

ANNUAL TWIF CONGRESS

Cape Town, 24 & 25 March 2017

1. **Opening address. By the President:** President Rabe welcomed the members to South Africa. He also thanked the South African Tug of War Association for their hospitality and arrangements for delegates.

The President asked members to stand in a moment of silence, to remember those who have passed on in the last year. And also to remember those who are ill and struggling with dread diseases in our thoughts and prayers.

2. **Roll call of the members. By the Secretary:** The Secretary report the following 19 countries were present with proxy votes from, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Italy. (20 votes on proposals and 22 on the election of officers.)

Basque Country	Belgium	Canada	China
Chinese Taipei	England	Gambia	Germany
India	Ireland	Latvia	Netherlands
Poland	Singapore	South Africa	Sweden
Switzerland	United States	Wales	

3. **Confirmation of members in good standing.** By the Treasurer: The Treasurer reported that all members present were in good standing.

3.1 Confirmation of a quorum. The Treasurer confirmed that a quorum was present.

4. **Appointment of scrutineers:** It was proposed Ms Marga 't Lam and Ms Kobie Phillips be appointed as scrutineers. The President asked if this was acceptable to the congress. There were no objections.

5. **Confirmation of the minutes of Congress 2016:** The minutes were unanimously accepted.

6. **Matters Arising:** No matters arising

7. **Report covering the period since the last Congress (attached if the presidents full report):** President Rabe highlighted some of the items discussed in his report that was circulated with the agenda.

- The ExCo met 3 times in the past year, during the World Championships in the past year in Malmö Sweden, in January in Wroclaw Poland at the venue for the 2017 World Games, and in Wellington, South Africa just prior to congress on the 20th and 21st of March.
- The President will represent TWIF during the Sportaccord meetings in Denmark. Meetings with the various organizations that TWIF is associated with will be held. A report on the result of the meetings will be provide afterwards. TWIF is a member of the IWGA which has 37

members and also ARISF which has 35 members as well as with the umbrella organization, Sport Accord, itself where TWIF is one of 92 members. Innovation in sport is the theme for 2017. Meetings will also be attended with the IOC and with WADA. TWIF must make sure that we comply with the WADA requirements.

- It is vital that TWIF continue to meet the requirements of WADA. More in competition and out of competition testing is required. The focus has moved away from mere rule compliance to quality and comprehensiveness of anti-doping programmes. A comprehensive compliance questionnaire has already been submitted to WADA by the Doping Control Officer. We are waiting the response.
- Vice-President Maaike Hornstra attended an International Federation Seminar Forum dealing with child protection, issues included physical and mental abuse of female and youth athletes. TWIF will develop guidance material with regard to these issues and an issue of the Magazine will be focussing on these aspects.
- TWIF encourages countries to experiment with new ideas and innovations whilst keeping the foundations of tug of war in place.
- TWIF will provide new uniforms for all officials.
- TWIF will endeavor to provide new materials for training and rules.
- More functionalities will be added to the competition program.
- TWIF is developing a new website with a phone app which will be available soon.

Proposed by India and seconded by England to accept the President's report.

Unanimously accepted

8. **Finance. By the Treasurer**

8.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts.

Peter Dyer and Anton Rabe have worked together preparing the Treasurers report as the auditors report was carried out in South Africa for a final time. The audited financial statements were distributed some time prior to congress.

Proposed by the United States and seconded by Latvia to accept the balance sheets.

Unanimously accepted

8.2 Approval of the budget (2017/18). Peter Dyer presented the proposed budget for the coming years with a power-point presentation of the proposed circulated budget.

Proposed by the Netherland seconded by Switzerland to accept the proposed budget.

Unanimously accepted

9. **World Games Report- Qualifying countries& Update/ Report by the Technical Delegate& Secretary General.**

The Secretary reported that all qualifying countries have confirmed their participation. The Secretary gave a slide show presentation with information required for accreditation for the World Games and also photos of the accommodation, facilities and schedules (practice and competition days).

10. **Strategic matters/Policy Plan – update:** See attachment (D)

The President indicated that Exco and the Secretary of the TAC, held a strategic session prior to the Exco meeting earlier in the week. He gave a Powerpoint presentation of the issues that were identified in this process. This will be used to update and re-focus the Policy plan going forward. The Policy plan (periode 2016-2019) was approved last year. It is divided into three categories, namely Organization, Promotion and Member Development& Support.

1. Discussion with regard to the TWIF Calendar.

- At present we have 2 World championships Indoor and Outdoor every second year with the European Outdoor Championships (continental event) on the off year.
- One of the things to consider is maybe having a World Outdoor Championships every year and leaving the Indoor as it is every second year. Another option is to have a stand alone Junior and Under 23 championships every year, but it is felt this is feasible at this time.
- The number of weight classes will have to be re-looked as well:
 - With a scenario of annual Outdoor World Championships, the senior men's weight classes can rotate (lighter weights one year; with heavy weights the next year) with the senior men's 640 being the anchor weight on an annual basis;
 - For the women – the 2 outdoor weights annually;
 - The mixed may be a lighter weight one year (560) and a heavier weight (600) the next year; and
 - Each year and U23 and Junior categories.
- Format for the days of competition:
 - One day a round robin competition and all the finals on a second day.
 - After the round robin phase, the pull offs could be in groups of 4, i.e. top 4 in medal finals, next 4 (5 through 8) in a plate final, the next 4 (9 through 12) in a shield final, and so on to ensure strength against strength.
- The President explained that the Exco felt that the present system is not sustainable and invited members to discuss these ideas and come up with firm proposals for discussion and possible decision making at the next congress. Any changes will not affect events that have already been awarded other than possible format changes

that need to be discussed and agreed between TWIF and the hosts.

