

AGENDA & PROGRAMME - ANNUAL TWIF CONGRESS

Getxo, Basque Country, 25 to 28 April 2019

Thursday, 25 April

Arrival of TWIF International Representatives in Bilbao Airport/Transfer to hotel as arranged

18:00 Informal welcoming at bar area (own account)
19:00 Dinner at Hotel (own account, only for those that have arrived in time)

Friday, 26 April

07:00 – 08:30 Breakfast
09:00 - 10:00 Seminar **(WADA compliance requirements/NF roles & responsibilities/Athletes – Pete Dyer**
10:00 - 11:00 **Privacy policy – Anton Rabe**
11:00 Tea & Coffee /snacks.
12:00 **Presentations by those countries tendering for future Championships.**
13:00 –14:00 Lunch
15:00 – 18:00 Visit to the competition venue & hotels
19:00 Dinner at Hotel (All – included in package)

Saturday, 27 April

07:00 – 08:30 Breakfast
08:30 – 09:00 Registration for Congress
09:00 – 16:00 TWIF Congress (See agenda)
11:00 Tea & Coffee / Snacks
13:00 Lunch
19:00 Farewell Dinner (Hosted by Basque Association)

Sunday, 28 April

07:00 - 09:30 Breakfast / Departures as per schedule

AGENDA – CONGRESS: SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2019

1. **Opening address. By the President**
2. **Roll call of the members. By the Secretary**
 - 2.1 Confirmation of a quorum.
3. **Confirmation of members in good standing. By the Treasurer**
4. **Appointment of scrutineers**
5. **Confirmation of the Minutes of Congress 2018 held in Cork, Ireland**
6. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere:** Update on Data Protection (GDPR) Policy (Still to be distributed for adoption by congress)
7. **Report covering the period since the last Congress. By the President**
See Attachment (A)
8. **Finance. By the Treasurer**
 - 8.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts (to be distributed)
 - 8.2 Approval of the budget (2019/20) To be distributed by the Treasurer
9. **World Games 2021: Report by Technical Delegate**
10. **Strategic matters/Policy Plan – Feedback/Update**
11. **Reports by the Commissions:** See Attachment (B)
 - 11.1 Technical Athletes Commission – Maaïke Hornstra
 - 11.2 PR Commission- Maaïke Hornstra
 - 11.3 Anti-Doping – Pete Dyer
 - 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:**
13. **Proposals and question submitted by the members and all other matters which the Executive Committee wish to propose** See Attachment (C)
14. **TWIF Championships: Past, Present and Future**
 - 14.1 World Indoor Championships 2018, Xuzhou, China (Dealt with 2018 Congress)
 - 14.2 World Outdoor Championships 2018, Cape Town, South Africa/Evaluation (See attached evaluation)
 - 14.3 Future – Progress reports/Updates

14.3.1 2019 Regional EC Outdoor– Castlebar, Ireland

14.3.2 2020 World Indoor – Letterkenny, Ireland

14.3.3 2020 World Outdoor – Getxo, Basque Country

14.3.4 2021 Regional EC – Holton, Netherlands

14.3.5 2022 World Outdoor – Sursee, Switzerland

15. **Tenders for future Championships** (Presentations during seminar/voting during congress)

15.1 2022 World Indoor – Singapore, Sweden, Chinese Taipei

15.3 2023 Regional EC – England

15.4 2024 World Indoor – None received

15.4 2024 World Outdoor – China, Sweden, Germany, England

16. **Election of TWIF ExCo** (period 2019 to 2023 for President, Vice President and Secretary General) – See nominations as received attached

17. **Other Business for the good of Tug of War**

18. **Future meetings**

19. **Closing by the President**

Attachment (A)

TWIF PRESIDENT's REPORT – APRIL 2019

It is with pleasure and appreciation that I provide this brief report on the TWIF activities during the past year.

The pressure to deal with an ever-increasing spectrum of issues, including reporting and compliance requirements from amongst others the IOC and WADA, require more and more time from the various portfolio holders and Exco as a collective. In my view, we will need to broaden the capacity on some aspects where not only expertise is required, but also a more full-time monitoring of developments to ensure a quick and competent/expert response. This will entail innovative thinking and responsible utilisation of the Federation's limited resources, but it will entail a "business un-usual" mind set and approach to the way in which we administer and govern our sport.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Exco members for their continued support, dedication, wisdom, guidance and hard work during this period. With the election of some Exco positions during the 2019 Congress, we will welcome at least 1 new member to the Exco which will not only bring new thoughts and skills to the table, but it will require a re-allocation of some portfolio's as well as the development of a new 4 year Policy Plan (to be submitted at Congress 2020) which need to address the challenges as highlighted in this report.

My sincere thanks and appreciation also to the members of the various Commissions for their contributions, and also to all the TWIF officials at championships, mostly behind the scenes and during long hours. You all do this at your own expense and time – without you as volunteers, the spirit, nature and running of TWIF events will not be possible. It is therefore vital that we continue to build our judges and recorders panel to spread the load and ensure that this valued resource is never taken for granted.

The reports on the work and activities of the various commissions should be read in conjunction with this report.

1. MEETINGS

The TWIF Exco met on 3 occasions during the past year with ongoing one to one or group telephonic and/or e-mail exchanges between ourselves. The physical meetings were in September 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa, (with WOC'18) and January 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. We will meet again in Getxo, Basque Country, just prior to congress end of April 2019.

Meetings and dealing with ongoing activities of the various portfolio's and commissions were held as and when required and convenient. Apart from the ongoing and increasing anti-doping compliance requirements, a clear focus during the past year was to address the quality and consistency of interpretation and application of competition rules. Various initiatives to address this vital aspect of our sport will be affected going forward which includes a revamping of evaluation criteria and weighting of key criteria and elements of the rules, a comprehensive briefing of officials at TWIF events and some new guidance material illustrating the correct (and wrong!) interpretation of the various infringements.

We will also have to continue with the debate to comprehensively look at the nature, structure and format of future TWIF events. It is not viable to continue increasing the number of weight classes during our events – somewhere we will have to consolidate

and compromise to ensure that the delicate balance between growth and development of the youth, gender issues and broad-based participation, is found. We will continue to focus on this during our seminars prior to congress or dealing substantively with these topics when the various proposals submitted by members as contained in the congress agenda, are being dealt with.

Another vital item is the health of our athletes where the once off weigh-in at events which have been instituted for very good reasons some years ago, have led to unintended consequences of severe weight loss and de-hydration, especially prior to indoor events. Exco will continue to gather statistics during future TWIF events and will advise on adjustments where required. Given the nature and requirements of the competition programme and structure, it is not feasible to go back to daily weigh-ins, but some solutions need to be found. This will include education and awareness raising on the risks, as well as a re-focus on TWIF's anti-doping rules and targeted testing prior to international events.

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

2. SPORT ACCORD/GAISF, IOC, WADA, IWGA & ARISF

The next GAISF Sport Accord meeting is scheduled for the week of 6 - 10 May 2019 in Australia. A range of one-to-one and plenary meetings and workshops will again be attended with the IOC, WADA, IWGA and ARISF. The theme for the 2019 Convention is: "The Future of Big Data and Analytics".

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

In the meantime, Exco agreed a new programme for TWG 2021 in Birmingham, USA. Tug of War will be hosted outdoor only, with 540W, 640M and 580Mix on three consecutive days in this sequence. We had to compromise with regard to numbers for the event and it will be expected of countries qualifying for all 3 events, to participate with a smaller allotment of athletes. Exact numbers will however only be agreed once the qualifying event (WOC 2020 in Getxo) has been concluded. The first site meeting for the event was attended by Glen Johnson who has been appointed as technical delegate for the event. He will make a comprehensive report at congress.

3. THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

As was indicated in recent years and discussed during seminars, we will have to innovate, adapt and change our sport with regard to its format and presentation to the needs of a more modern environment be it participants, spectators, the media and sponsors if we wish to remain relevant in the future. I believe we can do this without compromising on the core values, ethos, our historic and cultural roots and the very nature of the sport which boils down to strength, endurance and skill. Tug of War has illustrated its value both in the educational and physical exercise spheres and now recently also as a nation builder and contributing to peace in a country such as Colombia.

These values are also echoed in the rules of the Olympic Movement through which all athletes and sporting delegations should be guaranteed participation without any undue discrimination or political interference. The TWIF family of nations have a proud history in this regard and we have adapted and seen some innovative changes over

the past 15-20 years. We need to build on this legacy and continue to find new ways to display and play our sport. I therefore wish to encourage members to continue with experiments and explore different ways in order to be attractive to future athletes, officials and the media. Our ultimate goal is re-inclusion on the Olympic Programme – we will only achieve this by thinking out of the box and trying new things whilst optimising opportunities in multi-sports events such as World Games, the Youth Olympics, the Urban Games and the Beach Games.

4. ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Doping Compliance – Under the guidance of Snr VP, Peter Dyer, TWIF had various engagements with WADA relating to a range of doping compliance issues following a comprehensive review of policies and procedures. Some amendment to TWIF's anti-doping policy and procedures is currently being dealt with to ensure continued compliance and alignment with WADA's requirements. This included the signing of a new ADAMS User agreement and a revised international standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE's) which will require amendments to the guidelines and templates used to date. WADA is also in the process to revise the Athlete Rights' Charter whilst the data protection requirements will also entail further changes. Peter will provide comprehensive feedback at Congress relating to the process to date and a number of outstanding matters still to be dealt with. The message from WADA is clear – a more pro-active and risk based targeted approach is required even in a low risk amateur sport such as tug of war. The sport may be participated in by amateur athletes, but it needs to be administered exactly as any of the major sports with professionally paid participants and officials!
- 4.2 Development courses/seminars – Development and growth towards a true global footprint, remains one of the pillars of the TWIF policy plan. Seminars were held in Russia and France whilst engagement continuous with various potential host countries for further courses in 2019/20.
- 4.3 Asian development – The process to formalize organisational structures in Asia were partly successful but key members remain uninvolved whilst it also seems as if at least some countries in the region continue to have other agendas. It is however heartening to see further interest from this region with various tenders being submitted for both Indoor and Outdoor TWIF events from Singapore, Chinese Taipei and PR of China. I am hopeful that successful bids from any of these potential hosts will create further platforms for development in Asia working towards a formal TWIF continental championship aligned with the European model where bi-annual European Championships is tendered for and hosted by member countries on a structured basis, under the auspices and control of TWIF.
- 4.4 New uniforms for officials – After embarking on a process to re-kit all TWIF officials in 2017, everybody has now been issued with new gear. This is an expensive and ongoing exercise but is vital to enhance the presentation of our sport both on and off the competition arena. It is vital that athletes/teams also embrace the improvement of their appearance not only whilst competing, but also during medal presentations and opening/closing ceremonies which attracts ongoing viewing post events.
- 4.5 Web-site – Development work on the TWIF web-site is ongoing. This includes some structural changes relating to doping compliance, education and awareness which will be comprehensively reported on at Congress as indicated earlier. Further work on the archives and storing of historic material will receive attention

over the next few months whilst a more user-friendly content management system will also be introduced.

4.6 Competition software – Various new functionalities will be added and ready for use during the coming EOC '19 in Ireland. This will include some changes to ensure anti-doping and data protection compliance.

4.7 Data Protection - A draft policy to ensure compliance with the new privacy rules pertaining to data protection will be tabled at Congress for approval. Members are encouraged to look at this and consider following suit if they have not done already. For EU countries this is a legal requirement but remains a good practice also for those members outside of Europe.

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

ANTON RABE
TWIF PRESIDENT

Commission Reports (B)

Public Relations Commission

Current PR commission Members:

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

In 2018 the PR commission have had two meetings, the first one was during congress in Cork on the 28th of April 2018 and the second meeting was during the WC Outdoor in Cape Town, on the 22nd of September 2018. All members attended the meeting.

In April 2018 during our meeting we discussed about new items for the coming TWIF magazines and we agreed to pay attention to people with special needs and Anders and Denis arranged the articles, because there is attention for pulling for people with special needs in Sweden and Ireland, so other countries can learn from this.

Also, we payed attention to the WC Outdoor in Cape Town and the 40th Anniversary of the USATOWA. We also agreed that publishing a newsletter three times a year is enough. The big issue is how we reach all our members worldwide with the TWIF newsletter. We spread it out via the Representatives of all member countries, post it on the TWIF website and spread it out via TWIF Facebook page.

To make the TWIF newsletter more attractive, we agreed to use more pictures. Pictures are more interesting then long text. So, we try to make a good mixture of that. Also, we agreed to place articles about history of Tug of War from different countries, the current Tug of War with upcoming events and information about the future of Tug of War. Also, there must be place for important items in the TWIF newsletter, like WADA news and other items which will be important to know for the members and readers of the magazine.

As PR Commission we are not happy with the current structure of the TWIF website and the possibilities of the website. Anton Rabe and Pete Dyer from TWIF Exco and webmaster Bruce Schuman have had a meeting with the company (ABC in South Africa) after the WC Outdoor to speak about the issues around the website and how to change things. This will be an ongoing process to make the website more user friendly and more attractive.

During our second meeting in Cape Town, September 2018, we spoke about the items for the coming magazines. We agreed to make a kind of special edition on the WC Outdoor Cape Town which was completed with a lot of pictures, made by Eddie van Raamsdonk from the Netherlands. TWIF has asked Eddie van Raamsdonk to attend the WC Indoor China and WC Outdoor South Africa to do the media coverage by pictures, which was very successful. Eddie always shares his pictures on the website www.tugofwarpicture.nl

Focus for 2019 on the TWIF newspaper is on history, current situation and future of Tug of War, so there will be announcements and information about International Tournaments, the coming European and Junior/U23 World Championships in Castlebar, news about the World Games 2021, IOC information, reports from new countries and new representatives and information about WADA, a very important part of our sport nowadays.

Also, we notice that the TWIF Facebook page is being discovered more and more and the Facebook page gets more followers. It is good to see how some items reach a huge amount of people. At this stage we have already more than 3000 followers, but this grows every day. To give an example about information on the Facebook page: the announcement about the European- and World Junior/U23 outdoor Championships reached 4219 people and also the results of the different weight classes in Cape Town reached a lot of people, but we should not forget the good livestream coverage we had in Cape Town, which reached a lot of people as well. All is done for the promotion of our beautiful sport.

In 2017 TWIF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Olympic Channel (OC). OC spreads out sport news 24 hours a day on social media and especially Youth is following this sport items on their smartphones. This could be a media for TWIF to reach more younger people. At this stage there is an agreement that OC will cover one of our events this year and probably this will be the EC/WC Outdoor in Castlebar in September 2019. Further details must be confirmed. If TWIF wants more coverage, then TWIF has to pay money for this. In TWIF Exco we will discuss this year how we can benefit the best of OC.

Of course, as PR commission we like to receive articles, reports and pictures about items going on in the member countries, because as commission we try to catch all the news items, but we are not always aware what is going on in Tug of War World, so thank you already ahead for sharing all your media coverage with TWIF.

You can send the news links to Maaïke Hornstra per email: 10cc@hetnet.nl or share it on Facebook, so the news will be shared on the Facebook page of TWIF. Also, you can send your reports/articles and pictures to this email address.

Maaïke Hornstra
Chairwoman PR Commission
TWIF Vice President

Report Technical and Athletes Commission (TAC)

The Technical and Athletes Commission exists of the following members:

- Chairwoman: Ms. Maaïke Hornstra/ ExCo
- Secretary: Mrs. Marga t'Lam/Netherlands
- Mr. Jost Waser/Switzerland
- Mr. Ray Fray Smith/England
- Mr. Mikel Areitio Elordui/Basque country
- Mr. Erik Atterheim/Sweden
- Ms. Kittie Terblanche/South Africa
- Mrs. Shelby Richardson/ United States
- Mr. Ralf Brauninger/Germany
- Mr. Vincent Chen/Chinese Taipei

Due to personal circumstances Kittie Terblanche has not been able to attend one of the TAC meetings since 2016 and also could not attend our meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (her hometown) 2018, so Kittie withdrew from the TAC and we decided not to select a new candidate for the coming years till the next election in 2020.

Since 2016 we have decided to have one formal meeting a year, which is held during the European- or World Outdoor Championships. So in 2018 we had one formal meeting during the WC outdoor in Cape Town, September 2018, but because quite a number of TAC members were present during congress in Cork, April 2018, we decided to have a dinner meeting which was very useful.

Items we spoke about in Cork were the refresher course for judges to bring it back to 4 years instead of 6. After discussion and asking judges it will stay to 6 years. We spoke about comments on the evaluation proceed, dropping of teams and how to caution this, attitude of some judges towards pullers and recorders. Some ideas we thought about in Cork came back on the agenda during our September meeting in Cape Town on the 20th of September 2018.

Items we spoke about was the theory test points for the TWIF judge examination. Now all questions are worth the same amount of points, but the difference in difficulty in questions is not the same level. This needs an overlook.

Dropping a team/deliberate dropping; TAC has to give advice how judges can give a caution of warning for this. Sometimes teams are dropping the opposing team on purpose to gain an unfair advantage and hoping the opponent is getting a caution. This is unfair pulling and TAC agreed this could be part of rule 24, point 8 to disqualify a team without caution. This is not always easy to notice for a judge so during the TWIF Exco meeting in January 2019 it has been agreed that TAC has a closer look how to mention this right in the rules manual but also make a good statement for the briefing of the judges.

Also during our meeting we spoke about the attitude of some judges on the field and it will be part of the role of Chief Judge and evaluators to inform judges about this

attitude. Maybe some of the judges have no idea how they act on the field, because it is part of their focus, but for some pullers and sometimes recorders, it can be very intimidated.

After the situation we had during WC indoor in China, where the center judge made a mistake, we discussed this item during our TAC meeting and agreed that the Chief Judge, controller and referee will discuss the situation on the field or mat if a judge makes a mistake and that there will be a time-out and conclusion can be the chance of a re-pull, so then the solution will be made directly after the match. This will save discussion, appeals and a lot of commotion. If TWIF Exco agrees on this, this will be introduced. It needs to be very clear that a Chief Judge/controller/referee cannot be overruled by a coach of a team.

Also we agreed to make a better briefing for the judges before a Championships starts. It seems that not all the judges read their Rules Manual before a tournament and of course language is sometimes a big issue, so a very good briefing with instructions on a powerpoint presentation will be part of the briefing for the judges. Also is agreed that changes in the rules or other items which will be important for judges (and recorders), this will not only be send by email to the representative, but also to the judges and recorders.

Items for the TAC to work on are the following:

- Theory course needs to be updated, not every question is worth the same amount of points. Some questions have more level then others;
- Chief Evaluator needs to act more directly if something happens on the field, so talk to the judge when a mistake has been made, but also mention the good things, good feedback is very important and necessary to keep judges motivated and sharp;
- Making a good briefing with the current rules, pictures of mistakes, changes in the rules and get discussions between judges to get everyone on the same level. This will start in Castlebar, Ireland during EC/WC with a powerpoint presentation;
- Make a better evaluation report, written items are more useful then points;
- New No Pull system can only be introduced if the TWIF computer system can be changed, is part of discussion with ABC, server of TWIF website.

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. The next meeting will be in Castlebar, Ireland, in September 2019.

I would like to thank all the TAC members for their hard work.

Maike Hornstra
Chairwoman TAC
TWIF Vice President

DOPING REPORT TO CONGRESS in Gexto, Bilbao, Basque Country, 27th April 2019.

1. Whereabouts Information.

The Twif Registered Testing Pool (RTP) currently consists of those athletes in the winning squad for each of the three weight classes in the World Games. Therefore, following the World Games in July 2017, we have a RTP consisting of 26 athletes from three countries which will be in force until Twif notifies them otherwise or they retire from the sport, some of which have already done so. I can't stress strongly enough the importance of those athletes keeping their whereabouts up to date as they can rest assured pullers from that RTP will be tested. Should a WADA Doping Officer arrive at the location, indicated in the ADAMS system, and the athlete is not present, two things happen. 1. The athlete is registered as a missed test and 2. Twif incur unwarranted costs.

Furthermore, late filing of your whereabouts in a quarterly period is also an anti-doping violation and could be subject to sanctions.

We are currently revising our anti-doping strategy, so over the course of this year testing will be more intelligence based rather than purely random and the members of the testing pool could change on a more regular basis. If you are identified as a candidate for the testing pool you will need to comply with the whereabouts information requested of you.

2. TUE's and prohibited list.

WADA have issued the **2019 LIST OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND METHODS** which came into force on the 1st January. You have previously received advance notification of this in September/October 2018 and there was also an article in the December issue of the Twif magazine. As part of our obligation as a member of WADA and to maintain our Olympic recognition we, and hence ALL of our membership, are mandated to comply with this latest list. The prohibited list is updated annually based on intelligence and medical developments. Tug of War is generally considered a clean sport and we wish to stay that way, making yourselves aware of items in this prohibited list is important to ensure you remain compliant.

There is a useful website that can also help identify 'over the counter' products that may contain prohibited substances, that is <https://www.globaldro.com/Home>. If you are not sure ask the Pharmacist.

Even if you are prescribed something by a medical practitioner, inform them that you are an athlete who is required to be compliant with WADA regulations, they may have a choice of what to prescribe you so that you remain compliant. If not, it will be necessary, with their assistance, to complete a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) form that can be downloaded from the Twif website.

I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of all of our athletes remaining compliant as both in competition and out of competition testing continues both by Twif and your countries National Anti-doping Organisation (NADO), so be careful don't take risks.

REMEMBER – You, as an athlete, are solely responsible for any banned substance found in your system.

3. World Indoor Championships 2018

During the World Indoor Championships in China, 5 in competition tests were carried out as follows;

Male pullers from Singapore, Hong Kong, Basque Country and China, female puller from Chinese Taipei.

All tests were negative.

4. World Outdoor Championships 2018

During the World Outdoor Championships in South Africa 5 in competition tests were carried out as follows;

Men's 560 – Germany, Men's 680 – Netherlands; Men's 640 – Switzerland; Ladies 500 – Chinese Taipei; Ladies 520 - Basque Country.

All tests were negative.

5. Annual Reporting Forms.

At the time of compiling this report 21-member countries, had completed their reports. Their reports show that in total 28 in competition tests and 9 out of competition tests were carried out, all were negative. This is a significant reduction on last year and I will be discussing with countries regarding them undertaking anti-doping tests.

It is important all countries complete their annual report forms as the information within these reports is required by both the IOC and WADA, I therefore stress to each and every International Representative to complete and submit their forms.

I would like to thank Birute Zachariene, our TWIF anti-doping administrator, for her continued hard work in this area.

Pete Dyer

Chairman of TWIF Doping Commission

Proposals & Questions (C)

Proposals & Questions

1. Proposed by South Africa

Seconded:

Rule 5.1. It is proposed that a puller be eligible to participate in the junior category from the beginning of the year in which the puller reaches the age of 14 years until the end of the year that a puller reaches the age of 18 years. (Currently the rule states 15 years).

Reason/Motivation:

A large number of High School or Secondary Schools worldwide starts from 8th grade (US) or year 9 (UK). This is also the year when most of the learners turn 14. To expand the TWIF rule to 14 years, will allow these learners to participate in the junior category from the moment that they start with High/Secondary School, and NOT having to wait it out until they become eligible. It is further believed that, by officially extending the junior category with one year, the participation base will be "broadened" which will hopefully lead to an increase of youth athletes in our sport.

2. Proposed by Belgium

Seconded:

Belgium proposes that the minimum age for participation in the men U23 will be decreased to 16. For countries with a small number of participants it is difficult to retain youth and U23 men especially when the current rules prevent these countries from entering a complete team.

Reason:

There are a lot of sports where athletes compete on a professional level at these ages.

3. Proposed by South Africa

Seconded:

Rule 5.2. It is proposed that BOTH male and female pullers be allowed to participate in the U/23 category from the beginning of the year that they reach 16 years of age until the end of the year that a puller reaches 22 years of age. (Currently only females can participate in the U/23 category from 16 years of age).

Reason/Motivation:

Currently the rule restricts male pullers to 18 years of age in order to participate in the U/23 category, whilst female participants may participate from 16 years of age. In order to simplify the application of the rule, it is proposed that the age category be dropped to 16 years for U/23 males as well. This will have the added advantage that juniors that perform well, can progress seamlessly to the U/23 category at age 16 already (if they are good enough), ensuring continuity from juniors to seniors.

4. Proposed by South Africa

Seconded:

Rule 5.3. It is proposed that BOTH male and female pullers be allowed to participate in the senior category from the beginning of the year that they reach the age of 18 years. (Currently females are allowed to participate in the senior category from the beginning of the year that they reach the age of 16 years).

Reason/Motivation:

It is understood that females were historically allowed to participate in the senior category from the age of 16, because the junior and under 23 categories for females were not sufficiently established at the time. Since 2013, this situation has changed substantially - not only is the Junior Ladies category and the U/23 Ladies category well established, but the Junior Mix and U/23 Mix provide additional opportunities for ladies to participate. In the light of the above, it is proposed that the starting age of the senior category be changed to 18 years of age for BOTH males and females.

Note: In summary, if the above proposals meet the approval of Congress, the starting ages will be 14 years old for the junior category, 16 years old for the U/23 category and 18 years old for the senior category - for BOTH males and females.

Note: In summary, if the above proposals meet the approval of Congress, the starting ages will be 14 years old for the junior category, 16 years old for the U/23 category and 18 years old for the senior category - for BOTH males and females.

5. Proposed by South Africa

Seconded:

If the above proposal is NOT carried, the age for senior male pullers should also be adjusted to 16 years of age.

6. Proposed by South Africa

Seconded:

Rule 8.1.4. It is proposed that a specific judge (per weight category) be appointed to ensure compliance with regard to the protective clothing worn by the anchor (anchor suits).

Reason/Motivation: It was noticed that a substantial number of anchor suits utilised during the 2018 World Championships, were NOT in compliance with rule 8.1.4. Anchor suits had grooves in, as well as attachments/constructions to hook/secure the ropes, rendering a "lock". Although the anchor suits of some teams were addressed, others were not, leading to issues of inconsistency. In the light of this, it is proposed that a judge be appointed to a specific weight category to check ALL the anchor suits of the different teams in that specific weight category just prior to the team taking the field. After the initial check, spot-checks can be done during the remainder of the competition. (Note: The number of judges does NOT need to increase - the current number of judges allowed for in a TWIF championship, is sufficient to address this issue).

7. Proposed by England

Seconded:

That Rule 8.1.4 Protective Clothing is amended to standardise pullers protective clothing and the Anchor's Vest.

Reason:

At the moment this is a minefield and protection for pullers is being used to lock the rope preventing free movement. Examples are adapted belts, anchors' padding, rubber on shirts/belts and material wrapped round the waist all helping to lock a rope.

At the moment there is only one manufacturer of purpose made protection we have found for pullers and anchors - TOWS. It might be that there are others that have been missed. Side protection for pullers and anchor's vest are available through their website. These are robust and give all the protection a competitor requires.

By having a standard protection this will eliminate the abuse of being able to lock the rope through the different methods mentioned and it is fair to all participants. To clarify a competitor would have a tee-shirt appropriate protection and pulling shirt, nothing else. We strongly recommend that this protection is adopted until other manufacturers are available for approval.

8. Proposed by South Africa

Seconded:

If the consistent application of the rule is too difficult to police (ie. the previous proposals is NOT passed), it is then strongly proposed that the latter part of the rule (pertaining to anchor suits), be scrapped.

9. Proposed by Switzerland

Seconded:

The weight class **720kg Senior Man Outdoor** should not be pulled any more

Reason:

The last four years none one of the teams participating in the 720 weight class, were over 700kg. All of them were lighter than 700kg. So, it makes no sense to pull 720 weight class as it is not a spectacle and not attractive for the media too.

10. Proposed by Switzerland

Seconded:

That the following weight classes be pulled in Switzerland WOC 2022:

700kg man senior U19 man junior

640kg man senior U23 man junior

580kg man senior U23 women junior

580kg mixed 520 women senior.

11. Proposed by Scotland

Seconded:

That in future Indoor and Outdoor Championships the Mixed weight should never be put together with the heaviest weight on the programme.

12. Proposed by Scotland

Seconded:

That we change Weighing in procedure for all future Championships as follows.

Each team will be required to weigh in as a team on the day of the competition only for the weights that they are competing on that day. Weigh in maximum 2 hrs. prior to the commencement of the weight that they are competing in.

Example: If a competition starts at 10am weigh in will be open at 8am.

Reason. We have a duty of care to every puller that competes at Tug of War. At present we weigh individuals on a Wednesday, and we have currently pullers who are dropping between 8kg & 10kg prior to a Weigh in. This is bordering on a serious loss of weight at 10% of body mass.

13. Proposed by England

Seconded:

That Rule 8.4.2 Indoor Shoes be amended to standardise the Indoor Pulling Shoes.

Reason:

There are now two main indoor shoe manufacturers: Asics and TOWS. Both are readily available on the internet. By standardising the indoor shoe, it will make it fair and competitive to all teams.

The current ruling of constructing a sole to give optimum grip has now been abused. Teams are using rubber material soles that can give way and deposit rubber onto the pulling surface (mat). The construction and make-up of the soles is becoming ridiculous and an ever-increasing expense. We propose the above shoes are adopted as standard shoes.

Questions

1. Netherlands: Request regarding the last congress:

During the congress in April 2018 there were mention made of a lower fee for organizing a World or European Championship. Is there any progress about this issue?

2. Netherlands Request regarding the World Games:

When can we get a clarification of the number of pullers of each country for the next World Games? There is a possibility that there will be three different teams who will qualify themselves during the WOC 2020 for the Mix580, Men 640 and Women 540. If this will happen, the maximum of 22 pullers is not sufficient.

Election of TWIF ExCo (D)

Nominations for TWIF ExCo

President:

Anton Rabe (South Africa)
Nominated by Netherlands, Sweden & Basque Country

Vice President:

Ralf Bräuninger (Germany)
Nominated by Sweden & Germany

Jost Waser (Switzerland)
Nominated by Netherlands, Switzerland & Basque Country

Secretary General:

Maaïke Hornstra (Netherlands)
Nominated by Netherlands, Sweden & Basque Country

Evaluation TWIF Championships

Outdoor World Championships **Cape Town South Africa**

In order to ensure that the presentation of International Tug of War Competitions remains at top quality, TWIF appreciates to be informed on the opinion of the participants, officials and spectators on the quality of the Championships organised under the auspices of the Tug of War International Federation.

The outcome of the evaluation will assist TWIF and the Organisers of Future TWIF Championships in their endeavour to promote the Tug of War through an excellent presentation of the sport in well organised TWIF Championships. The results of the evaluation will be used to ensure that weak points are improved and good points are maintained.

You are requested to evaluate the various items of the organisation and presentation of the Championships in a score of 1 to 5.

