



## Minutes

WT Extraordinary Council Meeting (via conference call)

21h00-22h00 | 24 November 2020 (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 October 5, 2020
4. Discussion
  - a. Paris 2024 Olympic Games – Mixed Team Competitions
  - b. Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Medal Event Application
  - c. Para Taekwondo Governance
  - d. NOC Involvement in MNA Verification Process
  - e. WT Gender Equity & Women Leadership Forum
5. Other Matters
  - a. New Zealand Progress Report
  - b. Medical Online Conference organized by International Musculoskeletal Foundation
6. Next Council Meeting
7. Closing of Meeting

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## **1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order**

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At 21h00, Secretary General Hoss Rafaty announces that twenty-six (26) 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 fourth Council meeting in 2020

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

1. Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Vice President
2. Mr. Athanasios Pragalos, Vice President
3. Mr. John Kotsifas, Vice President
4. Mr. Issaka Ide, Vice President

and, following member is absent with no prior notice:

1. Mr. Pimol Srivikorn, Treasurer

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## **2. President Report**

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The Chair welcomes all the Council members. He expresses his wishes to all members for health and safety under the Covid-19 pandemic. With even more cases found in most of the world he worries about political and social unrest in many places such as Guatemala and Thailand and asks Ms. Maria Borello about the current situation in Guatemala.

Ms. Maria Borello mentions that she worries about not only Covid-19 but also landslides in Guatemala after the storm and Guatemalan Taekwondo Federation is trying to help athletes living in damaged cities. The Chair stresses that safety of Taekwondo family is the most important to WT.

The Chair announces that he appointed Mr. Dejun Sun as a new Council Member who gave a birth to Grand Slam which proved the marketing value of Taekwondo to the world. He adds that Mr. Sun also plays a crucial role in making the Wuxi 2021 WT World Taekwondo Championships an overwhelming success with participation of 207 countries. The Chair asks Mr. Sun to say a few words to the Council.

Mr. Sun thanks the Chair for the appointment and commits to delivering the best World Championships in Wuxi, China in 2021.

The Chair remarks that it has been a challenging year as the world suffered terrible losses of human lives, all major sport events were either cancelled or postponed, and that WT is also experiencing financial difficulties across all levels of WT.

The Chair continues addressing that he hopes to look forward to 2021 with hope and optimism and does not wish for WT to look back. He says that whether good or bad times, whatever achievements WT has made over the past decade, they belong to the past. He stresses that

WT should not stick to customary practices, but to look forward.

He also mentions that WT looks at 2021 as the start of another successful decade for WT, and one of the silver linings from the pandemic is that it allowed WT to reset and adapt creatively to the current challenges and lay the foundations for WT future.

He notes that 2021 to be the 48th anniversary of WT's founding. And in 2023, there will be a celebration of 50 years of WT – WT's Golden Jubilee.

He wishes that WT to be recognized as one of the most sustainable and respectable international federations by 2023. He also notes that WT will present WT's Sustainability Strategy for 2021 to 2030 to the General Assembly to be held next year. He believes that this 10-year strategy will impact all of WT in many positive ways.

He also wants WT to be one of the best governed IFs and be ranked at A1 in any governance-related indicator. To achieve this, he emphasizes that all WT stakeholders including Continental Unions and Member National Associations need to work closely together with the WT and be in harmony.

He comments that he invited Dr. Thomas Bach, IOC President to the World Taekwondo Championships in Wuxi next year during the conference call with IOC President on November 6th, and IOC President expressed interest and put it into his schedule. He mentions that if IOC President comes, it will be his third consecutive attendance at the World Taekwondo Championships which is truly remarkable. The Chair promised to IOC President that WT tries its best to have 207+1 participating countries that means it is one more than the Member Nationals of IOC.

He addresses that WT is discussing about the dates of the Extraordinary Council meeting tentatively scheduled for next April and IOC tries to align WT Council meeting with the IOC Executive Board meeting that month. He adds that this will be a great opportunity for WT Council members to meet with the IOC Executive Board members and share the great achievements made by WT in the last years.

He informed IOC President that WT organizes two key events in November. The first key event is 1st Online WT Poomsae Championships which is opened to families and is ongoing now. He announces that WT received more than 1,565 registrations from 98 countries, and that there are refugee athletes also participating from their camps.

