



**22<sup>nd</sup> WT MRD Commission Meeting (via conference call)**  
**September 9, 2024 | 15h00-16h00 (KST)**

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**SUMMARY**

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Attendees: Ms. Maria Borello (Chair), Mr. Hassane Sadok (Vice Chair), Ms. Hadwah Moawad (Vice Chair), Mr. Usman Dildar (Member), Mr. Jeongkang Seo (Secretary General), Mr. Corbin Min (Legal Counsel), Ms. Seungmin Lee (Head, MRD), 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 to the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the MRD Commission.*
- *Four (4) 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 the 21<sup>st</sup> MRD Commission Meeting held on May 9, 2024. The minutes were approved by the MRD Commission.*

**3. Discussion**

a. Amendment proposal to WT Statutes

- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo mentioned that the meeting of today will focus on those pertaining to the MRD Commission instead of reviewing all the items and proposed statute changes.*
- *The current composition of the Council, consisting of 37 seats, has been identified as potentially unsustainable and less efficient. Following consultations with experts from other International Federations, it has been suggested that a reduction to 25 seats would enhance governance. In light of this, the President has given up six of his appointment seats, retaining only the authority to appoint one Vice President and one member. Furthermore, it has been proposed that the Vice President position be opened to elections, which would increase the proportion of elected officials on the Council.*
- *While the current system allocates a specific number of seats per continent, the new system will guarantee one male and one female representative per continent. This shift aims to focus not only on continental representation but also on electing capable members who can contribute more. Discussions have been held with the Presidents of the Continental Unions (CUs), and they agree that the changes will improve governance and sustainability. Some of their proposals have already been integrated into this restructuring.*
- *He continued to address regarding improving the engagement of Member National Associations (MNAs). WT wishes to introduce a Level 3 membership category for MNAs that have stayed in Level 2 for more than four years. These Level 3 members would not be eligible to apply for WT development programs. WT will work with National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to determine whether to keep these MNAs or recognize other organizations within their countries.*
- *WT aims to make it easier for MNAs to maintain voting rights by lowering the requirement for participation in the Championships from sending two athletes to one. Additionally,*



participation in Continental multi-sport games will count as fulfilling event participation requirements. This is expected to increase the number of MNAs with voting rights.

- **Ms. Hadwah Moawad** asked whether there is a specific time frame involved. For instance, if they were in Level 3 and meet all the necessary criteria, whether they automatically advance to Level 1, or there is a sustainability period they must observe before transitioning to Level 1.
  - **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** replied that it has not yet specified the exact process. WT has only outlined the general principle in the statutes. WT can establish a clear process, as suggested. Even if they meet the necessary requirements, it may be prudent to require them to complete a checklist before advancing. It would be beneficial to have a defined procedure in place.
  - He also mentioned the issue of the verification process of MNA elections, previously handled by the NOCs. This method had challenges as many NOCs failed to notify results properly and timely. In response, the responsibility was shifted to CUs, but this approach also proved inefficient, as CUs struggled to verify the results across all MNAs in their continent. After benchmarking best practices from other International Federations, a new proposal was developed. This involves two key steps: Firstly, every two years, MNAs will fill out a form about their officials, including a pledge to sign confirming the election was held in line with their constitution. Secondly, within 10 days of the election, MNAs will report directly to WT, potentially copying their NOC and CU, confirming the legitimacy of the process. If there is any protest or legal issue, WT will step in to resolve.
  - **Ms. Maria Borello** said that if there is no protest after an election, it can be challenging to confirm the legality of the process, especially in countries where people may not be familiar with how to file a protest. She suggested to have the confirmation for the higher authority in their country.
  - **Mr. Corbin Min** mentioned that WT's standard practice is to try to work with local authorities when an MNA leadership dispute emerges. However, because each country has its own laws, customs and practices, the level of cooperation varies. Also, sometimes those authorities can have vested interests and be part of the problem in trying to find the proper solution, and at other times, view Taekwondo as a low priority and thus not want to get involved. This inconsistency makes it difficult to specify a particular rule to follow for all cases.
  - **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** highlighted the challenges of dealing with different systems in each country. In some places, like Mexico, the NOC rarely involves the MNA governance, while in others, the NOC strictly oversees it. Ultimately, as the autonomy of MNAs is already established in WT statutes, they must be accountable. If they fail to comply, sanctions or suspensions may follow. The focus is on giving MNAs the opportunity to fulfill their responsibilities properly.
  - **Ms. Maria Borello** added that MNAs may publish their election results to their website for transparency.
- b. MNA Election Report Form
- **Mr. Corbin Min** informed the Commission that, with the upcoming changes to the Statutes, WT will be taking back responsibility for dealing with MNA election concerns from the Continental Unions, which were given oversight over that area in 2021. This is because there has been inconsistent follow-up among the CUs, and when an issue does arise, it typically falls on WT to resolve in any case. The CUs were tasked with the role of confirming MNA elections to replace NOCs, which had been the practice before 2021, but relying on NOCs was problematic for the reasons previously discussed under agenda item "a" of this meeting. As the new practice and based on discussions with WT's Ad-Hoc Governance Advisory Group, WT will require MNAs to provide a standard reporting form both together with the MNA Survey and



also within 10 days after their elections. The reporting form will not only require the reporting of the identity of key officers, but also require the signing of an integrity pledge. It will also require confirming the official MNA bank account and must be signed by at least two officials, in order to help avoid issues with unauthorized accounts. An integrity pledge requires MNA officials to align with WT regulations, maintain transparency, foster integrity, follow WT policies, ensure financial accountability, and avoid actions that damage relationships with WT or other MNAs. WT may ask all MNAs to submit this as part of their getting credentials for next year's General Assembly.

- **Mr. Usman Dildar** commented that it is important to emphasize the implementation of safeguarding policies at the MNA level. Many MNAs are not following these policies, so WT may include a requirement for them.

#### **4. Other Matters**

- **Mr. Hassan Sadok** raised the concern that Associate Members from French territories, such as French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, do not have voting rights under the current rules. However, the athletes from these Associate Members are able to compete independently from France in World Championships. This creates a complex situation, as these territories are French departments but operate separately in competitions. This issue requires further study.
- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** accepted the concern from **Mr. Hassan Sadok** and WT will study to find the remedy regarding the rights of the associate members.

#### **5. Closing of Meeting**

- **Ms. Maria Borello** noted that the proposed statutes amendment is in good direction for better governance of World Taekwondo and thanked the members of the MRD Commission and WT Administration for their contributions to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.