



TWIF Exco meeting February 2020

**Minutes
TWIF ExCo Meeting
18 February 2020, Letterkenny, Ireland**

Attending: Anton Rabe, President (AR), Pete Dyer, Senior Vice President (PD), Dan McCarthy, Treasurer (DM), Jost Waser, Vice President (JW) and Maaïke Hornstra, Secretary General (MH).

1. **Opening & Welcome:** Anton Rabe welcomes the TWIF ExCo to Letterkenny and wishes DM good luck with the Championships. It is a pity that China can not attend due to the Corona Virus. A big agenda to cover, especially the new Policy Plan 2020-2024 to discuss and to think and do differently. It could be considered to have a strategic session again to make plans for the future of TWIF – maybe in January 2021.
2. **Approval of minutes from the last meeting:** PD has given some corrections relating to WADA which MH will add to the minutes. An average of 12 tests will in future be conducted over a four year period. The budget for 2021 provides for 18 tests being the year of the World Games.
3. **Matters Arising/Finalisation of Agenda**
 - 3.1 **Functionality of/New Computer program: Feedback/Progress (PD):** A new computer system will be implemented after WC Outdoor 2020 in Getxo. (PD and Bruce Schuman (BS) will draft specifications which will be finalized at the next meeting in April after which quotes will be requested from service providers.
 - 3.2 **Website updates / splitting up events – PD:** same as 3.1 and will be introduced together with a server (point 3.3).
 - 3.3. **Server of the website and ideas for new website:** AR has discussed with André from Hortgro about storing the server in the cloud, but not in South Africa anymore. In South Africa power is an issue with regular load shedding which is problematic for our server. AR and PD will discuss with BS in Letterkenny how to deal with this and give specifications during Congress in April 2020.
 - 3.4 **Data Protection – response of the countries:** MH indicated that she only received confirmation from 8 countries about the Data Protection. It is vital

that confirmation is received from all the countries. Exco agrees that this confirmation should form part of the requirement of being a member “in good standing”. Members will not be eligible to vote during Congress if they have not confirmed their compliance with this requirement. MH will take care of this to inform countries accordingly.

- 3.5 Exco Task distribution: JW will take care of the logistic stuff, like flags etc. and PD will hand over to JW. Application from new members will also be part of JW tasks and MH will hand this over too. MH will finalize TWIF ExCo task document and distribute.

4. Finance/Budget/Audit – DM

- 4.1 Secure procedures – Invoicing/payments: Done.
- 4.2 Investment of TWIF reserves: DM reports that the following amounts are invested:
- £120,000 for (1) one year @0.93% which gave interest of £1,110
 - £60,000 for (6) Months @ 0.78% which gave interest of £233.36
 - £40,000 for (3) Months @ 0.56% which gave interest of £64.82

These amounts will be re-invested for similar periods subject to projected TWIF cash flow requirements going forward.

The total interest received for 2019 is £1,408.18.

- 4.3 TWIF Audit 2020: External review by an accountant will be done.
- 4.4 IOC application/reports: Submitted on time with feedback being awaited wrt to grants for 2019/20.
- 4.5 Members in good standing: DM is maintaining a list of membership fees paid and will ensure that especially for those attending WC Indoor in Letterkenny and Congress 2020, will be paid up for participation is granted.
- 4.6 Trade Mark protection – AR: The period of 6 months for objections against TWIF’s application will lapse on 27 March 2020. If no objections is received, the TWIF Trade mark will be protected in European Union and Switzerland for 10 years.

5. Commissions

5.1 TAC

- 5.1.1 Technical & Athletes Commission – JW: In the TAC meeting during the European Outdoor Championships in Castlebar there was a discussion about positive anti-doping test on one puller; if the whole team should be

removed from the results or just the person. After discussion, it was agreed that the whole team should be penalized. The TWIF anti-doping rules needs to be amended to be aligned with the new WADA code for implementation in 2021. A note for clarification at Congress 2020 need to be drafted.

Also, TAC will do a rewriting on the rules about anchor vests; a one-piece anchor vest, whilst future weight classes as from 2022 on was also discussed. Future weight classes and championship format will be a topic for seminar/congress 2020 and voting can take place in 2021. Idea is to move to three weight classes for Men outdoor.

