



IWF

INTERNATIONAL
WEIGHTLIFTING
FEDERATION

**REPORT
OF EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEETING
2 April 2017
Bangkok, Thailand**



Venue: Hotel Grand Fourwings, Bangkok, THA

Present: Dr. Tamás Aján, President

Mr. Ma Wenguang, General Secretary, Mr. Nicu Vlad, 1st Vice President

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

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

Mr. Willian Ozuna, Mr. Khaled Mhalhel, Mr. Marcus Stephen, Continental Presidents

Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, Marketing C. Chairman, Dr. Patrick Schamasch, ADC Chairman

Dr. Francois Carrard, Legal Advisor to IWF

Mr. Alain Siegrist, Financial Advisor, Mr. Attila Ádámfi, Director General

Absent: Dr. Antonio Urso and Mr. Mohamed Y. Al Mana

1. Introduction by the President

Dr. Tamás Aján emphasized Thailand's important role by hosting two major events within two months and expressed the IWF's gratitude to the Federation.

He introduced the guests: **Dr. Francois Carrard**, **Dr. Nicolas Zbinden** from Kellerhals-Carrard Law Firm. He introduced the new members of the IWF Secretariat: **Dr. Lilla Sági**, Junior Legal Counsel and **Ms. Helga Ferencz**, Communications and Marketing Manager.

2. Welcome address by the hosts

Mrs. Boossaba Yodbangtoey, TAWA President offered a warm welcome to everyone to the YWC which is the main Qualification Event for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

Maj.Gen. Intarat Yodbangtoey took the floor and also thanked for the opportunity. With 69 countries to attend, huge participation was expected to the World Championships which received due exposure in Thailand's media.

- **President's Summary – The President** gave his summary of the events since the last meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Penang meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting in Penang were unanimously approved.

5. Anti-Doping Commission report and update

5.1 General update on Anti-Doping activities

Dr. Patrick Schamasch, Dr. Éva Nyirfa, Dr. Lilla Sági made a complex presentation. **Dr. Schamasch** pointed out that WADA was very happy with what IWF was doing and put it as an example to other IFs.

Main points touched: IRTP released; in testing more quality than quantity.

Dr. Lilla Sági gave a briefing on the IWF whereabouts requirements.

Dr. Christian Baumgartner reported on a meeting of German representatives in IFs and stressed the significance of education.

Regarding the 2008 and 2012 reanalysis of samples, it was confirmed that on the IWF's side all info was permanently updated on the website. Although almost all cases were closed by the International Olympic Committee and in spite of several urgings, still no information was available from the IOC regarding the medal reallocation.

Answering claims to do more OOC testing than IC controls, **Dr. Patrick Schamasch** agreed that the IWF had the same endeavour, however, he pointed out that at present the number of positives found in IC testing was still significantly higher than in the OOC controls and even though OOC sample collection is crucial it does not decrease the value and importance of IC testing. IC and OOC Test Distribution Plans are always elaborated carefully following a thorough review based on multiple criteria including intelligence.

5.2 Modifications of the IWF Anti-Doping Policy

Each point and suggested modification was explained, questions duly answered.

Mr. Sam Coffa and **Dr. Christian Baumgartner** both emphasized the National Federation's liability and insisted it must be emphatically reflected in the rules and sanctions.

Article newly added as 12.8 - Medal reallocation – **Mr. Attila Ádámfi** outlined the difficulties in the medal reallocation, namely that many athletes and Federations fail to return the medals, thus blocking the reallocation. EB needs power to enforce rules by sanctioning MFs who do not play fair.

A fine of up to USD 10,000 for not returning medals was unanimously approved.

The Board unanimously approved to the proposals and it was agreed that the three modifications (Articles 12.3.1, 12.8, 12.9) proposed additionally will be inserted and brought back for approval.

- CAS decisions – follow-up

BUL and IWF – Dr. Nyirfa referred to and repeated the information sent to the EB previously, whereas **Dr. Carrard** and **Mr. Zbinden** added their comments. Various options arising from the recommendations in the latest CAS Award - in particular the principle of proportionality - were carefully considered by the EB.

At the end of the discussion, the EB voted on majority to impose a fine.

The reduced amount of USD 250,000 was unanimously agreed.

The application of Article 12.3.1 A) of the Anti-Doping Policy "...Ban all or any officials" was discussed by the Board in relation with the multiple anti-doping rule violations of BWF athletes committed in 2015.

Investigations have been conducted by the IWF and results had been shared with the Board previously. **Dr. Nyirfa** and **Mr. Zbinden** informed the Board about the possible risks in light of the latest Arbitral Award issued by CAS in the case – especially in terms of the principle of proportionality - of imposing a sanction in addition to the fine of USD 250,000.

Having considered the above the Board unanimously decided not to apply 12.3.1 A) to the case at hand.

