



**Minutes**  
**TWIF Exco Meeting**  
**11 April 2024, Nottingham, England**

**1. Opening & Welcome**

Attending: Dan McCarthy, President (DM), Peter Dyer, Senior Vice President (PD), Jost Waser, Vice President (JW), Anton Botha, Treasurer (AB) and Maaïke Hornstra, Secretary General (MH). DM is welcoming us to the Exco meeting in Nottingham and wishing Anton and Melanie a lot of strength in this hard time and Pete for hosting the meeting in The Orchard hotel.

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

Minutes are approved. Items to be discussed are on the agenda.

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

- 3.1 Duties TWIF Exco: MH will remake the schedule provided by DM.
- 3.2 Attendance and voting during Congress: we agree that we will continue with hybrid Seminar & Congress, but countries will only have a voting right if they attend in person like we did before Covid. We want to remove the proxy votes, but need to bring this forward to Congress 2025 to change the constitution. We need a 2/3 majority to get this changed.

**4. Finances TWIF – AB**

- 4.1 Update on financial status TWIF: Deusto still needs to be paid but AB just received the details from Deusto.  
Interest of the banks is very good at this stage, so we can think of a saving account in South Africa through a English based bank. We can use the 200.000 GBP. Investment can be for a 3 year term. AB will do investigation.  
Finances World Indoor 2023 : all money issues are sorted and the outcome is attached with this minutes.
- 4.2 Members in good standing for Congress 2024: we have 23 paid countries so 12 would be majority for voting.
- 4.3 Sponsorship for TWIF: we pass this on to the Livestream subject.

**5. Commissions**

- 5.1. **TAC - JW**
  - 5.1.1 Deusto University agreement – how to continue with algorithm? JW will do a presentation during Seminar. Last test will be in Mannheim and main concern is the machines we need to use. Can we rent them and how many people we need to use them. We are not yet completely confirmed if we get enough results about the loss of weight. We need to change the accreditation system for Mannheim, because athletes need to give permission for testing. A letter has to be

send out to all representatives to inform the athletes about the different way of testing.

- 5.1.2 Workshop weight classes Sursee & Helsingborg and how to continue: Senior weight classes are not the problem, it is the U23 and Juniors. JW send out a questionnaire about the U23/Junior and only got respond from 3 countries. Very disappointing.
- 5.1.4 Officials and evaluations – test in Helsingborg with 2 experienced judges: it was a good experience and they could solve problems straight away and implement directly. Regarding numbers, we might need the officials during the World Outdoor Championships. We like to continue with the evaluation by experienced judges but also like to appoint mentor judges to teach judges who need improvement and get more interaction between the judges and get a better team spirit. There were discussions in Helsingborg about the profile of a good judge: we want to change the examinations for judges to be mandatory in English within a term of 4 years so judges can prepare and improve their English language if they want to become a TWIF judge. English is the language within TWIF and judges need to be capable to speak and use the English language. Implementation will be in 2028 in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Recorders already do the examination in English.
- 5.1.5 Coach gripping the rope or using his/her foot/shoulder on an athlete: this means direct disqualification of the pull without a warning. Same with dropping a team. It is ungentlemanly conduct. We do not have a signal for this behaviour but in case we use a side judge, he/she should move directly to the centre judge to inform him/her about the unsportive behaviour.
- 5.1.6 Appointing Caroline Kenny as secretary of the TAC. Caroline is already working for a year with Marga 't Lam, current secretary. Marga will retire after congress and Caroline will take over the duties. We will appoint her officially during congress.

## 5.2 **Anti-Doping/WADA – PD**

- 5.2.1 Update on the two seminars PD went:  
PD went to the global education conference from WADA in Nice in February 2024. There were a lot of presentations but one specific was about nutrition supplements. They are not regulated by WADA. Two useful days.  
The second conference was in Lausanne in March 2024. PD was there for TWIF and on behalf of IWGA anti-doping committee. There has been developed a anti-doping strategy for the World Games 2025 and PD was part of this.
- 5.2.2 ITA services: a huge organisation doing a lot of services for many sports. We have chosen option 1 on services delivered by ITA (including Whereabouts, OOC tests, TUE's). The contract is not yet received by PD to sign. Costs for 2024 are 24.100 CHF. Same for 2026 and 2027. 2025 will be increased to 37.300 CHF because of the World Games. AB will write a plan for IOC to ask for more grant to cover costs.
- 5.2.3 WADA education in every country: PD will include this item during his presentation during Congress 2024. No response yet from the countries.
- 5.2.4. We used a dog during the WC indoor Sweden, which is attractive to

people which gave the anti-doping people engagement to talk about anti-doping. Results of the anti-doping controls in Sweden were all negative.

