

MINUTES of IWF Hybrid Executive Board Meeting 2021 December 19 (10:00 AM Tashkent, UZB) By Video Conference as well as live from Tashkent, UZB hosting IWF WWC

PARTICIPATING

Dr Michael Irani, Interim President and Chairperson of the Meeting
 Mohammed Jalood, General Secretary
 Intarat Yodbangtoey (online), 1st Vice President
 Jose Quinones, Petr Krol Vice Presidents
 Karoliina Lundahl (online), Pyrros Dimas, Birendra Baishya (online), Maxim Agapitov, Shakhriillo Makhmudov, Mahmoud Mahgoub, Luis Zambrano (online), Sam Coffa, Members
 Mohamed Yousef Al Mana (online), Antonio Conflitti, Khaled Mehalhel Continental Presidents,
 Sarah Davies (online), AC Chair, Forrester Osei, AC Vice Chair.
18 Voting Board Members participating in total in the **hybrid EB meeting** (whether in person or online). **Quorum has been formed.**
Secretariat: Dr. Lilla Sági, OD, Mária Cseresnyés BAM, Maxat Dastan CFA, Timea Horvath DM,
 Guests: Olivier Ducrey, LA; Jean-Pierre Morand, LA; Jean-Marc Exhenry, External Advisor, Rune Andersen, ADC Chair, Dominique Leroux ITA Representative;

ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

	Topic	Speaker
	Opening, roll call	Dr. Michael Irani
1.	Report of the Interim President	Dr. Michael Irani
2.	Report of the General Secretary	Mr. Mohammed Jalood
3.	IWF Committee Reports - Technical Committee - Coaching and Research Committee - Medical Committee	Mr. Sam Coffa – TC Chair Mr. Mahmoud Mahgoub – CRC Chair, Ms. Karoliina Lundahl – CRC Deputy Chair Dr. Michael Irani – MC Chair
4.	IWF Development Commission Report	Mr. Jose Quinones – DEC Chair, Ms. Timea Horvath
LUNCH BREAK		
5.	Report of the ADC	Mr. Rune Andersen – IWF ADC Chair ITA Representatives
6.	Presentation of Future Strategy and UNIL	Mr. Jean-Marc Exhenry – IWF External Advisor
7.	Presentation of Next Steps Related to the IWF Electoral Process	Mr. Jean-Pierre Morand
8.	Financial Report	Mr. Maxat Dastan – IWF Financial Advisor, Ms. Maria Cseresnyes
9.	Presentations of 2022 IWF World Championships host cities - 2022 IWF Youth World Championships (MEX) - 2022 IWF Junior World Championships (GRE) - 2022 IWF World Championships (CHN)	Representatives of Host Cities
10.	Candidature Presentation of 2023 IWF Events (ALB, BUL, ESP, ITA, KSA, MEX, PER, USA, UZB)	Representatives of Candidate Cities
11.	Candidature Presentation of 2024 IWF Events (BUL, ESP, PER, USA, UZB)	Representatives of Candidate Cities
12.	Candidature Presentation of 2025 IWF Events (BUL, NOR, USA, UZB)	Representatives of Candidate Cities
13.	Any other business	
14.	Closing	

Opening Remarks and Roll Call

After the Roll Call, **Dr Irani** Interim President greeted all the participants of the IWF Executive Board meeting; **Jalood**, General Secretary also offered greetings.

1. Report of the Interim President

The Interim President gave a report on the recent IOC announcements closing his update by saying that weightlifting would be there for Paris 2024 if complying with certain requirements but was not on the list of Los Angeles 2028. He also welcomed the new EWF President, recently being elected, Mr. Antonio Conflitti and thanked Makhmudov Vice President of the UZB Weightlifting Federation for organising such a great Senior World Championship in Tashkent as well as for his kind hospitality.

