



**Agenda**  
**TWIF ExCo Meeting**  
**20 April 2023, Mannheim, Germany**

**1. Opening & Welcome**

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

AR is opening the meeting at 9.00 am and welcomes everyone to Mannheim. It will be the last meeting with this Exco and Anton's last meeting.

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

Minutes are approved and signed. Ready to send out to the members.

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

3.1 Agenda & Program seminar & congress + duties Exco:

- Maybe the departure time on Saturday is a bit too early and might put pressure on time to conclude Congress. Seminar will not be a problem. Lunch on Saturday should be sandwiches instead of sitting down. MH will arrange this with the German organizers.
- The members attending congress in person, are all members in good standing. Although Nemovate is a secure system, it was agreed that we will ask Corsin to stand by Pete's side to ensure that no perception of manipulated voting can develop given that PD is one of the persons standing for President. If Corsin is not available, then we ask Marga 't Lam.
- Some countries still have not paid the annual fee and delivered the annual reports and would like to vote. Agreed that Exco will have to become more strict on the deadlines. Annual reports should be submitted by 1 January and the annual fee before 1 April of any given year in order to qualify for voting.
- Russia was informed that they will not be allowed to pay via a 3<sup>rd</sup> partie. They have now indicated payment and delivered the annual year report, but the payment still need to be cleared by the bank. If the payment is confirmed, they will allowed to vote.
- Serbia, also asked to pay via a third party, and have been informed that this has never been allowed and will not be accepted. Only the country can pay. The email on this case, send out by Ralf Bräuninger on behalf of Serbia, was noted by Exco and agreed that AR will respond formally.
- Agenda seminar & congress: Exco discussed the various items and agreed how aspects will be dealt with or responded to. Voting on the report of AR is required but not necessary on the commission reports. Proposals will be dealt with as contained in the agenda. Various Exco members will provide comments and context on the various proposals.
- Noted that on Friday at 9.00 am the Major of Mannheim and Uwe Kaliske on behalf of the city, will welcome the attendees.

- AR will set up the zoom link for the online attendees. PD will send out the invitation emails and links for attending and for NemoVote.
  - Weight classes for future: JW has collected data of the past Championships for the item during seminar. Since we lowered the age to pull in the senior weight classes, more youth and U23 are pulling in the senior weight classes which will be highlighted.
- 3.2 Continental Working Group: A report was submitted and will be discussed during seminar and it is up to the members what they want. A Development Commission, like other commissions working for TWIF, is proposed as the way forward.

#### 4. Finance/Budget/Audit – DM

- 4.1 Financial status TWIF - nothing new to report.
- 4.2 Members in good standing for Congress 2023: Will be confirmed during Congress.
- 4.3 Insurance:
- DM just heard back from the company about the insurance policy. They don't seem to understand that we are not going further with them. DM is looking for another company in Ireland to go forward.

#### 5. Commissions

- 5.1. TAC
- 5.1.1 Rules Manual will be updated and printed version (200 copies) will be available in Sursee. The latest version is on the TWIF website.
- 5.1.2 Update Judge course: One of the judges failed the theoretical part of the exam in Parkgate and will do again in Sursee. Practical part was good. We will do a course again in Sursee, while we have new candidates;
- 5.1.3 Deusto University agreement: JW is in contact with Deusto and is waiting for new information on how to continue. Participants will be required to confirm availability for random testing in Sursee. PD will amend the accreditation and registration requirements to allow for this. This will also be included in the new programme. The research and testing of Deusto are very important for Tug of War, while it is very dangerous how much weight athletes loose before they go to the scale. TWIF Exco noted with concern the statistics provided by DM on recent events. This is highly problematic and clear that a high risk to the health of athletes exists. JW states that the final report will be delivered after Sursee when Deusto has finalized the research. From there on Exco can agree the way forward.
- 5.1.4 Evaluation of the judges during a TWIF events: JW mentioned that TAC is still working on a better evaluation format and approach. Marga has asked a TWIF judge if he is available for evaluation after his retirement. Four days on the field is too long he said, so maybe two days, one open and one closed. Evaluation of the chief judge is rescheduled and will be used in Sursee again.
- 5.2 Anti-Doping/WADA – PD
- 5.2.1 Update on critical findings: PD has ticked off the critical items before the deadline. The next milestone is 25<sup>th</sup> May for finishing various other items mostly related to education. PD is going to make an education plan while this is required by WADA. PD will liaise with the ITA on this. The problem with ITA is however that they work so closely with WADA, and that ITA is reluctant to challenge WADA on their "one size fits all" approach. PD therefor feels that the ITA cannot provide solutions for the education dilemma faced by smaller sports. Also PD is challenging some invoices on TUE with the ITA. Agreed that the various issues will be raised with the IWGA as TWIF cannot be the only sport with these challenges.
- 5.2.2 TUE Checklist/Guidelines: Can go of the agenda. Sorted.

5.2.3 ITA services: PD does not feel they can provide a full service to TWIF, while they don't understand our sport. They follow WADA instead of trying different solutions. This will also be raised with.

5.2.5 Transgender policy: For discussion during seminar and voting at Congress.

### 5.3 PR Commission – MH

5.3.1 TWIF Newsletter/Monthly Focus: The next edition one goes out today, but it is not necessary to send out every month. Agreed that bi-monthly or even quarterly editions is good enough going forward.

5.3.2 Web-site: On the program but not sorted yet. Laurens Martini of the Livestream team can make a new website. The current one is not user friendly and we can do a lot more on the website, like distributing drawsheets and indications of the various corner teams are pulling in. Also this could be done via WhatsApp;

5.3.3 Tug of War TV/Livestream: PD and Bruce Schuman (BS) had a meeting with Simon Miedema (SM) and Laurens Martini (LM) in Parkgate and LM has a paid fee for a server to provide and work on for the TV channel/Livestream for TWIF. We need a formal agreement that this material still belongs to TWIF, if something should happen to LM. PD, BS, LM and SM had an online meeting on 29 March 2023 about the program. LM and SM will propose a plan for the software program for our competition. It was also agreed that LM and SM will provide a package service for Livestream at future TWIF events. It will be a package with various possibilities. If an organizer does not use TWIF Livestream service, then that company has to provide TWIF with a link so everyone can watch and follow this on the TWIF TC channel.

Agreed that the competition program and the Livestream will be focussed on immediately, then the website.

To cover costs, a pay for option to watch should be looked into. Could be included. Another possibility is advertisement to work towards a break even for renting the equipment and accommodation of the operating team.

Part of the discussion is also to activate the video's of Holten and Parkgate given the requests to make this material visible. SM is working on that to make it accessible but needs time. PD will take this with him in his discussion.

Summary: Content of the Livestream belongs to TWIF. PD will discuss this with LM and SM. Costs of the Livestream can be recouped. Livestream was never in the Organizers Manual, but now it is. Already for a long time required by TWIF for organizers;

5.3.4. Historic website made by Co Koren: How this can be integrated in the new website or a link to it need to be looked into. PD to explore.

5.3.5. Francois Bezuidenhout is a very good man next to Bruce and understands what is going on. He needs to be part of the team of IT and will be part of the officials team, so he can learn all the required items in order for when Bruce would like to retire, we have a good follow-up;

5.3.6. TWIF Youtube: Katie Kruse (PR member from USA) is in contact with Matt Metzger (Canada) about the TWIF Youtube Channe. How to integrate this in a new website with a link to view the video's will also be looked into by PD.

## 6. World Games

6.1 TWG2022 – feedback and review – MH has made a report for Seminar;

6.2 World Games 2025 – weight classes and way forward: we can only confirm that the voting on the program for Chengdu 2025 will be during the AGM in Madrid on 2 and 3 May 2023. IWGA and Organizers Chengdu has strongly advised to have 3 outdoor weight classes. AR will mention this during the Congress but the information is still confidential till after the AGM and published by IWGA;

- 6.3 Livestream during World Games 2025: We can't rely on Olympic Channel or other broadcasters, we have to use our own Livestream team channel. It was an issue during WG Birmingham 2022, so what will Chengdu 2025 be like? DM will discuss this item in the competition manager meetings. We were very disappointed in the broadcasting in Birmingham, while promised streaming did not happen. IWGA had issues with the USA broadcasters during Birmingham as well;
- 6.4 Events or courses in Chengdu between 2023 and 2025: DM and MH had a meeting with the Chinese Federation in Parkgate. China is very disappointed that there will most likely be no indoor in Chengdu and they have consulted their Government but DM has not heard back. DM and MH will try to meet again with Liu Muqiong, TWIF Representative of China, during Congress. The voting will be during AGM of IWGA in Madrid, just on Tug of War and on the program, not on weight classes;
- 6.5 Qualification WG Chengdu 2025: we may have to change our qualification system for Chengdu 2025, while IWGA wants a more global participation. Maybe ranking from top 8 and ask the host country to participate.

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

- 7.1 IOC – 2023 Application Form: DM will send the form in Word format in order to allow for edits/additions. MH will finalize and send in before 22 May 2023;
- 7.2 GAISF – the refund has been received by TWIF;
- 7.3 IWGA AGM Madrid 3 May 2023 + list of candidates for election: One candidate for President and Treasurer, Two for Vice President and four for the additional members. PD and DM will make a call and see who best fits Tug of War.