### 5.3 **PR Commission** – MH

- 5.3.1 TWIF Newsletter/Monthly Focus – input Exco members: 19 April 2024 is Fair Play Day for anti-doping and we should pay attention to this day. Idea is also between now and September 2024 to post information about TUE's to inform/educate people. We will send the link to global DRO on 19<sup>th</sup> April. We will add some anti-doping information to the next edition and MH already received some input.
- 5.3.2 Quotes for new competition program, update by PD: PD received input from ABC for re-writing the TWIF competition program. He only received this on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Summary of the letter by ABC states that they are maybe able to write a design specification incorporating the general requirements but need more information from our side. Ivo Boerdam also replied to PD's request and is also not able to help us out. He is willing to give us advise but has another business now. Ivo wrote the current competition program. We will ask a quote now from Jan Lenaerts and the son of Aukje van Raaij. AB will also ask for a quote at Tug of War Software Solutions. We still have the quote from Laurens Martini, which we think is too expensive.
- 5.3.3 Tug of War TV/Livestream – we received a quote of Laurens Martini's company 'Livestreamer' for Livestream packages. We think the quote is too high, because it will be on the costs of the organizers and will be increasing the accommodation package of our athletes. We think we should challenge the company about the prices they ask. Another option is to ask money for the people that watch the livestream, for example an Euro per day. You can even make a package for the people that watch online, like more valid for one price. PD will ask for more information about the quote and with the response we can discuss further if we continue with Livestreamer for future events.
- 5.3.4 TWIF website: Francois Bezuidenhout is taking care of the privacy rules and making sure our website will be a secured website. He is in contact with a company to ensure this.

## 6. **World Games (TWG2025)**

- 6.1 TWG2025 – IF Commitment 2025 and update on the venue: the dates of the World Games has changed from 6 to 12 August 2025. Numbers of athletes are 176 + 19 officials (total of 195). Sebastian Garvens, Sports Director from IWGA hopes that the Competition Managers are able to arrive earlier in Chengdu to set up the event. Since the start of all planning, we have changed venue and we are happy with this. The surface will be reseeded and flatted. PD was supposed to have an online meeting with ISB (International Sports Broadcasting Company) on Friday 5 April 2024 but the meeting was cancelled without any reason. IWGA was not happy with the broadcasting of ISB in Birmingham 2022, so PD asked if we can set up our own broadcasting. There is no answer yet but a new meeting will be planned in May 2024. IWGA was not happy with Olympic Channel, while they were not showing the sports what they promised, so now IWGA is working wit ISB on a plan. All the athletes are staying in one big complex (Tianfu International Hotel Complex, close to

- the international airport), with a lot of shops and restaurants etc. Downside of this is the one way trip of around an hour to/from the venue by bus.
- 6.2 World Games 2025 – qualification during WC 2024: depending on the results of the voting during Congress 2024.
  - 6.3 Appointing officials for TWG2025: we appointed the officials and MH will send requests to all representatives.
  - 6.4 Events or courses in Chengdu in 2024 and 2025: DM had contact with Liu Muquiong, TWIF representative of China, about any events/courses before TWG2025. No news or updates on this item.

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

- 7.1 IF Birmingham 2024 – update by AB and PD: both men attended the IF in the week before Congress. AB attended workshops as health Accord, female health (not pushing women over the limit), city Accord (promoting biking in the city), festivalisation during sports events (sport is entertainment), Icarus meeting, FICS meeting and Howden meeting. PD attended a WADA and sustainability workshop, Alibaba Cloud, LAW accord, match fixing, CAS with 943 cases in 2023, WADA big increase in whereabouts cases, development of rules for transgender athletes in IF's (IOC guidance from 2021 causes more questions than the one from 2015 and lays responsibility at the IF's), integrating the athlete's voice in sports governance.
- 7.2 IWGA AGM 1 May 2024 – DM and MH will attend. MH will bring laptop for the online voting.

## **8. Policy Plan 2024-2028**

- 8.1 Policy Plan 2024-2028 – we already discussed this in an online meeting.
- 8.2 Request from England for financial support for the GENSB tournament. There is a support from 2 countries, so AB will pay the request.

## **9. Championships**

- 9.1.1 2024 World Indoor – Helsingborg, Sweden – evaluation was good, same complaints as usual. Venue big and good, but no crowd. No promotion in the city.

### Awarded Championships

- 9.1.2 2024 World Outdoor – Mannheim Germany – ground plan/package price: on 3th April there was an online meeting between part of the Exco and organizers but no news about the prices. The dates have been changed due to ability of the hotels. New dates are still in school holiday period. There is no package price anymore due to financial risk and the risk of the cancellation of the Championships. Last information is that athletes pay the accreditation fee and book their own accommodation. Germany will bring a list of hotels to seminar & congress and countries/teams can search from these (16 in total) or choose their own accommodation. There was also a discussion about anti-doping controls, but all this information is in the Organizers Manual and mentioned in the contract signed by the organizers and president of TWIF. We will have a meeting with the organizers before they do a presentation during seminar. Germany also wanted a different program for tv coverage reasons. We can agree on this with only one change. Then we have the qualification weight classes for World Games 2025 spread out over both days of closed competition.

