



**Agenda**  
**TWIF ExCo Meeting**  
**5 March 2023, Parkgate, Northern Ireland**

**1. Opening & Welcome**

Attending: Anton Rabe (AR), President, Pete Dyer (PD), Senior Vice President, Dan McCarthy (DM), Treasurer, Jost Waser (JW), Vice President and Maaïke Hornstra (MH), Secretary General. AR is opening the meeting and welcomes us all to Parkgate. Start at the meeting at 9.00 am.

**2. Approval of minutes from the last meetings**

Minutes approved from January and February 2023; ready to send out to the members.

**3. Matters Arising/Finalisation of Agenda**

- 3.1 WC indoor 2023 – update and planning for coming week- see 9.1
- 3.2 Agenda & program seminar & congress
  - Dealt and spoke about the final agenda for seminar & congress;
  - Continental Working Group: spoke about the document for the Continental Working Group and the spreading of misinformation for gaining support for the ETWF. Exco expresses their concerns about an attack on the integrity and the hidden agenda that is no good for a constructive outcome;
  - Education on WADA needs to be taken more serious, will be on the agenda;
  - Future weight classes: JW has asked Bruce for data base input to give a presentation. We have to look at the weight classes and youth. Our feeling is that after accepting a lower age in the Senior weight class, more youth is pulling in the senior weight classes;
  - Transgender policy: a very complicated subject with input of IOC.
- 3.3 Document about disciplinary actions versus officials/participants : PD is making a procedure document for future items. Let's hope we will never have to use it.

**4. Finance/Budget/Audit – DM**

- 4.1 Financial status TWIF : accounts are in order and will be brought forward to Congress.
- 4.2 Natwest Bank – update on the situation: AR and JW had to submit their details again and are accepted now.
- 4.3 Members in good standing for WC indoor and Congress 2023: All members at WC indoor are in good standard to compete.

- 4.4 Other financial updates: Indimnity policy is taking too much time to complete at the insurance company. Since October 2022 DM has asked for information/agreement but the approach was not very effective. Cost benefit is not worth going further with this company, so DM will do research for other companies. Other option is to save money every year in a fund and keep this for unseen claims. In the past we had one claim and an almost claim, so it will not happen often but just in case. We agreed that DM will do research on this item and consult Andrew Hofer from IOC.

## 5. Commissions

### 5.1. TAC (JW)

- 5.1.1 Rules Manual update and printed version for Sursee after Congress; current update on the TWIF website has to be finished.

5.1.2 Update Judge course during WC indoor: Gavin Corden is leading the course. We have 4 or 5 new judges and refreshers.

5.1.3 Weight loss/Random checks/Deusto University agreement/update: Deusto had about 75 volunteers in Holten. There is a difference between men and women. JW will give an update during Congress and we need to inform the members that we will change the accreditation so athletes sign for testing by Deusto as well. It will be compulsory then but still random checks so not a whole team. There are no consequences on participation in the tests. We need to make a document that clearly mentions the rules and regulations. PD will make a draft.

- 5.1.4 The Use of Belts/Anchor vest checks – briefing judges WC indoor.

5.1.5 Substitution during the WC indoor – one judge with JW as assistant.

### 5.2 Anti-Doping/WADA (PD)

5.2.1 Update on critical items: it is a lot of hard work, almost a full time job. PD gives us a presentation of what was required for WADA and how far he is in finishing all the critical items. We agree that PD needs assistance from another party while it is not doable for one person. PD added a lot of new obligated items to our website. Athletes are responsible for what they take and only the athletes. Will be subject on the Congress as well. But how do we educate and keep on educating athletes/coaches about WADA to keep knowledge update, but also to tick the WADA boxes while education is compulsory. Education is part of a World/European Championship and obligated by WADA, but we have to keep the numbers manageable. We thank PD for his amount of work in this difficult subject.

5.2.2 TUE Checklist/Guidelines: PD is not going to the TUE symposium in South Korea, cost- and timewise. It is not possible to attend online, only in person. In 2022 PD attended online but had to pay 100 Swiss Francs, so we will wait for the update by WADA and see how to move forward on this subject.

