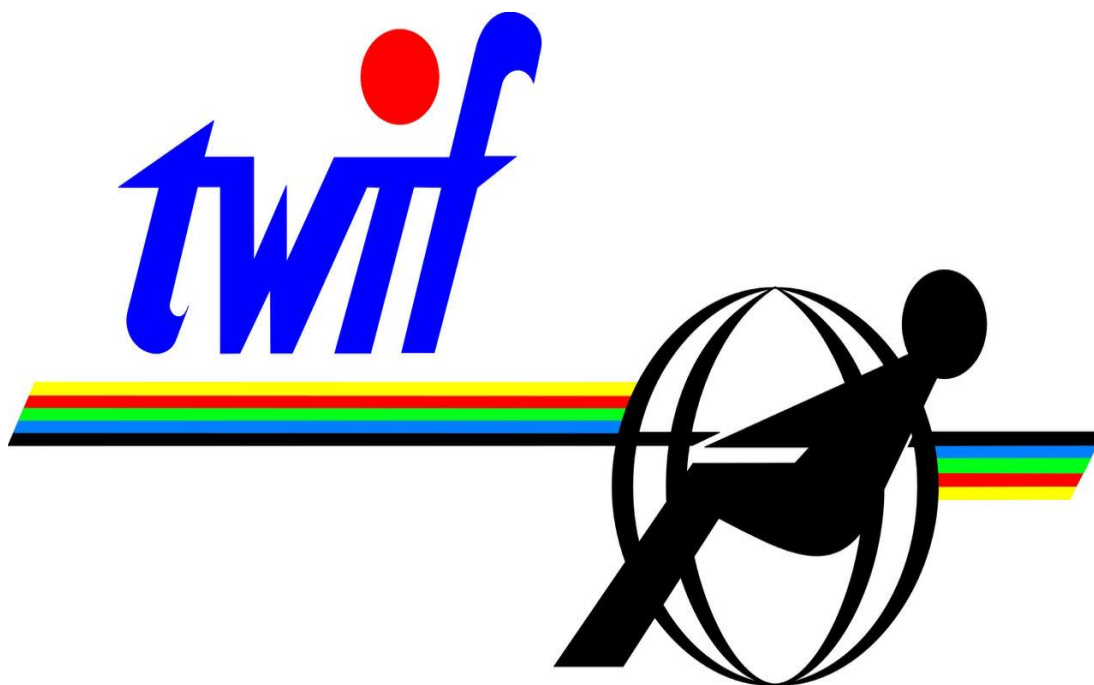


**MINUTES TWIF CONGRESS  
VOTING BY PAPER  
2020**



To all TWIF members,

Below you will find the results of the 'voting by paper' by the members in good standing.

This voting by paper was necessary due to the global covid-19 lock down and travelling restrictions, which led to the cancellation of many sporting events, including the TWIF Congress and World Outdoor Championship for 2020.

These decisions will have to be ratified at the next annual Congress which will take place in April 2021.

Some items required voting by paper due to governance requirements and good practice relating to finances and reporting.

Members in good standing (see attached list as confirmed by the treasurer) only had the right to vote.

Regards,

**Anton Rabe**

President

May 2020

Members in good standing:

Basque Country  
Belgium  
Canada  
Chinese Taipei  
England  
Germany  
Ireland  
Italy  
Japan  
Latvia  
Netherlands  
Northern Ireland  
Poland  
Russia  
Scotland  
Singapore  
South Africa  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
USA

20 Countries are members in good standing. 17 Countries have returned the voting by paper.

- A member in good standing is a member that has paid the annual TWIF fee and has returned the annual year report.