On the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 we had a meeting with Ralf Bräuninger (RB) and Andreas Berl from Germany about the packages for Mannheim 2024. The organizers are able to offer the accommodation packages but are also mentioning the financial risks for the organization if something happens and the event has to be cancelled for some reason. The information letter will be rewritten and can be send out after congress. Livestream: RB has been in contact with Laurens Martini of Livestreamer. We are explaining that we don't have a contract with Livestreamer but we used them for livestreaming in Parkgate. They were active in Helsingborg as well on request of Sweden and have now send in a quote for TWIF to offer their services during Championships and also have a homepage for Tug of War TV. This TV page is not yet active or used as storage for former events. MH will forward the quote of Livestreamer to Ralf and cc Laurens in the email.

Anti-doping testing during the WC in Mannheim: in our Organizers Manual the anti-doping tests is stated as an obligated item in the contract with the organizers and has to be paid by the organizers. RB is stating that the organizers don't want to pay this. They will co-ordinate it but won't pay because PD responded not in the right way as asked by the organizers and not officially written down in the contract that was signed. There is a discussion about the undertaking of tests and the amount of tests in Germany. PD will supply the required information within 4 weeks for NADA/NADO to RB to sort out the testing in Mannheim.

Program WC outdoor 2024: we have made one change in the program in relation to the proposal from Germany. The organizers come with an answer soon if they agree on our change.

9.1.3 2025 European Outdoor – Nottingham England

9.1.4 2026 World Indoor – Taipei City Chinese Taipei

9.1.5 2026 World Outdoor – Mossel Bay South Africa

9.1.6 2027 European Outdoor – Caorle Italy

JW and PD will set a date with Nicola Capelletto for a visit to Caorle and the indoor venue for 2028 if the members vote in favor for the indoor tender.

9.1.7 2028 World Outdoor - St. Gallen Switzerland

## **10. Seminar & Congress 2024 Nottingham 10-14 April**

10.1 Seminar – agenda and time schedule: start at 9.00 am. We have a revised agenda which has been send out by MH.

10.2 Agenda congress, how to deal with the subjects: we discuss the items on the agenda for congress and how to deal with each subject/proposal.

10.3 Tenders WC indoor 2028, Italy: presentation during seminar and voting during congress.

## **11. Multi- Sport Events**

11.1 IOC Agenda/ Olympic Program - 2024 & 2028 – Tug of War is on the fun program in Paris, DM and MH will attend. No news on that yet.

11.2 Commonwealth Games/Asian Games: AB in contact with the Commonwealth Games countries? No news at this stage. AB will continue to contact Commonwealth Games.

## **12. Membership**

12.1 Member Support/Development – Policy/Process/Feedback: ongoing.

12.2 Request for workshops/training/courses – request by Israel. Possible future requests by Mexico and Greece.

New membership requests by Indonesia, Iraq and Kazakhstan. JW is dealing with these requests.

- 12.3 Course Venezuela – update by JW and PD: JW updates us on the course. JW and PD were impressed by the setting, it was in the House of Olympic. Very professional and very interested people. First day theory and second day practical. The attendees were willing to learn. Venezuela's first priority is to promote the sport in the country, to get money to promote and then the TWIF membership. They want to promote beach Tug of War as a start and get the sport at government level to get financial support.
- 12.4 Use people from member countries who have knowledge to help us further in questions, promotion, development etc.: ongoing.

### **13. Other Business for the Good of Tug of War**

- 13.1 Costs FICS and how to implement in further championships + MOU and Agreement – email from Brian Nook: we agree to sign the MOU because we have trust in this MOU. The other document about financial support we agree on as well, but needs to be included in the organizers manual for future events from 2027 on. We will cover till that event and stick to 4 or less chiropractors to save costs. Also we agree on a head chiropractor like Rob Scott and the others one as regional chiropractors.
- 13.2 Invitation to attend the International Tournament in New Taipei City, Chinese Taipei, November 2024. JW and DM are attending for sure.
- 13.3 New emails for TWIF Exco with @thetwif.org and use of the cloud for storing documents. We are implementing this after congress 2024 and inform the members and the partners we work with. Also on the website we will make the changes and delete the addresses of Exco members. We also delete telephone numbers on the website, so only in reach by email.
- 13.4 IF Forum Lausanne 2024 21-23 October: PD, DM or AB are the options to attend.

### **14. Future Meetings**

- Mannheim, Germany, Monday 2 September 2024
- earlier meetings online

### **15. Closing by the President**