



Minutes
TWIF Exco Meeting
4 & 5 February 2024, Helsingborg, Sweden

1. Opening & Welcome

Attending: Dan McCarthy (DM - President), Pete Dyer (PD -Senior Vice President), Anton Botha (AB – Treasurer), Jost Waser (JW – Vice President) and Maaïke Hornstra (MH – Secretary General). DM welcomes everyone to the meeting for 2 days and thanks us for the work we have done over the past months. There is less co-operation from the countries, so we have more challenges to take care of. DM provides us with a new overview of the duties of the Exco, overview of the financial update and indemnity policy.

2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting in Sursee

3. Matters Arising/Finalization of Agenda

- 3.1 Duties TWIF Exco – duties/working – some additional items are added to the tasks and we reshuffle some duties per commission. We take the commissions out of the duties and mention as a separate function, while not every Exco member has the same interest, so the commissions are not particular for one Exco member. We just connect and are flexible in our tasks. MH will change the document. Also we discuss about our commitment to our work and have more contact and meetings to sort out issues or questions. A.s.a.p. PD will arrange that we all get a @TWIF email account, also necessary in terms of safety and more professional. IONOS is the company we are using for this, also for the storage of documents and probably the website. MH likes us to react more efficiently on emails when required, so in urgent matters MH will send a WhatsApp message that the Exco needs to answer on the email. We also agree to have more online meetings in between meetings in person. We used Anton Rabe his working zoom meeting account, so we need an account for 'Teams' meetings. PD will arrange this account. AB is asking about a term of payment for invoices. We agree that a term of a week is reasonable.
- 3.2 Safeguard policy, children & adults: MH made a draft document for on the website and we have corrected it during the meeting. Every member country must have a safeguard officer and this item needs to be part of the annual year report as well. We have to change our annual report to get this information. We have to appoint a safeguard officer for TWIF. It will be Maaïke. We will add this to the website under 'About us' as an extra bullet. PD will share documents of the IOC Forum with MH about safeguarding and courses.

4. TWIF Finances – AB

- 4.1 Update on financial status TWIF: DM and AB sorted duties. We try not to attach the 222.000 GBP and we use the bearing account. Our finance is good at this stage, but our income is less then outgoing money. If we do not address this,

we will fail in money. Maybe in future we have to increase the membership affiliation fee. A major sponsorship will help us, but this is complicated, so maybe we have to look for small sponsors with promotion on the Livestream channel (as an example). In the 227.907,84 GBP is the balance sheet per 31.10.23 and at that time the liabilities/provision were 47.000 GBP (calculation).

- 4.2 Members in good standing for Helsingborg 2024: AB updated us.
- 4.3 Insurance – Indemnity police 3.650 GBP per year: the world and mentality has changed so we need insurance, but do we have all policies and procedures in place to be covered for all claims by the company where we received an inquiry from. AB is looking for more inquiries that are similar to small amateur sports.
- 4.4 Update on financial status World Indoor Championships 2023: costs on the invoice for TWIF might have looked strange, but DM has sorted the costs from the total financial overview of Northern Ireland 2023 that TWIF has paid as shortfall of the organizers. We paid 25.546,86 GBP and this is confirm what we agreed before the Championship to organize an in-between event. Costs of Livestream: we received invoices from the NTB (Dutch Tug of War Association) about the Livestream in Parkgate, this needs to be resolved.
- 4.5 Costs Congress Mannheim 2023: AB and DM will resolve this before Congress 2024.
- 4.6 Involve countries at 50% reduced fee: during Congress in 2012 the decision was already made that members can pay a reduced fee, if they can't afford the whole TWIF affiliation fee. Below the outcome of the proposal and voting and we are going to enforce it from now on.

Affiliation fee. 2. Proposed by Sweden Seconded by: Netherlands

We suggest that the affiliation fee will be split into two separate parts of each 50% of the total sum.

Part one (50%), to be an "inactive" member of TWIF.

Part two (50%), for an "international license", with right and possibility to send proposals and to vote at TWIF Congress. Members who wants to participate at International competitions have to pay this part of the fee.

Motivation: As we understand the countries, which today don't pay their fee ,maybe see themselves as not strong enough as a tug of war team, to compete in Regional or World Championships, or maybe it is a financial problem. In this situation they see the level of the fee as very expensive and don't pay at all. For those countries who pay the fee today, there will not be any changes, they pay 100% fee and competes already. If this proposal will be accepted by all parts (even among those 30 countries who don't pay today) it will result in a good income to TWIF instead of nothing.