- Any other changes could start in 2021 for those events that have not been awarded.
2. Olympic issue:
 - The event in Sweden was great for the true tug of war enthusiast, however for media, spectators and sponsors, it is a not viable format.
 - We need to find a workable format that can fit in a fixed time period with known slots for semi-finals and finals in order to be attractive for organisers.
 - Gender, youth and developmental aspects are important factors in this context.
 - TWIF will again for the 2024 Olympics be able to make an effort to get into the Olympic programme. The probable weight for the Olympics would be the mixed 8 a side format with only top teams qualifying.
 - Member are encouraged to experiment with new ideas and to share experiences in order to augment our programs.
 3. Another problems is the low number of countries participating at TWIF events. We know that some of the problems are the financial aspect for participants. The ExCo will send out a questionnaire to see if we can get more information in order to address all constraints in order to boost attendance by member countries.
 4. Weigh in:
 - Exco feel there is no way that TWIF can continue the way it is especially for the indoor where athletes loose excessive weight which have led to people physically collapsing at the weigh in.
 - The Exco believe that it would be irresponsible to have a blind eye to the problem, but do not want to go back to daily weigh-in either.
 - We do not have an answer but we will try to gather some information to form a proposal for congress next year. We will gather data at the EC in September 2017 and at the WIC in China in February 2018, and also look into scientific information on how to measure “adequate” hydration at weigh in time.
 5. Encourage an increased participation by female athletes and officials. We will look at the ages for junior and senior ladies to see what will help to increase our numbers.
 6. Judging - We need to make sure our judges are more consistent ensure firm enforcement of our current rules before we consider changes. This issue has been referred the TAC for discussion and advice.
 7. The cost of events remain an issue, but Exco feels that the championship fees are not the reason for high cost of hosting TWIF events. The main cost drivers are travel and accommodation/meals.
 8. Funding therefor remains an issue as TWIF needs sufficient resources to continue to organize courses for the development of our sport worldwide.
 - We may have to look at a new scenario on financing a championship by putting them out for bids to cities and/or TWIF

itself could become a partner instead of contracting rights out to organizers.

- This is used in other sports and TWIF will have to look into what other sporting codes are doing in this regards
- Member were invited to discuss this issue and come up with solutions for future events.

11. **Reports by the Commissions:** See Attachment (B)

11.1 Technical & Athletes Commission – Ms. Maaïke Hornstra

The TAC report was circulated prior to congress

Report Accepted by the congress

11.2 PR Commission – Ms Maaïke Hornstra

The report was distributed prior to congress. Ms. Hornstra encouraged members to provide news items and articles for the Magazine. She stated that in the future we may try an annual magazine with results and advertising as a new option. The update of the web-site have been mentioned earlier.

Report accepted by the congress

11.3 Anti-Doping – Mr. Dariusz Bajkowski

The report was distributed prior to congress. Ms. Hornstra presented the report on behalf of Mr. Bajkowski who are absent due to ill-health

Report accepted by the congress

11.4 Medical Panel – (no report/no activity this past year)

11.5 Appeal commission – (no report/no activity this past year)

12. **Affiliation of new members- No New Application**

13. **Proposals and question submitted by the members and all other matters which the Executive Committee wish to propose-** See Attachment (A) for detail on resolutions and voting.

14. **Championships: Past Present and Future**

14.1 Evaluation: World Outdoor Championships 2016, Malmö, Sweden.

The Secretary presented the summarised evaluation of the championship which had been received from members, the Exco and the TAC. This was noted.

14.2 Future

- 2017 World Games (Dealt with under point 9): The President said that Tug of War has had a high standard in the past in World Games and he was sure that Tug of War would maintain this standard of performance and appearance. Participating members will be informed when to get their accreditations in to the Secretary once the request has been

received from the Organizers.

- 2017 Regional EC–Southport, England: Mr Peter Dyer gave a slide show presentation of the venue for the European Championships 2017. All arrangements are on track. The website where more information can be found via the England website: <http://www.tugofwar.co.uk/> . The dates are 18/09/2017 through to 25/09/2017.
- 2018 World Indoor –Xuzhou, China: Representatives from the Xuzhou Council gave a presentation and handed out brochures of the venue and city. The dates are March 8th through to March 11th, 2018. The Exco will meet with the organizers following the meeting of congress to discuss various matters of concern where-after the contracts will be formally signed.
- 2018 World Outdoor – Cape Town, South Africa: Mr Anton Botha indicated that all facilities and hotels were visited during the preceding days. He highlighted various issues on the 2018 championships, amongst others that the event will start on a Wednesday (not a Thursday) and will end on a Saturday (not a Sunday). The dates are September 19th through to September 22nd, 2018. Mr. Botha also introduced the core organizing committee members to congress.
- 2019 Regional EC – Castlebar, Ireland: Mr. Dan McCarthy gave a short report that the venue is at the same place as the 2014 Indoor. The venue was formally visited on behalf of TWIF by Messrs. Peter Dyer and Hugh McFetridge during a recent tournament in Castlebar. Some concerns were discussed and agreed between Exco and the Irish organizers. The contract for the championships was then formally signed by Mr. Denis Dunlea and the President of TWIF.
- 2020 World Outdoor- Basque Country: Full report next year.
- 2020 World Indoor Championships –Letterkenny, Donegal, Ireland: A formal presentation/report next year.
- 2022 World Outdoor –Sursee, Switzerland: A formal presentation/report next year.

15. **Tenders for future championships** (Presentations during congress)

15.1 2021 European Outdoor- The Netherlands: Mr. Be Langevoort, the representative from the Netherlands, presented the tender on behalf of the Netherlands. He stated that the organizing Committee is concerned about the cost of the event, and if awarded to the Netherlands, he would have to take it back for a final decision. He undertook to provide feedback and confirm the acceptance of not by the end of May 2017.

