

Olympics Commission

Minutes

Of the Olympic Commission of the International Table Tennis Federation, held **on 28th April 2009** at the Shin Yokohama Prince Hotel, Yokohama, Japan at 09h00.

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

The President welcomed all to Yokohama. M. Koji Kimura gave an update and information about the Opening Ceremony to be held in the evening.

2. **Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Continental President (Africa)
Stefano Bosi	Continental President (Europe)
Patrick Gillman	Continental President (Oceania)
Melecio Rivera	Continental President (Latin America)
Bruce Burton	Continental President (North America)
Shahrokh Shahnazi	Observer for Asia

Invited to attend

Yao Zhenxu Competition Manager (Beijing 2008)

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Director of Development Programmes
Judit Faragó	Competition Director
Mikael Andersson	Education & Training Director

3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. **Minutes**

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings (Madrid, Spain, 7 December 2009)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed by the Deputy President as a true record of the meeting.

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

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

5. **London 2012**

5.1 Olympic Working Group report

The report and recommendations presented by the Olympic Working Group to the Olympics Commission were discussed at length. The proposal for awarding bronze medals was dismissed and the proposal to include the mixed doubles event to the 2016 Olympic Games shall be further studied

by the group, and a proposal shall be made to the IOC Executive Board in 2013. Several changes to the qualification system were analysed and the following decisions taken:

For singles:

- To reduce to 14 (from 22) the quota of places allocated for teams and to increase the number of players directly qualified from the world ranking from 20 to 28.
- Direct qualifications would be taken from the world ranking issued immediately after the 2011 World Championships.
- To change the current system for the world qualification tournament. All players to compete from the first stage.

For teams:

- To qualify a maximum of 16 teams with one place reserved for the host and one for each Continent. All NOCs that qualify with 3 players before the Final World Qualification would be qualified for the team event directly.
- After the World Qualification, the teams with 3 players qualified would have one place in the team events. If the quota of 16 teams were exceeded, the ranking of the 2012 World Team Championships would decide the final 16 places to be qualified.
- If there were some places remaining to allocate, the teams with 3 players qualified after the Final World Qualification Tournament would be qualified following the Ranking of the 2012 World Team Championships. Then the teams with 2 players qualified would be considered in the same way until the quota is filled.

Games Competition System

- It was decided that the singles events would be played before the team events.
- It was decided that the team events would be played using a direct knockout system and the doubles would be one of the first 3 matches.

It was agreed that this working group would continue to follow-up on Olympic issues, in particular it would strive to find ways to improve the qualification system for teams for the 2016 Games.

5.2 Technical Delegates for Olympics and Paralympics

It was proposed and agreed that the Chairman of the Technical Committee and the Competition Manager of the previous Games would be appointed Technical Delegates for the London 2012 Olympics and Mr. Nico Verspeelt was appointed as a Technical Delegate for the 2012 Paralympics.

6. Youth Olympic Games

6.1 Competition System

M. Jordi Serra explained that he had met with the Organisers of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games and presented a proposal for the venue, events, format of singles and team competitions. The document was approved (**see attachment**).

7. Any other business

- Para TT
M. Adham Sharara said that a proposal would be made to the BOD requesting that the Chairman of the Para Table Tennis Division should be a member of the Olympics Commission.

- It was said that a DCC and OC meeting would be held in Cartagena, Colombia during the next Junior World Championships with dates to be confirmed.
- Ms Claude Bergeret encouraged the Continental Presidents to invite as many players as possible to attend the Athletes' Forum organised by the Women's Working Group, to be held on the 4th of May.
- M. George Segun explained that he would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM and thanked all his colleagues for their cooperation and friendship over the past 16 years. M. Adham Sharara said that M. George Segun would be requested to stay on in an advisory capacity to the EC.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10h35.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara