



TWIF Exco meeting April 2022

Agenda
TWIF ExCo Meeting
7 April 2022, Sursee, Switzerland

1. Opening & Welcome

Welcome to everyone. Attending President Anton Rabe (AR), Senior Vice President Pete Dyer (PD), Treasurer Dan McCarthy (DM), Vice President Jost Waser (JW) and Secretary General Maaïke Hornstra (MH). No physical Exco meetings have taken place the last 2 years given Covid travel restrictions.

2. Approval of minutes from the last meetings held virtually

All approved and accepted.

3. Matters Arising/Finalisation of Agenda

3.1 Web-site updates/ splitting up events

We need to indicate a clear splitting between TWIF events and international and local events of countries. We will ask a quote from people who are able to develop a new website. Our competition system is still running but on an old platform and language and also need to be updated. We are not having a secure server system and that is required.

We need to think of working with a cloud based system and store all documents in one drive system. We have to move away from ABC, while the owner is getting older and he is the only one in the company that can still work with the Boerdam developed system. All historic document and old minutes can also be stored on this drive. MH will ask Jan Lenaerts for a quote. AR and PD will sit down with Bruce in Birmingham to sort out the system we work with.

3.2 TWIF Archive + History website Co Koren

AR and MH will visit Glen before the World Games to sort out the archive that is still at Glen's house and agree what documentation and items need to be kept. This will be send by courier to MH and then digitalized.

3.3. Server of the website and ideas for new website (see 3.1)

4. Finance/Budget/Audit – DM

4.1 Secure procedures – Invoicing/payments

All payments have two signatures/approvals but DM has an online payment system now. This took 6 months to get in place and requires only one person to activate payments. The Ulster bank in Ireland is a part of NatWest, but given ongoing admin problems we may have to leave NatWest and look for another bank.

Exco agreed that the electronic payments being released by 1 person is fine, as long as 2 persons still approve such payments.

4.2 Options wrt Investment of TWIF reserves

220.000 GBP – investment – interest is very low. Noted.

4.3 TWIF Audit 2021

Accountant is pleased with our financial update.

4.4 IOC application/reports

IOC do not receive the emails from MH. DM will be always cc'ed in these emails to re-send if necessary. AR will also send the same email as MH to IOC to ensure they receive it. The IOC development financial support has been received - 32.000 US-Dollars.

4.5. Members in good standing

DM will deal with this at Congress. 25 countries in good standing. 1/3 has to be at Congress, so that is covered.

4.6 Indemnification Exco against financial claims

DM wants us to be secured for financial claims from individuals. We have to make sure what will be covered for, probably a basic coverage. DM will ask for two quotes and then we discuss this further.

5. Commissions

5.1 TAC

5.1.1 Tech & Athletes Commission – JW

TAC has lost Shelby Richardson as member. We can replace her position but we leave this till next election.

5.1.2 New course material for Judges?

A new power-point presentation is made for the judges but still not checked. It took some time to get this back at JW and Marga 't Lam. Once checked and approved, it will be used during the course in Holten, September '22.

5.1.2.1. Video material

There are some old video's which are still usable. Everything we need, is still in the video. The video is also on You-Tube.

5.1.3 Briefing Judges and judges evaluation (email Jost 14 March in relation to request/complaint TWIF Rep Germany)

JW has spoken to the TWIF Rep of Germany and JW has watched back the Live Stream of Getxo '21. This issue is sorted but still we have to deal with the attitude of some judges, interpretation of the rules - this links to the

training of our judges. We have to try and avoid mistakes with good training and briefing of the judges.

5.1.4 Interpretation/Rules changes

It is important that we teach the judges in a very good way and brief them well every Championship, but it is also very important that all our member countries accept and use the TWIF rules and instruct their judges very well so they are prepared to judge at a Championship.

5.1.5 Weight loss/Random checks/Deusto University report : JW has contacted the Basque Country Representative for information and has received the final report. JW will share the document with us. Although just tested in Castlebar and Letterkenny, we can progress with the conclusion. With the data we have, we can make a further plan. It was a pity that due to Covid-19 we could not finish the tests in Getxo '21.

