

REPORT

IWF Executive Board Meeting

25-26 November 2017 – Anaheim – USA

Venue: Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, USA



Present:

Dr. Tamás Aján, President

Mr. Mohammed Jalood, General Secretary

Mr. Intarat Yodbangtoey, 1st Vice President

Ms. Ursula Papandrea Garza, Mr. Nicu Vlad, Mr. Jose Quinones, Mr. Petr Krol, Vice Presidents

Ms. Karoliina Lundahl, Mr. Pyrros Dimas, Mr. Birendra Prasad Baishya, Mr. Maxim Agapitov, Mr. Shakhriilo Makhmudov, Mr. Mahmoud Mahgoub, Mr. Luis Zambrano Andrade, Dr. Michael Irani, Executive Board Members, Mr. Khaled Mhalhel, WFA President, Mr. Marcus Stephen, OWF President, Mr. Antonio Urso, EWF President, Mr. Willian Ozuna, PAWF President

Mr. Yoshiyuki Miyake and Mr. Gustavo Malgor, Ex-officio Executive Board Members

Dr. Patrick Schamasch, IWF ADC Chairman

Mr. Attila Ádámfi, IWF Director General and IWF Secretariat staff

Excused:

Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, EB Member, Mr. Mohamed Y. Al Mana, AWF President

1 Opening by the President

Dr. Aján welcomed the Board and praised USAW for its successful efforts to grant US visa to all participants. Mr. Phil Andrews, USA Weightlifting CEO gave technical and program info and confirmed that they had managed to have US visas issued for all who followed the correct procedure.

2 Welcome address by the hosts

Ms. Papandrea, President USAW thanked all for coming to Anaheim. She thanked Dr. Aján for 30 years of support to US Weightlifting and the City of Anaheim for its support indispensable for hosting the WWC. Mr. Jalood, IWF General Secretary underlined the importance of unity and brotherhood in keeping weightlifting in the Olympic program and thanked the IWF President, Director General and ADC Chairman for their efforts.

Dr. Aján offered thanks to USAW for the souvenir plaques. He congratulated Mrs. Boossaba Yodbangtoey on her recent election as AWF General Secretary.

A minute of silence was offered in memoriam recently deceased Naim Suleymanoglu.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Bucharest 2017 meeting

The Minutes of the Bucharest 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

4 Reports of the Committees on the meetings by the Chairs

Dr. Aján in his introduction pointed out that the 3 Committees had held a highly successful Joint meeting with several items of common interest.

4.1 Technical Committee

Chairman Mr. Vlad gave a summary. Ms. Reiko Chinen was appointed as Secretary of the Committee; Mr. Alex Padure as TC Chair's Assistant. Some technical Rules issues were highlighted.

4.2 Medical Committee

Chairman Dr. Irani submitted a summary of the Medical Committee meeting. He highlighted the discussion on transgender athletes; a lecture by Dr. Dominik Dörr was heard. It was agreed to follow the IOC Transgender Guidelines. Dr. Schamasch noted that a relevant IOC Policy was yet to be published.

4.3 Coaching and Research Committee

Chairman Mr. Mahgoub said that the CRC had discussed several points of great importance with much emphasis on coaching and the SPC's proposal on bodyweight categories. Also recommended was the application of "Robi Points".

9 Good Governance review of Continental Federations

Mr. Ádámfi explained the Good Governance study conducted on CFs using the ASOIF's GG Questionnaire on IFs as a model. It was agreed that GG standards and practices in the individual Continental Federations must be dealt with regard to the special characteristics. CFs need to improve their transparency and GG, but the IWF's full cooperation and help was offered to all, especially including tips with no cost to the CF.

12 Status Report by Lagardere Sports Co.

Ms. Rozgonyi in her presentation on behalf of Lagardere Sports Co. pointed out that the WWC in Anaheim was the 1st event held in new structure, whereby several options could be considered for the future. It was also emphasised that the revenues heavily reflected the consequences of the Tbilisi decision.

13 Communication update

Ms. Rozgonyi gave an update on communication and Social Media.

