



Minutes

WT Emergency Extraordinary Council Meeting (via conference call)

20h00-21h00 | March 3, 2022 (local time Korea)

AGENDA

- 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Update on situation in Ukraine**
- 3. Other Matters**
- 4. Next Council Meeting**
- 5. Closing of Meeting**

1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order

1. The emergency meeting was called to order by the **CHAIR** of the Meeting, **Dr. Chungwon Choue**, WT President.

The **CHAIR** asked **Mr. Jeongkang Seo**, Director General, to announce the quorums.

2. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** announced that twenty-eight (28) Council Members and one (1) Auditor were present, thereby establishing a quorum in accordance with Article 8.6 of the WT Statutes.

3. The **CHAIR** noted that the following member is absent with prior notice:

- **Mr. Athanasios Pragalos**, Vice President (By the request of Mr. Pragalos, Mr. Antonio Barbarino is present on behalf of Mr. Pragalos)

4. He added that the following members are absent without prior notice:

- **Mr. Maher Magableh**, Council Member
- **Ms. Samira Asghari**, Council Member

2. Update on situation in Ukraine

5. Before mentioning the update on situation in Ukraine, the **CHAIR** welcomed Mr. Chun Jae Park, who is an ex-officio member recommended by Kukkiwon. He informed that Mr. Park is current a professor at George Mason University and is also a former World Champion and is a 9th Dan holder. He hoped that Mr. Park will serve as a bridge between WT and Kukkiwon.

6. The **CHAIR** mentioned that he carried a heavy heart for this meeting due to the war in Ukraine. He addressed that WT needs to collectively state clearly that WT strongly condemns the brutal attacks on innocent lives since **Peace is more precious than triumph** is not just a slogan; it is born out of the World Taekwondo values of respect and tolerance, and for peace through sport.

7. He stressed that the situation in Ukraine has prompted a global response. He added that WT must not stand silent when acts of aggression are done on innocent citizens, and as a world governing body, WT should stand in solidarity with the Olympic Movement.

8. He said that the Olympic Movement does not have a united voice in terms of the response levels. He added that while the IOC has made recommendations, they remain just as recommendations, and it is up to the IFs to make its own direction.

9. He stated that WT is a federation with a membership of 211, and every one of our MNA is the reason why WT is a world governing body. He noted that the stance of WT's side should not be just for Ukraine but for all conflicts around the world.

10. He mentioned that whatever WT decides will be the course of action for the future, and the next conflict in Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and Pan America will invoke the same response from World Taekwondo.

11. He stated that the greatest strength of WT is the diversity, and everyone has an opinion on the ongoing situation; each opinion might differ, but WT stays united that **peace is more precious than triumph**.

12. He thanked the Council members and asked **Director General Seo** to explain the current situation within the Olympic Movement before opening the floor to the Council.

13. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** explained that the IOC issued statements shortly after Ukraine was invaded, and after observing the situation, World Taekwondo issued a statement on February 28th to withdraw Mr. Putin's honorary black belt, ban the flags and anthems of Russia and Belarus, and not to organize or recognize Taekwondo events in these two countries.
14. He continued to report that **Dr. Chungwon Choue**, also wrote letters to the presidents of Russian Taekwondo Union and Belarussian Taekwondo Federation to explain the decision, and after WT issued the statement, the IOC issued its third statement with a stronger recommendation not to allow any athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in the events. He noted that the reason for this measure is to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants, such as non-confrontation and conflicts among athletes
15. He mentioned that there are three types of bans enforced by other International Federations; ban on athlete participation and suspension of the MNA, which is the strongest action, and ban on athlete participation, and lastly ban on athletes representing their countries but allowing athletes to participate as neutrals under the IF flag.
16. He added that the majority of the IFs have chosen to ban athletes from Russia and Belarus, and some of these IFs have also excluded technical officials like referees. He also said that the International Paralympic Committee originally allowed neutral athletes under the IPC flag, but they experienced issues in the Athletes Village, so they overturned their decision and decided to ban Russia and Belarus.
17. He noted that a ban on athlete participation and MNA suspension would be unprecedented for World Taekwondo except the case of Cuba on the occasion of Beijing Olympic Games and taking this action would disrupt the development of Taekwondo in these two countries, and many athletes would suffer indefinitely.
18. He said that if WT chooses banning athletes from participation which is the 2nd option, WT will set a new standard for future incidents, and the 3rd option is already exercised within WT for the suspended MNAs. He stated that many IFs are supporting the ban on athlete participation in support of the initiative of the IOC, and if WT doesn't follow and allow athletes as neutrals, WT may face criticism for not standing in solidarity with the Olympic Movement.
19. He added that there is no easy decision, and the important thing to consider is that any decision will determine WT actions in future conflicts, meaning that if that happens, WT needs to be clear what is the standard to ban athletes and officials. He then passed the floor back to the **CHAIR**.
20. The **CHAIR** thanked Director General and opened the floor to the Council for comments.
21. **Mr. Anatoly Terekhov**, Council Member, spoke that sports and politics should be separated, and no such a ban was enforced in the past during other military conflicts in other countries. He stated that Russian Taekwondo Union is ready to support Ukraine Taekwondo communities who are suffering and ban of any athletes due to the reason they are not responsible is a tragedy.
22. **Ms. Aicha Ali**, Vice President, mentioned that although it seems unfair to innocent athletes, it is important to follow the IOC's recommendation to protect the primary value of sport to fight against the aggression and to respect international law.
23. **Mr. Hasan Iskandar**, Council Member, commented that Olympic Movements have always separated sport from politics and there has been no precedent single occasion where the IOC banned athletes due to the aggression of their country before. He added that athletes must be

