



IWF

INTERNATIONAL
WEIGHTLIFTING
FEDERATION

MINUTES of IWF Congress Penang, MAS 19 October 2016



Venue: Hotel Equatorial, Penang, Malaysia

Present: Dr Tamás Aján, President, Mr Ma Wenguang, General Secretary;

Mr Nicu Vlad, 1st Vice President, Mr Sam Coffa, Mr Ong Poh Eng, Maj.Gen. Intarat Yodbangtoey, Mr José Quinones, Mr Alexander Gerasimenko, Vice Presidents

Ms Moira Lassen, Mr Pyrros Dimas, Mr Birendra Prasad Baishya, Mr Mohamed Jaloud, Dr Michael Irani, Mr David Montero, Dr Fathi Masmoudi, Dr Antonio Urso, Mr Khaled Mhalhel, Mr Willian Ozuna, Mr Marcus Stephen, Executive Board Members

Dr Francois Carrard, Legal Advisor to IWF, Dr Patrick Schamasch, ADC Chairman

1. **Opening**

Dr Aján, President greeted the host, **Mr Ong Poh Eng, VP and President of the Malaysian WF**, the delegates and guests, and opened the Congress.

2. **Welcome by host**

Mr Ong Poh Eng, VP and President of the Malaysian Weightlifting Federation offered a warm welcome to all participants of the congress and the IWF Youth World Championships.

3. **Technical and program information on the IWF YWC**

Information was provided regarding the upcoming event.

4. **Roll call**

The presence of delegates representing 63 Member Federations was established (Annex 1 - Roll Call).

12. **Approval of the IWF Constitution & By-Laws 2017**

Dr Aján referred to the Draft document elaborated on the basis of the proposals received, discussed, deliberated and selected for recommendation by the Executive Board, as well as previously sent to the MFs. He introduced **Dr Carrard** who then presented the modifications to the delegates, adding some technical remarks following his own review. **Dr Carrard** confirmed that all changes proposed were in accordance with Swiss Law.

Delegate from **BOL, Dr Jorge Espana** posed questions regarding the appeal and disciplinary procedures. After some consideration it was agreed that provisions to such effect would be reviewed throughout the whole document.

After the Draft had been presented page by page, highlighting certain points specifically, upon proposal by **Dr Carrard** a vote was taken: ***Subject to a new amendment to specify the appeal procedure, the Congress unanimously approved the Constitution and By-Laws 2017 as proposed, to be finalized and to enter into force on 1st January 2017.***

The wording of the new appeal procedure was elaborated immediately after the submission of the proposal. It shall be further discussed and presented to the IWF Congress later on.

Dr Aján thanked **Dr Carrard** for his invaluable assistance. He then highlighted the major achievements through the proposed Constitution & By-Laws, e.g. steps towards gender equity in the management of the sport.

9. Membership Commission's Report

Commission Chairman, Mr Jaloud presented the report, including a review on the activity of the membership and participation statistics by continent and membership category.

7. Report on the 2016 Rio Olympic Games

Mr Attila Ádámfi, Technical Delegate submitted a comprehensive report also on behalf of **Mr Sam Coffa, Technical Delegate**. (Annex 2)

Mr Coffa added that Rio2016 was not free of problems, yet it was successful overall, especially within the weightlifting venue. IWF could be proud of a 50-50% gender composition in TOs; while the incident in +105kg was regrettable.

The President thanked for the excellent work of all involved. The Games contained many features with a positive impact on the sport, e.g. new countries winning medals. He offered congratulations to **Ms Yuriko Koike** who was elected Governor of Tokyo and to **Mr Yoshiyuki Miyake**, elected as new President of the Japan Weightlifting Association in her place. He then informed the Congress that the Iranians involved in the +105kg incident had apologized.

This was confirmed by Iranian Federation President **Mr Ali Moradi** who thanked for the opportunity to be heard by the Executive Board and reiterated the apologies.