## **8. Policy Plan 2020-2023 Updates**

- 8.1 Policy Plan/Strategy 2020 – 2023: AR will give a brief update at Congress. The new Exco will have to make new policy plan going for submission to Congress 2024.
- 8.2 Update – Organizers Manual (OM): PD made some amendments about IT, Livestream and anti-doping. Safeguarding has to be part of the OM as well. Every country should have a responsible person for safeguarding. Depending on what is happening or in which country you are, the law of the country is in force, but the safeguard officer of the country involved, should be the responsible person. TWIF's responsibility in this context need to be clarified and participants need to be made aware of this issues during briefings. A draft for this already exist but need to be reviewed and possibly re-written. MH will finalize the draft document and then PD and DM can discuss this with IWGA as well during the AGM meeting in Madrid. If IWGA can't advise or assist, we can ask IOC for assistance. Andrew Hofer of IOC will leave, so we can't ask him anymore.
- 8.3 Disciplinary document: PD will finalize the document when he has time.
- 8.4 Re-writing competition program/Software – dealt with already at 5.3.3.

## **9. Championships**

- 9.1 Awarded Championships:
  - 9.1.1 2023 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland: There will be an update during seminar. Invitation and package prices have been sent out and we have noticed increasing costs on the accommodation in relation to the original indications. This will be dealt with during seminar. Program is finalized with the weight classes and start at 9.00 am every day.



- 9.1.2 2024 World Indoor – Helsingborg, Sweden (appoint officials has been dealt with): update during Seminar;
  - 9.1.3 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim Germany (appoint officials has been dealt with) : update during seminar;
  - 9.1.4 2025 European Championships – Nottingham England; update during seminar and dates for Congress 2024 in Nottingham;
  - 9.1.5 2026 World Indoor – Taipei, Chinese Taipei;
  - 9.1.6 2026 World Outdoor – Hartenbos, South Africa;
  - 9.1.7 2027 European Outdoor – Caorle Italy;
  - 9.1.8 2028 World Outdoor St. Gallen – Switzerland.
- 9.2 World Indoor Championships Parkgate – evaluation: MH will do an update on the evaluation during seminar and list of actions. We dropped down from 10 to 3 teams in the open 640kg. We can't give a sanction while we had no entry fee, but we need to send out a letter to the countries involved because this influenced the competition. AR will draft a letter for the countries/representatives. Use of the belt is still a problem. The belt is still used for locking instead of protection, not only during the indoor but also during outdoor;
- 9.3 Review management/competition manager TWIF events: Anton Botha started in Getxo 2021, which went well. For several reasons in Holten we had issues that had to be challenged. Anton Botha is appointed for 4 years, so Mannheim 2024 will be the last event, then evaluation about future functioning can be done. There is progress, but the competition management system will be reviewed after Mannheim. It is also agreed that the travel costs for Anton Botha will be covered by TWIF, while he is an appointed official by TWIF to get the championships running smoothly.
- 9.4 Chief officials for a period of 4 years: It would be good to have chief officials for a period of 4 years to have a stable team running the Championships and not have a repeat of the same mistakes over and over. This will be on the agenda for next Exco meeting and can be discussed in the TAC as well.
- 9.5 WC Holten: England, and maybe o0ther countries, still did not get their deposit back from the accommodation package. It was € 50,00 per person. The same counted for Basque Country but that has been sorted. England has got some money back for one team, but still misses a lot of deposit money. PD will draft a letter to the organisers, which will be signed and finished by AR and MH will send out.

## 10. Multi- Sport Events

- 10.1 TAFISA – congress 1-5 november'23 Düsseldorf, worth attending? We decide that TWIF will not attend the congress, FIGEST from Italy is the partner for Tug of War to attend;
- 10.2 United Power Games: DM attended a meeting in Barcelona in 2019 and no further development or updates since then. This will be removed from the agenda.

## 11. Membership

- 11.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback: no requests at this stage;
- 11.2 Development Seminars: no requests at this stage;
- 11.3 Request for workshops/training/courses: no requests at this stage;
- 11.4 New Member Applications- Azerbaijan: voting during congress for membership;

11.5 What to do with Russia and Romania: MH and JW have dealt with Romania's request to become a TWIF member, but they have to resolve their issue in their own country with the TWIF representative as Romania is already a TWIF member.

Russia has asked if they are welcome again to compete at TWIF events, because IOC made a statement in this regard. The IOC statement is not clear yet how to deal with Russia and Belarus. We wait for further clarification of IWGA or IOC before we allow Russia to compete again. For the WC in Sursee, at this stage, Switzerland is not accepting any teams from Russia and Belarus to take part in a sport competition.

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

12.1 FICS – research on injuries and treatments: FICS has all the history in reports so maybe we can use them for doing research on injuries, specific for Tug of War. We can ask a student/sport science to do research on the results of all these years. MH will ask FICS for all the reports and maybe they have an inhouse expert to deal with.

12.2 DM with support from the other Exco members thanks AR for his wisdom and leadership over the past years. We had good meetings, different positions and views, but always ended in a conclusion which is in the best interest of our sport.

## 13. Future Meetings

- Monday 28 August 2023 in Sursee, Switzerland

## 14. Closing by the President

AR is closing the meeting at 14.15 pm.

