

TABLE TENNIS CANADA
Board of Directors Meeting
(By ZOOM Teleconference)
Thursday, 21 May 2020, 7 pm (Ottawa time)

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

In attendance:

Alayna Chan	Athlete Representative
Rob Chan	Administration & Finance
Najam Chishti	Competitions
Thorsten Gohl	Marketing
Chandra Madhosingh	Education
Attila Mosonyi	Technical Matters
Adham Sharara	Chair & President

2. Approve Minutes of 9 April 2020

- There being no errors, corrections or omissions, the Minutes were adopted as a true representation of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held on 9 April 2020 .
- The President signed the original Minutes.

3. Update and Information

3.1 Finances

3.1.1 Audit progress

- Rob Chan provided an update. The Audit is progressing according to schedule and it is anticipated that it would be ready in 2 weeks. Jeremy Carvalho is working with the Auditors providing what they need.
- The Finance and Audit Committee had a preliminary meeting with the Auditors at the beginning of May to prepare for the Audit.
- Rob Chan will contact the Auditors to ensure that the final Audit is ready with enough time to distribute to the Members Council before the SGA on 20 June 2020.
- The Finance and Audit Committee will look at the draft Audit report before it is finalized and will make its recommendations to the Board.

3.1.2 Anticipated financial outcome at 31 March 2020

- Rob Chan referred the Board to the internal financial statements he circulated related to 31 March 2020, and the latest internal FS circulated a few days ago related to 15 May 2020 showing a considerable reduction to the deficit.
- He also reminded the Board of the message of caution sent by the President indicating that the current status reflects funding received by Sport Canada but lower expenses due to the Covid-19 virus. Expenses will be according to budget once the provinces and municipalities start the re-opening process.

- Rob Chan estimates that the 3-year deficit-reduction plan may be reduced to 2 years if all goes well.

3.1.3 Sport Canada funding confirmed (Q1 received)

- The first quarter (April-June 2020) funding of \$112,000 from Sport Canada was received on 7 May 2020.

3.1.4 Special Emergency Sports Fund (applied)

- The federal Government has provided a \$500 million emergency fund to Sport, Art and Culture in Canada. \$72 million is allocated to “sport”, of which \$34.5 million is designated for NSOs, MSOs, etc.
- TTCAN applied for the special Emergency Sports Fund available through Sport Canada that could provide between 5% and 25% of the previous year’s funding. A response has not been received yet.
- This fund will compensate for additional expenses and the loss of income due to the impact of the Covid-19 virus.
- It was clearly explained by Sport Canada that “duplication” is not allowed. Therefore, this fund cannot be used for the same purpose as other emergency subsidies such as the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

3.1.5 Financial operations (Ottawa)

- As of 1 April 2020, all financial matters are handled from Ottawa by Melanie Ostashek, Operations Manager.
- Jeremy Carvalho is still engaged in relation to the ongoing 2019-2020 Audit.
- Once the Audit complete, Rob Chan and Adham Sharara will discuss the next steps regarding the financial operations for TTCAN
- In response to a question regarding the outstanding unpaid Nova Scotia ratings invoice, the President responded that an amount is still outstanding. The NSTTA paid a partial amount towards the invoice equal to the prior year’s amount but refused to pay the entirety of the 2019 ratings fee. NSTTA is the only province/territory that has not paid the full ratings fee.
- The president was asked to resolve this issue prior to the Special General Assembly so that all participants at the SGA are in good standing.
- The president will contact the NSTTA president to resolve this matter amicably.
- Accounts payable: All payables have been paid with two exceptions;
 - a) the disputed unapproved legal bill for unauthorized work commissioned by the previous CEO. The President is in discussion with the law firm regarding this invoice.
 - b) An invoice from a coach for which a confirmation is needed.
- Accounts receivable: all receivables have now been collected with the exception of the NSTTA and 2 ParaTT athletes. Ian Kent is helping Melanie to collect the ParaTT receivables.
- This is a huge change from a year ago when TTCAN had of \$292,000 in payables and over \$43,000 in receivables.

3.2 Impact of Covid-19 on activities and finances

- Total loss estimate is around \$80,000 to \$90,000 plus additional expenses.

LOSSES

3.2.1 Canadian Championships cancelled (Sr and Jr)

- As per the decision of the Members Council in April 2020.

3.2.2 Lost sponsorships and entry fees

- TTCAN will lose the entry fees from Senior and Junior Championships, around \$20,000 and \$25,000 respectively.
- TTCAN will lose sponsorship income of around \$10,000 for Juniors and \$20,000 for seniors

3.2.3 Lost/reduced Rating fees

- TTCAN cannot charge the same rating fees as in 2019 (\$20,000). The fee will have to be reduced proportionally by some percentage based on activity.
- The Board can decide the amount near the end of the year when matters are clearer.

SAVINGS

3.2.4 CEWS: 75% salaries subsidy (6+ weeks)

- Gabe Ng (Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee) has applied on behalf of TTCAN for a Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy of 75% of the weekly salary of our employees (maximum \$875 per person per week). He has already applied for the first 2 periods (4+4 weeks) starting 15 March 2020.
- This subsidy program has now been extended to 31 August 2020.
- This subsidy does not apply to Jeremy Carvalho and Dejan Pasic who are service providers and not employees, it does apply to Michele Matthews, Marles Martins and Melanie Ostashek.

