



**20<sup>th</sup> WT MRD Commission Meeting (via conference call)**  
**April 17, 2024 | 16h00-17h00 (KST)**

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**SUMMARY**

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Attendees: Ms. Maria Borello (Chair), Mr. Hassan Sadok (Vice Chair), Ms. Hadwah Moawad (Vice Chair), Mr. Maher Magableh (Member), Sister Linda Sim (Member), Mr. Usman Dildar (Member), Ms. Seungmin Lee (Senior Director, MRD), Mr. Corbin Min (Legal Counsel), Ms. Haeri Jeon (Manager, MRD), Mr. Wooram Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), Mr. Woongki Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), and Ms. Claudia Cardenas (Coordinator, MRD)

**1. Welcoming Remarks**

- *Ms. Maria Borello, Chair, welcomed all the members for the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of MRD Commission.*
- *Six (6) members attended the meeting; thus, the quorum was established.*

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

- *Ms. Maria Borello asked for the approval of the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> MRD Commission Meeting held on October 31, 2023. The minutes were approved by the MRD Commission.*

**3. Report**

**a. Luxembourg**

- *Ms. Haeri Jeon presented that Luxembourg Taekwondo Federation (LTF), formerly part of the Federation Luxembourgeoise des Arts Martiaux (FLAM), has transitioned into an independent organization overseeing Taekwondo in Luxembourg, supported by the Ministry of Sports and the Luxembourg NOC. To ensure proper recognition, consultations with the WT Juridical and Integrity Committee have led to the following steps: These requirements include confirming the absence of governance concerns within the current FLAM, obtaining confirmation in English that there will be no changes in the leadership structure, securing English confirmation from the appropriate authorities in both FLAM and LTF, and ensuring that the statutes meet WT's basic requirements and have the support of the European Taekwondo Union (ETU). She stated that once the MRD Commission approves the recognition process for the LTF separate from the FLAM, it will be presented at the upcoming WT Extraordinary Council Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2024 in Muju, Korea.*
- *All members agreed with this recognition process.*

**b. Portugal**

- *Ms. Haeri Jeon provided an update on the restoration of Portugal's full membership status. The former association PORTKD lost its public utility status in 2020 due to issues with filing. In 2023, PORTKD voluntarily withdrew their membership status, and Federação Portugal Taekwondo (FPT) was granted Conditional WT Provisional Membership. This provisional membership entails efforts to incorporate athletes from the former association and evaluation by the ETU.*
- *She further elaborated that in February 2024, both the ETU and the Portugal NOC reported that the FPT is in good standing, with no objections to the restoration of full membership. She stated that if the MRD Commission approves their full membership status, it will be presented at the upcoming WT Extraordinary Council Meeting.*



- **Mr. Usman Dildar** noted the importance of adhering to the recognition criteria, which supports having only one Taekwondo governing body in each country.
- All members supported the recognition of full membership status for FPT.

#### c. Malta

- **Ms. Haeri Jeon** mentioned that the Malta Taekwondo Association requested a review of their Tier status and a reduction in the annual membership fee due to their limited resources, including a small number of athletes and coaches. Given the circumstances of Member National Associations (MNAs) like Malta, where there are fewer than 10 athletes, **Ms. Haeri Jeon** requested the MRD Commission to consider revising the status of 7 MNAs, including Malta.
- **Ms. Maria Borello** stated that there are also many impoverished countries like Guatemala, where they lacked National Olympic Committee (NOC) support for two years, resulting in no assistance being provided. However, they haven't requested a reduction in annual membership fees.
- **Mr. Usman Dildar** emphasized the significance of evaluating the efforts made by MNAs with fewer GAL and GOL licenses to develop Taekwondo in their respective countries over the past years. He stated that while waivers could be considered in the event of a national disaster, he disagreed with the notion in the case of Malta's situation.
- **Ms. Hadwah Moawad** suggested that in the event of a request for review of Tier status and a reduction in the annual membership fee, it seems necessary to set a process such as submitting a report detailing efforts made over the past few years to increase the number of athletes affiliated with the MNA.
- **Mr. Corbin Min** acknowledged the valid point raised by the MRD Commission, and that the Commission can revisit this item after receiving a more detailed briefing.

#### d. Potential New MNA

- **Ms. Haeri Jeon** reported that WT is in communication with the British Taekwondo and the French Taekwondo Association to encourage territories like Gibraltar (a British overseas territory), Mayotte, Réunion, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and Wallis Futuna (French overseas territories) to apply for WT Associate Membership.
- **Mr. Hassan Sadok** added that the French Taekwondo Association is particularly collaborating closely with Mayotte, Réunion, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and he is anticipating they will become WT members in the near future.
- **Ms. Maria Borello** inquired whether Gibraltar, being proficient in both English and Spanish, could potentially be involved with both the British and Hispanic Associations being formed at the moment.
- **Mr. Hassan Sadok** responded to Ms. Maria Borello's question, stating that such a scenario is indeed possible.
- **Mr. Usman Dildar** emphasized the importance of having clear guidelines for athletes and officials of new MNAs to follow, ensuring that they exclusively belong to one MNA.
- **Mr. Hassan Sadok** concurred with Mr. Usman Dildar's point, citing Tahiti as an example where there are three associations, each claiming to be the official association.

