committee in February 2011.
- 5.2 General update:
- 5.2.1 Payment of debts from the WTTTC 2010:
- with the help of the relevant Vice-Presidents, all associations had been contacted to pay the outstanding fees;
  - Ecuador and Algeria had paid in full;
  - Chile had experienced some difficulties;
  - Congo Kinshasa and Angola were in process;
  - Philippines had elected a new president and the NOC had been requested to assist.
- 5.2.2 Illegal On-line Betting - ISM's early warning and ITTF certification for streaming:
- ISM would issue a survey to assess the needs of the ITTF with regards to illegal online betting;
  - monitoring costs were high and so some events would be identified for monitoring;
  - the ITTF would join ESSA, a European watchdog of illegal online betting;
  - the IOC would establish a company to monitor illegal betting;
  - any event for which the ITTF issued a certificate could be included in the monitoring system against which a fee would be charged to the organisers;
  - the service provider for streaming had agreed not to support organisers which did not have the required ITTF certification;
  - procedures would be developed shortly and implemented in 2011.
- 5.2.3 Pro Tour update:
- 982 players had participated in the Pro Tour in 2010 competing on average in 2,7 events;
  - in 2011 there would be 16 events plus the Final;
  - the main changes Pro Tour sport specific information to the for 2011 were:
    - doubles and U21 best of 5 games to be played except from the quarter finals onwards;
    - 2 days of qualification except in the Japan Open;
    - all players would have to have names on the back of their shirts failing which sanctions would be implemented.
- 5.2.4 Eagle eye system: Steve Dainton showed the EC a demonstration of what could be achieved.
- following extensive experiments on this matter, the detection of edge balls would require 6 to 8 cameras per table at a very high daily cost and, as a result, the costs may outweigh the benefits;
  - however, other innovations to enhance the experience of television viewers such as ball speed, reaction time, number of rotations were possible.
- 5.2.5 Calendar and WR inclusion policy: the main changes to the policy for inclusion of events in the calendar and world ranking were:
- including continental championships as ITTF sanctioned events where relevant;
  - limits on the number of continental and some regional events;
  - an application fee for any event to be included in the world ranking but this fee would be waived for all continental events.
  - the dates for issuing ranking list updates for 2011.
- 5.2.6 Men's World Cup:
- had been allocated to Paris in 2011;
  - applications had been received and confirmed from Austria for 2012, Belgium for 2013 and Germany 2014.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to initiate the survey to be done by ISM on online illegal betting.

The Executive Committee resolved to:

- a) ratify the recommendation on the host of the 2014 PTT World Championships at its next meeting.
- b) set the streaming and monitoring certification fee at its next meeting.
- c) approve the proposed changes to the 2011 Pro Tour sport specific information.
- d) accept the policy for inclusion of events in the calendar and world ranking as amended.
- e) allocate the Men's World Cup to Austria in 2012, Belgium in 2013 and Germany for 2014.

**6. Youth Olympic Games:** the Executive Committee noted a report that:

- ASOIF and IOC had requested feedback from the Games which had formed the basis of a meeting with all IFs held in Lausanne in November 2010;
- substantial discussion had focused on the 2 year band of age groups so the IOC had agreed to study this matter further;
- about 100 NOCs won medals at the Games;
- this could lead to a second tier of Olympic Solidarity support for young players with potential;
- the training camp was well received with the involvement of a top-class athlete role model;
- the publication was well received;
- the Junior Commission believed the teams event was successful but a reduction in the 2 round robin system in the singles may be advantageous;
- players aged 18 usually participated in the professional leagues and 14-16 would be a better group to encourage ongoing participation.

The Executive Committee asked the Junior Commission to review the age groups.

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

7.1 Kuwait:

- the IOC had not yet lifted the suspension of the NOC but it may be lifted in January or February 2011;
- the Kuwait Open was scheduled for mid-February 2011;
- 1.22.6 of the constitution stated that: *"where an Association is prepared to accept responsibility for the conduct of an event organised in its territory by an unaffiliated organisation no special permission is required, but the Association shall notify the Secretariat, which will advise all other Associations that the event is in order"*;
- thus an unaffiliated association (the proposed committee) could organise the event if the unaffiliated association had permission from the Kuwait Table Tennis Association and the ITTF did not withhold its approval;
- a proposal should be submitted to the AGM to define the suspension as affecting the participation of officials but not of the players, as well as make a distinction between a "political" suspension and a "sport" suspension;

7.2 Athletes' Commission:

- a small group of people, including ITTF staff, should be appointed to oversee the election process;
- the voting booth close to the players' entrance would be established;
- at a meeting with players at the Men's World Cup, players had asked why the players did not have a vote at Executive Committee meetings and it was explained that the player representative would have a vote at the Board of Directors.
- documents could be translated into Chinese to encourage voting;
- at the PTT World Championships, 75% of men and 76% of women had voted but 2 teams had not voted.