- 5.1.2 Judges Evaluations/Judging at WC 2020: Evaluations for judges has improved during EC/WC in Castlebar but further fine tuning if required going forward. This includes an evaluation of the Chief Judge which will be done for the first time in Letterkenny.
- 5.1.3 Judges Briefings: The additional attention to briefings have improved judging, but language barriers and consistent interpretation remains a challenge as there are still too many mistakes on the field. An idea is to split up in groups with English speaking judges and other languages, in order to give a more detailed briefing to those that don't speak English very well.
- 5.1.4 Interpretation/Rules changes;
 - 5.1.4.1 Inactivity: Sorted and implemented in all the programs.
 - 5.1.4.2 No pulls/points system/Competition software updates-review EC/WC 2019: It will take some time before everyone is used to the new system.
- 5.1.5 Weight loss/Random checks/Deusto University report: This is an ongoing process. Castlebar was the start with further experimenting in Letterkenny to get the methodology right. The main research will be conducted in Getxo. A discussion with the researchers will be set up in Letterkenny to assess progress and agree plans for the research in Getxo.
- 5.1.6 The Use of Belts/Anchor vest checks: This remains a challenge and judges will again be made aware of the interpretation. This will be monitored in Letterkenny and if required, further changes would be put forward to Congress in April.
- 5.1.7 Amendments to Rulebook: A summary was sent out to officials and representatives for use in Castlebar and Letterkenny. After congress 2020, an update will be printed in order to have a new edition ready for distribution in Getxo.

- 5.1.8 How do we get enough judges and recorders at Championships?: During the last few Championships, it was a problem to get adequate numbers of officials for TWIF event. We will have to address this as part of the policy plan.

5.2 **Anti-Doping/WADA – PD**

- 5.2.1 Roles & Responsibilities – Chairman and Administrator: Updated.

PD will also write a letter for every country and their NADO (National Anti-Doping Organization) to give more responsibility to the member countries. An IF (International Federation) is higher in ranking than NADO's and they must comply with the directives of TWIF.

- 5.2.2 Compliance review/Progress & outstanding issues: Around 50% of the doping subjects are found in food. ITA (Independent Testing Agency) is dealing with the positive test case in Castlebar 2019.

- 5.2.3 At the World Conference on Doping in Sport – November 2019, Poland: The message was clear. TWIF has to do more Out of Competition tests, from 6 to 18. It was agreed with WADA that in 2020, 12 tests will be done, and in 2021, the World Games year, 18 tests. In future TWIF will conduct an average of 12 tests per year over a 4 year cycle, i.e. 6 tests in year 1 of the cycle, 12 in the 2nd and 3rd year, and 18 tests in the year of the World Games.

- 5.2.4 Doping Awareness & Education: This will be compulsory for all World Games athletes.

- 5.2.5 TUE Checklist/Guidelines: TWIF have to use the forms developed by WADA to ensure that all the information that is required, is provided. This will be included in the new anti-doping rules.

Given regular amendments, Exco agreed that the new rule will only be published in digital format.

- 5.2.6 Prohibited List: Amended lists will be published as they are received from WADA.

- 5.2.7 2021 Code & Standards: PD will make the required changes to the proforma code and standards in order for these to be appropriate within a TWIF context. These rules need to be approved for implementation on 1 January 2021.

- 5.2.8 e-Course/Learning materials is available for athletes, Medical Practitioners, including a new Whereabouts App.
- 5.2.9 Whereabouts – Problems with TPE athletes & Sanctions: PD reported that good progress has been made with TPE. They still need to pay the fine.
- 5.2.10 Long term stored samples: Confirmed with WADA that that these could be destroyed.
- 5.2.11 ITA services: Contract with ITA in place.
- 5.2.12 WADA Symposium 17 and 18 March 2020 in Lausanne and ADAMS training 20 March 2020: PD and Birute will attend.

5.3 **PR Commission – MH**

- 5.3.1 IWGA – Athlete of the Year and request for short videos: To date, TWIF has been able to answer all the requests with help from the PR commission and Eddie van Raamsdonk, who is the official photographer for TWIF.
- 5.3.2 Photo's/Official Photographer: Ongoing process. DM confirmed that Ireland will make high definition video material of the event in Letterkenny available for TWIF's future use.
- 5.3.3 TWIF newsletter: 3 times a year.
- 5.3.4 Web-site: Update dealt with point 3.2.
- 5.3.5 Protocol Sports – TV: Protocol Sports have been provided with a range of visual material for use in their marketing efforts. No further update on progress with potential sponsors.
- 5.3.6 TWIF 60 Year Publication: It was agreed that an extra edition of the TWIF magazine will be done to commemorate TWIF's 60th anniversary. Only about 200 copies would be printed for Representatives and promotional purposes. Planning is to make this edition in August before WC Outdoor Getxo. MH will also engage with the Organization Committee in Getxo.

