

IOC meeting 2020

2020-07-16, 7am UTC, via zoom

Agenda:

1. Vote on Georgia as host for IYPT 2020 (Decision on whether the tournament in Georgia should be the official IYPT 2020)
~~If Georgia is not accepted as host: Vote on keeping the 2020 Problems for IYPT 2021.~~
2. If Problems for 2020 are not kept for 2021: Vote on Problems for IYPT 2021.
3. Vote on extending the terms of President Martin Plesch and Treasurer Ilya Martchenko by one year.

Further discussions on other topics will be possible after the official IOC meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting the following persons are present:

- EC - President: Martin Plesch
- EC - SecGen: Timotheus Hell
- EC - Treasurer: Ilya Martchenko
- EC - Member: Samuel Byland
- EC - Member: John Balcombe
- Assistant: Barbora Weszterova

1. Australia: Alan Allinson
2. Austria: Paul Worm
3. Belarus: Igor Timoshchenko
4. Brazil: Marcio Martino
5. Chinese Taipei: Yung-Yuan Hsu
6. Croatia: Danko Marusic
7. Czech Republic: Stanislav Panos
8. Georgia: Giorgi Khomeriki
9. Germany: Florian Ostermaier
10. Greece: Apostolos Michaloudis
11. Hungary: Mihaly Homostrei
12. Iran: Dina Izadi
13. Korea: Young-Gui Yoon
14. Macao: Iat-Neng Chan
15. New Zealand: Gavin Jennings
16. Romania: Sandu Golcea
17. Russia: Olga Inisheva
18. Serbia: Aleksandra Aloric
19. Singapore: Koh Teck Seng
20. Slovakia: Frantisek Kundracik
21. South Africa: Florian Ostermaier
22. Sweden: Lars Grasjo

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 23. | Switzerland: | Eric Schertenleib |
| 24. | Thailand: | Wittaya Kanchanapusakit |
| 25. | Ukraine: | Zakhar Maizelis |
| 26. | United Kingdom: | John Balcombe |
| 27. | USA: | Elia Eschenazi |

Vote on Georgia as host for IYPT 2020

Giorgi Khomeriki gives an update on the situation in Georgia. There is currently no COVID-19 outbreak in Georgia. Under the current rules, participants would likely need to be tested every 72h for COVID-19, there are currently negotiations to get these tests for free. Participants should also get themselves tested at home before the IYPT.

Tickets should not be bought before August, as there is high risk of cancellation. There will be more information in the coming days/weeks.

Funds are secured, the tournament is supported by the university and the ministry.

Martin Plesch adds that usually there is an inspection visit by the EC. Especially in this case it's a must, that a few weeks before the meeting there is a visit and opens the discussion:

Dina Izadi: There is no testing available in Iran without symptoms.

Giorgi Khomeriki: It's not a requirement, but without having a document that states you are negative, you will have to do a test at the airport. However it might be a requirement at other airports travelling through.

Samuel Byland: What happens if there are positive COVID-19 tests?

Giorgi Khomeriki: Then the team will not be able to participate. If it happens during the tournament, the tournament will be quarantined, likely for two weeks. We therefore really should not have a positive test.

Samuel Byland: In case of positive COVID-19 test, will the accommodation be provided also in the days after the tournament?

Giorgi Khomeriki: Government will provide accommodation if someone is quarantined. I'm not perfectly sure though, also about who would pay for the flights.

Samuel Byland: How many countries have pre-registered for the tournament?

Martin Plesch: 18. How shall we handle the registration fees? Collect as usual, but we will pay it very late, when it will be sure that the competition will take place. In case not, it will be refunded in full.

Gavin Jennings: How late could countries pull out?

Martin Plesch: That is something what needs to be discussed, it is more the question for Giorgi Khomeriki and the LOC.

Giorgi Khomeriki: Two weeks before the tournament we need to know the exact number of countries participating.

Gavin Jennings: It sounds reasonable, generous.

