

IWF CONGRESS

31 October 2018, Ashgabat, TKM

MINUTES

Present:

At head table: 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, Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, Vice Presidents

Sheikh Fahad Ahmed Al Sabah, ANOC President

Mr. Dayanch Gurgeldiyew, Minister of Youth and Sport Policy, Turkmenistan

Mr. Azat Muradov, General Secretary Turkmenistan Olympic Committee

Delegates of Member Federations as per Roll Call (Annex #1)

1. Opening

IWF President, Dr. Tamás Aján welcomed Sheikh Fahad, ANOC President and other Guests of Honour, as well as the delegates of the Member Federations. He pointed out the importance of the World Championships ahead: the first to be held in the new bodyweight categories, and thanked the organisers for providing outstanding conditions.

2. Welcome speech of the hosts & technical and program information on the 2018 IWF World Championships

Mr. Dayanch Gurgeldiyew, Minister of Youth and Sport Policy took the floor and welcomed guests and delegates.

Sheikh Fahad Ahmed Al Sabah addressed the Congress on behalf of ANOC and the IOC and commented favourably on the IWF's finding ways to solve the problems of the sport. He expressed confidence that weightlifting will be kept strongly in the Olympic program.

3. Appreciations by the IWF

The following IWF awards of recognition were presented:

- 1) to Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah, ANOC President,
- 2) To Turkmenistan's Minister of Sport and Youth Policy,

Weightlifting Hall of Fame – Mr. Salim Ssenkungu Musoke, Uganda was inducted in the Hall of Fame in the presence of members (Dr. Tamás Aján, Mr. Tadamas Uesaka, Mr. Marcus Stephen, Mr. Nicu Vlad, Mr. Pyrrros Dimas, Mr. Tom Goegebuer and Ms. Katharina Rimböck-Peya).

Mr. Musoke thanked for the honour and presented tokens of appreciation to Dr. Aján and Mr. Milan Mihajlovic.

Ms. Ursula Papandrea, President of USA Weightlifting passed on the "Event of the Year 2017" Award won for the organisation of the 2017 IWF WWC, Anaheim, to the IWF President.

4. Reports on the meetings of the Committees

4.1 Joint Committees' meeting

Mr. Mohammed Jalood, General Secretary gave a summary highlighting ineligibility issues due to Whereabouts failures.

4.2 Technical Committee – Mr. Nicu Vlad, TC Chairman gave the report. (Annex #2)

4.3 Medical Committee – Dr. Mike Irani, MC Chairman reported (Annex #3) including a research to prove that weightlifting is a healthy sport, weightlifters are fit; he also praised the medical preparations of the WWC in Ashgabat.

4.4 Coaching and Research Committee – Mr. Mahmoud Mahgoub, CRC Chairman reporting (Annex #4) including the planned introduction of the IT-supported video replay; coaching education moved to an internet platform, female coaches' training, etc.

All the three Committee reports were accepted by Congress.

5. Information, major decisions and proposals of the IWF Executive Board

- The EB proposed to Congress to have election to the TC vacancy (caused by the death of Mr. A. Kurlovich) at the next Congress on 7 March 2019. The candidature procedure as per the IWF Constitution to be followed. – ***Congress approved.***
- Executive Board approved a number of TCRR modifications with effect on 1 November 2018 / 1 January 2019 – to be published on website.
- Ms. Lilla Rozgonyi, Director of Communication & Marketing gave following updates: (Annex #5, Annex #6)
 - Update on TV – cooperation with Lagardere for 2nd WWC – long term partnership
 - Steep drop in TV revenues due to fallout of broadcasters due to doping incidents,
 - 2018 WWC: full exposure thanks to partnership with Olympic Channel; webcasting for B,C,D sessions
 - Further WWCs: Secured sales for 3 years, lower production costs – increased revenues, introduce innovative solutions
 - impact of loss of Eurosport coverage
 - Social Media survey
- Mr. Attila Ádámfi, Director General informed the Congress on the findings of the ASOIF Survey on Good Governance (Annex#7); where IWF performs very well in terms of Good Governance and Transparency despite being one of the smallest IFs (with staff less than 20). – IWF with ASOIF will design a form and Guidelines for self-assessment to help MFs and CFs improve their own GG.
- The Executive Board allocated the organisation of the 2021 IWF WWC to Lima, Peru.

6. IWF Commissions' Reports

6.1 IWF Membership Commission – Mr. Petr Krol, Vice President, Chairman reported on the following issues (Annex#8):

- Membership Review – factors inspected: payment of Membership Fees, Activity of the

Member Federations and combination with other sports. High number of MFs failing to pay their fees. Non-compliant MFs will have the opportunity until 31st December to pay the outstanding Membership Fees for 2017 and 2018. In case a Member Federation fails to comply with its obligation set out in the IWF Constitution, the Membership Commission will make its recommendation to the Executive Board meeting to be held in Las Vegas to impose temporary suspension.