- 5.2.3 Include an Anti-Doping awareness session as a standard part of the teams briefing before the Championship: it is part of our obligated

approach from WADA irrespective of the status and level of risks of different sports. It is also not clear on how the efficacy of different programmes can be measured/proved.

Anti-doping, especially awareness and education, will also be a discussion point at the Congress.

5.2.2 TUE Checklist/Guidelines: PD is not going to the TUE symposium in South Korea as it is not cost-effective and he also don't have the time available. Unfortunately it is not possible to attend online, only in person. Exco will await feedback from WADA and then assess how to move forward on this subject.

5.2.3 An Anti-Doping awareness session will in future be a standard item at briefings prior to Championships. It is also important to inform and educate coaches about this subject.

5.2.4 ITA services: TWIF currently pay for the whistle blowing update on our website. More services may follow later on.

5.2.5 Transgender policy – See document of AR for seminar/congress

5.2.6 Review of the structure and capacity of the Anti-Doping Commission: PD confirms that Birute will continue as ADAMA administrator, but that some capacity may be required to assist with the education part for the athletes.

After further discussion, it was agreed that there is just too much work for the Exco in total given that they all have "day jobs". Consideration should be given to possibly add an extra Exco member possibly for global development (including anti-doping education) to the Board. Having the ITA do all the work, will just be too costly much for TWIF.

### 5.3 PR Commission (MH)

5.3.1 TWIF Newsletter/Monthly Focus – input Exco members: JW will make a report on IWGA social media for the Newsletter and PD will make a TWIF Monthly Focus on WADA.

5.3.2 Web-site – discussion who to ask for new website: PD and Bruce will speak with Laurens of the Livestream team about setting up a new website as well. We also contact Jan Lenaerts about this if Laurens can't help us out.

5.3.3 Tug of War TV made by Livestream Netherlands team: Exco agree that tug of war require its own channel to broadcast/livestream so we are not dependent on the Olympic Channel but we take the responsibility to take care of all our livestreaming during events if the organizers of an event that does not livestream themselves. PD confirms that the wi-fi in the James Baker Stadium is not adequate for Livestreaming and that a dedicated link would be required. PD and Simon of the Livestream team are preparing all the required items. Music will also be running during the WC indoor. PD and Anton Botha, Competition Manager, is finalising the detail.

5.3.4. The TWIF You Tube Channel: Matt Metzger is not active on this channel, but MH will consult Katie Kruse, PR committee member, if she can take this over while the current channel is only active in USA and Canada.

## 6. World Games

- 6.1 TWG2022 – feedback and review – MH will make a report for Congress
- 6.2 World Games (WG) 2025 – Weight classes and way forward: IWGA has confirmed that tug of war will be on the programme with 3 weight classes with the same number of athletes and officials.  
On 6 March 2023 AR, DM and MH will have an online meeting again with Sebastian Garvens about the final recommendation from IWGA and the Chengdu OC wrt to disciplines and weight classes.  
(Note: During the discussion, IWGA confirmed that they and WG Chengdu 2025 are proposing to only do outdoor weight classes. The qualification will be during WC outdoor in Mannheim 2024. Given a strong indication from IWGA that it wishes to see a global footprint and not only the dominance of European countries, the qualification criteria may have to be tweaked to allow a "wild-card" entry to ensure at least 3 continents participating. The weight classes will be Men 640, Women 540 and Mix 580.  
This matter will be discussed during congress, but the final voting on the matter will only be at the IWGA AGM early May 2023 after which formal communication would follow.
- 6.3 Events or courses in Chengdu between 2023 and 2025: DM as Competition Manager of WG '25 will have the first meeting at the end of 2023. DM and other available Exco members will have a meeting with Liu Muqiong during the WC indoor to agree a programme for the lead up to WG '25. Liu Muqiong is the TWIF representative of China.
- 6.4 Update and news on/about the social media meeting in Lausanne – JW: already dealt with this and will submit an article for the magazine.
- 6.5 Attendance of AGM Madrid 3 May 2023: DM and PD will attend the AGM of IWGA in Madrid. We like to bring forward items for the agenda of IWGA about anti-doping to address our issues and the amount of work for an amateur sport in relation to the tests we are doing.