Items required by voting:

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of Congress 2019 held in Getxo, Basque Country**

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 16 in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention**

2. **Finance**

2.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**

2.2 Approval of the budget (2020/21).

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, against and 0 abstention**

3. **Policy Plan 2020-2024**

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**

4. **Reports by the Commissions:**

4.1 Presidents report – Anton Rabe (Attachment A)

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**

4.2 Technical Athletes Commission – Jost Waser (Attachment B)

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**

4.3 PR Commission - Maaïke Hornstra (Attachment C)

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**

4.4 Anti-Doping – Pete Dyer (Attachment D)

**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**

5. **Ratification of TWIF Commissions (2020 – 2024):** (Attachment E)
  - 5.1 PR Commission  
**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**
  - 5.2 Technical Athletes Commission  
**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**
  - 5.3 Appeals Commission  
**On a vote this proposal PASSED. 17 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention**
  
6. **To Note – Answers to Questions raised by members**  
See Attachment F

## Attachment A

### **TWIF PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APRIL 2020**

It is with pleasure and appreciation that I provide this brief report on the TWIF activities during the past year.

The TWIF Exco met on 3 occasions during the past year with countless one to one or group Skype/e-mail exchanges between ourselves and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. The physical meetings were in September 2019 in Castle Bar, Ireland, (with EOC'19), February 2020 in Letterkenny, Ireland (with WIC '20) and will again meet just prior to congress in Holten, Netherlands in April 2020.

The reports on the work and activities of the various commissions should be read in conjunction with this report.

In my 2019 report I referred to the ever-increasing demands on time and financial resources to cope with the ever-increasing compliance requirements over a broad spectrum of sporting activities. I argued for a "business un-usual" approach through which innovative thinking and the use of technology augment the basics and fundamentals of our sport.

During the opening of the 2019 European Championships I appealed to the grass roots participants to provide ideas and come forward with suggestions on how we can start to think and do "outside" the proverbial box in order to pro-actively adapt to the pressures and challenges we need to cope with. The response has been unfortunate echoing silence which either indicates an utter dis-interest in trying to get involved and to contribute to the future, or an utter satisfaction and a vote of full confidence with what we are trying to achieve!

Looking at some of the questions submitted for congress relating to rule interpretation and consistent application thereof, and the ongoing struggle to fully enforce the rules relating to anchors vests and use of belts, I find this very concerning. No use complaining and not being willing to get involved and finding solutions!

Given that TWIF is a fully volunteer based sport with no full time/employed capacity, I have argued – and will continue to do so - that we would have to broaden capacity and augment our pool of experts to deal with amongst other issues such as a very complex anti-doping programme, the need to increased development and coaching courses, a broader pool of competent officials (judges/recorders) for TWIF events, and the growing scope and content of administrative and governance requirements.

This has now become essential and will form a vital part of the new 4 year policy plan going forward which is one of the key agenda items for congress and seminar 2020.

I have been arguing for innovation and doing/thinking differently since I became President in 2015. Finding new solutions to old problems without losing context and the essence of our sport, must be our joint objective going forward.

For some time now I have argued for a re-look at the nature, structure and format of TWIF events. We will have to consolidate and compromise to ensure that the delicate balance between growth and development of the youth, gender issues and broad-based participation, is found for a sustainable future.

This must include a reduction in the number of weight classes especially at TWIF outdoor events but we would have really struggled in Letterkenny if all the weight classes materialised. The size of competition fields or arena's will have to be enlarged and for that we need more competent officials. We may have to fast track the development of grade 1 judges across our membership bases.

I believe that for the seniors we can only have 3 men's, 2 ladies and 1 mixed weight class = 6 classes. We need to agree which weights fits the global audience and our programme best, and then stick to these for at least 10 years!

In the process we need to work on the numbers of the youth and must encourage more members to introduce the sport at a very young age to broaden our grass roots base. Some countries have extremely good programmes and we must see how we can duplicate successes globally. If we continue with 3 weight classes - male/female/mix – for both U23 & U18, that adds another 6 weights classes to our programme.

Time management, running maybe seniors and youth in parallel on different grounds at the same event, innovations and consistent application of the international rules during competition will be a pre-requisite for a good presentation of our sport. The current over-lap between mix and senior athletes and clash between morning/afternoon weight classes, and limited number of officials, makes this a particular challenge.