One a vote passed 15 for 3 abstained

- 4.7 Looking for sponsorship: TWIF will active look for sponsorship, but not alcoholic advertisement. We need to improve Livestream to promote the sponsors.
- 4.8 Championships fee vs costs congress: We are concerned that the prices for congress are consistently increasing and the championship fee is not in line with it. Contract need to be changed due to increasing costs by WADA etc.

5. Commissions

- 5.1. TAC - JW
 - 5.1.1 Update Judge course: Gavin Corden is doing a good job and improved the course. One of the judges failed in Sursee will do the course again in Mannheim at own costs.
 - 5.1.2 Deusto University: on Monday 5 February 2024 we had an online meeting with Arkaitz Castaneda Babarro of Deusto University. The tests they

have done so far, are not accurate enough and they propose we continue with algorithm tests. Deusto will prepare a powerpoint presentation and will send JW before congress and during congress we will inform the members about the testing of algorithms. This will give us more data for further weight loss research. If we agree to a new agreement we need to change the accreditation procedure so athletes know that they can be selected for a random test about de-hydration and that this test is mandatory. AB has done research and we can rent the testing machines and this will be around 2 USD per test. Maybe cheaper than buying and no transport issues and hopefully we get calibrated machines to use then. We have to keep in mind that not all athletes do their own accreditation, so maybe we have to ask the representatives to sign for an agreement for mandatory testing and they have to inform their athletes.

5.1.3 Workshop weight classes Sursee & Helsingborg: we have the result of the workshop in Sursee. In Helsingborg JW will have a workshop again about youth, senior age impacting the U23 and junior teams. In Helsingborg we hardly have any youth weight classes, because a lot of the juniors already pull in the senior weight classes. Maybe split the championships in senior event and the juniors at the GENSB event or relook at the age.

5.1.4 Officials and evaluators – test in Helsingborg with 2 experienced judges: Gavin Corden and Andreas Otto Koch will do the evaluation by turns with Lars Lindh as chief evaluator. We will see if this works and if two experienced judges are enough to cover the whole event. It is a pilot and all experiences are worked out for the future.

5.1.6 retirement Marga: MH will think about a present for her retirement. Caroline Kenny is taking over the job and Marga is already introducing her on the duties.

5.1.7 Financial support for TAC members to be reviewed.

5.2 Anti-Doping/WADA/ITA – PD

5.2.0 PD had a conversation with IWGA and was asked to forward his CV for a duty in the IWGA committee. PD is accepted as a commission member of their anti-doping committee. The election was during an IWGA board meeting in October 2023 and is for a term of 2 years. This is an effect of his detailed work for anti-doping and forcing WADA and ITA.

5.2.1 Update and role Birute: up till now we paid like a management fee to ITA from 7.600,00 CHF per 6 months. PD complained about the extra costs for TUE because only one consult is 350 CHF. PD hardly uses ITA while he can find most of all the information on the globalDRO and very useful. ITA will restructure their prices - PD delivers a 4 year structure plan and informs WADA about the amount of testing and at what events (in competition tests). For the out of competition tests Birute has done the administration in Adams, but was not active in the follow-up, so PD still had to do work or answer emails. Yulia Droz from ITA prefers to control the out of competition tests for TWIF to get a better control and ITA has send in a quote for 4 years from 2024 on. The quote has two options, one with legal 'add-on' and one without. It includes a test distribution plan management, whereabouts, OOC tests, TUE's, reveal and a flat fee per year. 2024 will be 22.100 + 2.00 CHF. This would mean that Birute her duty will be less but we will keep her on board and she is still our Adams administrator.

5.2.2 TUE Checklist/Guidelines: all information is on our website.

5.2.3 Transgender policy: our policy is still good till after World Games 2025.

5.2.4 WADA education in every country: PD has written a letter for all the members and MH will send out to all the members. It is mainly about an education plan and members have to inform us.

5.2.5 In July 2023 there was a positive test in Ireland. Due to not informing the authorities, the ban has been changed from 3 months into 4 years from 3 August 2023 on.

5.2.6 WADA education symposium: the last one was in Australia and PD did not go. The next one is in Cannes in France from 27-29 February 2024. PD will attend. Two weeks later there is a WADA symposium in Lausanne from 12-14 March 2024. PD will attend this one as well. There is a meeting with IWGA as well.

5.3 PR Commission – MH

5.3.1 TWIF Newsletter/Monthly Focus: input Exco members (anti-doping edition)?: PD still needs to provide a TWIF Newsletter/Focus on the anti-doping. Also before championships we need to use social media more to advertise about TUE's so athletes know about the procedure, because a lot of the TUE's are entered too late. A newsletter about nutrition would be good to inform athletes. DM will ask the doctor of the Irish Association to write an article. We can do a Focus on youth or women in sport, our women and worldwide input is also a good topic.