6. World Games

- 6.1 TWG2021: No further update at this stage.
- 6.2 Technical delegate/report – news from Birmingham – Glen Johnson (GJ): Some new people have been added to the OC for the World Games in Birmingham, USA. The US and Canadian members will be asked to consider and event in Birmingham this year to increase awareness of the Games.
- 6.3 Information for members: Once the qualification in Getxo has been concluded, confirmation of numbers will be possible, including trying to obtain extra beds if need.
- 6.4. World Games 2025: The IWGA requested members to consider events or courses in Chengdu between 2020 and 2024. This will be on the agenda for Congress.
- 6.5 40 YEARS IWGA, Tournament Germany 2020: TWIF was ready to support the IWGA in this venture, but the tournament was cancelled due to a lack of support from other Sport Federations. AR will draft a letter for the countries that were planning to attend the Tournament in Duisburg in May 2020 and also thank Ralf Brauningner for his willingness to act as convener for this event.

7. Sport Accord – IOC/GAISF/ARISF/IWGA

- 7.1 Sport Accord 2020/IWGA, ARISF & GAISF AGM's: SA Congress has been moved from Beijing to Lausanne. A follow-up meeting wrt a possible Power Games of which tug of war could be part of, will be attended during this time. Exco feels that this could be a platform to provide opportunities for the next tier of countries – ie. those not qualifying for WG. TWIF will however give its full support to the IWGA, because World Games remain our main goal. We have to make this clear to United Power Games, which will be organized under the auspices of GAISF. The first event is planned for October 2021.
- 7.2 Governance assessment: TWIF did relatively well, but there are a number of aspects that could be improved upon. Further detail will be provided at Congress.
- 7.3 Sustainability Case studies/Climate Change: TWIF is working on this item. We will start in Getxo and can improve the status our sport by trying to be more sustainable, but also using common sense.
- 7.4 Youth Olympics: It is a more realistic medium-term objective than the Olympic Games. The next edition will be in Qatar. Our youth is ready to participate. AR will discuss this with IOC during Sport Accord meeting.

7.5 IF Forum Lausanne will be from 4-6 November 2020. Dan or Jost will attend this year, depending on the theme of the Forum.

8. Policy Plan 2020-2023

8.1 New Policy Plan/Strategy 2020 – 2024: AR provided a discussion framework prior to the meeting. Exco discussed the various aspects and agreed to stick with the existing outline, but add various aspects and some new concepts to address the challenges the sport is facing. A budget over the period will be linked to various activities, projects and programmes. AR will adapt and discuss after which the proposed document will be put forward to Congress for approval.

8.2 Training Manual/Update of DVD: JW will take action in this.

8.3 Guidelines/Policies & Use of TWIF Logo: AR will follow up on this as part of the Policy Plan going forward.

9. Championships

9.1 European and World Outdoor Championships Ireland: An average score was obtained with only the scoreboard that was below average mainly due to the technical problems experienced at the time.

9.2 Awarded Championships:

- 2020 World Indoor – Letterkenny, Ireland: The program was discussed with the organisers. It was agreed that at least the semifinals and finals in the open/closed events will be taped on video to prevent a recurrence of the challenge in China 2 years' ago. All the evaluators and ExCo will be requested to view these matches to ensure that an adequate number of observations will be available to agree a proper response. It was also noted that there will be no chiropractors in Letterkenny, despite a lot of effort and that 8 in competition dope tests will be done. The Junior and U23 program has been scrapped given that too few teams entered.

9.2.1 2020 World Outdoor – Getxo, Basque Country: A Meeting has been scheduled with the OC sometime during the 4 days in Letterkenny.

9.2.2 2021 European and World Outdoor– Holten, Netherlands – Nothing to report.

9.2.3 2022 World Indoor – Singapore – Nothing to report.

9.2.4 2022 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland – Nothing to report.

