



Minutes

9th WT Sustainability Committee Meeting (Conference call via Microsoft Teams)

August 21, 2025 | 19h00 (Local time in Seoul, Korea | GMT+9)

Attendees: Nellys Rios (Vice Chair), Maria Skryabina (Member), Jerry Ling (Deputy Secretary General PFA), Claudia Cardenas (Coordinator MNI), Paul Kim (Coordinator PFA), and Daniel Cade (Sustainability Consultant)

1. Call Meeting to Order and Welcoming Remarks

Ms. Nellys Rios, as Acting Chair, welcomed all members to the 9th meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Two (2) members attended the meeting; thus, the quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jerry Ling asked the committee to approve the Minutes of the 8th Sustainability Committee Meeting on May 22, 2025.

The Minutes were approved by the Committee.

3. Overall Progress Report

a. Sustainable Competition Management (SCM)

Mr. Daniel Cade reported on Sustainable Competition Management (SCM), noting that a webinar had been held to launch the tool, although only one MNA had signed up for one-to-one support. Follow-up communications will be issued, including an edited recording of the webinar, relevant resources, and reminders to encourage further participation. He reported that a survey of 26 MNAs had received 20 responses, from which a report had been prepared. An article summarizing the findings will accompany the resources on the WT website.

Mr. Ling noted challenges in contacting MNAs and stressed the need to collaborate with the relevant department to improve communications.

b. Sustainability Ambassadors



Mr. Cade introduced the three newly appointed Sustainability Ambassadors: Beth Munro (Great Britain) for Health & Well-being, Natsiraishe Maritsa (Zimbabwe) for DEI & Community, and Ms. Faith Ogallo (Kenya) for Environmental Sustainability. All three attended an onboarding call and also joined the SCM webinar. Their expected contributions include raising awareness through social media, events, and future WT initiatives.

c. SCM Plans at 2025 WT World Championships in Wuxi

Mr. Cade reported that the organizers had proposed improvements such as better waste categorization and signage, arranging accommodation within walking distance of venues to reduce transport-related emissions, and introducing outdoor wellness activities, including yoga and guided hikes. While appreciating these steps, he emphasized that the measures lacked ambition and urged stronger actions. A proposal to distribute stress dolls linked to mental health resources was rejected due to environmental and human rights concerns. Instead, members discussed alternative approaches such as placing QR codes in training venues, athlete holding areas, and even at the voting booths during athlete elections to provide information and support on mental health.

Ms. Rios stressed the importance of incorporating psychologists into the GMS accreditation system.

Mr. Ling confirmed that discussions are underway, with potential inclusion in future bylaw amendments.

d. WT Sustainability Strategy Review

Mr. Cade outlined four focus areas for the revised plan: gender equality, accessibility and inclusion, sustainable competition management, and mental health.

Mr. Ling proposed reviving WT's own leadership program for women, complementing the IOC's WISH initiative, and encouraged joint para and able-bodied championships, following the successful example of the 2022 European Taekwondo Championships. He also recommended improvements in venue design to ensure accessibility, such as ensuring ramps are located at main entrances rather than only at side access points.



e. Sustainability Awards Update

Mr. Paul Kim reported that applications opened on June 2, with an initial deadline of August 29. Six submissions had been received to date, and the deadline might be extended by two weeks. The jury was confirmed as Ms. Beth Munro (Sustainability Ambassador), Ms. Yanatova (IUCN), Mr. Jeremy Foster (ASOIF), Ms. Julie Duffus (IOC), and Mr. Richard Barner (THF).

4. Discussion

Ms. Skryabina highlighted an Italian initiative of offering free admission to events as a family-friendly sustainability measure, noting its value for inclusivity and athlete mental health.

Mr. Cade agreed on the importance of communicating directly with consistent host organizing committees such as Wuxi, Chuncheon, Muju, Manchester, Turkey, Fujairah, the US, Italy, and Kazakhstan, while acknowledging the challenges posed by language barriers.

Mr. Ling proposed appointing safeguarding officers for junior and cadet events (approximately six to seven per year) and allocating WT budget from 2026 to cover related costs. This would gradually be expanded to continental and recognized events, with hosting requirements updated accordingly.

Mr. Ling proposed that WT prepare a dedicated message and awareness campaign for World Mental Health Day on October 10.

5. Closing of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned by the Acting Chair.