

**Joint Committee & Technical Committee Meeting
Minutes
Bahrain – December 1, 2024**

Attendance

Sam Coffa (Chairman), Milan Mihajlovic, Manareddin Eshelli, Heather Allison, Maritza Ortiz, Horst Sayler, Olga Solovyeva, Forester Osei (Athletes Commission), Online: Mustafa Mahdi, Pedro Sanchez, Italo Barattini, John Ogolla, Maude Charron (Athletes Commission), Tina Beiter (EUR), Joe Triolo (PAM).

In attendance also: Mohamed Jaloud (IWF President), Dr Antonio Urso (IWF General Secretary), Mr Eshaq Ebrahim Eshaq (President – Bahrain Weightlifting Federation), Matthew Curtain (IWF Executive Board Member – Paris 2024 Technical Delegate).

Staff: Achilleas Tsogas (IWF – CEO), Matyas Lencser (IWF - Competition Manager), Zoltan Veres (IWF – IT Manager).

Apologies

Nil

Joint Committee

Prior to the start of the Technical Committee the joint Committees Meeting was held. The IWF President, the IWF General Secretary and the President of the Bahrain Weightlifting Federation addressed the meeting welcoming all for their attendance both in presence and online, congratulating all for their commitment and their hard work which together with the IWF Executive Board drive the sport.

Mr Jaloud took the opportunity to thank the President of the Bahrain Federation for the wonderful organisation which he is sure the 2024 World Championships will be a great success.

Mr. Ebrahim, on behalf of the Organising Committee also welcomed everybody to Bahrain and stated that his “Committee is here to serve you” and urged for everyone to enjoy Bahrain.

The three Committee Chairmen highlighted the various work already done over the last 3 years and being done. In particular the Coaching License System, 10 years in the making, which has now been accepted; also, the formulation of the new Bodyweight Categories proposed by the Technical Committee and the Innovation Commission which will be presented for adoption to the Executive Board; the Medical Committee was urged to produce a simple and unambiguous Transgender Policy to protect our Female athletes.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met following the Joint Committee. There was 100% attendance and a four-hour long meeting which was a very productive meeting, with some heated debate, ensued.

Agenda Items

Out of the previous Minutes:

- 1 The suggestion that we should introduce a standardised costume for athletes, has been referred to the Executive Board.
- 2 Provision for equal rights to all athletes in terms of the 250 grams costume deduction rule during the weigh-in period, as proposed by Milan Mihajlovic. The item was debated, and the Committee approved the concept together with the new text which will be communicated on the website. New Text:

10 Athletes must be weighed in the weightlifting costume that they will be competing in. If an athlete weighs 250 grams or more than their officially entered bodyweight category 250 grams is deducted from the weight shown on the scales to allow for the weight of the costume. Following the deduction, if the athlete is still heavier the athlete must shed the extra weight till the officially entered bodyweight is reached. If the correct weight is not reached before the end of weigh in period, the athlete will be eliminated from the competition.

If an athlete weighs in the correct weight or less than their officially entered bodyweight category, 250 grams is deducted from the weight shown on the scales to allow for the weight of the costume, meaning the athlete is no longer entitled to maintain the entry for the category chosen, unless the athlete gains that weight before the end of the weigh in period. If the correct weight is not reached before the end of weigh in period, the athlete will be eliminated from the competition.

- 3 Rule 7.5.7 regarding the process of reversing a decision by the Jury put forward by Reiko Chinen who authors the Power Point explanatory slides. The Committee, after discussion approved a new text which will be communicated on the website and to
- 4 Ms Reiko Chinen. New Text:

7.5.7 When VPT is in use:

5 Members Jury

The Jury takes action when the decision of the majority of the Jury differs from the decision of the Referees.

If the Jury members differ from that of the Referees' decision, and the Jury members who differ are in majority, the Jury reviews the VPT and may call the Referees in question to seek an explanation. If the explanation is accepted, and the Jury is in

majority no action is taken. If the explanation is not accepted and the Jury is in majority the Referees' decision will be reversed.

