



# Minutes

8<sup>th</sup> WT Sustainability Committee Meeting (Conference call via Microsoft Teams)

May 22, 2025 | 19h00 (Local time in Seoul, Korea | GMT+9)

Attendees: Jamie Carpenter (Chair), Nellys Rios (Vice Chair), Maria Skryabina (Member), Jerry Ling (Deputy Secretary General PFA), Claudia (Coordinator MNI), Paul Kim (Coordinator PFA), and Daniel Cade (Sustainability Consultant)

## 1. Call Meeting to Order and Welcoming Remarks

*Ms. Jamie Lee Carpenter, as Chair, welcomed all members for the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sustainability Committee.*

*Three (3) members attended the meeting; thus, the quorum was established.*

## 2. Approval of the Minutes

*Mr. Jerry Ling asked the committee to approve the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Committee Meeting on February 6, 2025.*

*The Minutes were approved by the Committee.*

## 3. Overall Progress Report

### a. 3rd Hope and Dreams Sports Festival

*Mr. Paul Kim reported on the 3rd Hope and Dreams Sports Festival, held from April 28 to May 5, 2025, in Jordan. The event was co-organized by World Taekwondo, the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF), and the Maher Foundation. It involved over 1,000 children from the Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, featuring sports such as Taekwondo, baseball, basketball, badminton, and, for the first time, handball. Although weightlifting was not included in the activities, weightlifting equipment was donated to the camps.*

*Mr. Kim also noted that 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the THF, with a goal to expand the Festival to ten sports.*

*Mr. Ling added that due to the changing situation in Jordan, where many Syrian refugees are returning home, future editions may be relocated to areas like Turkey's Elbali Camp or Rwanda's Mahama Camp.*



**b. Sustainability Awards Update**

*Mr. Kim announced the timeline for the 2025 WT Sustainability Awards. Applications will open on June 2 and close on August 29. Winners will be decided by September 30. The earlier timeline is intended to give awardees adequate time to prepare for the Gala, tentatively scheduled for November 2025. The awards will have three categories: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Community Engagement, Environmental Sustainability, and Health and Well-being. Winners in each category will receive USD 5,000 in development funding (only first place) and relevant MNA ranking points. All participating MNAs will receive at least one ranking point.*

**c. Sustainable Competition Management (SCM)**

*Ms. Claudia Cardenas presented her progress on the Sustainable Competition Management (SCM) Tool, which is based on six areas: Event Strategy, DEI and Community Engagement, Waste and Resource Management, Transportation and Energy, Health and Well-being, and Legacy and Long-term Impact. She reported that 26 MNAs were invited to complete a sustainability survey, with results currently being compiled into a final report. Results showed that while most respondents have sustainability strategies, few have carbon management plans. Strong engagement in DEI was observed, especially in event accessibility and participation from underrepresented groups. Environmentally, many MNAs have implemented recycling systems and provide water refill stations at events.*

*Ms. Cardenas added that a webinar to present the findings and promote knowledge-sharing is scheduled for June 26. WT also plans to explore ASOIF's new monitoring tool to strengthen its own model.*

**d. SCM Plans at 2025 WT World Championships in Wuxi**

*Mr. Daniel Cade outlined the sustainability strategies for the Wuxi 2025 World Taekwondo Championships, focused on three main areas: waste management, carbon reduction, and health and well-being. Waste initiatives include detailed sorting instructions via venue signage, social media, and ticketing platforms, as well as clear protocols for handling medical and large waste. Carbon reduction strategies target decreased reliance on private transport, optimized energy use at venues, and the selection of eco-friendly materials. For health and well-being, initiatives include promoting mindfulness and physical activity in Wuxi's green-blue spaces, such as forests and lakes, with activities like*



*yoga and jogging encouraged to reduce anxiety.*

#### **e. Sustainability Ambassadors**

*Mr. Kim introduced a preliminary list of recommended Sustainability Ambassadors. Ms. Beth Munroe was nominated for the Health and Well-being focus area due to her experience as a Paralympic athlete and her professional background in mental health. Ms. Natirache Maritza was proposed for the DEI and Community focus area. She is the founder of the Vulnerable Underage People's Auditorium in Zimbabwe and a recipient of the IOC Women and Sport Award for Africa, for empowering young women through Taekwondo. For the Environmental pillar, Ms. Faith Gallo was suggested. She is an athlete known for organizing waste cleanup campaigns in Kenya.*

*Mr. Ling added that Ms. Gallo is affiliated with the UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization. He also clarified that these nominations are pending WT leadership approval, and committee members are encouraged to submit additional suggestions.*

#### **f. Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation Strategy Review**

*Mr. Cade provided an update on the strategic planning process for the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation. One of the main areas of discussion in the research interviews has so far been whether the Foundation should focus more on humanitarian outreach or remain focused on elite athlete development. A stakeholder mapping was completed, and consultations are being held with relevant organizations such as the Olympic Refugee Foundation. The feedback involved recommendations to improve impact measurement and visibility. The strategy will continue with the development of clear objectives, implementation actions, responsibilities, and KPIs.*

### **4. Discussion**

*Ms. Nellys Rios revisited her earlier proposal to include psychologists in the GMS accreditation system. She emphasized the importance of culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health support for athletes, rather than relying solely on host-country professionals.*

*Mr. Ling confirmed that the matter will be brought up again in future internal discussions.*



**5. Next Committee Meeting**

*The next Committee Meeting will be held on August 21, 2025 at 19:00 KST.*

**6. Closing of Meeting**

*The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.*