



Minutes
TWIF Exco Meeting
1 September 2025, Nottingham, England

1. Opening & Welcome

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

2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting in Mossel Bay and online

- The minutes are all agreed and will be send out to the members after Nottingham.
- We miss one of the appointed judges in Nottingham due to health issues, and we are thinking about asking some spare judges to be prepared to travel to Championships, if an appointed judge (or recorder) drops out.

3. Matters Arising/Finalization of Agenda

- 3.1 Organizers Manual – the new printed editions will arrive in Nottingham on 1st September and MH will hand them out to the organizers for the coming Championships.
- 3.2 Livestream – PD is in contact with Laurens Martina about this but they first focused on the Livestream for Nottingham. The Livestream team will work with camera's in each corner in Nottingham and people can choose which corner they want to watch. Laurens tested this in Heino during the GENSB tournament on 30 August 2025.
- 3.3 Competition program – PD will speak with Laurens Martina about the update on the competition program during the WC in Nottingham.

4. Finance TWIF – AB

- 4.1 Update on financial status TWIF; in our current account we have 4646,05 GBP. In our investment we have 220.000,00 GBP. We are still expecting around 18.000 GBP to come in for the end of the financial year at 31 October 2025. All our expense claims have to be at AB by the first of October 2025 to finalize the financial year.
- 4.2 Members in good standing for Nottingham 2025. All members participating in Nottingham are members in good standing and able to compete.
- 4.3 Sponsorship for TWIF – ongoing process. For the second year we did not get extra money from IOC. AB is thinking about writing a letter to CCM boots for sponsorship. AB has formatted letters to use. Maybe it is easier to have a lot of small sponsors instead of one big company. If that works we can show the names of the sponsors on the Livestream.

5. Commissions

5.1. TAC

- 5.1.1 Dehydration tests – JW will do the tests randomly in Nottingham again on volunteer base. The outcome of the tests in Chengdu (during the World Games) from 35 athletes were middle dehydrated (9,5%), moderate dehydrated (14,5%) and fully dehydrated (11%). The athletes in Chengdu were all on volunteer base. An idea for future could be to do retesting when an athlete is too dehydrated and in the red zone. That person can't go to the weigh-in but has to come back in like 5 hours to prove his/her hydration level and come back to the afternoon weigh-in session. JW will collect data to proceed with this in future.
- 5.1.2 Anchor vest: the rule that has been voted for at Congress in 2025 is valid. Only when the protection is longer then the waist, it should be in the pants. JW and Gavin Corden (Chief Judge) will mention this at the briefing for the officials and David Evans at the briefing for team coaches/managers.
- 5.1.3 Officials and evaluators: we have a referee again and we work with 2 evaluators again. Also an experienced TWIF judge will be in each corner to take the mentor role. We will think about reserve judges to ask for a Championship, in case some judge (or recorder) drops out last minute for some reason.
- 5.1.4 Rules Manual 2025: 300 printed books in total to hand out during briefing for teams and officials.
- 5.1.5 TAC Meeting will take place in Nottingham and one point of discussion is how to continue with active pullers from each continent for the Athletes Commission (AC) and set up goals. The AC will be part of the TAC, so maybe decrease the TAC and increase the active pullers in the TAC, or only the Chair of the AC takes a position in the TAC. This will be discussed. JW takes the 365 AC goals from IOC for this commission in TWIF. The meeting of TAC will be on Wednesday 3 September around 18.00 pm. If the ideas are successful, we can bring this forward to Congress 2026.
- 5.1.6 Meeting with TAC Secretary how to proceed. JW and MH will sit down with Caroline and speak about the current situation and future.
- 5.1.7 During Congress 2025 we spoke about standard anchor vests and belts. Most of the members attending Congress were positive to search for options, but we need to consider different sizes/forms for women, men and juniors. Maybe we can order 2 samples which can be produced in the country of the teams. If the produced anchor vest is in compliance with the 'standard', it is good to use, otherwise it will not be permitted.
- 5.1.8 Refresher course recorders: there are names on our list who have not been active for a number of years. What is the criteria going forward to do a refresher or resit the whole recorders course. We make a term of 4 years and the same is going to be implemented again for the judges.
- 5.1.9 TWIF Judge & Recorder course: we do this every second year, so the next course will be in Mossel Bay 2026 and we chose to do the next course during the WC indoor in 2028. If a judge or recorder is not active for 4 years, they have to resit the whole course again. For judges that means a practical exam again beside the theory.