However, if we do not get this right, we will have failed in our duty to pave a sustainable way for future generations. We need to embrace change. Change is not always bad or a threat – it is an opportunity!

In this journey, we had no choice but to outsource some of the operational and highly technical activities relating to amongst others the IOC/WADA doping programme to the ITA (International Testing Agency). This is a phenomena that will increase going forward.

My appeal to all members is to make sure that you appoint active international representatives and make available knowledgeable individuals to the pool of experts we wish the establish to support some of key programmes and to augment the efforts and capacity of the Executive Committee.

We are in particular need of assistance with coaching, judges and recorders training courses and IT knowledge.

In the past year we have also engaged the services of an International Media and Sponsorship agency, Protocol Sports. The fruits of this endeavour will take time to materialise, but we have taken the first critical baby steps in this journey which need to deliver financial resources to market and develop our sport at various levels and to ensure that we keep on punching above our weight in the international sporting arena.

A new strategic framework for discussions and adoption at Congress 2020 to guide our activities going forward, will be circulated at part of the congress material. Key aspects will be highlighted during the seminar prior to congress.

The philosophy with the policy action plan remains that we need to administer the sport with our own resources from membership fees, championship fees and the limited income from interest from our dwindling reserve. The vital compliance issues, development and training materials need to be funded from other resources, ie the IOC/GAISF grant which is vital for TWIF's continued financial stability, and hopefully in time from sponsorships and increased media exposure.

This framework reflects a break down and budgetary parameters which will inform the utilisation of our resources in the next 4 years. Another vital project will be a re-look at our championship model, approach wrt tendering and event hosting where we can no doubt also learn from other sports.

As indicated, we need more financial resources. Membership fees remained static for more than 15 years now. Unfortunately, we will need to consider an incremental increase in membership fees soon. Exco will submit a proposal in this regard at the 2021 Congress.

Support of and participation at The World Games remain our ultimate multi-sports platform and we look forward to the 2021 edition of the WG in Birmingham, USA. We have pledged our continued commitment to high-level performance with our top 6 nations qualifying for participation in the various weight classes.

However, in order to also provide development opportunities for the next tier of countries, the Executive is currently exploring the possible participation in a World Power Games under the auspices of GAISF. The first edition is being planned in Spain in October 2021. We hope that the countries placed 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> in the senior mixed event, would be able to participate in this multi-sport event. More information will be shared once this is available later this year.

We have also made some progress with the use of new technology to pro-actively address the health concerns associated with severe weight loss. Two pilot surveys at the events in Ireland have paved the way for a comprehensive study during the 2020 Outdoor World Championship, in September by the Deusto University. We look forward to their recommendations.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to my fellow Exco members for their continued support, dedication, wisdom, guidance and hard work during this period.

My sincere thanks also to the members of the various Commissions, our ICT support and DCO for their contributions.

I cannot thank our TWIF officials enough for your hard work at our championships. Yes, we have some challenges but with the right mind-set and even harder work, we will address those to the satisfaction of our athletes and supporters without which we will not have an organisation. You all do this at your own expense and time – without you as volunteers, the spirit, nature and running of TWIF events will not be possible.

We have seen a decline in our qualified panel numbers and we will also look at ways



and means to broaden this base to ensure that we have qualified and competent pool of individuals to officiate at our international events. The athletes, spectators, the media and potentially future sponsors demand this of us.

The 2020 Sports Accord Congress was scheduled to take place from 20-24 April in Beijing, China. Given the Corona virus outbreak, GAISF/Sport Accord has notified members that the congress will be re-located to Lausanne, Switzerland. A full report will again be submitted and distributed after the Congress which will include meetings with the IOC, WADA, various AGM's including GAISF, ARISF and IWGA, as well as the follow-up with the envisaged Power Games sporting bodies with GAISF.

Various other items dealt with by the Exco and/or Commissions are included in the agenda and will be reported on during Congress.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU.

I TRUST THAT THIS REPORT PROVIDES SOME CONTEXT TO THE DIVERSE CHALLENGES WE FACE AND HOW WE PLAN TO ADDRESS THEM.

