

ANNUAL TWIF CONGRESS AGENDA
April 2010
London England

1. Address by the President. President McKeever welcomed the members and thanked the English Association for organizing the congress on short notice. Mr. McKeever sited the concerns of the volcano effecting the air travel. Many members scheduled to attend the congress were unable to attend due to flight cancellations.

2. Roll of the members. By the Secretary

The following 11 member countries were present:

Brunei	England	India	Italy	Japan
Latvia	Netherlands	South Africa	Turkey	United States
Wales				

2.1 Confirmation of a quorum. Yes

2.2 Proxy votes from: Belgium, Ireland, Canada, Germany & Scotland

3. Confirmation of the members present in good standing. The Treasurer Mr. Rabe confirmed that all members present were in good standing.

4. Appointment of scrutineers. Mr. Dyer from England and Mr. Kaul from India were appointed scrutineers. The congress was in agreement.

5. Confirmation of the minutes of Congress 2009. Proposed by South Africa and seconded by India to accept the minutes as written. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

6. Matters Arising No matters Arising.

7. Report covering the period since the last Congress.

REPORT FOR CONGRESS LONDON, 2010, BY THE PRESIDENT.

The TWIF Executive met on three occasions since last Congress, at the European Championships in the Netherlands, at the World Indoors in Italy and here in London earlier this week. The following are some of the issues which we have dealt with during that time;

World Games, 2009.

These took place in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei last July. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend but reports indicate that our input was very successful. Indeed some World Games officials stated that tug of war was among the best received sports on show. The fact that Chinese Taipei won the gold medal at the Ladies 520K class ensured that this event was particularly well supported.

Congratulations to all teams and officials who took part. I realise that many of you had long and expensive journeys.

A special word of praise to our Technical Delegate, Dr. Jerry Lee, and also to Glen Johnson, Secretary General. Gerry was an excellent link person on the ground and Glen went through a mountain of work leading up to the Games. I suppose that is one of the few criticisms of the World Games generally, namely the volume of paperwork involved, particularly since none of us are professionals working full time in the sport.

GAISF/SPORTACCORD/ARISF/IOC.

Our relationship with these organisations is of the utmost importance to us for many reasons, not least our position in world sport and also funding purposes. I was privileged to attend the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen in September, 2009. I have already completed a report on that Congress which hopefully most of you will have seen in the last TWIF magazine.

As things stand at present we will not be a part of the 2012 or 2016 Olympics. In 2011 we are due to complete our next major report for the IOC and in 2013 the latter will decide those sports for inclusion in the 2020 Games.

There are several reasons for this. The major one is our lack of universality – South America is a glowing example of an area where we are virtually non-existent. In just over one week's time I am due to attend the Sportaccord Conference in Dubai. I have been attempting, through the Conference "networking" system to arrange meetings with the Columbia World Games delegation as we are due there in 2013.

The relatively small percentage of our members who take part in TWIF Championships on a regular basis has been highlighted and needs to be addressed.

Another problem with our Olympic aspirations is our lack of widespread media coverage. It was enlightening at Copenhagen to hear so many sports with a much higher profile than us complain bitterly about having missed out on 2016.

The IOC also informed me that there is no longer any such thing as a "demonstration" sport. They did, however, agree to contact the London Organising Committee for the Games (LOCOG) with a view to the staging of a localised competition "in association" with the London Games of 2012.

However, I do see light at the end of the tunnel. Our sport was well received by the two senior IOC officials with whom I met. Our amateur status and low cost basis are strong points in our favour and our organisational capacity at international level is also to our advantage.

FELLOWSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT.

We were able to support Sweden for the work done by their Association in promoting the development of our sport in Denmark. The latter took part in the open clubs championship at Assen and I was able to speak at length to two of their senior members present. They represented the Royal Danish Naval Academy but were attempting to widen the scope of their organisation.

I am also aware that Italy and Scotland have been working together and the fruits of their liaison were very obvious at the recent World Indoors. I would encourage much more of that kind of exchange. More recently I have been working with Turkish officials with the objective of meeting their request for a development course in their country in the near future.