Two short videos of the event are played – one is the pairs entry and the other is the family's entry.

After watching two videos, he remarks that WT will introduce seasonal Online WT Poomsae Championships next year – one for each season, as part of WT initiatives to promote physical activity to the grassroots and contribute to a healthy society.

He continues addressing that the second key event in this month is the 1st WT Gender Equity and Women Leadership Forum organized by WT jointly with the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee. He thanks Ms. Sarah Stevenson and Dr. Hadwah Moawad from the Taekwondo for All Committee for making this Forum a reality. The Chair comments that IOC President said that he is fully supportive for WT initiatives and has already prepared his video message for the Forum.

The Chair lastly mentions that WT plans to launch a partnership with popular children's TV show – PJ Masks this Friday as part of WT efforts to further promote WT brand with 12 selected

athletes as ambassadors. He believes that this is a great initiative to promote Taekwondo to the children worldwide.

He concludes his report and moves on to Agenda 3, Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting on October 5th.

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### 3. Approval

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The Chair asks Council to approve the minutes as WT did not receive any comments while these 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 October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 are approved by the Council.***

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### 4. Discussion

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a. Paris 2024 Olympic Games – Mixed Team Competitions

The Chair remarks that WT has been working tirelessly to promote gender balance within Taekwondo, and that active organization of mixed team events particularly in the last 4 years was part of this effort which is in strong alignment with Olympism. He adds that Taekwondo mixed team event was already included in 2022 Youth Olympic Games which has been postponed to 2026, and WT wants to contribute this at the Olympic Games as well.

He gives the floor to Mr. Jay Lee, Director of Sport & Event Management Department, to present WT's proposal to the IOC.

Mr. Jay Lee introduces the IOC's new guidelines for Mixed Gender Team Event for Paris 2024 that there will be no expansion of existing athletes' quotas of 128, no expansion of existing competition days of 4, and no expansion of events of 8, also IOC will cut 360 athlete quotas in total from larger sports in Paris 2024.

He explains that WT made 4 (A, B, C and D) proposals to the IOC, but proposal A and B have already been rejected from IOC, and proposal C and D will be considered from IOC. Proposal A is to allocate sixteen (16) ITO quotas from thirty-six (36) to Athlete quotas plus cut two (2) athlete quotas. Proposal B is to allocate eight (8) ITO quotas to Athlete quotas plus cut two (2) athlete quotas. Proposal C is to cut three (3) quotas from eight (8) individual weight categories plus adding one (1) more competition day from four (4) to five (5) days. Proposal D is cut three (3) quotas from eight (8) individual weight categories. And he addresses the impacts of the proposal C & D to individual and team event, and analysis on number of represented NOCs in Olympic Games.

The Chair thanks Mr. Jay Lee. Then he invites Mr. Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director to explain the position of IOC.

Mr. Kit McConnell expresses his gratitude for the invitation. He mentions that IOC understands

current challenging time WT is facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and IOC tries to help WT in many ways as much as it can. He also mentions that he touched on the proposals that WT presented in terms of Mixed Team Competitions at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. He adds that IOC Program Commission will meet on November 30 to discuss the programs of Paris 2024 for recommendation to the Executive Board Meeting to be held on December 7-8. He concludes his remarks that the IOC will contact WT with the update from the Executive Board meeting.

He also remarks that WT is the only International Federation that has the gender equality putting in place on the field of play with athletes as well as technical officials, and that the 1<sup>st</sup> WT Gender Equity and Women Leadership Forum to be virtually held on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> is the great achievement of WT.

He mentions that IOC fully supports WT's effort in digital engagement which is a safe and convenient way to learn and practice Taekwondo in the comfort of their homes, especially in this time when the Covid-19 pandemic has impeded.

He looks forward to welcoming the Chair and all Council members in the Olympic House in Lausanne next year.

The Chair thanks Mr. Kit McConnell and wishes IOC President and all the IOC staff all the best. He commits that WT will continue to achieve the gender equity in WT events and education programs, regardless of the decision of the IOC.

b. Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Medal Event Application

The Chair remarks that WT has requested to the International Paralympic Committee for expansion of the medal events and has applied for 10 medal events and quota of 120 athletes, which means a total of 4 more medal events and 48 athlete quotas are increased. He invites Mr. Chakir Chelbat, Para Taekwondo Committee Technical Chair to present more details.

