

Minutes Annual TWIF
Seminar & Congress
APRIL 8th & 9th 2022

Sursee, Switzerland



SCHEDULE – TWIF SEMINAR & CONGRESS 2022

PROGRAMME: 8 & 9 APRIL 2022

Friday, 8 April - Seminar

1. Number of, and agreement on, weight classes for TWIF Events (see also proposal from Switzerland).

Pete Dyer (PD) gave a presentation about the weight classes we will have in Holten, September 2022 and the new cycle that starts in 2023 in Sursee. From 2023-2025 we will have a 3 year cycle, while we follow the 4 year cycle (which was disrupted by Covid) of the World Games. A new proposal to change the cycle of weight classes can only be brought forward in 2025 and will be implemented in 2026, if there are any changes. (see also attached presentation).

2. Quantum/Practicalities re accommodation packages & Cost of TWIF events (See also question from Belgium).

PD and Dan McCarthy (DM) give a presentation about their experiences as organizers of various Championships. The accreditation fee of 100 GBP has been implemented 16 years ago. It should have been around 148 GBP now, but has not been adjusted for recent events for people that book outside the accommodation package. An organizer needs around 1350 people to 'break even'. Officials is 20% of the total costs of an event and the Championship fee (15.000 GBP) about 10%.

Questions that arise are:

Is the tendering window of 6 years ahead too long with too much uncertainties around rising costs?

Do we need a shorter planning window?

Is planning the problem?

It was confirmed that tenders we receive now all have an indication of the total costs of a package. Countries therefor have enough information to decide if they will vote for a tender or not.

Some other ideas that was raised includes:

- Sponsoring is very important. TWIF should access global sponsorship. We had an agreement with Protocol Sports since 2019, but they are bankrupt. We will look for a new company to assist us;
- For new countries pulling is 50% of the whole event and sightseeing the other 50%, so a championship should be attractive with a nice venue and good presentation;
- Organize the event in local areas and promote the event in getting more supporters (billboards). Add entertainment to the event so families will come and watch and take care of a food truck;
- Experiment with other formats like 5 or 6 by side;

- Try to get tenders from cities instead of a member country. This is a more commercial idea but can work;
- Try to do more digital and less printing.

3. Continental Federations – Open discussion on merits/possible alternative ways to address needs/requirements within a global context.

Anton Rabe (AR) opened the discussion about continental federation in relation to TWIF. We know that we need to do and think differently in order address the changes we are facing. TWIF Exco is open for these changes.

There are many continental federations in other sports. We have had an Asian Federation but this has not worked optimally for various reasons. For some sports it however works very well, but as we are a small sport, we are not sure if it will work for TWIF. The role and focus areas of any Continental Federation need to be clearly understood and agreed.

Ralf Bräuninger from Germany gives some information about the idea and goal of the European Tug of War Federation in relation to TWIF. The plan is to organize low cost Championships and maybe only a 2 day event in-stead of 4 days. Lilita Mukina from Latvia expects more money from governments to organize European competitions.

Anton Botha from South Africa provides information on the working of the African countries. They work together in training and development of the sport and organize African Championships, but there are no formal structure or constitution and it works.

Lilita Mukina from Latvia mentions that there will be more support from Baltic countries to participate in European events and most likely more support from governments by giving money.

Simon Koetsier from the Netherlands is asking how other federations have their constitutions. Africa has an open line and no official documents. Asia has tried to get an Asian Federation, but not all the countries are at the same line. In the UK the countries have a British & Irish Championship with lower costs, 2 days event and an informal set-up, following the TWIF rules, but also not formal structure or constitution.

What is therefore missing in a TWIF context? What is required to formalise within the global structure and constitution?

It was agreed that TWIF Exco will give further guidance and leadership to a working group to see how continental federations can work in a global context. AR will make a draft for the guidance of this working group.

Anton Botha also indicated that if a World Outdoor Championship is hosted annually, South Africa would always participate.

4. Shoes

PD and Jost Waser (JW) gave a presentation regarding clarification of the point raised by the proposal from Switzerland. PD stated that ExCo had proposed some additional words of clarification to the boot drawing rather than changing the words and stressed it was as much about applying a proportionate approach to boot inspection and proposed a note is added to the drawing to bring this to the attention of Judges. Some photographs of actual boots were shown, indicating a fully compliant boot through marginal boots to non-compliant boots.

5. Progress reports/Update on events awarded:

- a. World Games '22 – Maaikje Hornstra (MH) has given a presentation on the World Games and shared this presentation with the representatives of the qualified countries.
- b. WOC '22 – Holten, Netherlands. Presentation of 2021 is shared again and will be opened soon on the TWIF website + information to all representatives.
- c. WOC '23 – Sursee, Switzerland. In the afternoon of seminar the organizers will give the attendees an update on the field and accommodation.
- d. WIC '24 – Helsingborg, Sweden. No news yet.
- e. WOC '24 – Mannheim, Germany. No news yet, next year during congress full update.