5.1.6 The Use of Belts/Anchor vest checks

Belts rule was agreed and implemented well in Getxo '21. Anchor vests are available in Chinese Taipei for supply but mostly anchor vests are handmade. If it was supplied by one supplier, it would be easier to buy and anchors could use this as a standard and approved vest. DM has information from a supplier from Chinese Taipei with prices for vests, shoes etc. This supplier can deliver world-wide and if we agree as a Federation, it will be the end of a long discussion. This would be the same for the indoor shoes. Latvia has asked a question for Congress as well on this topic so will be part of the Congress agenda.

5.1.7 How do we get judges and recorders at Championships?

The problem is that we have a pool of judges and recorders, but mostly always the same officials come to Championships. We need a bigger pool of officials because TAC is struggling to get the numbers filled up. This may have financial aspect to it given tight economic conditions but it also seems as if the prestige of being a TWIF official has waned somewhat. Also a change of mindset and the world we live in. We want to go back to the comradeship of the past and create a team culture, but is it possible in this changing individual world? Is there a way to make it more attractive to get them back?

Maybe we have to give back the ball and ask countries to deliver officials depending on the number of teams/athletes they have at a Championship. JW will take this item to TAC to come up with a proposal/plan. For the World Games it could be part of a 4 year cycle award for performance at Championships by supplying a financial support.

5.1.8 Judges/Recorder Course & Refresher

In September '22 AR and DM will present the Judge course and instruct/assist Gavin Corden. Gavin will take this duty for the coming years and we will have a course every World Championships over the next few years.

There will also be a recorder and refresher course in Holten '22. PD state that a detailed briefing/powerpoint presentation should be available at every Championship.

5.1.9 4 years cycles and weightclasses

Given the postponement of the WG tot 2022, there will be a 3 year cycle - 2023, 2024, 2025 – based on the Swiss proposal of 2018. So 720 kg is off the program and we stay to 560, 640 and 680 kg men. Women at WC is 500 and 540 and EC 520 and 560. U 23 and Junior classes as well. The next cycle will be 2026 – 2029. Tif approved, the Swiss proposal for Congress 2022 will only be implemented in 2023. A next proposal for a new cycle or change in weight-classes can only be put forward for Congress 2025. We will not accept proposals in the years between.

5.1.10 Financial support TAC

No financial support will be paid to the TAC members for the online meetings they attended, it will be supplied again when a physical meeting will take place.

5.2 Anti-Doping/WADA - PD

5.2.1 Roles & Responsibilities – Chairman and Administrator

PD does most of the work and Birute is assisting. PD will make a list of duties for him and Birute.

5.2.2 Compliance review/Progress & outstanding issues

PD is struggling with some WADA instructions. In May '22 there will be another compliance questionnaire on the new WADA code. PD attended an online seminar to get information about the compliance. It will be a standard questionnaire of 43 pages but is not really applicable for a volunteer based and amateur Federation. There is no difference between professional and amateur sports, which makes it difficult to answer some questions. TWIF is in tier 2 for WADA, which means we are at a specific level in relation to the amount of tests we have to do.

5.2.3 TUE Checklist/Guidelines

PD updated the TUE's on the TWIF website with the new code 18 months ago. ITA checked this one month ago and told PD that our information on the website is not updated to the latest standard. We have to contract more expert people to do the WADA work for us, so PD will approach ITA for a quote for doing more work for us, while it is not doable for a volunteer job. Our athletes do not use the right TUE's so PD will mention this at Congress and we have to inform the member countries, especially in relation to the coming World Games.

5.2.4 Prohibited List 2022 is on the website.

5.2.5 Learning e-Course for athletes & Medical Practitioners/

Whereabouts App

- PD is asking WADA for a TWIF portal so all the World Games (WG) athletes can do the online education in time for the WG.

- PD has just completed 20 athletes in the WADA system for out of competition tests for the WG athletes. Birute is entering them in ADAMS.
- Our WG athletes will have the whereabouts app to make changes to inform WADA.

5.2.6 ITA services – see 5.2.5

5.2.7 Athletes Commission WADA – document WADA 20 February '22
We will put forward JW as a candidate for the AC for WADA as part of the WADA AC.

5.3 PR Commission - MH

5.3.1 WG 22 asking for promotion athletes – So far little response from countries with only one athlete that has responded. Mention at Congress.

5.3.2 TWIF newsletter/TWIF Monthly Focus - Ongoing process.

5.3.3 Web-site update – already dealt at earlier points in agenda.

5.3.4 Protocol Sports – seems to be bankrupt with no responses, despite numerous follow-ups. Exco will explore other partners who may be interested

5.3.5 New member replacing Shelby or wait till elections '24?

MH will ask Bill Gallagher for a new candidate.

