

## Minutes

84<sup>th</sup> World Taekwondo (Extraordinary) Council Meeting

August 18, 2023 | 15h00-17h00 (Local time in Korea)

Gallery tune (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Toy Robot Museum | Chuncheon, Korea

## AGENDA

- 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. President Report**
- 3. Approval**
  - a. Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 27, 2023
  - b. Signing of Agreement with city of Chuncheon for relocation of WT Headquarters
  - c. Awarding WT Promoted Championships to Chuncheon for 3 years (2024-2026)
    - World Taekwondo Octagon Diamond Games
    - World Taekwondo Demonstration Team Championships
    - World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge
  - d. Inaugural World Taekwondo Virtual Championships
- 4. Report**
  - a. Re Appoint of Council
  - b. Appointment of Commissions/Committees
  - c. Upcoming World Taekwondo Events
  - d. E-Vote: Results and new platform
  - e. Virtual Taekwondo
  - f. Integrity Audit Update
  - g. Safeguarding Initiative
  - h. Anti-Discrimination Policy Update
- 5. Discussion**
  - a. Allowance of Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in continental level
  - b. Height Categories of Cadet Division
- 6. Other Matters**
- 7. Next Council Meeting**
- 8. Closing of Meeting**

Appendix: Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 27, 2023

1. Before the start of the meeting, the **CHAIR, Dr. Chungwon Choue**, invited **Mr. Donghan Yook**, Mayor of Chuncheon City, to deliver his welcome speech.
2. In a warm welcome, **Mr. Donghan Yook** highlighted Chuncheon city's beauty, global nature, and societal potential within Taekwondo, expressing dedication to the awarding ceremony despite the challenges faced along the way. He thanked the WT President and Council Members, aiming for Chuncheon to establish itself as a Taekwondo-centered city, uniting the global Taekwondo community and the 300,000 Chuncheon citizens.
3. The **CHAIR** thanked **Mr. Donghan Yook** for hosting the Council Meeting and praised Chuncheon City's support for World Taekwondo.
4. The **CHAIR** called upon **Mr. Ser Miang Ng**, IOC Vice President, to give a short speech.
5. **Mr. Ser Miang Ng** commended the event's success in promoting Taekwondo, especially among youth, and discussed potential innovations and inclusion in future games, including Virtual Taekwondo and Beach Poomsae Championships in 2028. He pledged support for these initiatives.
6. The **CHAIR** expressed appreciation for **Mr. Ser Miang Ng** presence in Chuncheon.

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## 1. Establish Quorum: Call Meeting to Order

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7. The meeting was called to order by the **CHAIR** of the meeting. The **CHAIR** asked **Mr. Jeongkang Seo**, Secretary General, to announce the quorum.
8. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** announced the attendance of thirty-two (32) Council members including the President, Secretary General and the Auditor. Among them, eleven (11) participated online. With this attendance, the meeting fulfills the requirement for a quorum, as stipulated in Article 6.10 of the WT Statutes.

2 members absent with prior notice:

*H.H Sheikha Jameela bint Mohammed Al Qasimi*

*Ms. Jamie Lee Carpenter*

1 member absent without prior notice:

*Mr. Athanasios Pragalos*

9. He also announced that no Council Members have reported an undisclosed conflict of interest related to the agenda, and none were found.

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## 2. President Report

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10. The **CHAIR** opened the Extraordinary Council Meeting in Chuncheon, reflecting on the recent Ordinary Council Meeting in Baku celebrating the Golden Jubilee. Expressing gratitude for the privilege to serve the World Taekwondo Council, he thanked members for their friendship, solidarity, and dedication.
11. The **CHAIR** welcomed new Council members, **Ms. Wu Jingyu** and **Mr. Cheick Cisse**, co-

chairs of the Athletes Committee, congratulating them and anticipating their integrity, leadership, and support. He then invited the new members to share a few words.