1 = Poor

2 = Below standard

3 = Standard

4 = Good

5 = Excellent

Organisation

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | Communication with organiser before the event |
| 1.2 | Administrative arrangements before the event |
| 1.3 | Communication with organiser during the event |
| 1.4 | Administrative arrangements during the event |

3.7
3.8
4
3.7

Accommodation

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.5 | Quality of housing in relation to price |
| 1.6 | Quality of food |
| 1.7 | Quantity of food |
| 1.8 | Arrangements for transport between housing and competition area. |

4
3.7
4.2
3.6

Competition Area

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1.9 | Quality of pulling area |
| 1.10 | Dimensions of competition arena |
| 1.11 | Indication of (rope numbers) |
| 1.12 | Marking of centreline |
| 1.13 | Control of unauthorised persons in competition area |

3.9
3.8
3.6
3.7
4

Competition Equipment

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.14 | Quality of ropes |
| 1.15 | Score board for competition results |

3.8
3.2

Facilities for officials/competitors

2.1	Arrangements for weigh in	3.8
2.2	Quality of scales	3.9
2.3	Quality of waiting area	3.8
2.4	Quality of first aid	3.8
2.5	Quality of washing facilities for teams	3
2.6	Arrangements for briefing	3.8
2.7	Quality of announcements (public address)	3.2
2.8	Arrangements for refreshments/lunch during competition	3.4

3

Medals and awards

3.1	Quality of medals for Club Competition	3.8
3.2	Quality of medals for TWIF Championships	3.8
3.3	Quality of awards for Club Competition	3.7
3.4	Quality of awards for TWIF Championships	3.7
3.5	Arrangements for presentation of medals and awards	3.7

4

Facilities for spectators and press

4.1	Quality for stands for spectators	3.7
4.2	Arrangements for refreshments, beverages and lunches for spectators	3.7
4.3	Quality of programme of Competition and Championships	3.6
4.4	Arrangements for press	3.4
4.5	Quality of press centre	3.5

Total points 122

Average

3.69

10 Evaluations were submitted

Additional Comments:

Comments on the weigh in system used: Comment on the weigh in procedure was very positive, however the boot check was considered by many to be inconsistent.

Most feel that if this is to be used in the future it need to be fine- tuned.

Many felt that the score board was not read able. Some expressed that the announcement were very informative however were not always clear.

Over all opinions that these were some of the best TWIF Championships well organized and had the ability to cope with any problem that may have cropped up.

1. *Accreditations Outdoor & Club entries*

		Numbers	total/Clubs	total/teams	
2018	Cape Town	1422	92	173	WC
2017	South Port	1357	93	171	EC
2016	Malmo	1410	88	169	WC
2015	Belfast	1183	99	164	EC
2014	Madison	960	61	101	WC
2013	Assen	1231	75	136	EC
2012	Appenzell	1443	102	188	WC
2011	Minehead	1476	102	182	EC
2010	Pretoria	1092	62	118	WC
2009	Assen	1565	97	199	EC
2008	Sweden	1683	100	175	WC

2. Evaluations

England	2007	total points	119.15	Average 3.40
Sweden	2008	total points	121.4	Average 3.54
Netherlands	2009	total points	129.2	Average 3.80
South Africa	2010	total points	110	Average 3.23
England	2011	total points	118.8	Average 3.49
Switzerland	2012	total points	123.85	Average 3.64
Netherlands	2013	total points	107.27	Average 3.35
United States	2014	total points	162.08	Average 3.11
Northern Ireland	2015	total points	171.00	Average 3.29
Malmo	2016	total points	119.00	Average 3.50
England	2017	total points	112.99	Average 3.42
South Africa	2018	total points	122	Average 3.69

3. **National Team Entries**

National Teams	Entries	Number of countries
2018 South Africa	98	19
2017 England	92	19/2 outside Europe
2016 Sweden	106	25
2015 N. Ireland	84	15/2 from outside Europe
2014 United States	76	14
2013 Netherlands	64	14/ 2 from outside Europe
2012 Switzerland/WC	75	17
2011 England/ EC	72	16/ 2 from outside Europe

2010	South Africa/WC	71	15
2009	Netherlands/EC	63	14/1 from outside of Europe
2008	Sweden/WC	82	21
2007	England	69	17/ 2 from outside Europe

4. Accreditations Indoor & Entries

Indoor/ Clubs	Accreditation	Numbers.	Club's	Total Club Entries	Countries
2008	Faenza	855	54	102	
2010	Cesenatico	779	44	81	12
2012	Perth	820	49	98	14
2014	Castlebar	740	49	95	13
2016	Volendam	1043	52	112	20
2018	Xuzhou	986	55	107	17