

# OLYMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

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## MINUTES

Of the Olympic Commission Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the Westin Hotel, Palo Alto, USA at 13h10.

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

The meeting began immediately after the EC+ meeting. The President apologised for the absence of Mr. Yao Zhenxu, representing BOCOG, who could not attend due to his involvement with the Pro Tour Finals and Good Luck Beijing event at the same time in Beijing.

### 2. **Roll call**

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice President
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice President

Cherif Hajem	Continental Vice President (Africa)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice President (Europe)
Choo Wee Kiang	Continental Vice President (Asia)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice President (North America)
Melecio Rivera	Continental Vice President (Latin America)
Patrick Gillman	Continental Vice President (Oceania)

#### **In attendance**

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager

#### **Absent with apologies**

Yang Shuan	Executive Vice President
Yao Zhenxu	Competition Manager Beijing 08

### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### 4. **Minutes**

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Zagreb, 22 May 2007)**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held in Zagreb, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007, were approved by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

There was no other business other than that covered by the Agenda.

### 5. **Beijing 2008**

#### **5.1 Nomination of Racket controllers**

The racket controllers for the Beijing Games were approved as follows:

- Mr. Federico Lineros
- Mr. Paul Schiltz
- Mr. Nobuyuki Shirakawa

## **5.2 Nomination of International Umpires**

The selected list of IUs was accepted as follows:

### **Africa**

Abdullah Boudjehem (ALG)  
Moegemad Isaacs (RSA)  
Ronald Mugwanya (UGA)

### **Asia**

Cheung Ka Wing (HKG)  
Yukito Seta (JPN)  
Rafik Taha (QAT)  
Lau Pub Taai (SIN)  
Sameer Sweid (SYR)  
Prut Sangsrirojana (THA)

### **Europe**

Wolfgang Wulz (AUT)  
Damir Komericki (HRV)  
Andrea Abascia (ITA)  
Sonja Huberty (LUX)  
Carlos Da Silva (POR)  
Svetlana Fedorova (RUS)  
Rebecca Bergfeldt (SWE)

### **Latin America**

Leonor De Mario (BRA)  
Marco Gomez (VEN)

### **North America**

Greg Dzioba (CAN)  
Joseph Yick (USA)

### **Oceania**

Mick McShane (AUS)  
Averil Roberts (NZL)

### **Host Country**

Liu Jie (CHN)  
Zhang Yingqiu (CHN)  
Xu Yumei (CHN)  
Luo Jing (CHN)  
Piao Lin (CHN)  
Liu Jingli (CHN)

## **5.3 Racket control system for Beijing 2008**

The document presented was accepted (the current issue of T9 will be the valid Technical Leaflet).

## **6. Olympic Qualification Tournaments**

### **6.1 Continental Qualification Tournaments update**

The Executive Director presented the list of players already qualified through the continents.

### **6.2 Final World Qualification Tournament. Format of competition**

The format of competition for the Final World Qualification Tournament was approved according to the following basic principles:

1. The FINAL WORLD QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT consists of a Men's Singles event and a Women's Singles event.
2. Each NOC has the right to enter up to 3 players in each event, minus, for each event, the number of their players already qualified for the 2008 Olympic Games.
3. Players representing a same NOC shall be separated as far as possible in the initial draw.
4. All participants will have at least 2 chances to qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games.
5. Each participant will have the possibility to play at least 2 matches.
6. Once they reach a sure qualification place players will not have to play anymore.
7. For the other possible qualifying positions, including some substitutes, there will be a precise ranking order.
8. All matches shall be played best of 7 games.

It was agreed that Mr. Jordi Serra, Mr. Neil Harwood and Mr. André Damman would be present at the Final Qualification Tournament in Hungary on behalf of the ITTF.

**7. Next Meeting** (Guangzhou, China, 25 February)

The next meeting of the Olympic Commission will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in Guangzhou, China.

**8. Any other business**

**8.1 Tie breaker rule for direct qualifiers**

Ms Claude Bergeret explained the possibility that two European players may tie for the 20<sup>th</sup> position on the Olympic ranking list and that a rule should be established, in the case that an "exact" tie does occur. It was decided as follows:

In the specific case that an exact equality would occur between two players from the same continent for the 20<sup>th</sup> place of the January 2008 Olympic World Ranking list, the ITTF Olympics Commission, decided that for the 2008 Olympic Games, without setting a precedent, the tied players would be invited to contest a play-off match between them prior to the Continental Qualification Tournament. The winner of this play-off match would be directly qualified for the 2008 Olympics, while the loser would be the first seed in the Continental Qualification Tournament.

For future Olympic Games, in case of an exact tie for the last direct qualifying position, in order to break the tie, reference will be made to the exact previous World Ranking list and the higher ranked player would qualify. If still tied, reference would be made to the previous list and so on until the tie is broken.

To verify if a tie does actually exist, the computer ranking operator would be asked to double check the ranking again to ensure that a tie does actually exist even after examining the detailed ranking calculations down to the exact decimal points. Such details are already available on the ITTF's web site detailed ranking section.

**8.2 Substitutes in team events**

Following a request from Ms Claude Bergeret to foresee substitutes for the team event at the Olympic Games, Mr. Jordi Serra was requested to find out the exact rule from the IOC and to present support documents.

### **8.3 Youth Olympic Games**

Ms Judit Faragó explained that the ITTF had proposed to the IOC the U-16 category for the Youth Olympic Games, which would make it possible to use the World Cadet Challenge as the qualification event. The Youth Olympic Games would be open to 32 boys and 32 girls and one entry per NOC. As soon as IOC approval is received the qualification and playing systems should be decided by the ITTF. The IOC would decide the host city before the end of February 2008.

### **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 14h02.

### **Correction to the Olympic Commission Minutes:**

Replace last paragraph in item 8.1

*To verify if a tie does actually exist, the computer ranking operator would be asked to double check the ranking again to ensure that a tie does actually exist even after examining the detailed ranking calculations down to the exact decimal points. Such details are already available on the ITTF's web site detailed ranking section.*

By:

In response to a caution from Claude Bergeret, the President said that the ranking of the players will be re-checked in detail to verify whether a tie does actually exist.