

REPORT

Executive Board Meeting

17-18 March 2020 – Lausanne, SUI

1 Welcome and Opening / Roll Call

The presence of following members was established:

Ms. Ursula Papandrea, Acting President

Dr. Tamás Aján, President

Mr. Mohammed Jalood, General Secretary,

Mr. Intarat Yodbangtoey, 1st Vice President

Mr. Nicu Vlad, Mr. José Quinones, Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, Mr. Petr Krol, Vice Presidents

Ms. Karoliina Lundahl, Mr. Mahmoud Mahgoub, Mr. Shakhrillo Makhmudov, Mr. Michael Irani,

Mr. Maxim Agapitov, Mr. Birendra Baishya, Mr. Pyrros Dimas, Executive Board Members

Mr. Marcus Stephen, Mr. Khaled Mehalhel (joining later on) Continental Presidents

Mr. Attila Ádámfi, Director General and IWF Secretariat members from Lausanne and Budapest

Absent: Mr. Luis Zambrano, Mr. Mohammed Yousef Al-Mana, Mr. Antonio Urso

Ms. Papandrea welcomed participants. It was established that herself as well as **Mr. Agapitov** were present in the meeting room of the *Hotel de la Paix* in Lausanne, Switzerland, while the rest of the participants joined by video conference.

Mr. Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director was welcomed who joined the video conference. He confirmed that at this stage the Olympic Games will be held in 130 days. Regarding the Coronavirus pandemic's impact on the qualification the IOC put in place a structure to allow for necessary changes.

From the point of view of Paris 2024, **Mr. McConnell** confirmed that the IWF had taken very good measures in terms of the Qualification System and Anti-Doping, and that the IOC was closely watching the full implementation of these measures. He warned that if any diversion is seen from these the Olympic status of weightlifting is clearly at stake again.

Regarding the question of allowing “neutral” athletes from suspended countries to participate in the Games, he reminded

- 1) that extensive doping had been the cause of the quota reduction in the first place, whereby the IOC liked the principle of favouring non-doping countries – therefore this would be seen as getting around the qualification system;
- 2) At Olympic Games neutral athletes from where the NF is suspended but the NOC is not would not be neutral, as they would still compete for their NOC.

He also pointed out that the IOC had welcomed the move to remove the testing and the sanctioning from the IWF as governing body (just like the IOC did) and stated that the IWF made very good steps in this direction and they would not want to see those steps removed.

Ms. Papandrea welcomed **Dr. Francois Carrard**, Legal Advisor, to the meeting.

2 Approval of the Minutes of the Extraordinary EB meetings in Lausanne 2019, Doha 2020

Draft Minutes of both meetings had been sent to the EB for approval.

Ms. Papandrea informed the Board that she had received the audio recordings of both meetings and, to date, a transcript of the Doha meeting had been completed and sent to the Board.

The EB voted to approve the Minutes, together with the transcript of the audio recording, of the Doha 2020 meeting.

The EB approved the Minutes of the Doha 2020 meeting together with the transcript, with 1 abstention.

It was advised that the approval of the Minutes of the Lausanne 2019 December meeting would be put on the Agenda once the transcript is ready.

3 Coronavirus and the Qualification System

Mr. Ádámfi and **Mr. Matthew Curtain, Chair** of the Sport Commission both joined the meeting by video. They reported on 2 conference call meetings of the Sport Commission, as a result of which a document had been sent to the EB. They added comments to the presentation and explained that the suggestions were aimed at minimizing the risks and make the least possible modifications to the system, while ensuring the anti-doping regulations. The starting point was the actual assumption that the Games would be held as planned, as well as information based on daily contact with the IOC Sport Department.

Once these principles are approved, coordination follows with the IOC.

After discussion about the closing date for the qualification period, a ***vote resulted in majority of 14 for and 1 against the deadline of 31 March 2020 – accepted.***

Together with the Qualification System modification proposal an Application Process and Timeline proposal was submitted and approved.

4 Anti-Doping Reports

For this Agenda item representatives of ITA (**Mr. Benjamin Cohen**, Director General, **Ms. Dominique Leroux**, Head of Legal Department, **Mr. Gianluca Siracusano**, Head of Compliance and **Mr. Richard Mann**, Testing Manager) joined the meeting, as well as **Mr. Richard Young**, Chairman of the Independent Member Federations Sanctions Panel.

