

Fédération Internationale du Sport Football de Table Federation International Sports Table Football Maison des Associations rue Guillaume Lavabre 81700 Puylaurens Association Register No./Nr.: W941004017 Web : www.fistf.com

For the attention of: FISTF Member Nations FISTF Member Nations Provisional

## Subject: Minutes of FISTF Annual General Meeting 2023

## Date: Saturday, 2 December 2023, 2100 CET

Location:

Internet, FISTF Channel

www.discord.com

#### **Board participants:**

Steve Dettre	AUS	President
Eliot Kennedy	AUS	General Secretary
Chris Angelinas	GRE	Vice-President, Sports Director
Mike Sgro	CAN	Vice-President Media
Peter Alegi	USA	Vice-President, Confederation America North

#### **Board apologies:**

Nic Tan	SGP	Finance Director, Treasurer
Adrian Connolly	AUS	Vice-President, Confederation Asia
Bob Varney	ENG	Vice-President, Confederation Europe
Andrea Ciccarelli	ITA	Vice-President Development & Education
Daniel Matos	BRA	Confederation Vice-President America South
Roger Trouillard	FRA	IT - Administrator
Sébastien Scheen	BEL	Operational Secretary

### Member Nation participants:

Alexander Haas Verband	AUT	Secretary, Erster Österreichischer Tischfussball-
Adrian Connolly*	AUS	President, Australian Table Football Association
Mike Sgro*	CAN	President, Subbuteo Canada
Chris Angelinas*	GRE	Secretary, Union of Hellenic Table Football
Mark Farrell	IRL	Table Football Association of Ireland
Cesare Natoli	ITA	Delegate, Federazione Italiana Sport Calcio da
Tavolo		
Roman Bernhardsgrütter	SUI	President, Swiss Sporttischfussball-Verband
Cameron Tucker	USA	Board Member, American Subbuteo Association

#### **Confederation Representatives:**

Georgios Koutis Federation Associations	GRE	President, Confed of European Sports Table
Apologies:		
Delphine Dieudonne	BEL	President, Fedération Belge de Football de Table

Subbuteo		-
Simon Goodman	ESA	Secretary, English Subbuteo Association
John Zammit	MLT	Secretary, Malta Table Football Sports Association
Simon Stewart Association	NIR	Secretary, Northern Ireland Table Football
Dave Gladman	SCO	Secretary, Scottish Subbuteo Association

#### **Active MNAs Absent**

Gibraltar Table Soccer Association Northern Ireland Table Football Association Japan Table Football Association Nederlandse Subbuteo Voetbal Bond Associacao Portuguesa de Subbuteo Table Football Association of Singapore Asociación Española de Fútbol de Mesa Welsh Sports Table Football Association

## **Meeting Agenda**

#### 1. Opening and welcome by President

<u>President Steve Dettre</u> opened the meeting and thanked everyone for joining. He thanked all member of the Board for their work over the past year, and thanks MNAs for their great support. Steve thanked Eliot Kennedy for stepping in to fill the vacant General Secretary and for his work looking at MNA compliance, and also thanked Nic Tan for recently stepping in as the new Finance Director, replacing the late Fred Vulpes, noting that Nic had taken the Finance Report to even higher levels of detail and transparency.

Steve also noted the excellent work done by Mike Sgro on the new Equipment Handbook, as well as all the hard work done by Chris Angelinas (Sports Director), Sebastian Scheen (Operational Secretary) and Roger Trouillard (IT Administrator) for supporting the FISTF tour and keeping everything running.

Steve reported that the Board is working hard to create a solid platform for the future, with clearer, better enforced rules and regulations to ensure that the Federation is running as professionally as possible. Steve reminded the meeting that he will step down in 2024 and wants to make sure that everything is as well set up as possible for the next President and Board.

#### 2. Presentation of the Finance Report

Noting that it just after was 3.00am in Singapore, <u>Steve Dettre</u> presented the Finance Report on behalf of Nic Tan. A main issue to note is that long-term Finance Director Fred Vulpes had sole access to the FISTF account. There were no problems with or doubts about the excellent job that

Fred did, but with his unfortunate death the funds in the FISTF account (which have been fully accounted for by Nic) are currently not accessible. We must now wait for the probate process to release the account to Fred's brother, Klaus. As soon as that is done, Klaus will transfer the funds to FISTF. The Board is currently trying to establish a better way to set up the FISTF account on the basis reflecting our multinational basis and the fact that Board members are in different countries. Our Finance Director Nic works in the finance sector, and Steve has also received advice from Willi Hoffman (who works in the banking sector) regarding the best way to set up the account.