12. **Ms. Wu Jingyu** expressed her honor in joining the WT Council as a new member. She thanked the WT President and the WT family for their support and expressed her commitment to working together for the future. Acknowledging her transition from athlete to co-chair of the Athletes Committee, she looked forward to collaborating with **Mr. Cheick Cisse** and sought guidance from the WT family advocating for continued improvement.
13. **Mr. Cheick Cisse** conveyed his gratitude to the WT President and Council Members for entrusting him with the role of co-chair of the Athletes Committee alongside Ms. Wu Jingyu. He recognized the significant responsibility and pledged to collaborate closely with all members to further the global development of Taekwondo. He expressed excitement about advocating for athletes' interests and promoting the values of sport and sportsmanship. He considered contributing to the meeting a privilege and an honor.
14. The **CHAIR** mentioned that at the World Taekwondo Championships in Baku, over 900 athletes from 132 nations participated, with 24 nations winning medals and 9 countries claiming gold. He emphasized that this showcased Taekwondo's universality and growth.
15. He also pointed out that social media engagement broke records with 21 million TikTok views, making Taekwondo the top combat sport on the platform.
16. He expressed that a generational shift was evident, with 10 out of 16 gold medalists in Baku being first-time World Champions, and 31 athletes winning their first-ever World Championships medals, most of them under 24 years old.
17. He acknowledged the success of the World Taekwondo Grand Prix Series in Rome, including an Italian Demonstration Team performance. He expressed gratitude to **Mr. Angelo Cito** for his support in this event.
18. Regarding Virtual Taekwondo at the Olympic Esports Week (OEW), the **CHAIR** highlighted its historic significance and credited Mr. Ser Miang Ng's leadership, which could potentially lead to its inclusion in the Olympic Games. He added that together with Refract Technologies, WT delivered the most memorable highlights of the OEW.

*(Played a video of the best moments of Virtual Taekwondo)*

19. The **CHAIR** expressed pride in the World Taekwondo Grand Prix Challenge solidifying its status in the WT calendar. He emphasized that through the GP Challenge, many athletes have advanced to become World Champions and Grand Prix Series winners.
20. He noted that three weeks ago, Dakar hosted the first-ever GP Challenge outside of Korea, marking a historic achievement. The **CHAIR** highlighted that this accomplishment would not only strengthen Taekwondo's presence in Senegal and Africa but also contribute to the success of the Youth Olympic Games in 2026. In this context, he extended his heartfelt gratitude to WT Vice President **Mr. Issaka Ide** and AFTU Secretary General **Mr. Balla Dieye** for their invaluable support in bringing the Grand Prix Challenge to Africa.
21. He reported his attendance at the FISU University Games in Chengdu, where Taekwondo was the third largest sport with 23 events. He congratulated the countries that won medals,

especially China, Korea, Iran, Türkiye, Thailand, and Kazakhstan for their gold medals.

22. The **CHAIR** highlighted upcoming events in Chuncheon, including the 4th World Taekwondo Beach Championships and three inaugural events aimed at showcasing Taekwondo's diversity and inclusiveness while introducing new levels of sports entertainment.
23. He expressed gratitude to the MNAs and organizers preparing for WT-promoted events, mentioning Bosnia and Herzegovina for the World Taekwondo Cadet Championships, France and Great Britain for the Grand Prix Series, and China for both the Grand Prix and the Grand Slam. Additionally, he mentioned Taekwondo's participation in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, and the Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.
24. The **CHAIR** also looked forward to the unveiling of the Taekwondo statue at the Olympic Museum on November 15<sup>th</sup> and invited Council members to join this historic occasion. In closing, he thanked the Council for their ongoing attention and solidarity.

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### 3. Approval

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- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 27, 2023
25. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 27, 2023, were distributed to the Council members without any comment. The **CHAIR** called for a motion to approve the minutes.
26. **The Council members** seconded the motion, signifying the official approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 27, 2023.
  - ***Decision: Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 27, 2023 are approved by the Council.***
- b. Signing of Agreement with the city of Chuncheon for relocation of WT Headquarters
27. The **CHAIR** moved forward to the next item in the agenda regarding the agreement for relocating the WT headquarters to Chuncheon. He invited **Mr. Corbin Min**, WT Legal Counsel, to provide an overview.
28. **Mr. Corbin Min** explained the process of selecting the new headquarters location and the upcoming agreement signing with Chuncheon city. After a comprehensive evaluation by a selection committee, Chuncheon city's interest in Taekwondo's potential for development became one of the decisive factors for its selection as the preferred bidder, as previously reported to the Council. Following this, a steering committee comprised of Korean experts in law, finance, and construction formalized the agreement's terms through three formal meetings.
29. The central terms of the agreement, scheduled for signing on August 19, 2023, during the Gangwon-Chuncheon World Taekwondo Cultural Festival opening ceremony, encompass the headquarters' location in Chuncheon's Songam Sports Town, covering an entire area of approximately 3,600 m<sup>2</sup>. Within a four-story building of around 3,100 m<sup>2</sup>, the space will accommodate essential facilities, including a demonstration team performance hall, conference rooms, an exhibition hall, and a rooftop area.