We are also currently liaising with China in respect of a course which would cater primarily for the Asian region but would also be open to participants from any part of the world who might wish to attend. That is provisionally listed for March, 2011 but is still very much in the planning stage.

POLICY PLAN.

We review this at every meeting and continue to progress the various issues. School age development features prominently and I would ask all countries to make every effort to introduce and consolidate our sport at that level. We have recently produced a brochure on DVD which has been distributed to countries at the past two TWIF championships. Please use it.

WEIGH-IN FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The Executive has given some thought to the possibility of introducing individual weigh-ins at future events, starting with South Africa in September of this year. I emphasize that this would be on a trial basis till we establish whether it can be done smoothly and that it is acceptable. After that we can take a decision on whether to proceed on a permanent basis.

COURT CASE.

On a less pleasant note I have to say that the Court Case taken against us by a plaintiff in the Republic of Ireland is still in existence. We hope that it comes to a conclusion sooner rather than later but legal issues tend to endure for much longer than anticipated. We anticipate that there will be legal costs to be paid but at this stage it is very difficult to estimate those accurately.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

These have been drawn up and agreed by the Executive. They are designed to assist the very important job done by Representatives, particularly the flow of information/communication at both national and international level.

VISA APPLICATIONS.

In many countries it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain visas, either to attend Congress or Championships. The Secretary General issues official invitation letters but often the host country will need to support the TWIF letter with a separate invitation. We have compiled an information sheet for countries, detailing the kind of information which should be included within that invitation letter.

DUNLOP INDOOR MAT WORK-PLAN.

Several countries have recently acquired Dunlop rubber mats and have enquired about the details of assembly. A work-plan, accompanied by some explanatory photographs, has been compiled by a Northern Ireland club and placed on our website.

TWIF JUBILEE.

The membership will be aware that in 2010 we celebrate TWIF's 50th birthday. This was celebrated at the recent World Indoors and again at Pretoria this September. Thanks to our Secretary General jubilee medals have been produced and have been/will be issued to championship officials this year. Likewise, each country at Congress will receive a medal.

I am also pleased to report that Mr. Co. Koren has assembled a very comprehensive database covering our past and is currently compiling articles based upon those facts and figures. It is intended that these should form the basis of a jubilee magazine which Anton Rabe will have printed in South Africa in time for the World Outdoor Championships.

Cathal McKeever.
President, Tug of War International Federation.

Mr Kaul from India raised the subject of visa applications. When applying for visas much more information is expected from the applicant. For example the host country must inform each applicant of full details of the Officers within the host country Federation. This information needs to be included on the host

country letterhead paper. Mr Rabe, Mr Ludkin and Mr Trocchi also made contributions to the discussion highlighting amongst others that applications should be made timeously and that Missions/Embassies of the host country in member countries should be informed that they could expect visa applications for specific events.

8. Finance. By the Treasurer

8.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts

The Treasurer gave a power-point presentation of the balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the period 1 November 2008 to 31 October 2009. Copies were circulated to the members prior to the congress. Proposed by South Africa and seconded by the United States. Mr. Kaul questioned the status of the members in arrears. Mr Rabe explained that arrears payments are dealt with in such a way as to be fair to paid up members without destroying the new initiatives of rekindled members. It is also just paid up members who are allowed to participate at TWIF events and vote at AGM's **On a vote the Balance sheets were unanimously accepted**

8.2 Approval of the budget: Mr. Rabe presented the previously circulated Budget for 2010-2011. Proposed by South Africa and Seconded by Japan to accept the budget as presented by the Treasurer. **On a vote the budget was unanimously accepted.**

9. Affiliation of new members. The following Countries have applied for affiliation to TWIF and the ExCo propose to accept them as members of TWIF:

- Myanmar ***On a was vote unanimously accepted***
- Sierra Leon ***On a vote was unanimously accepted***
- Estonia ***On a vote was unanimously accepted***
- Bangladesh

India questioned the soundness of the application from Bangladesh.