allowed to compete with neutral position.

24. **Mr. Mohammed Shaaban**, Council Member, said that there were many severe and drastic conflicts in the past years but have never seen that sports have involved like this time, and banning Russia athletes will not influence the direction of the Russian government. He noted that they deserve to be banned when it comes to doping but not due to the war, and if WT decides to ban, there should be a branch of WT to handle such issues and make decisions for any every small conflict taking place all around the world.
25. **Ms. Anna Panka**, Council Member, stated that the decision to ban athletes might be seen unjust to Russian population but it is important to join this united effort to sanction before the situation is even being escalated further. She noted that WT has been doing a lot of humanitarian works under the value of peace and it will be contradictory if WT don't join this effort. She said that non-alignment with this ban will also create reputation issue to WT.
26. **Mr. Angelo Cito**, Council Member, stressed that he supports recommendation of the IOC to ban athletes and stop organizing competitions in Russia to help to stop this military aggression.
27. **Mr. Kyu Seok Lee**, Vice President, also suggested that WT should follow the IOC's recommendations and directions.
28. **Ms. Anna Vassallo**, Council Member, mentioned that although it is a very sad decision but WT should stand with the IOC.
29. **Mr. Driss El-Hilali**, Council Member, stated that sports must stand separately from politics, and when there was gulf-war in 1990s, there was no such a ban of athletes. He added that athletes from Russia and Belarus should be allowed to compete under the flag of WT, unless there is any issue with the IOC due to this decision.
30. **Ms. Margaret Binga**, Council Member, said that sports always serve as a vehicle to unite people and change people, and the Russian athletes should be given an opportunity to compete without their nationalities to build peace with other athletes.
31. **Mr. Richard Jay Warwick**, Council Member, added that banning athletes might not have an impact on stopping the war in practical sense but on the other hand and with compassion for the Ukraine people, WT should follow the IOC recommendation as a matter of principle, as this war is wrong and untenable.
32. **Mr. John Kotsifas**, Vice President, stressed that if WT insists allowing Russian athletes to participate in WT events, there might be practical issues such as visa issues. He commented that WT is a member of the IOC and WT should follow the decision of the IOC.
33. **Ms. Maria Borello**, Vice President, addressed that WT should follow the IOC's recommendation in a sense of solidarity but WT shouldn't ban referees because they belong to WT, not to Russian Taekwondo Union. She added that WT should vote, if necessary.
34. **Mr. Juan Manuel Lopez Delgado**, Vice President, mentioned that Pan American Taekwondo Union's position is to allow Russia athletes without nationalities but will follow the WT position once decided.
35. **Mr. Issaka Ide**, Vice President, mentioned that he originally thought that WT shouldn't ban athletes but changed his position after the news of undesirable conflicts between Russian and other nationalities at the athlete village in Beijing during Paralympic Games. He noted that it is important to follow IOC recommendation to ensure athletes avoid such conflicts.
36. **Mr. Inseon Kim**, Council Member, stated that although respecting the position of the IOC, he supports allowing participation of Russian athletes as sports should be separated from politics.

