



**IWF**

INTERNATIONAL  
WEIGHTLIFTING  
FEDERATION

REPORT  
OF EXECUTIVE  
BOARD MEETING  
22-23 June 2016  
TBILISI



**Venue: Hotels & Preference Hualing, Tbilisi, Georgia**

**Present:** Dr.Tamás Aján, President

Mr. Ma Wenguang, General Secretary, Mr.Nicu Vlad, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Mr. Sam Coffa, Maj.Gen. Intarat Yodbangtoey, Mr. José Quinones, Mr. Ong Poh Eng, Mr. Alexander Gerasimenko, Vice Presidents

Ms. Moira Lassen, Mr. Pyrros Dimas, Mr. Birendra P. Baishya, Mr. Mohamed Jaloud, Dr. Michael Irani, Mr. David Montero, Dr. Christian Baumgartner, Dr. Fathi Masmoudi, Executive Board Members

Mr. Khaled Mhalhel, Dr. Antonio Urso, Mr. Willian Ozuna, Continental Presidents

Mr. Attila Ádámfi, IWF Director General

**Excused:** Mr. Marcus Stephen and Mr. Mohamed Y. Al Mana

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## **1. Opening and Roll Call**

**President Dr. Aján** welcomed the Board members and introduced the guests: **Mr. Kakhi Kakhiaşvili, President GEOWF, and Mr. David Kipshidze, VP GEOWF.**

Apologies had been sent by **Mr. Stephen** and **Mr. Al Mana.**

## **2. Welcome address by the hosts**

**Mr. Kakhi Kakhiaşvili, President GEOWF** warmly welcomed the IWF Executive Board to Tbilisi. He briefly talked about the history of Georgian weightlifting and expressed how excited they were about hosting an event of this size.

In his reply, **Dr. Aján** thanked the organisers for the great undertaking and wished them well for the Junior World Championships.

## **4. President's foreword**

**Dr. Aján** introduced the subjects of the meeting.

## **5 Update report on the Anti-Doping activity and related issues**

### **5.1 ADC Chairman's Report and anti-doping statistics**

**Dr. Patrick Schamasch, Chairman** thanked his IWF colleagues for excellent and conscientious work, introducing a joint presentation involving **Dr. Magdolna Trombitás, Legal Counsel** and **Dr. Éva Nyirfa, Junior Legal Counsel.**

Main items presented:

**Dr. Schamasch** summarized what happened in the world of anti-doping in 2015-2016 and called it a "black period".

He emphasized the huge work that has been done by the IWF ADC in this period underlining the increase of the IRTP, the power of investigations and the targeted Anti-Doping Education Seminar to which IWF summoned MFs having multiple AAFs (Adverse Analytical Findings) and ADRVs (Anti-Doping Rule Violations).

**Dr. Magdolna Trombitás**, continued, giving an update on various meetings and collaborations with entities. She called attention to the fact that the IWF's AD activities were listed as "Items of Good Practice" by WADA – and the IWF is being quoted as a good example for other IFs and NOCs: a reputation the IWF can be very proud of.

Completing the comprehensive report of the ADC on 2015 and 2016, **Dr. Schamasch** referred to a close collaboration with the "Rio 2016 Task Force" in order to have a full scope before Rio.

**Dr. Éva Nyirfa**, reported on the IWF's participation in a WADA Training on Investigation and Intelligence – both features enhancing the effectivity of AD activities.

Presenting the statistics of 2015, **Dr. Schamasch** referred to the motto of the ADC which is "*more quality than quantity*" and pointed out that the IWF had the first finding for Ipamorelin (growth hormone) in 2015.

It was generally noted that even if the IWF had always worked with the top WADA-accredited laboratories, the detection methods have progressed and become more sophisticated in the past years.

