



## Minutes

WT Extraordinary Council Meeting (via conference call)

20h00-21h00 | 1 February 2021 (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 November 24, 2020
4. Amendment
  - a. Regulations on the Administration of the International Kyorugi Referees
  - b. Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code
  - c. Regulations on the Administration of the WT International Coaches
  - d. Regulations on the Administration of the WT Educators
  - e. Regulations on the Administration of the WT Technical Delegates
5. Discussion
  - a. Overview of WT Events in 2021
    - Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic
    - World Championships in Wuxi
    - Grand Prix Challenge, Urban Games, etc.
  - b. World Taekwondo Women's Open Championships in Saudi Arabia
  - c. Governance Improvement Recommendations
  - d. Oceania Qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
6. Other Matters
7. Next Council Meeting
8. Closing of Meeting

Appendix 1: Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting via video conference on November 24, 2020

Appendix 2: Amendment Proposal

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

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At 20h00, Secretary General Hoss Rafaty announces that twenty-nine (29) 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 first Council meeting in 2021.

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

1. Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Vice President
2. Mr. Athanasios Pragalos, Vice President (By the request of Mr. Pragalos, Mr. Antonio Barbarino is present at the meeting on behalf of Mr. Pragalos.)

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## **2. President Report**

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The Chair welcomes all the Council members to the first World Taekwondo Extraordinary Council Meeting in 2021. He notes that this year's first meeting was supposed to take place in Bangkok at the kind invitation of Pimol but WT has to do it virtually again as there are travel restrictions still in place in many countries.

The Chair wishes that 2021 will be a happier and healthier year for everyone. He remarks that there has been a number of changes since the last Council meeting in November including election of Prof. Jinbang Yang as president of the Korea Taekwondo Association in December and election of Mr. Dongsup Lee as the President of Kukkiwon last week. The Chair congratulates Prof. Yang and Mr. Lee.

He announces that Taekwondo is back in the programme of the 2023 European Games to be held in Krakow, Poland. He thanks Mr. Pragalos, President of WTE, his team, and all the Council members in Europe for the contributions and commitment over the years.

The Chair remarks that the biggest question that the world of sport has been asking over the past year will the postponed Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. He said that on January 25<sup>th</sup>, he participated in a call with Thomas Bach, IOC President, and the other Summer international federations in which IOC President emphasized that there is no Plan B. He stresses that WT stands in solidarity to deliver the Tokyo Games in less than six months' time. He adds that the IOC President advised the NOCs to speak to their respective governments to get their athletes and officials vaccinated before leaving for Tokyo in a separate call.

The Chair comments that World Taekwondo is planning as if the Tokyo Games will go on, and WT still has two more qualification tournaments to go in Asia and Europe, which are both expected to be completed by May. He mentions that the IOC President also spoke about the CAS decision on the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, and the IOC is now working with WADA to come up with one set of guidelines and principles that all IFs have to comply with. The IOC President also encouraged all IFs to look at virtual sports. The Chair is pleased to inform that World Taekwondo is at the forefront of digital innovation, including on active esports.

He continued that he chaired the second IFAC meeting on January 28th where he presented Tech-kwondo to the Global E-Sports Federation (GEF) and other IFs, and they were impressed by how technologically advanced and integrated WT is. He also notes that the biggest event

in the World Taekwondo calendar besides the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is the Wuxi 2021 World Taekwondo Championships. The Chair thanks Mr. Dejun Sun and his team, and the host city for huge support and dedication.

The Chair mentions that the dates of the World Championships have been changed slightly in agreement with the host city and organising committee, and also IOC President said that he looks forward to attending this event, which would make it three straight times that he has participated in WT World Championships. If the IOC President attends the WT Championships, then there is also a high chance that the President of the People's Republic of China attends WT Championships. I believe that Mr. Sun will try his utmost best to make it happen.

The Chair notes that WT expanded online education programme to include more stakeholders, and in total, 3,317 people benefitted from the online courses so far which also helped generate much needed revenue for the Continental Unions and Member National Associations. He also mentions that WT organised a very successful 1<sup>st</sup> Online World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in November, which attracted the participation of more than 1,580 athletes and families from 98 countries. He announces that WT will organise seasonal online poomsae championships this year to truly connect with the grassroots, thanks to overwhelming success of the inaugural event.

The Chair remarks that WT also organised the 1<sup>st</sup> World Taekwondo Gender Equity and Women Leadership Forum in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee, and he wishes to extend his appreciation to Ms. Sarah Stevenson and Ms. Hadwah Moawad from the Taekwondo for All Committee for delivering an outstanding forum, and Ms. Maria Borello for the inspiring presentation. The Chair announces that the second forum will take place on March 6 to 7, to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8.