2. Report of the General Secretary

Given the floor Jalood also congratulated Mr. Conflitti for being elected as the new President. He also welcomed Olivier Ducrey, legal advisor joining the IWF Secretariat. The IWF faced challenges in this year but finally, step by step, everything on its track to be solved, referring the doping – independent organisation ITA contracted for the task, zero doping at the Olympic Games, events cancelled in 2020 due to COVID, which had impact on the Qualification System for Tokyo that was finally resolved, new Constitution approved. He also mentioned the challenges after the newly approved Constitution, the IWF was really pressed for time as within a very short period a lot of commissions had to be set up. He also admitted a huge amount of money was spent on the commissions, panels related to the Electoral Congress; and the result was zero. He also gave an update on the case submitted to the Swiss Court and other cases submitted to the CAS. The IWF made a lot of efforts, working hard for the betterment of weightlifting sport; and added it should be continued in the same spirit.

Makhmudov representing the host country was given the floor, who welcomed all the participants. He thanked the support of the EB, gave a summary on the successfully completed World Championships and wished Happy New Year to everyone.

Mr. Olivier Ducrey, Swiss Law Counsel, supporting the IWF Secretariat in the future and joining the given EB meeting online, introduced himself to the EB.

3. IWF Committee Reports

3.1 *Technical Committee (TC)*

Coffa started his report with congratulating Conflitti for being elected as EW President, and Davies for her success at the World Championships in Tashkent. (Annex 01) Since his appointment, He mainly dealt with COVID related issue impacting on world events, the Tokyo Olympic Games in particular, and the work associated with adapting the Olympic qualification system [for Tokyo 2020]. He also gave a summary on the Olympic Games saying they were enormously successful; and the most important achievement was – apart from excellent athletes' performance – that weightlifting recorded zero positive [doping] cases. After Tokyo finished, the main task to select 5 new bodyweight categories as well as elaborating the Olympic qualification system for Paris 2024 to be submitted to and then to be approved by the IOC at the end of February 2022. In terms of the TC, he added the review of the TCRR (Technical Competition Rules and Regulation) was still ongoing with minor amendments and additional clarification to the existing text were to be added; and then published. It was also added that the online rules and regulations had been elaborated which permitted events to take place worldwide. Finally, he thanked for the hard work of the people involved in all the aforesaid matters.

3.2 *Coaching and Research Committee (CRC)*

Mahgoub, CRC Chair also started his Report (Annex 02) with congratulating Conflitti. He said CRC also discussed the bodyweight categories saying CRC members all agreeing unanimously to keep the existing 10 bodyweight categories as it is advantageous for the athletes. CRC also discussed the Paris 2024 Qualification System (QS) with 2 proposals: an 18-month and a 2-year QS, it was also noted that COVID would have a significant impact on QS. To fight doping all athletes qualifying for the Olympics should be registered in ADAMS during the whole qualification period, (not only the 3 preceding months before the competition. Based on the request of coaches, a proposal to the IWF TCRR rule 6.6.3. was made about the automatic 1 kg raise after the first lift. The coaches proposed an automatic 2 kg raise instead of 1 kg. Another proposal by CRC was related to the use of challenge card.

Jalood underlined that CRC and TC had different opinion on bodyweight categories, thus, Jalood recommended that the Chairs of CRC, TC and AC Chair should have a meeting to finalise the categories. Lundahl added she wanted to be included as Deputy Chair of CRC as well. Adding each Commission should come up with an opinion reflecting a uniting opinion of the members, to avoid further conflicts.

A motion was made that the 3 Commission Chairs should sit together on a zoom call to reach an agreement ASAP and the to be sent their final decision in a voting circular for EB approval.

VOTE 1 to approve the 3 Committee Chairs would finalise the bodyweight categories with 14 yes, 2 no votes and 4 not online – PASSED.

3.3 Medical Committee (MC)

MC Chair made a report (Annex 03) on the discussions of the MC meeting held on the previous day:

- Summary on the issues raised or faced during the WWC in Tashkent
- COVID impacts
- Youth and integrity approach of athlete in WL - contact of doctors and coaches with athletes
- Body weight categories
- Women in weightlifting – menstrual cycle, pregnancy
- Management of fractures/dislocation
- Transgender issues

Related to transgender issues, a question was addressed to the Chair of MC about the approach of this issue. It was ascertained that the related IOC guidelines should be followed. On the other hand, the Athletes Commission added their opinion saying that it was not fair to the female athletes.