6. Evaluation report/Feedback WOC Getxo '21 – MH has given a presentation about the informal feedback from participating countries and the number of FICS treatments. This presentation was also shared with the Organizers of Getxo.

7. Tender for future events (10 minutes):

(Voting will take place on Saturday, 9 April 2022)

- a. WOC '28 – St. Gallen, Switzerland. Michaela Koch from Switzerland has given a presentation about the tender for the WC outdoor in St. Gallen, for 2028.

AGENDA – CONGRESS: SATURDAY, 9 APRIL 2022

1. Opening address. By the President

Welcome to all attendees that are physically attending, and those who are online. Covid-19 has been part of our lives for 2 years and we all have lost some families or friends. We have also lost some members who have passed away over the past year. We have a moment of silence for them.

2. Roll call of the members. By the Secretary

2.1 Confirmation of a quorum.

15 countries physically present and 10 online paid-up members (25 countries in total). We have a confirmation of a quorum being 1 third of the members in good standing.

Names of members with voting rights that attended physically are: Belgium, Germany, England, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Chinese Taipei, USA and Wales. Attending online with voting rights: Canada, China, India, Japan, Lithuania, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Turkey. Proxy votes were received from Basque Country and France.

3. Confirmation of members in good standing. By the Treasurer

Confirmation of members in good standing by the Treasurer.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of Congress 2021 (Online meeting)

Approval proposed by Germany and seconded by USA. Vote on the report by NemoVote: 18 in favor, 4 against.

5. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

Indicated that India and China would each like to make a statement.

AR is also mentioned the schedule for the day's program and the evening program.

6. Report covering the period since the last Congress. By the President

See Attachment (A)

Luckily we had some competition last year and a thanks again for the organization in Getxo who made it happen. Also a thank you to the teams and officials that attended the WC outdoor, while it was also our qualification for the World Games 2022. We also had to deal with Covid-19 and we may have to deal with this for more years to come, but also need to get on with our lives. Various committees mostly met online and did a lot of work. The administrative requirements, also compliance with WADA is getting more and more every year.

AR stresses that members need to respond and provide requested information when this is asked for by the Secretary General. We will try simplify the annual reporting form and to complete online. We will also continue with the competition manager approach at championship given the success in Getxo.

We have to think and do differently and adapt to an ever changing environment. We also need more young people to keep up with the global challenges. Our sport has to stay attractive for new people to get involved. On a vote the report is accepted by 20 votes.

7. **Finance By the Treasurer / Financial report and Budget 2022/23**

7.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts (separate document) – The documents were distributed prior to the meeting. DM provide some clarification on the financial report. On a vote 21 in favor and 1 against. No abstentions.

7.2 Approval of the budget (period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023). The document was also distributed prior to the meeting. On a vote 22 in favor and 1 against. No abstentions.

Question raised as to why only 25 members pay the annual fee for TWIF, and what we do about this item. Countries that pay are the active ones that participate in Championships. If there are ideas about how non-payers will start payment, Exco would welcome ideas. AR mentioned that we have already changed our format for allowing new members. They now have to pay upfront to fulfill all requirements before there is a vote on the membership. Other question is to ask the countries why they don't pay the annual fee. Most of them struggle with money.

It was confirmed that an independent review of the financial situation has been done.

8. **World Games 2022: (Information shared on Friday during seminar)**

The World Games draw with the qualified countries was done.

9. **Strategic matters/Policy Plan – Feedback/Update**

AR gives us an update on the Policy Plan, which runs for 4 years. Organization, Promotion, Sponsorship and Development. The IOC funds are mainly used for development. The development (coding) of a new competition program will be initiated shortly. Anti-doping remain a high cost items.

Other items includes: Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028, door is not closed fully yet; School tournament; Clothing for the officials; PR – TWIF Monthly Focus came into action; Training material, judging & recorder courses will or are updated; Seminars and training courses. JW and DM just recently went to Czech Republic.

India requested assistance w.r.t recognition of the National Olympic Committees. They tried do get response, but no success. They will approach TWIF for further assistance.

10. **Reports by the Commissions:** See Attachment (B, C & D)

10.1 Technical Athletes Commission – Jost Waser (JW) (attachment C)

JW request member to develop more judges and bring them forward to TWIF level. We need more young blood. Marga 't Lam has a challenge to get the officials for every championship and this counts also for the recorders. Gavin Corden will become a new member of the TAC and will in future present judges courses.

The amendment to the belt rule has been implemented as was communicated to members. Agreed that this be formally signed-off on and finalized with this set of minutes.

- 10.2 PR Commission- Maaïke Hornstra (attachment D)
MH informed the members about the 60th year anniversary magazine. This is available in Sursee for the attendees and will be in Holten to give out.
World Games is also asking for highlights of the athletes that participate. MH requests information from the representatives to promote our sport. Reports and news for the TWIF newsletter or TWIF Monthly Focus are always welcome. Also a word of thanks to Shelby Richardson, who passed away in March. She was a supportive member for MH. USA will be asked if they can ask a new person to be part of the PR committee until the new elections.

