

Minutes of the IWF Technical Committee
9 September, 2023
Riyadh – Saudi Arabia
Intercontinental Hotel

Joint Meeting

The joint meeting of the 3 IWF Committee preceded the Technical Committee. At this meeting, the Chairman, the President of the IWF, Mohammed Jalood, spoke very strongly about the importance of the Congress where we will need to amend the Constitution. We need to do this to democratise our Constitution and make it more workable for the future.

At this meeting the Chairman of the Technical Committee stated that from the point of view of his Committee, there was no more pressing item than the review of the duration of the World Championships. The Chairman proposed that items under review will include:

- 1 Reduction of bodyweight categories – suggested 2 Male and 2 Female;
- 2 Deployment of two platforms;
- 3 Setting minimum standards;
- 4 Qualification to be attained through Continental Federations events.

The Chairman of the Coaching and Research Committee stated that his Committee is very much concentrating on the finalisation of the World Coaching System.

Technical Committee

Attendance

Sam Coffa (Chairman), Heather Allison, Horst Saylor, John Ogolla, Maritza Ortiz, Milan Mihajlovic, Olga Solovyeva, Pedro Sanchez, Manareddin Eshelli, Italo Barattini and Dr. Mustafa Mahdi.

In attendance also the President of the IWF, Mohammed Jalood, Chairman of the 2023 World Championships Organising Committee, Mohammed Al Harbi, IWF Vice President, Attila Adamfi, Tina Beiter (Europe), Joe Triolo (Pan Am), Olympic Technical Delegates, Matthew Curtain and Moira Lassen.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everybody, especially President Mohammed Jalood, and the Chairman of the Organising Committee and invited them to address the meeting. Both had words of welcome and wished the Committee effective and productive work.

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27.04.2023 were approved.

Reports

Matyas Lencser and the Chairman made brief reports of the 2023 Grand Prix – Havana-Cuba and the 2023 World Championships in Riyadh, KSA, prompting a few questions and answers.

1. Review of the TCRR

With the advent of the Video Playback Technology (VPT) the Committee determined to review the section of the TCRR related to the working of the Jury and the Appeal process.

2. Professionalisation Of ITOs

The Chairman stated that this item is a work in progress and as development evolve, Periodical reports will be made to the Committee and the Executive Board.

3. Olympic Games ITOs

Realising that the biggest majority of nominated ITOs for the Games are members of the TC, the Chairman declared that the Committee, as a matter of governance, was in conflict. However, that did not stop discussion, comments or questions.

Following a few comments from members the Committee resolved to make a unanimous decision to delegate the President of the IWF and the Chairman of the IWF Technical Committee to make the recommendation to the Executive Board about the selection of the ITOs for the Paris Olympic Games.

4. Electronic Change of Call

The Committee was made aware that this project is feasible but requires an injection of funds before it could come to fruition. It was suggested that the IWF System is badly in need of update and questions were asked about the \$60,000 made available in the budget for this project two years ago but the contract to start the process is still to be authorised.

This matter to be investigated by the President, General Secretary and relevant officers as an urgent item.

5. Chief Marshal Data Entry

This item was discussed at length. It would appear that most Continental Federations and many Countries are using this system for their competitions.

Questions directed to the IWF IT Staff were asked and again the matter of the frozen funds were attributed to the development of this system and other developments.

6. Weightlifting Discs Diameter

At the last Horst Saylor proposed we should review the rule relating to the diameter of the weightlifting discs with a view to increase from 450cm to 500cm or more.

Dr. Mustafa Mahdi, a member of the Committee, with the permission of the Chairman, presented a study done at the University of Bagdad, and he outlined some of the findings which recommended that the Discs be increased in height to 55cm, the Bar lengthened to 230cm and among other things he also suggested that the Committee consider abolishing the oscillation movement as illegal.

After discussion the Committee resolved that a meeting be held with the manufacturers and the Athlete Commission to discuss the proposals.

7. “Press Out”

The “Press Out” issue was brought up for discussion not for the purpose of debate, as the Committee has made it clear that at this stage there is no appetite to entertain the issue, rather for the purpose of stating that press reports, releases on the matter are ill informed, not helpful and indeed harmful, in the opinion of the Chairman.

8. Review of World Championships Duration

a) Reduction of Categories from 10 to 8 (2 Men and 2 Women)

The Committee determined to support the formation of a Working Group composed of Pedro Sanchez (Leader), Heather Allison, Maritza Ortiz, Italo Barattini, Horst Saylor, Joe Triolo, Athletes Commission Representative and Staff.

Findings and recommendations to be completed by the end of 2023.

b) Two Platforms

Much discussion took place about this subject and at the end of it all, every aspect of the subject matter will be tested at the 2024 IWF World Youth Championships in Lima – Peru.

c) Minimum Standards and Qualification through Continental Federations Events

The Committee discussed this subject for nearly one-hour duration with many and various interests coming through the deliberations.

At the end the Committee decided to appoint a Working Group composed of Milan Mihajlovic (Leader), Horst Saylor, Dr. Mustafa Mahdi, Manareddin Eshelli, Heather Allison, Pedro Sanchez, Athlete Representative and Staff, to investigate and make recommendation.

d) Development and Education Commission

The Development and Education Commission has made an official request for the Technical Committee to contribute to the development of a video displaying the most common mistakes that Technical Officials can make.

This video can be made available online and also, if requested, it can be put on pendrive and distributed to Technical Officials and Coaches.

The Committee supported this project enthusiastically and appointed Pedro Sanchez as liaison person.

With no other business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Sam Coffa
Chairman