The Chair also announces that WT Super Talent Show is expected to launch in end of February, and notes that WT Demo Team has been invited to participate in America's Got Talent this April. He thanks to Secretary General Hoss Rafaty for his coordination. The Chair comments that WT and FISU will jointly organise an international university sport forum on April 30, and WT will also organize One World One Sport Taekwondo conference that will take place in Taekwondowon from June 18 to 20 in partnership with Jeollabuk-do which is the state that hosted 2017 Muju World Taekwondo Championships.

As part of the seasonal online poomsae Championships, the Chair addresses that WT intends to organise virtual friendly poomsae competitions between the refugee camps of Azraq and Zaa'tari, in commemoration of World Refugee Day on June 20, and that WT will also organise numerous activities to commemorate key international days, such as those recognised by the UN and WHO this year.

The Chair wishes to resume WT competitions and generate revenue for stakeholders to emerge stronger for the post-COVID-19 world. He assures that WT will deliver safe competitions despite risks involved in restarting events. He asks all members to support WT initiatives, and stresses that WT will become a much stronger, safer, and respected IF.

He concludes his report and moves on to Agenda 3, Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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### 3. Approval

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The Chair asks Council to approve the minutes as there was no comments while the minutes 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 November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 are approved by the Council.***

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### 4. Amendment

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a. Regulations on the Administration of the International Kyorugi Referees

The Chair asks Mr. Jay Lee, Senior Director of Sport & Event Management Department, to present the amendment.

Mr. Lee explains the current requirements for promotion to 3<sup>rd</sup> class. He proposes that the one holding P Class should be promoted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class at the right next screening for promotion after being promoted to Kukkiwon 4<sup>th</sup> Dan regardless of payment for the prescribed annual fee of the year.

The Chair thanks Mr. Jay Lee and asks Council to approve the amendment proposal to the Regulations on the Administration of the International Kyorugi Referees. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to Regulations on the Administration of the International Kyorugi Referees are approved by the Council.***

b. Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code

The Chair asks Mr. Corbin Min, Director of Legal Affairs Office, to present the amendment proposal.

Mr. Min addresses that the purpose of this amendment is to streamline dispute management procedure in consideration of time and resources while maintaining appropriate due process standards in compliance with the good governance indicators. He adds that WT will be able to issue the decision directly while maintaining the due process requirements in consultation with the Juridical Committee for every step, under this new code.

The Chair thanks Mr. Corbin Min, and asks Council to approve the amendment proposal to the Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to Disciplinary Actions and Appeals Code are approved by the Council.***

c. Regulation on the Administration of the WT International Coaches

The Chair asks Mr. Jungseok Yoo, Education Director of Member Relations & Development Department to present the amendment.

Mr. Yoo proposes that the article 4.2.2 (Applicant who has coached at the WT promoted

Championships in the previous year;) and the article 4.2.3 ((Applicant who has a command of the English language both in speaking and writing, not applicable for level I) should be removed as these were enforced on a temporary basis and therefore the only requirement for applying for Level II will now be holding valid Level I WT Coach Certificate.

He also presents that local language will be added as supplementary language on top of English as the official teaching language (Article 4.4.8).

The Chair thanks Mr. Jungseok Yoo and asks Council to approve the Amendment Proposal to the Regulation on the Administration of the WT International Coaches. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to Regulation on the Administration of the WT International Coaches are approved by the Council.***

d. Regulation on the Administration of the WT Educators

Mr. Jungseok Yoo continues presenting the amendment proposal.

He addresses that the only change is adding local language as supplementary language to ensure educational contents are effectively delivered (Article 4.2.8) to Educators.

The Chair asks Council to approve the amendment proposal to the Regulation on the Administration of the WT Educators. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to Regulation on the Administration of the WT Educators are approved by the Council.***

e. Regulation on the Administration of the WT Technical Delegates

Mr. Jungseok Yoo lastly presents the amendment.

Mr. Yoo proposes that the applicant who failed at the course should be able to apply for the course (1) one time within (2) two years without additional fees.

The Chair asks Council to approve the amendment on the regulation of the Administration of the WT Technical Delegates. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Amendment Proposal to Regulation on the Administration of the WT Technical Delegates are approved by the Council.***

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## 5. Discussion

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a. Overview of WT Events in 2021

The Chair asks Mr. Jay Lee to present the overview of WT Events in 2021.

Mr. Jay Lee notes that a total of 72 events are listed in WT event calendar including Olympic and Paralympic Games as of now. He notes that all ranking points earned in 2021 Kyorugi events shall be reflected only 75% toward next Olympic Cycle.

He adds that there are 15 WT Promoted Events while there are pilot projects such as WT Women's Open Championships (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 8-10), WT Grand Prix Challenge (Muju, Korea, September 11-16), WT Urban Championships (Goyang, Korea, September TBD), and Online Events (Super Talent Show and Quarterly WT Poomsae Open Challenge).

The Chair thanks Mr. Jay Lee and asks him to continue presenting the next item.

b. World Taekwondo Women's Open Championships in Saudi Arabia

Mr. Jay Lee explains that this event is designed to support women Taekwondo and only women athletes and referees will be allowed to participate. He adds that it would be the first initiation of WT's offline activity since Covid-19 breakout.