On a vote the Netherlands was unimously awarded the championships.

16. **Elections** (4 year period: 2017-2021) - See Attachment C for nominations and results: Each candidate was given time to present themselves to the congress.

16.1 Senior Vice President – Mr Peter Dyer (England) was elected.

16.2 Treasurer – Mr Dan McCarthy (Ireland) was elected.

17. **Other Business for the good of tug of war**

17.1 Report on the CITS event from the representative from Latvia, Ms. Lilita Mukina: This multi-sports event will take place from 13 to 18 July 2017 in Riga, Latvia. The Latvian Tug of War Association will put on a demonstration at the event. Countries in that region may have an opportunity to participate in that event and information on this should be out in the next 2-3 weeks.

17.2 Mr Johan Krols from Belgium provided some information on the development of a free app for use by clubs and NF's. This assist with the registration of the athletes. Download from: www.cluball.com

17.3 World Masters Games Association: The President received an e-mail from Japan with regards to the World Masters Games Association and the Japan Federation's request that the Tug of War sport be included in the next event. This was requested rejected because TWIF was not a member of the Association. The President asked guidance from the members as if and how TWIF should explore this possibility. The congress agreed that TWIF should look into it. Mr Anton Botha from South Africa stated that South Africa may be able to organize some masters event during the World Outdoor Championships in 2018 if there is interest from members. The President stated that a clear proposal must be submitted in order to assess how such an event can fit into the schedule.

17.4 Belgium: Family Jansons club celebrates its 25th anniversary from 11 to 13 of May 2018. Clubs are welcome to attend this international club tournament.

17.5 The Netherlands: Is testing and arrangement that a substitute coming into a team during a substitution, such substitute can weigh more than the puller being substituted as long as the total weight of the team remain below the maximum weight of the particular weight class. More information will be provided in future.

18. **Future meetings:** The next congress will take place in Cork, Ireland over the period 25th to 29th of April 2018 at Oriel house. A day trip either before congress or a day trip after congress will be arranged for those members who wish to visit the venue and facilities at Castlebar for the 2019 European Outdoor Championships.

Mr. Kaul from India indicated that India would like to host a meeting in India in the future.

19. **Closing by the President:** The president thanked the member for their

participation and cooperation in the congress

TWIF PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARCH 2017

It is with pleasure and appreciation that I provide this report on the TWIF activities during the past year. My thanks to my fellow Exco members for their support and hard work during this time.

My appreciation also to delegates for travelling to Cape Town, my city of birth, and to experience the ambiance and hospitality of the Western Cape and South Africa in general. Some of you returning to South Africa after previous visit(s) and others for the first time.

The first hand exposure to the facilities and site of the 2018 World Outdoor Championship in Cape Town, would no doubt also assist members in their preparation for this event and to motivate athletes and supporters to attend WC 2018 in vast numbers.

1. MEETINGS

Since the previous AGM, the TWIF Exco met on 3 occasions with many one to one or group telephonic and/or e-mail exchanges between ourselves. The physical meetings were in September 2016 in Malmö, Sweden (with WC'16), January 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland, and just prior to congress in my real home town of Wellington where we also spent some time on strategic planning going forward.

In Malmö we also had the opportunity to engage with a number of members and individuals on various matters pertaining to the development of the sport and updates on future events and activities.

A verbal update on the Policy Plan and the various strategic issues we have identified in this latter meeting and session, will be provided during Congress.

Items dealt with by the Exco are included in the agenda and will be reported on during Congress, whilst other will be expanded on later in this report.

2. SPORTACCORD, IOC, WADA, IWGA & ARISF

The next SportAccord meeting is scheduled for the week of 3-7 April 2017 in Aarhus, Denmark. A range of one-to-one and plenary meetings and workshops are again scheduled with the IOC, WADA, IWGA and ARISF. The topic at the 2017 Convention is: "Innovation in Action".

A comprehensive written report will be provided after that event and distributed to members via the office of the Secretary General to augment this 2017 report.

During the year we have seen a lot of press coverage on doping issues and many athletes being caught out and suspended or medals being taken away. Some even back dated to the Olympics in 2008 in Beijing, China, and London, UK, in 2012.

The so-called “state sponsored” doping within the Russian context with all sorts of allegations, investigations and reports being undertaken and issues addressed by WADA, has been front page headlines. The WADA and IOC focus remain to protecting “clean athletes” and to refine testing methodology and technology.

We also currently await a compliance questionnaire from WADA which needs to be completed in the first quarter of 2017. A mere tick-boxing and compliance with minimum requirements (policy, awareness and OOC testing) exercise is in my opinion however not adequate and we will have to up the ante as a collective.

During all of this, TWIF and its members have quietly done its bit to ensure awareness and compliance with a number of In and Out of Competition tests being done. A full report will be provided by the Anti-Doping Commission on statistics and results, but it is heartening that all results thus far, have been negative.

From the annual reports from members – the returns which I must say has vastly improved versus previous years given the new definition of “in good standing” as was approved at Congress last year – it is clear that there are still too few members who conduct dope testing on a national level (both In and Out of competition). It is the same countries who do it year on year, but we will have to ensure a more global spread of tests being done in the future.

I do understand that this is a very costly exercise and has been raised with the IOC, WADA, IWGA and ARISF in the past. We do however need some solutions to ensure a wider global footprint on anti-doping test done by NF's. I have some thoughts on this – as no doubt other members of Exco and NF's - which we will discussed in our strategic session after which a clear strategy going forward will be communicated to members.