30. He added that the total project cost is estimated at around USD 14.2 million, with construction scheduled from 2024 to 2027 and an expected occupancy date in 2028. Chuncheon city will cover both the building's construction and ongoing operational expenses, including rental fees and utilities.
31. He emphasized that the most crucial commitment in the agreement is WT's pledge to occupy the building for a minimum of 30 years, renewing it every 5 years, which aligns with Chuncheon city's objectives and interest in development.
32. Without further questions, the **CHAIR** asked the Council to motion and approve the signing of the agreement with the city of Chuncheon for relocation of the WT Headquarters.
33. **The Council members** seconded the motion, resulting in the formal approval of the Signing of Agreement with the city of Chuncheon for relocation of WT Headquarters.
  - ***Decision: Signing of Agreement with the city of Chuncheon for relocation of WT Headquarters is approved by the Council.***
- c. Awarding WT Promoted Championships to Chuncheon for 3 years (2024-2026)
  - World Taekwondo Octagon Diamond Games
  - World Taekwondo Demonstration Team Championships
  - World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge
34. The **CHAIR** mentioned that Chuncheon has asked to host the Octagon Diamond Games, the Demonstration Team Championships, and the Para Taekwondo Open Challenge for the next three years until 2026.
35. Without objections from the Council, the **CHAIR** asked the Council to motion and approve the awarding of WT Promoted Championships to Chuncheon for 3 years (2024-2026).
36. **The Council members** seconded the motion, resulting in the formal approval of Awarding WT Promoted Championships to Chuncheon for 3 years (2024-2026).
  - ***Decision: Awarding WT Promoted Championships to Chuncheon for 3 years (2024-2026) is approved by the Council.***
    - **World Taekwondo Octagon Diamond Games**
    - **World Taekwondo Demonstration Team Championships**
    - **World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge**
37. After approval, the Host City Contract was signed by World Taekwondo President **Chungwon Choue** and Chuncheon Mayor **Donghan Yook**.
- d. Inaugural World Taekwondo Virtual Championships
38. The **CHAIR** announced that after the success of the Olympic Esports Week (OEW), Singapore submitted a letter to host the first World Taekwondo Virtual Championships in December 2024.

In addition, he mentioned that Singapore also submitted a bid to host the 2024 Grand Prix Final.

39. In the absence of suggestions or objections from the Council, he called for a motion to approve the Inaugural World Taekwondo Virtual Championships to be held in Singapore in 2024.
40. **The Council members** seconded the motion and formally approved the Inaugural World Taekwondo Virtual Championships.
  - **Decision: Inaugural World Taekwondo Virtual Championships in Singapore in 2024 is approved by the Council.**

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#### 4. Report

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##### a. Re-Appointment of Council

41. The **CHAIR** announced the reappointment of the following Council Members for the 2023-2025 period, extending their tenure and congratulating each of them.
  - *Ms. Aicha Garad Ali (Djibouti) – Vice President*
  - *Mr. Yangwoo Park (South Korea) – Vice President*
  - *Mr. Pimol Srivikorn (Thailand) – Treasurer*
  - *H.H Sheikha Jameela bint Mohammed Al Qasimi (United Arab Emirates) – Member*
  - *Prof. Jean-Marie Ayer (Switzerland) – Member*
  - *Mr. Maher Magableh (Australia) – Member*
  - *Ms. Anna Panka (Switzerland) – Member*

42. Expressing gratitude, the **CHAIR** acknowledged **Ms. Samira Asghari** for her contributions during her tenure as a Council member, though her term was not renewed.

##### b. Appointment of Commissions/Committees

43. The **CHAIR** emphasized World Taekwondo's commitment to advancing in the ASOIF governance review by opening the Committees for applications, receiving an impressive 490 submissions for slightly over 70 positions, demonstrating the strong value and passionate support for these roles within the Taekwondo community.
44. He presented key statistics, and the Committee Member names, congratulated all Committee members, and expressed eagerness for their dedicated service in the coming years.

##### c. Upcoming World Taekwondo Events

45. The **CHAIR** called upon **Mr. Jay Lee**, Senior Sport Director, to give an overview of the upcoming events.
46. **Mr. Jay Lee** outlined the key events in 2023, noting that some, like the Muju Taekwondowon 2023 World Taekwondo Pomsae Open Challenge, were still pending confirmation. The schedule, as presented, covered from August to December and encompassed various events,

including Para Taekwondo Championships, Para Grand Prix competitions, and several multi-sport games. Particularly, he emphasized the need to encourage MNAs' participation in the mixed team events for the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Combat Games.