1 **ITA Partnership Activity Report 2019-2020**

Mr. Mann opened reporting with ITA Partnership 2019 Activity Report.

Subjects dealt with:

- Partnership summary
- Activities summary 2019 (OOC and IC Testing figures)
- Compliance
- Risk Assessment and Test Distribution Plan

- Sample Collection
- Athlete Biological Passport
- TUE
- Result Management – it was pointed out that in addition to the ADRVs ITA was also working on the ARD allegations, with special regard to ADRVs and special cases
- Education

Questions regarding the application of gene testing and dried blood spot testing in weightlifting and the Independent Member Federations Sanctions Panel (IMFSP) were answered by **ITA**:

- 1) Gene testing is not part of the testing standards, as not supported by scientific opinion. A Working Group would supply updates later. The testing with dried blood spot was promising and subject to validation by WADA.
- 2) On IMFSP: ITA has no objection to the current membership of the Panel. When the mandate of the current Members will expire, ITA will be happy to suggest new members, as it was approved at the EB meeting held in Lausanne, in 2019.
- 3) On finances: In 2019 – 1.2 Million USD was paid by IWF to ITA to cover all costs of the AD Program and 300 Thousand remained unused at the end of the year which ITA still wants to spend on the IWF program.

He added that much discussion had been going on about the involvement of HUNADO and referred to the statistics in the Report. Its involvement in IC testing was concentrated on the WWC, while in OOC only 40 samples of 1,000 were collected by this agency.

Regarding the ITA Pre-Olympic Strategy, **Mr. Cohen** referred to recommendations included on the publication of athletes tested and emphasized that a flexible approach should be applied. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on the different areas of anti-doping activity were highlighted. It was further promised to give the result management of the ongoing cases priority to have no pending case prior to the Olympics.

Answering to **Ms. Papandrea** on transparency with testing data, i.e. if it was possible to publish full testing data on the web, **Mr. Cohen** said that a very careful consideration was required on behalf of ITA in order to satisfy the requirements of transparency while not compromising the testing strategy. In the end, he meant that the publication every three months of the athlete's name, country and number of testing should be sufficient without releasing the substance, the time and other relevant data.

2 Pre-Olympic Anti-Doping training camp

Regarding this project **Mr. Cohen** warned of compliance issues with the WADA Code, since such camp where all athletes would be concentrated at the same place and told to be tested with no exception would hamstring any unannounced testing. He recommended using the training camps by NOCs instead.

3 Anti-Doping Policy assessment

Dr. Lilla Sági, IWF Legal Counsel with **Mr. Nicolas Zbinden** presented the proposal.

The goal is to prepare for the implementation of the new WADA Code effective with 1 January 2021 with an IWF ADP ensuring compliance. The proposal is to establish a Commission due to meet as early as in March 2020, according to the timeline presented.

Suggestions were made as to the composition of the Commission by function and representation. Specific proposals were forwarded as to the international external experts, while the 3 IWF representatives are expected to be named by the Board/Acting President.

She was asked to propose a choice of minimum 2 candidates to each international expert position. The Board agreed that the proposal will be discussed and after the meeting there will be a voting regarding the timeline and the composition of the Commission.

5 **Report of the Independent Member Federation Sanctions Panel**

Mr. Richard Young, Chair of IMFSP reported on the current status of the Panel's activity, forecasting decisions on Malaysia and Thailand by end of March. The Panel is determined and ready to resolve MF questions yet unknown with emergency hearings, etc. to have the decision before the Games.

6 **Finances**

Financial Advisor **Mr. Alain Siegrist** was welcomed to the meeting. Report sent prior to the meeting and presented online.

1 **A) Financial Report on 2019**

Mr. Siegrist reported on the Annual Financial Report 2019 about to be ready for auditing, with oral clarifications.

B) 2020 Budget update

2 **Auditors' Report on 2019**

Mr. Pierre Henri Pingeon, KPMG asked for a letter of authorization for preparing the Financial Statement – preferably with 3 signatures.

Ms. Papandrea pointed at various occurrences she considered as non-compliance with the ToR for the Acting President regarding the accounts and financial issues as well as the President and the operation of the Secretariat. Talking to the Financial Advisor and the Auditor she expressed concern about the expenditures: draining practically without revenue. She concluded that new streams should be a focus in the future.

