



**18<sup>th</sup> WT MRD Commission Meeting (via conference call)**  
**March 14, 2023 | 15h00-16h00 (KST)**

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**SUMMARY**

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Attendees: Ms. Maria Borello (Chair), Mr. Hassan Sadok (Vice Chair), Mr. Maher Magableh (Member), Sister Linda Sim (Member), Mr. Jeongkang Seo (Secretary General), Mr. Corbin Min (Legal Counsel), Mr. Justin Tenbeth (Director of GMS), Mr. Wooram Kim (Assistant Manager, MRD), and Ms. Claudia Cardenas (Intern, MRD)

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

- *Four (4) members attended the meeting; thus, the quorum was established.*

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo, Secretary General, asked for the approval of the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> MRD Commission Meeting held on January 27, 2023. The minutes were approved by the Commission.*

**3. Report**

**a. New Membership - Namibia**

- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo reported the status of the application for membership of Namibia Taekwondo Federation (NTF). He mentioned that the statutes of the federation have been submitted but the application fee has not been paid yet.*
- *He mentioned that following procedures NTF may be presented as a 213<sup>rd</sup> member in the upcoming General Assembly in Baku.*

**b. MNA Survey Update**

- *Mr. Jeongkang Seo informed that the MNA Survey Report 2023 (General and Per MNA) is under development and that the results will not be made public yet. He highlighted that rather than publicizing the results, a customized report will be delivered to each MNA that participated in the survey for them to be able to identify the key areas for improvement.*
- *Ms. Claudia Cardenas summarized that 163 MNAs submitted the survey showing a 76.9% response rate. She briefly described that five sections were evaluated with five indicators per section for a total of 25 indicators scored from 0 to 2. She emphasized that all questions required evidence such as file attachment, website link and comments, and that if no relevant evidence was attached, the given score was 0. She noted that the objective of the survey was to evaluate the governance of each MNA, and to find the most appropriate solutions to enhance it. Regarding the timeline, she stated that the Per MNA Survey Report 2023 will be created by the end of March at the latest; and the General MNA Survey Report 2023 will be included in WT Annual Report presented during the 2023 General Assembly in Baku.*
- *She presented the preliminary results of the survey. She briefly mentioned that based on the moderated scores of the survey 6 MNAs were allocated in A1 Rank (41-50 points), 26 MNAs in A2 (31-40 points), 46 MNAs in B1 (21-30 points), 60 MNAs in B2 (11-20 points), and 25 MNAs in C (0-10 points). She also mentioned that 49 MNAs did not participate in the survey.*
- *She explained that the Per MNA Survey Report 2023 will show the self-assessed score, the moderated score by WT, and the qualification criteria. In addition, a comparison chart will be included with the moderated score of the MNA and the average score of all MNAs. She*



mentioned that the provided information will allow each MNA to identify and recognize what areas they need to improve for the next survey.

- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** pointed out that the high response rate received was due to the effort of the GMS team by translating the survey into different languages such as French, Arabic, and Spanish.
- **Ms. Maria Borello** claimed that to increase the response rate in the future even more, the key is better communication and support for MNAs.
- **Mr. Maher Magableh** seconded Ms. Maria Borello's opinion adding that translation into different languages plays an important role to gather additional and more precise information.

#### 4. Discussion

##### a. Restoration of membership (resolution required) - Singapore

- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** briefly described the context of the suspension case of Singapore Taekwondo Federation (STF). He pointed out that there is no reason to keep the suspension given the recent development and actions taken by STF to improve the case. He also explained that the basis for lifting the suspension is the STF's compliance and fulfillment of the key areas for improvement as recommended by WT and SNOC.
- He proposed the Commission to lift the suspension of STF. The Commission seconded the motion.

##### b. Situation in Portugal

- **Mr. Corbin Min** summarized that in early 2020 POR MNA (PORTKD) lost its "Public Utility Status" due to problematic filings with the authority. In 2020-2021, working in consultation with ETU, PORTKD said it had a plan to normalize its situation by getting the required documentation submitted within a matter of months. Before Tokyo Games, the NOC informed WT that under local rules they are unable to work with an entity that does not have the required status. However, with the urging of WT and with the expectation that PORTKD would receive the needed recognition within a reasonable time, the NOC eventually worked with PORTKD to provide a pathway for athletes to the Tokyo Games. WT also provided a letter of good standing to PORTKD for use in their local filings.
- He shared the recent developments on the situation explaining that in December 2022, PORTKD informed that their government gave "Sport Public Status" to another federation: FPTKD. In response to WT's query, the NOC informed that they are not in a position to continue working with PORTKD given the situation. After inquiry by WT, PORTKD informed that they do not expect full normalization before January 2025 (if ever).
- He said that the original loss of recognition does not appear to be due to external malicious actors. However, no material progress has been made in normalizing its status despite two years of effort and PORTKD does not see a pathway to normalize before the Paris Games and may never be able to normalize.
- He continued that for the sake of Taekwondo in Portugal, the recommended course of action for WT is to seek urgent recognition of the new federation. At the same time, to ensure that the athletes from the current federation have an equal opportunity to participate in the new federation.
- He explained that the process would be first to ask PORTKD to voluntarily withdraw its membership (to avoid forced removal). Then, to offer WT Provisional Membership to the new federation 'FPTKD' under the condition that there will be reasonable efforts to incorporate PORTKD athletes and provide them with opportunities for participation in team selections.



