

The ITF Board of Directors gathered at the International Olympic Committee's Olympic House in Lausanne for its first meeting of the year. ITF President David Haggerty opened the meeting formally. The Board meeting covered multiple strategic and operational matters.

The Board welcomed the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, to the meeting. He gave an overview of Olympic House referring to it as the house for all sports. He updated the Board on developments within the Olympic movement in the lead up to the Paris 2024 Games and the importance of the upcoming edition due to the last two editions of Olympic Games (summer & winter) having been conducted under COVID conditions.

The ITF President advised that the ITF Board would be considering the issue of neutral athletes' entry to the Olympic Games during their meeting and the Board would be pleased to hear his views on this matter. The IOC President affirmed that work is on track for Paris 2024 with a general commitment to the unifying effect of the Olympic Games. He advised that the IOC did not feel that there would be any security issues around neutral athlete participation should they compete in the Olympic Games. He affirmed that IOC principles are in place to ensure there is no discrimination in sport. International Federations (IF) are responsible for technical rules and participation in their own events including the Olympic events, however the IOC retains discretion to determine if athletes admitted by an IF are neutral. He thanked the Board for their consideration of the matter and for coming to Lausanne before he left the meeting.

Membership

Having fulfilled its obligations in compliance with Article 5 of the Constitution, the Board of Directors lifted the suspension of the Marshall Islands Tennis Federation, and their Class C membership is reinstated with immediate effect.

Finance

The Board was given an update from the Finance Committee Meeting held earlier in the week. The Board were advised that the year end process for 2023 is due to be underway in April with the final audit results being available in June at the next Board meeting. This is due to the increased complexity as a result of the Billie Jean King Cup joint venture and the P&L for Davis Cup residing with the ITF once more.

The Board was made aware of the Risk Management report, a biannual review, and was made aware of the risks identified and the mitigating actions being taken. The Board was asked to note that these areas are subject to ongoing focus by the Executive team which they duly did.

Sponsorship Update

The Board received an update on the status of both retention and sales aspects of partnership opportunities across multiple products at the ITF.

Davis Cup Group Stages

A report was given by the Major Events Department around hosting bids that have been received for the Davis Cup Group Stages. The Members of the Board who were conflicted due to a bid being received from their nation recused themselves and left the room.

It was confirmed that the Final 8 would be held in Malaga. The criteria that were used to evaluate the bids were outlined for the Board and the details of each bid laid out with financial models explained in detail. The Board gave their views on each of the bids and gave direction and feedback, which would be taken to the Event steering committee for a final selection on the cities that will host the Group Stages.

Hopman Cup update

The Board was advised that Hopman Cup Board had met the week before in conjunction with its event partner to discuss the hosting of the 2024 event in the Cote d'Azur. Due to the proximity Paris 2024 Olympic Games, and the increased security pressures for sporting events in France in the lead up to the Games it has been agreed to cancel the 2024 edition with a return in 2025. The players committed to the 2024 event would be informed and be invited to participate in the 2025 edition.

Dave Haggerty
President