47. Regarding the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Continental Qualification Tournament, he mentioned that the Continental Unions of Africa, Asia, and Pan America had already confirmed the hosting cities. However, the European Qualification Tournament's status depended on whether there are any issues with AIN athletes competing in Germany. In such a case, an alternative country might host the European Qualification Tournament. The confirmation of the host city for the Oceania Qualification Tournament was still pending as well.

d. E-Vote: Results and new platform

48. The **CHAIR** gave the floor to the Secretary General, **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** to explain about the e-vote results and new platform.
49. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported on the Council e-vote held from July 21 to August 2, with 26 members participating and expressed gratitude for their involvement. He highlighted the amendment of the WT Competition Rules, which will now allow the Technical Delegate (TD) to review Instant Video Replay (IVR) and order a rematch if scoring errors or athlete misidentifications occur.
50. Additionally, **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** introduced the use of DocuSign, a user-friendly platform for E-voting and amendment review, offering benefits like secured storage of documents, accessibility, and automated processes. In case of any issues, he instructed members to contact the MRD Department for assistance.

e. Virtual Taekwondo

51. The **CHAIR** called upon **Mr. Jerry Ling** to deliver his report on Virtual Taekwondo.
52. **Mr. Jerry Ling** reported that Virtual Taekwondo achieved significant success at the inaugural OEW. It was placed by the IOC as the final event, making it the highlight of the entire OEW. He expressed gratitude to the organizing committee and Refract Technologies for their invaluable support in ensuring the event's success.
53. He explained that eight legendary Taekwondo athletes (World Champions and Olympians), participated together with eight local talents. The legends acted as great ambassadors and were prominently featured by the IOC at the OEW.
54. He remarked that Virtual Taekwondo's unique strength lies in its inclusivity, accommodating diverse age groups, gender, and weight categories. He commented that the best way to explain the experience of Virtual Taekwondo is through athlete's testimonials which were presented in two video clips.

*(Playing video of athlete's experiences of Virtual Taekwondo)*

55. He stated that future goals for Virtual Taekwondo include securing its official medal status at the LA 2028 Olympics for which the application process will start after Paris 2024. Furthermore, he emphasized that expanding globally involves selling the system to MNAs and dojangs, for which support and encouragement from the Council, federations, and stakeholders is essential.

Furthermore, he informed about the establishment of an Ad-Hoc Virtual Taekwondo Committee to provide recommendations for global growth.

56. He added that the combined efforts of these initiatives, along with the events in Chuncheon, mark the onset of a new era in sports entertainment, relevant to youth and to the future of the Olympic Games.
57. **Mr. Pimol Srivikorn**, Treasurer, inquired about Virtual Taekwondo's classification as an E-sport and its potential oversight by an E-sport federation, which might exclude WT's involvement.
58. **Mr. Jerry Ling** clarified that the IOC's definition of E-sport is variable, and it is rather considered as "active virtual sport." He stressed that the label is less critical as long as it pertains to Virtual Taekwondo. He added that different countries have varying approaches, and even if it is under another esports federation, the continuous support and involvement of MNAs remains vital, as they are WT's direct stakeholders.
59. **Mr. Jinbang Yang**, Council Member, commented that it appears that the IOC aims to maintain a separation from gaming and seeks a focus on active virtual sports involving physical activity. In that regard, he remarked that WT holds a significant advantage. He added that the game structure was primarily shaped by the technology company, which lacks the in-depth knowledge of Taekwondo that WT possesses. Therefore, he emphasized the crucial need for WT to become more engaged to incorporate Taekwondo's specific requirements and unique characteristics. Consequently, he concluded that WT must adjust the rules and regulations, with a focus on systemizing and formalizing the game structure.
60. The **CHAIR** emphasized the need for active promotion of Virtual Taekwondo across regions and countries, aiming to establish a strong foundation for its potential inclusion as an Olympic medal event.