Mr. Chakir Chelbat presents that WT has applied for a substantial increase in medal events and athlete quota, and if approved, there is an increase of 4 medal events and 48 athlete slots.

He mentions that the requested increase of medal events and athlete quota might be seem high, however, this was requested on some rationales which is safety, global spread, diversity, exciting sport, exposure, and values. He notes that WT managed to get a special deal to allow athletes from both K43 and K44 to qualify without competing against each other regularly at the World Level for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, but this is not possible for Paris 2024. Therefore, WT applied only for one sport class on the program, K44.

He adds that the feedback from IPC on WT's application for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games has been positive, but it has been advised from IPC that WT needs to pass all relevant documents that relates to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Cycle through WT membership. He concludes that necessary documentation is being prepared to be presented to the council for e-voting.

c. Para Taekwondo Governance

The Chair mentions that there seems to be some doubt among MNAs regarding who is responsible for governing Para Taekwondo at the national level. He notes that WT Statutes and IPC Rules clearly stipulate that Para Taekwondo should be governed by MNAs nationwide, not by respective National Paralympic Committees.

He gives the floor Mr. Chakir Chelbat again to explain to the Council on what actions need to be taken.

Mr. Chakir Chebat mentions that Governance of Para Taekwondo is a MNA responsibility under article 16.11 in the WT Statutes, and MNA must have a strong relationship with the NPC in order to provide the pathway to the Paralympic Games. He adds that it is important for MNAs to know about the article 2.2.2 NPC Obligation of IPC Handbook.

He says that in order for MNAs to fulfill their obligations as WT members under article 16.11, WT is offering several education programs in Para Taekwondo to spread much needed knowledge of Para Taekwondo, and MNA Para Taekwondo Workshop has been specially designed to help MNAs get started and organized with Para Taekwondo. 2<sup>nd</sup> MNA Para Taekwondo Workshop has been scheduled for January 12, 2021.

The Chair thanks Mr. Chakir Chelbat for the presentation.

d. NOC involvement in MNA verification process

The Chair mentions that WT has recognized the leadership of MNA only after the pertinent NOC has confirmed but it has been turned out to be counter-productive and not aligned with the Olympic Charter. He hands over to Mr. Jeongkang Seo, Director of Member Relations & Development Department, to explain further.

Mr. Seo reports that MRD Commission has been discussing this issue for the last couple of months and that the proposal was also addressed at the Continental Union Meeting. He adds that WT only recognizes change of MNA leadership after submission of the NOC letter confirming good standing but the process has caused delay and confusion as it is not in line with Olympic Charter as well.

He notes that WT will recognize the change of MNA leadership after confirmation of the pertinent Continental Union, instead of NOC. He remarks that the proposed statute change with this regard will enable Continental Unions to play more roles in this process with more optimized administrative procedures in place. He concludes that WT will still be in close contact with the NOCs to resolve any dispute issues surrounding our MNAs.

The Chair thanks Mr. Jeongkang Seo, and asks Council if there are any opinions. Mr. Anthony Ferguson comments that it is very welcoming change of the MNA Verification Process to actively engage more CUs' in the dispute for solving issues of MNA in terms of leadership change.

e. 1<sup>st</sup> WT Gender Equity & Women Leadership Forum

The Chair mentions that the 1<sup>st</sup> WT Gender Equity and Women Leadership Forum takes place virtually on November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and this forum is being prepared in close cooperation with Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee. He continues that WT hopes this serves as a momentum for driving the initiative of the 1<sup>st</sup> World Taekwondo Women's Open Championships in Saudi Arabia. He gives the floor to Ms. Sarah Stevenson to present about the forum.

Ms. Sarah Stevenson briefly addresses the background of origin of the forum that she previously attended with Dr. Hadwah Moawad at IOC webinar covering gender equality which was hugely inspirational. She says that they were motivated by the IOC webinar to create WT's own forum regarding the movement of gender equality and women leadership.

She mentions that this initiative is to be continued to increase gender equity and women

leadership in WT. She also thanks Ms. Maria Borello, Council Member, to be part of as a speaker at the forum.