- EB approved lifting the suspension of VIN and GUY Federations.
- Newly established Federation in Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – EB exempted them from earlier fees, NMI must pay only for 2017 and 2018
- New affiliation: Cape Verde – documents submitted but no fee paid – If the affiliation fee is paid until 1 February 2019, Membership Commission will propose to EB to affiliate Cape Verde and to Congress in Las Vegas to ratify the new member.

6.2 **IWF Marketing Commission** – Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, Vice President, Chairman reported on the activities of the Commission established in 2015. A contract in an annual support value of USD 400,000 was concluded with the IWF. Under another project, the MC has been financially helping MFs and CFs with the organisation of European or Asian Championships, among those in MDA, TUR, BUL, ROU, GEO, AWF, etc. In future projects the MC intends to increase weightlifting's promotion.

Dr. Aján remarked that the Marketing Commission's contracted support – registered as credit on the IWF accounts and distributed as per approved Guidelines in the framework of the IWF Development Program – must be separated from direct funding and sponsorship furnished by Mr. Tussupbekov's companies to various MFs, with the latter not to be attributed to the Marketing Commission.

Mr. Monico Puentevella (PHI), also former President of Asian Federation, spoke as member of the Marketing Commission. He expressed surprise at the Commission's report as he had never been invited to the MC deliberations or work, and confirmed his eagerness to participate in its activities.

Mr. Enrique Montero (BRA), also member of the Commission, confirmed the same: non-involvement so far in the MC decisions.

Mr. Tussupbekov said the Commission's processes are yet to be established to create responsibilities. Until then the MC operates through the IWF Secretariat and promised to improve communication.

Mr. David Kipshidze (GEO) thanked on behalf of the Federations benefitting from the sponsorship for the assistance received.

6.3 **IWF Women's Commission** – Ms. Ursula Papandrea, Vice President and WC Chair gave a report on the Commission's meeting in Tashkent. Activities aimed mainly at promoting leadership and coaching roles.

7. **Finances** – Mr. Alain Siegrist, Financial Advisor reported to the Congress (Annex #9)

7.1 2018 Financial Status Update

7.2 Information on 2019 IWF Budget – approved by the Executive Board.

The reports were accepted by the delegates. The Annual Financial Report would be due at the Congress in Las Vegas.

8. **Report on Development and Education**

Mr. José Quinones, DEC Chairman, Ms. Tímea Horváth, Development and Education Manager gave the report, joined by Mr. Phil Andrews regarding the online tools.

Members of the DEC were introduced. It was confirmed that the Executive Board approved the 2018 Status Report and the 2019 Development Plan.

8.1 IWF Development Program – Status Report (Annex #10)

8.2 Olympic Solidarity Report (Annex #11) – Member Federations were encouraged to take recourse to this additional source of development support through their relevant NOCs.

9. **Anti-Doping Reports**

9.1 **Anti-Doping Commission Report** - ADC Chairman Dr. Patrick Schamasch, Dr. Éva Nyirfa, Legal Counsel, Dr. Lilla Sági, Legal Counsel and Ms. Réka Földesi, Anti-Doping Coordinator reported (Annex #12)

Emphasis was on Whereabouts submission and ineligibility issues, whereby the IWF reconfirmed its permanent assistance to the athletes and MFs.

Mr. Ali Moradi (IRI) recommended to simplify the WA submission procedure.

Dr. Schamasch clarified that the system did not belong to the IWF but to WADA, yet the proposal would be given due consideration.

Dr. Irani asked the delegates to tell their athletes not to take supplements.

Still on the subject of Whereabouts (WA) information submission, Dr. Sági repeatedly asked officials to permanently communicate with their athletes, educate them and also include the CFs in the communication. Making exceptions for non-compliant athletes, however, would not be fair to those 600+ who did comply. She also recommended for educational purposes that it would be useful for the athletes to go through the IWF's recently established Anti-Doping E-learning Platform, the *iLiftCLEAN*.

Dr. Schamasch reported about agenda point 8.4, the future collaboration between the International Testing Agency (ITA) and the IWF. Dr. Schamasch informed the Congress that such collaboration would be conducted in a structure similar to the partnership between the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and the IWF and that the ITA would take over the role of CCES as regards the definition and organisation of out-of-competition testing.

Ms. Földesi gave an update about the IWF Member Federations' obligation in effect as of 15 April 2018 to submit information related to Athlete Support Personnel affiliated to their National Team and International Registered Testing Pool Athletes. She referred to the report which had been given to the IWF Congress in Taskhent according to which compliance with this obligation would be subject to further review and a report to the IWF Executive Board would be given again on the eve of the 2018 World Championships and that the Board received such report.

Dr. Nyirfa confirmed that with the conclusion of the IWF World Championships all IWF Member Federations would be notified of the potential breach of the IWF Anti-Doping Policy.

Upon listening to the IWF Anti-Doping Commission's report, Congress delegates took the floor:

Mr. Phil Andrews, CEO USA Weightlifting – thanked the President and the Executive Board for the strong action last year tremendously appreciated by athletes. He also commended on the hard work done by the Anti-Doping Commission and the IWF, especially with regard to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Qualification System, which strictly protects clean athletes.