Since the legality of the EB decision by e-mail was disputed by CAS in the case above, it was concluded that the relevant By-Law 4.2 (Executive Board) should be changed accordingly.

The Executive Board unanimously approved the following change in By-Law to 4.2 effective as of 15th April 2017: Meetings of the Executive Board may be held in person, by electronic means, or by a combination of the two.

- **CAS Award related to the Board's decision taken on 22nd June 2016 -**

Mr. Zbinden gave information on the CAS hearing in the case and the content of the Award.

The President proposed to appoint a panel of Dr. Baumgartner, Mr. Quinones and Dr. Michael Irani to study the situation and bring a recommendation to the Board – approved.

A procedure was proposed to the Board to be followed for each individual case in connection with the Tbilisi decision: a notification with all details of the potential breach shall be sent to each Member Federation concerned. All MFs will be provided a 1 month deadline to be heard via written statements and if extraordinary circumstances so warrant, an oral hearing. The content of the submissions will be examined and shared with the Board which will then make its decisions individually for the case of each MF. The deadline to appeal any such decision is 21 days from receipt.

The Board unanimously approved the proposed procedure.

4. Financial reports

Mr. Alain Siegrist, Financial Advisor reported.

4.1 2016 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Alain Siegrist made his presentation of the Assets, the portfolio at UBP and the Balance sheet. An overall positive balance in every element.

4.2 2017 Budget update

Budget approved in Penang, 2016. The **Financial Advisor** could report on a good standing, thanks to the policy approved and a conservative estimation of the expenses.

4.3 2017-2020 Financial planning

Dr. Tamás Aján additionally reported on the Barbell Summit held in Budapest with the IWF's traditional partners/barbell suppliers. Main points:

1. additional fees would be collected
2. marketing achievements together with the manufacturers

Dr. Christian Baumgartner complimented on the transparency and success of the financial management and suggested further introduction of modern technology.

Mr. Attila Ádámfi replied that the introduction of online entries was in progress and the IWF created its app 4 years ago.

6. IWF Development Program

Mr. José Quinones, DEC Chairman reported.

6.1 Development Program 2017

Ms. Tímea Horváth's presentation included the altogether 82 MFs applications submitted. Total budget of financial support: seminars – USD 296,000; equipment - USD 228,000. Support approved by DEC and recommended for approval by EB.

Continental Federation Presidents **Mr. Marcus Stephen** and **Mr. Khaled Mhalhel** positively commented on the program and its handling. **Mr. José Quinones** thanked them for cooperating with and educating the MFs.

6.2 Continental Federations support 2017

Ms. Éva Moska presented the proposal. Receipt of applications in progress.

The Development Program 2017 and the Continental Federations Support 2017 were both unanimously approved.

7. Membership Commission report

Mr. Mohamed Jaloud, Membership C. Chairman, and **Dr. Éva Nyirfa** submitted the report.

As a result of the Membership review, the MC recommends: ***MFs which have not paid the Membership Fee before 2017 and/or have not had any activity from 2013 and/or MFs which are combined with other sports which have their own International Federations – shall be temporarily suspended.***

The Membership Commission proposed to give an additional deadline to settle outstanding Membership fee arrears from before 2017 until 15th April 2017. Then the MC will update its review based on the data at its disposal and make its recommendation to the Board based on the above accordingly.

Individual cases were questioned and explanations/solutions were offered. It was generally stated that the payment of the membership fee was a basic obligation expected from any MF to fulfil before help could be offered or voting right secured.

CF President Executive Board Members were requested to act as Liaison towards their MFs.

The procedure suggested was unanimously approved.

New membership application: **Rwanda** – fulfilled all constitutional obligations. If EB approves, pending the ratification of the Congress, Rwanda will become a provisional member (will have the possibility to become a Full Member earliest 24 months from the ratification of the Congress).

The affiliation of Rwanda was unanimously approved.

The Membership Commission report was unanimously approved.

ADP modifications

Dr. Nyirfa and Mr. Zbinden presented the wording elaborated based on the additional suggestions of the Board:

12.3.1

a) suspend the Member Federation, from participation in any IWF activities for a period of up to (4) years and/or

b) and/or fine the Member Federation as follows:

1) 3 violations up to 50,000 USD.

2) 4 violations up to 100,000 USD.

3) 5 violations up to 150,000 USD.

4) 6 violations up to 200,000 USD.

5) 7 violations up to 250,000 USD

6) 8 violations up to 300,000 USD.

7) 9 or more violations up to 500,000 USD

c) and/or ban all or any team officials from that Member Federation for participation in any IWF activities for a period of up to two years.

12.8

In case medals obtained at IWF Events shall be forfeited due to Disqualification based on this Anti-Doping Policy, the Member Federation concerned shall ensure that such medals are delivered to IWF within (30) days of the receipt of the final appellate decision on Disqualification or the expiry of the time-limit to appeal . In case a Member Federation fails to fulfil this obligation it shall pay a fine of up to \$10,000 USD (ten thousand US dollars).