3.2.5 Staff travel – No expenses

3.2.6 National Team program – Reduced expenses

3.2.7 All programs – Reduced activity, therefore reduced expenses

3.3 Staff/Consultants update

3.3.1 Marles Martins – Fulltime as of 15 May 2020

- In addition to his current responsibilities (Coaching Certification, Sports for Life, Long Term Athlete Development, etc.), Marles Martins will work on the implementation of the new National Circuit (Grand Prix) competitions and the new Team 2028 program for athletes U-12 as part of the TTCAN "Next Generation" program together with the Competitions Committee Chair and the High Performance Commission Chair.

3.3.2 Ian Kent – Honorarium based as of 1 May 2020

- Ian Kent started his activities near the end of April with the mandate of starting a new development plan for ParaTT in Canada.
- He is working now with Michele Matthews preparing the Canadian ParaTT Championships for the end of September in Mississauga at “My TT Club”.

3.4 ParaTT program and Committee

- John MacPherson was offered the position of Chair of the ParaTT Committee, unfortunately he declined.
- Provinces/Territories will be asked to nominate members for the committee, and the Board will decide the composition and Chair at its next meeting or by e-mail.
- Chandra Madhosingh asked about the status of Stephanie Chan's “Wild Card” possibility for the Paralympic Games.
- Now that the Paralympic Games have been postponed to August 2021, Ian Kent will check the procedures and deadlines for nominating Stephanie Chan.

3.5 Competition Program

3.5.1 National Circuit

- Rémi Tremblay, Marles Martin and Dejan Papic will work on the details of the program, mainly the start dates and the requirements at each event of the circuit, get approval from the Board and then inform the provinces/territories.

3.5.2 Team 2028 (Next Generation) U-12

- Team 2028 is a new long-term program starting in 2021 to prepare young players for the 2028 Olympic Games. Details will be finalized in next 2-3 months.

3.5.3 New Ratings

- The new Rating description and changes are now ready based on the initial input received.
- The new documents describing the Ratings, the Point Exchange Table and the Bonus Points table have been distributed to all concerned for final input before running the new system.
- The main feature will be to enter results online and directly into the system.
- Some feedback has already been received with some concern regarding the “Activity Condition” requiring a player to be active at least once every 6 months. The other concern expressed is the reduction in points lost by the loser of a match. All input will be analyzed carefully, and some modifications may be made accordingly.
- One very welcomed change is that results would be entered using a unique ID number for each player, rather than the player's name.

3.6 Provincial/Territorial concerns to the Board

- The President indicated that he sent a message to all provincial/territorial associations, with a copy of the Board's agenda and asked if there were any concerns that the Board should address. No concerns were received.
- The Board decided to continue this practice.

4. Decisions

4.1 New Brunswick TTA membership

- Moved by Najam Chishti; Seconded by Thorsten Gohl:

1-BoD-15.05.2020

Be it resolved that the New Brunswick Table Tennis Association be provisionally re-admitted as a member of Table Tennis Canada pending the confirmation of the recognition by the New Brunswick government (Sport Authority) and the endorsement of the Special General Assembly on 20 June 2020.

Carried Unanimously (7-0-0)

4.2 Canadian Championships alternative

- After some discussion it was decided to follow Attila Mosonyi's recommendation that the President refer this matter to a Working Group (WG) composed of Alayna Chan, Athlete Representative and Board member, the Chairs of the Competition Committee (Rémi Tremblay) and High-Performance Committee (Dejan Papic), and the Competition Manager (Marles Martins).
- The WG will be asked to propose a workable alternative to the Canadian Championships, within time and budget limitations, and respecting the provincial and municipal restrictions with regard to the Covid-19 virus.
- The reduced alternative event to be limited to a small number of players and held preferably before the end of 2020, with the objective of ensuring that the title of "2020 Canadian Champion" is awarded for the year 2020 possibly for seniors, juniors, cadets, mini-cadets, U-21 and over 40 categories.

5. Other

5.1 Special General Assembly (20 June 2020)

- By the deadline of 20 May 2020, confirmations were received from 18 voting members from a total possible of 19 (12 MC +7 BoD)
- Nunavut will not attend and did not give a Proxy
- NWT gave its proxy to Thorsten Gohl
- NB will attend as observers and hopefully be re-admitted as Member.
- Documents will be sent to the delegates in advance, especially the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements, and the 2020-2021 Budget.

5.2 Athlete Commission

- Alayna Chan and Adham Sharara will meet to discuss modifications to the document prepared by Alayna, and the implementation plan of a new TTCAN Athlete Commission.
- The final document to be approved by the Board prior to implementation.

5.3 Lawyer fees

- The issue regarding 2 invoices from the lawyer from “Sport and Law” was discussed. These invoices are from March-April 2019 for work done by the lawyer, commissioned by the previous CEO and 2 previous Board Members. These invoices were not paid by TTCAN.
- The President was recently contacted by one of the partners of the Law Firm to whom he explained the situation clearly and re-confirmed that the previous CEO and the 2 previous Board Members did not have the authority to engage a lawyer for the purpose of removing another member of the Board (the president).
- The partner of the law firm understood the issue and promised to come back with a solution.

5.4 Officials (Umpires & Referees) development program

- The president reported that he has corresponded with Joe Fisher, Manager of the Officials Program, and asked him to use the current low-activity period to work with the Officials Committee to produce the promised 4-year development plan for Umpires and Referees.
- The main purpose of the plan is to increase the number of umpires and referees at all levels, and in particular to have a group of new national and international umpires.
- This would be achieved through a plan with courses, evaluations and exams over the next 4-year period. Due to delays and the current restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus, the plan would start as of January 2021 at the latest.

6. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. (Ottawa time)



Chair: Adham Sharara