- 10.3 Anti-Doping – Pete Dyer (attachment B)
PD provides an update on the anti-doping requirements. For World Games we have a new testing pool of athletes and more tests. See power point presentation (presentation is shared with all the member countries)

The administration of TUE's have never been sufficient. At this moment we have only one athlete that has a sufficient TUE, every other athlete needs to update the information. A TUE is required not just before a Championship but long time before to be sure it will be accepted by ITA (International Testing Agency).

All the athletes that will attend the World Games, also have to complete a WADA online training session through an ADEL TWIF portal. This is an obligation of the WG to take part. For WADA all sports are treated the same and there is no difference between our sport and for example soccer. It is one size fits all for testing, administration etc. for WADA, which is not easy for Tug of War but we have to be compliant to WADA. Athletes should ask their doctors about medication before taking it.

- 10.4 Medical Panel – (no report/no activity this past year)
10.5 Appeal Commission – (no report/no activity this past year)

10. Affiliation of new members

No new members to affiliate.

12. **Proposals and question submitted by the members and all other matters which the Executive Committee wish to propose** (Attachment E)

13. **TWIF Championships: Past, others already dealt with during Seminar**

13.1 World Outdoor – WOC '21 Getxo, already dealt with during seminar.

14. **Tenders for future Championships** (Presentations during seminar/voting during congress). We also agreed that future tenders should be of a smaller format with the basic required information. This is easier to share with the member countries. A full presentation can be given during seminar.

14.1. WOC 2028 – Switzerland. During the voting there were 18 countries in favor, 5 against and 1 abstention. In total 23 valued votes, so Switzerland and Tug of War club Mosnang have been awarded the WOC 2028.

15. **Other Business for the good of Tug of War**

India: Ask for support from TWIF to get IOC recognition. Also India is asking China to support the Asian Championships. Countries and events are not at the same level. This is an item for the Continental Federation working group.

China: Is in contact with the World Games organization of Chengdu 2025. They will promote Tug of War in China and plan to organize an international Tug of War event in 2023 (in Asian context) and a test event for Tug of War in 2024 in Chengdu (using platform of the World Games Chengdu). At this stage we do not know yet if Tug of War is on the Chengdu 2025 program or for which weight classes. China also request support from TWIF to organize courses for officials.

Israel: In Getxo it was already mentioned by Israel to MH, but smoking should not be allowed during TWIF events in pullers arena. We will mention this during briefings but also include this in the Organizers Manual.

16. **Future meetings**

Congress/seminar in 2023 will be in Mannheim, Germany on 21 and 22 April.

17. **Closing by the President**

AR thanked every member, hybrid or online, for the efficient way of working through congress. He stress that representatives must make sure that they articulate and word proposals properly and fully. He wish everybody safe travels.

Attachment A:

TWIF PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APRIL 2022

Last year (2021) I started my report as follows: "It is with a sense of relief that I provide this brief report on the TWIF activities during the past year."

This is even more true this year given that we continued to keep the proverbial ship afloat and were able to conduct a successful virtual congress and a World Outdoor Championship in Getxo which also doubled as qualifier for the World Games later this year in the USA. Congratulations and all the best with the preparations to all the teams that have qualified for this prestigious event, still the pinnacle event for our sport.

I wish to once again thank the Getxo OC and all the TWIF officials who have contributed to a successful World Outdoor event. Also, the national and club teams who managed to travel to Basque Country and their discipline in complying with the Covid requirements and bubble system that had to be followed.

Apart from ongoing communications and newsletters, unfortunately very limited international activities were possible. Some national associations did manage to have fairly normal domestic competitions, but cross border events were not viable.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the World Indoors recently given ongoing uncertainties wrt travelling and the resultant very low expression of interest with limited confirmed entries at the due date. In conjunction with the Dutch organisers the financial risks were carefully managed with no monetary losses incurred. Hopefully the other 3 major events for 2022 – Congress (April in Switzerland), World Games (July in USA) and World Outdoors (September in Netherlands) will continue as planned.

There is still no clear end in sight with the global Covid-19 pandemic seemingly continuing with rolling "waves" being exchanged between the hemispheres alternating with winter/summer and unpredictable peaks and patterns. This is making travelling (and possible quarantine) risky and costly given the ongoing emotive, unscientific and irrational responses from various governments.

More and more people – including many scientists - are however now starting to refer to Covid-19 as being *endemic* (rather than a *pandemic*) and motivating a regime of "getting on with our lives". Personally, I fully support this view. Yes, by continuing to manage risks through wide-spread vaccination (including booster shots), social distancing, masks and staying away from big crowds, shopping malls and other indoor gatherings with huge numbers of people. A return to some normality!

In the past year, TWIF Exco and Commissions, continued to meet via virtual means. This will no doubt be one of the more lasting and positive legacies of Covid as a very cost-effective way to deal with operational issues and comply with risk mitigation and preventing the associated travel risks and costs.

