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Executive Committee of WMF
Youth Committee of WMF

Bamberg, 14. February 2006

Meeting of the Technical Committee of 27.-29. January 2006 minutes

Venue: Hotel Blankenfeld, Wetzlar, Germany
Date: 27.-29.01.2006
Participants: Dr. Gerhard Zimmermann (chairman) GZ, Pasi Aho PA, Reinhard Neitzke RN, Jon Stanwyck JoS, Jan Strandberg JaS

Start of the meeting: 27.January 2006, 17.00

1 Greetings, establishment of the quorum, voting rights

The chairman wishes everybody welcome. It follows a short introduction of all participants and a short discussion about the agenda. Quorum is established. Five members have one vote each.

2 Minutes of the last meeting of TC 21.-22. January 2005

There is a short discussion about last meeting's minutes, after which they are confirmed.

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3 World Championships Steyr 2005 review

Generally the competition was seen as well-organized with lots of effort. Especially the covered miniaturegolf course was appreciated. Some details to be improved were also found. Lack of starting numbers for players made referees' work difficult. Also referees had to be called in last minute, because they were not booked in advance. Result service during and after the tournament was a bit slow. One negative aspect was the miniaturegolf course, which was installed to be too easy and didn't offer enough challenge for all players. Especially the fact, that some lanes obviously were adjusted after Nations' Cup is very negative and takes significance away from NC. One positive aspect was Justin Lee Collins' participation with a wild card as a part of British TV-production.

4 Nations' Cup / World Championships Tapioszentmarton Hungary 2007

The checklist has been handed out to the Hungarian federation in September 2005 and received signed later in October. WC 2007 were officially awarded by a letter from former WMF Secretary General based on a decision of the former Board, but taken under consideration from the experience at Senior European Championship. The actual Board renewed the awarding to Hungary under conditions, which have been meanwhile transferred to the organizer.

GZ explained the current situation at Senior European Championships, which were organised with merely Austrian personnel. The contract partner this time are the Hungarian federation and WMF. The question also for the future is, if there should be integrated the course owner in the awarding procedure in future.

In the signed contract is stated, that the miniaturegolf course must be repaired latest until November 2006 (cross bars under the lanes and plate material). A toolbox containing item such as mobile scoreboards, national flags etc. must be established by WMF for transporting these items from one championships to the next one, so that the organisers don't have to get these items every time again for only one championships.

5 Nations' Cup / World Championships 2009

5.1 Mode adaptation based on Delegates' conference 2005

The proposal of DC 2005 to restrict the number of players was discussed very lively. TC decides to make a motion to DC 2007, that the mode of the championships can be decided by TC after the location, expected number of participants and other relevant criteria is known.

5.2 candidates

USA withdrew its candidacy to host the WC 2009 at Disney World Orlando in November 2005. There is no answer from Asia to this issue until now. No other candidates are known at the present. Asian reply is expected till the end of March. If it will be negative, we start looking for options in Europe beginning April 2006.

Discussion follows about possibilities of organising another tournament in the USA, possibly together with golf players. One possibility would be a tournament like Ryder Cup in connection with a PGA event. JoS will contact Bob Detwiler for different possibilities.

6 Youth Nations' Cup / Youth World Championships 2006, Odense, Denmark

6.1 Actual situation

PA gives a short description of the current situation in Odense.

6.2 Final approval of invitation

The invitations of YNC and YWC are confirmed by TC.

Break Friday 20.00

Continued Saturday 09.15

7 Youth Nations' Cup / Youth European Championships 2007

PA describes the current situation. Geldrop, the Netherlands has showed interest, but has to clear financial factors. Should Geldrop not be able to organize the championships, Austrian federation has announced to be prepared to take over and organise them in Vienna. We set a deadline for Geldrop to 10th March, after which TC has one week to handle the case before giving it to EMF board before its meeting in April. It follows general discussion about the road the applications for Youth European Championships should go in the administration. TC decides that it is sensible to send them from WMF YC via WMF TC to EMF board, so that WMF TC has a picture, which candidates are considered for which years.

