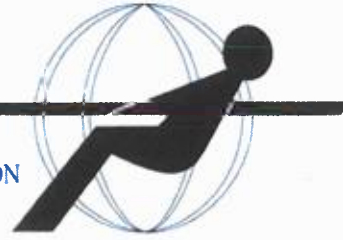




TUG OF WAR INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION



Minutes
TWIF ExCo Meeting
28 August 2023, Sursee, Switzerland

1. Opening & Welcome

Attending: Dan McCarthy, President (DM), Pete Dyer, Senior Vice President (PD), Jost Waser, Vice President (JW), Anton Botha, Treasurer (AB) and Maaïke Hornstra, Secretary General (MH). DM welcomes everyone to Sursee and a special welcome to Anton Botha as in between treasurer till the elections in 2025.

2. Approval of minutes from the last (online) meetings (see attached)

DM received the money on TWIF membership of Serbia via Ralf Bräuninger from Germany at congress in cash money. TWIF did not accept the money while it was not directly from Serbia. We were also not informed by Serbia about this transfer. DM will hand out the money back to Mr. Bräuninger. We have followed our constitution. About membership and participation from Russia and Belarus at IOC: IOC is accepting Belarus as a neutral country to take part in the Olympic Games. Belarus is not a TWIF member. Russia informed us about paying the TWIF membership 2023, but we never received the money. For TWIF Russia is not a member in good standard at this stage.

3. Matters Arising/Finalisation of Agenda

- 3.1 Duties TWIF Exco – duties/working relation within TWIF Exco and trust; 2 people of the Exco had a dispute during the way to Sursee. DM states that we are strong together as Exco with the 5 of us and we have to work together. From now on all decisions will be agreed within the whole Exco. We all do a lot of work for the good of the sport and it is important that we are one team. DM asked JW to add a subject to the evaluation and that is attitude of the judges. It is in already.
- 3.2 Proposals during Congress – only per 4 years? (JW)
JW states that we have too much proposals and maybe we have to decide that we have less proposals. Can we introduce that in TWIF or try a proposal and the year after we make the final decision of delete it at the next Congress. For a small Federation we have a lot of rules and make new rules every year which is not good for the sport. We should be more strict on the proposals and previous proposals because if they are similar, we have to stick to the term of 2 years. Some of the rules are over the top and hard to understand and follow. Same with the new anchor vest rule. We have to see how it works this year but maybe we should try a standard anchor vest. 4 years are too long so we stick to possibilities for proposals every year and have to rewrite the constitution with a vote during Congress. If the proposal is voted in favor, we will implement for one Championship (indoor and/or outdoor) and vote on a final decision. DM and PD will have a look at the wording for the proposal for Congress.
- 3.3 Development Commission : PD will be the chair of the committee and we will have two from Asia, two from Europe, one from Africa and Northern America.

We will look for nominations and MH will send out the letter to all international representatives.

3.4 Safeguard policy, children & adults

The document from South Africa has 73 pages, which no one will read. It is too big. We have to stick to a short and accurate document and maybe use the sample Anton Rabe has provided. It has to be simple and short to guide our members in their Federations but also at Championships. For us the most important aspect is to insure that organizers have a safeguard policy to have a safe environment for athletes. The organizers should follow the policy of the country, but as TWIF we have to have our own policy as well as which puts the responsibility to the national Federations. We have to make a governance for our members and each Federation should have a safeguard officer. It will be part of the annual report. We have to inform the members about this. The policy in the own country may be different then the country where the championships is. At a TWIF event one of the organizing country should be the safeguard officer and not one of the TWIF Exco to be sure the policy of the organizing country is followed up. Maybe it should also be part of the contract organizers sign for a Championships. JW will ask Adrian Koller from the organizers for the coming event in Sursee.

4. Finances TWIF – DM

4.1 Update on financial status TWIF

TWIF is in good standing.

4.2 Members in good standing for Sursee 2023 – all members that participate in Sursee are in good standing.

4.3 Indemnify insurance – we have agreed to leave it, too many costs and too much paperwork and only covering material. DM is looking for other insurance possibilities.

4.4 Update on financial status World Indoor Championships 2023

DM received all the bank account information from Nelson Hanna from Northern Ireland. DM will ask Aukje van Raaij to check the in- and outcome while TWIF has covered some costs because it was an inbetween Championships. The former information was not complete to find out what we have to cover. At this stage we still don't know what TWIF has covered for.

4.5 Duties Anton Botha(AB) and handover bank account to AB

DM will see through all the finances of Sursee and then hand over to AB.