These virtual platforms also related to multi-sport entities (Sport Accord, GAISF, ARISF and IWGA) TWIF are affiliated to. Mostly housekeeping matters were dealt with via various virtual meetings. We trust that the annual gatherings scheduled for mid-May 2022 in Russia (Ekaterinburg) will go ahead as planned. A report will be distributed

after these meetings which will be attended obo TWIF by Snr V-President, Peter Dyer. As indicated, we managed to effectively deal with the core Exco portfolios and workings of the various Commissions. Reports on these activities should therefore be read in conjunction with this report.

We also managed to introduce the position of a Competition Manager at TWIF championships to support Exco and key appointed officials with a focussed integration and umbrella coordination of activities and functions. Anton Botha did a great job in introducing this new approach which will no doubt be fine-tuned as we go forward.

Without the dedication and commitment of our officials, TWIF would not be able to operate. The training and development of officials and the real and urgent need to broaden the number of participants (athletes and administrators) at grass roots level remain one of the highest priorities in TWIF. Development courses with elements of training, coaching and judging/recording will therefor remain a high priority.

We are currently thin on the ground with regard to our qualified TWIF judges' pool with a number of long serving judges nearing the end of their career. Exco have identified the fast-tracking of judges training as a major priority with courses to be scheduled for experienced national judges as the next few championships. We have also identified Gavin Corden to in future present these courses with the support from our panel of evaluators.

Some virtual training session continued in recent months via virtual means. This is to be supported with modern and updated training material with which the TAC has made excellent progress.

We may need to re-think the way in which we deal with the development agenda going forward, also relating to the cost of travelling and accommodation at TWIF events as has already been expressed by some countries with the establishment of a European continental structure. We do spend a good portion of our budget on this and need to ensure we spend it wisely and effectively.

I do not believe this – i.e. establishment of regional structures - is necessarily the best way forward. We have consistently encouraged stakeholders to come forward with ideas and initiatives, but this has been sorely lacking to date. These issues will however be on the agenda for the seminar where we need to find common ground and agreement on “working and thinking” differently.

In conclusion, again 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 respective contributions.

Various other items dealt with by the Exco and/or Commissions, included finances and related reports, are included in the Congress agenda and will be reported on during Congress or dealt with during the planned seminar.

Anton Rabe
TWIF President

Attachment B:

ANTI-DOPING REPORT

1. New TWIF Anti-Doping Rules (ADRs)

These came into force in January 2021, I hope you have all familiarised yourselves with these and understand the changes that were implemented and the increased sanctions for an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF).

It is important that your National Federations and your athletes understand not only the rules but also the significant consequences, which have changed, to individuals, teams and ultimately the National Federations.

2. TUE's and prohibited list.

WADA have issued the **2022 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.

IMPORTANT – I have said all of this before, but it seems to still be a surprise when a TUE isn't granted due to a lack of information. Just because you were successful in the past IT DOES NOT mean you will be successful now – THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT HAVE CHANGED.

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. We have published guidance on the TWIF website of the application process and also a typical checklist of what supporting evidence is required to accompany a TUE application. It isn't a taken that your TUE will be approved. **If you do not receive an approval certificate your TUE is NOT approved and is not valid.**

We have subcontracted the TUE approval process to the International Testing Agency (ITA) and if you receive correspondence from them asking for more information, you must respond. If this isn't responded to and the appropriate information provided then ITA's TUE panel are unable to consider your TUE and it will not be approved.

TWIF has adopted a new email address for TUEs and other Anti-Doping correspondence which is specific for this purpose and more secure. The email address is anti-doping@thetwif.org Please send all TUE's and any other Anti-Doping correspondence to this email address.

You should also be aware that even if you are prescribed something by a medical practitioner, you must 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.

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.

3. World Outdoor Championships 2021

During these championships in the Basque Country 15 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, England, Basque Country, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

We are pleased to say all tests were negative.

4. Annual Reporting Forms.

At the time of compiling this report 26-member countries, had completed their reports. This is two less than this time last year and is very disappointing. Their reports show, that during 2021, only 8 countries conducted Anti-Doping tests with a total of 35. We strongly encourage ALL national federations to consider undertaking 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.

The increased testing that you have already seen will continue and as COVID restrictions ease there will be more Out of Competition testing conducted, particularly leading up to the World Games.

7. Whistle blowing

Anti-Doping and testing are intelligence led activities, and every athlete can assist in ensuring our sport is and remains a clean sport. If you have any suspicions or even substantive evidence of a breach of the TWIF Anti-Doping rules then you can, and should, report this, in confidence, to TWIF using the dedicated Anti-Doping email address anti-doping@thetwif.org

8. Education

While TWIF will be doing what it can to educate athletes and support staff in Anti-Doping by, predominately, online learning, it is also the responsibility of every National Federation to educate their athletes in Anti-Doping. I strongly encourage you to make contact with your NADOs, if you haven't done so already, and urge them to provide education to your athletes. Anti-Doping has to be about education in the first instance, especially with new or young athletes, before punishment is prescribed.

Finally, I would like to thank Birute Zachariene, our TWIF Anti-Doping administrator, for her continued support.