The Chair thanks the host city and organizer for preparing for healthy and safe event. He adds that it is supposed be held on 8 March 2021 in commemoration with International Women's Day, but the date has been postponed and will be confirmed later.

c. Governance Improvement Recommendations

The Chair asks Mr. Jerry Ling, Chief of Staff, Cabinet of the President, to present the Governance Improvement Recommendations.

Mr. Jerry Ling reiterates that the Chair's expectation for WT is to become one of the most respected IF by 2023 which marks WT's 50<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. He mentions that the governance improvement recommendations would therefore highlight a pathway to achieve better governance in the coming years, and WT's target is to aim for at least 180 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> ASOIF governance assessment review, which would represent a 40-point improvement from the 3<sup>rd</sup> review.

He adds that integrity is one of the key categories that need to be improved on, with a 13-point gap between existing score and what WT aims to achieve. He notes that the creation of the Integrity Unit and its close working relationship with the Integrity Committee is a key factor to improving this category. He addresses that amongst the targeted indicators for improvement are achieving gender balance in the WT Council from its current 19% to 40% and ensuring that MNAs sign off on and adhere strictly to the Code of Ethics.

He also addresses WT's weak point, which is term limits of officials in the Democracy category. He notes that officials in model IFs tend to serve a maximum of three 4-year terms and serve a waiting period before applying for a new role.

Furthermore, under the Development/Solidarity category, he mentions that WT needs to improve on conducting independent audit and monitoring on how WT development funds are used by MNAs and CUs. He explains the necessary rule amendments that will be presented to the WT Council for approval at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Pimol Srivikorn, treasurer, states that while it is ideal to achieve better governance, WT should do so appropriately without rushing.

Mr. Ling agrees with Mr. Srivikorn that WT should review the governance improvement recommendations carefully and develop a strategic pathway to achieve these targets within an appropriate timeline.

The Chair thanks Mr. Jerry Ling for the presentation.

d. Oceania Qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

The Chair mentions that this topic of discussion was added at the request of Mr. John Kotsifas, WT Vice President and President of Taekwondo Oceania. The Chair gives the floor to Mr. John Kotsifas.

Mr. John Kotsifas explains that 2 athletes registered (W-49kg) for the Oceania Qualification Tournament for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, but 1 athlete failed weigh-in, and 1 athlete did not show up for weigh-in, therefore, there was no eligible athlete in Oceania. His position is that any vacant place caused at the continental qualification tournament should remain available for that pertinent continental union such as awarding the quota to the next highest ranked athlete in the continent.

The Chair gives the floor to Mr. Corbin Min to present WT's position on this topic.

Mr. Corbin Min mentions that there have been consultations and reviews by WT Technical Committee. As a result of the review, he says that Technical Committee was persuaded ~~that~~ it is improper to change rules with other qualifiers are pending. He states that Technical Committee's recommendation was not to change the rules and revisit the rules after the Tokyo Games.

The Chair thanks Mr. Corbin Min and Mr. John Kotsifas for the opinions. The Chair believes that the pathway is clear, and Oceania had its chances, and WT should not make any precedent or exception that could create another unexpected scenario or dispute in the upcoming qualification events.

The Chair proposes to the Council that the number of qualified athletes for the Tokyo Games be reduced by one so that the number of athletes going to Tokyo will therefore be 127 instead of 128. He notes that this is certainly not ideal but in respect of the existing rules and process and for the sake of fairness, WT should not make any exception. He asks Council to agree with this proposal. This is seconded and approved by the Council.

***Decision: Council approves the number of athletes to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is reduced to 127.***

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## **6. Other Matters**

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The Chair invites Mr. Marco Ienna, Director of Lausanne Liaison Office and manager of the Integrity Unit who will be leaving World Taekwondo in March.

Mr. Marco Ienna thanks all council members for support and help. The Chair appreciates Mr. Ienna for his hard works for World Taekwondo.

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## **7. Next Council Meeting**

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The Chair notes that the next council meeting was originally scheduled to take place in a hybrid format at the Olympic House in Lausanne in April in conjunction with IOC Executive Board Meeting, but the IOC has informed WT that it is uncertain whether IOC EB Meeting itself would be held under the ongoing pandemic and preparations for the Olympic Games.

He informs the council that WT will organize a hybrid format Extraordinary Council Meeting in Seoul, Korea on April 22 to 24 if quarantine measures are relaxed. He adds that the next meeting will be held on April 21 if travel restrictions are still strongly enforced.

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## **8. Next Council Meeting**

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The Chair thanks all Council for the participation in this first virtual Extraordinary Council meeting of 2021 and mentions that there is much to be done but also much to look forward to. He wishes all council members a happier and safer 2021.

The Extraordinary Ordinary Council meeting is hereby adjourned.