

# IWF CONGRESS

## 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Pattaya, THA

### MINUTES

Present At head table:

**Mr. Tamas Ajan, IWF President, Mr. Mohammed Jalood, IWF General Secretary**

**Mr. Intarat Yodbangtoey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**Ms. Ursula Papandrea, Mr. Nicu Vlad, Mr. José Quinones, Mr. Petr Krol, Vice Presidents**

**Ms. Boossaba Yodbangtoey, President of TAWA**

**Delegates from 99 Member Federations – See Roll Call (*Annex No. 1*)**

1. **Opening**

**Dr. Tamás Aján**, IWF President welcomed hosts, delegates, guests, **Mr. Ivan Dibos**, IOC Member, IWF officials, international press.

2. **Welcome speech of the hosts**

**Ms. Boossaba Yodbangtoey**, TAWA President offered a welcome.

**Mr. Pakkaratorn Teainchai**, Governor of Chonburi Province greeted the Congress participants.

**Technical information about the 2019 IWF World Championships**

**Mr. Niwat Limsuknirun** shared technical information with the delegates.

3. **Appreciations by the IWF**

Presented by the IWF President and General Secretary, a token of appreciation was given to **Ms. Boossaba Yodbangtoey**, President of TAWA.

The **Zhangkong** Company was congratulated on being selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time as official supplier of the Olympic Games 2020 Tokyo and a diploma was presented to Mr. Zhang, President of ZKC.

#### 4. Report on the meetings of the Committees and Annual Reports of the Committees

##### 4.1 Technical Committee

**Mr. Nicu Vlad**, Chairman of the TC reported on a very comprehensive and exhaustive meeting, whereby the TC discussed many important issues. Minor changes in TCRR were proposed and approved by the Executive Board as a result of the application of the Video Replay Technology.

**Mr. Attila Ádámfi** gave a summary on the use and the benefits of the Video Playback technology by Dartfish, (**Annex No.2**) and the experiences obtained. Videos of the attempts recorded are already uploaded on the IWF Results page and accessible to all.

**Dr. Aján** announced that Technical Officials for the 2020 Olympic Games were selected by the EB.

The TC report was accepted.

##### 4.2 Medical Committee

**Dr. Michael Irani**, MC Chairman gave a report – **Annex No. 3** – focusing on the main subjects discussed by the Committee.

Congress accepted the MC report.

##### 4.3 Coaching and Research Committee

**Ms. Karoliina Lundahl**, Co-Chair of the CRC reported on the meeting. (**Annex No. 4**) Main points were Coaching Education, assisting the development projects of the CFs, E-learning platform, etc.

The CRC report was accepted by the Congress.

**Mr. Ivan Dibos**, IOC Member addressed the delegates on behalf of the International Olympic Committee. He thanked for the invitation and confirmed that the IOC is focused on keeping the Games clean. He congratulated IWF on its combat against doping. All efforts were welcomed by the IOC. Also happy to see the application of Video Replay. In Taekwondo they also eliminated controversies in the sport with the help of the VPT.

#### 5. Annual Report by the President and the General Secretary

Both reports, previously sent to MFs, were unanimously accepted by the Congress.

#### 7. Finances

**Mr. Alain Siegrist**, Financial Advisor reported to the delegates – **Annex No. 5.**

7.1 2019 IWF Budget Status Report- a certain concern was expressed about the share of the AD costs – in next 4 years 40% of the total budget will be spent on Anti-Doping, unless costs are readdressed.

7.2 Information on 2020 IWF Budget – approved by the Executive Board.

7.3 Outlook on the Midterm Financial Plan.

Report was unanimously approved by the Congress.

8. **Report of the IWF Development and Education Commission**

Presented by **Mr. José Quinones**, DEC Chairman, **Ms. Karoliina Lundahl**, Co-Chair CRC and **Ms. Tímea Horváth**, Development and Education Manager – **Annex No. 6**.

**8.1 2019 IWF Development Program**

The details of the 2019 DP were shown; total number of applications, number of benefited Federations, continental distribution, etc. A small summary was presented about the *IWF Coach Education E-learning Platform*. It was followed by the introduction of two *University Master Courses*. Spanish Federation General Secretary, **Mr. Juan Lama** presented the project and its conditions, mentioning that the University of Salamanca will offer a Weightlifting Sports Law and Administration Master course in partnership with the IWF. A package global project will be elaborated and offered to all Member Federations and **Mr. Quinones** invited Members to propose further universities that would participate.

Changes in the IWF Development Program approved: Support allocated to Seminars changed to 6,000 USD; and support for Equipment now changed to 8,000 USD. IWF constantly assists MFs and facilitates procedures for the application for DP funds.