f. Integrity Audit Update

61. The **CHAIR** gave the floor to **Mr. Corbin Min** to deliver the next two presentations on Integrity and Safeguarding.
62. **Mr. Corbin Min** recalled that the last integrity update took place at the last Council Meeting in Baku, and he informed on two significant developments since then: the integrity awareness survey among the Council Members, and the the launching of the safeguarding initiative.
63. He explained that the categories of the Council survey were guided by WT's adoption of the IOC's two-pronged integrity approach: Integrity of Organizations and Integrity at Competitions. Within integrity at competitions, three key priority areas were identified: Clean Sport (fight against doping), Fair Sport (prevention of manipulation of competitions), and Safe Sport (prevention of harassment and abuse). Currently, Safe Sport is WT's top priority due to risk factors.
64. He summarized that the survey was conducted online, as an anonymous questionnaire, from July 28 to August 8, focusing on education on safeguarding, prevention of match fixing, and anti-discrimination; familiarity with WT integrity-related rules; and feedback to the WT Integrity Statement. The survey received 26 responses, with 80% (21) coming from officials for MNAs or CUs.



65. Regarding awareness of key areas, he noted that 65% of respondents had some training in safeguarding, 53% in anti-discrimination, and 46% in match-fixing. The IOC, NOCs, and Sport Ministries were listed as the education providers. In addition, more than half of participants (53%) reported that their country's MNA provides education in safeguarding, over 40% in anti-discrimination, and nearly 40% in match-fixing.
66. Regarding familiarity with WT integrity-related rules, 20 out of 26 Council members reported being familiar or very familiar with the WT Integrity Code and the WT Safeguarding Policy. There was slightly less familiarity with the WT Code on Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions (PMC) but good familiarity with the WT Anti-Discrimination Policy. These findings will be included in the final integrity report at the end of the year, and available for Council Members anytime upon request.
67. The survey also included questions about comments on the WT Integrity Statement, with all respondents expressing satisfaction. Remarks emphasized the need for strict monitoring, quicker responses to issues, and action against rule violators.
68. He added that the next steps include the development of an Integrity Commitment for WT Officials, expected by the end of 2023. Mandatory certification in safeguarding and PMC for all WT license holders will also start. The goal is to build capacity worldwide for monitoring, enforcement, investigation, and awareness.
- g. Safeguarding Initiative
69. **Mr. Corbin Min** outlined the Safeguarding Initiative, which is intended to bring WT into full alignment with the principles stated in WT's Hammamet Declaration adopted in April 2018, and follows a three-spheres approach inspired by the IOC Approach to Integrity model. As background, he explained that the Hammamet declaration committed WT to adhere to the IOC Toolkit for safeguarding athletes from harassment and abuse in sport. Then in December 2019, the WT Safeguarding Policy was enacted in Fujairah. Then in August 2020, the WT Integrity Unit was established in Lausanne, later moving to Seoul in August 2022. Most recently, the WT Safeguarding Initiative now being presented received approval in June 2023.
70. The initiative establishes a framework for building global capacity. He presented the key elements including the creation of a new WT Integrity Unit in WT's Seoul office and designation of integrity officers from each Continental Union as well as technical officials, all certified through the IOC's Safeguarding Officer in Sport program. In addition, the WT's Integrity and Juridical Committees will provide oversight. And mechanisms for online reporting are already in place, such as an independent hotline, the IOC hotline, and WT's integrity and disputes related emails.
71. He highlighted that the WT Integrity Unit's responsibilities encompassed establishing a global implementation framework; providing the rules, policies, and procedures needed for the smooth functioning of the framework; developing and overseeing certification programs for WT license holders; coordinating awareness campaigns; monitoring compliance at events and reporting mechanisms; evaluating reports and conducting investigations; liaising with external organizations; and managing disciplinary processes and sanctions.
72. He provided more information about how the IOC's three-spheres approach will be adopted: at the organization level, during promoted and recognized events, and across the Taekwondo

community. As the organization level, WT establishes rules, allocates resources, implements mechanisms, and manages cases. At the events level, regional and event safeguarding officers oversee monitoring, enforcement, and awareness-building activities. And at the Taekwondo-Movement level surveys will be conducted, and resources and information are disseminated across the Taekwondo community. This approach aims to build global capacity to manage cases consistently and effectively.

73. As for target timelines, he mentioned that upon amendment of WT Competition Rules, IOC-certified safeguarding officers will be required at G4 events and above, beginning in 2024. Towards this end, WT nominated 13 individuals for the IOC's Safeguarding Officer in Sport Program. The plan is to implement this requirement at the start of 2024, but with a transitional period until mid-2024.
74. Additionally, he highlighted that Safeguarding and Prevention of Manipulation of Competition Certification will become mandatory for WT's athletes and officials license holders. He said that a free online certification course, developed in collaboration with the IOC Safeguarding Unit and the PMC Unit, will be hosted on the GMS platform and linked to event registration. The goal is to launch it by the end of 2023, enforce it for specific events by mid-2024, and eventually extend it to all WT License Holders.