Martin Plesch: We have a rule on registration fees being non-refundable. Let's agree on full refunding if it is 2 weeks or more before the tournament, if it's later, it will be negotiated.

Sandu Golcea: It is an option to pay on the desk (in cash) in Georgia?

Ilya Martchenko: For the majority of cases it is convenient for people to pay in advance. As a general policy, we need to collect the fees in advance.

Giorgi Khomeriki: It's not possible for more than a few countries.

Dina Izadi: (in chat): It is the same situation in Iran, we can pay in cash on arrival day.

Ilya Marchenko: Exceptions are possible, however, there should be a reason for any exception.

Martin Plesch: Possibility to pay on cash is to avoid complications, not to exceed the rule of two weeks. If countries did not pay 2 weeks in advance, the LOC will have the possibility to reject the registration.

Samuel Byland: LOC could ask for a booking confirmation for the flights in cases when the fee is paid on site.

Giorgi Khomeriki: If it's two or three countries it won't be a problem for the LOC.

Ilya Martchenko: This should still be an exception. And those using this exception should provide the confirmation.

Aleksandra Aloric: The situation in Serbia changed for the worse, therefore currently it's getting more unlikely that Serbia (which is pre-registered) will come, although we are eager to come. There is a chance that someone from the IYPT could bring the virus to Georgia - we pass many airports, and there might not be symptoms. Do we want this risk?

Martin Plesch: That is a valid question, however, there are also other international events happening now, so we won't be an exception.

Giorgi Khomeriki: There are risks, and we are all aware of them, that's why we suggest to be tested before the tournament.

Alan Allinson: Australia is not coming, despite the low number of cases. We know now that people are contagious within one day.

Martin Plesch: Behave responsibly also before the tournament, so we can somehow decrease the risk of getting infected.

Timotheus Hell: Most of the points raised by the EC back in April are still valid. Back then the decision in the EC was that there should not be an IYPT this year, as the risks are too high. COVID-19 is still a global threat and everyone is requested to minimize the risks of spreading the virus. There are still strict travel limitations for most countries, it's still hard to predict how this will change. It is still very likely that a significant group of countries would be excluded from a participation because of limitations in air travel. Many schools and/or parents will still disallow their students to participate at the IYPT for various reasons connected to COVID-19, and also still we have many members in the IYPT family who are in a high-risk group for COVID-19. Looking at the global numbers we also still have not even reached the peak of this pandemic, and still the situation also rapidly worsens for countries that first looked to be doing fine.

Martin Plesch: These are all valid arguments that need to be considered when we make the decision.

Eric Schertenleib: Why was the date changed?

Giorgi Khomeriki: It had to be changed due to several reasons.

Gavin Jennings: There were 18 countries interested in participating, can we now re-consider, who still would be interested in coming to Georgia this autumn?

Martin Plesch: (arranged a voting pool, to see who from those who are pre-registered are still interested in participating) 13 still plan to partake, 5 don't.

Giorgi Khomeriki: Can countries, which have not pre-registered yet, re-consider their opinion?

Martin Plesch: Question to discuss: What is the minimal limit for the tournament to be held. If half of the countries participating normally would take part this year, it would be nice.

If the IOC decides that the tournament will be held, the EC should have the right to say that the tournament will be cancelled, due to the situation.

Roughly 3 weeks before the tournament there should be an inspection visit and the number of countries willing to participate should be checked again.

Motion: Decision on whether the tournament in Georgia should be the official IYPT 2020 and allow the EC to cancel the tournament if at any point in time it agrees that the tournament is not feasible.

The vote passes with 19 IOC representatives in favour (Y), none against and 8 abstaining (A).