## 4. Discussion

### a. India



- *Mr. Corbin Min* reported that despite four years of efforts, including support from WT and IOC, WT's new MNA in India has not been able to normalize its situation. He further stated that WT has received an assessment report that raises concerns about the MNA in India's ability to normalize its situation in the foreseeable future, even by the time of the Los Angeles Games.
  - *The concern is that, should the situation continue on its current trajectory, the potential harm to the athletes and the development of the sport in India is serious enough that WT feels it necessary to consider taking strong action.*
  - *He stressed that WT wants to give the MNA an opportunity to cooperate positively in the resolution process before taking action. However, in case the MNA is reluctant to cooperate, WT needs to be positioned to take stronger action if needed. The WT Integrity and Juridical Committee reviewed this situation and agreed that it is serious enough to consider Statutes Art. 8.6 action, which requires approval of the MRD Commission. He then walked the Commission through the language of Art. 8.6.*
  - *Ms. Hadwah Moawad* inquired about the specific cooperation expected from the current MNA in India.
  - *Mr. Corbin Min* explained that WT has proposed that a working group be established in collaboration with their NOC and the Ministry of Sport. This group would aim to engage with the broad Taekwondo community and work towards unifying Taekwondo within India. He expressed hope that this issue would be resolved smoothly, along the lines of the resolution in Portugal.
  - *Mr. Maher Magableh* pointed out that in many competitions, individual clubs or individuals who are not members of the Association often come to the venue to register, not through their MNA.
  - *Mr. Usman Dildar* proposed establishing a clear agreement with Kukkiwon and Asian Taekwondo Union to ensure alignment with WT standards.
  - *Mr. Corbin Min* requested confirmation from the MRD Commission regarding the proposed procedure.
  - *There were no objections from the MRD Commission.*
- b. WT Intellectual Property (IP) use by member organizations**
- *Before delving into the item, Mr. Hassan Sadok* excused himself, citing the need to go to another appointment.
  - *Mr. Corbin Min* highlighted that WT's Trademark Bylaws, dating back to 2015, need updating. He mentioned that, fortunately, WT previously undertook research into how to update this document, and there is a research report and other materials available. He said that the experience with the WT Global Integrity Unit (GIU)'s working groups has been positive and that this practice appears to be the appropriate model to get this project back on track. He concluded by stating that a calling notice for the working group will be circulated after the May Council meeting, and the timeline will be to produce a proposed update to the Trademark Bylaws (WT Intellectual Property Bylaws) for adoption by the end of the year.
- c. Risk Assessment: Categories**
- *Mr. Corbin Min* reported that in order to comply with Olympic governance expectations, WT must establish active risk management practices. To satisfy this requirement, WT formally adopted a risk management policy in January of this year. The policy mandates the GIU to undertake a risk assessment and produce a risk registry. Towards this end, the GIU has formed



a risk assessment working group to lead the process. The working group is working both on a set of risk categories, which will be both an assessment tool, to help ensure risks are comprehensively considered, as well as an educational tool, to help explain what risks WT should consider.

- He noted that the working group is expected to approve an initial set of proposed risk categories during its meeting next Tuesday, April 23, and after this meeting, the categories will be shared with other stakeholders including MRD Commission for feedback.
- In order to keep the timeline, he asked MRD Commission to provide any feedback to the categories by May 7. He added that any members who are interested in joining the working group will be more than welcomed.
- **Mr. Usman Dildar** proposed that the MRD Department should be present at WT promoted events to address this issue with the working group.
- **Ms. Hadwah Moawad** inquired whether safeguarding officers are required to be present at all events.
- **Mr. Corbin Min** responded that WT plans to start implementing safeguarding officers at G4 events and above next year (2025). However, WT wants to ensure that whoever assumes the role of a safeguarding officer is properly qualified for the position, so the rollout of this requirement is being taken with due caution.

#### **d. GMS Dispute Management**

- **Mr. Corbin Min** reported that, as discussed with the MRD Commission last October, the GMS Bylaws have been updated to help clarify the rights of athletes vs MNAs in GAL disputes, and the first case heard under Bylaws 5.1 is now ongoing, involving the Cyprus MNA. He mentioned that the new rule and procedure should help clarify to both athletes and MNAs their respective rights and responsibilities. One potential issue is when the reasonableness of an MNA's GAL-related requirement needs to be determined. He said that in cases of reasonableness like this the MRD Commission will be consulted.

### **5. Other Matters**

- **Ms. Hadwah Moawad** inquired about the existence of guidelines or required documents that need to be provided in order to become a MNA of WT.
- **Ms. Seungmin Lee** responded that there is indeed a guideline for becoming a MNA, and they need to fulfil all the requirements outlined in it.
- **Ms. Hadwah Moawad** proposed holding meetings with MNA Presidents to provide them with updates on and clarification of WT rules.
- **Ms. Maria Borello** noted that Continental Unions are collaborating closely with their respective MNAs to ensure alignment with WT standards
- **Mr. Usman Dildar** proposed that the risk management, safeguarding, and branding of WT should be integrated into the Competition Supervisory Board (CSB) and Technical Delegate (TD) education program to equip them with this knowledge, as they are also representing WT.

### **6. Next Commission Meeting**

- **Ms. Seungmin Lee** announced that the date and time for the next meeting will be announced in due time.

### **7. Closing of Meeting**



- *Ms. Maria Borello thanked the members of the MRD Commission and WT Administration for their contributions to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.*