7 **Ethics Guidelines for EB and Staff**

The presence of 15 participants in the meeting was established. The Board discussed IWF Staff issues regarding operations and employment. The necessity to create Guidelines and upgrade the IWF operations was established.

8 Allocation of the 2022 IWF Junior World Championships

One single bid by the Greek Weightlifting Federation.

The 2022 IWF Junior World Championships were allocated to Hersonissos, Crete, Greece, with 13 votes in favour, 1 abstention by Mr. Dimas, President of Greek Federation.

9 Information of 2020 IWF Junior World Championships and further cancelled Continental Championships

After some discussion and deliberations, it was concluded that decisions re. Continental events should remain in the authority of the relevant Continents; and that it was required to wait until the situation has been stabilized. At the same time, confirmed world events should have priority and the postponed ones should adjust.

10 Consideration of Clean Athletes from suspended countries

At the outset **Ms. Papandea** stated that in the light of the earlier statements by **Dr. Aján**, **Mr. McConnell** or **Mr. Bach**, her firm position is to uphold the IWF's own policies and reject the notion, or else weightlifting as a sport would be jeopardized.

11 Thailand's request for participation in IWF Events

Mr. Intarat Yodbangtoey with **Mr. Nippon Limboonsuebsai** introduced the request on behalf of TAWA.

TAWA's legal representative **Mr. Ramoni** presented the request: the EB to issue a decision to allow the reintroduction of Thai participation in international competitions, by adjusting the regulations based on the concept of "clean athletes" and humanity.

It was noted that a decision by the IMFSP was still ahead, thus the TAWA Undertaking was still in force.

The Acting President confirmed that the IWF had fully adhered to TAWA's own Undertaking, while the latter kept trying to change it. She assumed the Panel would favourably consider the elapsed time (1 year) in self-suspension when awarding the decision on TAWA in the near future.

TAWA was reminded that the undertaking of non-participation had been for an indefinite period but specifically including the Olympic Games; IWF shall abide by the Undertaking and abstain from making decisions on this.

In this connection, **Ms. Papandrea** confirmed that the IWF must respect the institution that it created, i.e. the IMFSP.

12 IWF Strategic Plan

Mr. Ádámfi referred to the working paper previously sent to the EB and recommended it for

further study. Furthermore he requested the Acting President and the members to send proposals, recommendations in order to create an inclusive development process.

13 Refugee Participation Policy

Mr. Ádámfi said that based on the big success of the IOC Refugee Team at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the IOC was preparing the same for Tokyo as well. The IWF Technical Committee had already prepared the relevant TCRR modification to include a point that the EB can approve the participation of Refugee Athletes.

It was agreed that in the near future, after study, the EB should pass a vote by e-mail. At the same time, **Mr. Ádámfi** should continue working on this Policy.

14 Any other matter

1. **Mr. Quinones**, on the general concept of the Olympic Qualification, pointed at the necessity to move forward in the same direction as the EB's recent decisions and suggested that quota reallocation should aim clean athletes.
2. **Mr. Agapitov** reminded of the proposal sent by RWF to change the IWF ADP and signalled that he wished to introduce this again to the EB at a future meeting, in order for the EB to analyse the reasons of the Russian doping culture.
3. **Mr. Quinones**, having recently been elected PAWF President, would be entitled to a position on the EB as CF President, yet he was already holding one as Vice President. Therefore, he expressed his request for a position for PAWF on the EB – with or without voting right.
4. **Dr. Sági** asked the EB to pass a decision on the ADP in order to move forward with the WADA compliance process – voting results to be provided thereafter by e-mail.

5. Qualification System of the 2022 YOG

Mr. Ádámfi urged the EB for an approval of the Guiding Principles of the 2022 YOG Qualification System, as per the IOC's guidelines just received.

The Guiding Principles of the 2022 YOG Qualification System were accepted with 15 Yes votes.

Dr. Aján, as the doyen, thanked for the fruitful meeting and the Acting President for chairing it well.

Ms. Papandrea also thanked participants and advised the EB of an Executive session coming up in the next days.

Interim Report by the Oversight & Integrity Commission

Item deferred to Executive session.