**The IWF Anti-Doping Department** pointed at the 2015 IWF statistics: involving 115 countries(!) and gave an update on the ADRVs and AAFs of 2015 and 2016, and explained the importance of the non-analytical ADRVs, as well as the challenges that the IWF is facing during the investigations. The result management procedure was explained along with the currently ongoing cases. A presentation was made about the 2016 ADRVs and AAFs. WADA's recent measures (e.g. regarding Meldonium) caused great confusion the IFs had to handle, while the IWF's ultimate goal is to save innocent athletes. When the excretion studies will be ready and the WADA practice will be available, the IWF will proceed with the closure of these cases.

**Dr. Nyirfa** explained about whereabouts failures and gave their data for 2015 and 2016. EB members were also asked to help by educating athletes and athlete support personnel on the importance of the correct submission of whereabouts information.

## **5.2 Closing of Houston 2015 cases, fine payments and related quota (withdrawal) issues**

**Dr. Trombitás** presented the 24 cases stressing that all of them had been detected in controls made by the IWF, not the USADA.

Considering ADRVs committed and quota obtained by gender, **Mr. Ádámfi** submitted a proposal for withdrawal of quota and explained the ideas and practical challenges of the quota recalculations.

**EB unanimously accepted the quota withdrawal as presented:**

**BLR – 1 (1m), AZE – 2 (1m – 1w), KAZ – 2 (1m – 1w), MDA – 2 (2m), DPRK – 2 (1m-1w), RUS – 2 (1m-1w), ROU – 1 (1m), UZB – 1 (1w).**

### **5.3 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games reanalysis update**

**Dr. Aján** introduced the subject providing a chronological account on the recent developments.

**Ms. Lilla Rozgonyi** added a few comments depicting the media reaction and the social media landscape following the IOC notifications on positive results at both Games.

It was mentioned that the IOC's repeated requests for confidentiality was respected by the IWF while several other sources have already leaked the names involved in the reanalytical cases.

It was emphasized as well that the IWF was the sole IF who publicly disclosed the names of the athletes following their notification, according to its Public Disclosure Guidelines.

**Dr. Schamasch** explained the analytical part of the retesting process. He stated that the new analytical method for long-term metabolites was introduced at the end of 2012 (not yet available for the London Games) and the IWF was the first IF that implemented this method – leading to multiple positive cases in 2013.

It is also important to mention that IWF was the first and is still one of the very few IFs to use extra methods and analysis to detect long-term metabolites of Stanozolol.

Resentment was voiced in the EB over the appointment of the President of the Russian Weightlifting Federation as Anti-Doping Commission Chairman of the European Federation, especially in view of its repercussions in the media.

**Mr. Ádámfi** gave further highlights to their very constructive meeting with the IOC, involving **Medical Director Dr. Richard Budgett**, **Sport Director Mr. Kit McConnell** and **Legal Counsel Dr. Christian Thill**. In the meeting, the IWF made the IOC aware of the very serious legal and sport challenges the IWF would have to face (e.g. retrospective management of disqualifications, qualification quota, etc.), however, the IOC made it clear these would have to be tackled by the IWF.

The Executive Board instructed and authorized **the President** to address an inquiry to the IOC as to the criteria of the 2008 and 2012 reanalyses (total number of samples, their breakdown among the different sports and NOCs.)

**Mr. Ádámfi** also highlighted the practical and sport related challenges that the IWF has to face due to the multiple reanalytical cases. Some problems (e.g. due to the Beijing reanalysis results the London qualification could have been different) can no longer be solved since the consecutive Olympic Games have already taken place.

It was made clear that the IOC's main mandate to the IWF was to prevent athletes involved with AAF in the reanalyses of both past Games from competing in Rio 2016. Including their entourage – which demands an investigation process from the IWF.

Following comments from the Board, **the President** suggested to deliberate the case of the Member Federations having produced a high number of AAFs in these past two Games, thus seriously endangering weightlifting's Olympic status and bringing it into disrepute globally.

**Mr. Coffa** suggested that their behaviour satisfied the clause:

“If any Member Federation or members or officials thereof, by reason of conduct connected with or associated with doping or anti-doping rule violations, **brings the sport of weightlifting into disrepute**, the IWF Executive Board may, in its discretion, take such action as it deems fit to protect the reputation and integrity of the sport...”

after long discussions they unanimously agreed that the reanalyses caused an unprecedented situation which is a great threat to the sport itself and strong measures must be applied in order to keep the weightlifting sport in the Olympic Games.