Pete Dyer

Chairman of TWIF Anti-Doping Commission
TWIF Senior Vice President

Attachment C:

Report Technical and Athletes Commission (TAC)

The Technical and Athletes Commission consists of the following members:

- Chairman: Mr. Jost Waser / ExCo
- Secretary: Mrs. Marga t'Lam / Netherlands
- Mrs. Rachel Lewis / England
- Mr. Galder Gobantes / Basque country
- Mrs. Jennie Andersson / Sweden
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson / United States (in memory)
- Mr. Ralf Bräuninger /Germany
- Mr. Vincent Chen/Chinese Taipei
- Mr. Matthias Arnouts / Belgium
- Mr. Bennie Geldenhuys / South Africa

This year was marked by the strains of the COVID virus. Who would have ever thought that the national and international tournaments would be so limited? All the wave movements frustrated the whole tug-of-war scene. It required new ways of training up to the tournaments themselves. Once go or no go characterized this time.

Our meetings in the TAC were conducted online. On the one hand, this variant made more meetings possible. On the other hand, the personal exchange of contacts is limited to the visual.

Contacts with possible new members are underway. Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, etc. Most of them struggling of the paperwork and financial needs.

The anchor protection still is a topic of discuss. We agreed to work out a proper solution. Especially the added parts under the protection. The resolution of it is to force the Judges to implement the given rules of TWIF Rules Manuel to during competition.

The implementation of the rules of anchor protection, the new belt guidelines still require many resources. Especially since some nations do not have the same strict rules for international tournaments like the European or World Championships according to TWIF.

The new Trainings-Booklet has been completed and, after review by the TAC and ExCo members, has been made available to the associations on the website.

The new learning material for judges will be published at the end of February and will be available for training.

Items for the TAC to work on are the following:

- Chief Evaluator are briefed 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; Discussed the result and we will 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. During briefing in Letterkenny at indoor WC we used a PowerPoint presentation for the briefing. After result still improvement necessary.
- Chef Judge Evaluation report used in Letterkenny first time. Will need updated.
- No Pull system is now implemented. Still need update for judges during the briefing; will use bullet points to refresh.
- Updating the TWIF Rules Manual ongoing procedure
- **Something of great importance is to find new young judges and timekeepers for the international tournaments. This is an important challenge for each nation to contribute.**

The situation has shown that it is not always possible to hold sessions at World Championships or European Championships. However, I see the possibility of making good use of the time online in terms of travel.

But I value the time to meet each member in person as a goal for the next events.

It will be Holten, Netherlands, in September 2022.

I would like to thank all TAC members for their great commitment and the time they have given.

To the whole ExCo for the support and useful additions.

Jost Waser
Chairman TAC
TWIF Vice President

Attachment D:

Report Press and Publicity Commission

Current PR commission Members:

- Chairwoman Ms. Maaïke Hornstra/ ExCo
- Ms. Christine Yang/Chinese Taipei
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson/United States (in memory)
- Mr. Alan Knott/England
- Mr. Anton Botha/South Africa

2021 was another year where the PR Commission did not meet during an event, but we had communication via email several times.

A highlight to promote our sport happened in the beginning of 2021 when James Kehoe from Ireland was in the race to become World Games Greatest Athlete All Times. Due to the massive input from Martina O'Falley, PR woman of Boley, whole Ireland was aware of the election and James was in tv programs, on radio stations, acting as photo model for magazines etc. etc. But it helped. Number one was out of reach but James become the well-earned runner up in this election. Thank you all to help promoting James on your social media platforms and thank you all for voting for James. The PR commission had also a big tribute in spreading the pictures and promotion video's about James.

Although I am not too familiar with Instagram myself, I created an account for TWIF and try to post pictures once in a while. I should do this more often, so I am using some of the pictures placed on Facebook by our members, to share on Instagram. But any assistance in this to share nice pictures about your activities are welcome.

We were very happy to have the World Outdoor Championships in Getxo, in September 2021. This gave me the pleasure to spread out the printed version of our 60th Year anniversary memory magazine. I still have lots to spread out, while we were planning to hand out during the World Indoor Championships 2022 in Doetinchem, but unfortunately, we had to cancel the WIC. I will hand out the magazines during Congress and of course during the World Outdoor Championships in Holten, in September 2022.

During the World Outdoor Championships in Getxo, we all received TWIF face masks with the TWIF logo on it. These masks were sponsored by Christine Yang from Chinese Taipei and were used a lot during the Championships. Christine is the TWIF Representative for Chinese Taipei and member of our PR commission. The masks were in nice blue and I will take them along to share with you, although let's hope we are going back to a life without masks very soon.

As you are probably aware, Bruce Schuman is our webmaster and is doing a lot of IT work for TWIF, like running the website and the TWIF competition program. Bruce is not yet retired and still enjoys the job, but has mentioned to retire in a few years. I have send out an email in 2021 with the requirements and the tasks. I received three informal applications but not a formal one. So if you think you are the capable person

or you know someone in your Federation that would like to do the job, please contact me with a motivation letter and CV.

Same for the TWIF archive website www.itowstory.org

Co Koren, former TWIF President, has built this website and updated the site till a few years ago. Co will retire from this job and as we think it is very important to keep the archive website alive, we will try and update the site till now and also keep it updated.

