



TWIF Exco meeting September 2019

**Minutes
TWIF ExCo Meeting
3 September 2019, Castlebar, Ireland**

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

1. **Opening & Welcome:** By President Anton Rabe. Special welcome to Jost Waser because he is attending the TWIF Exco meeting for the first time.
2. **Approval of minutes from the last meeting:** Minutes of the TWIF Exco meeting held in April 2019 were unanimously accepted.
3. **Matters Arising of Agenda**
 - 3.1 Additions/Functionality of Computer program (PD): Completed.
 - 3.2 GDPR/Privacy Policy & including compliance with the WADA International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal information (ISPPPI) is complete, however completion of the WADA Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Compliance with the WADA Code is on-going. (PD).
 - 3.3 Web-site updates/splitting of TWIF/non-TWIF events: PD and Bruce Schuman (BS) are working on the website because requests from, and compliance with WADA requirements, are massive. Website is not user friendly and maybe website should be re-written with the newest software. PD and BS will draft the required specifications where after prospective service providers would be approached for cost estimates.
 - 3.4 Training material - New video and printed training material: AR is updating the material.
 - 3.5 Registration/protection of TWIF Logo: After guidance from the IWGA, AR contacted a lawyer in Switzerland about registration/protection of the TWIF logo. This will be a very expensive exercise if the logo is to be protected globally. Agreed that such registration in key countries/territories is necessary and AR given the approval to continue with this process.
 - 3.6 Exco Task Distribution: See revised task distribution attached
 - 3.7 How to deal with ridiculous/unfeasible proposals at congress: MH mentioned that a number of proposals have been submitted in recent years that when

approved, is not possible to implement. We have to force countries to think about the implications of their proposals. After discussion it was agreed that if in Exco's opinion such proposals are submitted in future, the proposing member will be requested to provide guidance/advice on how they think such proposal could be implemented. If no feasible solution is put forward the proposal will be tabled at Congress with an explanation why Exco believe such proposals are not workable and should not be discussed/voted on. MH will send out notices that proposals need to be in before the 1st of January in order to allow enough time to engage with proposers should that be required.

4. Finance/Budget/Audit – DM

- 4.1 Secure procedures – Invoicing/payments: PSD2 is a new law which will be in force by 14th September 2019 to boost secure payments. AR will discuss with International World Games Association (IWGA). We have not yet implemented online banking but we should continue to be aware of fraud risks.
- 4.2 Options with relation to (wrt) Investment of TWIF reserves: Ongoing process.
- 4.3 TWIF Audit: An External audit will be done in November 2019.
- 4.4 Confirmation of payments – India: DM will provide feedback to India.
- 4.5 IOC application/reports: Ongoing process, nothing to report at this stage.

5. Commissions

5.1 TAC

- 5.1.1 Technical & Athletes Commission meeting – JW and MH: Briefing for EC/WC 2019 is ready for judges and recorders. JW will do spot checks at the weigh-in for anchor vests.
- 5.1.2 Judges Evaluations/Judging at EC/WC 2019: Agreed that Hugh McFetridge will be the Chief Evaluator because DM is also part of the organization committee.
- 5.1.3 Briefing Judges: Chief Judge and Marga 't Lam will do the briefing for the judges with power point presentation. There will be one briefing for teams/coaches and officials on the Wednesday evening of the Championships given the opening ceremony on the Friday evening.
- 5.1.4 Interpretation/Rules changes
 - 5.1.4.1 Inactivity: Mention at briefing.
 - 5.1.4.2 No pulls/points system/Competition software updates: software was updated so this rule will be in force from now on.
 - 5.1.4.3 Sidestepping: Wording in rules manual has been changed.
- 5.1.5 Weight loss/Random checks: University of Deusto (Bilbao Basque Country) will do a pilot study to test methodology with volunteers about weight-loss and hydration. This research will be taken through to 2020.



- 5.1.6 The Use of Belts/Anchor vest checks: Pictures to illustrate interpretation has been included in a guidance sheet for judges.
- 5.1.7 Amendments to Rulebook: Agreed to only print the rules for the current Championship with signal of inactivity; sidestepping; software; ages Junior and U23. After the ECWC in Castlebar AR will update the Rules Manual as a whole.