The President informed Congress that their membership would be provisional until more information is received. Once confirmed they will automatically be accepted as full members.

On a vote accepted provisionally 10 votes for 1 abstained 0 no votes

10. Proposals and question submitted by the members and all other matters which the Executive Committee wish to propose. See Attachment (A)

11. Reports from commission.
12.1 Technical Commission. Tony Martin

TECHNICAL COMMISSION REPORT FOR CONGRESS 2010

The Technical Commission met at Congress and in Assen in 2009 and in Italy in February 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Commission for their enthusiasm and the dedication given to all matters discussed. It has been a real pleasure to chair the Commission.

In our report last year, we remarked on the use of gloves by some pullers. The case study has now been completed by Carl Mackeprang and has been discussed by the Commission. The findings have now been passed to the TWIF Executive for their deliberations.

A Judges' Refresher Course was held in Assen, because of the high number of judges that were due to take the course in 2010. Eight candidates took the course there and the majority of them passed.

1. Judges' Courses

The Commission was asked by the TWIF Executive to look at the feasibility of grading TWIF Judges who take the TWIF Judges' course (this had been a suggestion put forward from a Member Country). After discussion, the Commission agreed that our present system was sufficient. All National Associations should have a grading system and only grade one judges should be entered for the TWIF Judges Course.

2. Side Stepping (outdoor)

Currently we have a rule in place for indoor competitions but nothing outdoor. It was agreed that this problem could be dealt with either by:

- Un-gentleman-like conduct or a No Pull.

3. Evaluation of TWIF Judges

The new system was first used in Assen, however, the evaluators there felt it should be slightly modified. This has been done and was used for the Indoor World Championships in Italy and

was a success.

4. Outdoor Shoes

It was thought the present wording and the diagram for the boot needed to be changed to conform to the boot now being used. When the new edition of the TWIF Rules Manual is produced a new diagram and wording will be used.

Many more items were discussed, the above is just an outline of some of the items discussed.

Tony Martin
March 2010

12.2 PR Commission. Anton Rabe

12.2.1 The schools brochure has already been finalized by the president. The normal DVD promotion brochure is being finalized and will be ready for distribution in September.

12.2.2 The jubilee magazine is being organized by Mr. Koren as he has the archive. The convener is Mr. Rabe but Mr. Koren has much of the material dealing with the last 50 years.

12.2.3 The Magazine is a problem getting material. Thanks to Rosemary Smith for gathering the information for the magazine. Mr. Rabe stressed the fact that material for the magazine is everyone's responsibility.

12.2.4 The TWIF website is up and running, most of TWIF's policy documents are on the website. (Rules manual, Organizers manual, Term of reference documents.) Reprinting of the manuals will be done in south Africa and distributed during the 2010 World Championships.

12.3 Anti Doping. Birute Miseckaite/ Tony Martin **Anti Doping Report - Congress 2010 London**

TWIF appointed a new Anti-Doping Administrator in September 2009. The candidates chosen for interview were both extremely capable, and Miss Birute Miseckaite from Lithuania, was selected. Birute will now deal with all anti doping matters. Having said that, our thanks must go to Sue Martin for all her hard work during the period we were without an Administrator. It was Sue who started the Whereabouts Programme and Out Of Competition Testing; and she will continue to support Birute as and when required, whilst this is deemed necessary.

TWIF are now operating a Whereabouts and Out Of Competition Testing (OOCT) programme in accordance with WADA Rules. Unfortunately neither of the programmes are operating fully correctly at the present time.

Whereabouts

The TWIF Registered Testing Pool (RTP), is currently restricted to the teams and coaches who competed in the World Games 2009 in Chinese Taipei. In future this will need to be rolled out across all our Member Countries. However, with the true amateur status of our sport, I'm sure this will take quite a few years to achieve.