Point is: We just cannot afford any surprises in this sphere and non-compliance is not an option.

Another item that require in-depth analysis and a very specific strategy going forward, will be on our ultimate objective of regaining inclusion on the Olympic program. By the time the host city for 2024 is known, we must be ready to roll out our strategy. The learnings from the Tokyo 2020 exercise need to be taken on board in this process. The Commonwealth Games (Durban, South Africa will be the host in 2022) could also be an interesting platform to display our sport to decision makers and the media.

During November 2016, the TWIF Vice President, Maaiké Hornstra also attended an IF Forum meeting under the auspices of Sport Accord. From this, 2 very clear messages materialised, namely a) that of harassment/molesting/abuse of women and children; and b) the need for a child protection policy.

TWIF do have a child protection policy and some guidelines in place but this needs to be updated and once again, awareness need to be enhanced around abuse, which is not just sexual harassment but also mental abuse. All our NF's will have to ensure they have the required policies and awareness programs in place to address

concerns in this sphere. More detailed information will be included in the next TWIF magazine.

3. INNOVATION

Aligned with the 2017 Sport Accord theme of INNOVATION, I do not believe that the traditional outdoor World Championship type event will help us to gain entry into the IOC program. Playing the cultural and traditional “card” will also not make the grade.

Although attractive to some and something that will be talked about for many years in the future, the very long pulls (and days) we experienced in Malmö, will in my view not assist our cause in this regard. In fact, it will hamper us and I am thankful that an IOC delegation did not attend the event.

We need to look at age, gender, “sexy” and modern presentation and appearance, with short and dynamic action and quicker results to interest spectators, the media and potential sponsors. We must “guarantee” that we will stick to agreed timeslots to complete events. We need less participants. We need to think out of the box.

An Indoor “hyped” up type of event with some tweaking to the format, presentation, number of teams and gender/age (youth) of participants in such a competition, is required in my view.

I would therefore encourage NF’s to experiment with various ideas along these lines and share thoughts amongst each other in order for such a format to be developed. We should however not neglect the fundamentals of our sport, nor the spirit and culture associated with tug of war globally. So “fun” and informal events on beaches and at fairs where traditional sports are part of community activities, need to be encouraged too, but new “instant” gratification type events, will also be great platforms to market and present our sport to potential new entrants and spectators.

THIS ALSO DOES NOT MEAN that our traditional outdoor and indoor events and competition format need to change drastically. Many sports retained the traditional formats and events, but have augmented their profile and image with some shorter version which attracts a new type of participant and spectator (and sponsors). As indicated last year - if compared with cricket - we can still have our “5 day tests” (World/Continental Indoor and Outdoor Championships) over 4 days, and the “50 over” version such as World Games where only the top qualifying teams, participate at a very high level.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4.1 Development courses – We have planned a number of Development courses in various geographical regions for the past year. For various reasons, none of them could take place. Re-scheduling and planning for events in Africa, Indian sub-continent (India & Sri Lanka), France and Russia are underway. Plans for an event in Haiti/Dominican Republic has been scrapped due to a lack of interest.

4.2 TWIF archives – Slow progress were made with the project to preserve the facts,

results and stories of the past in a sustainable manner. Mr. Co Koren, an Honorary Life President of TWIF, agreed to drive this project. Unfortunately, due to ill-health of his wife, this was slowed down. Once completed, the data will be available via a search engine linked to the TWIF web-site.

- 4.3 World Games 2017 – The Exco recently visited the sites and facilities of the indoor and outdoor events for the World Games. We had an excellent engagement with the organizers who seem to have all arrangements well in hand. The participating teams will also have the opportunity to impress the IOC President and staff who have confirmed that they will attend the WG. An ideal opportunity to show-case top class performance and to present our sport on the ultimate platform we currently enjoy.
- 4.4 Asian development – As was discussed and agreed at Congress 2016, a formalised process was initiated to ensure a meaningful and inclusive process is followed with the members and potential members in the Asian region. A Terms of Reference (ToR) was drafted after which the various countries were asked to comment. Only 1 member (Japan) responded after which the ToR was finalised. No further meetings have materialised between TWIF and the Asian members. A follow-up meeting is scheduled during the programme of the 2017 congress in order to jointly assess and agree the way forward.
- 4.5 New uniforms for officials – As part of the policy plan, a process is underway to modernise TWIF clothing and to kit out all our officials with the new uniforms over the next 2-3 years. This will entail a re-look at the color of items and the type of material being used. More information will be provided and displayed during Congress.
- 4.6 Training material & Rule Book – A project to renew and modernize the TWIF training material (manual, DVD and Judges DVD) will be started in the near future. The TWIF Rule book was also updated, and subject to potential further amendments flowing from the 2017 Congress, further changes will be made before printing. The planning is to have this document ready for distribution in September 2017.
- 4.7 Functionality of Computer Programme – we continue to enhance our computer programme with new functionalities. Our ICT Advisor, Bruce Schuman, is currently working with the programmes to add accreditation categories, a pullers “license” to reduce the size of the active database, strict specifications for size and quality of photos, and to enable international representatives to verify/validate registrations of participants and team entries.
- 4.8 Website – A new look website is currently being finalized and will be activated in the very near future.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK AND SHARE SOME THOUGHTS ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAY LIE IN THE FUTURE.

ANTON RABE
PRESIDENT

Cape Town, South Africa
24&25 March 2017

Attachment A

1. Proposed by: TWIF ExCo

Seconded by: Switzerland

To change the TWIF outdoor Boot specifications (rule 8.4.1) to read as follows:

Heel: The heel shall be flush with the sole of the shoe – vertically down from the sole as seen from the back and side of the shoe. The front of the heel facing forward shall also be straight across and vertically down from the sole of the shoe.

The side of the heel impacting with the ground – the “cutting edge” – can have a tapered edge towards the front of the heel with a maximum protrusion of 15mm to the outside of the heel as measured from the vertical line from the sole. The other side of the heel must be completely flush with the sole and may not have any protruding feature.

The maximum height of the heel, including a metal plate with a maximum thickness of 6,5mm, may not be more than 25mm from the bottom of the shoe. The 25mm includes the thickness of the sole. The length of the heel may not be less than one quarter or more than one third of the length of the shoe. (see illustration/drawing)

The sole of the shoe: Can be built up or left as is. If not built up, the sole can be higher than the heel when viewed on a flat horizontal surface. The sole may not be metal or have a metal plate. (see illustration/drawing)

Front part of the Shoe: If built up, the front part of the shoe may not be less than half the total length of the shoe. The maximum height, including the sole may not be more than 25 mm. This part of the shoe may not be of metal or have a metal plate. (see illustration/drawing)

India spoke against the proposal indicating that this may make it very difficult for poorer countries to procure and afford modern outdoor boots. The President stated that the traditional (army style) boots as used in the past, will still be acceptable. The reason for this proposal is to clarify the outdoor shoe code which have caused many interpretation problems in recent years

Amendment 1: Proposed by Switzerland, Second by England:

The maximum height of the heel, including a metal plate with a maximum thickness of 6,5mm, may not be more than 35mm from the bottom of the shoe. The 35mm includes the thickness of the sole and the metal plate on the heel. The heel may not be metal.

On a vote the amendment passed. 15 in favor, 5 against

Amendment 2: Proposed by Netherlands, Seconded by Switzerland

That the heel can be of an all metal construction.

On a vote the amendment passed 12 in favor, 5 against, 3 abstentions

Amendment 3: Proposed by Netherlands, Seconded by Switzerland

That the sole can be of metal (aluminum), but the bottom of the sole must be of non-metal material.

On a vote the amendment passed: 16 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstained

Amendment 4: Proposed by England, Seconded by Netherlands

The front end of the sole need not be the same thickness as the back of the heel (as original proposal).

On a vote passed 18 in favor 1 against 1 abstained

Finally, the original proposal including the amendments as approved in amendments 1 to 4, were voted on as a whole. For good order, the final wording are:

To change the TWIF outdoor Boot specifications (rule 8.4.1) to read as follows:

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The maximum height of the heel, including a metal plate with a maximum thickness of 6,5mm, may not be more than 35mm from the bottom of the shoe. The 35mm includes the thickness of the sole. The length of the heel may not be less than one quarter or more than one third of the length of the shoe. (see illustration/drawing).

The sole of the shoe: The front end of the sole need not be the same thickness as the back of the heel. If not built up, the sole can be higher than the heel when viewed on a flat horizontal surface. The sole can be of metal (aluminum), but the bottom of the sole must be of non-metal material (see illustration/drawing).

Front part of the Shoe: If built up, the front part of the shoe may not be less than half the total length of the shoe. The maximum height, including the sole may not be more than 35 mm. This part of the shoe may not be of metal or

have a metal plate. (see illustration/drawing).

On a vote passed 16 in favor 2 against 1 abstained

Drawing/illustration as amended: Attached

2. Proposed by: Switzerland

Seconded by: **Withdrawn**

To Edit the outdoor boot specifications:

8.4 Shoes

8.4.1 Outdoor shoes

The depth of the heel as measured from the sole should not be less than 6.5mm and not more than 30 mm.

V-plate: the edge on the cutting side is not permitted to go over the shoe.

The edge is max. 1.5 cm

The not cutting edge is equal with the heel, so the injury risk will be minimised.

3. Proposed by: Germany

Seconded by: **Basque Country**

To seal the shoes used for competition during the weighing-in procedure.

Reason:

In the last years, especially the last two years, the competition was disturbed by shoe controls at the entrance of the field directly before the start or during the competition.

The judges denied the correctness of the shoes worn and the athletes had to change the shoes before the pulls started. This often-caused time delays and disturbed the teams in their concentration.

As a solution for this, we propose to control and seal all correct shoes before competition during the weighing-in of teams. One-way non-open seals could be used. Similar seals are used for bulk containers with costs less than 0,25 € per piece with unique serial number or tag on. They are small enough to not disturb the athlete both for indoor and outdoor shoes. Correct shoes will be marked like this, will also be visible for all participants and the audience.

An example for a useable seal will be presented at congress.

On a vote passed 19 infavor 1 against

4. Proposed by: The United States

Seconded by: **Withdrawn**

That the Weigh-in of athletes be held the morning of the weight class being competed that day.

Reason:

Athletes being weighed on Wednesday and not competing until Sunday, have an unfair advantage of gaining weight over teams that are of natural weight. Extreme dehydration and other health issues are a concern. The integrity of the weight class is preserved by weighing in the morning of the event.

5. Proposed by: The United States

Seconded by: Withdrawn

That an additional day be added to the World Championships. An additional day to the TWIF program will ensure that all weight classes are completed in a timely fashion, as well as provide a day for extra weight classes to be added to the agenda.

Reason:

The 2016 WC had a large number of classes and the days were very long. If an extra day were added, we could add other weight classes or move one of the larger classes to that day. The day could also be used as an educational day for the countries – seminars on boat construction, techniques, indoor information/techniques, etc. We have many aspects to the sport that could be shared.

6. Proposed by: South Africa

Seconded by: Sweden

That the current M560kg weight class for men, be increased to M580kg (Outdoor) at World Championships.

Reason:

- a. Experience within the South African context has shown that it is extremely difficult to make weight for the 560kg weight class - often teams had to drop 20-30 kg's in the week before an event. In our deliberations with foreign teams, we have come to realize that our experience is not unique. A common experience is hours in a sauna, drastically reduced calorie intake and an almost complete lack of water-intake.
- b. During a presentation by a medical doctor in Belfast three years ago, the medical downside of drastic weight loss in a short space of time, were highlighted.
- c. With the current 4 men's weight categories, there is a 40kg difference between the different weight classes. The exception being the 560kg and 640kg weight classes, where there are an 80kg difference. This impacts negatively on athletes in the 560kg weight class being able to participate in the 640kg weight class as well, meaning that several athletes only participate in ONE weight class at a TWIF Championships.

The South African Tug of War Federation is of the opinion that the minimum weight class for men should be 600kg, but an allowance of an additional 20kg to the existing 560kg (up to 580kg), will go a long way in addressing the negative issues raised above.

On a vote failed 10 infavor 9 against

7. Proposed by: England

Seconded by: The Netherlands

That the process of election of an Officer(s) to ExCo should include two stages prior to any vote being taken at Congress.

- a. A short résumé, no more than one side of A4 outlining the candidates' history and experience within Tug of War should be produced and

circulated to all International Representatives a minimum of two months before Congress.

- b. Provide a brief, no more than 10 minutes, presentation and/or talk on themselves and what they could bring to TWIF ExCo at the applicable Congress prior to the voting for candidates taking place.

Reason:

Not all nominees are known to all countries and certainly their history and experience in Tug of War is probably unknown by many. Having a proforma for this information keeps a level playing field.

On a vote passed 20 infavor 0 against

8. Proposed by: England

Seconded by: Netherlands

That Nominees/Candidates for election to TWIF ExCo should be able to robustly demonstrate a minimum of four years' experience in Tug of War at an international level. This evidence to be submitted to the Secretary General prior to nominations being formally announced.

Reason:

To be able to be an active member of the small team of ExCo and contribute to the running of Tug of War internationally, it seems appropriate that candidates should have a reasonable understanding of Tug of War at an International level. This experience could be gained in many ways such as pulling, officiating, an international rep (as long as they attend championships) etc. It is considered that four years is not an excessive amount of time.

On a vote passed 14 infavor 5against 1 abstained

9. Proposed by: England

Seconded by: Netherlands

That to be eligible to sit the TWIF Judges course, Judges must be able to demonstrate, with suitable evidence, that they have a minimum of 6 years (suggested period) judging experience. This experience should include Judging at regular competitions throughout the period and Judging at National Championships.

Reason:

Although each country can only put forward a Grade 1 Judge, in accordance with the TWIF rules – TWIF Judges Panel, item 3 - there is no stipulation of the level of experience required by a Grade 1 Judge. To provide consistent and fair Judging to teams that have worked hard to get to a championships it seems only right to have a minimum level of experience.

On a vote passed 15 infavor 2 against 2 abstained

Amendment to increase the age for judges to 75 years: The amendment was lost for the lack of a seconder.

Amendment by India to include 4 year of International experience or 6 year of regional experience. The amendment was lost for a lack of a seconder.

10. Proposed by: Ireland

Seconded by: Withdrawn

That any person who wish to become a TWIF judge, should judge for the (2) two days of club competition, at the European championships the year prior to taking the TWIF judges test at the world championships.

Reason:

- a. All candidates for the TWIF judges test should be active grade (1) one judges in their own country.
- b. It's unfair on teams who have trained hard to compete if the person judging doesn't have experience or knowledge.
- c. It is embarrassing for the country that has nominated the person, it is embarrassing on the person themselves, and embarrassing for TWIF also.

11. Proposed by: Exco

Seconded by: Basque country

That a new draw could be done if a team withdraws after the original draw has taken place and the competition for the specific weight class has not started yet. It is proposed that Rule 31 describing the competition structure and draw (1st bullet) be amended as follows:

- The qualifying round will be a points competition. Should a team or teams (club or national) withdraw from a competition after the draw was made which causes a gross inequality in the number of the teams in different groups, a new draw could be made to ensure a more equal distribution of teams between groups for the point competition. The draw shall be made in the presence of the appointed delegates of TWIF.

Reason:

To provide the option and flexibility for officials to make a re-draw in cases where an unequal number of teams end up in different groups when a team (club or country) have withdrawn from a particular weight class. A new draw would ensure a more equal distribution of teams between groups and ensure that all teams pull an equal number of other teams before the semifinal and finals phase of a group competition. The competition for the teams in the different groups will also end at approximately the same time.

On a vote passed 19 in favor 1 against

12. Proposed by: Ireland

Seconded by: Withdrawn

That a new draw take place if for some reason a country pulls out after the original draw has taken place.

Reason:

If there are two (2) groups, with a group of eight (8) teams and a group of seven (7) teams. For some reason if a country in the group of seven (7) pulls out we are then left with a group of six (6) and a group of eighth (8). Firstly there's going to be a time difference between the two groups finishing, also if it's a year of qualification for the World Games where the top six (6) countries

go through the country's in the group of eight (8) have a bigger challenge to get to the top three (3) in that group. If a new draw could have been made we would have two groups of seven (7) and would speed up the finishing time.

13. Proposed by Ireland

Seconded by:Switzerland

Inactivity—No- Pull **Ireland**

We would like to put the following motion forward for discussion and voting at congress.

We would like a five(5) minute time period of inactivity before a No Pull is declared. At present, it's at the judges decision.

Reason:

We think that introducing a five (5) minute time period would be fairer on teams who have trained hard to compete, each judge is an individual and we are all human with different time limits of inactivity in our minds. By introducing a time period both teams and judges know where they stand.

The President stated that this would be very hard to implement.

This proposal was not voted on but referred to the T&A Commission with a request to debate and come up with practical proposals if any.

14. Proposed by: the Netherlands
lost for the lack of a seconder

Seconded by:Proposal was

To lower the fee for organizing a European or World Championship (including 2021).

Reason:

For a country, it is hard work to reach a financial break-even point or achieve a surplus. Without lots of volunteers it is even impossible. Then (maybe more important) there is the cost for the pullers. People who train hard have to pay a lot of money to reach their goals where they trained so hard for.

Accreditation cost and maybe profit on accommodation doesn't make it cheaper. It is even strange that an early direct booker can get a room in the same hotel for less than through the organisation.

The last 11 years 3 countries were organiser of 7 WC/EC. These countries have to work hard and also pay this fee to give many other countries a nice tournament.

15. Proposed by: the Netherlands
lost for the lack of a seconder

Seconded by:Proposal was

To increase the memberships fees for those countries affiliated to TWIF.

Reason:

Maybe for new members, or members who are not that far to compete (regularly)

at an EC or WC, a lower fee but what's a member if there is no financial obligation to it. We think a membership also means that they have advantage in knowledge of the TWIF family. Suppose the 30-full member pay 400-pound sterling instead of 350. That's 1,500 more, and the other members (67) pay a basic fee of 150 pound sterling. Total 11,550 pound sterling more income for TWIF. A part of it they can use for the cost of an EC/WC and another part for developing the sport.

16. Proposed by: the Netherlands
lost for the lack of a seconder

Seconded by: **Proposal was**

To have set dates for WC/EC, a set weekend. Early or late in September gives problems for the national competition. The second or third weekend of September must be the standard.

Questions and Discussion Points

Latvia: A topical issue for many years are anchor jackets and pullers boots.

There are not many sports which use homemade equipment. Basically, all sports equipment are available commercially, except in certain sports - such as Bobsleigh luges, Luge, Skeleton, where the technique can be made for each country and applied to athletes, but it is very strong specifications and a lot of restrictions for this equipment.

The competition organization and the tug of war image of sports would benefit from commercially available equipment, with strict specifications for manufacturing?

Clear definitions/specification need to be developed if TWIF wishes to embark on such a route. Referred to the T&A Commission for discussion and recommendations.

Latvia: Anchor Vests: We find anchor vests with very different interpretations. It would be necessary to develop a certain pattern, develop more precise specifications, a description of which must comply with the vest or which can be industrially manufactured.

Prototype to figure out and find an industrial manufacturer for implementation need to be explored to provide various sizes. Referred to the T&A Commission for discussion and recommendations.

Latvia: Pullers boots: Boot verification and stamping responsible team of judges led by Judge weighing.

Judges interpret different boots differently give the many variations with all forms of innovation. World and European Championships are a number of test points and the tug of war shoes are checked by a number of judges who observe and interpret shoe designs differently.

Is it possible to put the 4-6 independent judges who would be experts (not a new judges) and make a boot test of the World and European Championships to ensure full control of the situation?

Is it possible to improve the description of the boot and the prohibition that does not seem right? To eradicate the wrong boots, is it possible to set a time limit by which the irrelevant pulling boots are to be withdrawn from competition.

This question has been addressed in the boot proposals.

Netherlands: We like new and/or a refreshing of the rules regarding to the outdoor shoes. This also means a fresh idea about this which fits in the developing of our sport. It is also important that these rules are translate on the field by all the referees on the same way. It is strange that shoes are approved on day one and for example not approved on day three when they are still the same shoes. This last part also counts for the anchor protection.This question was addressed with the boot proposals.

Netherlands: A WC/EC is not the right place for taking exams for new judges. We propose an exam during an international tournament somewhere. We also like a new rule about the amount of experience for international judges. Judges must have a certain amount of competitions of a certain level where they are active during a year. This must not have an effect on the results of an open and closed WC/EC. The President stated this is not possible at this stage but we can look into this further. If we have a proper grading system in all countries this may take care of the problems that took place in 2016 world Championships. The President went on to say that in the future we need better qualified candidates for judges courses.

England: National Judges grading criteria.

The TWIF rule book – TWIF Judges Panel – states “*National judges will be qualified by a grading system of their national association. The grading consists of three levels, Grade 3, 2 and 1. (Grade 1 is the highest level) Each member association of TWIF can nominate national Grade 1 judges for participation in a TWIF Judges Course*”

Would it be appropriate for all countries to submit to TWIF their Judges grading process such that the TWIF Judges Panel can have a better understanding of how each countries’ Grade 1 Judges have reached this position?. This will give a better understanding of the experience of Judges when they come to take a TWIF Judges course.

It was agreed that members will be asked if they have a proper grading system in place for their candidate judges before the next TWIF judges course in 2018. Where required, TWIF will provide guidance on possible grading systems that could be considered.

South Africa: Could the institution of a 520kg Junior (U/19) Mixed division at the World and Junior Championships be considered for future events?

The President said that it is the intention of TWIF to find ways to include these categories in future TWIF events.

Poland: Polish Tug of War Federation would like to present to TWIF Congress a new sport event: Beach Tug of War. A short presentation will let you learn the benefits and innovativeness of this additional sport event, which, despite its name, may be played even in countries which do not have sandy beaches or any beaches at all.

The main goal is to introduce this new event into the official TWIF competition in 2018 and, consequently, to expand the rules appropriately. We believe that the new official TWIF sport event will increase attractiveness of our sport and will improve our chances of being part of the Olympic games again.

We propose that this Congress should adopt a resolution to commence activities

aimed at expanding the rules (e.g. as part of a relevant commission), so that it would be possible to vote over them during the next congress, in 2018.

The representative from Poland was given the opportunity to give a short video presentation on Beach Tug of War.

The President thanked the Polish Representative and stated that TWIF will look into this. He encouraged countries to experiment with new and innovative forms of Tug of War.

The Representative from India stated that they already have rules for this type of Tug of War in India which is very popular. These rules can be found on page 57 of the rule book from India.

It was agreed that TWIF need to formalize and put together some guidance material.

Attachment B Reports by Commissions

Public Relations Commission

During the congress in Belfast, 2016, a new Press and Publicity (PR) Commission has been formed after voting. Some old members of the former PR Commission are back in the new PR Commission and we could welcome a few new members.

PR commission Members:

- Chairwoman Ms. Maaïke Hornstra/ ExCo
- Mr. Anders Andersson/Sweden
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson/United States
- Mr. Rawipas Klamthawee/Thailand
- Mr. Denis Dunlea/Ireland
- Mr. Anton Botha/South Africa

After congress we have had an informal meeting with the members to talk about the publishing of the TWIF newsletter, which we try to give out at least three times a year. With members from all the continents we hope to distribute news from all over the Tug of War World.

In 2016 we distributed three TWIF newsletters with a various offer of articles, information and news about WADA, the loss of people who have done a lot of work for TWIF, an article to honor our former President Cathal McKeever, medal tables of the WC indoor- and outdoor Championships etc.

I would like to thank the writers of articles for their hard work and would like to encourage all members from over the world to share your important of special news

with the whole TWIF family. You can always ask one of the PR Commission members for help or information.

We are willing to place your articles in the newsletter, the new website or on our TWIF Facebook page.

Maaïke Hornstra
Chairwoman PR Commission
TWIF Vice President

Report Technical and Athletes Commission (TAC)

During the congress in Belfast, 2016, a new Technical and Athletes Commission has been formed after voting. Some old members of the former Technical Commission and former Athletes Commission are back in the new TAC and we could welcome new members. We have delegates from the judges, international representatives and active athletes from all our continents. Marga 't Lam is the new secretary and Maaïke Hornstra is the new Chairwoman.

The new Technical and Athletes Commission consists of the following members:

- Chairwoman: Ms. Maaïke Hornstra/ ExCo
- Secretary: Mrs. Marga 't Lam/Netherlands
- Mr. Jost Waser/Switzerland
- Mr. Peter Dyer/England
- Mr. Mikel Areitio Elordui/Basque country
- Mr. Erik Atterheim/Sweden
- Ms. Kittie Terblanche/South Africa
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson/ United States
- Mr. Dan McCarthy/Ireland
- Mr. Vincent Chen/Chinese Taipei

We had our first meeting during the World Championship (WC) outdoor in Malmö on the 10th September 2016.

After an introduction we had discussed on a lot of items that were quite actual during the WC.

The hand position of pullers has been discussed, we talked about the inactivity during a pull with a no pull as result. Also we had a discussion about the shoes and

the drawing in the Rules Manual. Everybody agreed that the drawing in the Rules Manual is not up to date anymore. We all agreed that there has to come a strict rule on shoes, in this case the outdoor Tug of War shoes/boots.

Some other items of discussion was the making of a new draw if a team/country drops out the group and there can be reason for advantage for the other group or unfair play.

When a country does not pay their annual TWIF fee, an official will not be allowed to take part on competitions on behalf of TWIF's responsibility.

Also we try to work on a more clear explanation of infringements during briefings for the judges, for example with pictures to explain what is right or wrong.

The TAC will have a meeting once a year during a World- or European Outdoor Championship. If necessary the TAC can have extra meetings but we try to do the rest of our consultation and discussion by email.

I would like to thank all the members for their nomination and affection to the TAC.

Maike Hornstra
Chairwoman TAC
TWIF Vice President

Attachment C

Nominations	From	Nominated by
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Senior Vice President:

Dariusz Bajkowski	Withdrawn Poland	Poland, Latvia, Thailand
Peter Dyer	England	England, Germany, Sweden, South Africa
Dan McCarthy	Ireland	Ireland, Singapore, Northern Ireland

On a vote Pete Dyer was elected Senior Vice President

Pete Dyer 12 votes Dan McCarthy 10 votes

Treasurer

Ralf Bräuninger	Germany	Germany, Sweden
Peter Dyer	<u>Withdrawn</u> England	England, Poland, Netherlands, Latvia
Dan McCarthy	Ireland	Ireland

On a vote Dan McCarthy was elected Treasurer of TWIF

Dan McCarthy 11 votes Ralf Brauninger 10 votes

Anti Doping Report

1	Australia	0	0	–
2	Basque Country	0	0	Neg
3	Belgium	0	0	Neg
4	Canada	0	0	Neg
5	China	21	0	Neg
6	Chinees Taipei	0	0	Neg
7	England	0	0	Neg
8	Gambia	0	0	Neg
9	Germany	10	23	Neg
10	India	0	0	Neg
11	Ireland	4	0	Neg
12	Italy	0	0	Neg
13	Israel	0	0	Neg.
14	Japan	7	7	Neg
15	Kenya	1	1	Neg
16	Latvia	0	0	Neg
17	Malasia	0	0	Neg
18	Netherlands	0	0	Neg
19	Nigeria	0	0	Neg
20	Northern Ireland	0	0	Neg
21	Pakistan	0	0	Neg
22	Poland	0	0	Neg
23	RSA	0	0	Neg

24	Scotland	0	0	Neg
25	Serbia	2	0	Neg
26	Singapoor	0	0	Neg
27	Sweden	15	4	Neg18 - Pos1
28	Switzerland	6	8	Neg
29	USA	4	0	Neg
30	Zimbabwe	0	0	-
		70	43	Neg 112 -- Pos 1