The most logical way for the coming years is that AB does all the payments but DM will be the 'owner' of the NatWestBank (NWB) account to provide any problems, while changing banks can cost up to more than 6 months at least. NWB see as us a business while we have more signatures under the documents. NWB is looking for an update on our business profile but including names and positions that are not part of the TWIF Exco. DM has explained but still a lot of issues to sort to get our position updated.

5. Commissions

5.1. TAC

5.1.1 Rules Manual /hand out at briefing/update on website

Melanie Smith will do updates during the coaches briefing.

MH will delete all old Rules Manuals documents and we will store the current one at the One Drive file and use for future changes.

5.1.2 Update Judge course: JW and Marga have informed the judges on the new rules and will be part of the judges course. Gavin Corden has produced some slides to explain side stepping, no pull at inactivity and no pull infringements.

DM has used a company to translate the examinations and it is a very costly spending of the money. Maybe we have to only do course and examination in English, while that is our common language. The recorders do the course and examination in English, why can't the judges do the exam in English?

5.1.3 Deusto University agreement – how to continue?

JW will set up a meeting with Deusto after the WC in Sursee, while they will not take part in Sursee, while they promised in Parkgate to come to Sursee. It is part of our agreement that they were part of our weigh-in procedure. They want to write algo rhythms but we have our doubt that this will work and how many years of research they need for that. DM has some examples from Parkgate which are very worrying. The main bullet will be if Deusto is able to build the algo rhythms. AB states there is a protocol for dehydration in sports by Sports Science but this is an urine test and we want the dehydration test.

5.1.4 Workshop weight classes Sursee

JW will try to have the workshop between the weigh-in sessions in the weigh-in area. 6 or 7 countries have said they will take part in the workshop, while we have 21 counties attending the World Championships. Main topic is U23 how to build up in the future, age of the juniors and U23.

5.1.5 Officials and evaluators – we have 54 officials now in the contract including the Exco. TAC wants to try to bring in experienced judges as evaluators and go back to judging again in the field. At this stage we have 3 evaluators and can reduce the number of evaluators and ask the experienced judges. You need at least one leader as evaluator as the chief of the whole group of judges. Then the judges will increase from 24 to 26 and they can do turns who is evaluating but it should be experienced judges.

5.1.6 Appoint officials for appointed duties in a 4 year cycle?

We don't appoint officials for 4 years circle, but 2 years is an option with turns in duties, like chief and assistant chief judge, chief marshal, chief recorder etc. See our minutes from 22 May 2023. We work with capable people and hope they can take over the duty of chief.

5.2 Anti-Doping/WADA – PD

5.2.1 Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ)

The CCQ was done in 2022, ticking of the 4 critical actions and we had some more critical actions to be finished by 25 May 2023, which is done and PD completed another 8 items by last Friday; main ones were education and data protection. WADA challenged our data protection and also wants us to have an educator. WADA has excepted and appointed PD as educational teacher. CCQ is accepted and signed off by WADA for 3 years. MH will send out a letter to all the member countries, which is part of the requirements of WADA. Education is part of the annual report and they have to provide us with a plan of education as well as the safeguard policy.

5.2.2 Education

See above under 5.2.1.

5.2.3 Privacy and Data protection

WADA challenged PD in our data protection. One question was that the TWIF Exco needs to do a data protection online and one on cyber security, also online. We can do this course collectively in Helsingborg on the day of our TWIF exco meeting and reduce our other agenda points. There is no deadline to the the course so February 2024 will be good.

5.2.4 Update on meeting in Lausanne

PD had a productive meeting with WADA and ITA in Lausanne in June 2023. The meeting with ITA was about the TUE. PD got a chance to speak with the President of WADA and they had a discussion about TUE's and risk assessment. The risk assessment was supposed to be provided to PD but still not received. We are treated the same way as high standard professional sports. IWGA Sports (International World Games Association) did not agree on the 'one size fits all' approach of WADA. PD and DM spoke in Madrid with other International Sports Federations (IF's) during the AGM meeting in May 2023. The next review of the WADA antidoping code starts next month so PD will contact the people of IWGA to discuss and joining ventures with the other IWGA member IF's.

5.2.5 TUE Checklist/Guidelines

PD gets questions from people still not knowing how to arrange the right TUE. Some of them are not necessary but cost a lot of money and effort. Countries provided TUE's via the NADO are accepted. PD is doing the checks for the TUE's for Sursee. This is a focus from PD on the briefing as agreement with WADA. He will keep it very simple while it can be done more simple than now.

5.2.6 ITA services – nothing to report.

5.2.7 Transgender policy

Our policy and procedure is accepted and adapted till after World Games Chengdu 2025.

5.3 PR Commission – MH

5.3.1 TWIF Newsletter/Monthly Focus – input Exco members?

PD will do one on the WADA later on this year. After WC we will do a newsletter on The World Outdoor Championships.