5.3.6. TWIF You-Tube Channel: MH will ask Alan Knott to activate.

6. World Games

6.1 TWG2022 – news and updates

We receive much information and Press releases. Regarding the amount of numbers of athletes, we have to be honest towards WG about motivation why we have less athletes and play open card. Maybe we can use the amount of numbers for extra officials as we had agreed earlier. The heat will be part of the need for extra officials.

6.2 Technical delegate/report – field – ongoing process.

6.3 Qualification countries and numbers attending + officials- see 6.1

6.4. Events or courses in Chengdu between 2023 and 2025

China has asked for some time during Congress to present information about events in Chengdu and they will get time.

6.5 Chief Judge – no experience, how to prepare him

We will ask Gavin Corden what he needs to be ready for the job in Birmingham and discuss with him this weekend.

6.6 Making the draw for WG 2022 and make it a Press moment or in silence?

We will do the draw during Congress and we will make pictures of it and provide the WG with information and the letter. MH will contact the WG if they want to attend online or just need pictures?

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

7.1 Sport Accord 2022 – new date for annual congress

Sport Accord has been canceled in Russia. There is an IWGA meeting in Madrid in May '22 and PD will attend online. Now we have a World Games this year, we can catch up with the delegates of IWGA in Birmingham. No news yet about GAISF or ARISF meeting. Normally all the meetings are under the umbrella of the Sport Accord week of meetings. We will wait for further information.

7.2 Youth Olympics

AR and MH will have an online meeting in May '22 with Andrew Hofer of IOC and discuss with Andrew about the Youth Olympics and LA 2028.

8. Policy Plan 2020-2024 Updates

8.1 New Policy Plan/Strategy 2020 – 2024

The Policy Plan needs a review with a new term from 2025-2029. Other items on the plan still ongoing.

8.2 Training Manual/Update of DVD

Training Handbook is on the website and people can download this. Is it necessary to print? It is a big document with a lot of information. Can we supply a short document for starting pullers? Maybe we can use the presentation for this, that we use for seminars in countries? JW will make a summary to provide this to new countries and we can update this 'on the way'.

8.3 Guidelines/Policy – Use of TWIF Logo

Countries can use the TWIF logo if the event is run by TWIF officials or a seminar including TWIF officials. The logo can't be used at international tournaments or events even if more countries are involved.

8.4 Update – Organizers Manual

MH will share the last update of OM 2019 with the Exco members and then everyone can give input.

9. Championships

9.1 World Outdoor Championships:

9.1.1 Evaluation Getxo 2021

MH will do a presentation at seminar.

9.1.2 Chiro report – Rob Scot

MH will make a short note in the evaluation report of Getxo. No countries named or whatever, just the numbers of treatments.

9.2 Awarded Championships:

9.2.1 2022 World Outdoor– Holten, Netherlands

9.2.2 2023 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland

9.2.3 2024 World Indoor – Helsingborg, Sweden

9.2.4 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim Germany

- 9.2.5 2025 European Outdoor Championships – Nottingham England
- 9.2.6 2026 World Indoor – Taipei, Chinese Taipei
- 9.2.7 2026 World Outdoor – Hartenbos, South Africa
- 9.2.8 2027 European Championships – Caorle Italy

9.3 Championships open for Tender/Submissions

9.3.1 2028 World Outdoor: tender from Switzerland

For future tenders, use form and smaller information packages. Presentation during Seminar. Max size should be max 5 MB to send out to members.

9.3.2 World Indoor Championships 2023? Interest from Korea and China

We think Korea is not capable to organize a World Indoor Championships while they have no experience and have only attended one World Indoor Championship in the past. China is also uncertain given ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, traveling to the country and other plans for events before World Games 2025.

It may be an option that TWIF itself organizes a World Indoor Championships with the help of an interested country given the gap between 2020 and 2024. TWIF will have to take responsibility for everything. DM has an idea for organizing a Championship in a country on behalf of TWIF but we need support from the country. Agreed that he and AR will explore further.

9.4 Future Regional Championships

9.4.1 Asian Development/Championship – nothing to report.

9.4.2 2022 African Games – Swakopmund Namibia – 30 June/2 July '22 with interest from a lot of African countries.

