



## Minutes

WT Extraordinary Council Meeting (via conference call)

20h00-21h00 | April 20, 2021 (local time Korea)

## AGENDA

1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order
2. President Report
3. Approval
  - Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting via Video Conference on February 1, 2021
4. Amendment
  - a. WT Ranking Bylaw
  - b. Statutes
5. Report
  - a. Progress Report: Wuxi 2021 World Taekwondo Championships
6. Other Matters
7. Next Council Meeting
8. Closing of Meeting

Appendix 1: Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting via video conference on February 1, 2021

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## 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order

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At 20h00, Secretary General Mr. Hoss Rafaty announces that twenty-three (23) Council Members and two (2) Auditors are present, thereby establishing a quorum in accordance with Article 8.6 of the WT Statutes. He also mentions that the video conference will be recorded.

The meeting is called to order by the Chair of the Meeting, Dr. Chungwon Choue (WT President).

The Chair welcomes Council Members for joining the Council meeting.

He notes that the following members are absent with prior notice:

1. Mr. Athanasios Pragalos, Vice President (By the request of Mr. Pragalos, Mr. Antonio Barbarino is present at the meeting on behalf of Mr. Pragalos.)
2. Mr. Tae Kyung Kim, Member
3. Mr. Dejun Sun, Member

He notes that the following members are absent without prior notice:

1. Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Vice President
2. Ms. Aicha Garad Ali, Vice President
3. Mr. Hazem Ahmad Awwad Naimat, Member
4. Mr. Anthony Ferguson, Member
5. Mr. Jinbang Yang, Member

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## 2. President Report

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The Chair welcomes all the Council members to the second World Taekwondo Extraordinary Council Meeting in 2021.

Before opening, he mentions that the recent passing of Gen. Ahmed Fouly and Mr. Milan Kwee are once again a reminder of how much people should treasure lives and loved ones. He also thanks the Council for active participation in the recent Council e-vote.

The Chair mentions that the world of Taekwondo has taken important steps forward in terms of resuming WT-promoted and recognized competitions for athletes. He thanks MNAs and organizers in Bulgaria, Turkey, and Spain for delivering the safest possible events over the past month. He looks forward to the successful hosting of the European and Asian qualification tournaments for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in May.

He remarks that World Taekwondo has been organizing the Online 2021 World Taekwondo Poomsae Open Challenge since March 28<sup>th</sup> and it is heartening to see 47 MNAs and 489 junior athletes and families overcoming the ongoing pandemic with their inspiring performances.

He comments that the next Open Challenge takes place in June, with the family, cadet, and refugee categories, and WT is discussing with the Olympic Refugee Foundation and UNHCR on how they can promote their initiatives through WT's event, including the virtual friendly competitions between refugee camps in June.

Regarding the upcoming Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Chair notes that Taekwondo will open the Olympic Games and will demonstrate the value of our sport in the first four days for the first time. He adds that the Tokyo Games will be unique in the sense that it will be simplified with a limitation on the number of participants; therefore, the IOC has

cancelled all guest accreditations including the guests of the IOC members. He continues that people who are going to Tokyo will only be allowed to travel between the hotel and the Taekwondo venue that is the new reality.

The Chair comments that even under Covid-19 situation, WT has ambitions to organize the most successful and the biggest World Taekwondo Championships among all other sports this year.

He also wishes to inform the Council that WT has done a comprehensive review of the Statutes to meet the highest ever global standard of good governance in sports, and the proposed changes of Statutes is definitely one of the key efforts of World Taekwondo to become the most respected IF as an Olympic and Paralympic sport. He thanks Ms. Maria Rafaty for helping with the review.

He mentions that the proposed Statutes amendments are aimed at strengthening transparency, democracy, development, integrity, and control mechanisms. He adds that WT is strengthening term limits, introducing age limits, increasing the number of elected officials, and institutionalizing gender balance throughout World Taekwondo by 2029.

He concludes his report and moves on to Agenda 3, Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting on February 1, 2021.

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### 3. Approval

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The Chair asks Council to approve the minutes as there were no comments while the minutes were distributed in advance. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

The Chair declares that the minutes are approved by the Council.

***Decision: Minutes of Council Meeting held on February 1, 2021 are approved by the Council.***

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### 4. Amendment

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a. WT Ranking Bylaw

The Chair asks Mr. Jay Lee, Senior Director of Sport & Event Management Department, to present the amendment.

Mr. Lee mentions that there was a miss calculation of ranking point in 5<sup>th</sup> place of G10 in the current WT Ranking Bylaw so it will be corrected to 15.12 rather than 15.10.

The Chair thanks Mr. Lee and asks Council to approve the amendment proposal to the WT Ranking Bylaw. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to the WT Ranking Bylaw is approved by the Council.***

b. WT Statutes

The Chair asks Mr. Corbin Min, Director of Legal Affairs Office, to present the amendment proposal.

Mr. Min emphasizes that the main purpose of restating the Statutes is for WT to demonstrate clearer alignment with ASOIF Governed Standards such as Checks and Balances, Transparency, Integrity, Democracy and Development. It is also intended to make the Statutes easier to understand and use. It is hoped that this restatement will help WT move toward the

A1 group in ASOIF's IF Governance Review.

Mr. Min then discusses the process used to produce this restatement, which began with a review of the most recent ASOIF-survey indicators and recommended good practices examples of other IFs, and also included discussions with the ASOIF Governance Taskforce team on key areas such as term limits. Most of the drafting work was conducted by Ms. Maria Rafaty, an attorney and member of the WT Integrity Committee, while extensive feedback was provided by WT Department Heads and other WT Integrity and Juridical Committee Members.