We still plan to make at least three TWIF Newsletters a year and also TWIF Monthly Focus with special items or just with news. I can't repeat it often enough. We need your input for these online magazines, as well for the TWIF Facebook page, while I notice a lot of what is going on, but I am sure I miss important news from our member countries. Thanks for your co-operation and also thanks for promoting our sport in the best way you can. Also a big thank you to the PR committee members for their support and help!

Maike Hornstra
Chairwoman PR Commission
TWIF Secretary General

Attachment E:

PROPOSALS/QUESTIONS FOR TWIF CONGRES 2022

1. Weight Substitution Puller

Proposed by: the Netherlands

Seconded by: Belgium

Proposal 1: Article 6.4 and 35(4).

Similar to the proposal of Sweden brought in 2018.

- a) The weight of the substitution puller may be increased by the weight difference of the team weight at the start of competition and the maximum allowed weight of that weight class.
- b) When teams are on equal points at the end of the qualifying competition/group rounds and the weight of the teams is required to determine the ranking of the teams, the highest weight of the team (which can be either before or after a substitution) will be applied. (Note: Currently the certified team weight, which is always the heaviest weight, documented on the team weigh sheet, is used)

Training of the officials is required to get the right weight in the total ranking.

On a vote: Total of 23 votes - The proposal passed with 15 votes in favor, 6 votes against and 2 abstentions.

2. Sport Gear

Proposed by: the Netherlands

Seconded by: Sweden

The existing rule states:

Sport dress puller

Teams will wear proper sports clothing consisting of shorts, sports shirt or jerseys and knee-stockings or socks. The sport dress of the pullers in the teams shall be uniform.

The Proposed wording of the rule is as follows;

Teams will wear proper sports clothing consisting of shorts, sports leggings (without shorts) or shorts with sport leggings, sports shirt or jersey, and knee stockings or socks. The sports dress of the pullers in the team shall be uniform as detailed below;

1. All sports shirts/jerseys will be the same colour but may be a mixture of short and long sleeves;

2. A team may have a mixture of shorts or sports leggings but if any member is wearing shorts all members must wear shorts OR wear shorts over the sports leggings;
3. Shorts must be the same colour;
4. Sports leggings may be worn without shorts if all pullers are without shorts;
5. Sports leggings don't have to be the same length but must be all the same colour. They can be the same colour as the shorts or may be either black or white;
6. Knee stockings or socks must all be the same colour.

Given confusion due to wording and interpretation, it was agreed that the proposal will be reworded and that an e-mail vote will be held subsequent to congress.

On this proposal 24 votes came in by email: 16 votes in favor, 7 votes against and 1 abstention. This proposal has passed.

3. Weight Categories

Proposed by: Switzerland

Seconded by: Germany

Categories at TWIF events. There are currently 12 categories to be held on the two tournament days at a World or European Championships. As has been mentioned several times, 12 categories are certainly two if not four too many. It is proposed that a World or European Championships compromise: three weight classes in the morning & the two most attractive weight classes in the afternoon = 5 categories per day = 10 on the two days of the tournament. The 10 weight classes should be Men 560, 640, 680; Ladies 500 & 540 (World) 520 & 560 (European); Mixed 580; Men's U23 600; Mixed U23 560; Junior men 560; Junior Mixed 520.

Reason:

The aim of the World Championships is to attract as many spectators as possible to show them our great sport. This means that we have to offer the spectators a clear atmosphere, and that we can't achieve this by having as many categories per half day as possible.

No, on the contrary, we should keep the tournament sites at the World Championships and European Championships as compact as possible and so that spectators who are not too familiar with our great sport can understand it our great sport. As we all know very well, more categories do not mean more athletes on the competition field. But the fact is that the many categories make the individual tournaments less attractive. Why is that? Some athletes compete in as many categories as possible on the two tournament days, and have already competed in the Open tournaments beforehand, which means that the longer the event goes on, the lower the level of our great sport.

Or, on the other hand, we have to reckon with a smaller field of participants per category, which is also not conducive. So it doesn't matter which way you look at it, our great sport suffers from the many categories that the categories that the TWIF wants to carry out! We also seriously wonder if it really makes sense to have 3 categories for U19 and U23. Three categories each. Wouldn't two each be enough? At this age, especially at the U19 level, it is completely sufficient for an athlete to

have a maximum of two events. This can be achieved without any problem with only two categories each, that means men and mixed categories without women U19 and women U23. This two women`s categories had only 3 or 4 teams in the past and the level was not worthy of a world championship

Given confusion due to wording and interpretation, it was agreed that the proposal will be reworded and that an e-mail vote will be held subsequent to congress.

On this proposal 24 votes came in: 9 votes in favor, 14 votes against and 1 abstention. This proposal has failed.

4. Change Rule 6.2

Proposed by: Switzerland

Seconded by: Belgium

6.2 Members: national team Members of a national team must be citizens of the country the team is representing. Proof of citizenship is only accepted by passport or by a national government issued identification card. Members of the team includes pullers, coach and team attendant.