KIND REGARDS

ANTON RABE

TWIF PRESIDENT

April 2020, Holten, Netherlands

## Attachment B

### **Report Technical and Athletes Commission (TAC)**

The Technical and Athletes Commission exists of the following members:

- Chairman: Mr Jost Waser/ ExCo
- Secretary: Mrs. Marga t'Lam/Netherlands
- Mr. Ray Fray Smith/England
- Mr. Mikel Areitio Elordui/Basque country
- Mr. Erik Atterheim/Sweden
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson/ United States
- Mr. Ralf Bräuninger/Germany
- Mr. Vincent Chen/Chinese Taipei

Maaïke Hornstra handed over the TAC commission to Jost Waser.

Since 2016 we have decided to have one formal meeting a year, which is held during the European- or World Outdoor Championships. So in 2019 we had one formal meeting during the EC outdoor in Castlebar, September 2019.

We had an informal meeting with members of the TAC in Goldscheuer, June 2019

Items we spoke about in Goldscheuer/Castlebar were the picture of infringements to finalize for judges. The pictures of infringements are used in Castlebar.

We spoke about what to do when more than 1 puller is tested positive of doping. We will discuss it to synchronies with ExCo.

The anchor protection still are a topic of discuss. We agreed to work out a proper solution. Especially the added parts under the protection.

We spoke about the possibility that the protection on the hip could be longer, to prevent that the rope will move under the protection.

We all agreed that we must have less Weight Classes, so we have more Competition in the weight class. We discussed about lower Weight Classes like Men's 560 kg, 600kg, 640kg and 680kg. Women 480kg and 520kg and Mix 580kg.

We were all in agreement that ExCo try to re-open discussions for putting together the GENSB Tournament and TWIF Competitions.

Items for the TAC to work on are the following:

- Chief Evaluator are briefed in Indoor 2020 to act more directly if something happens on the field, so talk to the judge when a mistake has been made, but also mention the good things, good feedback is very important and necessary to keep judges motivated and sharp; Will discuss the result and how to improve it.
- Briefing with the current rules, pictures of mistakes, changes in the rules and get discussions between judges to get everyone on the same level. This will improve from the mistake of Castlebar. During briefing in Letterkenny at indoor WC we used a powerpoint presentation again for the briefing. After result still improvement possible.
- Chef Judge Evaluation report used in Letterkenny 2020 first time. Will be updating when necessary.
- New No Pull system is now implemented. Still need update for judges during the briefing; will use bullet points to refresh.

This year is election of new TAC Members. After that the TAC will have a meeting once a year during a World- or European Outdoor Championships. If necessary the TAC can have extra meetings but we try to do the rest of our consultation and discussion by email. The next meeting will be in Gexto, Basque Country, in September 2020.

I would like to thank all the TAC members for their hard work.

Maike Hornstra special thank for her immense work as Chairlady, she has done in the past year in the TAC commission. Thank you Maike. And a great thank you to Marga 't Lam, as Secretary of the TAC. She does a lot of work 'behind the screens'.

Jost Waser  
Chairman TAC  
TWIF Vice President

## Attachment C

### **Report PR and Promotion Commission**

#### **Current PR commission Members:**

- Chairwoman Ms. Maaïke Hornstra/ ExCo
- Mr. Anders Andersson/Sweden
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson/United States
- Mr. Denis Dunlea/Ireland
- Mr. Anton Botha/South Africa

In 2019 the PR commission have had one meeting in Castlebar, during the EC/WC in September. Other communication was by email or what's app.

During our meeting we have discussed the following items:

- Website: old fashioned, not user friendly, needs an update. We need a complete new website and it can be a relative cheap one with just info on the website, no software and maybe a provider for every Tournament. This site has to be mobile telephone proof. We don't need an app on the site, very expensive and too much changes.
- Server for website and saving our data: not too expensive, for example Amazon but at least somewhere in the cloud. There are a lot of options in servers.