5.3.2 Web-site: quotes for new server/software program and website, update by PD: PD has written a specification and send this to ABC. ABC is interested and will send a quote by the end of February 2024. PD is not yet able to contact Boerdam, but has found Ivo Boerdam, the person we dealt with our current competition program. He has no answer yet. Laurens Martini has given a structure about a program and costs referring to the program. In our policy plan we have budgeted a total of about 25.000 GBP.

5.3.3 Tug of War TV/Livestream: PD and DM will speak with Simon Miedema and Laurens about the packages they are planning to deliver for Tug of War TV/Livestream.

6. World Games

6.1 World Games 2025 (TWG2025) – first competition manager (CM) meeting 24&25 October 2023: PD had to go to London to get his visa for Chengdu. It was a challenge because the letter was not signed but only stamped. Maybe this can cause challenges for athletes and officials traveling to Chengdu in 2025 to achieve a visa. PD shared the ground plan with us but he is still in discussion with the organizers about the venue and where we will have our competition. PD send out an email with our requirements in December 2023, but no answer yet. In the meantime we have a new contact person to deal with. There are two fields where we possibly will have our competition. The CM meeting was good. All athletes and officials are staying at one place in a complex, so like a student village. The village is close to the international airport but around 20 kilometres away from the closest venues. Our venue is 56 kilometres from the athletes village. It will be hot, humid and lots of smog/pollution in August. We have to use and implement everything in the software program, obligated by TWG2025 layouts (Sword Venue system). TWG2025 will get a new logo on 1 May 2024 during the AGM of IWGA. After that date we will use the new logo and start promoting the material on social media but also Germany has to use this material for the WC outdoor, while our qualification will be in Mannheim. We all need to promote the World Games

as often as we can! The next CM meeting will be in October 2024. PD and MH will fill the IGMS system for TWG2025.

- 6.2 TWG2025 – qualification during WC 2024 in Mannheim. We haven't finalized the qualification procedure yet. We select the top 6 of the ranking in each weight class if there are at least 2 continents and otherwise the top 5 and fill up with the highest ranking so we have at least 3 continents overall. The best way to achieve the 3th continent overall is to choose the highest ranking of the 3th continent in one of the weight classes and then that country will be asked to participate in TWG 2025 and one of the 6 countries will drop out in that weight class. If we have already 3 continents overall after the normal ranking in Mannheim, problem is solved and no action needed. The IWGA is obligating a high standard of competition so we have to comply with that. PD and DM will have a meeting with Liu Muqiong, TWIF representative from China, during the championships. MH will attend as well if possible.
- 6.3 Events or courses in Chengdu in 2024 and 2025: as TWIF Exco we will offer China advise and support to organize an outdoor training event to get the outdoor pulling at a higher level. This will be part of the meeting with Liu Muqiong.
- 6.4 Officials during TWG 2025: we will appoint the officials during our Exco meeting in Nottingham. DM and MH will not be in the numbers for officials. Maybe the CM and IT official will also be out of the numbers and can arrive earlier to sort out issues.

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

- 7.1 IOC –Athletes Forum Lausanne 1&2 October 2023: PD attended and updated us on the items. There were recommendations for the Olympic Agenda 2025 and a strategy. They handed out an athletes workbook. On Athlete365 there are lots of courses for free and worth sharing with our members. We have to share the information and courses on social media as well. The idea comes up to split the TAC in TC and AC again. JW will speak with the members of the TAC and we can think about two commissions again, while the topics and subjects are very different. There were a lot of emotional speeches of athletes from Ukraine and Yemen. Teams of Russia and Belarus are not welcome at any sports events, only athletes in an individual sports competition. There is a review of the WADA code and PD will discuss with the IWGA about this, because it is still 'one size fits all'. There are about 75 conditions for getting a sport in the Olympics.
- 7.2 IOC Grant: we will motivate for more money. AB will make a plan.
- 7.3 IWGA Media Workshop Lausanne 27&28 September 2023: PD attended and updated us on the workshop and informed us about the challenges we can expect in Chengdu with social media and most likely if we get an account, it will be monitored. TWG2025 will probably provide us with a VPN, but then we will be monitored for sure. From recent events in Chengdu information was spread about traditions in China, like drinks, food and manners. In China they have a lot of technical improvements but not available in the Western part of the world. IWGA created a new platform for video showcase for TWG2025, while Olympic Channel did not require the agreements about streaming and broadcasting. For example, they promised to showcase all Tug of War and only showed some competition finals. The platform is not active yet and we will be updated on the progress. There is supposed to be a next meeting in 2024, an individual meeting with each IF and ISB and one global workshop with all sports.
- 7.4 Sport Accord IF Forum Lausanne 13-15 November 2023: MH attended and updated us. The theme was Sport @evolution. A lot of speakers and some workshops about women in sports, sustainability, headwinds for IF's and major

events and growing your audience were some of the main topics during the event.