Steve commended the report to the meeting and it was accepted by acclamation.

#### 3. Presentation of the Directors' reports

It was moved that the other Directors' reports be accepted which was agreed by acclamation.

#### 4. Discussion of Resolutions

Business then moved to discussion about the Resolutions.

## Resolution 1:

# Topic: Criteria for admission (and continuation) as a FISTF Member National Association – Provisional (MNA-P)

*Proposal:* To authorise the Board to prepare revisions to section 2 of the *FISTF Official Handbook* to further clarify the processes by which countries are admitted and continue as MNA-Ps, MNA-Ps' rights and obligations, and what happens at the end of their probationary period.

#### Background:

In the definition section of the Statutes, the definition of MNA and MNAP is identical, that is *any legal entity that presents itself as managing the activities of sport table football within the boundaries of a Nation (State) or Territory*. The <u>actual</u> difference between an MNA and an MNAP is then set out to some extent in Articles 3 and 4 of the Statutes; basically, <u>an MNAP is an MNA</u> <u>"on probation" until it is admitted as an MNA</u>.

This is sufficient for the Statutes, but what needs to be further clarified (in the Handbook) are the circumstances in which a country is and is not approved as an MNAP, and continues as an MNA-P, the differences in the rights and obligations of MNA-Ps versus MNAs (including to participate in FISTF World Cups), and what happens at the end of the normal probationary period of 6 - 30 months.

For example, is a country required to meet all – or maybe most – of the membership requirements before they are approved as an MNA-P? This is the implication of Article 4.2 of the Statutes, which states that "*This probation period is necessary to ensure the Association complies with all the requirements for membership as listed in the relevant regulations.*" However, this is not entirely clear and nor is it clear that this is what has happened in practice – it appears that almost <u>any</u> country interested in possible membership of the FISTF has in the past been granted MNA-P (or sometimes even MNA) status, regardless of how many of the membership requirements had been met. In addition, a number of countries have remained MNA-Ps for many years, primarily because they are no closer to meeting the membership requirements.

Another important area requiring further clarification – in the Official Handbook and/or the World Cup Handbook – is whether there are differences in the rights of MNA-Ps to participate in the

FISTF World Cup, including the number of players allowed to participate.

It would also be useful to set out the options for dealing with MNA-Ps which do not meet all the membership criteria at the end of the probationary period – for example, an extension of the probationary period, admission as an "Associate Member" (see Resolution 2), or termination of the probation process and classifying the country as "lapsed/inactive".

#### (Submitted by E Kennedy, General Secretary FISTF)

*Discussion:* <u>Eliot Kennedy</u> spoke to this resolution, noting that it was the first of four resolutions arising from the recent audit of all countries' compliance with the FISTF membership requirements. As noted above, one important issue was the rights of MNA-Ps versus MNAs at World Cup events, but there were other broader issues about MNA-Ps also needing to be set out more clearly.

<u>Alexander Haas (AUT)</u> asked whether MNAs would have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes to the Handbook. Steve clarified that because the proposed amendments to be drafted pursuant to this resolution, if approved, go to issues of membership, the proposed amendments to the Handbook <u>would</u> be put to MNAs for comment and a separate vote before any amendments were made. This was in accordance with past practice by the Board that amendments to the Handbook involving members' rights, financial issues or significant operational issues are sent out to members for comment/approval before being adopted. While the Board is empowered to make changes to the Handbook without consultation, this is normally one done for minor amendments and tidying up of language.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 1

> I agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to section 2 of the FISTF Official Handbook to further clarify the processes by which countries are admitted and continue as MNA-Ps, MNA-Ps' rights and obligations, and what happens at the end of their probationary period.

> I do not agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to section 2 of the FISTF Official Handbook to further clarify the processes by which countries are admitted and continue as MNA-Ps, MNA-Ps' rights and obligations, and what happens at the end of their probationary period.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 50.01 pct majority vote <sup>1</sup> is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results).

## **Resolution 2:**

#### **Topic:** Creation of "Associate Member" status in FISTF Statutes and Handbook

*Proposal:* To authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the *FISTF Official Handbook* (to be adopted after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to create a new status of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Please note**: only a 50.01 pct majority is required to carry this resolution as we are not actually changing the Handbook or Statutes at this stage, just seeking approval to draft amendments to be further considered by MNAs. If this and other similar resolutions are approved, then a 66.67% majority will be required in due course (at the Congress/next AGM) to actually approve the proposed amendments.