5.2 Anti-Doping/WADA - PD

- 5.2.1 Roles & Responsibilities: It was agreed previously that the ITA (International Testing Agency) will be contracted to deal with testing and TUE's. It will cost 390 Swiss Francs to check every TUE unless TWIF can find doctors to sign-off on applications. We need guidelines to inform our athletes about the application and review procedure. We also have to work on a good solution to deal with the (high) costs. PD will assess what the requirements for reviewers of TUE's are in order for Exco to find a cheaper solution/procedure for the future.
- 5.2.2 Compliance review/Progress & outstanding issues: PD reports that 4 tests were scheduled/done in August 2019, whilst a further 4 will be done in October 2019 and another 4 in November 2019. This will complete TWIFs undertaking to do 12 tests in 2019. An outline testing plan has to be made and agreed with WADA for the coming 4 years. WADA want TWIF to test an average of 12 persons every year (minimum) over a four year cycle in line with the World Games. My proposal is to have 6, 12, 12, and 18 – the 18 in the year of the World Games the 6 in the year after the World Games (Calendar years). The testing pool has to be reviewed, with the expectation that it is changed, annually so that a different set of athletes are tested each year. Now that we have a Testing Pool (TP) and not a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) we have to determine and apply our own 'rules' for whereabouts noncompliance we shouldn't apply the WADA RTP criteria. The meeting agreed the following;
A missing test will be 1) a warning first, 2) a fine and 3) moving into WADA registered pool. After two missing tests, countries will be fined with 100 Pound Sterling and the athlete 100 Pound Sterling in order to pay for follow-up tests. This amount will be reviewed from time to time. The TWIF athletes will be in a TP, not in a (RTP) which require multiple tests/athlete/year.
- 5.2.3 World Conference on Doping in Sport - November 2019, Poland: This event is held once every 4 or 5 years and is associated with the release of a new Code (2021) and new / updated International Standards. PD will attend this event.
- 5.2.4 Doping Awareness & Education: PD is working on this based on the guidance material available from WADA.
- 5.2.5 TUE Checklist/Guidelines: PD will work on a more cost-effective solution going forward.



- 5.2.6 Prohibited List: The updated 2020 list will be published on the TWIF web-site.
- 5.2.7 2021 Code & Standards: This will be finalized during Conference in Poland. Then we have a year to implement the new codes & standards.
- 5.2.8 Learning e-Course for athletes: ADEL (e-learning program) is available on the WADA website. PD will make a portal on the TWIF website for education of our athletes. All athletes and coaches that take part in the World Games 2021 have to do this e-learning program.
- 5.2.9 Long term stored samples: PD confirms that he informed WADA that any stored samples can be destroyed.
- 5.2.10 ITA services: PD and AR have made some amendments to the proposed agreement which will be finalized in the coming weeks.
- 5.2.11 Privacy Protection Confirmation: A pre- and post-event confirmation to comply with the TWIF Policy is required. When an event is finished, this could be deleted.

5.3 PR Commission - MH

- 5.3.1 Olympic Channel/IWGA Workshop, 18&19 Nov 2019, Madrid: MH will not attend this Workshops this year, but will try to attend again in 2020.
- 5.3.2 Photo's/Official Photographer: Eddie van Raamsdonk will take photo's during EC/WC 2019, especially sidestepping and anchor vests. He will also be asked to come to Letterkenny for indoor photo's.
- 5.3.3 TWIF newsletter: This continue to be published three times a year.
- 5.3.4 Web-site update: A new website with the requested information and which is more user friendly will be developed for TWIF.
- 5.3.5 Protocol Sports: A meeting has been set up in with Ali Karimi to discuss potential services and the enter into a long-term agreement with this organization.

6. World Games

- 6.1 TWG2021 – reports: As and when required. Nothing at this stage.
- 6.2 Technical delegate/report – news from Birmingham: Glen Johnson (GJ) will have the next meeting in October 2019.
- 6.3 Information for members: An info document will be sent out to the members.

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

- 7.1 Sport Accord 2019 – Australia: A report has been sent to all the members. Various actions are being followed up.



- 7.2 Governance assessment: ongoing process with GAISF. TWIF need to make some changes wrt the web-site to improve transparency and flow of information to members.
- 7.3 40 YEARS IWGA, Tournament Germany 2020: TWIF has been invited by the IWGA to participate in a celebration in Duisburg in 2020. There will not be much monetary assistance from the IWGA and participation will mostly be for own expense so only one or two weight classes would be possible with the support from neighboring countries. It would however be great if TWIF could demonstrate support to IWGA. Date will be 21-24 May 2020. AR will ask Ralf Bräuninger to be the convener for this.
- 7.4 Sustainability Case studies: We need to be aware of climate and biodiversity and water use. Some sports are going green. MH will attend a workshop about Sustainability in Lausanne during IF Symposium in October 2019.
- 7.5. IOC Athletes Commission (AC): New members could be nominated – Noted.

8. Policy Plan 2020-2023

- 8.1 New Policy Plan/Strategy 2020 – 2024: We have already a lot of items for the new Policy Plan, like University of Deusto, competition format, WADA, development courses, exposure for the sport, etc. AR agreed to draft a new Policy Plan with input from DM wrt costings for discussion at the next meeting.
- 8.2 Training Manual/Update of DVD: AR is working on new material.
- 8.3 Guidelines/Policy – Use of TWIF Logo: Rules on how to use the TWIF logo need to be developed. AR will ask IWGA for some guidance in this respect. In cases where countries use the TWIF logo on their invitations or letters without approval will also be stopped.