It is the sole authority of the IWF Executive Board to evaluate these situations and decide on actions that it deems fit to protect the sport itself. The Board agreed that suspensions shall be applied in order to send a strong message to the world and to deter further violations.

This special situation has to be separated from the multiple anti-doping rule violations of 2015 and also from the multiple violations which have taken place in this 8-year period.

These possible suspensions shall be based on the combined reanalytical processes which caused the current situation truly bringing the *“sport into disrepute”*. This possible sanction must be separated also from the quota withdrawals. The possibility of the withdrawals is regulated in the Special Anti-Doping Policy for Rio 2016 among the eligibility rules therefore they cannot be considered as sanctions. The withdrawals shall be considered as part of the eligibility procedure.

**After a long and detailed deliberation and a careful consideration for all the possible consequences the Executive Board approved the following option:**

**IWF Executive Board today has taken the following decisions and rules of Eligibility:**

- 1. IWF strictly and immediately applied its Special Anti-Doping rules for Rio 2016 on Quota withdrawal to countries having produced multiple positive cases in the Qualification period.**
- 2. IWF is setting up an Independent Investigation Commission to investigate countries with multiple ADP Rule violations (3 or more per year) including those to have produced 3 or more AAF or PAAF in the reanalysis procedures of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games.**
- 3. Executive Board is extending its Anti-Doping Policy to enable it to apply extra sanctions beyond the existing articles, including suspension of Federations which produce the highest number of ADRVs in an Olympic period.**
- 4. IWF will take appropriate measures to make sure that the athletes potentially implicated in the reanalysis process of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games – once disqualified by the IOC – shall not participate in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.**

The IWF will follow the WADA Code and the fully compliant IWF Anti-Doping Policy during its result management procedures and will give the relevant rights to the athletes who are implicated in the reanalytical procedures.

- 5. IWF Executive Board has decided that National Federations confirmed to have produced 3 or more ADRVs in the combined re-analysis process of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games shall be suspended for 1 year.**

**The Board decided based on article 12.4 that the suspension will be based solely on the re-analytical cases and will apply only for those Federations who have at least 3 confirmed ADRVs. These are the Federations who bring the sport into disrepute. The terms and the conditions of the suspension are clear and fair. The athletes/Federations will have the right to be heard by the IOC and they have the right to appeal the respective decisions at CAS.**

Confirmed means final and binding decisions. In case the third case of one particular MF becomes final the IWF will immediately notify the Federation about the one year suspension.

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#### **5.4 IWF Action Plan**

The EB approved the Action Plan some parts of which were already implemented and incorporated in the decision proposals.

A Position Statement regarding **Mr. Syrtsov's** function as EWF ADC Chairman was accepted:

**“IWF EB expresses disappointment over the appointment of Mr. Sergey Syrtsov, President of the Russian Weightlifting Federation as Chair of the EWF Anti-Doping Commission. Given the current environment, the IWF Executive Board strongly suggests to Mr. Syrtsov and the European Federation to reconsider the appointment to this particular position.”**

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### **7. Reports on the Committee meetings**

#### **7.1 Technical Committee**

**Mr. Coffa** gave a Report and the EB took the following decisions.

- a) Dropping the barbell: **Executive Board prefers to leave the rule as it is (lifter has to accompany the barbell after Down signal).**
- b) **Elimination of the bodyweight advantage as a factor to decide ranking – Proposal by TC unanimously supported by EB.**
- c) **TC recommendation to introduce an 8th bodyweight category for women – approved by EB.**

#### **7.2 Medical Committee**

**Dr. Irani** gave a summary of the MC meeting.

#### **7.3 Coaching and Research Committee**

**Mr. Yodbangtoey** reported on CRC meeting having touched following points:

- a) Coaching Manuals
- b) Coaching Education
- c) CRC decided to support the proposal for an 8th women's bodyweight category
- d) CRC supports EB stance on doping

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#### **5.5 Investigation into the Bulgarian case**

The EB decided to ask for further investigation.