12.9.2, 12.9.3

The Executive Board may at any time and at its own discretion decide to provisionally suspend the Member Federation pending decision on the alleged breach. If a provisional suspension is imposed, the Member Federation shall be given an opportunity to provide its explanation in writing. which shall be evaluated and decided upon by the Executive Board. The procedure shall be carried out in an expedited manner.

The Executive Board unanimously approved the proposals.

Dr. Nyirfa informed the Board that all modifications will have to be approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency and the modified IWF Anti-Doping Policy would be thus referred to WADA for

review. She assured the Board that any changes proposed by WADA would be brought before the Board for approval.

10. Report on IOC/ASOIF Women in Leadership Roles Forum – Lausanne

Dr. Tamás Aján introduced the subject saying that he had requested **Ms. Moira Lassen, Executive Board Member** to represent the IWF and **Ms. Ursula Papandrea, USA Weightlifting President** to participate in the Forum as NF representative. **Dr. Aján** also took part upon the invitation of the IOC in a discussion panel.

Ms. Moira Lassen reported to the Board in a presentation. Motto of the Forum was **#Time2Run**.

Conclusions for the IWF: our task is to increase the number of women in decision making bodies with a minimum target of 30% women by 2020.

Dr. Tamás Aján reminded of the IWF endeavours and achievements in the promotion of women.

8. Communication and Marketing issues

Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov, Chairman of the Marketing Commission spoke appreciatively of the IWF financial report and strong status and expressed congratulations.

Dr. Tamás Aján highlighted and thanked for the great financial support to the Electoral Congress to **Mr. Zhanat Tussupbekov** and **Maj. Gen. Intarat Yodbangtoey, TAWA**.

Mr. Attila Ádámfi gave a summary of the IWF-*Lagardere* Partnership Agreement.

Answering a question, **Mr. Alain Siegrist** explained that the business potential and the environment have changed since IWF started its negotiations with *Lagardere*. Now, even if a low income was to be expected at the beginning, the main target was to assure continued exposure to the World Championships. A solution for the 2017 IWF WWC in Anaheim could no longer be delayed.

Mr. Adam Schneider, representative of *Lagardere Company* presented an overview of the cooperation. The Agreement would run for 12 months to be reviewed by both parties.

9. Guidelines and procedural issues regarding the 2017 Electoral Congress

Ms. Anikó Németh-Móra made a presentation of the main points and issues of the 2017 Electoral Congress to take place in Bangkok, 29th and 30th May. **Dr. Francois Carrard** has been invited by the **President** to chair the elections.

9.1 Options for the **format of voting** were presented for a choice, whereupon, after a discussion, ***the Executive Board voted for the paper ballot throughout the elections to all positions.***

It was confirmed that while the first part of the congress was to be public and including guests and observers, the participation in the election part of the Congress was duly regulated by the Constitution (Article 4.1.4)

9.2 The deadline for submitting **Candidatures** expired on 28th March 2017. **The List of Candidates** sorted by position, based on the candidatures sent until the deadline, was displayed and distributed. 119 candidates from 72 MFs - all of them were eligible.

After this confirmation by the Executive Board, mail confirming the receipt of candidatures by name and position would be sent to the MFs concerned.

9.3 Proposal for awarding the IWF Order

The President suggested that those who are candidates to executive positions in the IWF should not be awarded at this Congress. The remaining **proposals were approved by the EB**.

9.4 Suggestion by President

The President proposed to organise an Executive Board meeting on 28th May 2017, prior to the Congress. Dr. Francois Carrard's participation will be requested. – Unanimously approved.

11. Update on the 2017 IWF World Championships

Item was cancelled with the Organizing Committee to report at the Congress.

12. Any other business

12.1 2018 JWC in PRK

The Executive Board voted to withdraw the right of organisation from PRK. The other candidates should be approached as alternative host.

12.2 Verification Commission for IWF Congress on 3rd April

Dr. Fathi Masmoudi, Mr. Birendra P. Baishya and Mr. David Montero were confirmed as **Verification Commission**.

12.3 Transgender Athletes

Upon our proposal the ASOIF Medical and Scientific Consultative Group will discuss the issue at its next meeting. The IWF delegated **Dr. Dominik Dörr** into the ASOIF MSCG who will report back on next opportunity.

12.4 2019 WWCs allocation

It was stated that a decision should be taken by the new Executive Board at its first meeting in June.

12.5 Weightlifting program of the 2020 Olympic Games, Tokyo

Mr. Attila Ádámfi, Director General informed the Board that the IWF submitted the request to the IOC for an additional event (+90kg women) .

Thanking for the participation and the hospitality, the President declared the meeting closed.

*Report by A.Németh-Móra
April-May 2017*