9. Championships

- 9.1 2019 European and World Outdoor Championships Ireland: DM provide an update. Green tags will be used for shoes.
- 9.2 Awarded Championships:
 - 9.2.1 2020 World Indoor – Letterkenny, Ireland: Program and officials:
 - Junior and U23 program – MH to finalize the indoor program with 13 weight classes. There is room for 5 rubber mats. There will be a new wifi system in the Arena, daily transport from/to hotel/arena and inscription wrt the 60th Anniversary of TWIF will be on the medals.
 - 9.2.2 2020 World Outdoor – Getxo, Basque Country: A meeting is scheduled in Castlebar with the organizing committee.
 - 9.2.3 2021 European and World Outdoor– Holten, Netherlands: Nothing to report.
 - 9.2.4 2022 World Indoor – Singapore: Nothing to report.
 - 9.2.5 2022 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland: Nothing to report.
- 9.3 Championships open for Tender/Submissions



- 9.3.1 2023 & 2025 European Outdoor – open for tenders.
- 9.3.2 2024 World Indoor – open for tenders.
- 9.3.3 2026 World Indoor & Outdoor – open for tenders.

9.4 Future Regional Championships

- 9.4.1 Asian Development/Championship – TWIF is willing to help.
- 9.4.2 2019 African Games: AR attended the event which was a very basic Tournament. Field was sandy and very dry. Start was 2 hours late on both days. The South African Tug of War Federation has done a lot to support Zambia to host the Games. AR will write a letter to thank South Africa and will make a report for the TWIF newsletter.

10. Multi- Sport Events

- 10.1 Common Wealth Games Update (Birmingham, UK): PD has nothing to report.
- 10.2 IOC Agenda/ Olympic Program - 2024 & 2028: The best opportunities will be in the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), maybe in 2023. We have to utilize all the opportunities. IOC is positive but has a lot of criteria to comply with.
- 10.3 United Power Games: DM will attend the meeting in Spain and will explore the opportunities for Tug of War. We will not send the World Games Teams but maybe teams placed 7th to 12th in a different weight class, maybe 560 kg Men. September is not a good month for TWIF.
- 10.4 Peace & Sport: MH will distribute the emails and news from Peace & Sport. Members can decide if they want to be part of it.

11. Membership

11.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback

- 11.1.1 Judging course/markings – Israel: AR and JW agreed to travel to Israel to do the course in January 2020. Georgia has also sent a request for help. Transport/Airfares will be contributed by TWIF, all other expenses will be on the costs of the host country.
- 11.1.2 Asian “politics”/ATWF: Confirmed that TWIF will not get involved in politics and country issues. ATWF must try to organize a good Federation with all the members. TWIF will support if ATWF asks for assistance.

11.2 Future Regional Development Seminars: Judging and Coaching courses will be done on request. TWIF Exco will then decide who is available to conduct the course.

11.3 New Member Applications: MH provides an update. There is interest from Egypt and Bahamas. They only can become a full member after paying the affiliation fee. The principle is that when a country has not paid their fees in any given year, they are not regarded as a full member. We will be strict on new membership applications in the future.

11.4 Participating New Members at Championships: Countries participating for the first time at TWIF events, must first pull in the open competition. If the level is satisfying, then they will also be able to participate in the closed competition.

12. Other Business for the Good of Tug of War

12.1 TWIF 60th Anniversary in 2020: Ireland will have a special inscription on the medals. We will work on a special TWIF newsletter and MH will ask former TWIF exco members for stories. This item will also be discussed in the meeting with the organizers from WOC 2020 in Getxo.

12.2 Searching new members for the committees (PR/TAC etc): MH will ask for nominations for new members for TAC, PR and Appeal Commissions with CV's of nominees. MH will send out the invitation letter together with the request for annual reports and proposals.

12.3 Meeting with the Organizers from Getxo, Basque Country 2020: AR, DM and MH will attend the meeting during the weekend.

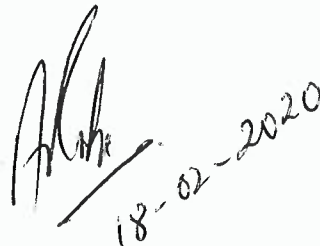
13. Future Meetings

18 February 2020 – Letterkenny, Ireland

16 April 2020 – Holten, Netherlands – Congress 17th & 18th April 2020

15 September 2020, Getxo, Basque Country

14. Closing by the President



A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date "18-02-2020" written below it.