5 Reports and Recommendations by the Special Commissions

Dr. Aján introduced this item as the most important one on the Agenda. Contributing guests and persons: Dr. Richard Young, Dr. Patrick Schamasch, Dr. Christian Baumgartner, Mr. Attila Ádámfi, Dr. Éva Nyirfa, Dr. Lilla Sági.

5.1 IWF Clean Sport Commission

Leader of the IWF CSC, Dr. Young outlined that the key task ahead was to have the IWF's credibility on anti-doping reconfirmed. CSC made evaluation statements after a very close study of the IWF AD system. (Testing system is excellent, "Smart testing". Sample analysis: tough, cutting-edge AD analysis; the very best that can be, in the very best labs.) Similarly positive comments on the IWF's Results management – confirmed by WADA in writing.

To be improved: investigation into athletes' personnel/entourage.

WADA Standards for IRTP Athletes strictly followed, but CSC supports the 2-month rule and suggests extending it to 3-months with respect to IWF World Championships (Youth, Junior, Senior).

Changes to the IWF Anti-Doping Policy proposed:

- Establish an Independent Member Federations Sanctions Panel.

- In the case of severe violations suspension shall always prevail as opposed to fine (3 or more ADRVs by year).
- Further to the Tbilisi decision, IWF wants to help the countries concerned in solving their doping problem through the reduction of sanction length if they are compliant.
- Violations committed during the Olympic Games must be looked at as aggravating circumstance, as reflected in the recommended changes to the IWF ADP.
- Sanctions against MF should be disclosed.
- Suggestions were presented to track the Athlete Support Personnel. Here the need for independent investigating and sanctioning bodies was emphasized.
- MFs' responsibilities to be enhanced in the implementation of the ADP.
- Targeted and increased OOC in high-risk countries. In addition: to do smart testing based on intelligence, also looking at sudden increase in an athlete's performance. Adjustment to steroid cycles.
- Blood testing, though not too relevant in weightlifting, are very expensive and not effective. Proposal to get WADA approval that money now spent for blood testing be redirected to OOC.

We declare in a strong signal that IWF supports the idea of cooperating with the Independent Testing Authority.

- Sample Analysis: increase the number of long-term stored samples.
- AD Education: engage in further collaboration partnerships – WADA, INADO.
- CSC Recommendations package to be sent to WADA expecting their confirmation.

The Report and the Recommendations submitted by the IWF CSC were unanimously approved.

5.2 IWF Sport Programme Commission

Mr. Ádámfi explained that the IWF Executive Board must submit the Report to the IOC, as soon as possible, based on SPC proposals. SPC also worked on the *Qualification System* with regard to the deadline extended by the IOC for the IWF's 2020 Tokyo OG Qualification System until 15 January 2018 to accommodate the IWF EB decisions.

SPC Recommendations included:

- individual-based qualification system
- shorten the Qualification period to 18 months incl. 3 6-month periods, 2 WWCs and 2 Continental Qualification Events
- Expand IWF Calendar to endorse more events for qualification.
- Qualification Events:
 - 1 – WWC, and CC
 - 2 – existing IWF events complying with the qualification criteria
 - 3 – international competitions, Championships, Cups
- Minimum participation: 6 events / 1 in each of the 3 periods. Minimum 2 levels.
- Final ranking to be drawn from 4 results. – Best result from each period +next best.
- Maximum quota/country: 4+4

- The number of participating NOCs would proportionally be the same as at last 3 OGs, but the reduction of the weightlifting quota must be recognised.

SPC Report and Recommendations were unanimously accepted.

10 Report of the Anti-Doping Commission

Dr. Schamasch, Chairman ADC reporting, as well as by Dr. Nyirfa and Dr. Sági.

Subjects covered, i.a.:

- TUE Committee: suggestion for a pool of members and a pool of Chairs.
- Anti-Doping Education and Outreach Programme
- Results Management Update: ongoing cases, follow-up on the McLaren Report.
- CAS cases' status

Comments were made regarding the poor WA compliance data submission. MFs should receive help from their Continental Federations.