5.2 **Anti-Doping/WADA/ITA – PD**

- 5.2.1 WADA update by PD after World Games and testing in Chengdu and Nottingham: there have been 25 out of competition tests prior to the World Games. It was planned to be 30, but the German NADO tested all of their athletes of all World Games sports prior to the World Games so there were 5 included the German tests. During the World Games there were 12 athletes tested, but this was arranged by the IWGA. In Nottingham there will be 10 anti-doping tests during the whole event. Next year numbers of testing will increase again.
- 5.2.2 ITA services/course: PD will do the course in March 2026.
 - International Clean Sport education program by ITA: PD will attend in March and we can enter a second person. ITA does webinars and we can forward people to attend. MH will send out to the members if anyone is interesting in attending the online webinars.
- 5.2.3 WADA code 2021 is still valid and that is our anti-doping rules we are working with. During the anti-doping seminar in Korea in December 2025, the new WADA code will be voted on and will get in process. That means we need to change our rules and get an agreement from all the member countries that they comply with our new rules. Also we have to appoint an 2nd educator for anti-doping beside PD. MH will send out an email to the members after Nottingham and ask for support.

5.3 **PR Commission – MH**

- 5.3.1 TWIF Newsletter/Monthly Focus – continue like we do.
- 5.3.2 Social Media TWIF - during the PR meeting MH will ask the other PR members to take over and split the duties on social media while they have more knowledge about the modern platform.
- 5.3.3 Website – MH will ask Alan Knott to set up a new website for TWIF after Nottingham.
- 5.3.4 Tug of War TV/Livestream – 4 cameras in the corners in Nottingham and people can choose which corner they want to watch. Semi's and finals can be broadcasted separate.
- 5.3.5 Requests from different persons/companies for broadcasting Tug of War. We got a request from Mastpro and he would like to use our Livestream to showcase our sport. DM and MH will send him an answer.

5.4 **Development Commission – AB**

- 5.4.1 Progress of the Commission – progress is a bit slow. Only Lesotho and Ghana will most likely supply for TWIF membership during Congress 2026.
- 5.4.2 New or developing countries participating at TWIF events – AB is trying to implement the structure of competition for new countries in Mossel Bay 2026 with their own semi- and finals. We then only will hand out a trophy and no medals for the new countries. We will put a proposal to Congress 2026 as TWIF Exco. We already discussed this during Congress 2025 in Mossel Bay, but now we make it formal.
- 5.4.3 Development continents – Dave Kruse (member of the commission for the America's) is trying to pick up the development of Mexico, Venezuela and Haiti. AB is not yet in contact with Brazil but he received email accounts during the World Games to get in contact. AB was informed that there is a lot of Tug of War in Brazil, especially in the Military.

5.4.4. International School Sports Federation (ISSF): AB will contact them and see if TWIF can benefit for the juniors. The 2025 program was full but maybe some possibilities for 2026 for TWIF. About juniors, in England there is a huge growth of juniors, especially with Young Farmers clubs. This is outside schools, because when you go to schools, you need a club in the area as well to get the enthusiastic young people going to a club.