VOTE 2 to approve the report of the Medical Committee Report with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

4. IWF Development and Education Commission Report

Quinones made presentation giving an update on the Development Programme in 2021 (Annex 04)

- *Development Programme 2020*
 - o Totally 141 Federations applied
 - o Assisted for 123
 - o Due to ongoing pandemic some federations were not able to realize their planned projects
- *Development Programme 2021*
 - o 127 MF and 12 RF applied totally
 - o Equipment already ordered for 44 MFs
 - o Event support, covid support or seminar support so far
 - o for 31 MFs and 8 RFs
 - o Next equipment orders (6) and projects (6)
 - o Totally so far assisted for 101 Federations who applied
- *IOC IF Development Program 2021*
 - o EB decision to assist each Continent, total fund received from IOC is 70,000 USD
 - o In conjunction with the Continents the projects were chosen
 - o Africa: Libya
 - o Asia: Lebanon, Myanmar, Palestine
 - o Europe: Greece
 - o Oceania: Kiribati, Vanuatu
 - o Pan America: Mexico, Guatemala
- *Continental Contribution 2021*
 - o Agreements were signed
 - o Continental Contribution of 250.000 USD was paid to each Continent
 - o Deadline to send activity and financial report: 15th March 2022
- *Education*
 - o Different seminars, online seminars at events in various topics such as Anti-Doping, Technical Officials
 - o Webinars on YouTube
 - o Working together with the Continental Federations, IWF Committees
 - o Online competitions

A motion was made, to approve the IWF Development Commission Report.

VOTE 3 to approve the Report of the Development and Education Commission with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

Knowing that the IWF Development Programme had a surplus of 100,000 USD a motion was made to the EB to approve to use the funds for countries in sensible situation with an additional USD 6,000 using the surplus as required by commissions or committees submitting such proposal.

VOTE 4 to approve the utilisation of extra DP funds amounting to 100,000 USD with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

Chair of the Membership Commission requested a floor, raised the Jamaica case, requesting Mr. Quinones, PANAM President to give an update.

VOTE 5 to approve Jamaica on the Congress as full member if they pay the affiliation fee of 2,000 USD and comply with all other Constitutional obligations until 12 January 2021 with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 – 14:00

After the break 11 EBM in-person and 5 EBM online were present. The Quorum was formed.

5. Report of the ADC

Rune Andersen, ADC Chair gave an update on the hybrid meeting of the ADC held on 16/12/2021. Dominique Leroux, ITA Representative, gave a yearly report on the work done by ITA in 2021.

6. Presentation of Future Strategy and UNIL

Jean-Marc Exhenry, External Advisor of the IWF gave a presentation (ANNEX 05) on the future strategy of weightlifting.

It was asked what the deadline was for submitting the ASOIF Report - 19 January 2022.

Khaled thanked the presentation and said visions and goals must be defined and then achieved. Mini projects budget should be presented to be able to discuss and decide on them.

Lundahl said it was an honest report, she also thanked the hard work of the Secretariat.

Jalood given the floor expressed his disappointment in the work of the CEO, then he asked the Secretariat members participating in the meeting to leave the room for internal discussion by the Board.

After the discussions, a motion was made to terminate the Agreement of the CEO according to the relevant stipulations of the Swiss Law.

VOTE 6 to approve to terminate the contract of CEO with 17 yes votes, no abstention and 3 not online – unanimously PASSED.

12 EBM in-person and 5 EBM online were present. The Quorum was formed.
(Karoliina, Al Mana, Luis, Intarat, Sarah)

A motion was made to finalise the termination of the contract of Angelique Mottet ASAP according to the relevant stipulations of the Swiss Law.

VOTE 7 to approve to terminate the contract of Angelique with 17 yes votes, no abstention and 3 not online – unanimously PASSED.