Ideas for next TWIF magazine:

- Asking all countries for pictures and Tournament information (with protocol what we need);
- Events – agenda in Newsletter;
- Did you know..... (Ideas welcome), but one or two is enough;
- We need young people for website and server.

In 2019 we have published three TWIF magazines and all were covered with world wide articles and publications. We have payed attention to International Tournaments, European/World Championships in Castlebar and payed attention to Glen Johnson's retirement.

Although we send out the TWIF magazine to all our members, we still have not the

feeling that Representatives are informing their members. We are all part of TWIF, so it would be desirable if the Representatives help to promote our Sport worldwide, but please start in your own country.

At Facebook we have a lot of followers and the number is increasing, but we still need to use email to inform people, because not everyone has or uses Facebook and it is also not a good way of spreading formal publications. It will always be an extra information source.

During the EC/WC in Castlebar, we had Livestream and we notice that this Livestream is watched by a lot of people. During 4 days of Competition we had over 60.000 'hits' and every day there were around 500 people watching all the time. This is a good way of promoting our sport and is also noticed by the International World Games Association (IWGA) and other Sport Bodies, we have an agreement with.

Regarding the IWGA, they have asked for small video's with answers on questions to all the sports involved in the World Games and till now Tug of War is always part of it.

The numbers of the Livestream of Letterkenny are not yet known, but I think overall we had a very good coverage and the quality was very good. Our followers were missing the announcement on the Livestream, but we were not able to assist the Livestream crew with an person to give comments during the 4 days, due to a lack of officials/volunteers.

The good result of the World Indoor in Letterkenny has been watched by the IWGA and therefor the Dutch Senior Mix team 580 kg, that won gold, has been awarded as Athlete of the Month February 2020, which is for the first time that a Tug of War Team has been awarded and is a great achievement.

In 2020 TWIF will celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will pay attention to this celebration during our events, and we will make a special TWIF Magazine with articles about 60 Years of TWIF. If you have something to add, please do not hesitate and send this information.

During Congress in Holten/Rijssen 2020, we will have a vote for new PR members. I am looking forward to work together with new members, who have new and fresh ideas. On the meantime I would like to thank the current PR members for their addition tot the PR Committee. And if you are not re-elected, that does not mean that your work was not respected, so please keep on promoting TWIF/Tug of War as good as you can.

Maike Hornstra

Attachment D

**DOPING Report to Congress in Holten, Netherlands, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

**1. Whereabouts Information.**

As reported last year we have changed our testing strategy to better align with WADA's expectations. For out of competition testing we now have a Testing Pool with fewer athletes but all athletes that are in the testing pool will be tested at least once. The Testing Pool will also change more frequently than in the past. The members of the testing pool will be selected based on a number of criteria such as results, intelligence and risk assessment. The total number of athletes in the testing pool will also vary from time to time. If an athlete is selected for the Testing Pool they will be notified in writing and informed of what they have to do. If an athlete is removed from the Testing Pool they will also be informed in writing. When an athlete is selected for the testing pool they will have to maintain their whereabouts, I can't stress strongly enough the importance of athletes keeping their whereabouts up to date as they can rest assured pullers from the Testing Pool will be tested. Should a WADA Doping Officer arrive at the location, indicated in the ADAMS system, and the athlete is not present, sanctions can be taken against both the National Federation and the athlete and associated TWIF costs reclaimed.

Furthermore, late filing of your whereabouts in a quarterly period is also an anti-doping violation and could be subject to sanctions.

**2. TUE's and prohibited list.**

WADA have issued the **2020 LIST OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND METHODS** which came into force on the 1st January. As part of our obligation as a member of WADA and to maintain our Olympic recognition we, and hence ALL of our membership, are mandated to comply with this latest list. The prohibited list is updated annually based on intelligence and medical developments. Tug of War is generally considered a clean sport and we wish to stay that way, making yourselves aware of items in this prohibited list is important to ensure you remain compliant.

TUE's should be applied for PRIOR to taking any medication – justification for using a prohibited substance is required based on medical evidence not just a Medical Practitioner's signature.

