



Minutes

7th WT Sustainability Committee Meeting (Conference call via Microsoft Teams)

February 6, 2025 | 19h00 (Local time in Seoul, Korea | GMT+9)

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

1. Call Meeting to Order and Welcoming Remarks

Ms. Nellys Rios, as Vice Chair, welcomed all members for the 7th 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 6th Sustainability Committee Meeting on November 21, 2024.

The Minutes were approved by the Committee.

3. Overall Progress Report

a. Sustainability Awards update and planned case studies

Ms. Claudia Cardenas reported a higher number of applications for the 2024 Sustainability Awards compared to the previous edition. She presented the top three winners in each category and noted that their case studies will be published on the Sustainability website.

Mr. Paul Kim shared that the winner of each category will receive USD 5,000 through the 2025 Sustainability Development Program to support new or ongoing sustainability projects. Participants are required to submit their plans by February 2025, complete their projects by October 2025, and submit final reports in November 2025.

b. Mental Health progress update and planned next steps

Mr. Kim outlined plans for incorporating mental health programs into the 3rd Hope and Dreams Sports Festival, Fujairah 2025 World Taekwondo Cadet Championships, and



Wuxi 2025 World Taekwondo Championships, following the successful pilot program in Chuncheon 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships. A recent meeting with the organizing committee of the Wuxi 2025 World Taekwondo Championships has included integrating mental health, nature, and sustainable event management initiatives. Updates on further meetings with other organizing committees will be shared with the Sustainability Committee members.

***Ms. Rios** inquired about strategies to engage athletes in the mental health program.*

***Mr. Ling** explained the team would coordinate with the Sports and Events Department to address this issue and explore opportunities to involve referees and local schools.*

c. Sports for Nature member updates

***Mr. Daniel Cade** highlighted the progress of the Sports for Nature initiative, with increased membership and a focus on climate change mitigation. He emphasized that integrating nature-based elements into competitions, such as the previously mentioned Wuxi 2025 World Taekwondo Championships, can also complement mental health programs.*

***Mr. Cade** added that the Sports for Nature keyword for 2025 is resilience, and World Taekwondo (WT) could promote sustainability by reducing rubber products by communicating with suppliers.*

***Ms. Maria Skryabina** suggested outdoor events like the World Taekwondo Beach Championships can promote environmental initiatives.*

***Mr. Ling** proposed benchmarking other sports, such as volleyball's net-recycling initiative.*

***Ms. Rios** recommended launching a recycling program for old equipment like chest gear and helmets. She suggested that WT could encourage donation campaigns by rewarding MNAs with such programs.*

d. Sustainable event management

***Ms. Cardenas** introduced plans to develop an event management tool that is aligned with the sustainability strategy and with relevant key performance indicators. This tool will reveal what programs MNAs are hosting and also help MNAs learn from one another's sustainable practices. The Wuxi 2025 World Taekwondo Championships is a primary focus of this initiative.*

***Ms. Rios** asked whether WT plans to extend its mental health surveys to include other stakeholders, such as coaches.*

***Mr. Ling** confirmed that surveys may be conducted at Fujairah or Grand Prix events.*



Ms. Skryabina mentioned Vechain, a blockchain company, as an example of using new technology to develop sustainable products, such as QR-coded uniforms.

Mr. Ling agreed to share this information with the Marketing & Broadcasting and Sports and Events Departments.

e. WT GHG offsetting and reduction plans

Mr. Kim shared that WT will be renewing its partnership with One Carbon World (OCW) to more accurately measure and offset carbon emissions for the year 2024. WT signed a contract with OCW on February 2025, and is required to submit its emissions data by August 2025, and will aim to be carbon neutral certified by October 2025. In the long term, WT plans to expand carbon measurement to its events.

Mr. Cade stressed the importance of third-party certification for credibility.

f. Erasmus+ funding assessment

Mr. Cade explained that Erasmus Plus is an EU program supporting cross-border collaboration which also supports sports initiatives that focus on participation, social inclusion, integrity, sustainability, and governance. WT is advised to target next year's project cycle to find the right partners due to time constraints.

Mr. Ling noted that applying for next year also aligns with the 10th anniversary of the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation.

Mr. Cade shared funding options which include €30,000–€60,000 for small-scale projects and up to €400,000 for larger collaborative projects.

g. WT sustainability course

Mr. Cade outlined plans for an online sustainability course on the GMS or independent system targeting WT staff, committee members, council members, and other stakeholders. The course will include assessments and certifications to ensure participants retain knowledge.

Mr. Ling added that these courses will be requirements or bonuses in evaluations for staff. Furthermore, the courses may be mandatory for new council and committee members, emphasizing WT's commitment to sustainability.



4. Discussion

Mr. Ling informed the committee that the WT President requested a 2025 plan. The draft will be reviewed by the committee and submitted to the President's Office by February 28, 2025.

Mr. Ling shared plans to launch a Sustainability Homepage ahead of Sport and Peace Development Day (April 6) and World Health Day (April 7).

Ms. Rios reminded the team of the proposal to include psychologists in the GMS system.

Mr. Ling agreed to discuss this with the GMS team during their visit to the WT Seoul Office in early March.

Ms. Rios committed to sending her recommendations on integrating psychologists into the GMS program.

5. Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be held on May 22, 2025 at 19:00 KST.

6. Closing of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned by the Vice Chair.