Delegates were reminded of the Education Seminars on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**8.2 Olympic Solidarity**

**Ms. Horváth** gave information on the potential in the benefits offered by Olympic Solidarity. – **Annex No. 7**.

Reports were unanimously approved by the Congress.

9. **Anti-Doping Reports**

Presented by **Dr. Patrick Schamasch**, Chairman of the ADC, **Mr. Benjamin Cohen**, Director General ITA, **Ms. Réka Földesi**, IWF Anti-Doping Coordinator. - **Annex No. 8**.

**Dr. Schamasch** first thanked **Mr. Dibos** for the blessing of the IOC, saying that IWF is aware that we are still under scrutiny and any bad decision might eventually endanger our current position.

**9.1 IWF Anti-Doping Commission Report – Dr. Schamasch** started reporting.

**Ms. Földesi** came in with explanation on Whereabouts Submission. She was happy to report that a very good proportion of compliance was achieved by the 2019 WWC. The IWF website offers comprehensive information for MFs. She then invited everybody to join the *iLiftCLEAN* Anti-Doping Education, motivating the athletes to take the online course on AD Education. In Pattaya an Outreach Program will be running at the venue and two Anti-Doping Education Seminars with valuable gifts would be held.

## **9.2 Report of the ITA (International Testing Agency) – Annex No. 9.**

**Mr. Benjamin Cohen**, Director General introduced the IWF-ITA Partnership. IWF decided to delegate its AD activities to ITA, which was a good move. ITA now manages the AD programs of 44 IFs, increased its capacity tremendously over the past year to be able to execute the programs and is still growing and learning. IWF's is one of the biggest programs in sport, so the transfer had to be made in several phases. The Out-of-competition testing program had already been taken over and the In-Competition testing starts with the 2019 Pattaya WWC. It is important to maintain WADA compliance – not only in terms of Rules (ADP is compliant) but also the Program. WADA audited the IWF AD Program and returned a very satisfactory, favourable evaluation, confirming the compliance. Understanding that the very high AD costs burden the IWF Budget, ITA will negotiate prices for IWF with suppliers and help to reduce costs.

**Dr. Schamasch** concluded with information and a warning regarding the “needle policy” – **Annex No.10.** – also available on the IWF website.

**INA:** asked for help to their 3 athletes to complete forms and education.

**Mr. Mohammed Jalood**, General Secretary called Federations to cooperate closely with ITA.

**PHI – Mr. Monico Puentevella** – offered compliments to the IWF on its efforts. At the same time, he complained because of the complexity of the ADAMS compliance.

The President thanked the presenters, with special gratitude to **Mr. Cohen.**

## **10. IWF Membership Commission report**

By **Mr. Petr Krol, Chairman** informed Congress that Executive Board extended the deadline for payment of the membership fees arrears to 15 October 2019. – **Annex No. 11.**

The report was approved by Congress.

## **11. IWF Women's Commission Report**

**Ms. Ursula Papandrea, Chair** reported on the meeting held in Suva, Fiji and the activities of the Commission. Points addressed were: Gender parity, increase the number of qualified women potentially running for positions in IWF leadership; proposing changes in the election rules of the Constitution; further data required from MFs and especially the CFs. Recommendation also to Committees to have 20% gender; social media was invited; sexual harassment in the sport needs to be addressed; scholarships offered to women to help transition from athlete to coach.

## **12. Good Governance in IF/CFs and MFs**

**Mr. Attila Ádámfi**, Director General made the presentation – **Annex No. 12.**

He explained that Good Governance was an increasingly important requirement and index for the IOC and other organisations when assessing the activity and status of International Sports Federations. Although the IWF reached a high mark in GG, the relevant factors must apply to all levels of the Federation. A Good Governance review based on the ASOIF Review on IFs' GG and made by an independent expert was carried out. The survey used publicly available information. IWF shall provide support to CFs to raise their governance standard and ultimately create Guidelines for the MFs to increase their respective level of governance.

13. **Reports on the preparation of future events**

13.1 **2020 Olympic Games**

13.1.1 Report on **Test Event and update report** – **Ms. Reiko Chinen**, Tokyo 2020 Weightlifting Sports Manager reported on a successful Test Event and the 2020 preparations. **Annex No.13**

13.1.2 **Qualification status update** – by **Mr. Attila Ádámfi** explained that all information was available on the website with immediate update after each Qualification Event – to date 1,315 athletes from 120 MFs listed in the database. Activity and participation exploded even in the non-Olympic categories. Many smaller events were upgraded by receiving Qualification status.