10. Anti-doping related information by the Anti-Doping Commission

In his preamble, **ADC Chairman Dr Patrick Schamasch** thanked the IWF EB for the support and the IWF staff both in Budapest and in Lausanne for the excellent work. He emphasized that the fight must not be relaxed despite the difficulties, e.g. regarding the Olympic Games' samples' reanalysis. He called to delegates to help to detect the cheaters, with a special focus on the people behind the athletes.

With the presentation that followed (Annex 3) the IWF was proven to be a leader in the fight against doping.

Legal Counsel Dr Éva Nyirfa highlighted some of the major achievements; e.g. the Meldonium prevention (thanks to advice spread in membership in due time), and issued a renewed warning about the nutritional supplements that might contain prohibited substances.

She called attention to the "Reanalysis" tab on the IWF website where this rather complicated procedure was explained.

Dr Schamasch repeated that the last 2 years had been a "black period" in sports in general and concluded by another call to the membership pointing out that weightlifting was still in danger; therefore the IWF must build for the future.

YEM delegate **Mr Al Jarmal** suggested opening a new page with new records, etc.

AUS delegate **Mr Pedro Sanchez** conveyed the frustration of athletes in the waiting about the delay in receiving the IOC's decisions on the reanalysis.

Dr Nyirfa explained that the IOC was the competent authority to decide in terms of sanctions in connection with the Olympic Games participation, whereby the IWF was to take over only matters reaching beyond the Games and confirmed that all rules must be observed in the procedures. While naturally she was unable to offer any estimates as to the closure of the cases she assured the delegates that any developments could be followed up immediately on the IWF website.

11. **Status Report on the 2016 Development Program & Development Program for 2017**

DEC Chairman Mr José Quinones, assisted by **Ms Tímea Horváth**, submitted the status report on the 2016 IWF Development Program. (Annex 4)

That was followed by the Development Program for 2017 just approved by the IWF Executive Board (Annex 5). Delegates were informed that the EB approved a change: raising the contribution for Seminars from 6,000 to 8,000 USD each.

It was confirmed that all proposals/applications submitted as per the regulation would be considered flexibly with a view to the promotion and the development of the sport. Explanation was given as to the nature and destination of support furnished through the 2 different channels, i.e. MFs and Continental Federations. The IWF constantly offers help to MFs and CFs to properly fill in the Application Forms. It was announced that the new documentation package for 2017 will include financial templates to make the application process easier for the National Federations. The documents will be published on the IWF website in December.

The **African** and **Asian Federations** gave examples of the help they had been getting from the IWF through the Development Program.

13. **Ratification of the IWF Technical and Competition Rules & Regulations (TCRR)**

Regarding the TCRR already approved by the Executive Board, **Mr Coffa, TC Chairman** and **Mr Ádámfi, Director General** highlighted a few points where they felt the Congress should be given the chance to express their opinions as the supreme authority of the IWF. (Annex 6) The process of updating the TCRR, lasting 4 years, was explained. **Ms Reiko Chinen, TC Secretary** was given credit for her contribution in registering all proposals in a "Bucket List". Every point was reviewed, deliberated and the proposals deserving consideration were accepted. Main points:

1 – Historical proposal: gender parity in bodyweight categories – the elaboration of the new rule on the 8th women's bodyweight category was exposed in a presentation, whereby arguments were given on the choice of the 90kg limit.

Ms Moira Lassen, Chair of the Women's Commission added her comments.

2 – Abolishment of the bodyweight advantage – a rule change expected to encourage an active competition strategy and allowing a better understanding of the sports by the public.

3 – Harmonizing the 20/15kg rule by having the same for both men and women (20kg for all).

Following questions from the floor, it was explained that by introducing the 90kg and +90kg categories for women the purpose was only to divide the +75kg category into two. Nevertheless, in the future a global review of all categories – male and female – would be possible.