- 7.5 GAISF- online meeting 14 September 2023: it was a 25 minutes online meeting AB attended. The discussion was about the refunding of money they had in bank. Most of the money will go back to IWGA.
- 7.6 IF Forum Birmingham, England 7-10 April 2024: AB will attend the IF from 7 till 10 April and PD will attend as well before he goes to Nottingham for congress. They will pick out what is benefit for TWIF.
- 7.7 ARISF (the Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federations) strategic plan: till now we have the feeling we never have had any support from ARISF. There are some topics and a lot of question marks in the strategic plan that AB and PD will ask or discuss in Birmingham during Sport Accord meeting.
- 7.8 AGM IWGA 1 May 2024 in Esslingen/Stuttgart: DM and MH will attend the AGM and make (travel) arrangements with IWGA. Most likely PD will attend as member of the anti-doping committee.

8. Policy Plan 2020-2024 Updates

- 8.1 Policy Plan 2024-2028: we agree that we will try and make a short and reachable policy plan. AB and DM will make a draft and we will discuss during an online meeting to finalize and present at congress 2024. The current one is in reach till 1 November 2024 and the new one will be in force from 1 November 2024 on, running together with the start of a new financial year.

9. Championships

Awarded Championships:

- 9.1.1 2024 World Indoor – Helsingborg, Sweden – duties and entries: we have 5 mats we can use so it will work with the entries. We miss 4 appointed officials, the assistant chief recorder and 3 judges, due to illness, accidents and work duties. Tuesday 5 February 2024 we will be in the venue whole day and check/prepare everything. MH and AB will have a meeting with all the appointed chief officials. Entries are good, but also a few last minute drop outs. PD will set up a WADA video and course to comply with the WADA obligations.
- 9.1.2 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim Germany 2024: ground plan/package price? The organizers asked AB to advise with a ground plan and he gave tips for this plan and the layout for the whole competition area. The organizers will work with 4 corners according to the Organizers Manual. We still have no package prices for the WC outdoor. MH has send a reminder by email to Corsin Wörner of the organizers commission on 5 February 2024. AB already made a plan with the weighmaster for Mannheim, so more stations to check boots.
- 9.1.3 2025 European Championships – Nottingham England. The dates for the competition are 4-7 September 2025.
- 9.1.4 2026 World Indoor – Taipei, Chinese Taipei: MH visited the venue and everything seems to be in place confirm Organizers Manual.
- 9.1.5 2026 World Outdoor – Mossel Bay, South Africa: dates are now 9-12 September 2026 but will maybe become 16-19 September 2026. Package prices are still the same, 4 star = € 590,00, 3 star = € 490,00, and type C is € 390,00 and type B is € 290,00. They will use 2 fields, one for open and one for closed. Ground check during congress 2025.
- 9.1.6 2027 European Outdoor – Caorle Italy: PD and JW will do a ground check in Caorle for the EC outdoor 2027. They will do this after congress 2024,

depending on who wins the bid for the WC indoor 2028 and then make a plan to check both venues.

- 9.1.7 2028 World Outdoor St. Gallen – Switzerland: the organizers are already planning things and we have to make sure that this is in accordance with the Organizers Manual. We will ask Pirmin Steinmann at congress about any updates or news.
- 9.1.8 Evaluation 2023 World Outdoor Championships Sursee + reports chief judge, chief marshal, competition manager, DM and PD. Officials and athletes filled in an evaluation and MH has made two versions of total scores. MH will present these at congress. We have been too friendly on the arrangements in Sursee and should have been more strict to what is required and in the organizers manual. We were lucky the weather was good, otherwise the field would have been a disaster. There was also a lot of miscommunication between us and the organizers and between chief officials. We have to make sure the chief officials work well together and follow the same procedure and take care of avoiding miscommunication. Time management is one thing, the ground is another very important factor about the running time of the competition. Lessons learned for the future.