5.3.2 Web-site – discussion who to ask for new website

Our first focus is on the new competition program then the website.

5.3.3 Tug of War TV/Livestream- update (PD)

No update or information about the 3 packages for the TV/Livestream. Simon Miedema was supposed to bring forward the prices, but no update on that. PD has not chased him yet, but will have a talk with him during the WC. There is a link available for the Livestream during the WC in Sursee. The organizers do it themselves. People that have watched the Livestream in Holten and Parkgate were very positive, so if the Tug of War TV/Livestream can offer good packages and maybe more organizers will use the packages. Maybe we can use advertisement on the channel as well in future.

5.3.4. Promotion of Tug of War

MH and AB will talk with Katie and Christine if they are able to support Exco in social media promotion.

6. World Games

6.1 TWG2025 – first competition manager (CM) meeting 24&25 October 2023 - registration and participation (PD) – registration has been done. Most likely the IWGA will deal with flights for PD. PD needs a visa and will take care of this. PD will try to get a meeting with the Chinese Federation and inform them about participation in Mannheim, 2024.

6.2 World Games 2025 – qualification during WC 2024, how to deal with world wide spread? 3 continents overall is good enough for the world wide spread. If the hosting country has to take part, China should at least be active in Mannheim, 2024 during the qualification event at the World Outdoor Championships but also at a good standard for outdoor pulling. If we chose the top 5 as automatic qualification and take the ranking of the highest continent to fill up position 6. Then we have 2 continents in every weight class and 3 overall. Our policy and qualification procedure has to be very clear to

inform all the members. Sebastian Garvens of IWGA wants to read our qualification procedure before we implement this. PD will discuss our plan with Sebastian Garvens of IWGA in Chengdu.

- 6.3 Events or courses in Chengdu between 2023 and 2025 – not from Chinese side on Tug of War at this stage. PD will have more information after his first CM meeting in Chengdu.

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

- 7.1 IOC –Forum Lausanne 1&2 October – PD attending: no update on the IOC Forum, PD has not heard back yet.
- 7.2 IWGA Media Workshop Lausanne 27&28 September – PD attending: PD has done the registration and confirmed hotel.
- 7.3 Sport Accord IF Forum Lausanne 13-15 November – MH and PD will have a look at options while DM is not available.
- 7.4 GAISF online meeting 14 September: AB will attend the online meeting.

8. Policy Plan 2020-2024 Updates

- 8.1 Policy Plan - development of new policy plan for 2024-28: topics are WADA education, IT development and development commission. We will compact the list of what we are doing and make sure we do it.
- 8.2 Update on the current Policy Plan – it is coming to an end but a lot of headings have not been dealt with.
- 8.3 Re-writing competition program/Software – update by PD
PD will offer ABC, Boerdam and Laurens Martini of the Live Stream team the chance to give a quota. PD has made a specification of 10 pages and will send out after Sursee. So first we replicate what we got and remove personal data and clarifying manuals. We will do a test in Helsingborg during the WC Indoor while it is a smaller event than the outdoor Championships. When we have a company they can start working on the new program and be sure it is ready in February 2024.

9. Championships

- 9.1 Awarded Championships:
- 9.1.1 2023 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland – discuss all critical items and how to tribute Co Koren during WC.
- Field and weigh-in check on Tuesday morning at 9.00 am (whole Exco) + chief judge;
 - If we have issues, we can deal with the organizers at 10.00 am;
 - Chief officials meeting on Tuesday afternoon with AB and MH – time to be confirmed but in the room in the sports hall;
 - PD, Bruce and Francois will check the IT services on Tuesday;
 - Dirk 't Lam and Martin Collins will have a meeting with the marshals on the field, AB wants to be part of it;
 - It would be easier to have one person per team to bring in shoes and anchor vest to check, to avoid traffic jam and crowded area;
 - We have 10 scales and we have enough officials to facilitate (8 for men and 2 for women).
- 9.1.2 2024 World Indoor – Helsingborg, Sweden – package received?
DM will discuss the size of the arena in Helsingborg with Lars Lindh and Anders Andersson to facilitate 5 mats;
- 9.1.3 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim Germany – we are expecting a soil plan from the organizers. AB states us that the organizers have a plan to get a better grass root. The tents will be on both ends of the field;