#### h. Anti-Discrimination Policy Update

75. The **CHAIR** invited the Secretary General to give the final report in relation to the anti-discrimination policy.
76. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** emphasized achieving high standards of governance and the importance of the anti-discrimination policy within this context. He mentioned that the policy was adopted by the Council in December 2019 in Fujairah and was recognized as an "Example of Good Governance Practice" by the ASOIF in 2022. Its primary goal is to promote diversity, equal rights, and combat discrimination.
77. He discussed the steps taken to ensure geographic diversity and enhance gender balance at the WT 2021 Elections, including electing at least one female member per Continental Union and promoting the female candidate with the most votes to Vice President. He also mentioned the application process for WT Permanent Committees 2023-2025, which encouraged candidates with preferred qualifications and considered factors like geographical distribution, gender balance, and athlete representation.
78. He highlighted the development of the WT Eligibility Regulations for Transgender Athletes, also recognized as a best practice by the ASOIF. Lastly, he mentioned Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) and Community as a focus area in the WT Sustainability Strategy, aiming to ensure the inclusion and equitable treatment of minority groups and underrepresented individuals in Taekwondo and society.

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## 5. Discussion

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- a. Allowance of Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in continental level
79. The **CHAIR** asked the Secretary General to provide an update on the status of athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports.

80. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** reported that during the Baku World Championships, athletes holding Russian and Belarusian passports were permitted to compete as Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) without any issues, a practice recognized as successful. Under the leadership of **Mr. Sakis Pragalos**, WT Vice President, the Review Committee diligently monitored and screened the eligibility of these athletes. However, there has been an increasing demand from Russian and Belarusian athletes, making continued monitoring more challenging.
81. He added that to address this challenge, an independent specialized company was contracted, particularly skilled in online investigations. In this regard, when an athlete's name is provided, the company can provide results within a week, ensuring independence and trustworthiness.
82. He also mentioned that during the Council meeting in April this year, it was decided to allow these athletes to participate, starting with WT promoted events and potentially expanding to continental levels. Recently, ETU requested their participation at the European level; therefore, the Council must now decide whether to extend permission for continental participation.
83. He emphasized that regardless of the Council's decision, from an administrative standpoint the first step is to secure the services of an independent monitoring company, as WT has done.
84. **Mr. Hassan Iskandar**, Council Member, suggested sending the athletes' names to WT for eligibility screening to ensure compliance.
85. The **CHAIR** underscored the high cost associated with that approach, since the contracted independent company charges per screened athlete.
86. **Mr. Mohamed Shaaban**, Council Member, emphasized that events at continental level or G1 and G2 events could involve a significant number of athletes and officials. He suggested passing the responsibility for eligibility checks to the Continental Union. He also highlighted the importance of monitoring athlete behavior over time and the associated paperwork. He questioned if there might be alternative cost-effective methods.
87. **Mr. John Kotsifas**, Vice President, expressed no objections but raised concerns about the cost for some Continental Unions. He suggested athletes could potentially bear the cost.
88. The **CHAIR** intervened and suggested involving each Continental Union for further discussion.
- b. Height Categories of Cadet Division
89. **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** briefly addressed the issues with the cadet division's height category, with plans to assess and respond after the World Cadet Championships in Bosnia. He added that the Sport Department is planning to hold interviews and/or surveys at the event.
90. The **CHAIR** noted that this marks the first time the height division is introduced. He added that meetings will be convened in Bosnia with participation from MNAs' Presidents and officials to discuss the matter in greater detail.

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## 6. Other Matters

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91. **The CHAIR** asked the Council if there were any matters to be raised before closing the meeting, and no matters were addressed.

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## 7. Next Council Meeting

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92. The **CHAIR** announced that WT will organize a joint training camp for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Muju, Taekwondowon from May 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> next year. Consequently, he proposed holding the next Council Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> as an Extraordinary session.

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## 8. Closing of Meeting

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93. The **CHAIR** expressed gratitude to the Council for their presence, both in Chuncheon and online, and acknowledged the importance of the decisions made during the meeting, emphasizing their significance for the future of World Taekwondo.
94. The **CHAIR** adjourned the Extraordinary Council Meeting.