Reason: We want change, that members are only pullers and not coach and team attendant. To bring our sport to a higher level is important, that the coach can be from another country to bring his knowledge to the pullers. For example Football is possible, that a Swiss Person can coach a national team from another country.

Also it is important to get a higher level of the sport and spread out knowledge word wide. It is important to share knowledge and training with other countries to get more countries at a higher (competition) level.

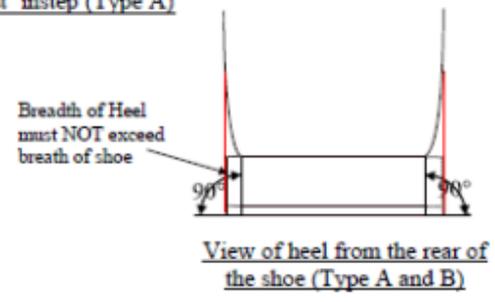
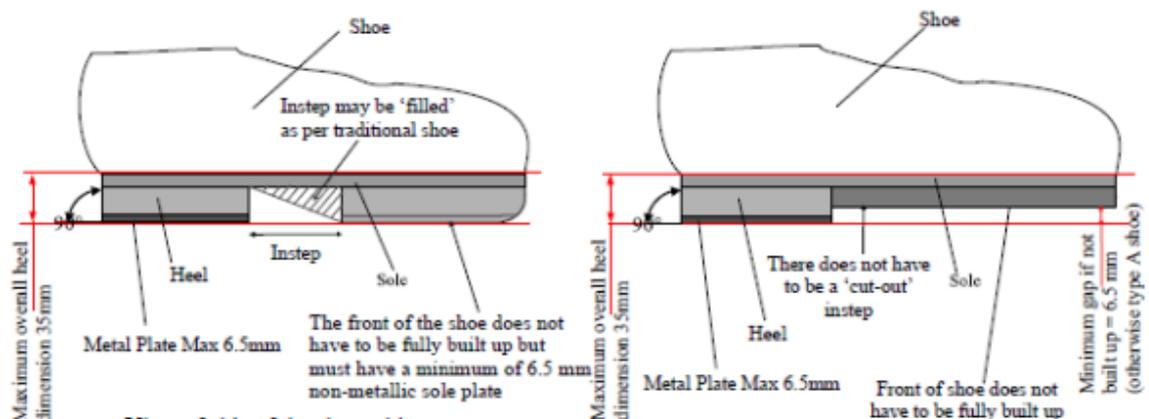
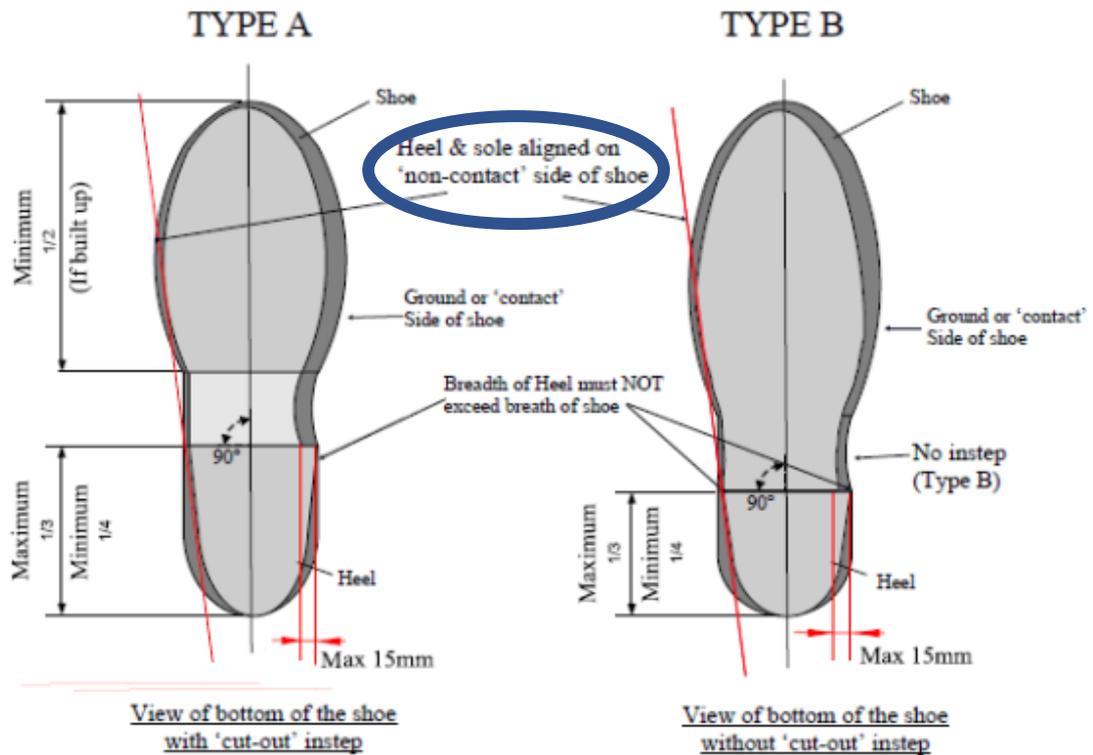
On this proposal 23 votes came in. 19 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 0 abstentions. This proposal has passed.