- 9.1.4 2025 European Championships – Nottingham England; nearest airport is East Midlands.
- 9.1.5 2026 World Indoor – Taipei, Chinese Taipei: MH will have a tour when visiting the country in the first weekend of December 2023.
- 9.1.6 2026 World Outdoor – Hartenbos, South Africa; AB updates us on the field plan with a big control in the middle, split in the middle for recorders.
- 9.1.7 2027 European Outdoor Championships Caorle, Italy: JW and PD will check the ground somewhere in 2024.
- 9.1.8 2028 World Outdoor St. Gallen – Switzerland
- 9.1.9 What to do with future tenders and how to get more countries tendering? Tenders possible in shorter time period, but how long? Updating current tender procedure and change the bid form:
 - The bid should cover a price list including all extra costs based on the current year of tendering with an indication of cost increasing in 4 year time;
 - Tendering for 6 years ahead is too far away, 4 years is better to make preparations and indication of costs;
 - In 2024 only apply for WC indoor 2028;
 - In 2025 only apply for EC outdoor 2029;
 - An accreditation is 100 GPB since 2010, no increasing of the prices since then.
- 9.1.10 the contract has to be updated on costs and WADA/NADO compliance of the host country and safeguard obligations.

10. Multi- Sport Events

- 10.1 IOC Agenda/ Olympic Program - 2024 & 2028 – France is still trying to get Tug of War as demonstration on the program in Paris – meeting with French delegation? Yes, a meeting would be very informative for us. We are not on the shortlist for 2028, some newer sports are. We can try and get our feet in other multi-sport events instead of pushing the effort in the Olympic Games (OG). The OG is still the ultimate but all other events are a promotion for our sport, like Commonwealth Games and Asian Games etc. Hosting these events is a huge cost so let's see where we can be part of.

11. Membership

- 11.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback
 - Request for ropes in some African countries and development courses. It is way more handy that a country buys their own ropes with financial support from TWIF, but update on the progress in the country;
 - Venezuela most likely will attend Sursee and JW will speak with her, with help from Galder from Basque Country;
- 11.2 Request for workshops/training/courses
 - Countries have to show commitment and progress;
 - how to deal with request/use of TWIF logo. We have a protocol to use.
- 11.3 Malaysia, how to handle: we stay with the current Federation and the current TWIF representative. We recognize them till further information that they don't exist anymore or we have a letter from current representative that he is stepping down.

12. Other Business for the Good of Tug of War

- 12.1 FICS – research on injuries and treatments: at this stage we do not let anyone do research but send out the report the chiropractors are providing us. Then

countries can read the report and the statics, graphics on injuries and can learn from it. We leave the responsibility to the countries, national – and team trainers. MH will speak to Rob Scott during the WC Sursee if he is willing to be contacted.

- 12.2 Organization Manual update: MH will hand out to the future organizers in Sursee and add 4 years by pen for tendering. Corners clockwise from Control A-D. MH will change the document on the TWIF document.
- 12.3 Event compliance with Organization Manual and sanctions: stay with the OM, otherwise we could give fines. If the organizer fails, then the country is not a member in good standing and can't participate in the following event. The fine should be at least the annual TWIF membership fee.
Still some teams/countries/persons have not received the deposit from the accommodation in Holten, 2022. MH will send out a letter to all representatives that were participating in Holten if necessary. It now turns out that South Africa still has deposit claims.
- 12.4 Disciplinary Procedure: PD was supposed to produce one, will work on it and provide us with the procedure.
- 12.5 TWIF gifts: DM has noticed over some years that we don't have an official TWIF gift to hand out to the country that is inviting us. We get presents but we don't have some official to hand out. Now we did the TWIF 60th anniversary pen set and anniversary magazine. We agree that we will order TWIF medals in bronze colour with the logo of TWIF and Tug of War on it in a gift box/case. AB will order them.
The recorders will have a gift during WC Sursee, a pen, cardholder and luggage tag with TWIF logo + took and bandana. They never get something when they pass the exams.
- 12.6 TWIF Archive: DM thanks MH for picking up the TWIF archive from Co's house and MH will have a look what we need to keep, digitize or throw away. MH will take her time for sorting out.
- 12.7 Costs of the TWIF Newsletter still are paid by Anton Rabe but from now on it will be paid by Anton Botha and he will put in expanse claim. Colleen Goosen is doing a great job so we will continue with her.
- 12.8 The program we use in Sursee for the weight classes per day is proposed by Switzerland and supported by Sweden. It makes sense on some weight classes but not on the Women's, U23 Women and Junior Mix and U23 Mix. JW thinks it is only for Sursee, but we have to discuss if it is for all future Championships.

13. Future Meetings

- Helsingborg, Sweden, Monday 5 February 2024
- earlier meetings online

14. Closing by the President

List of actions:

- 3.3. MH send letter to D.C.
- 3.4. JW Safeguard officer from Sursee Organization committee
- 5.1.3 MH ask about the weigh-in of jockeys
- 12.4 PD disciplinary procedures.