Mr. Renzo Manyari, President Peruvian Federation spoke also on behalf of the South-American countries when praising the IWF's consistent stand and policy. He confirmed that Federations and athletes of the region saw their medal chances being opened by achieving a level playing field in Continental and World events.

Mr. Don McNeill, Canadian Weightlifting Federation congratulated on the IWF's unwavering position and series of actions including the full implementation of the whereabouts conditions for all.

Mr. Ssenkungu Salim Musoke, President Uganda Weightlifting Federation said that although it was difficult for the African Youth Qualification Championships to suffer a dramatic decrease of the number of eligible participants due to ineligibility declared for whereabouts failures, he and his Federation still strongly supported the IWF's position as being the only way to ensure clean weightlifting.

After that, various tools to help MFs/athletes submit the WA info were considered, with special regard to confidentiality and security issues.

Mr. Mustapha Mahdi (IRQ) also complained of technical/communication difficulties and problems with ADAMS.

ADC representatives summarized the issue by confirming that while the WA submission is the athlete's obligation, the national federation can help by educating the athletes and checking whether they submitted the info or not. In Ashgabat 2 Education Seminars would be dedicated solely to WA.

9.2 Independent Monitoring Group Report - Prior to reporting about point 9.3 Dr. Nyirfa informed the Congress that as in the lack of time the Executive Board could not discuss the Independent Monitoring Group's Report, this could not be presented to the Congress. She confirmed that a report would be given to the Congress following the Executive Board's consideration of the report.

9.3 Clean Sport Commission Report

Dr. Nyirfa presented the report about the implementation of the Clean Sport Commission's recommendations. (Annex #13)

10. Report on the 2018 Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires

Mr. Gustavo Malgor, President of Argentinian Federation and Mr. Attila Ádámfi, Event Delegate submitted the report. (Annex #14). Highlights: For the first time more women than men participated; the reallocation system worked excellently; IOC was very satisfied; successful Focus Day. Mr. Malgor thanked for the great legacy of the Games and the support of the IWF.

11. Reports on the preparation of future events

11.1 2019 IWF Youth World Championships, Las Vegas, USA – Mr. Pedro Meloni, USAW Senior Event Director warned of timely visa application submission. Venue: Las Vegas – large hotel combined with venue, same time a Bronze Level IWF Qualification Event “Las Vegas International Open” – in case you don’t have youth athletes.

Ms. Ursula Papandrea, USAW President invited all IWF members to join the event.

11.2 2019 IWF Junior World Championships, Suva, FIJ – Ms. Della Shaw-Elder, Vice President of Weightlifting Fiji gave information of the preparations; introduced the logo and confirmed dates: 1-8 June 2019.

110 countries are visa exempt – others with visa on arrival. Further information to be found in Regulation.

11.3 2019 IWF World Championships, Pattaya, THA – Mr. Intarat Yodbangtoey spoke on behalf of TAWA President and offered a warm invitation.

Mr. Nippon Limboonsuebsai and Ms. Sirilak Thatman presented technical details of this Gold Level IWF event.

11.4 2020 Olympic Games, Tokyo, JPN – Ms. Reiko Chinen, Weightlifting Sport Manager Tokyo 2020 gave an update on the progress of preparations (introducing her staff, venue, Olympic Village). A Silver Level Test Event would be held 6-7 July 2019.

Mr. Ádámfi added a presentation on the implementation of the Olympic Qualification system (Annex #15): On 1 November it goes on the IWF website, replacing records and results with the new categories and world standards. The Olympic Qualification database provides full transparency in the system: MFs may follow their – and others’ – athletes’ results and status in qualification!

11.5 2020 IWF Youth World Championships- Lima, PER – Mr. Renzo Manyari, PWF President and Mr. José Quinones, IWF Vice President gave the update. Because of the Olympic Games the YWC will be moved to November – dates to be confirmed.

11.6 2020 IWF Junior World Championships – Cairo, EGY – Mr. Mohammed Mahmoud Mahgoub, EWF President and Ms Wafaa Moussa conveyed greetings from Egypt’s Minister of Youth and Sport and played a video on Cairo, and the JWC technical details.

On behalf of the Egyptian Federation souvenirs were presented to the IWF leaders.

12. Presentations by the barbell manufacturers and sponsors

12.1 **ELEIKO** – Mr. Eric Blomberg, CEO – supplied the YOG and the 2018 IWF WWC; company introduced a new custom design of barbell and platform.

12.2 **UESAKA** – Mr. Tadamasa Uesaka, CEO presented the new products and projects

12.3 **ZHANGKONG** – Mr. Zhang Zhuo, CEO presented the company's recent and future projects

12.4 **AAAF Holding, Azerbaijan** – Mr. Fahri Agayev, Co-founder of the Business Consulting firm, was pleased to report on new partnership agreement with the IWF and the company's project in providing sustainable and permanent financial support to the athletes; construction in Azerbaijan of 30 weightlifting gyms; Training Academy complex; training facilities.

14. Speeches by Congress delegates

Mr. Monico Puentevella (PHI) thanked the President and EB for strengthening weightlifting's relationship with the IOC in a difficult period of time.

The President thanked organisers, hosts and participants and closed the Congress.