

OLYMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

of the Olympics Commission Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on 15th December 2005 at the Steigenberger Hotel, in Linz, Austria at 14:00.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President outlined what needs to be decided at this meeting.

Mr. Stefano Bosi wished to record in the Minutes that he was against any team system other than the one currently used at the World Team Championships. He indicated that he would not participate in the process of selection of the new Olympic Team System.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Deputy President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Ivo-Goran Munivrana	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
Choo Wee Khiang	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Patrick Gillman	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice-President (North America)

Invited to attend

Yao Zhenxu BOCOG, Competition Manager

Apologies for absence

Miguel Delgado Continental Vice-President (Latin America)

In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani De Soysa	Project Manager
Liu Li	Interpreter

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Beijing, China, 11 December 2004)

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Olympic Commission held in Beijing, China were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

No other business other than that covered by the Agenda.

5. Confirmation of Technical Delegates for Beijing 2008 (Bremen)

The decision to replace Mr. Neil Harwood, who has been newly elected Executive Vice-President, was postponed till Bremen.

6. Test event for Beijing 2008

It was decided that the new hall for the Beijing Olympics would be used for the Pro Tour finals in Beijing 2007, as a test event for the Olympic Games.

7. Team system for Beijing 2008

7.1 Qualification system

The qualification system for the singles events would be the same as for the past two Olympic Games, as follows:

- Athlete quota: 86 men, 86 women
- The maximum number of athletes per NOC shall be 3 men and 3 women in the singles events, and a maximum of 3 men and 3 women in the team events.
- Sixty-four (64) athletes for each of the men's and women's singles events will qualify for the **main** draw as follows:

20 ITTF World ranking, with a maximum of two (2) players per NOC

40 Continental qualification system

1 Host nation

2 Final World qualification event

1 Tripartite Commission Invitation place

Total: 64 with a maximum of three (3) players from the same NOC

The team event at the Beijing Games was discussed at length and the following general rules established according to IOC recommendations:

- There shall be 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams including at least one team from each Continent, 1 team from the host nation (if not already qualified) and 9 teams selected according to singles qualifications and World ranking (10 teams if host nation already qualified).
- Furthermore, players in each team must be from the same NOC and it is acceptable that a player in a team not be entered in the singles event.
- A maximum of 1 men's and 1 women's team per NOC may be entered.
- Players who have been added to a team from the quota of 22 additional players may only play in the team event and shall not be entered in the singles event, unless they qualify in their own right at the final world qualification event.
- In each team event, the host nation is guaranteed 1 direct entry provided it has not otherwise qualified as a continental quota.
- In addition to the players qualified for the singles draw, 22 men and 22 women may qualify for the team events. The 22 additional players will be selected to complement the quota for teams that did not qualify at least 3 players on the singles event.
- If the team quota is filled using less than 22 men and 22 women, the additional quota places will be added to the singles event in the qualification rounds and the players will be selected from the World Qualification Tournament based on their order of finish (this point was decided by majority vote).

A detailed document will be sent in due course.

7.2 System of competition and schedule

It was decided that the 16 teams would compete in 4 groups of 4 teams round-robin system. The top two from each group would qualify for quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals on a knockout basis. The first days of the competition would be reserved for team events and the last days for the singles events. The Competition Manager of BOCOG will present to the ITTF a draft schedule. It was explained by the Competition Manager of BOCOG that an extra day of competition might be requested from the IOC. For singles events the same system as in Athens would be used.

7.3 Team match system and procedure

It was explained that there was an IOC (Sports department) understanding to have the doubles included in the system since the team event would replace the existing doubles competitions.

After lengthy discussion the following format parameters were decided by vote (**all** members present did participate in the vote and selection of the team system):

- No player will play more than two matches in each fixture
- The contest will start with two singles matches
- The third match would be the doubles and would include the player who had not been selected in the two preceding singles matches
- The two following singles matches would include the player who competed only in the doubles and the one who did not compete in the doubles.

It was decided that the team captains could select the order in which the players appear and initially nominate which two players will compete in the first two singles matches. This system would avoid any repetition of matches; no players may compete against each other on two occasions in singles matches in one given fixture.

Complete details of the newly named "Olympic Team System" will be circulated in due time.

8. Next Meeting (Bremen, April 2006)

The exact date of the Olympic Commission meeting to be held during the Bremen World Championships will be communicated at a later date.

9. Any other business

- Test of team event:

It was discussed that some Pro-tour events in 2006 could be used to test the new team system. TMS was requested to make a proposal to the EC and a decision would be taken in Bremen including the final test event.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16h45.