Meanwhile the athletes, who are involved, should be well versed enough by now to complete their Whereabouts in a timely manner. However, some athletes are not completing their information, either directly into ADAMS, or by submission of the details to the TWIF Anti-Doping Administrator (ADA), until the end of the quarter which is simply not good enough. Each quarter's details need to be on the ADAMS system before the start of the next quarter or at the very latest during the first 10 days of any current quarter. Failure to do so, can result in a 'Whereabouts Filing Failure' which can add up to serious consequences. It also does not allow TWIF to carry out OOCT which is mandatory in WADA Rules, which in turn leaves TWIF in breach of our obligation to WADA.

It is vitally important for each athlete in the RTP and TWIF, that the athletes complete Whereabouts details *correctly and on time*. During July and December 2009 eight OOCT have been completed 3 of these athletes were not at the location either training ground or home address given on their Whereabouts Programme. Attempts have been made to re-test these athletes, one has been successful, and sadly the two others were not at the addresses given. Should they miss one further test in accordance with WADA rules the TWIF Executive will have to take action, this would almost certainly mean a ban from the sport. One other country within the RTP has not submitted their Whereabouts for the last 3 quarters, this constitutes a Filing Failure and the necessary action will be discussed by the TWIF Executive.

All athletes in the Registered Testing Pool must continue with their Whereabouts Filing until they retire from the sport of tug of war. When an athlete retires they need to notify the TWIF Anti Doping Administrator and their name will be deleted from the RTP and the WADA system.

Out Of Competition Testing (OOCT)

As stated previously TWIF have to be fully compliant with WADA Rules and it is a mandatory requirement that OOCT is carried out. This started in 2009 and will continue.

12.4 Medical Panel: President McKeever reported that Dr. Jaap Wolff

retired from the medical panel sometime ago and the president sent a letter to Dr. Wolff thanking him for his services. Dr Wolff replied with a very nice letter and TWIF wish Dr. Wolff well in the future.

- 12.5 Athletes Commission: Patrick van den Heuvel reported that they have had communication within the committee and would have their first meeting in South Africa. They had their first case dealing with the high cost of accommodation packages. Hopefully the costs for the athletes will not be going higher and higher. President McKeever informed the members that this commission was suggested by the IOC and implemented last year.

13. Championships. Past present and future.

13.1 Past European Championships 2009 - the Netherlands: The secretary reported that the evaluation forms returned by the participating countries were only 4. This is a very poor response and does not give a fair evaluation of a championship. Overall the evaluation on the championship in Assen the Netherlands was very positive, with well above average marks. The secretary circulated the average scores taken from those forms returned. The technical commission also evaluated the championship with nearly the same result as those evaluations from the participating countries

13.2 World Games Results: The World Games in Taipei were very successful for TWIF. The organizers did an excellent job of preparing the facilities for Tug of War. The president stated that Dr. Jerry Li specifically worked very hard, which made the Tug of War experience in Taipei very good.

13.3 Past World Indoor 2010 - Italy: The secretary reported again that only 4 participating countries responded. Of those who responded some of the average marks were below average. The secretary circulated and gave an overview of the average evaluations. The secretary stated that these evaluations are not to belittle the organizers but to look at the areas in future championships that need

to be addressed.

- 13.3.1 President McKeever said that TWIF has had 2 letters complaining about issues during the championships. The Italian Association is dealing with these letters. The president then gave the floor to the Italian Association to respond to the problems of the championships.

Most of the problems with the championship were the accommodations. The Italians explained that this area is a summer tourist area and the hotels did not believe that there would be a large number of persons coming to Cesenatico, so hotels refused to open at this time of the year as they are normally closed. The Italian association then booked the hotels that were available. After bookings had been made “the better hotels” saw that there were large numbers of persons coming to the championships and they then opened. Unfortunately the Italian association was under contract with the hotels that they had booked and could not get out of the contract. The Italian association apologized for any shortcomings.

- 13.3.2 Chiropractors: The secretary reported that during the World Games last year in Taipei, the secretary met with officials from the Federation International Chiropractic Sport. At this time he was informed that this organization provides free chiropractors to World Championships. It was decided by the ExCo that this may be useful to tug of war. The FICS provided 3 chiropractors for the World Indoor championships Cesenatico.