37. **Mr. Mario Mandel**, Council Member, commented that athletes must be allowed to participate in WT events under the flag of the WT.
38. **Mr. Jean-Marie Ayer**, Council Member, said that WT should be united to follow IOC's recommendation for temporary basis but should also address to the IOC our concern about the athletes.
39. **Mr. Metin Sahin**, Council Member, addressed that the sports unite people and brings peace, and although IOC's position is fully understandable, WT should allow Russian athletes to participate in WT events under WT flag. He wished to recognize President of Russian Taekwondo Union Mr. Anatoly Terekhov for his significant contributions to Taekwondo.
40. **Mr. Pimol Srivikorn**, Treasurer, mentioned that WT should follow the IOC recommendation.
41. **Mr. Kook Hyun Jung**, Council Member, commented that WT should follow IOC's recommendation based on the value of sport and peace.
42. **Ms. Jamie Carpenter**, Council Member, supported the IOC's recommendation.
43. **Mr. Yang-woo Park**, Vice President, stated that it might be easy and simple to just follow the IOC's recommendation, but sports should overcome the politics. He suggested allowing athletes to compete in WT events on individual basis or under the flag of WT.
44. **Mr. Chun Jae Park**, Council Member, mentioned that WT promotes the value of peace and harmony, so it should follow the direction of the IOC.
45. **Ms. Nadin Dawani**, Council Member, believed that WT should follow the IOC's decision.
46. The **CHAIR** stated that after listening to all opinions of the Council; it is clear that majority members are leaning towards to the recommendation of the IOC. He asked Council whether to takes this as collective decision of WT or proposing vote.
47. Council suggested not voting.
48. **Mr. Hassan Iskandar**, Council Member, added that it is obvious that major members support IOC recommendation, but it is sad because this sanction will make poor people suffer.
49. **Mr. Anatoly Terekhov**, Council Member, mentioned that everyone has rightful opinion; however, as a person, he is disappointed that members tended to take an easier and safer decision following the IOC.
50. The **CHAIR** stressed that WT is all so saddened by this inevitable decision, and WT recognizes the huge contributions from Russian Taekwondo Union to World Taekwondo. He hoped WT bring Russian athletes back to competitions very soon. He added that **Mr. Anatoly Terekhov** is still best friend of WT.
51. The CHAIR made announcement as follows based on the resolution of the Council:
 - ***Decision: Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials will not be permitted to compete at World Taekwondo events until further notice.***
52. He thanked the Council for all valuable comments. He added that despite the differences, it is clear that the World Taekwondo family has one united voice for this critical issue.
53. He said that from this crisis, the matter of issuing honorary dan to world leaders is also something that needs to be revisited, since WT usually do this for the promotion of Taekwondo, but WT decided that it was not appropriate to keep Mr. Putin's honorary dan which WT conferred in 2013. He added that for future honorary dan issuance, WT will create a screening

committee.

54. The **CHAIR** mentioned that as the Council has decided to ban athletes from participating in WT events, WT needs to amend the Statutes in order to have the legal grounds to implement this ban.
55. He said that there is a proposal for amendment of Statutes. He asked the Council whether WT approves this amendment to allow implementing the decision.
56. This is seconded and approved by the Council.
 - ***Decision: Amendment Proposal to the WT Statutes are approved by the Council and will be presented to General Assembly for its ratification.***
57. He continued to mention that next year's World Championships falls in the same year as our 50th founding anniversary, and WT should organize the World Taekwondo Championships and Golden Jubilee into a global festival. He also informed that Bulgaria and Russia were originally the countries that submitted their bids, and now that events in Russia cannot be hosted until further notice. He added that WT needs to re-open the bid for other potential bidders if the Council agrees. He noted that the period for bidding is until the end of March, after which the Council will decide on the host city.
58. He asked whether the Council approves the re-opening of the bid for the 2023 World Taekwondo Championships, until the end of March.
59. The Council agreed to re-open the bid for the 2023 World Taekwondo Championships.
 - ***Decision: Re-opening of the bid for the Host City of 2023 World Taekwondo Championships until the end of March is approved by the Council.***

3. Other Matters

60. He updated the Council that WT is still in discussion with the Korean government and the Organizing Committee for the organization of the World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in Goyang.
61. He informed that the quarantine policies in Korea are still in place and the government is expected to provide an update on the policy next week. He noted that if the quarantine stays, then there is a possibility that the Goyang 2022 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships will be cancelled. He added that WT is still working to organize this event and will let Council and MNAs know the decision by next week.

4. Next Council Meeting

62. The **CHAIR** stated that if the World Poomsae Championships is held, the next Council meeting will be organised in a hybrid format in Goyang on April 20th, which will be followed by the championships from 21st to 24th; however, if the World Poomsae Championships is cancelled, the next Council meeting will be fully virtual on the same date.

5. Closing of Meeting

63. The **CHAIR** mentioned that important discussion with Kukkiwon is being held with support of our ad-hoc committee and Director General to map out concrete plan to engage and empower MNAs and CUs in Kukkiwon Dan administration.
64. He concluded the meeting by saying that the decision and statement on this meeting will be informed to the IOC, the IPC, and publicly. He thanked the Council for joining this emergency

Extraordinary Council meeting.

65. The **CHAIR** adjourned the Extraordinary Council Meeting of World Taekwondo.