5. Shoes

Proposed by Switzerland

Seconded by: No seconder

We would like to change the sentence in shoe rule, « Heel & sole aligned on non-contact side of shoe », that is written « Heel & sole maximum aligned or less angle on non-contact side of shoe ». (ExCo note – This is not written in the text of the rule but is on the diagram (see below circled in blue). ExCo consider this is more to do with education of Judges than changing the text in the diagram and therefore propose to add a note to the diagram (See below) regardless of whether this proposal passes or not. We believe the note should remain as is with the addition of **“(The front of the heel must not protrude beyond this line but does not have to meet it)”**



Note to be added to the drawing;

To all Judges – During inspection ALL dimensions should be considered 'approximate' taking into consideration that boots are largely made by hand to approximate tolerances and 'common sense' shall prevail where no advantage can be gained or safety issue arise because a 'common sense' approach is being taken to such dimensions.

Reason : In the past we had different opinions on shoe control at Championships. The same shoe was in the morning control accept and in afternoon control not-accepted. Otherwise with less angle we can reduce an injury from the puller before.

This proposal has not been discussed and voted for, while there was no country that has seconded Switzerland on the proposal.

6. Accreditation fee

Proposed by Belgium

Seconded by: the Netherlands

Amendment "organization manual": Accreditation fee

ExCo Note: This is not a proposal to amend the accreditation fee but to recommend that some lower cost accommodation is provided. This is a proposal for the Organisers manual which, in general, is a guide and not a 'Law or Rule'.

TWIF will promote the use of the accommodation package as provided by the Organisers. In case the organiser provided enough low-budget accommodations and participants choose not to book accommodation through the organisers, Organisers may levy an accreditation fee for accreditation of the participants and supporters. The income from the accreditation fees shall cover the cost of the administration and making the accreditation cards. A reasonable fee would not exceed the equivalent of £100 (British Pounds Sterling). A reasonable low-budget accommodation fee would not exceed the equivalent of £350 (British Pounds Sterling).

Motivation

About 16 years ago the TWIF congress agreed to institute an accreditation fee of £100 (British Pound Sterling). The motivation was to promote the use of the official accommodation package and also to decrease the cost of an accommodation package. The accreditation fee was and is a multiple of the real cost for accreditation and to discourage not booking the official package. Belgium had agreed to this modification, but now realizes that we have seen only one side. We forgot to include a trigger for the organizer to decrease the fee for accommodation package. In contrast, we notice that the prices are more than reasonable with high increases. We are aware that an organization costs a lot of money, but if we want to grow the sport, we should not simply pass the costs on to the participants. A maximum price can trigger the organization to control its costs and seek other revenues. If, for the organizer, it really fails to find cheaper accommodations, participants will not find them and there will be few bookings outside the package.

Conclusion: There will be an amendment to the Organizers Manual while the proposal is approved. There is already the option to have a less day package, for example 3 days accommodation. This is never and will not be promoted by organizers, due to costs. The motivation of Belgium to put this proposal forward is that if an organizer adds more low price accommodations, it will be more attractive for athletes that only pull in the open club competition.

A total of 23 votes came in. 15 are in favor, 4 are against and 4 abstentions. The proposal has passed.

Question Latvia:

There should be standards developed and implemented for Tug of War equipment. Equipment is practically not available on the commercial market. Tug of War equipment are mostly self-made – shoes, vests, anchor vests, material used to protect sportswear from the outside, and adhesive material for indoor footwear. There are no set distributors or manufacturers to purchase certified items. The product also does not always meet the standard required by the TWIF regulations

Is it possible to place links and addresses on the TWIF website to identify manufacturers of certified equipment (outdoor pulling shoes, vests, anchor vests, sticking materials in accordance with the TWIF rules for indoor shoes, ropes)?

It would also help to standardize and prevent misunderstandings about equipment, create a level playing field - facilitate the work of judges, and so on.

Motivation of Latvia: new clubs struggle to get material or have been checked by judges with a no-go. The issues count for belts, shoes and anchor vests.

Answer/Reply by Exco:

- TWIF Exco has sorted the belts and the Technical and Athletes Commission (TAC) has dealt with this;
- DM has looked for a supplier in Chinese Taipei who can deliver standard material for indoor shoes and anchor vests. DM can ask for 3 quotes and if the members agree, we can chose one supplier, advertise on the TWIF website and it is easier for the judges to check.
- Poland – why one supplier because more suppliers are necessary. If we

certificates more suppliers, people will benefit. One supplier can do whatever he wants with money/costs.

- Standardize or leave it as it is with the existing equipment.

On an open vote countries could give their opinion if we have to start looking for a supplier to develop/supply standard material or leave it. On a vote of 22, there were 11 in favor and 11 against. AR indicated that Exco will discuss possible solutions in the near future.