The secretary sent evaluation forms to the participating countries however only 2 countries returned the form. With the results supplied by the Chiropractor the ExCo has decided to invite 4 chiropractors to South Africa. The secretary circulated the results of the chiropractic experience.

Chiropractor Results Italy 2010

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTALS
Contacts	48	43	45	38	174
New	38	23	37	29	127
Follow up care	8	18	6	9	41
2nd New Injury	2	2	2	0	6
Male	45	36	36	21	138
Female	3	7	9	17	36

Services used by the following countries

Italy, TWIF Officials, England, Ireland, China, Japan, N. Ireland, Taipei, Spain, England, (Wales- Mackeprang)

13.4 Future

13.4.1 Perpetual Trophies: With the changing of the World outdoor Championships weight classes the perpetual trophies we currently have are not inline with the current weight classes. Those countries that have supplied the perpetual trophies need to be contacted to see if the trophies should be put up for the current weight classes. The secretary reported that the US association supplier of the Len Hughes trophy has agreed to change the trophy from the 720kilo weight class to the 700kilo weight class. The George Hutton Trophy is for the 640 kilo weight class and does not need changing. The Tommy Elmore trophy supplied by Ireland for the 560 kilo weight class has to be changed to the 580 Kilo weight class. Ireland will have to be contacted to make the change. The Tagg Andersson trophy supplied by Sweden for the Women 520 kilo weight class will have to be changed to either the 500 or the 540 kilo weight class. Sweden will have to be contacted to make this change.

- World Outdoor 2010 - South Africa: Johann Moller from South Africa gave presentation during the seminar on Friday.
- Regional EC 2011 – England: Alan Ludkin and Pete Dyer from England gave

- a presentation for the 2011 Championships during the seminar.
- World Indoor Championship 2012 – Scotland: Will report during congress 2011
 - World Outdoor Championship 2012 – Switzerland: Will report during congress 2011
 - World Games 2013 Columbia: World Games Weight Classes 2013 Columbia: The congress decide to have the following weight classes: 640kgs and 700kgs men outdoor. Women's weight class 540kgs indoor. The qualifying events will take place in 2012.
 - USA World Outdoor Championship 2014: Will give an updated report during a future congress.
 - Individual Weigh-Ins for the future : The secretary stated that for some time the ExCo has thought that an individual one time weigh-in prior to each championships would be better for the athletes, more cost effective for the organizers, put less pressure on officials and organizers during a championship, and will take less time for substitutions.

The secretary circulated a test weigh taken in Cecenatico during the indoor championships in Italy. It was found that overall teams weighed a least one kilo less as team weighing individually than weighing all-together as a team. The ExCo has decided to have the championships in South Africa as a trial for the first time. This will be evaluated and if successful will be used during future Championships.

With the help of 2 technical commission members, Alan Ludkin and Johann Moller , TWIF has developed a procedure for individual weigh-ins. See below:

Individual Weigh in Procedure

1. All athletes first collect accreditation, having prepaid.
2. All potential pullers must weigh at a pre-determined time schedule, the day before the open club competition starts. The trial and official scales will be open from 0900 to 1800 hrs. The trial scales will also be open 2 days before the start of the clubs competition, 1400 to 1900 hrs.
3. An accreditation download will be carried out listing all athletes from a

- particular country. Accessible only by the controller and the appointed representative of a particular country.
4. The athlete will weigh on an individual scale. Ten sets of scales in total will be used. That athlete can weigh as many times as required on the test scales but only once on the official scales.
 5. After weighing the athletes weight will be recorded in an excel spreadsheet, and also hand written on the downloaded excel file as a back up.
 6. The athlete will be given his or her certified weight. The athlete can then give his or her weight to the coach of the team, and the weight will also be marked on the athletes hand.
 7. Open Clubs entries
 - 7.1 The coach of a particular club entering in the TWIF clubs competition will bring a completed weigh list to control at a predetermined time. The weigh list shall contain the name, accreditation number and the weight of each puller, team total weight not exceeding the weight of the particular weight class. Eight pullers and coach only.
 8. National team weigh in.
 - 8.1 The coach of a national team may choose any pullers that are listed and weighed from the downloaded excel file from his/her country.
 9. The coach of a particular national team will present a completed weigh certificate to control at a predetermined time schedule. The weigh list shall contain the name, accreditation number and the weight of each puller, team total weight not exceeding the weight of the particular weight class. Eight pullers and coach only.
 10. Control shall enter teams in a draw for a particular weigh class, after checking the weight & accreditation numbers against the completed excel downloaded list.
 11. Scanners/ Bar code readers at each corner to control substitutions, and team weight checks throughout the competitions.