*ETU will be asked to assess those efforts. He concluded that the progress would be evaluated at the end of 2023 and full recognition could be granted as early as the beginning of 2024.*

- ***Ms. Maria Borello** claimed that is reasonable to give provisional membership to the new federation. She added that WT current member, PORTKD, was causing problems by blocking athletes and not allowing them to participate.*
- ***Mr. Maher Magableh** agreed on the proposed recommendation emphasizing the importance of officially recognizing the new federation.*
- ***Sister Linda Sim** expressed her support to the proposition mentioning that working with the new federation would be convenient for all the involved parties.*

**c. Update to GMS Policy/Bylaws (balance between athletes and federations)**

- ***Mr. Corbin Min** presented a proposal to update the GMS Rules. First, he addressed the reestablishment of the athlete citizenship or residency requirement. He mentioned that athletes must have a license from the MNA of their citizenship or residency. Proof of residency can be shown through a residency card or official document based on the residency standards of the relevant country. However, exceptions can be made if the MNA of citizenship agrees.*
- ***Ms. Maria Borello** inquired about what happens when athletes are residents in countries different from the ones of their citizenship.*
- ***Mr. Corbin Min** clarified that the only scenario when the license is required from the MNA corresponding to the athletes' citizenship is when they represent a flag or participate in a national team.*
- ***Mr. Maher Magableh** commented that it is important to ensure that athletes are able to move freely. He inquired about the process to follow when athletes want to switch to another national team.*
- ***Mr. Corbin Min** said that in such a case athletes must follow the procedure modeled after the IOC and available at the WT competition rules.*
- *He continued explaining that part of the proposed amendments to GMS Rules is to put MNAs under strict time limits for approving or denying GALs. Upon completion of athletes' applications, MNAs will have 10 working days to approve or deny them. If denied, MNAs must demonstrate that the denial was based on a procedure that respects due process and natural justice. Timeline rules must be published by MNAs as part of their GAL rules. In case of complaints received by WT, the loser must pay a \$100 fee plus any costs. In case of a pattern of improper denials, the MNA must improve or face escalating sanctions. He added that the reason for imposing a fee to the loser is it is to prevent the parties involved from taking the process lightly.*
- ***Ms. Maria Borello** asked about how to communicate these new requirements to MNAs so they can appropriately meet the 10-day deadline. She suggested that after GMS receives an application, it should be sent to CUs to track it.*
- ***Mr. Corbin Min** commented that implementing that suggestion is complicated due to the limited capacity of both CUs and GMS. He added that micromanaging should be avoided.*
- ***Mr. Justin Tenbeth** pointed out that GMS team will jointly work with WT to communicate the amendments to the members.*
- ***Ms. Maria Borello** further suggested that WT should make mandatory for MNAs to have the rules published on their website. Consequently, athletes could access the rules more easily since they will be available in their own language.*
- ***Mr. Corbin Min** continued explaining the proposed amendments. He explained that the default rule is that there will be no automatic MNA membership upon GAL approval, unless new rules*



are explicitly agreed to by the MNA. If an MNA requires national membership as a prerequisite for GAL, then the MNA must have an efficient system to process the applications in accordance with the standards; if not, they should drop that prerequisite.

- He concluded that the rules will be updated and passed in rulemaking before the May 2023 GA and go into effect on June 1, 2023. Existing licenses that conflict with new rules will be grandfathered in for the remainder of their then-current validity.

**d. Member National Association: Basic Requirement**

- **Mr. Corbin Min** addressed the Commission to discuss about the basic requirements for a MNA to preserve its status as a member or otherwise be subject of removal. He mentioned current requirements such as application documents, membership fee, participation in events, and reporting. He briefly suggested possible requirements such as being a local legal entity, being recognized as a national sport body, having a certain level of taekwondo, hosting events, or having different types of development. He asked for the Commission's opinion on this matter.
- **Ms. Maria Borello** opined that the MNAs should be recognized by their NOC, Confederation, Ministry of Sport, or any other relevant higher authority. She added that this authority could provide information to WT of the MNA's status.
- **Mr. Hassan Sadok** agreed suggesting that this higher authority could also provide evaluation documents to WT as it is usually part of their regular activities.
- **Mr. Maher Magableh** added that in most cases these authorities carry out regular audits of the MNAs as they provide funding to the MNAs. He suggested that making such information a requirement for members could be effective.

**5. Other Matters**

- None

**6. Next Commission Meeting**

- **Mr. Jeongkang Seo** announced that the date and time for the next meeting will be announced in due time.

**7. Closing of Meeting**

- The **Chair** thanked the members of the Commission and WT Administration for their contributions to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.