"Associate MNA" for smaller/less developed MNAs.

#### Background:

At its meeting in October 2023, the Board noted that the audit of MNA compliance had shown that a number of countries have remained MNAPs for many years, rather than the 6 – 30 months contemplated in the FISTF Statutes, primarily because they are no closer to meeting the membership requirements. For example, this includes smaller countries which do not and might never have sufficient players or clubs. Are such countries allowed to remain MNAPs indefinitely? And does FISTF wish to maintain the current expectation (on paper at least) that any country wishing to seek membership must seek "full" membership?

In these circumstances, the Board agreed that it would make sense to consider creating a lesser but more permanent form of membership for countries which have not and may never fully meet the membership requirements, such as "Associate Member". An Associate Member could have similar or even identical (limited) rights and obligations as MNA-Ps but would have lower requirements (in particular regarding playing numbers) than an MNA.

Noting that the creation of "Associate Membership" status would require a change to the Statutes, the Board agreed that the issue should be raised at the 2023 AGM for MNAs' initial consideration and, if the reaction is positive, could be considered at the Congress due to held in 2024.

(Submitted by E Kennedy, General Secretary FISTF)

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 2

*Discussion:* <u>Eliot Kennedy</u> spoke to this resolution, noting that depending on the final form of any amendments to the Statutes and/or Handbook, there might be very little or no difference between the rights and obligations of an "Associate Member" and a "Provisional Member". However, even just changing the terminology would be an improvement as it would give Associate Members more permanent status and remove the expectation that such countries must seek to become a full MNA, as required currently under the Statutes.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 2

> I agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the FISTF Official Handbook (to be adopted after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to create a new status of "Associate MNA" for smaller/less developed MNAs.

> I do not agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the FISTF Official Handbook (to be adopted after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to create a new status of "Associate MNA" for smaller/less developed MNAs.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 50.01 pct majority vote is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results)

## Resolution 3:

#### **Topic: Consequences of non-compliance with membership requirements**

*Proposal:* To authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the *FISTF Official Handbook* (to be adopted at or immediately after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to set out more clearly the consequences of failure to meet the MNA/MNAP requirements.

#### Background:

At its meeting in October 2023, the Board noted that another issue arising from the MNA audit which needs to be clarified in the Statutes and/or Handbook are the consequences of failure to meet the MNA/MNA-P requirements. These are currently covered in part in the Statutes and the Handbook, but it was agreed that further clarity is required.

In the Statutes, currently the only mention of suspension of an MNA is in the context of disciplinary proceedings (Article 23). Article 23.1 states that "Sanctions may be imposed on Member National Associations and MNAP, as well as on clubs and single players of Member National Associations & MNAPs. The Sanctions are specified in the Disciplinary Council Articles of the FISTF Official Handbook."

However, the Disciplinary Council Articles set out in the Handbook clearly state that "The provisions of these regulations apply to FISTF, MNAs, Clubs, Players and competition organizers in the conduct of any competition activity related to sports table football." In other words, the regulations and applicable sanctions are *competition*-related, rather than relating to failure to meet general FISTF membership requirements. They would not therefore seem to apply here.

The consequences of failing to meet some of the membership requirements were however recently spelled out in the Handbook, at Article 2.1.2(j):

- (j) Status as a FISTF MNA is valid for one sports season only and must be renewed each season. Each MNA's status as a member of FISTF will be validated manually [NB: this should be "annually"] at the Annual General Meeting of FISTF, bearing in mind the criteria set out above.
  - (i) An MNA will continue to be admitted as a full MNA if it continues to provide an updated **Form 01** and **Form 20** on a regular basis.
  - (ii) An MNA that fails to update its Form 01 or Form 20 will temporarily lose its full MNA status. It will have no voting rights at the FISTF AGM or Congress, and all events in their territory will be suspended. To revert to full MNA status, it must complete these forms and comply with the other MNA criteria.
  - (iii) An MNA that has not updated its **Form 01** or **Form 20** for 3 years consecutively will be downgraded to MNA-P, meaning that it will have no voting rights at the FISTF AGM or Congress. To revert to full MNA status, it must complete these forms and comply with the other MNA criteria.