President McKeever stated this will be a new experience for all of us and pullers and officials will have to be patient. Hopefully this will be a big

success in September.

14. Tenders for future championships

14.1 Tender for 2013 Regional The Netherlands:

After giving a presentation on Friday following the seminar **on a vote the congress awarded the 2013 European Championships to the Netherlands unanimously.**

14.2 Tender for 2014 Indoor Ireland & Netherlands: The Netherlands and Ireland each gave a presentation for the World Indoor Championships 2014 following the seminar on Friday.

On a vote Ireland was awarded the 2014 Indoor World Championships

9 votes for Ireland 4 votes for the Netherlands

15. Other business for the good of tug of war.

15.1 President McKeever presented a commemorative anniversary medal produced by TWIF to those international representative present.

15.2 President McKeever distributed the DVD and leaflet for schools to those members who have not already been given the DVD or leaflet.

15.3 Dirk Westerning from the Netherlands announced that there are 2 international club events to be held in the Netherlands: Veenseboys 3rd of June, 2010, Bisons 13th & 14th of August 2010, and Jagersust next year. These are all posted on the TWIF website.

15.4 Mr. Kaul asked about television coverage of Tug of War events? Mr. McKeever stated that the indoor in Italy was broadcasted by Rai television in Italy. The last World Games was broadcasted by Euro-sport, and during the Beijing Olympics the history channel in US, did a piece on tug of war. Mr.

McKeever stated that he realized that it sometimes is very hard to get coverage as some networks want to charge to broadcast. Mr. Rabe stated that it is different from country to country. Johann Moller announced that efforts are being made in South Africa to get broadcasting on Super Sport.

15.5 Contracts: Contract for future championships were signed by England. Contract for 2012 indoor and outdoor would be posted and signed due to the fact that Switzerland and Scotland were unable to come to congress because of travel interruption.

16. Future meetings:

16.1 The Netherlands invited the congress to come to the Netherlands in 2012 for Congress.

16.2 Congress 2011 to be held in Switzerland, Appenzell the first weekend in May.

17. Closing by the president. President McKeever thanked the members for their cooperation during the congress and seminar. Decisions were made in an orderly and respectful manner. It is unfortunate that some members were unable to attend due to the volcanic eruptions in Iceland.

The president thanked the ExCo members for their work during the year. ExCo members have been very supporting and hard working. The ExCo has worked so well together for the good of the sport.

The President thanked Mr. Rabe for making the arrangements for and during the congress.

Mr. McKeever thanked the English association for hosting the congress and the dinners.

Signed _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Cathal McKeever President of TWIF

Attachment (A) Proposals & Questions

1. Proposed by CANADA

Seconded by England

All Revenue earned from the YouTube Revenue Share Program should be spent in a way that the Revenues directly benefit the athletes at the World Championships.

Explanation:

The TWIF Promotion Video has been approved for Revenue Sharing, since this is an extra income for TWIF and this income largely depends on the amount of people / athletes watching the video, any money earned through this program should be used in a way that it helps to offset the cost for athletes to participate at the World Championships. *Canada recognized that income is minimal so no transfer of funds is required to take place at the present time.*

On a vote passed 13 for 2 against 1 abstained

2. Proposed by England

Seconded by South Africa

That the accreditation fee for staying outside the package for TWIF Championships be £100.00.

Mr. Ludkin from England stated that the reason for the proposal was to spread the costs over all of the athletes rather than just those who book through the organizers.