The Report of the Anti-Doping Commission was approved.

7 IWF Development Programme

7.3 Weightlifting development in language-based Regional groups

Dr. Aján introduced the subject explaining that various language-based groups had been created for a better allocation of development (French, Russian, Arabic, Spanish)

7.3.1 Francophone Confederation Project

Mr. Jean-Paul Bulgaridhes, President of the French and the Francophone Federations presented a Project for Regional development. Francophone Confederation was created in 2011, now, following the directives of President Macron and French Sport Minister, and Tony Estanguet, Paris 2024 Olympic Games President, it was being reactivated. Plan to establish a Francophone Centre in Villeneuve-Loubet, France, benefiting from Olympic funds, support from French Government, human resources by French Federation. Proposal welcomed and thanked for.

7.3.3 Confederation of Russian-speaking countries

Mr. Agapitov explained that Russia was just facing a crisis in sport; Post-Soviet Republics (17) have a good and strong weightlifting culture and now they must join forces to discuss ways how to eliminate the doping culture. Russia recognised its obligations to lead the change and help the other countries.

7.3.2 Arabic Confederation

Mr. Jalood spoke on behalf of Arabic-speaking MFs. He thanked for the continuous support of the IWF and was proud to recognise that weightlifting had been a constant feature on the Arabic Games since 1950. Mr. Mahgoub added that their anti-doping program was going to be upgraded, led by Egyptian Federation.

7.3.3 Spanish-speaking MFs

Mr. Quinones spoke emphasizing the importance of coordination with PAWF and welcoming the possibility of projects.

14 Any other matter

14.1 2018 IWF World Championships

Following the great success of the AIMAG in Ashgabat, TKM, that country's leadership expressed a desire to develop weightlifting and continue making use of the facilities and the post-Games legacy by hosting a major IWF Event. After a negotiation meeting, coordinated by IWF, the Peruvian Federation offered to pass on the right to TKM to host the 2018 IWF WWC.

A delegation of the TKM Federation made a presentation about the planned WWC.

The EB unanimously agreed to the proposal to transfer the right of organisation of the 2018 IWF World Championships to Turkmenistan Federation, Ashgabat.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

11 Update report on the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games

Mr. Malgor presented a video on the preparations and the concept of the Youth Olympic Games, followed by information from Mr. Ádámfi about the technical details, the Qualification status and the sport equipment: ELEIKO.

The Report was unanimously approved by the Executive Board.

6 Financial Report

Presented by Mr. Alain Siegrist, IWF Financial Advisor

6.1 2017 Budget status report - *accepted.*

6.2 2018 Budget

The 2018 Budget was unanimously approved.

7 IWF Development Program

Mr. Quinones, DEC Chairman to report.

7.1 Renewal of the current system – *approved.*

7.2 Continental Annual Contribution 2018

The CF Development Project/ Guidelines/Criteria for 2018 were presented.

Dr. Aján suggested the following arrangement: a contribution of USD 200,000 per CF annually, to be transferred in two parts: in January and July of the year, respectively. The allocation of the support by the CF concerned shall be in its own jurisdiction as per a budget and plan submitted at the beginning of the year. An additional request was that CF General Secretaries be given certain remuneration.

The proposal was accepted on majority.

14 Any other matter

14.2 IWF Orders, Honorary titles

Ms. Németh-Móra presented the proposal for the ***allocation of the IWF Orders, and a Life Vice President title to Mr. Ong Poh-Eng - unanimously approved to be presented at the Congress.***

8 IWF Commissions' memberships

Nominations had been collected from Member Federations, proposal presented with consideration to a continental balance and gender balance.

Members of the Development and Education, Disciplinary and Ethics, Membership, Women's and Marketing Commissions were unanimously approved. (See IWF website)

Membership appointment procedure to the Athletes' Commission to be changed according to the IOC Guidelines.

15 Closing of the meeting

The President stated that the meeting brought very important decisions in the interest of the future of weightlifting and underlined the significance of unity. He thanked the Secretariat for the work done and declared the meeting closed.