13.2 **2020 IWF Junior World Championships – Cairo, EGY**

**Mr. Mahmoud Mahgoub**, President of the Egyptian Federation gave details of the event.

13.3 **2020 FISU World University Championships – Gangjin, KOR**

**Ms. Anikó Németh-Móra**, FISU Technical Committee Chair presented the Championships and the Korea Weightlifting Federation offered a welcome to the IWF Member Federations.

13.4 **2020 IWF Youth World Championships and 2021 IWF World Championships – Lima, PER**

**Mr. José Quinones** and **Mr. Ivan Dibos, IOC Member**, President of the OC shared details of both events and videos were played.

13.5 **2021 IWF Youth World Championships – Tashkent, UZB**

**Ms. Zukhra Abdullaeva**, on behalf of the UZB Federation invited the weightlifting family to the event and reported on preparations.

13.6 **2021 IWF Junior World Championships – Jeddah, KSA**

**Mr. Mohammed Alharbi**, KSA Federation President made the presentation. His report included a promise to grant visa to Saudi Arabia to every participant.

6. **Information on Executive Board meeting and its decisions**

**The President** summarized the main decisions – most of them already covered by the competent Committee or Commission Chairs.

Additionally: the 2022 IWF World Championships was allocated to Chongqing, China.

The IWF EB accepted a Strategic Plan. EB considered the request of the AUS Federation for a nationality change by a former Fijian lifter to compete for Australia.

A pathway was approved for the participation of the Refugee Athletes.

14. **Presentation on Peace and Sport**

**Ms. Iris Vlachutisicos, representative of the International Peace and Sport Organisation** introduced Peace and Sport and some of its projects, e.g. sport instruction in refugee camps, in cooperation with IFs. She explained what MFs can do: include in the calendar events dedicated to peace, rename a competition; launch projects involving the notion of Peace. **Annex No.14.**

The P&S symbol, the “White Card” means: we believe that sport means peace and it can make a change in the world. She introduced **Pyrros Dimas** as a flag-bearer, an icon who promotes Peace through weightlifting. Celebrate peace in your countries through weightlifting! (All delegates raised their white cards and a group photo was taken.)

**The President** confirmed that there was much potential in a relationship with P&S, so a closer contact would be kept in the future.

15. **Presentations by the barbell manufacturers and sponsors**

15.1 **ELEIKO** reported on current projects. (**Annex No. 15.**)

15.2 **DHS** – Promised more intensive involvement in weightlifting (**Annex No. 16.**)

15.3 **UESAKA** – reported on their developments (**Annex No. 17.**)

15.4 **ZKC – Mr. Zhang Jr.** reported on the current plans and production, and their focus on supplying Tokyo 2020. (**Annex No. 18.**)

16. **Speeches by Congress delegates**

16.1 **EGY Federation President Mr. Mahmoud Mahgoub** took the floor and complained about the timing and the extent of the sanction by the Independent Member Federations’ Sanctions Panel (IMFSP) against the EGY Federation for AAFs that happened 3 years ago. He also challenged the competence of the IMFSP to pass such decisions on MFs.

**The President** commented that the IWF is being very strict and does everything in the interest of clean weightlifting. Also, the Egyptian case was a clear proof that nobody can influence the process and the decision, and it has to go through the official procedure and the independent body. The decision authority had been unanimously delegated by the IWF Executive Board to the IMFSP – evaluated widely as a major step towards integrity, credibility and independent decisions.

16.2 **IWF Masters Chairwoman, Ms. Denise Offermann** took the opportunity to thank to the IWF and the President for all the support to the masters. Also thanked to the MFs who are embracing Masters Weightlifting more and more. She reported on very successful Masters World Championships 2019 in Montreal, Canada. The 2020 Masters WC to be held in Obrigheim, GER; and in 2021 at the World Masters Games weightlifting is on the program.

16.3 **Mr. Stian Grimseth, NOR Federation President**, former elite weightlifter, Member of the IWF Marketing Commission said he was very impressed by the success of the IWF’s strong battle against doping but was also sad to see the dropping of TV interest. We need to increase our level of marketing and change the notion about the sport by “reinventing ourselves”. He suggested introducing new competition formats to attract viewers and media; apply modern

science through media and communication channels to suit the digital consumer world. He proposed to create a Working Group for defining a set of improvements and changes for the next Olympiad.

16.4 **PHI Federation President, Mr. Monico Puentevella** was honoured to have been appointed a Member of the IWF Marketing Commission but was very disappointed not to have been able to contribute to the activity due to lack of opportunity and involvement. He called for a review of the Commission.

**17. Any other business**

There were no items raised under this point.

**Dr. Aján** thanked for the delegates' activity and participation, for the presenters' reports, for TAWA's organisation and declared the Congress closed.

*Minutes by*

*Anikó Németh-Móra*

*October 2019*