

REPORT of the IWF Executive Board Meeting Held on 2021 February 05 By Video Conference



PARTICIPATING

Dr. Michael Irani, Interim President

Mohammed Jalood, General Secretary

Intarat Yodbangtoey, 1st Vice President

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

Karoliina Lundahl, Maxim Agapitov, Shakhrillo Makhmudov, Mahmoud Mahgoub, Luis Zambrano, Sam Coffa
Members

Mohamad Y. Al Mana, Marcus Stephen, Khaled Mehalhel, Continental President, **17 Voting Board Members in total on the call.**

AC Members: Sarah Davies, AC Chair, Forrester Christopher Osei, Mona Pretorius, Lyu Xiaojun, Jürgen Spiess

Secretariat: Angelique Mottet, Interim CEO, Dr. Lilla Sági, OD, Mária Cseresnyés, BAM, Zoltán Veres, ITM,

Guest: Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Department Director, Despina Mavromati EDC Chair,

Meeting started at 12:30 am CET

ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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| | Opening | Dr Mike Irani, IP and Mohammed Jalood, GS |
| 1 | Update on Assessment of IWF Anti-Doping Rules | Dr. Lilla Sági, IWF Legal Counsel |
| 2 | EDC proposal on eligibility rules for election candidates | Dr Despina Mavromati IWF EDC Chair |
| 3 | IOC Remarks | Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Department Director |
| 4 | Discussions | All |
| | Closing | |

Opening Remarks and Roll Call

After Roll Call, Dr. Irani, Interim President, greeted participants Jalood, General Secretary also offered greetings.

Dr. Irani summarized the purpose and the agenda of the meeting. He explained that earlier this week, the IOC expressed its extreme concern for the number of issues. Kitt McConnell, IOC Sports Department Director, participating in the call were invited to explain how the IWF might satisfy the IOC's concerns.

1. Update on Assessment of IWF Anti-Doping Rules (ADR)

It was explained to the EB that after the IOC had raised concerns regarding the amendments to the ADRs, the IWF carefully had evaluated if the changes could affect IWF Qualification System (QS) for the Tokyo Olympic Games. Since the anti-doping part of the QS was not consistent with the ADR in effect. The IWF requested ITA to assess the 2 sets of rules and to provide the IWF, without weakening the special ADR of the QS for Tokyo, with a draft ensuring that both sets of rules corresponded to each other. This would certainly mean to modify the current rules, which would take time for the experts to evaluate and finalise them.

Following the update, Irani underlined to ensure Athletes' Commission having a voting seat on the IWF EB and a second seat on an ex-officio basis without voting right, the IWF external legal counsel would be approached.

2. EDC Proposal on Eligibility Rules for Election Candidates

After being introduced, the Chair of the IWF Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC) said the EDC was approached by the IWF EB to try to resolve some issues and add credibility to the process before the enactment of the forthcoming constitution.

3. IOC Remarks

The Representative of the IOC said he was grateful for being invited to the meeting as well as he thanked for extending the invitation to athletes, admitting it was the most important period in the life and history of weightlifting and the IOC was clear about their expectations towards the IWF in terms what they needed to see.

It was underlined it was hard to understand, for the IOC, the decisions taken by the IWF EB to have the electoral Congress ahead of the Constitutional Congress after all the discussions held with IWF both verbally and in writing so far.

IOC emphasized several times their requirement to see athletes' representation on the IWF EB with voting rights, however, the Electoral Congress, as it seemed, was to be held on the existing Constitution excluding Athletes' representation, completely ignoring the expectations of the IOC.

On 7 December 2020 IOC EB meeting was held where the quota of weightlifting was sharply cut from 196 to 120 [in Rio the quota was 260] the only sport losing quotas for Paris which meant to be a clear message from the IOC expecting changes, improvement in weightlifting. However, the IWF EB, on 15 December, simply disregarded the IOC message, with their decision accepting weakened AD rules.

The IOC Executive Board explicitly noted 7 December 2020 that the place of weightlifting in the program of Paris 2024 and Los Angeles was subject to the ongoing commitment to reform and protect the positive elements and positive steps taken in the anti-doping rules of the sport.

The EB was told that the IOC expected to see changes and improvements, change in culture even if that would mean a change in people; the IWF would be judged solely on its actions.

4. Discussions

Given the floor by the IOC Representative to the athletes, they thanked for being given the opportunity to speak for themselves and on behalf of all the athletes.

Adding athletes' voice onto the new board with only one athlete would not be enough, under the IOC rules, that there should be at least a 10%. The IWF EB had 20 members therefore at least 2 athletes with voting rights should be involved.

People kept talking about having a fairer system regarding reducing the Olympic quotas for Member Federations with several ADRVs. If nations did not like such system, then they had to test their athletes at home rather frequently before sending the athletes to international competitions.

It was also mentioned that IWF EB members should not have any kind of responsibilities within their own organization, federation, own executive board.

The AC was approached to remove one of the members in the Athletes Commission for ADRVs. She did and added the same should be applied to, as a rule, for the IWF EB Members, too as currently there were IWF EB members whose Federations were either completely banned or being under investigation for serving multiple ADRVs. IWF EB should serve as a leading example to follow.

As requested by the IOC Constitutional Congress should be held before Electoral to ensure athletes having a voting right as well as less conflict of interest. She also added that the IOC and other independent bodies should approve and have a vetting process regarding IWF elections.

The Representative of the IOC underlined – before leaving the meeting – that the IOC had heard enough, they would need to see actions taken by the IWF: to put the athletes to the EB would be the first respond to the concerns outlined by the IOC.

Discussing what was heard in detail, the EB agreed in order to satisfy the IOC requirements in terms of athletes' representation in the EB what the IWF could immediately do was to modify the bylaws as soon as possible.

The EDC Chair said even if the EB approved the interim eligibility rules there would be still some conflict of interest between the new and old Constitutions, transition phase that had to be sorted out jointly with the RGC. In principle, the EDC would welcome to act as the vetting and eligibility determination panel, however, the EDC should become operational. What needed to be approved was the rules of procedure, either in the form of a bylaw to rule 12 or to 6.1 point of the current constitution.

The EB agreed that the IWF EB mission was, as being in a critical position, to reply to the concerns raised in the

letter of IOC received earlier this week, then to discuss how to execute the requests of the IOC, what needed to be changed, Constitution, Bylaws, EB, ADR, whatever. It was a huge challenge that had to be solved step by step.

15:00 – 15:30: 30-minute break.

After the break, two versions of draft replies to the IOC were discussed by the IWF EB. The EB decided to circulate the draft discussed and agreed in detail among the EB members including the AC members present on the call to read it by themselves and finalise it afterwards.

There being no other matter to transact, the meeting was closed.

Meeting ended 16:30 pm CET on Friday, 05 February 2021.