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## 5. Other Matters

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### a. New Zealand Progress Report

The Chair mentions that Taekwondo New Zealand has been suffering from poor governance and was therefore suspended by WT for the past four years, and no tangible remedies have been found in New Zealand due to many years of conflicts and fights among the Taekwondo community.

Earlier this year, the Chair appointed Mr. Maher Magableh as the Chair of the Interim Board to step in and help resolve the issues, and it seems he has done a great job and have come up with solutions. He invites Mr. Maher Magableh to address the report.

Mr. Maher Magableh mentions that the primary task of the World Taekwondo New Zealand (WTNZ) Interim Board was to unite all Taekwondo practitioners within New Zealand and thus providing them with equal opportunities and access to events, courses, seminars and Poom and Dan promotions. He also notes that it is to produce a new constitution approved by WT in consultation with the New Zealand Olympic Committee and Sport New Zealand, and to plan new elections as soon as reasonably possible.

The Chair thanks Mr. Maher Magableh and looks forward to the success of fresh new election and ultimate reinstatement of Taekwondo New Zealand to the full member status.

### b. Medical Online Conference organized by International Musculoskeletal Foundation

The Chair mentions that when the draft agenda was distributed, Mr. Dalibor Krpan suggested including this item to be shared with the Council. He invites Mr. Dalibor Krpan.

Mr. Dalibor Krpan addresses that it is well known that injuries are a big problem in sport, and the most common injuries are knees, back spin, and shoulders. He mentions that the vast majority of sports injuries are not resulting from severe trauma, rather more a consequence of the deterioration of the tissue such as cartilage, tendons, and ligaments due to accumulation of micro-injuries during the sports activities. He then proposes that WT participates as a co-organizer, by informing all MNAs with recommendation to participate to Webinar. He notes that the Webinar is scheduled for end of January, the most probably on January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and if this proposal is accepted, information, invitation letter and program to be sent to WT.

The Chair thanks Mr. Dalibor Krpan for sharing the information and this is to be discussed with WT Medical Committee.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, the Chair mentions that there is one more item that he wishes to bring to attention.

He notes that Council passed the Regulation on Administration of WT Technical Delegates in the last Council e-vote, and the reason WT introduced this new initiative is to ensure systematic organization of all WT competitions across the level. After the enactment of this regulation, WT realized that WT also needs to respect the experiences of senior technical officials who were appointed as Competition Supervisory Board members in past Olympic Games and Youth

Olympic Games.

Therefore, he asks the Council to approve that CSB members of past Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games are also qualified for attending Level II TD Course without going through Level I. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

The Chair declares that the Council approved the amendment proposal to Regulations on Administration of WT Technical Delegates.

***Decision: The amendment proposal to Regulations on Administration of WT Technical Delegates is approved by the Council.***

He also mentions that there are concerns from countries where they cannot afford to travel for many WT events, even before the pandemic situation. Thus, WT was thinking of how WT could provide more opportunities to the athletes from these countries. He, therefore, thought of creating a WT Grand Prix Challenge, and mentions that the idea is to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> WT GP Challenge before the Tokyo Olympic Games, at Taekwondowon in Republic of Korea

He asks if there are any other matters that the Council wishes to discuss. As there are no comments, he moves to the next agenda item.

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## **6. Next Meeting**

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He mentions that the next meeting is expected to be held at the Olympic House in Lausanne in April 2021, and WT is still discussing with the IOC regarding the dates.

He adds that WT is planning for the events as shown on the screen, including the 1st World Taekwondo Women's Open Championship in Saudi Arabia in 2021, and besides these events, WT also has online events such as the seasonal WT Poomsae Challenge, and the WT Super Talent Show in February.

He is also thinking of organizing a Council brainstorming session on January 21 to 23 in Bangkok, Thailand and mentions that Mr. Pimol Srivikorn has very graciously agreed to host the session. He comments that session will be held depends on the pandemic situation, also with the political climate in Bangkok, and a decision is to be made within the next two weeks.

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## **7. Closing of Meeting**

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The Chair thanks Council members for joining the meeting, and notes that this has been a challenging year, and wishes everyone and families the very best of health. He says that it is also the year-end festive season, so wishes all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

He concludes the meeting by asking to meet each other soon in 2021 with renewed energy and happiness.

The Extraordinary Ordinary Council meeting is hereby adjourned.