### **13. Status report on the IWF Development Program**

**Mr. Quinones, DEC Chairman** and **Ms. Timea Horváth** submitted the report acknowledged by the EB.

### **12. Update on Marketing and Communication**

Based on a presentation by **Ms. Lilla Rozgonyi**, the **EB** **unanimously** **accepted** the **framework/principles of cooperation with Lagardere Sports**.

### **6. Updates on Rio 2016 Olympic Games**

#### **6.1 Report on the Test Event**

Report previously submitted by **Mr. Ádámfi, TD**.

#### **6.2 Update information by the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee and TDs**

**Weightlifting Sport Manager Mr. Pedro Meloni, TDs Mr. Sam Coffa and Mr. Attila Ádámfi** reported.

**Dr. Irani** reported on the latest favourable developments regarding the Zika virus and quoted the WHO that estimated very-very low risks of Zika infection for Games time. The relevant IOC Guidelines were printed and distributed among the EB.

### **15. Update on Olympic Agenda 2020 - Good Governance**

**Mr. Ádámfi** stressed that the IWF must be proactive on Good Governance, especially in these turbulent times in Sports industry. He then quoted examples in the IWF activities for G.G. already practised by our Federation notwithstanding the Olympic Agenda 2020.

### **14. Allocation of the 2018 IWF Junior World Championships**

The EB decided to allocate the 2018 IWF Junior World Championships to Pyeongyang, DPR Korea.

### **11. Financial Reports**

#### **11.1 Financial Report on 2015**

**Financial Advisor Mr. Alain Siegrist** reported on the 2015 audited financial statements. **The Executive Board approved the Financial Report for 2015**.

#### **11.2 Budget for 2016**

2016 being an Olympic year, revenues are expected to be a multiple of those in 2015.

**Mr. Siegrist suggested to adjust the financial plan by increasing the minimal level of reserves from 10 M USD to 15 M USD, which was approved.**

**The presented Budget for 2016 was unanimously accepted.**

## **9. Summaries of Commissions**

### **9.1 Membership Commission**

**Mr. Jaloud**, Chairman of the Membership Commission submitted a thorough membership review executed by the Commission. **Equatorial Guinea was confirmed as Provisional Member of the IWF.**

**The affiliation of new member, Burundi was unanimously approved by the Board, to be ratified by Congress.**

## **3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting in Rio**

**The Minutes were unanimously approved.**

## **10. Continental Federation reports**

The Continental Federations submitted their reports in hard copies, completed orally and with the help of PPTs by the respective Presidents.

### **5.2 Proposal for reallocation of quota**

**Mr. Ádámfi** presented the proposal for the reallocation of the quota places returned or withdrawn, based on the following reallocation principles:

1. Continental representation
  2. Ranking at Continental Qualification Events
  3. Participation in qualification event
    - Unused: 6 W
    - Withdrawn: 8 M / 5 W
    - Total: 8 M / 11 W
- Reallocation to:
- Africa: KEN (M) / MAR, MRI (W)
  - Asia: QAT, SRI (M) / IRQ, UAE (W)
  - Europe: GRE, ISR (M) / FIN, LAT, SWE (W)
  - Oceania: NRU (M) / SOL (W)
  - Pan Am: CHI, GUA, (M) / ARG, PER, URU (W)

**The proposal was unanimously accepted**



## **9.2 Women's Commission**

**Ms. Lassen, Chair of Women's Commission** gave a brief summary of the elaboration of the proposal for the 8<sup>th</sup> bodyweight category for women . Upon further review in conjunction with other committees (TC, CRC, MC) as well as statistical analysis by the IWF Secretariat the suggested bodyweight category will be presented by the next EB meeting.

**The President** closed the meeting.

*A.Németh-Móra  
July 2016*