This is a very useful start, however, these new clauses only relate to a failure to complete the Form 01 and Form 20 and, it could be argued, are *ultra vires* given there is no clear basis for temporary suspension of downgrading from MNA to MNA-P status in the Statutes for a failure to meet membership requirements. They do not set out what the consequences of other breaches of the core membership requirements. Such as a failure to hold elections or an AGM, might be.

Any new provisions would also need to be clear on what effect, if any, the temporary suspension of an MNA/MNAP for a failure to meet membership requirements would have on individual players or clubs. In this regard, it is noted that:

- on the one hand, section 2.1.5(f) of the Handbook (Administrative Sanctions for MNAs) states that "If an MNA does not update its Form 20 registration, players and clubs from that MNA may still participate in competitions. However, until the Form 20 is up to date, there will be no World Ranking points awarded to these players and clubs for any competitions. These points will be restored as soon as the data is updated by the MNAs.";
- whereas, on the other hand, Article 8.3 of the FISTF Disciplinary Council & Regulations set out in section 7 of the Handbook states that "The suspension of an MNA will automatically imply the suspension of all Clubs and Players affiliated with that MNA."

The former approach (that players and clubs <u>can</u> continue to play, but not receive ranking points) would seem to be more appropriate for a failure of an MNA/MNA-P to meet membership requirements than the more serious sanction of suspension of all players/clubs for a breach of the Disciplinary Regulations by an MNA.

Noting that some of the possible changes needed would require a change to the Statutes, the Board agreed that the issue should be raised at the 2023 AGM for MNAs' initial consideration and, depending on the outcomes of the discussion, some amendments could be drafted for the next version of the Handbook and any changes required to the Statutes could be considered at the Congress due to held in 2024.

(Submitted by E Kennedy, General Secretary FISTF)

*Discussion:* Eliot Kennedy briefly spoke to the resolution. <u>Cameron Tucker (USA)</u> asked whether the Board had any plan to get members which breach the membership requirements back into the process. Steve indicated that for a really serious issue, we can call an extraordinary general meeting of FISTF to discuss it. But most issues are not so serious and are often of a more administrative nature, such as a failure to complete essential forms in a timely manner. Many of these can be fixed relatively quickly. Eliot added that his experience over the last few months was that the mere threat of a temporary suspension had been sufficient to motivate many MNA/MNA-Ps to rectify any deficiencies.

<u>Cameron Tucker (USA)</u> also noted that he was worried about individual players being adversely affected by the failures of their MNA, for example by not earning or losing their ranking points. Eliot replied that in its recent redrafting of the Handbook, the Board had tried to strike the right balance. The Handbook had previously stated that where an MNA had not submitted its Form F20 registration before the indicated deadline, its clubs and individual players were actually prohibited from taking part in FISTF tournaments until this is in order. The current provision is less punitive on individuals in that it allows them to participate, but it meant to motivate the MNA (and to motivate players to request that their MNA) updates their form. In any case, as for Resolutions 1 and 2, MNAs will have a chance to comment on the draft amendments setting out more clearly the consequences of failure to meet the MNA/MNAP requirements.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 3

> I agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the FISTF Official Handbook (to be adopted at or immediately after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to set out more clearly the consequences of failure to meet the MNA/MNAP requirements.

> I do not agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the FISTF Official Handbook

(to be adopted at or immediately after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to set out more clearly the consequences of failure to meet the MNA/MNAP requirements.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 50.01 pct majority vote is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results).

## Resolution 4:

#### **Topic: National registration requirement for MNAs**

*Proposal:* To authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the *FISTF Official Handbook* (to be adopted after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to amend the current membership requirement that an MNA must register as an officially recognised body in its national territory (unless it is unable to do so), provided the MNA can demonstrate that it is otherwise established and running appropriately.

#### Background:

Article 3.5 of the Statutes currently requires that an MNA "provide evidence of its Annual General Meeting, voting for its Board positions, <u>registration as an officially recognised body in its national</u> territory (or an official statement that such registration is not possible in its territory)." The primary reason for these requirements is to ensure that MNAs are properly run (that is, with transparency, accountability, proper rules etc). These requirements, rightly, force an association to follow proper rules around elections, the board and accounts. The ultimate aim of these requirements is to ensure MNAs are not just an informal group of people but have some 'official' status.

Read strictly, this requirement applies even where such registration is possible but is not required domestically. The recent MNA audit has shown this to be an issue for a number of countries, including Canada, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the United States and Wales. In most cases, these MNAs have explained that there are financial costs and other administrative burdens which have meant that they have not pursued registration. There are therefore a number of otherwise well-run MNAs which are not required by the domestic laws to register, have not done so and therefore do not, strictly speaking, meet this membership requirement.

