



17th WT MRD Commission Meeting (via conference call)
January 27, 2023 | 15h00-16h00 (KST)

SUMMARY

Attendees: Ms. Maria Borello (Chair), Mr. Hassan Sadok (Vice Chair), Mr. Maher Magableh (Member), Sister Linda Sim (Member), Mr. Usman Dildar (Member), Mr. Jeongkang Seo (Secretary General), Mr. Corbin Min (Legal Counsel), Olof Hansson (Director of Para Taekwondo), Mr. Wooram Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), and Ms. Jaelee Yun (Intern, MRD)

1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order

- Six (5) members attended the meeting; thus, the quorum is established.

2. Approval of the Minutes

- The **Mr. Jeongkang Seo**, Secretary General confirmed for approval of the minutes of the previous Commission meeting held on April 6, 2022 by the Commission.

3. Report

a. Development Programs 2023

- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported the scale and budget of Development Programs 2023 which was approved by **Ms. Maria Borello** (Chair, Development Committee) in December, 2022: MNA Participation Support for General Assembly, MNA Participation Support for World Taekwondo (Cadet) Championships, Individual Athlete Scholarship, Individual Female Athlete Scholarship, Para Taekwondo Participation Support, Refugee Solidarity program AND WT-CU Development Fund. He also noted that there will be a fund of IOC-IF Development program, and WT Cares Program.
- He reported that IOC has not announced yet but approved that WT has 10 refugee scholarship holders as a result of effort by **President Choue**, and all WT members.

b. Provisional Revision of Tier Criteria

- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported that the approval of revision of tier criteria for MNAs in Tier I and /III. 19 MNAs who previously categorized in Tier II and III were classified in relatively economic capable countries. However, the MNAs were not capable in reality.
- He Proposed to review the MNAs to seek for needs for some MNAs to be supported.
- **Ms. Maria Borello** suggested to ask to CUs regarding the MNAs' Tier criteria. For example, Uruguay among 19 MNAs is the most sustainable economic country. Therefore, the actual situation and suggested revision based on the investigation need to be reported by CUs.
- **Mr. Usman Dildar** also added that WT needs to discuss with CUs to understand and find the reason why they could not be able to pay although economic situation is sustainable such as Turkmenistan, South Africa, and Iceland.
- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** responded that he will raise the issue again to CUs same as last year.

c. New Membership – Namibia

- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported that Namibia Taekwondo Federation (“NTF”) is formed following the guideline of WT and AFTU. Once NTF is in consecution with WT statutes, NTF may be presented as a 213rd member in upcoming general Assembly in May.

4. Discussion

a. Tier Change request by MNAs

- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo* asked to committee to give recommendation for Ukraine, Malta, and San Marino who reported their difficult situation to be able to pay membership fee.
- *Ms. Maria Borello* and *Mr. Usman Dildar* responded that Malta and San Marino are active MNAs and have sustainable federations that they can afford to pay the membership fee.
- Other members agreed.
- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo* confirmed that Ukraine will be indefinitely waived the membership fee until the situation is resolved and the waive for Malta and San Marion are rejected by committee.

b. 2023 Integrity Audit: Implications for CUs

- *Mr. Corbin Min* presented that WT has embarked on an Integrity Audit. The oversight committees, Integrity, Juridical commie, and Financial committee, will be part of the audit team to be engaged in the process, as well as one representative of WT's two umbrella commissions, the MRD Commission and Technical Commission. Other stakeholders may be asked to join as well.
- He noted that WT aimed to be ranked in A1 in next ASOIF Assessment and this audit may support that goal.
- He asked that one representative from each of the Commissions join the tema. The role will be active and intensive as the representative will have the responsibility to understand what is happening within the projects to keep the Commission informed and gathering information and insights from the Commission and deliver them to the project team.
- He mentioned that the team will develop an Audit Plan, including a preliminary Audit Framework by April.

Data collection for the WT and CU Secretariats will be completed, which includes reviewing relevant documents and conducting interviews with key stakeholders, such as Council and Committee Members and MNA Officials by July.

Analysis will be finished, and a Report with Recommendations will be issued. A follow-up audit will be conducted in 2024 to ensure continued compliance and improvement by October 2023.

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- MRD commission members agree on the integrity audit project plan.
- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo* expressed the gratitude to *Mr. Corbin Min* to mention the aim to reach A1 for WT regarding ASOIF good governance report.
- He noted that WT also considers to take a new process to appoint the councils and committees which will be official recruitment announcement in WT website with specific role description and will also have nomination committee to be reviewed to reach to higher level of governance.

c. GMS Rules: Guidance on athlete vs. MNA disputes

- *Mr. Corbin Min* said that when a dispute arises between MNAs and athletes regarding issuing a global license, there have been bad-baith actors on both sides of the issue. In particular: overreaching, abusive, and negligent MNAs; or belligerent, politically and/or personally-motivated athletes/coaches.
- He mentioned that the current rule states that athletes can issue their license through any MNA. The only scenario when the license is needed from the MNA corresponding to the athletes' nationality is when they represent a flag or participate in a team. He added that when athletes are banned or sanctioned by the MNA for inappropriate conduct, WT honors that decision.



- *He emphasized the necessity to review the current rule to consider a balance between these four interests: MNAs' interest in managing its domestic taekwondo communities, athletes' interest to participate as freely as possible, OCs' interest to maximize their participation rates, and WT's interest to maintain an orderly community using clear rules.*
- ***Mr. Jeongkang Seo** opined that since WT's main stakeholders are MNAs, in principle athletes must issue their license through their own MNAs. Exceptions can be considered only under certain conditions. However, if there is any abuse by the MNAs, athletes should report it to WT so the latter can take further steps into the issue.*
- ***Ms. Maria Borello** suggested that athletes should apply for the license through their own MNA and the latter must be given a time limit to approve that application. If the MNA does not respond within the time period, measures must be taken.*
- ***Mr. Jeongkang Seo** added that under the conditions proposed by Ms. Maria Borello, athletes would be able to appeal the MNA's decision (if necessary), and this would be solved through a dispute resolution process set by WT.*
- ***Mr. Usman Dildar** agreed and argued that a proper standardized membership system must be developed as some MNAs are doubling memberships and inflating the prices. This issue causes the athletes and/or officials to seek for memberships through other MNAs. He added that some MNAs are refusing to issue licenses based on gender, ethnicity, friendship, etc., and that issue must be addressed. He commented that education programs and further support must be given to MNAs that have difficulties in the license registration specially if a deadline is set. Lastly, he stated that MNAs must have full authority but under clear guidelines and criteria.*
- ***Mr. Justin Tenbeth** agreed and suggested that if athletes want to participate internationally, they could do it under the name of the club and not the name of the country.*
- ***Mr. Corbin Min** pointed out that even if athletes earn ranking points by participating in competitions under the name of their clubs, if they want to represent their national team, they have to go through their MNA. He added that when athletes that represented a national team want to switch to another national team, they must follow the procedure modeled after the IOC and available at the WT competition rules.*
- *Lastly, he mentioned that a proposal will be developed based on the ideas shared at the meeting. He stated that before the General Assembly an e-vote will be held regarding this matter.*
- ***Mr. Jeongkang Seo** added that keeping the timeline is important for the MRD Commission to propose the rule amendments before the GA.*

5. Other Matters

- *None.*

6. Next Committee Meeting

- *The **Chair** announced that the date and time for the next meeting will be announced in due time.*

7. Closing of Meeting

- *The **Chair** thanked the members of the commission and WT Administration for contributions to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.*