



28th WT Taekwondo for All Committee Meeting (via conference call)
May 23, 2024 | 16h00-17h00 (KST)

SUMMARY

Attendees: Ms. Hadwah Moawad (Chair), Sister Linda Sim (Vice Chair), Ms. Dana Touran (Member), Mr. John Cullen (Member), Mr. Richard Barnor (Member), Mr. Wooram Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), and Ms. Asifa Ali (Intern MRD)

1. Establish Quorum

Five (5) members attended the meeting; thus, the quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Minutes

- *The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on April 18, 2024, were approved by the Committee.*

3. Item

a. Updated re Diamond Category

- ***Ms. Hadwah Moawad** discussed how to prove differences between 65 and 75-year-old athletes when they compete together without noticeable disparities. To convince stakeholders, she suggested a campaign, surveys, and literature reviews on age-related performance. She stated that while the category isn't open yet, exploring different approaches will help achieve their goals.*
- ***Mr. John Cullen** emphasized that aging impacts muscle strength, balance, and coordination, making a significant difference between 65 and 75-year-old athletes. He argued for fairness in creating separate categories, noting there's no harm if participation is low. Stakeholders must vote for these changes.*
- ***Sister Linda Sim** noted that recent competitors ranged from 67 to 73 years old. She agreed that trying is necessary for progress and suggested a survey to measure interest among older athletes. Highlighting the significant difference between ages 65 and 73, she expressed the need for another category.*
- ***Mr. John Cullen** suggested a pilot phase for a four-year cycle to test the demand for a new age category. He proposed that if participation is low, the category could be easily merged back. However, if people see a designated place for them, they will likely participate. He emphasized that trying the pilot program is essential to understand the need and expressed confusion over the need for justification.*
- ***Ms. Hadwah Moawad** recommended a survey for MNAs to identify registered athletes over 70, even if they aren't competing internationally. This would help understand the number of older athletes and support the proposal.*
- ***Ms. Dana Touran** emphasized there is no significant cost or time impact, arguing that providing the opportunity is beneficial and low-risk.*

b. Athlete+ Program

- ✓ **Review and Update Regarding Other Programs**
- ***Mr. John Cullen** explained the athletics-inspired ambassador program for retired athletes. This program grants accreditation to national team athletes, allowing them to stay involved in events. They proposed offering internships with major companies like Visa and Microsoft, similar to the athletics model, to help athletes transition into the workforce. He suggested starting a pilot program with a few leading MNAs, targeting recently retired national team athletes. This approach would help athletes gain work experience and enhance their resumes.*



The goal is to support athletes in finding post-retirement careers while maintaining their sports identity.

- ***Ms. Dana Touran** highlighted that structuring the program would create significant opportunities for athletes. She proposed setting criteria for Gala event recognition, creating awards for supportive federations, and implementing actions like a diamond category in events. She emphasized concise criteria linked to athlete support programs, given the many federations and athletes involved. Partnerships with other sports federations could help bridge athletes' careers through internships. She noted that athletes possess qualities attractive to companies. Structured programs and internships would aid their transition to post-sports careers. This approach benefits both athletes and federations.*
- ✓ Survey Questionnaires
- ***Ms. Dana Touran** informed the survey questionnaire is in the final stage and soon will be shared to the committee.*
- ✓ Updates Regarding the Trip to Jordan
- ***Mr. Richard Barnor** shared his experience visiting the camps and noted the excitement and growth in participation. He highlighted the larger size and more people engaging in sports. Plans are underway for more sports federations to join next year. He mentioned sharing Yahia's success story to inspire the youth at the camps. Richard stated that he met with various sports leaders, including the President of the NOC from Saudi Arabia and the Vice President of Badminton World Federation, discussing potential support for refugee athletes. Additionally, Richard coordinated the donation and installation of new turf at Azraq, which will enable a variety of sports.*
- c. Strategies for delivery of equipment to Young Lions
- ***Ms. Hadwah Moawad** inquired about the next steps for acquiring equipment and mats. She proposed identifying specific areas in need, such as Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, to receive support similar to Azraq Camp. She emphasized the importance of growing Taekwondo in under-resourced regions and asked for guidance on moving forward.*
- ***Mr. Richard Barnor** acknowledged the need to broaden their approach and explained that he had discussed THF activities specifically with Taishan. He admitted a narrow focus and clarified that Taishan is prepared to help THF if asked. However, for wider WT support, a different approach would be necessary. He emphasized the need for a strategic plan to engage Taishan's support beyond THF.*
- ***Mr. John Cullen** suggested finding a way for the youngsters in the camp to watch Yahia compete. He proposed setting up screens so they could see someone like them representing at the Olympics, and filming their reactions. He believed this could inspire the children and carry significant weight with the IOC, showcasing the impact of seeing their ambassador in action. John asked Richard if this idea was feasible, given his on-ground experience.*
- ***Mr. Richard Barnor** responded positively, stating that he believed the Jordan Taekwondo Federation could manage it well and promised to discuss it with them to set it up.*
- d. Other Matters
- ***Mr. Wooram Kim** explained that last year, from Taekwondo for All Committee, Suvi was recommended as a coach for the WISH program, with Myriam suggested as her mentor. Suvi is currently participating in online leadership sessions through the program, with her*



graduation set for next January. In the interim, Suvi and Myriam will have four specific mentor sessions, which need to be organized and arranged by WT. He mentioned that Myriam is comfortable with conducting these sessions via Zoom due to her schedules and different locations. Additionally, Mr. Wooram said, he, Asifa, and Myriam will attend an online orientation meeting with IOC next month. Following this, he plans to provide updates on the progress of the WISH program to the committee.

4. Next Committee Meeting

- *Tentatively, the next meeting is scheduled for sometime in October. The exact meeting date will be announced in due course. Confirm the Time Zone: [Time Zone Converter – Time Difference Calculator \(timeanddate.com\)](#)*

5. Closing of Meeting

- *The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.*