7. Presentation of next steps related to the IWF Electoral Process

Jean-Pierre Morand, Legal Advisor of Kellerhals & Carrard Law Firm, gave an update related to elections, about the next steps to take (ANNEX 06)

- Ratification issue: a question arose about the validity of decision made in advance of the ratification of the eligibility determination panel EDP that was to be made [ratification] on Monday [IWF Congress].
- Justiciability issue: the IWF Constitution [approved on 29 August 2021] excluded any review of the decision of data of the eligibility determination panel.
- Appropriateness issue: under the IWF Constitution there was an opening for a possible delegation to a third party for normal elections, so that the EDP would give all its competencies to a third party, which itself appointed; a very important decision to be made [eligibility of the candidate] to be done by a body which had no legitimacy, confirmed by the Congress which was an issue itself.

The consequence of that issue was that there was a great uncertainty presently on the electoral process. Under Swiss law, and under also laws, so it would be challenging to exclude any review of a decision affecting the rights of people. Whether eligibility considered a right or not, right, whether it was a challenge itself, it was a complex issue resulted in some challenges already submitted to CAS, Civil Court [Switzerland].

The EB discussed the report and advice of Mr. Morand in detail, expressing their great disappointment in the issues related to the elections, EDC and EDP spending vast amount of money for nothing. They said they should be very careful allowing for the people appointed delegating their rights to third party to be delegated to another party with an endless delegation of rights and responsibilities.

Davies raised the question if the same would apply for the Athletes Commission elections as well asking when they were planned to be held as the present AC Members were appointed rather than elected so to make sure that Members to the AC were elected by athletes. It should be decided but normally AC elections should be held during WWC.

The recommendation of Mr. Morand was that the best possible way for the IWF was to reset the process in a manner which gave them the chance to do it correctly going forward. He also added the elections should be pushed to the last week of June: 25-26 June 2022.

Considering the aforesaid recommendations, Quinones proposed a timeline for the elections which was accepted by the IWF Executive Board:

- 30 January 2022 – Congress
- 2 March 2022 – Call for Candidates
- 30 April 2022 – deadline for the EDP finishing the vetting procedure
- 25-26 June 2022 – IWF Elections

8. Presentations of 2022 IWF World Championships host cities

8.1 Representative of CHN WF made a presentation on the advancement of the preparations of Chongqing hosting 2022 IWF WWC. (ANNEX 07)

The EB requested to sign the Hosting Agreement with the federation ASAP and to fix the date therein as many federations need to put it into their budget, it was also requested to fix the amount and type of food to be ensured to the participants.

8.2 Instead of the representative of **MEX WF hosting 2022 YWC**, Jose Quinones gave a presentation to the EB informing them even though **YWC 2022** was allocated to Mexico to be held in Sant Luis Potisi, the organisers moved the event to the **City of Leon** in Mexico. Presentation attached as (ANNEX 08)

8.3 Pyrros Dimas made a presentation on behalf of GRE WF hosting the 2022 JWC in **Heraklion, Greece** (ANNEX 09) on the preparations of the JWC.

Jalood underlined to prepare the invitation letters in time for the countries to be able to arrange for the visas and put the event into the federations' budget

9. Candidature Presentation of 2023 IWF Events

9.1 YWC 2023

Elez Gjoza, the President of ALB WF made a presentation on Tirana as a candidate city for hosting the YWC in 2023.

On behalf of the PER WF, Quinones withdrew their candidacy for the event.

VOTE 8 to approve ALB to host the 2023 IWF YWC with 15 yes votes, 1 abstention and 4 not online – PASSED.

9.2 JWC 2023

On behalf of the **MEX WF**, **Mtro. Luis Fernando Ortega Ramos, Director General de La Comisión del Deported de Jalisco** presented the city of Guadalajara being a candidate for hosting the 2023 JWC.

On behalf of the **UZB WF**, Makhmudov withdrew their candidacy for the event.

VOTE 9 to approve MEX to host the 2023 IWF JWC with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

9.3 WWC 2023

Mohammed Alharbi, the president of KSA WF made his presentation for hosting the Senior WWC in Riyadh, KSA. The EB it is the procedure only, the EB will decide on 15 of January 2022 be subject to the Government Guarantee Letters issued by KSA. As the potential candidates had not sent in their questionnaire to the set deadline as well as Bulgaria withdrew their candidacy, a motion was made to approve KSA to host the WWC subject to the guarantee letters received.