9.2.5 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim, Germany – Nothing to report

9.3 Championships open for Tender/Submissions

- 9.3.1 2023 European Outdoor: Complete tender from England received.
- 9.3.2 2024 World Indoor: Tender received from Sweden, but more information will be requested for inclusion in presentation during the Seminar in April.
- 9.3.3 2025 European Outdoor: Tenders received from Sweden and Italy, but more information will be requested for inclusion in presentation during the Seminar in April.
- 9.3.4 2026 World Outdoor: Tenders received from Sweden, Italy and South Africa: Italy and Sweden both have two tenders and both would prefer the WC outdoor 2026. The sequence of voting will therefore be WC 2026 and then EC 2025.
- 9.3.5 Tender Latvia/Lithuania: MH and AR have spoken with Latvian people about tender. Will talk to Representative of Latvia during Congress.

9.4 Future Regional Championships

- 9.4.1 Asian Development/Championship: follow up on Malaysia.
- 9.4.2 2020 African Games – Development: African Championships in Namibia 17-18 July 2020. African members will be encouraged to attend this event.

10. Multi- Sport Events

- 10.1 Common Wealth Games Update (Birmingham, UK): No update.
- 10.2 IOC Agenda/ Olympic Program - 2024 & 2028: Confirmed that tug of war will not be on the programme in 2024 and 2028.
- 10.3 United Power Games: See also point 7.1. Mixed senior class is a possibility but on hold till meeting at Sport Accord.
- 10.4 Peace & Sport: Noted. Information will be sent out as and when received.
- 10.5 Master Games Japan 2021: Master Games has nothing to do with TWIF, but members can attend and participate as they see fit.

11. Membership

11.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback

- 11.1.1 Judging course/markings: We need more people to support ExCo to support new member countries in development of our sport with courses and training. Nominations with CV's of individuals that can help with this, will be requested.

- 11.1.2 Asian “politics”/ATWF: The situation is monitored with regular communication with Mr. Kaul, President of the ATWF.
- 11.1.3 Feedback – Israel course: AR and JW conducted the course in Israel. Very basic skills. All new people in the sport. Israel needs more guidance in practical training and were advised that they should invite experienced coaches to visit and assist going forward.
- 11.2 Future Regional Development Seminars: China, India and Sri Lanka have asked for seminars. MH will ask Mr. Kaul about the current situation and needs. China is not an option for the moment.
- 11.3 Request for workshops/training/courses: South East Asia/Gambia: DM is available to go to Bangkok for the meeting of South East Asia T.O.W.. MH will inform them and ask about date and logistics. Gambia will be brought in touch with Anton Botha of South Africa and Buttons Heyns of Namibia and encouraged to attend the event in July in Swakopmund.
- 11.4 New Member Applications: Malaysia and Kyrgyz Republic are applying for membership. Once their affiliation fees has been paid, their membership will be put forward to congress.
- 11.5 Participating New Members at Championships: The Handbook for new member countries has to be updated, JW and MH will do this and inform new countries. JW and MH will also update the application form for new members, because they have to pay affiliation fee prior to voting at Congress

12. Congress – Agenda

- 12.1 Seminar – Program/Speakers: Subjects for seminar will be: 1) Belts: 2) A Presentation on the Policy Plan; 3) Question about judges performance at Championships; and 4) Future Weight classes.
- 12.2 Proposals & Questions/Due date for reports: Agreed that the proposal from Northern Ireland wrt nationality is an internal UK issues and not for TWIF to deal with. A formal letter will be directed to NIR confirming that TWIF follow the World Games rule, le passport or similar as confirmation of nationality.

Proposal from Belgium about weight classes is good for Congress, the other proposals should all be regarded as questions.

The proposal from South Africa about the tagging of anchor vests was approved at Congress 2019. TAC is dealing with this, so not possible to be on Congress agenda again.

Question from the Netherlands about warming up area will become part of the updated checklist to clear with organizers.

- 12.3 Country Reports – A number are still outstanding and will be followed up.

12.4 Appointments of Commissions – Will be proposed to Congress as nominated from membership and other candidates identified by Exco to ensure the correct numbers is put forward.

13. Other Business For the Good of Tug of War

13.1 TWIF 60 Years in 2020: 1) special edition of TWIF magazine; 2) pen for TWIF representatives, handing out at TWIF congress in April 2020; and 3) inscription in the medals in Letterkenny and Getxo.

14. Future Meetings

16 April 2020 – Holten, Netherlands

17 April 2020 – Seminar Holten Netherlands

18 April 2020 - Congress Holten Netherlands

15 September 2020 – Getxo Basque Country

January 2021, TWIF meeting and strategic session, two or three days.

Location to be announced.

15. Closing by the President: AR closes the meeting and wishes everybody good luck during the World Indoor Championships.