

## ITTF ATHLETES COMMISSION

Pursuant to the recommendation of the IOC 2000 Reform Commission that “*athletes should be well represented at all levels of the sports movement*”, the IOC encourages IFs to form their own athletes’ commissions.

### 1. MISSION

The mission of the ITTF Athletes’ Commission (hereafter “Commission”) is to represent the views of the athletes and make their voice heard within the ITTF.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Commission are to:
  - 2.1.1 consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the ITTF
  - 2.1.2 represent the rights and interests of athletes and to make related recommendations
  - 2.1.3 maintain contact with the IOC Athletes’ Commission.
- 2.2 The Commission shall have the following specific tasks and activities:
  - 2.2.1 to establish a means of seeking athletes’ opinion on issues of major importance in TT through as wide a network of enquiry as possible;
  - 2.2.2 to keep the ITTF BOD regularly informed of athlete opinion on issues of major importance in TT;
  - 2.2.3 to report to the ITTF BOD on organisational issues that may arise in connection with athlete participation at the different competitions organised under the ITTF umbrella;
  - 2.2.4 to provide opinions on specific issues of athlete interest that may be entrusted to it by the ITTF;
  - 2.2.5 to promote a “healthy image” and “fairplay”;
  - 2.2.6 to be the link between active athletes and ITTF;
  - 2.2.7 to liaise and consult with other Committees and Commissions, where appropriate;
  - 2.2.8 to contribute to the promotion and fostering of the worldwide development of TT.

### 3. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

- 3.1 The Commission is composed of 11 members:
  - 3.1.1 5 athletes elected during the World Championships
  - 3.1.2 1 athlete elected during the Para WC
  - 3.1.3 5 athletes nominated by the ITTF Executive Committee
- 3.2 They must be at least 16 years of age and have never been sanctioned for a doping offence.
- 3.3 It will not be possible to have more than 2 representatives of the same National Association (NA) except:
  - 3.3.1 1 elected and 1 nominee from the same NA
  - 3.3.2 2 nominees from the same NA
- 3.4 The length of the term of office is 4 years. It may be renewed. In case of inactive nominees members they may be replaced after 2 years by the EC.
- 3.5 The member of the IOC Athletes’ Commission from TT *is automatically* a member of the Commission.

### 4. ELECTED MEMBERS (6)

- 4.1 Elections: the ITTF organises the election on the occasion of the World Championships (WC) the year following the election of the ITTF EC. However, the first elections should be held in 2011 at the WC in Rotterdam for a period of 3 years only. Then the next elections will be held in 2014 and every 4 years thereafter.
- 4.2 Organisation of elections: the information must be sent by the ITTF secretariat to all NAs and the best 100 men and women players in the ITTF World Ranking list in due time.

- 4.2.1 Eligibility criteria: candidates must meet the following criteria:
- a) must be nominated by his/her NA prior to the World Championships where the election takes place or having participated at the previous World Championships
  - b) must be 16 years of age at the time the election takes place
  - c) must not have been sanctioned for a doping offence
  - d) must have been selected by his/her NA
  - e) a NA may present more than one candidate.
- The eligibility of each candidate is decided and confirmed by the EC at its meeting held at least one month prior to the world championships.
- 4.2.2 Presentation and submission of candidatures: “Same timelines as the other elections” to be discussed with the Operations Manager.
- To be admissible, the candidature proposal must include the following documents and be received by the ITTF by the date set in the invitation:
- a) a candidature form, duly signed by the candidate and the President of his/her NA
  - b) a complete biography form
  - c) a recent passport photo
- 4.2.3 Election process
- a) Electorate: all athletes taking part in the WC have the right to vote
  - b) Information: the ITTF will publish an election leaflet which presents all the candidates and gives general information on the elections (dates, locations, voting procedure etc.)
  - c) Voting procedure: it is described in the election manual and shall in any case comply with the following principles:
    - each player has one vote
    - the vote must be exercised in person and by secret ballot
    - voting by proxy or correspondence is not allowed
    - abstentions, blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority.
  - d) Elected athletes: the candidates who obtain the highest number of votes are elected to the Commission.
  - e) Tie: in case of a tie, preference is given:
    - to a candidate of a continent not yet represented
    - to a candidate to balance gender equity
    - finally to the highest ranked candidate in the ITTF World Ranking.
- 4.2.4 Election campaign: the election campaign and process must be organised and conducted by the ITTF Operations Department.

## **5. APPOINTED MEMBERS (5)**

After the elections, the EC can complete the membership of the Commission with a maximum of 5 other members (active or *retired* but former players having taken part at least at one WC) in order to ensure a fair balance in terms of continents, gender equity etc.

## **6. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION**

He /she will be proposed to the EC (and endorsed by) by the commission itself. He/she could be an active or retired player.

## **7. REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE ITTF**

7.1 The chair of the Commission or his/her representative is a full member of the BOD

7.2 The Commission is represented within the ITTF EC by its Chair (or his/her representative) “ex officio” without voting rights.

## **8. MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

- 8.1 The Commission meets at least once a year before, at, or after the World Championships at the same place.
- 8.2 The ITTF is responsible for ensuring, within its means, that the Commission is able to meet
- 8.3 Travel: the ITTF is responsible for 100% of the cost of a prepaid ticket or the agreed economy class fare for those athletes who are not participants at the WC from the member's home city to the designated meeting site.
- 8.4 Accommodation: the ITTF is responsible to provide all members full board accommodation for the official dates stated in the invitation to the meeting.
- 8.5 The working language of the commission will be English.

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