8 Youth Nations' Cup / Youth World Championships 2008

8.1 Candidates

YC had received two applications: from Hungarian federation for Tapioszentmarton and from German federation for Darmstadt. YC committee recommended Darmstadt based on the factors, which according to current knowledge guarantee a good championships rather than the Hungarian application.

8.2 Recommendation for WMF board meeting in March 2006

TC decides to follow the recommendation of the YC and recommends Darmstadt, Germany for the Board. After the decision official answers are sent to both applicants.

9 international championships

9.1 upgrade of information for candidates (duties, efforts, WMF help, application form,)

WMF should give some boosts to nations in order to increase interest to organise international championships. As first step we decide to put the WMF application form to the WMF-homepage as EMF has done with its form. The form will be completed with contact addresses of responsible persons, that is Sports and Youth Officer, and additionally with a matrix of awarded and free international tournaments. The checklist (tasks, support, support, deadlines) will not be published, but sent to interested federations on request as it should be a support and not scare anyone away.

9.2 request of youth committee to reduce the registration fee for international youth events

The board is preparing a package clearing up marketing rights and creating other things which support organisers. As a part of this package it is in sight that the registration fee will be reduced or removed in some years time completely. Therefore TC proposes no changes to fees now.

9.3 discussion if it is helpful for not European countries to have WC and YWC in the same year

TC decides to make no proposals now. We decide to wait first if Sweden comes with a new application, which would combine these events in 2009 or 2011. In this case they should both be World Championships and this would be a natural possibility for a change.

9.4 tournament mode for international Championships

9.4.1 Discussion about arguments from DC 2005

See 5.1

9.4.2 Decision for WC 2007

After a lively discussion the preferred order to adapt the mode in future is as follows; this should guarantee that also teams with not perfect results can participate with a full team in future:

1. To limit and control a time per stroke
2. To have a shotgun start on days 1 and 2
3. To reduce the number of team rounds from 8 to 6
4. To cut the men's team size from 7 to 6 players

The decision for 2007 is to play 3+3+2 team rounds with shotgun start on days 1 and 2 in case of more than 180 players (more than 165 players if k.o. system is applied in individual finals).

If we have more than 210 players (in case of k.o. system more than 195 players), the number of team rounds is reduced to 2+2+2.

Before the next meeting TC considers, how the shotgun start should be implemented (who starts where).

9.4.3 New proposal for WC 2009 (limit of players not to reduce rounds, others, ...)

See earlier topics.

9.4.4 Discussion k.o. system or other media friendly systems

Discussion is based on the working paper by RN. We propose to start with k.o. system already in 2007. The mode would be as follows:

- the best 48 men and 24 women qualify for the finals (in case of equal scores a sudden-death is applied)
- the best 16 men and 8 women have a "walk over" in the first round
- the first round between men placed 17-48 and women placed 9-24 is played on Friday after the team competition with shotgun starts, ladies start first.
- on Saturday the 32 men left play first one round with shotgun system
- next round for best 16 of both categories with shotgun start
- the quarter final round for the best 8 of both categories with shotgun start
- the semi-finals are played with normal start on miniature course
- the finals and matches for third place are played with normal start on miniature course
- all rounds are played over 18 lanes (9 course A + 9 course B; the most difficult lanes are chosen based on the lane statistics of first two days)
- all playoffs of the k.o. system are played as matchplay, the number of won lanes decides over the winner of a match

In case of cancellation of the tournament due to rain etc. a way must be found to define winners.

The same system should be applied for juniors and seniors. Juniors discuss this inside the committee until the end of February, seniors are positive about this according to EMF Senior Officer.

9.4.5 Changes of invitation for YNC as recommended by youth committee

cancelled

10 Continental championships 2006

10.1 European Championship Netherlands

Situation in Geldrop is OK, RN plans a visit to Geldrop in next months. Also in Luxembourg everything is OK for SEC.