7.3 Review of all committees:

- all committee chairpersons and the staff member working with the specific committee had completed draft terms of reference and had been asked to identify areas of duplication and areas which were not being covered by any committee;
- the development of staffing support necessitated a change in the distribution of work to relieve the volunteers;
- the work of some committees had devolved to staff which could allow the committee to be reduced in size or to be dissolved;
- many responses were a reflection of the current status rather than looking at building for the future;
- one committee chairperson had identified that the committee could be dissolved with staff doing the work or merging with another;
- the audit panel was a committee related to governance and others may be necessary;
- the responses had been collated and a meeting to discuss them would be held soon;
- it may be necessary to advise some or all committees that their term of office would be one year instead of two in the nomination process for 2011-2013.

The Executive Committee asked the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to contact the Kuwait Table Tennis Association to facilitate the process to establish the proposed organizing committee and get the relevant permissions so that the Kuwait Open could be organised.

The Executive Committee appointed Mr Weikert (Vice President), the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) and the Deputy Executive Director (Operations) to oversee the election process for the Athletes' Commission during the ITTF World Championships.

**8. Equipment update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

8.1 Step by step guide: this had been completed.

8.2 Leaflet for players: was in the final stages of editing, would be put on the website and distributed at various events until the World Championships once complete.

8.3 Sanction process:

- upon a player failing for the fourth time, the player would be able to continue competing at the event;
- the Executive Committee would consider the suspension of the player and, if confirmed, the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) would issue a letter of suspension to take effect from the date of the letter;
- should the player wish to appeal, it would be to CAS within 3 weeks of the date of the letter during which time, the suspension would remain in effect;
- there could be another committee to consider implementing the suspension with the Executive considering an appeal.

8.4 Proposed fees for 2011: the testing fees would be increased on average by 2% with a larger increase for tables to cover the costs of the tests.

8.5 Proposed rule change:

- to rule 3.4.2.2 to read:

“ the racket covering shall be used as it has been authorised by the ITTF without any physical, chemical or other treatment, changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour, structure, surface etc *and must successfully pass all the parameters of racket control*”

- currently some players allegedly continued to use boosters and manufacturers allegedly made available rubbers which were treated post production;
- the best way to avoid cheating was for players to prepare their rackets in the racket control centre;
- a system to test for oils and an improved system to check thickness should be developed.

8.6 Research:

- an intern had proposed a measurement system with micro-pins but the system was not supported;

- a meeting would be held with EPFL to discuss equipment issues;
- another VOC measurement system had been developed at a potentially reduced cost for sale;
- the University of Lausanne together with a Swiss company was also developing a VOC testing system.

The Executive Committee agreed that racket testers' airfares be paid by the ITTF for 2011 and they should be selected from the host association in the first instance and then an international umpire close to the host.

The Executive Committee asked:

- Mr Weikert and the Executive Director (Operations and Olympic Games) to prepare some wording for the next meeting for the sanction process;
- the Equipment Committee to propose the amendment of 3.4.2.2 to the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee approved the testing fees as proposed.

- 9. London 2012:** the Executive Committee agreed to discuss all items of the agenda at the Olympic and Paralympic Commission meeting and the positioning of table tennis and comparative report for 2004 and 2008 at its next meeting.

- 10. Development Department update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

10.1 Recommendations from the Women's Working Group: the WWG had met during the Women's World Cup, developed job descriptions and had agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee and DCC that:

10.1.1 Continental Presidents be encouraged to support and integrate women's issues into the work of their respective continental Unions/Federations.

10.1.2 The WWG continental representatives, i.e. chairs of continental WWGs be co-opted into Executive bodies of continental Unions/Federations.

10.2 Other activities:

- over 100 courses and 30 equipment packages had been delivered;
- development magazine had been produced for 2009-2010;
- a number of goodwill projects were underway including the first visit to Haiti where the multi-sport facility would include table tennis;
- there were over 500 delegates at the Peace and Sport conference;
- a joint project from East Timor had been run with Peace and Sport;
- projects in Burundi and Congo would be run together with a peace tournament to be held in Qatar with identified countries.

The Executive Committee endorsed the recommendations in 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 for consideration by the DCC.

- 11. Education and Training update:** the Executive Committee noted a report that:

11.1 Athletes' development model:

- aimed to raise quality coaching, improved management and increased universality;
- an assessment of the work of education and training as well as of development should be done regularly.

11.2 World Hopes Team:

- the entries received online were sent to the national associations for endorsement;
- the training camp would be held at the Schlager Academy;

11.3 International Training centres and minimum criteria

- 27 applications from 18 associations on 5 continents had been received;
- criteria included support from the national associations.