There is a useful website that can also help identify 'over the counter' products that may contain prohibited substances, that is <https://www.globaldro.com/Home>. If you are

not sure ask the Pharmacist.

Even if you are prescribed something by a medical practitioner, inform them that you are an athlete who is required to be compliant with WADA regulations, they may have a choice of what to prescribe you so that you remain compliant. If not, it will be necessary, with their assistance, to complete a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) form that can be downloaded from the TWIF website.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of all of our athletes remaining compliant as both in competition and out of competition testing continues both by TWIF and your countries National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), so be careful don't take risks.

**REMEMBER** – *You, as an athlete, are solely responsible for any banned substance found in your system.*

### **3. European and Junior World Outdoor Championships 2019**

During these championships in Ireland, 8 tests were done, some at the weigh-in, some during the open club competition and some during the national closed competition. Athletes from the following countries were tested; Netherlands, Ireland, Basque Country, Chinese Taipei, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland.

We did have one positive test which is currently going through due process.

### **4. World Indoor Championships 2020**

During the World Indoor Championships in Ireland 8 in competition tests were carried out some at the weigh-in, some during the open club competition and some during the national closed competition. Athletes from the following countries were tested; Ireland, Basque Country, Scotland, Netherlands and Chinese Taipei.

### **5. Annual Reporting Forms.**

At the time of compiling this report 23-member countries, had completed their reports. Their reports show that in total 31 in competition tests and 3 out of competition tests were carried out, all were negative. This is very low for the number of member countries, with only 7 countries undertaking any Anti-Doping tests.

It is important all countries complete their annual report forms as the information within these reports is required by both the IOC and WADA, I therefore stress to each and every International Representative to complete and submit their forms.

### **6. Going Forward.**

There will be more testing, particularly 'in competition'. The qualifier for the World Games, in Birmingham, Alabama, which is the pinnacle of our sport as it stands, are the forthcoming World Championships in Getxo where there will be substantially more

testing.

In addition, WADA have issued a revised 'World Anti-Doping 'CODE' – 2021 CODE, which replaces the 2015 CODE. There are also new and revised international standards that we will need to be compliant with as well as the new 2021 CODE. These all came into place for January 2020 and will come into force from January 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank Birute Zachariene, our TWIF anti-doping administrator, for her continued hard work in this area.

***Pete Dyer***

Chairman of TWIF Doping Commission

March 2020



Attachment E

## **Nominations for the Committees:**

PR: Chairperson: Maaïke Hornstra

1. Christine Yang, Chinese Taipei
2. Anton Botha, South Africa
3. Shelby Richardson, USA
4. Alan Knott, England

TAC: Chairperson: Jost Waser / Secretary: Marga 't Lam

1. Vincent Chen, Chinese Taipei
2. Jennie Andersson, Sweden
3. Bennie Geldenhuys, South Africa
4. Ralf Bräuninger, Germany
5. Shelby Richardson, USA
6. Matthias Arnouts, Belgium
7. Rachel Lewis, England
8. Galder Gobantes, Basque Country

Appeal:

1. Anders Andersson, Sweden
2. Jenny Wu, Chinese Taipei
3. Anton Botha, South Africa

## Attachment F

### Questions raised by Members:

From Belgium:

1. Is it possible for the members of Congress to decide on the program of a World or European championship? In the past it has occurred that the setup of the program has had a negative influence on the participation of women. E.g. the combination of a M680 kg class with a mix class.

*Answer: Yes. Congress have voted in the past on weight classes to be included in the competition program and indeed voted recently on the program such that the mixed weigh class doesn't clash with the heaviest men's weight class. However, sometimes the Exco found it difficult to balance the various weight classes in such a way that overlap and negative influence is minimized – NOT eliminated – between men/women/U23/youth. Unfortunately, the situation of different countries/clubs differs from time-time and it is not always possible to fully eliminate overlap.*

*For this reason, Exco tries to stick to a certain program for an extended period of time and not to change it every year. We also try to announce the program for a specific event well in advance.*

*So, members/congress can vote on the program but then they should be aware that whatever the sequencing is, there will always be a negative influence somewhere.*

2. Is it possible to send out a notification at the moment that the draw is complete, including the draw sheet, so people can move their belongings to the correct corner. The draw sheet should be sent to the international representatives and coaches.