IOC Member	Vote
Austria: Paul Worm	Y
Belarus: Igor Timoshchenko	Y
Brazil: Marcio Martino	A
Chinese Taipei: <u>Yung-Yuan Hsu</u>	Y
Croatia: Danko Marusic	Y
Czech Republic: Stanislav Panos	Y
Georgia: Giorgi Khomeriki	Y
Germany: Florian Ostermaier	A
Greece: Apostolos Michaloudis	Y
Hungary: Mihaly Homostrei	Y
Iran: Dina Izadi	Y
Korea: Young-Gui Yoon	A
Macao: <u>Iat-Neng Chan</u>	Y
New Zealand: Gavin Jennings	Y
Romania: Sandu Golcea	Y
Russia: Olga Inisheva	Y
Serbia: Aleksandra Aloric	Y
Singapore: Koh Teck Seng	A
Slovakia: Frantisek Kundracik	Y
South Africa: Florian Ostermaier	A
Sweden: Lars Grasjo	Y
Switzerland: Eric Schertenleib	Y
Thailand: Wittaya Kanchanapusakit	A
Ukraine: Zakhar Maizelis	Y
United Kingdom: John Balcombe	A
USA: Elia Eschenazi	A

As Georgia is accepted as host of IYPT 2020 there is no vote on keeping the Problems of 2020 for 2021.

Vote on Problems for IYPT 2021.

Samuel Byland presents the process and result for coming up with the new list of problems.

Vote to accept the problems as presented:

IOC Member	Vote
Australia: Alan Allinson	Y
Austria: Paul Worm	Y
Belarus: Igor Timoshchenko	Y
Brazil: Marcio Martino	Y
Chinese Taipei: Yung-Yuan Hsu	Y
Czech Republic: Stanislav Panos	Y
Germany: Florian Ostermaier	Y
Hungary: Mihaly Homostrei	Y
Iran: Dina Izadi	Y
Macao: Iat-Neng Chan	Y
New Zealand: Gavin Jennings	Y
Romania: Sandu Golcea	Y
Russia: Olga Inisheva	Y
Slovakia: Frantisek Kundracik	Y
South Africa: Florian Ostermaier	Y
Sweden: Lars Grasjo	Y
Switzerland: Eric Schertenleib	Y
Ukraine: Zakhar Maizelis	Y
United Kingdom: John Balcombe	Y
USA: Elia Eschenazi	Y

The problems are accepted.

Vote on extending the terms of President Martin Plesch and Treasurer Ilya Martchenko by one year (until 31. October 2021)

Samuel Byland presents the motion: The terms of IYPT President Martin Plesch and IYPT Treasurer Ilya Martchenko are extended by one year, i.e. until 31 October 2021. The terms starting on 01 November 2021 will be reduced by one year accordingly.

IOC Member	Vote
Austria: Paul Worm	Y
Belarus: Igor Timoshchenko	Y
Brazil: Marcio Martino	Y
Chinese Taipei: Yung-Yuan Hsu	Y
Croatia: Magdalena Zivkovic	Y
Czech Republic: Stanislav Panos	Y
Georgia: Giorgi Khomeriki	Y
Germany: Florian Ostermaier	Y
Greece: Apostolos Michaloudis	Y
Hungary: Mihaly Homostrei	Y
Iran: Dina Izadi	Y
Korea: Young-Gui Yoon	Y
Macao: Iat-Neng Chan	Y
New Zealand: Gavin Jennings	Y
Romania: Sandu Golcea	Y
Russia: Olga Inisheva	Y
Serbia: Aleksandra Aloric	Y
Singapore: Koh Teck Seng	Y
Slovakia: Frantisek Kundracik	Y
South Africa: Florian Ostermaier	Y
Sweden: Lars Grasjo	Y
Switzerland: Eric Schertenleib	Y
Thailand: Wittaya Kanchanapusakit	Y
Ukraine: Zakhar Maizelis	Y
United Kingdom: John Balcombe	Y
USA: Elia Eschenazi	Y

The motion passes.

Martin Plesch thanks everyone for a very efficient meeting and formally closes the meeting at 11:05. Anyone interested is welcome to stay and discuss further matters.