- 12. Marketing update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- the Pro Tour title sponsorship for 2011 and 2012 were sublicensed to TSA by TMS;

- TSA had begun the process of selling television rights worldwide for areas where current rights were not sold, in cooperation with TMS, then TSA would take over the TV rights as of 2013 in return for a guaranteed amount paid to TMS;
- as a result of the increased income as of 2013, the contract with TMS may be re-negotiated accordingly;
- the contract with Volkswagen would expire at the end of 2011 but discussions about renewal were underway;
- for ITTF cash flow, due to the end of the funding received for the Olympiad, the maximum payment from TMS should be received in 2011 and 2012 and reconciled in 2013 against future commitments;
- the following sponsors had been signed since the last EC meeting:
 

Donic	Men's World Cup 2011-2013 Table Sponsor and Supplier
Joola	Global Junior Programme 2011 – 2014 Table Sponsor and Supplier
Nittaku	World Team Cup 2010 – 2013 Ball Sponsor and Supplier
Butterfly	Global Junior Programme 2011 – 2016 Ball Sponsor and Supplier WTTC 2012-2016 Table/Ball sponsor and Supplier ITTF- Africa events 2011 – 2016 Exclusive Equipment Sponsor ITTF Hopes Programme 2011 – 2016 Partner
LIEBHERR	World title events 2013 Title/Major Sponsor (extension) ITTF-Oceania Cup 2011 Title sponsor
- Stag would continue to provide flooring for the Global Junior Programme till 2016 and other support to the ITTF;
- China Unicom was considering a sponsorship proposal;
- TV-Tokyo had been signed for television rights for Japan territory from 2011 to 2016 for the World Championships, Pro Tour and Pro Tour Grand Finals;
- for 2010, US\$4,4m had to be transferred to ITTF, this amount would be exceeded;
- with TSA's involvement, TMS and the Marketing Director were able to focus on supporting the ITTF continental associations.

**13. PTT update:** the Executive Committee noted that:

- 13.1 Junior development and circuit: no progress had been made through PTT and so discussions would be held with the Development Department.
- 13.2 Integration with national and continental associations: the support of the continental associations to promote integration was essential both within the continental association and the national associations.
- 13.3 Classification code:
  - the IPC had developed the classification code as a pre-requisite for membership and all sports had to develop their own code;
  - the code set out the procedures to be followed in the classification process, protests and appeals and the initial classification profiles;
  - the code had been endorsed by the PTT Division and would be subject to modification in due course.
- 13.4 Additions to Chapter 3 and 4, directives for PTT events:
  - the proposed changes to chapter 3 were to include some PTT events as international events;
  - similarly, in chapter 4, the Paralympic Games and PTT world championships had been included;

- the directives for PTT events were the exceptions not included in either chapter 3 or 4;
- these proposals had been considered by the chair of the rules committee as well as the URC and technical committee and had been endorsed by the PTT Division.

The Executive Committee approved the classification code and supported the proposed changes to chapter 3 and 4 for consideration by the Board of Directors.

#### 14. Anti-Doping:

14.1 Amendment to T13 for the registered testing pool: the proposal was to reduce the number of senior players in the RTP and to have the RTP established for the calendar year.

14.2 SportAccord support: SportAccord had established a unit and discussions were underway to outsource aspects of the whereabouts system.

The Executive Committee supported the proposal to amend T13 for consideration by the Board of Directors to be implemented with effect from the ranking list issued on 1 July 2011.

#### 15. ITTF Regional offices: the Executive Committee noted that:

15.1 ITTF Asia-Pacific office:

- China had indicated that while it hoped that the ITTF office would remain in China, it could not assist with various issues such as being recognised as an organisation and opening a bank account;
- the offer to move office to Singapore was attractive and provided many benefits;
- a transitional period would assist the process of moving functions from China to Singapore.

15.2 ITTF-Europe office: a space had been made available to the ITTF at the Werner Schlager Academy.

The Executive Committee approved the move of the Asia-Pacific office to Singapore and would be recognized as the "ITTF Asia-Pacific Office and the ITTF Marketing Headquarters".

#### 16. Professional staff update: the Executive Committed noted:

- the final proposal for staffing would be presented to the Executive Committee's February 2011 meeting;
- a CEO position would be created with specific responsibility for staffing with a Deputy CEO with both coordinating the work of 2 departments each;
- a deputy Executive Director would be appointed to each department in due time;
- a staff-matrix would be developed for each department;
- the staff structure would probably be implemented in full by the end of 2011

#### 17. Dates of future meetings: the Executive Committee noted that its next meetings would be held in Dortmund on 26 February 2011 and Rotterdam on 7 May 2011.

#### 18. Any other business

18.1 Personal honorary membership proposal: the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the AGM and Board of Directors that **André Damman** be considered for personal honorary membership.

18.2 Junior Commission: a meeting had been held the previous day with proposals to come to the Executive Committee in due course relating to the names of competitions and the number of teams in the World Junior Championships.

18.3 Audit panel: a meeting had taken place on 30 November 2010 with the focus on drafting a risk management policy for ITTF as required by Swiss law.

18.4 Mozambique: will be the host of All Africa Games next year and a new association could be established as a result.

**19. Adjournment:** there being no further business, the meeting ended at 18h00.

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Adham Sharara  
President

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Date