10.2 Asian Championships Japan

At the present we have no news from Japan. We have no information if a European team is going to be invited like in 2000. The date of Asian Championships is 02.-04. November and the venue is Yokohama, Japan. TC will support the AC spreading information to all active members.

10.3 American Championships USA

There is no American Championships at the moment. There are two large national competitions in the US. US Open is played in May, US Masters around 21st October. No changes in tournament modes are familiar to TC. It follows short discussion on possibilities of modifying the US competitions to have the international mode, which would improve the sport in USA.

10.4. Awarding process of European Championships

We state that the EMF-events should be processed inside the EMF. EMF Sport Director informs WMF TC about the status of these tournaments.

10.5 Open continental championships

Discussion about possible measures and about if they should be generally open or not. TC finds that they should and RN brings this motion to the EMF board as well as GZ will discuss it with the WMF board.

10.6 The date of European Cup

TC finds that if European Cup is held outdoors in Northern or Central Europe, the date should remain unchanged in the beginning of October. It is however to be preferred to organise European Cup on the last weekend of October, if the tournament is played outdoors in Southern Europe or indoors anywhere. This weekend is also reserved in the international calendar for European Cup.

11 International minigolf rules

11.1 Status of acceptance in different countries

The general acceptance is not too high. Many nations have their own national exceptions to the international rules. There is an obvious need to generalize the rules and limit them to the really necessary rules only. The structuring in the handbook must be made clearer. The German federation is working on a similar update, which could be a basis for international structure too. Peter Parr has offered to help with the English translation. The next discussions are held in the TC meeting 2007 and a proposal to DC 2007 is to be made then. The idea is not to contact nations before this update exists, but first thereafter. Then we should try to convince the nations to homologize their rules with WMF rules.

11.2 Update penalty catalogue for DC 2007

See 11.1. The German federation's update project includes the update of the penalty catalogue.

11.3 New lane and obstacle types

TC will ask the national federations for proposals to new miniature and felt lane types before the TC meeting 2007. The proposals will then be discussed and approved types will be taken into the handbook. The ones that TC doesn't approve are rejected. The basis for approval will be the functionality of a proposed type. The handbook can be completed continuously with proposed and approved types. The new types approved in 2007 will be proposed to DC 2007.

Discussion is done about the possibility to change the repositioning rule at the obstacle from 50 cm to 30 cm on felt. JaS will discuss the idea in Sweden with the national federation.

11.4 Different questions

11.4.1 Update of the substitution rule (in case of recharge)

The current rules allow a second change in team competition under certain circumstances with certain consequences. This is problematic, if the player to be substituted in is playing ahead of the player substituted out, because the sub-in has played already some more lanes than the sub-out. The proposal is that the team in question receives according to the current rule 1 extra point per player and from that round on till the end of team competition. Additionally the team receives one penalty point for every lane the sub-in can't play anymore for the team.

The current definition of the handbook 11.2.1 must also be corrected hereby. It is said there that a team receives 6 penalty points for every round still to be completed, which doesn't apply correctly for ladies' teams with only three players. Thus the complete rule 11.2.1 is to be re-written.

11.4.2 Heating cushions / towels on the courses

TC sees no need to change the rules here.

11.4.3 Ball repositioning

The repositioning of the ball is allowed with hand only, when the ball is in play (has passed the border line). This is a point, which must be handled in the referee education, but the current rule will not be changed.

11.4.4 Sports shoes

TC sees no need to change the rules. Only sports shoes are allowed, exception are further possible with only medical attest.

11.4.5 Wrong scorecard notation

These rules must and will be changed together with the penalty catalogue update. The basis will be the interpretation of the rules at Youth Championships.

11.4.6 Guide for working on protest and complaints during tournaments

The protests and complaints must be handled by referees or jury immediately after the case occurred.

