

TABLE TENNIS CANADA  
**Board of Directors “Update & Information” Meeting**

(By ZOOM)

Thursday, 29 October 2020, 7:30 pm (Ottawa time)

**MEETING REPORT**

**Roll Call**

Board members in attendance:

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

Invited to attend:

Melanie Ostashek      Operations Manager

**1. Sport Canada Update**

- The President provided an overall update on TTCAN's reports to Sport Canada and explained the content of the meeting held with Sport Canada officials (conference call) on Monday 26 October 2020.
- The Sport Canada funding for 2021-2022 to TTCAN will be at the same funding levels as this current financial year. Sport Canada postponed the new funding criteria by one year due to the pandemic and postponement of the Olympic Games.
- The President provided a summary of where we stand with regard to the special funding priorities for Sport Canada and his comments provided to Sport Canada on a more efficient way for claiming the quarterly funding, as well as Sport Canada's role relating to government priorities such as Gender Equity, Safety in Sport, Official Languages, etc.
- The President informed Sport Canada that it may be more productive and beneficial for Sport Canada to fund Government priorities by first using the available funding in producing a "base product" and "templates" developed by Sport Canada with a team of experts. In this case the first year (or more) funding would be used by Sport Canada to set a base product to move us a long way forward. Once the base product is ready, the funding would be provided to the NSOs to adapt the "base product" or template to their own sport specific needs and then implement a plan and new initiatives accordingly. That would save a lot of time and effort, and the funds would be better used this way.

**2. North America Table Tennis**

- The President explained the very serious issues regarding the North American TT Union (NATTU), the ITTF North America (ITTF-NA) and the effects on TTCAN. He also reported on his conversations with USATT regarding this matter.

- It was decided that TTCAN lodge an official complaint to the ITTF based on the current unacceptable situation regarding the structure of the Continental body for table tennis in North America. This complaint will be supported by USATT.

### **3. ITTF Suspension Update**

- Adham Sharara updated the Board with regard to his ITTF suspension and explained that a settlement agreement is being negotiated and that probably the suspension would end prior to the date of the Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS) hearing, which is scheduled for 30 November to 2 December 2020. In the case that a settlement is not reached, he felt very confident in winning the case at the CAS.

### **4. Financial Planning**

- A detailed discussion took place regarding the best use of the TTCAN finances in the current financial year and to set-up income provisions for the next financial year. Many ideas were discussed on how to best use the TTCAN's financial resources for the benefit of table tennis in Canada and for the specific benefit of the Member provincial and territorial associations.
- As TTCAN did not spend any funds in the area of competitions due to the postponement of the launch of the new National Circuit and the delay in the start of the U-12 and U-13 competitions (part of Team 2028 program), both due to the pandemic, it was suggested that the budgeted funds be used to equip our Member associations with high quality equipment, in particular competition tables and sports flooring. The Operations Manager will survey the Member associations for their needs.
- It was also suggested, that a one-time subsidy be provided to the Member associations to ensure full participation of all provinces and territories at the next National Championships (Senior and Junior) in July 2021. The President and the Vice-President (Finance) will prepare a budget for this purpose in order to determine the level of the subsidy.
- Other possible ideas will be sought and discussed at the next Board meeting.

### **5. New TTCAN Logo**

- The President explained the work done by Thorsten Gohl to coordinate the production several samples for a new logo. Eventually a logo similar to the current one, with some modifications, was presented to the Board in advance of the meeting for approval. It was felt that the selected logo was not the best choice justifying a change from the current logo. It was also reported that more logos were presented by another source, but none were adequate for our purposes.
- It was decided that TTCAN engages a professional firm to develop a new branding program including a logo that could be used for all purposes (with some variations) such as letterhead, uniforms, pins, certificates, etc. Several options would be provided from which the Board would choose the most adequate. The new logo to be implemented in the new year (2021). In the meantime, the current logo will continue to be used.

### **6. Officials for the 2023 Canada Winter Games**

- The Board had received from the Officials Committee the nominations for officials for the 2023 Canada Winter Games (CWG) for the Referee, Deputy Referee, and their alternates. Thorsten Gohl was asked by the Board to respond and to ask the Officials Committee to adjust the selection in order to ensure a regional balance (East-West) for the selected officials and to provide the adjusted selection prior to this meeting.

- The Board received on time the adjusted selection, which now respects the East-West balance as requested. However, the Board will ask the Officials Committee to have 2 alternates for each position, rather than one only, for various reasons that were discussed during the meeting.
- The Board also questioned the “rotation” method for the selection of officials and whether it was used for the CWG selection, as it may be “perceived” that some officials get selected more often than others. Another question was whether a request of availability was sent to all eligible Referees in advance of the selection or not. These points are for the information of the Board to better understand the procedure and do not affect the proposed selection which was approved as follows:
  - **Referee:** Briant Won (ON)            Alternate: Hong (Hope) Xing (AB)
  - **Deputy Referee:** Greg Dzioba (MB)            Alternate: Erica Ans (NS)

#### **7. Gender Equity Awareness Webinar**

- The first in a series of online webinars will take place on ~~14~~ 21 November (in English) and on ~~15~~ 22 November (in French) as an “Awareness” seminar explaining the principles and background of Gender Equity and Gender Equality.
- This will be an “open” one-hour webinar open to all, but a particular group will be requested to attend as part of their current functions within TTCAN: The Board, staff, committee chairs, MC, national coaches group, athletes commission, etc.
- Following this awareness seminar there will be a series of specific webinars, each targeting a specific group according to the Gender Equity Plan.
- TTCAN is also preparing a series of 4 practical videos “Girls in Table Tennis” on how to introduce young girls to our sport. The first video is already done, we are now waiting for the rest of the series.

#### **8. Other**

- Following the meeting, a member of the Board asked if TTCAN’s ZOOM account could be used by member associations. It was agreed that this would be welcome, and the TTCAN Operations Manager will make the necessary arrangements accordingly.

#### **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm (Ottawa time)

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Chair: Adham Sharara