Such decision and its reasons must be communicated to the Speaker, Athlete/Team Official concerned and Marshal via the Technical Controller or any other TO, as directed by the Jury President, and announced by the Speaker.

3 Members Jury

The Jury takes action when the unanimous decision of the Jury differs from the decision of the Referees.

If the Jury members differ from that of the Referees' decision, and the Jury is unanimous the Jury reviews the VPT and may call the Referees in question to seek an explanation. If the explanation is accepted, and the Jury is unanimous no action is taken, if the explanation is not accepted and the Jury is unanimous, the Referees' decision will be reversed.

Such decision and its reasons must be communicated to the Speaker, Athlete/Team Official concerned and Marshal via the Technical Controller or any other TO, as directed by the Jury President, and announced by the Speaker.

When VPT is not in use:

3 or 5 Members Jury:

The Jury takes action when the unanimous decision of the Jury differs from the decision of the Referees.

If the Jury members differ from that of the Referees' decision, the Jury may call the Referees in question to seek an explanation. If the explanation is accepted, and the Jury is unanimous no action is taken, if the explanation is not accepted and the Jury is unanimous, the Referees' decision will be reversed.

Such decision and its reasons must be communicated to the Speaker, Athlete/Team Official concerned and Marshal via the Technical Controller or any other TO, as directed by the Jury President, and announced by the Speaker.

- 5 Review of 6.8 TCRR related to Classification of Athletes and Teams and 6.6.6 Calling Order with suggestions from Reiko Chinen of missing text. The review was conducted by Pedro Sanchez who suggested the following revised Regulation from Reiko Chinen is not required as the revision suggested by Reiko was already covered in 6.6.6 Calling Order, which after discussion the committee agreed with, this will be communicated to Ms Reiko Chinen. There will be no change.
- 6 The Committee is now considering whether we should change the weigh-in times from 2 hours before the competition to 24 hours before the competition. The Committee agreed in principle with the proposal, and we are hopeful to have a recommendation to the Executive Board to coincide with the implementation of the new Bodyweight Categories.

- 7 The Technical Committee first, followed by the Innovation Commission, have been hard at work to formulate the new Bodyweight Categories which will be presented for approval to the Executive Board.

Several members voiced their displeasure at the way this item has been dealt with, suggesting, among other things that the Executive Board showed disrespect to the Committee and requested the Chairman to convey such feelings to the Executive Board.

Requests by some members to see the new proposals were denied by the Chairman stating that he was required to present such to the Executive Board in the first place for approval.

- 8 The Committee discussed and are seeking assistance from the proper Anti-doping authorities relating to 8.6 of the TCRR relative to World, Continental and Regional records which according to 8.12 refers to “Records are ratified when the athletes successfully undergo doping controls as per Anti-doping Rules”.

The anomaly was put forward by Milan Mihajlovic.

As you all know we have no information as to who is controlled during a championship by the ITA and therefore a new text needs to be introduced. The Committee agreed to refer the matter to the ITA and the Anti-Doping Commission for consideration.

- 9 Our IT staff has been asked to look at the provision of a push button device to start the process of a Technical Stop in the Competition. It is suggested that a prototype be produced as a prelude to a new piece of electronic equipment being introduced.

- 10 Also, as a technology innovation a set of wireless earphones with will be introduced between the President of the Jury and the Technical Controller, at the front of the stage, in the first instance, to facilitate instant communication.

- 11 At the request of Milan Mihajlovic, a long discussion related to the Field of Play and the protection of the personnel and Officials occupying this area, took place. The staff was asked to look at the design of the IWF Guidelines – Field of Play Layout which gives no dimension, with the suggestion of producing a ‘minimum’ determination and boundaries of dimension.

It was pointed out that the regulations regarding this item, by necessity need to be flexible as competition venues are not all the same.

Sam Coffa
Chairman