While the new category structure was to be applied to all IWF-conducted competitions at all levels as of 1st January 2017, it was explained that the Olympic Games categories were the IOC's competence, however, chances were strong for an approval of the 8 women's categories. Other Games organisers have been or will be duly contacted FISU / 2017 Universiade and Commonwealth Games Federation / 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games have so far incorporated the change.

The IWF TCRR modifications were unanimously ratified by the Congress.

6. Information about the IWF Executive Board meetings

Dr Aján pointed out that in 2016 the EB was particularly busy having 5 meetings altogether. He briefed delegates of the major points discussed at the 3 recent meetings of the Executive Board (Rio de Janeiro, Beijing and Penang). He mentioned that the Tbilisi decision regarding the reanalysis of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games' samples currently potentially concerned 9 Member Federations, whereby none as yet were applicable.

8. Financial issues

8.1 Financial update report on 2016

A Report prepared by **Mr Alain Siegrist, Financial Advisor** was presented (Annex 7A), including an outlook and a forecast for the 2016 balance with respect to the 2016 Rio Olympic revenues.

8.2 Budget for 2017

The Budget of 2017 approved by the Executive Board would be sent to the MFs. (Annex 7B)

14. Reports on the preparation of future events

14.5 2017 IWF World Championships – Anaheim, CA, USA

USAW President of the Board of Directors Ms Ursula Garza Papandrea and **USAW CEO, GS Mr Phil Andrews** expressed it was an honour to be entrusted by the EB to carry out the 2017 WWC instead of Penang, Malaysia, which had resigned. Main features of the WWC were shown in the presentation. Delegates were assured that US visa arrangements were in place. The key staff of Houston 2015, strengthened with a new team on board the USAW, was endeavouring to make the event a success.

14.2 2017 IWF YWC – Bangkok, Thailand

TAWA President Ms Boossaba Yodbangtoey and her team gave an update report. The presentation revealed a strong and joint support and funding of the event (YOG Qualification event), involving the Sports Authority of Thailand and financed from National Sports Development Fund. Finally, she was happy to announce that the EB had awarded the 2019 IWF WWC to Pattaya, Thailand.

14.6 2018 YOG – Buenos Aires, ARG

Mr Adamfi, Director General announced that the Qualification System was approved by the IOC and presented the key elements and improvements of the system (Annex 8).

17. Any other matters

17.1 Update on the IWF Communication – by Ms Lilla Rozgonyi, Communication and Marketing Director

17.2 Marketing - Mr Omar Mustafin, on behalf of **Marketing Commission Chairman Mr Zhanat Tussupbekov**, gave information on the developments in the IWF marketing activities. The Chairman was thanked for providing the IWF Lounge during the Olympic Games in Rio.

14.1 2016 FISU World University Championships – Merida, Mexico

Ms Anikó Németh-Móra, FISU Technical Delegate reported on the preparations of the upcoming event.

14.4 2017 Universiade – Taipei, TPE

A progress report on the preparations of the Universiade revealed that the competition program already includes 8 women's bodyweight categories.

14.3 2017 IWF Junior World Championships – Tokyo, JPN

JWA President Mr Y. Miyake reported on advanced preparations and help guaranteed by the Tokyo Government. On behalf of the Organising Committee, **Mr Tadamasa Uesaka** gave information on the facilities (Ota City General Gymnasium, accommodation, etc.).

15. Presentations by barbell manufacturers

15.1 ELEIKO – Mr Andreas Andrén announced upcoming celebrations of the company's anniversary and introduced the new headquarters.

15.2 UESAKA – Mr Tadamasa Uesaka informed delegates of the new brand of UESAKA.

16. Speeches by delegates

16.1 PHI, Mr Monico Puentevella expressed gratitude to the IWF for the support to the small countries and for making it possible for PHI lifter to participate in 2008-2012-2016 Olympic Games and finally reaching a medal position.

The President thanked the Guests, speakers, EB members, sponsors, delegates and staff for their activity and declared the Congress closed.

November, 2016