

FIR Council Meeting, Zoom, 15. April 2021, 20:30-22:00

Council Members present:

Anna-Klara Ahlmer (AK), Dan Busby (DB), Amke Fischer (AF), Kresten Hougaard (KH), Kirsten Kaptein (KK), Graham King (GK), Jean Michot (JM), Poku Salo (PS), Duncan Stahl (DS), Marcel Weigl (MW)

Agenda: Tournament „Lite“ Regulations

DS opened the meeting at 20:30 and welcomed all. GK was chosen to take the minutes.

DS gave a brief update on the status of the 2021 World Tour, considering it relevant for these lite regulations:

- The continued uncertainty caused by Coronavirus is making the necessary planning of the World Championships in Austria impossible.
- The World Championships in Vienna and Graz are, as a result of the continued Coronavirus hard lockdown, considered by the host to be unlikely to attract enough players to meet the sponsors' conditions. Scaling down or reducing the size and scope of the tournament is not an option due to the commitments in funding applications. As a result, these World Championships will be postponed for 12 months, when the same sponsorship and funding is expected to be available.
- In place of the World Championships, Austria will hold an Austrian Open tournament on 27-29 August in Vienna, either as a regular SWT, or in a form similar to the Elite-only Austrian Open of November 2020, depending on the restrictions at the time
- A possible alternative for a scaled down, singles-only 2021 World Championships is being evaluated
- It is proposed to offer the 2021 World Championship Doubles event to the Czech Republic, in combination with the Czech Open on 10-12 November

The Council unanimously approved these plans. MW, who was unwell, then left the meeting after answering a few questions.

DS presented the "Tournament Lite Regulations", explaining that these were the recommendations of the World Tour Committee, who had been assigned the task following the last AGM. The "lite" regulations are a relaxation to some of the standard Tournament Regulations with the goal of making it easier for a TD to hold a tournament during the Covid restrictions by giving more flexibility on the amount of notice required, costs, conditions to be upheld etc.

All points were approved, with the following comments and conditions/changes:

- Point 4: TD must justify to FIR why the increase is necessary
- Point 6: Squash referees remain a requirement for main draw Elite matches
- Point 8: DS is, with Sam Barker, developing a low-cost live-streaming package to offer TD's

- Point 9: free shuttles are already only optional for non-Elite players
- Point 10: FIR Delegate to monitor that communication is adequate



DS explained that other changes are required to comply with local Covid restrictions, and that TD's will need to publish in advance of their tournament a Covid protection plan (in consultation with the FIR). A 2020 FIR Committee Meeting established a FIR Covid Task Force and elected GK & MW, plus one further person TBD, to help produce a template Covid protection plan for tournaments which TDs could adapt and change as necessary in order to fulfil all local health guidelines. KH stated that, as Head of Delegates, he should be a member of this task force. The Council approved unanimously.

The meeting was closed at 22:00.

Minutes by GK and approved by DS

Tournament Lite Regulations (Proposed)

1. Tournaments would still be called CHA, IWT, SWT or WCs, but we would clearly publicise that new "Tournament Lite Regulations" had been temporarily introduced – designed to make tournaments easier to organise and to be organised at short notice.
2. These "Lite Regulations" would be temporary and reviewed at the end of 2021 (or as soon as we reach a point of normality).
3. New tournaments could be announced and published on tournament software up to a minimum of one month before the start of the tournament (nb TDs would need to contact the FIR with their application for a new tournament a minimum of 5 weeks before the tournament, to give the FIR time to assess and approve the application).
4. TD's could increase the maximum entry fees for the tournament if the FIR agreed that such an increase was necessary in order for the tournament to be possible...but any increase must be approved by the FIR first.
5. TD's can reduce the amount of normal categories at a tournament – but will need approval from the FIR first.
6. Referees (for main draw elite matches) would not be mandatory for CHA's & IWT's
7. Providing a Player's meal could be optional (covid regulations could make them difficult)...but tournaments who did not provide a player's meal may need to reduce their entry fee accordingly – unless the TD could show the FIR that a reduction in fees (even without a meal) was not possible.

8. Live streaming and live scoring would be optional for WC's and SWT's.
9. Free shuttles between 'airport – venue – hotel' would be optional. But at tournaments where public transport was not possible, then some sort of shuttle service should be provided to players (but not necessarily for free).
10. TD's will need to communicate very clearly in advance (on their tournament webpage and/or tournament software) about any changes (if any) to the "normal", expected, tournament regulations (eg entry fees, player's meal, referees etc), so that players are completely aware of the conditions of the tournament that they are signing up to.

Good and effective communication between TD's, the FIR and the players will be vital.