11.4.7 border line rules

A border line is added to the lane type middle hill on felt and miniature. The border line is placed 50 cm from tee-off line on miniature and 50 cm from the end of the tee-off plate on felt.

Also on the lane German block with plateau on felt the border line is added to 50 cm from the end of the tee-off plate. These changes will be proposed to the DC 2007.

11.4.8 Replacement of a player who made the final cut

The replacement of a player, who doesn't show up to the start of finals, is not possible. In the possible k.o. system table his/her place remains empty. Current penalties are applied.

11.4.9 Penalties for players acting as coach

A player is always considered as player, also when he/she is coaching. The penalties given in such situations are added to a player's other penalties.

Topics 12 and 13 were handled on Sunday 09.15 – 13.00

12 Minigolf Open Standard (MOS)

12.1 current minigolf systems in USA

GZ explains the background and the plans of the board for course approval process. Very lively discussion on what MOS should include (new course types, old, existing course types as e.g. wooden miniature, miniature with plastic plates). USPMGA has created an own set of rules which are to be compared with BMGA rulebook.

12.2 integration of stargolf, cobigolf, dutch feltgolf,

See 12.5

12.3 handling of courses with one or two obstacles not fitting with the handbook

See 11.3

12.4 acceptance of homologation

GZ edits the former handbook chapter 1.8. Then the TC motions the edited version to the DC 2007.

12.5 definitions of MOS

Course

Tee off:	A box is to be defined as the tee-off area.
Defined target:	If the target is a hole, it has to be 10-15 cm in diameter. It may also be something else than a hole, a lane can end inside or on an obstacle.
Fairway width:	A fairway has to be min. 0,5 metres wide. Narrower points of a lane may also be defined as obstacles.
Lane length:	4 – 40 metres
Course numbers:	18 lanes

Materials of playing area:

The materials have to be use-intended; the subconstruction has to be durable (long-lasting, use-intended, strong, rigid), the playing surface has to be durable and use-intended (e.g. artificial grass, concrete, felt, fibrecement, metal, wood, hardplastic)

Course boundary: Boundaries must be made of durable, use-intended materials and they must be smooth and calculable (e.g. straight bricks, metal, wood, fibrecement, concrete)

Obstacles: The obstacles must not be movable or moving. Hazards are allowed (e.g. water, rough, gravel, sand)

Rules

Repositioning: A ball may be repositioned 20 cm from boundaries and 30 cm from obstacles.

Penalty strokes: Penalty strokes are not used as per valid WMF-rules

Repositioning at hazard: A ball in hazard is repositioned 30 cm from the edge of the hazard to the direction where it came from.

Course rules: A written specification of the course in question must exist and it is the definite guide for players and referees on the course in question.

Clubs and balls: As per valid WMF-rules

The course definitions and rules will be continuously updated. The WMF-board has decided to set very general, broad rules. Each national federation may decide, which course types are included in MOS and which kind of competitions may be played on them.

12.6 type of tournaments, which can be played on MOS

see 12.5

13 improvement of minigolf courses worldwide

13.1 approval form

GZ has drafted a general form and forms for three existing system. He will draft a form for MOS based on the decisions of this meeting and send the drafts for all minigolf systems to the active members.

13.2 approval procedure

The procedure is to be as follows: A national federation inspects a course and sends the approval form to WMF. WMF sends the approval plate with the date sticker to the course and publishes its name, address and weblink on the homepage of WMF.

13.3 plate for approved courses

WMF media manager is designing proposals for a new WMF-logo. The board will choose among them. When the logo is selected, the plates can be produced.

14 International tournaments in WMF calendar

14.1 definition

Chapter 1 of WIT 4.1 handbook page 233 is o.k., chapter 2 has to be renewed.

14.2 missing announcements

Until today there are announcements from only 10 countries.

14.3 deadline and penalties

The current deadline for announcements is 30th September, which TC considers as too early, since many nations prepare their national calendars first in the end of the year. The new deadline is set to 31st December. A penalty fee of EUR 50 is to be paid for delayed announcements. TC proposes these to the WMF board.

14.4 golden league / WMF statement regarding private tournament organizers

TC recommends that national federations would punish licensed players participating in “wild” competitions, WMF advises more on request.

14.5 reservation of weekends in WMF calendar for international events

The calendar is fixed.

15 referees

15.1 actual list of international referees

Erwin Hansen BEL, Ari Ahrenberg FIN, Dieter Helmke AUT, Günter Schwarz GER, Erik Andersson SWE, Kari Kuneinen SWE, Margus Jaago EST, Marcus Wüthrich SUI

15.2 upgrading

New candidates, who are not on the list, should be tested at Nations’ Cups. If they perform well, they are invited to assist international referees at WC/EC/Ecup and may be taken to the list. Recommendations by active members are welcome.

15.3 education system

The WMF board is developing a package to support new, emerging nations. This package will include among other things a referee education part.

15.4 nominations for international championships 2006

- YNC: Dieter Helmke + two Danish referees
YWC: Dieter Helmke + Kari Kuneinen + one Danish referee + two assistants from national delegations. PA invites Kari Kuneinen, Ari Ahrenberg is a reserve option.
NC + EC + SEC: RN nominates the referees later

15.5 reports from tournaments 2005

The reports have been sent to the TC. No comments on these reports.

15.6 guide for not allowed balls

The basic information to non-licensed balls is missing and thus it makes no sense to handle the topic now. It is postponed to the next meeting.

16 handbook

16.1 update English translation

Peter Parr will be asked to update the language of the existing edition. After the German rules update is ready, it will be translated to English. The current edition will be set online until the next edition is ready.

16.2 update drawings

GZ updates the drawings based on the ones received from Johnny Forss.

16.3 update chapters for homepage

The doping-guide is the most urgent one to be updated.

17 doping

17.1 Wada correspondence

GZ reports about the correspondence with WADA and the current situation in WMF.

17.2 Questions from different countries

There have been several questions, which won't be answered in detail, before the new anti-doping rules are defined.

17.3 Renewal anti doping guideline WMF

WMF announces to WADA, that beta-blockers and alcohol are considered as doping and thus prohibited in minigolf competitions. For alcohol TC sets a limit of 0,1 per thousand.

18 International player transfer

The current rules are OK, GZ supervises that the rules are also followed.

Break on Saturday 20.00

Continued on Sunday 09.15 with topics 12 and 13

On Sunday 14.00

19 Future plans

19.1 Computer ranking

WMF board must first decide if a global ranking system is wished or not. GZ brings the issue to the board. It might be too early for such a big decision now though, as the complete budget is open.

19.2 Tournament software

TC means that a software, which can be used in all international championships, is necessary. The main question is, if a software should be transparent to every user or it should be a professional programme, which can be modified by only one person or company. JaS will consult Lars Isberg, the developer of the software used in Sweden, if it is possible to modify this software for international tournaments. Erich Hess is working in Germany with a software, which would be transparent and easy to understand.

19.3 Tournament package going from Championship to championship

JaS will coordinate the creation of such a set.

19.4 International player license

This is a long-term project, which comes in importance after tournament software and ranking system.

19.5 Shortening and clearing up all rules

See 11.1.

19.6 participation at universade

PA seeks information on possibilities for this.

19.6 composition of Technical Committee

TC proposes to DC 2007 that TC should consist of WMF Sport Director, WMF Youth Officer, EMF Sport Director, American Sport Director, Asian Sport Director and one further elected member.

19.7 Report from Bamberg meeting 2001

Report has been spread to the participants and continues topics worth to follow up.

The next meeting of TC is set provisorily to 02.-04. February, 2007.

Bamberg, 16. February 2006

Pasi Aho
for the minutes

Dr. Gerhard Zimmermann
chairman of the meeting