Mr. Min then highlights several key differences from the current version of the Statutes. He explains that the Term Limits for Elected Officials (5.8.6) has been updated so that elected officials can serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms in any role before a compulsory break of at least four (4) years, while if elected President, the consecutive count resets at one (1). Furthermore, he notes that elected officials will be able cumulatively serve a maximum of three (3) terms in any one role.

Mr. Hoss Rafaty, Secretary General, notes that this rule shall come into effect during the next elections scheduled for October 2021, and that for the purpose of this rule all officials elected during the upcoming election shall be deemed to be on their first term whether or not they have served previously.

Mr. Min then addresses a new term, Age Limits for Elected Officials (5.8.4), whereby the age limit to be a candidate for elected Council Member is less than seventy (70) years old on the day of election; however, there is an exception for members incumbent prior 2021 elections, for whom the age limit for candidacy is eighty (80). He notes that an official who has reached the age limit is ineligible to run.

Mr. Min next highlights the Article on Gender balance targets (2.2.4) noting that Taekwondo strives for equal representation of men and women, and WT supports the active participation of women in Taekwondo at all levels and promotes their representation in WT, competitors and programs throughout the world. With this new Article, WT is stressing its commitment to achieve equal gender representation within its Council, Commissions and Committees by the year 2029.

Mr. Min then goes through changes to the Council Structure (6.2), pointing out that while the overall size of the council remains the same, there will be four (4) additional elected Council members, and reduction of three (3) appointed members and 1 auditor. He also notes that, in line with WT's gender equality target, a quota was added for one elected female council member from each of WT's five Continental Unions.

Mr. Min then gives new guidance for Article 19 governing WT Intellectual Property. The IOC has signaled that all Olympic IFs are expected achieve financial sustainability. In order for WT to achieve this, it has been decided that WT should exert stronger control over WT name and logo. In particular, it has been decided that members (CUs and MNAs) can no longer use the "World Taekwondo" as part of their own name. Instead, they are expected to use the "continent/country-taekwondo" format, which was explained at previous meetings under the "taekwondo-dot-sport" initiative. He adds that Council and Committees members will also receive guidelines in when and how the WT name and logo be used in their roles.

He then touches on Model Statutes for Continental Unions (9.4.1.1), noting that Model statutes are to be provided by WT by the end of April. He notes recommended timeline: return any proposed changes to the model statutes to WT by no later than mid-June, feedback from WT, and CU adopts before July 9.

He also mentions Guidance for elections for Continental Unions (9.4.2.3), that there will be a minimum of 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of CU Council Members elected by General Assembly and their election process should follow election standards sets out in WT bylaws.

The Chair asks if there are any questions that the Council wishes to address.

Mr. Dalibor Krpan, Auditor, comments that it is hard to see any reason to implement age limitation since many people above 70 are more intellectually sharp, and also recommends two auditors as it is for the sake of sharing opinions as well as assessments each other.

Mr. Min thanks Mr. Krpan for his question. He then explains that the reason for the age limit is not because of doubts over the capacity of senior members, but instead is in recognition of the ever-faster changes of trends and technologies, and the need for WT to have fresh insights and experience in order to remain relevant. He further explains that the reason for the reduction of one auditor position is because the Finance Committee, created in 2021, has largely taken over the statutory role of the auditors, to help to ensure strong oversight over that area.

The Chair thanks Mr. Corbin Min, and Mr. Hoss Rafaty, and asks Council to approve the amendment proposal to the Statutes.

This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to the WT Statutes is approved by the Council and will be presented to General Assembly for its ratification.***

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## 5. Report

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a. Progress Report: Wuxi 2021 World Taekwondo Championships

The Chair asks for playing two promotional videos from Wuxi 2021 World Championships Organizing Committee. Two videos contain the description of venues.

The Chair thanks Mr. Dejun Sun and his team for the preparation. He informs the Council that he has invited the mayor of the Wuxi government to make a formal presentation at the next Extraordinary Council Meeting expected to be held in June.

He informs the Council that, in accordance with Article 6.7.(b) of the Statutes, he has established an ad-hoc Election Committee for the President and Council elections that will take place at the General Assembly this October.

He extends his appreciation to Ms. Aicha Garad Ali, Vice President, who will serve as Chair of the Election Committee, and other members are Prof. Jean-Marie Ayer, Chair of the Member Relations and Development Committee, and Prof. Jung Heon Kim, Chair of the Poomsae Committee.

He notes that WT will distribute the election guidelines by no later than May 11<sup>th</sup> in accordance with the election bylaws and the deadline for receiving candidatures for the available positions is July 11<sup>th</sup>.

He confirms that the schedule of WT elections on President and Council will remain unchanged even if the World Championships are cancelled due to worsened pandemic. The election will be held virtually in that case.

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## 6. Other Matters

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The Chair opens the floor to the Council if there are other matters to discuss.

Mr. Pascal Gentil, Member, mentions that he agrees with the age limitation for elected officials for more innovative and new ideas.

Mr. Juan Manuel Lopez Delgado, Member, also agrees with the Amendment Proposal to the WT Statutes.

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## **7. Next Council Meeting**

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The Chair proposes the next Council meeting to take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> either via hybrid or virtual, and it will be one month prior to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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## **8. Closing of Meeting**

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The Chair mentions that unanimous approval of the Statutes is a clear indication of the Council's determination to make World Taekwondo one of the most respected IFs.

He adds that it is a clear signal that WT wants to change and be a model IF for others to follow, instead of following others. He thanks all Council for the firm commitment for the beloved organization and sport.

He adjourns the second Extraordinary Council Meeting of World Taekwondo in 2021.