*Answer: Yes. However, it should be noted that the draw (open clubs) does not take place until stamping is complete. At that point, currently, the announcer, informs teams which corner they are in. We recognize this can be improved and intend to use the large screen/scoreboard to display this information. In addition, the Organising Committee for Getxo (now in 2021) have agreed to develop an App which could be used for this purpose at all future events. (See attached Powerpoint slides as illustration for what was used for display in Letterkenny)*

3. Can organisers of a WC or EC provide tents/seating area per country? Too often there is no room for the different athletes to place their belongings or have a chair available.

*Answer: The directives for tents and seating for participants is very clear in the TWIF Organisers' Manual. ALL participating countries should get allocated space. This item is also on the critical checklist which is discussed prior to events between Exco and Organisers. The space allocated to countries, irrespective of the number of teams entered, is however the same. We will endeavor to amend the Manual and see how the countries with more teams, can get more space.*

4. Is it possible for organisers of a WC or EC to provide a decent amount of accommodation below the price of 350£ per person. If they are not able to do so then they should not be allowed to charge the 100£ accreditation fee. The accreditation fee was meant to receive income from groups booking outside the organisation to cover the expenses for organising the WC or EC, but nowadays everyone has to pay the accreditation fee.

*Answer: Members should take responsibility for this when they consider tenders and voting on the awarding of events to certain countries. The accreditation fee should be included in the official package. A separate accreditation fee should only be charged if someone books outside to official package. If this is not the case TWIF Exco must be made aware in order for this to be discussed and sorted out with the Organising Committee.*

From Northern Ireland:

5. After the European Championships in Castlebar a number of members commented on the poor standard of officiating on display, as well as the lack of consistency in enforcing the rulebook. It was noted that a number of officials in particular did not have a good understanding of the rules. The lack of consistency is highlighted in the anchor vests with some highly illegal vests being allowed whilst others are not. Belts is another example of this. The rules are there and should be enforced evenly across all pullers.

*Answer: Exco fully recognises this and are aware of the frustrations and problems with inconsistent interpretation and application of the rules. In recent years a number of steps have been taken to improve briefings for judges prior to events, a pictorial was developed to aid with visual instruction and some changes to especially the protective clothing and belts has been proposed to address such inconsistencies. A process is also underway to update the training material and manuals for judging. Further steps will be considered and this will remain a high priority for future events.*

6. The inactivity rule was poorly enforced in Castlebar and unfortunately this has consistently been the case.

*Answer: Noted and agreed. This links with the previous question and is also part of the renewed focus to ensure that consistent and uniform interpretation of this rules is applied.*

From The Netherlands:

7. During the EC in Castlebar there was quite a difference in quality of judges. Some are very good, some are not. Is there anything that can be done to get the judges at a more equal level?

*Answer: This has been answered in questions 5 and 6 above.*

8. The warming up area for pulling was far below level in Castlebar. Can this be controlled to be of a good standard so all the teams have enough space to do warming up on the rope?

*Answer: This item will be added to the checklist of key matters to be in place at TWIF events as an adequate warming up areas and suitable ropes, are essential elements of the Organisers' Manual.*

9. Can countries have influence on the program for future WC indoor competitions?

*Answer: This item has been fully answered in Question 1 above.*

10. The costs of Championships, like the WC indoor Letterkenny, are very high so it will reduce the amount of entries of especially Junior and U23 teams. Is there something that can be done about this? The Netherlands would suggest that there should be a greater choice and range of prices for the accommodation so that people can chose accommodation that suits them and what they can afford or are prepared to pay. Is it possible to set some maximum prices for the accommodation?

*Answer: This item has been fully answered in Question 4 above.*