



TWIF Exco meeting January 2021

Agenda
TWIF ExCo Meeting
15 January 2021 online meeting

1. Opening & Welcome

Attending Anton Rabe (AR), Pete Dyer (PD), Dan McCarthy (DM), Jost Waser (JW) and Maaïke Hornstra (MH). Anton opens the meeting. It is good to note that we are all still doing well and healthy and that we are managing to deal with issues within Covid-19 restrictions. The success of a global vaccination program will be key to how future TWIF events will be re-activated.

2. Congress 2021

2.1 Online meeting and how to arrange: Agreed to have a complete online version and split it in 2 sessions. Seminar on Friday afternoon with presentations, tenders and proposals and Congress on Saturday morning. PD is doing research on which system would work the best for TWIF to do the online voting, as it has to be available for all members in good standing and take notice of different time zones into account. The best workable systems are nemovote and veovox. AR will make a schedule with a proposed program and time zones;

2.2 Tenders future events: Presentations during Seminar and voting will be in order as agreed, first WOC outdoor 2026, then EC 2025 and EC 2027.

2.3 Proposals and notes for Congress 2021: Proposal from England with amendment of the belt is agreeable for TWIF Exco and idea is to withdraw Exco proposal.

Note from the Netherlands about privacy at weigh-in – Jost to discuss in TAC meeting, but idea is good and it is workable to arrange a separate weigh-in for ladies with only female officials or make a separation in the original weigh-in room.

Proposal from Belgium for financial support from TWIF for Youth. The principle to support is not an issue, but how long can TWIF support this financially? Is this a sustainable idea?

Proposal from South Africa about skipping awards for the numbers 5 and further to save costs, but also keeping in mind that teams/countries don't take the effort to pick up their awards. As TWIF Exco we support this proposal.

2.4 Possible date change: Due to work appointments of AR, it is agreed to move the Congress to the weekend of 16 and 17 April 2021.

Question from Switzerland about signing the contract when we do an online Congress. DM will take care of this and the format will be mailed to Switzerland. Then Switzerland can finalize it and if everyone agrees, it will be signed by all parties.

3. Future events:

a. Sept 2021 WOC – Basque/Feasibility & Questions from OC: See email that were sent out to the Organization Team of Basque Country.

After in-depth discussion Exco agree that a final decision to give the WC a 'go' or a 'no go' needs to take place as soon as possible, but given all the uncertainties, this can probably not be done prior to end April. An options could be to postpone the WC in Getxo again if the Covid restrictions are still there, but it is not an option to postpone the WC's of 2022 to 2024 again.

The issue of qualification for WG'22 also needs to be taken into account if the WC in Getxo 2021 cannot take place. The ranking of the WC 2018 in Cape Town could be considered, but for now this is the worst case scenario.

b. Update on events awarded: Presentations during Seminar.

4. Appointment of Competition Manager: Three applications for Competition Manager (CM) were received. After discussion Exco agree to appoint Anton Botha from South Africa for the next TWIF event only. AR will draft letters to all the candidates to inform them of the decision.

5. a) Rules Manual – completion and publication: Exco will have a final look at the latest version of the Rules Manual. Comments will be sent to AR before the end of January 2021 in order to finalise for online publication by mid February.

b) Training Handbook: JW is working on an indoor/outdoor training handbook. He will send a Word version for inputs/comments from the other Exco members. After that JW will start to work on training and judges video's.

6. WADA – update and new rules: The TWIF rules have been accepted by WADA and approved by members. PD has to work on the new Testing Pool for 2021. The whereabouts have been disapproved by WADA, so PD has to take care of a new whereabouts and select the athletes for the testing pool. These selected athletes and Rep's will be informed by a letter.

OOC: There haven't been any 'out of competition' controls in 2020, due to Covid-19. For 2021 this has to be corrected. The two positive doping cases are almost concluded after which it will be published on the website.

ITA: PD has had a lot of frustrations about the working method of ITA. Agreed that AR/PD will send a letter with the problem experienced and demand better service going forward. There are other companies doing the same work, but that needs research. The rate per hour by ITA is also very high and the estimation is that we will receive a fairly high bill for the 2 cases dealt with.

We have budgeted for this but an analysis of the costs is required in order to recoup costs from future positive cases from the National Federations and guilty athletes.

7. **Age Youth** – question Sweden 2020: PD hasn't had time to look at the database regarding the age profile of the Youth at recent events. The TAC has however discussed this request and their recommendation is 'leave it as it is', i.e. don't change the rules around the youth due to Covid-19. Everyone is dealing with the Covid-19 in some way. MH will send an email to Lars Lindh from Sweden to confirm Exco's decision not to make any exceptions.
8. **Finance/Budget** – The interest has decreased from 0,85% to 0,15% on the TWIF reserve. Noted.
DM has made 2021/22-budget, based on a normal year. This, together with the balance sheet and income/expenditure amount will be distributed for Congress.
During Congress 2017 there was a proposal to split the affiliation fee in two parts: a full paid member and a member that does not compete and participate at TWIF events. Countries that attend Congress have to be a full paid member. This proposal is not workable as countries that is not active, just don't pay.
DM will send the 2021 invoice to MH to send out to members.
9. **TAC** – JW is working on a Training handbook. TAC have had some contacts in 2020 but not all the members are active in responding on emails.
10. **PR** – MH is happy with the new PR members. Lot of new ideas. The TWIF monthly focus is well received. The printed version of the 60th Anniversary magazine is ready and after the final check by AR, it will be printed to be distributed during next event.
The website is still workable, although it needs to be replaced, but will do for the coming months.
11. **World Games update** – MH and Glen Johnson have a meeting with Sebastian Garvens of IWGA on 20 January 2021. No further news at this stage.
12. **Commonwealth Games (CG)** – India and Pakistan sent a letter to CG to ask for adding Tug of War on the program. The African countries are working on a letter/plan as well to get Tug of War on the agenda of CG. The program for 2022 is already arranged, but action can be helpful for future CG's. It can do no harm that countries chase the CG. PD hasn't heard from CG in the last year.
13. **Membership** – new members and application: No new members for application at this stage to vote for at Congress. JW is in a good contact with Trinidad & Tobago and 5 other countries.
14. **Other busines for Tug of War** – 60 Years TWIF celebration. The pen sets are ready to hand out, but it is too expensive to mail to representatives. This will be given out at the first physical event.
Since the beginning of 2020 we haven't heard anything from Protocol Sports Marketing. AR will send an email to get an update on their business and plans for Tug of War.
15. **Recognition of Malaysia** – MH will send an email to Malaysia to formally reconfirm their status with the national officials body. If all documents are in order, they can be brought forward to re-new their TWIF membership during Congress 2021.

- 16. Compliance with Privacy Policy** – After Congress 2019 we have send out documents about Privacy & Policy and asked for confirmation from the members. Only a few members have signed and agreed thus far. MH will resend this request and if countries still don't reply, they will not be able to vote during Congress subject also to having supplied their annual doping report and being a paid up member.
- 17. Future meetings** – Saturday 13 February 2021 online: AR 10.00 AM, JW/MH 09.00 AM and PD/DM 08.00 AM. During this meeting preparation of online Seminar/Congress will be the main item.
- 18. Closing by the President** – AR can close the meeting after 3 hours of efficient meeting.