6. World Games

- 6.1 TWG2025 – Review and feedback on Chengdu – DM, PD and MH met with Collin from Quantum who is doing independent research on the sports, venues etc. We gave him comments and compliments but one thing we missed was an overall commentator for the spectators on the tribune to explain the sport.
- 6.2 Certificates for the athletes WG Chengdu. We will print them if possible in Nottingham and hand out to the representatives. If that does not work out, we will do it after Nottingham and MH will send them to the representatives.
- 6.3 Future World Games: how do we get 2 disciplines on the program again? DM spoke 2 or 3 times with the President of IWGA (International World Games Association), Mister José Perurena. He was complimenting DM on our professional way of taking care of the sport. DM mentioned him that we have 2 disciplines (indoor & outdoor) and we only have one discipline on the program now. The advise from IWGA is to send in a proposal to IWGA and explain our idea for 2 disciplines and explain how we see it, but also make our statement that other sports have 2 venues as well (example is indoor korfbal and beach korfbal). DM will write a letter/proposal for our wish to bring back 2 disciplines to the World Games and we can discuss within the Exco before sending in the proposal. PD will discuss our possibilities and obstacles beforehand with Sebastian Garvens before we send in a letter/proposal.
- 6.4 The amount of administration before the World Games – PD spoke with Sebastian Garvens (Head of Sport Department) about the amount of administrative work before the World Games. Swiss Timing is doing a lot of work for IWGA and are telling IWGA how they want things or not want them. PD send a letter to Sebastian Garvens and Chantal Boehi (Office manager) about the data protection and privacy. We want to forward a proposal for the AGM of IWGA 2026 to inform them about their concern. PD will write a letter/proposal.
- 6.5 The payment of extra costs is made to the organizers in Chengdu, but AB still needs to send out the invoice to the countries for their extra officials. PD paid the invoice for TWIF and this will be sorted out between PD and AB. AB will then send out the invoices. Also PD and AB will negotiate with Bill Gallagher from USA, while he had to pay an invoice when USA arrived in Chengdu.
- 6.6 IWGA AGM 2026: 24 & 25 April 2026 in Lausanne. So far DM, PD and MH will go and we can pay for one extra night for the 3th person.

7. Sport Accord – IOC/ARISF/IWGA

- 7.1 IF Forum Lausanne – 27-29 October Lausanne, who is attending. Two of the Exco will attend.
- 7.2 Sport Accord 2026: Most likely in Baku, Azerbaijan. Most likely together with WADA symposium and the dates are 18-19 March 2026. Dates for Sport Accord are not set yet but around the same dates. PD will combine WADA and Sport Accord if it fits in our agenda, but close after the World Indoor Championships in Taipei 2026.
- 7.3 Dinner and AGM ARISF 26 and 27 October Lausanne. One or two of the Exco will attend the dinner of ARISF as well.

8. Policy Plan 2024-2028 Updates

- 8.1 Policy Plan/Strategy 2024-2028 - update by AB. The plan is ongoing, there is money for the IT program.
- 8.2 Future of TWIF and how to go forward regarding our members and goals. We discussed this during the meeting with regards to the amount of work within TWIF Exco, especially the workload of PD and MH. We need more people to assist also with regards to our future.

9. Championships

9.1.1 2025 World Outdoor Championships – Nottingham England

- Updates and schedule for the whole week: on Tuesday 2 September AB and MH will have the meeting with the Chief officials to arrange everything for the WC.
- Email India: PD will deal with that and responded already. There were not come a team, but some delegates.
- Duties Exco sorted. Only DM will speak on the opening ceremony.
- Medal presentations: PD needs to receive the information about giving out the medals and the perpetual trophy's, but that is only in the weekend. MH will make a list so the presentation team knows who is coming to hand out
- Group formation for national teams with > 2 groups. It will be only 640 and 580 mix to make groups. For the 600 we will do a random selection while the 600 is new on the program and we can't compare with Mannheim 2024 results. AB and MH will sit down how to make the 2 groups and we ask Ief Smets and Fritz Brandstätter to do the draw with us. DM will be part of this as well, most likely on Friday morning.
- Briefing officials: JW will do the officials briefing with Gavin Corden, Chief Judge.

Awarded Championships

9.1.2 2026 World Indoor – Taipei, Chinese Taipei

- Invitation letter ready by Chinese Taipei? We have appointed the appointed chief duties and will send out letters out as soon as possible to the other officials but also invitations to the countries. MH will ask Christine if the invitation letter is ready to send out after Nottingham.
- The appointed assistant chief marshal is not available for Taipei, so we will ask another available person.

9.1.3 2026 World Outdoor – Mossel Bay, South Africa

- Update by Anton: almost everything is organized for Mossel Bay, except the catering. The plan is still that the officials are in the Diaz hotel with some transport. Weigh-in will be divided into 4 corners at the field. The accreditation office will be on the field and there will be an office for Exco/IT to work. Accreditations will be picked up on the field. The venue has been tested and it will be prepared better. There will be an open and closed field on the same field with the control in the middle.
- TWIF Exco meeting will be on Sunday 13 September 2026. Arrival on Saturday 12 September the latest. Competition will be from Wednesday till Saturday.