After some discussion, including of the need to balance proper accountability mechanisms with some flexibility for associations, the Board agreed consideration should be given to allow for the possibility of non-registration where it is not required domestically, <u>providing that the MNA can</u> <u>demonstrate that it is otherwise established and running appropriately</u> (that is, that it has a constitution, regular/annual general meetings, an elected Board etc, in accordance with section 2.1.2 of the Handbook).

Noting that this would require a change to the Statutes at the next Congress, it was agreed that that the issue should be raised at the 2023 AGM for MNAs' initial consideration and, depending on the outcomes of the discussion, amendments to the Statutes (and consequential amendments to the Handbook) could be considered at the Congress due to held in 2024.

(Submitted by E Kennedy, General Secretary FISTF)

Discussion: Eliot Kennedy briefly spoke to the resolution. Noting that there are various

Government agencies that might be relevant, <u>Alexander Haas (AUT)</u> asked if there was any definition of what "officially recognised body" means. <u>Eliot Kennedy</u> replied that this was not currently defined in the Statutes or Handbook and had been left quite open – some MNAs had registered with a national sports association, others with a non-profit regulator or other government entity. This might involve the MNA becoming incorporated or otherwise gaining legal personality, but this is not a requirement. <u>Steve Dettre</u> agreed and explained that the background to this requirement was as part of a broader push to position FISTF to become a member of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) or possibly even the IOC. This would require putting FISTF and its members on a much stronger legal footing but would also impose large financial and other burdens and had not been pursued.

Noting that the proposed amendment to the Statute would actually do away with the requirement to register at a national level (though the Statutes would still encourage it), <u>Eliot Kennedy</u> undertook to spell out some options for national registration when drafting the amendments.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 4

> I agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the FISTF Official Handbook (to be adopted after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to amend the current membership requirement that an MNA must register as an officially recognised body in its national territory (unless it is unable to do so), provided the MNA can demonstrate that it is otherwise established and running appropriately.

> I do not agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, and to the FISTF Official Handbook (to be adopted after the 2024 Congress if the amendments to the Statutes are approved) to amend the current membership requirement that an MNA must register as an officially recognised body in its national territory (unless it is unable to do so), provided the MNA can demonstrate that it is otherwise established and running appropriately.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 50.01 pct majority vote is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results).

## Resolution 5:

#### **Topic: Number of Satellite tournaments permitted**

*Proposal:* To amend Article 2.8.4 (b)(i) in the Official Handbook to increase the number of Satellites that each MNA is entitled to organise from 3 to 5 beginning in season 2024-25.

#### Background:

A number of nations have requested the opportunity to organise more, smaller events that allow players to compete in a FISTF event without the presence of more highly ranked players.

Therefore we are proposing to increase the number of permitted Satellites (which are limited to those players outside the top 100 World Ranking.)

It also provides an opportunity for MNAs and their clubs to run a smaller FISTF event to gain experience in running tournaments.

The limit of 5 would also be limited to no more than one per MNA per month.

(Submitted by S Dettre, President FISTF)

*Discussion:* <u>Steve Dettre</u> spoke briefly to this resolution. He indicated that there had been some requests from some countries to increase the maximum number of Satellites allowed, especially as such events do not interfere with GPs, IOs etc. It would allow for more smaller events and greater levels of participation but, unlike WASPA events, referees would be required. Some MNAs had proposed to push the maximum up to 10 Satellites per year, but the proposal was to move from 3 to 5 and to see how well it works in practice before considering any further increase.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 5

> I agree to amend Article 2.8.4 (b)(i) in the Official Handbook to increase the number of Satellites that each MNA is entitled to organise from 3 to 5 beginning in season 2024-25.

> I do not agree to amend Article 2.8.4 (b)(i) in the Official Handbook to increase the number of Satellites that each MNA is entitled to organise from 3 to 5 beginning in season 2024-25.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 66.67 pct majority vote is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results).

## **Resolution 6:**

*Proposal:* To formalise/set out more clearly in the Official Handbook the purposes to which FISTF's funds are used to support MNAs/MNA-Ps and event organisers.

#### Background:

Currently there are three relevant two sections in the Handbook relating to use of FISTF funds:

#### 4.2.2 Development assistance

(a) FISTF will devote part of its budget to the development of sports table football. This assistance will be in practice:

- (i) Reductions in the fees paid by the MNAs.
- (ii) The purchase and provision of equipment for the smaller associations.

#### 4.2.3 Donation to event organizers for the running of events.

#### 4.2.4 Allowances

(a) Miscellaneous payments - FISTF may contribute to MNAs whose clubs and players have contributed towards the development of sports table football.

I propose that we formalise this section including criteria for donations and clarification of what the money is being spent on.

I believe that we are spending a significant amount of money on trophies, when we should be

providing money for development.

I also believe that in the current economic climate, organisers need to be more frugal with the proportion of their budget dedicated to trophies and medals. More attention needs to be paid to promoting their events in local communities with flyers, posters etc.

I would hope that our Member Nations, as well as the vast majority of players, would prefer money to be spent on expanding our global community.

Additionally, with the revamping of the Rules and Referees Committee, we are looking to introduce online rules tests, referee 'badges' and official selection of dedicated referees for the World Cup. This would be, in my opinion, be a better use of our funds.

(Submitted by S Dettre, President FISTF)

*Discussion:* <u>Steve Dettre</u> spoke briefly to this resolution, explaining that the intention was to spend FISTF funds more effectively to promote the growth of the game, rather than on trophies that often go to the same people. Apart from assisting some MNAs/MNA-Ps with the purchase of equipment/development kits etc, funds might be spent on promotional videos, or to support events in other ways. Anyone applying for funds would need to set out clearly how the funds would be spent, and to provide a report afterwards on the outcomes achieved. <u>Roman Bernhardsgrütter</u> (SUI) indicated his support for the proposal. Steve added that, because the proposal deals with financial issues and how members' funds are spent, the amendments to the Handbook would be sent to MNAs for discussion and approval once drafted.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 6

> I agree to formalise/set out more clearly in the Official Handbook the purposes to which FISTF's funds are used to support MNAs/MNA-Ps and event organisers.

> I do not agree to formalise/set out more clearly in the Official Handbook the purposes to which FISTF's funds are used to support MNAs/MNA-Ps and event organisers.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 66.67 pct majority vote is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results)

## Resolution 7:

#### Topic: FISTF bank account/legal representative

*Proposal:* To authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, to introduce the notion of the President's legal representative authorised to have access to the FISTF bank account.

#### Background:.

With the untimely death of former FISTF Treasurer/Finance Director Fred Vulpes earlier this year, is has become apparent that changes are required to FISTF's banking arrangements to allow better access to and management of FISTF funds. The Board is currently looking at options to

create a new bank account with easier access.

One option is to open a new account in France, which is the official address of FISTF. However, to do so is very difficult without a French accountable FISTF association/Board member. Currently, there are no elected members of the FISTF Board who are French.

It is therefore proposed to create in the FISTF Statutes the position of the President's legal representative in France. It is further proposed that the FISTF Board should be able to nominate/revoke a FISTF legal representative without an AGM, and that the proposed new section of the Statutes will define what official proof must be provided to bank to nominate/revoke the legal representative; for example a Board meeting minutes manually signed by President, Secretary or Treasurer. Once the position is created, we will if required be able to nominate the legal representative and declare it to the French prefecture.

(Submitted by R Trouillard, IT/Admin Manager, FISTF)

*Discussion:* In Roger's absence, <u>Steve Dettre</u> spoke briefly to this resolution, explaining that it had arisen from the issues with the FISTF bank account outlined in the Finance Director's report. Roger had looked into the option of opening a new FISTF bank account in France but, because he was not an office bearer, he could not be accepted by the bank to act on FISTF's behalf. If the proposal is supported by MNAs, it would allow the Board to authorise someone to act on the Board's behalf, in France or elsewhere if required. As the proposed change requires an amendment to the FISTF Statutes, it will need to be considered at the Congress in 2024.

#### Vote: To accept or reject Resolution 7

> I agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, to introduce the notion of the President's legal representative authorised to have access to the FISTF bank account.

> I do not agree to authorise the Board to prepare revisions to the FISTF Statutes, for consideration at the FISTF Congress to be held in 2024, to introduce the notion of the President's legal representative authorised to have access to the FISTF bank account.

#### > I abstain

As per the FISTF Statutes, a 66.67 pct majority vote is needed to carry this resolution. Abstention is not a cast vote (it was voted but will not be considered in the final results)

#### 5. Any other business

As there were no other topics for discussion the President closed the meeting at 22:25 CET, Paris time.