10. Multi- Sport Events

10.1 Common Wealth Games Update (Birmingham, UK): nothing to report.

10.2 IOC Agenda 2020+5/ Olympic Program 2024 & 2028: AR and MH meeting with IOC including LA 2028 new sports in May 2022.

10.3 United Power Games: nothing to report, silence for long time.

10.4 Peace & Sport: sharing the newsletters and follow up on their program, but not very active.

10.5 Master Games Japan 2022 – no progress to report.

11. Membership

11.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback

11.1.1 Judging course/markings – covered by TAC.

11.2.2.1 European Tug of War Federation (ETOWF) – as TWIF Exco we are all on the same line about this Federation but open for discussion about plans and ideas. It is not clear what the

objectives of the such an entity are. AR agreed with the steering committee members to a discussion during the time in Sursee after which the topic will be discussed during seminar.

11.2.3 Feedback Czech Republic course – DM and JW led the course, it was worthful but a very small group of attendees.

11.2 Future Regional Development Seminars – JW will attend a seminar in France at the end of April in Bordeaux. More requests from Israel Sri Lanka and Nepal. Invite people to run courses as well while it is too much for TWIF Exco to lead this.

11.3 New Member Applications – None.

12. Congress – Agenda

12.1 Seminar & Congress – update and time schedule + presentations tender WC outdoor 2028 and possible WC indoor 2023.

12.2 Proposals & Questions + 2 proxy votes from Basque Country and France.

12.3 Seminar & Congress: Hybrid version so very strict on speaking etc. for the people that attend online. AR will deal with this.

12.4 Country Reports: received 33 – what is the function of these reports beside anti-doping tests? Can we make a shorter format or other way of receiving the information? – Purpose of the form can be more effective. MH will relook at the form and make a new format to focus on antidoping tests/TWIF Representative and address/numbers. Numbers of judges and recorders and split up in grades. A lot of other items are not of any use for us anymore.

12.5 Attendees/Nemovote testing/Checking internet-connectivity: done.

12.6 Message from India – paragraph that we need to include in the minutes of congress.

12.7 Possible pre-event WG'25 - Chengdu China.

13. Other Business For the Good of Tug of War

13.1 Seminars & courses by request – can we handle this with Exco or ask other people to assist? See 11.2

13.2 WADA symposium in May '22 in Lausanne. PD has not decided yet but will consider to go and have a meeting as well with ITA.

13.3 We have lots on our plate with TWIF duties, so maybe it is time to ask for a 6th member, for IT and media. Both are asking a lot of time and are very important for the sport.

13. Future Meetings

- September 12 '22 – Holten, Netherlands (on Monday, so arrive on Sunday for Exco)
- During World Games – planning meeting and dealing with operational issues.

14. Closing by the President

At 17.05 pm AR is closing the meeting and thanks everyone for the hard work and the open and constructive discussion at our meetings.

15.30 pm Meeting with Ralf Bräuninger (RB) (Germany) and Anders Andersson (AA) (Sweden) about the European Tug of War Federation(ETOWF)

AR is starting the discussion with the ETOWF and indicated that he found contact with him as the only TWIF Exco member for online meetings and not the whole Exco, troublesome. TWIF Exco is currently not seeing the purpose of a ETOWF but we have to look for more global development. RB had a meeting with potential members. MH also states her disappointment about the lack of information and transparency while she was in Mannheim with RB. RB apologizes and indicate that there is a feeling amongst some European countries that the time is right for an European Federation. TWIF Exco wants to develop as well but we have to work together, not duplicate or in a non-transparent manner. Concern of TWIF is globally and we have no problems with European countries working together if the idea is to develop Tug of War in Europe. If TWIF Exco had been informed from the beginning and been involved, the start would have been better and with more trust would have existed. It was agreed that we will try to find each other in a constructive way. The Asian Federation is not official, and with a lot of geopolitical issues has never effectively operated. We don't want a similar situation in Europe.

It was agreed that a joint working group will be established to look globally at regional needs. Objectives, rules, principles and governance issues and rules of engagement between TWIF and regional structures need to be agreed.

GENSB is not involved in the ETOWF but will be part of the whole discussion. There is also no expectation from ETOWF that funding would be required from TWIF.

16.00 pm Meeting with the Organizing Committee of Sursee, WC outdoor '23.

Ida, Inge, Pirmin and Adrian are attending the meeting to clarify various issues, including accreditations and the working of the competition program, relating to the WOC 2023.