9.1.4 2028 World Indoor, Morbegno, Italy. No update at this stage.

9.1.4 2028 World Outdoor – Caorle, Italy. No update at this stage.

- Summary of the venue visit Italy by DM and PD in May 2025 and information about TWIF Congress 2026 to send out when dates of

Congress 2026 are confirmed. Dates will be 8 & 9 May 2026. MH will send this out after Nottingham.

- 9.1.5 2028 World Outdoor St. Gallen – Switzerland. No update at this stage.
- There has to be planned a venue inspection and a meeting with the organizers.

10. Multi- Sport Events

- 10.1 Commonwealth Games (CWG): AB states that The CWG reduced the team sports so no chance yet.
- 10.2 South Asian Sea Games from 7 – 19 December 2025 in Thailand: Tug of War is on the program. It would be good if someone of the Exco can attend but AB will speak to Satiyah Sudakaran from Malaysia.
- 10.3 Letter of the Olympic Organisation Brisbane Australia 2032; AB will liaise with Benn Hoffman from Australia Tug of War to get a foot between the door, while Brisbane 3032 will invite some sports for the program.

11. Membership

- 11.1 Member Support/Development:
- AB spoke with Uganda and promised to send second hand ropes.
 - Kazakhstan applies for TWIF membership and AB will send out an invoice for 2026, directly when the new financial year starts. We have all the formal documents.
- 11.2 Request for workshops/training/courses: none at this stage.

12. Other Business for the Good of Tug of War

- TWIF coins for judges: DM will order 100 coins.
- Geli Eiermann will bring lanyards for the whistles for judges, all in the same lay-out/colour.
- TWIF coin medal plate with TWIF logo on it: DM will let a template make. DM will also have a design for TWIF pins to hand out give out as a present.
- TAFISA Congress Prague 13 -17 May 2026: We think we should be part of this Congress again. TAFISA stands for (traditional) Sports for all and Tug of War is traditional as well, even we are a more professional sport. When JW and MH were attending this event in Perugia, Italy in 2022, Tug of War was by far the most professional sport but we got connections with other (traditional) sports. MH will maybe go and otherwise DM will go.
- Cost Action (traditional sports) Portugal: we have been invited to be part of a Congress for gender equality and health. DM will follow up on this after Nottingham.
- Host City Events Meeting in Tottenham Stadium London 25 and 26 March 2026: PD will attend.
- Email from 8 June 2025 from Bangladesh regarding Inter-District Tug of War Championships at College Level: JW send out an email and will do a follow up and otherwise AB will ask one of the Development Commission to follow up.
- Sierra Leone got NOC recognition for Tug of War, but are not yet able to come to Nottingham.
- Email from the Egyptian Federation to become a TWIF member: JW will follow up.

- Vietnam: we got several mails from a person that states that the current TWIF representative is only taking care of his own team and not trying to promote the sport in Vietnam. MH has asked the person to contact the current TWIF representative. Work in progress.
- DM and JW have had a meeting with Mister Masami Gotou, the Japanese TWIF representative about Tug of War in their country and the 2 international judges.
- Global Summit Birmingham 9-11 July 2026: most likely MH will attend the International Women and Sport conference.
- DM gave an interview for Inside the Games and we received the online magazine.
- The mat used during the World Master Games in Chinese Taipei was called a Dunlop mat, but it was not a Dunlop mat. The name was false and we should not be involved with this supplier. DM spoke with the supplier of this mat, Mister Liang Chen from China, during the World Games in Chengdu. DM has brought this to the attention of Dunlop and they like to take action to this false mat issue. Dunlop wants to write a little note for our Newsletter to inform our members. At present Dunlop is not going to take legal action to this supplier but will keep track on this supplier. This supplier wants to sponsor shoes for indoor teams but we have to stay away from him to play a fair game towards Dunlop and ourselves.
- A summit event Switzerland from 29 June till the first of July 2026: we are not taking part because the costs.
- The use of TWIF flag at non-TWIF events: DM and MH will write a letter to all members (again) about the use of the TWIF flag and logo. It has been 'used' in cases it should not be used.

13. Future Meetings

- Monday 9 March 2026, Taipei, Chinese Taipei.
- In between we do online meetings, unless we need to have a meeting in person.

14. Closing by the President