VOTE 10 to approve KSA to host the 2023 IWF SWC in Riyadh with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

10. Candidature Presentation of 2024 IWF Events

10.1 JWC 2024

Spain: the president, D. Constantino Iglesias Rodríguez Constantino, of **ESP WF** gave a summary on hosting the 2024 JWC, guarantee letter and questionnaire submitted, the place of host city had not been decided yet – negotiations going on with Malaga, Madrid or Coruna, however for further negotiations some decision from the IWF EB would be kindly requested.

USA: Phil Andrews, the CEO of USA WF showed his presentation to host the JWC in Las Vegas where the 2019 event was held.

General Secretary informed the EB that **UZB WF** withdrew their candidacy for hosting this event, thus a motion was made to vote on the country of their preference.

VOTE 11 to approve to host the 2024 JWC with 15 votes for Spain, 1 vote for USA, no abstention and 4 not online – PASSED.

10.2 YWC 2024

PER WF: Jose Quinones, made a presentation on Lima as a candidate for hosting the YWC in 2024. As **UZB WF** withdrew their candidacy for hosting this event, thus a motion was made to the EB to vote on the country of their preference.

VOTE 12 to approve to host the 2024 YWC in Peru with 16 votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

11. Candidature Presentation of 2025 IWF Senior WWC Event

NOR WF: The President of the NOR WF, Stian Grimseth, gave a presentation as a potential candidate to host WWC in 2025 in Forde, Norway. He also mentioned, the event fee amounting to 300,000 USD could be paid by them within 30 days of signing the hosting agreement.

USA WF: Phil Andrews, the CEO of USA WF showed his presentation to host the 2025 WWC in Las Vegas where the 2019 event was held.

The **UZB WF** withdrew their candidacy for hosting. A motion was made to the EB to vote on the country of their preference.

VOTE 13 to approve to host the Senior WWC in 2025 with 15 votes for NOR, 1 USA, no abstention, and 4 not online – PASSED.

12. Financial Report

Dastan, IWF CFA, gave his financial report on the 2019 and 2020 and some numbers from 2021 (Annex 10)

A motion was made to approve to invest the second instalment received from the IOC amounting to 7.8 million USD the same way as it was decided regarding the first instalment received in October.

VOTE 14 to approve to invest the 7.8 million assets with 15 yes votes, no abstention and 5 not online – unanimously PASSED.

A motion was made to approve the financial report on the 2019 and 2020 of Maxat Dastan.

VOTE 15 to approve the financial report of Maxat Dastan with 14 yes votes, 2 abstentions and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

13. Any Other Matters

Quinones gave an update on the Sport Accord Exhibition to be held in Russia in Ekaterinburg in May 2022, it would be a huge meeting of different international sports federations, the EB had already approved to participate. The rent of a booth of 9 m2 would cost around 14,000.

Quinones brought up the subject of certain contracts putting the IWF in a less favourable situation, thus a motion was made to authorize the Secretariat to contact the related companies to re-negotiate the related contracts finishing any exclusivity rights where applicable.

VOTE 16 to approve the Secretariat to re-negotiate certain contracts with 16 yes votes, no abstention and 4 not online – unanimously PASSED.

Meetings ended 20:30 p.m. Tashkent time on 19 December 2021.

Minutes by Mária Cseresnyés

Annexes to the Minutes

ANNEX 1	Technical Committee Report
ANNEX 2	Coaching and Research Committee Report
ANNEX 3	Medical Committee Report
ANNEX 4	Development and Education Commission Report
ANNEX 5	Presentation on Future Strategy and UNIL Project
ANNEX 6	Next Steps on the Elections
ANNEX 7	Presentation on Chongqing hosting WWC 2022
ANNEX 8	Presentation on Leon hosting YWC 2022
ANNEX 9	Presentation on Heraklion hosting JWC 2022
ANNEX 10	Financial Report
ANNEX 11	Transcripts of the voice record of the IWF EB online meeting of 19/12//2021

Notice: ANNEX 11 the "Transcripts" of the voice record of the IWF EB online meeting of 19/12//2021 was generated by the ZOOM programme.



Dr. Michael Irani
IWF Interim President



Mohammed Jalood
IWF General Secretary