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

- 7.1 Youth Olympics: No further progress on this.
- 7.2 GAISF: TWIF is very disappointed in the dismantling of GAISF, whilst there are a number of unresolved issues, amongst others' implications on multi-sport events such as the World Games. Since the meeting in autumn 2022, which JW has attended, no new information has been forthcoming.

## 8. Policy Plan 2020-2023 Updates

- 8.1 Policy Plan/Strategy 2020 – 2023: A new policy plan for the period 2024-2027 will need to be developed after congress.
- 8.2 Update – Organizers Manual: MH and AR will finalise this during WC indoor.
- 8.3 Re-writing competition program/Software – discussion with Bruce and Francois and PD will ask Laurens as well.



## 9. Championships

- 9.1 Awarded Championships:
  - 9.1.1 World Indoor 2023 Northern Ireland: 310 people booked the package and 100 outside the package;
    - Safeguarding official: MH will take this duty during this event. It is for all protection of the youth/abuse reasons;
    - Exco also go through the program and competition checklist to ensure that all items + arrangements for ceremonies are in place.
  - 9.1.2 2023 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland (officials/program etc):
    - Request to start at 9.00 am every day – Exco prefer to start at 9.30 am because of all the administration after stamping but will discuss with the organizers during congress. Appointed officials almost confirmed.
  - 9.1.3 2024 World Indoor – Helsingborg, Sweden
  - 9.1.4 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim Germany
  - 9.1.5 2025 European Championships – Nottingham England
  - 9.1.6 2026 World Indoor – Taipei, Chinese Taipei
  - 9.1.7 2026 World Outdoor – Hartenbos, South Africa
  - 9.1.8 2027 European Outdoor – Caorle, Italy
  - 9.1.9 2028 World Outdoor St. Gallen – Switzerland

## 10. Multi- Sport Events

- 10.1 IOC Agenda/ Olympic Program - 2024 & 2028 – off the agenda for next meeting.
- 10.2 United Power Games – nothing new there – off the agenda
- 10.3 Peace & Sport- follow up – off the agenda, but any communications will be dealt on merit and distributed to members as and when appropriate.
- 10.4 TAFISA – How to continue with TAFISA after JW and MH have reported their experiences: MH filled in a survey just a week ago. Proposal to bring it back to 2 days in a weekend and all sports at one plaza/event/field.

## 11. Membership

- 11.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback: No new requests at this stage.
- 11.2 Development seminars: No new requests at this stage.
- 11.3 Request for workshops/training/courses: No new requests at this stage.
- 11.4 New Member Applications:
  - Azerbaijan have filled in the paper work which is compliant with TWIF requirements. They still need to pay the invoice before voting can take place during congress.
  - A request was also received from Romania to become member, but they are already a TWIF member. JW will liaise further with them to ensure that the required supporting documents from the Sporting Government body is updated.

## 12. Other Business for the Good of Tug of War

- 12.1 Membership CSIT (International Workers & Amateurs Sports Confederations): TWIF got a request for membership of this entity but Exco don't see much benefit in this. AR will respond formally.
- 12.2 UN AOC: Request by United Nations, Alliance of Civilizations. AR already informed the organization that we will not become a member, but that TWIF endorse the principles and will deal with ad hoc requests as and when required.
- 12.3 Elections and new member of the TWIF Exco after President election: if one of the existing 3 Exco members is voted in as new President, Exco can ask a person to fill up the gap for the empty position until the next elections. A similar situation may be possible for the position of Vice President.
- 12.4 DM presents examples of a beanie, buff/bandana and raincoat in blue colours. The items is accepted by Exco and DM will work on further samples with logo's for WC in Sursee.

## 13. Future Meetings

- Thursday 20 April 2023 in Mannheim, Germany

## 14. Closing by the President

AR is closing the meeting at 14.00 pm and wishes everybody well with their respective tasks during this upcoming indoor Championships.



20-04-2023