On a vote passed 12 for 2 against 2 abstained

3. Proposed by England Seconded by South Africa

. That a 10% surcharge be added to the packages for late bookings.
i.e. within the last three weeks before a Championships.

On a vote passed 9 for 2 against 4 abstained

4. Proposed by England Seconded by South Africa

That TWIF endorse one set of shoes for use for all Indoor TWIF Championships

On a vote failed 4 for 7 against 5 abstained

5. Proposed by England Seconded by

That TWIF purchase and supply the endorsed shoe.

Proposal withdrawn

6. Proposed by England Seconded by

That TWIF endorse a single mat for use at all TWIF Championships.

Proposal was lost for the lack of a seconder

7. Proposed by England Seconded by

That Tacky be permitted at TWIF Indoor Competitions.

Proposal was lost for the lack of a seconder

8. Proposed by Ireland Seconded by England

The Irish Tug of War Association propose that Rule 6.4 Substitution Procedure should be amended to exclude the word "footwear" from the pulling outfit.

Reasoning:-

That boots are of differing weights and some teams are putting heavier boots on the puller being replaced just before he is weighed at the time of the substitution.

On a vote failed 7 for 5 against 4 abstained

Questions

1. India

Issue of Participation Certificate During Competition

It is an international practice, that at the conclusion of any national or international competitive event participating players are issued certificates of participation without rank by the host organizers. One of the exceptions Federation seems to be TWIF.

The whole business of sports is not 'winning' but 'participation' and for any ordinary player, displaying the participation certificate at home remains an anchor for small talk with visitors. It is evidence in the personal family history for any player.

The Congress may like to consider issuing an advisory to its members that they may consider the practice of issuing 'participation certificates' when they are playing host to any future game event in their country. If they do so, the initial invitation should make a mention of this add-on practice as an encouragement for player's participation. Mr. Kaul from India spoke on the issue. President McKeever stated that if a country require certificates, they may inquire and make arrangements with the host country for certificates TWIF has no problem supporting this idea.

2. The **German** Tug of War federation (DRTV) has the following questions to the TWIF:

When (date) will the TWIF finalize the weight classes for the World Games 2013? *TWIF will determine the weight classes during the 2010 Congress. Weight Classes: women-540 kgs indoor, men 640 & 700kgs outdoor.*

According to a press report of the IWAG, Columbia will found a national tug of war federation. To establish this federation and furthermore to get some info about the competition area, the DRTV thinks, that it will be good when an international tournament will take place in Cali/Columbia 2011 or/and 2012. What is the statement of the TWIF?

TWIF will be meeting with the Columbian officials during the Sport accord meetings in May and will be making efforts to get tug of war established in Columbia. The secretary will travel to Columbia in August of this year and will explore the possibilities of establishing a Colombian Tug of War Association. At

the moment we do not have enough information to fully answer this question.

□ For athletes of many other sport federations it is only possible to participate at international championships, if the athlete/team is integrated in the international Anti-Doping-Control-System (WADA/NADA). Furthermore they have to prove the integration in the system. Are there any plans of the TWIF for similar regulations? *TWIF is working toward full compliance with WADA codes.*

The question was withdrawn.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

Each member country will be represented by a duly elected official – to be known as “International Representative” – to serve on the General Assembly of the International Governing Body for tug of war (TWIF). The term of office will be as dictated by the National Association.

TASK.

Act as the formal contact point between the National Association and TWIF.

Act promptly and accurately on requests for information from TWIF officials, thereby avoiding the necessity of repeated requests.

Attend the Annual TWIF Congress and represent the views of his/her National Association.

Relay, to his/her National Committee, information received from TWIF officials and others.

Ensure that all relevant information and communication is passed to pullers, judges, recorders, timekeepers and others to whom it may be useful.

Ensure that club and national team entries for TWIF championships are accompanied by full, prompt and accurate details, including accreditation, etc.

Validate all club entries from his/her Association prior to TWIF championships.

Ensure that the annual TWIF membership fee is paid in full and as per appropriate deadline.

Ensure that any changes in contact details are notified to the TWIF Secretary General as soon as possible.