10. Seminar & Congress 2024 Nottingham 10-14 April

- 10.1 Subject and discussions for seminar: Deusto update, Nutrition and update about the weight classes workshops, WADA, World Games 2025 and Safeguarding. There is no transport for the accommodation while they are all on the University complex. All in walking distance. Presentation of two tenders WC indoor 2028.
- 10.2 Agenda congress: MH will make a draft and send out for confirmation.
- 10.3 Proposals congress 2024: we put in 3 options 1) England, 2) Germany, 3) leave it like it is and 4) abstain for the proposal about the weight classes for men outdoor. If 50% goes through, that is accepted. If < 50% then the lowest proposal falls out and a new vote starts and then one of them wins. We will ask Germany to split the proposal in two proposals, one for the men and one for the women. MH will send an email to Andreas Berl, TWIF representative of Germany. As well to Switzerland and the Netherlands.
- 10.4 Nominations committees:
 - PR commission: 4 nominations. 3 current members and one new member. AB will leave the PR commission;
 - Appeal commission: 2 nominations of current members and AB will leave the commission as he is an Exco member now. DM will ask a 3th person;
 - TAC commission: 8 members nominated and Jost and Caroline makes 10;
 - Development commission: 5 nominations and AB will be the chairperson of this commission. JW will still deal with new member applications but AB will deal with the development of the sport worldwide with the development commission.
- 10.5 Tenders WC indoor 2028, Italy and Ireland: both tenders are in good standing, except we need the package price of Dublin to go forward for congress.

11. Multi- Sport Events

- 11.1 IOC Agenda/ Olympic Program - 2024 & 2028 – Tug of War is on the Fun program in Paris on 7 & 8 August 2024. DM and MH will attend. FNSMR will try and arrange a meeting with IOC, but no guarantees.
- 11.2 Commonwealth Games/Oceanic Championships/Asian Games: AB will write a letter to all Commonwealth Games countries involved in Tug of War to get support. At this stage the new city is not yet known where the 2026 edition will

be. AB will also get information about the Beach Games because it is an easy access while it can be done barefoot or with shoes. South Africa will organize the Oceanic Tug of War Championships in 2025 and AB tries to get countries involved from around the Pacific Ocean. DM and Anton Rabe were in Singapore in 2017 to speak about the development in Asia and thought to have an agreement for the future, but it was undermined later on and no improvement since then for the best of Asia.

12. Membership

- 12.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback: ongoing.
- 12.2 Development globally with financial support: is covered under 12.3. We are willing to support but we need a good development plan from the countries, so we can do a follow up later on.
- 12.3 Request for workshops/training/courses – how to deal with request/use of TWIF logo. We have a protocol. Requests by Venezuela, Mexico and Israel. JW and PD still work on a plan for visiting Venezuela, but insurance is an issue. Venezuela will probably from 19-22 March 2024. Israel is on the plan now for the end of June 2024, if it is safe to travel. JW will go there on his own. There is a request of Mexico as well for development and courses so we can support them if they come with further information. We need a good plan from Mexico before we offer our support.
- 12.4 Use people from member countries who have knowledge to help us further in questions, promotion, development, etc.: if we have people with knowledge in our member countries, we have to use them instead of searching outside the Federation.

13. Other Business for the Good of Tug of War

- 13.1 ISSF – International School Sports Federation (DM): DM had contact with a contact person in France. The ISSF is moving to Lausanne and this year is already full. They are willing to meet us for a program in place for youth/juniors up till 18 years. They have various sports and have a program and have Olympic Games for this group. DM is trying to get a foot between the door and see how we can benefit and work with them. DM and AB will take further action.
- 13.2 Costs FICS and how to implement in further championships + numbers: till now it is on their own costs (in the agreement) that chiropractors come to a TWIF event. 3 chiropractors for indoor will not be a problem (instead of 2), but outdoor may be a challenge if they require 4 while we have 54 officials in the package for an outdoor championships. We have to think of a plan how to support the chiropractors financial if they ask for this support.
- 13.3 Host and Summit Federation – 2024: there is a meeting from 17 -20 June 2024 in Lausanne. Is it worth attending? Can we benefit from this event? We think TWIF is too small for this event. MH will inform the organization that we will not attend.
- 13.4 TWIF gift: AB shares a sample with us of a medal in a box. The medal should have the TWIF colours on it. The box can be TWIF blue.
- 13.5 We are short on the TWIF badges and judges coins. Do we want badges again, no, not necessary. We need new TWIF coins. DM did an inquiry for € 4,00 each. PD can get them for 2,50 GBP each. PD will ask for an inquiry.

14. Future Meetings

- Nottingham, England: Thursday 11 April 2024. PD will book our rooms for Nottingham.
- Mannheim, Germany: Monday 2 September 2024
- earlier meetings online.

15. Closing by the President: at 22.00 pm we close the meeting and had two good days of meetings. Long days but good discussions about every aspect.