

Olympic Commission

Minutes

of the Olympic Commission Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on Saturday 13th January 2001 at the Yokohama Grand Inter-Continental Hotel, Yokohama, Japan, at 09:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Present

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (Finance)

Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
M. C. Chowhan	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice-President (North America)
Neil Harwood	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)

Invited to attend

Alaor P. Azevedo	In place of Miguel Delgado (Latin America)
Claude Bergeret	Chairwoman Athletes' Commission
André Damman	Chairman Ranking Committee
Yao Zhenxu	Chairman Technical Committee

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Anders Thunström	Marketing Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Administrative and Project Co-ordinator
Li Tiefeng	Interpreter

Absent with apology

Miguel Delgado	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
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2. President's opening remarks

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that Ms Claude Bergeret, Mr. André Damman and Mr. Yao Zhenxu had been invited to attend the OC meeting in order to clarify the documents they had submitted to him concerning the playing system for the 2004 Games and fill-up quota procedure. Mr. Jordi Serra reported that he had heard from Mr. Neil Harwood who had said he was happy with the proposal regarding the doubles events and the elimination of the group system of play in the initial stages. Mr. Bruce Burton had also wished it to be specified that the proposal should be a maximum of **one** doubles pair **per event** per NOC.

3. **Olympic Reports**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that all reports had been submitted to the IOC and copies could be obtained by those interested from the Lausanne Head Office.

4. **Mixed doubles proposal and update**
Mr. Adham Sharara gave a brief update on the mixed doubles proposal. A new draft proposal based on discussions with Mr. Gilbert Felli had been submitted to the IOC Programme Commission, which would be rendering a verdict after its meeting in April 2001.

5. **Proposed Qualification and Playing System**

- 5.1 **Review draft proposal**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that the proposal would be reviewed in detail but no decisions would be made at this time.

All the following issues were thoroughly discussed and a report would be submitted to the AGM.

5.2 **Issues**

- 5.2.1 **Continental Qualifications and substitutions**
Mr. Jordi Serra explained the different qualification systems, ranking, continental and final qualification tournaments, saying that the system could be maintained.

- 5.2.2 **Non-participation of Qualified players (NOC issue)**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that this was a fight that the ITTF would have to undertake, to make sure that the IOC forces NOCs to send all qualified players to the Games.

- 5.2.3 **Fill-up quota procedure proposal (Athletes' Commission)**
The Athletes' Commission proposed the following: *in order to respect the Continental quota, if a player is not able to take part in the Olympic Games for any reason then the next player from the same Continent should fill the vacancy.* The proposal was accepted and referred to the AGM with the attachment of a clause stipulating that the IOC must guarantee that if a player enters the Continental Qualification and wins he/she must be allowed to participate in the Games.

- 5.2.4 **Timelines and deadlines (confirmed in Osaka)**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that the decisions to be made in Osaka would be presented to the AGM by the Olympic Commission. The report to be prepared by the Executive Director.

- 5.2.5 **Final World qualification**
Mr. Jordi Serra said that the final world qualification tournament was a very good system for it solved the problems regarding wild cards and

gave the players a last chance to qualify. It was not a very expensive tournament and several Associations bid for it.

- 5.2.6 One entry per event to Host (doubles from Continental quota)**
Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the host NOC was guaranteed an additional singles entry but had to reserve a place for the doubles within the Continental quota.
- 5.2.7 One entry per event per NOC for doubles**
After a very long discussion it was decided to maintain the proposal of one entry per event per NOC for the doubles.
- 5.2.8 Schedule: Daily Medal matches (Bronze & Gold)**
Mr. Adham Sharara said that there had been a very good proposal from Mr. Yao Zhenxu to have a medal match every night and a medal presentation every other day. It was also reported that, as suggested by Mr. Zlatko Cordas, the seeded players should start from the first day so that the public can see them, which would make the first round matches more attractive. This could be accommodated through the doubles schedule.
- 5.2.9 Show-court presentation (4 tables)**
It was decided to maintain the system used in Sydney (4 tables). However, Mr. Alaor Azevedo proposed that matches should be played on one table explaining that in good entertainment and in table tennis the matches of two top players should not be played at the same time. He also said that the VIP lounge should have a view of the playing area.
- 5.2.10 Knockout system (staggered)**
In order to avoid the lack of interest in the first rounds it was decided that the knockout system would be maintained throughout but with a possible staggered system to keep players of the same level playing against each other at the start.

6. Olympic Officials

6.1 Olympic Competition Manager

It was reported that Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis had been nominated Competition Manager for Athens. However, no one had been selected yet for the ITTF Olympic Commission from Greece.

6.2 Technical Delegates

It was reported that the two Technical Delegates would have to be selected at the latest in Osaka. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Technical Committee and Mr. Neil Harwood, who now had very good experience, would be proposed.

6.3 Referee and Assistant Referees

It was decided that the number of three (3) assistant referees would be maintained in addition to the Referee. The Referee would come from the host

country (Greece), one assistant referee from Europe, one from the next host country and one from another Continent. Mr. Neil Harwood said that it would also be good to have a female member in the group.

6.4 Jury

It was stated that each Continental Federation would nominate a representative for the jury. The jury would be maintained as part of the Technical Officials list.

6.5 Racket Control

Mr. Neil Harwood said that racket control worked very well in Sydney (3 people from the ITTF plus local volunteers).

6.6 Medical Officer

Mr. Neil Harwood said that the Medical Officer should be part of the Technical Officials list.

6.7 Others

7. Report to AGM in Osaka

Mr. Adham Sharara said that Mr. Jordi Serra would present a report to the AGM.

8. Next Meeting (Osaka)

The next Olympic Commission meeting will be held in Osaka, perhaps in combination with the Executive Board meeting.

9. Any other business

Mr. Neil Harwood thanked the ITTF for all its support before and during the Sydney Games. He said that he had been especially pleased with Mr. Zlatko Cordas's contribution. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked Mr. Neil Harwood for a job tremendously well done and hoped that Athens would be able to put up a similar show.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara