



The Board of Directors met in Chengdu, China, during the 2018 ITF Junior Masters, the third consecutive year this event has been hosted by the Chinese Tennis Association at the Sichuan Chengdu International Tennis Complex. The Board was pleased to welcome the CTA Vice President, Mr. Liu Wenbin, who provided the Board with an update on the growth of tennis in China and outlined their plans and proposals. An estimated 18 million tennis players in China struggle to find sufficient courts on which to play and develop their talent. CTA are finalising strategic plans for a comprehensive player pathway as well as grassroots and elite coaching programmes. CTA advised the Board the total number of international events in 2018 was 83. CTA also announced plans for an open, collaborative and transparent governance reform.

ITF President David Haggerty provided a brief outline of discussions held during recent meetings with the Grand Slam Board in Singapore and the International Olympic Committee at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. Feedback received, from multiple parties, points to the success of the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games from an organisational standpoint and due to a very high calibre of tennis.

Miscellaneous Matters

The Board received and approved 2019 Regulations for various events and circuits including Davis Cup by BNP Paribas, Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, Pro Circuits, World Tennis Tour, Juniors, Wheelchair, Beach Tennis and Seniors.

Following the success of the 2018 ITF World Wide Participation Conference, recommendations from the Development Department for a second event was approved with the venue being London on 7 and 8 July 2019. The venue for the 2019 ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas was confirmed as Bangkok, with the event taking place on 25 to 27 October.

The Board received a recommendation from the Beach Tennis Committee for changes to the format of the Beach Tennis World Team Championships to be held in Moscow, Russia, in July 2019. The Main Draw will be reduced to 16 teams with a regional allocation, proportionate to current activity level and players numbers.

In Wheelchair, the venue for the BNP Paribas World Team Cup for 2020 was approved by the Board as Vilamoura, Portugal, with the event being played over two sites.

The suspensions of two Member Nations have been lifted after they have both discharged their financial obligations – they are the St Kitts & Nevis Tennis Association and the Federation Comorienne de Tennis. The ITF Board is pleased to welcome both nations back to an active membership status.

A recommendation from the Juniors Committee for a new Grade A event in Africa was approved with inclusion in the ITF Junior Circuit in 2019, the venue will be South Africa.

Budget and Strategic Initiatives

The Board approved the Mid-Year Review and Q3 2018 Accounts. The Board agreed to meet the commitment it made at the AGM in Orlando in terms of distributions to the National Associations in 2019. Investment in Strategic Initiatives remains on track. The Board reviewed and approved the 2019 ITF Budget.

Strategic Initiatives Progress Report

The Board received an overview of Strategic Initiatives in progress. 11 out of 27 projects have been integrated into 'business as usual' so far this year. Remaining projects for completion in Q4 2018 include:

- IPIN redevelopment
- Modernisation of IT systems with a move to cloud-based systems, enabling the ITF to remain agile and higher quality software enabling accelerated development.
- The introduction of industry standards and best practices across IT areas

Examples of key projects for a phased delivery in 2019:

- New ITF website and content management platform
- Establish an organisation-wide data analytics and business intelligence (BI) capability

Davis Cup by BNP Paribas

ITF and Kosmos held a joint media conference in Madrid on October 17. The appointment of Albert Costa as Tournament Director was announced on October 25. The ITF remains responsible for all sporting and technical aspects of the competition working in close collaboration with Kosmos. The 2019 event will take place in the existing Week 47 in the calendar.

Fed Cup by BNP Paribas

Since the 2018 AGM in August approved reform of the Fed Cup, a feasibility study has been conducted of several formats that would best unlock the full value of the Fed Cup competition. The ITF Board is committed to working closely with the WTA on this project and requested the executive to begin a process for identifying potential hosts for the 2020 Fed Cup competition.

ITF World Tennis Tour

The Board approved the new mark and brand graphics for the ITF World Tennis Tour being launched in 2019. In November the ITF will provide all National Associations with a brand toolkit containing adaptable creative templates. The goal is global brand consistency and delivery of a cost-effective creative solution for National Associations to adapt and deploy event branding and marketing campaigns in 2019. Tournament numbers for Q1 2019 are encouraging.

International Tennis Rating

The Board received an in-depth report on the development that has taken place on the new International Tennis Rating system. The new rating system will be launched in a phased approach during 2019.

IRP Update

The Final IRP Report is scheduled for publication at a date to be determined in Q4 2018.

ITF Safeguarding

The Board received a review of safeguarding provisions, phase 1 of which will be in place by the end of the year. Phase 1 focuses on the development of a new Safeguarding Policy, reporting systems and case management procedures. Phase 2 will begin in 2019 and will involve the implementation of Phase 1, and the development of education and training materials. An increase in the number of cases reported to the ITF is anticipated as a result of the review. National Associations will be encouraged to develop their own safeguarding provisions in due course.

Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission

Following a decision by the Board in August to implement an ITF Code of Ethics applicable to the ITF President, the Board of Directors, including nominees for elections during the election period, and Committee and Commission Members, the first draft of the Code of Ethics was presented for approval. The Board approved the Code in principal with small amendments which will be finalised by the end of 2018.

Additionally the Board approved the establishment of an independent Ethics Commission and the appointment of an independent Chair. The Chair will be responsible for the Commission structure and the recruitment of further independent members to support the administration and management of its duties.

Development

The Board received an update on the 2017-2020 Development strategy and approved the Development budget for 2019. Over US\$11.3 million will be invested in tennis development worldwide with over US\$2.8 million coming from the Grand Slam Development Fund. The Grand Slam Development Fund is fully supportive of a new Player Brand Initiative. Working with Player Relations, this programme aims to better showcase young player talent that have received financial support from the Fund and have reached the top 100 in the professional rankings.

Gender equality

The Board approved renaming the ITF Women in Sports Committee as the ITF Gender Equality in Tennis Committee and agreed the need for gender balance in the Committee's membership. The Gender Equality Strategy and Terms of Reference were also approved by the Board.

In order to ensure the Committee's objectives are clearly communicated to National Associations, the GET Committee will provide help and a toolkit to engage the nations and mobilise them in active support of this initiative. The Committee aims to provide support for National Associations to address specific opportunities as well as any challenges they face. The Board approved the strategy and recommended providing best practice and clear objectives for National Associations to achieve. It was recommended that this information be presented to the Regional Associations, Committees and stakeholders and maximise existing events as opportunities to drive awareness and create a dialogue at national level. The ITF will look to forge a strategic alliance with the WTA, also active in this area.

Communications

The Board received an overview of the Communications strategy and approved the Communications budget for 2019. A communications strategy will raise awareness of the ITF's fundamental purpose in developing tennis for future generations, communicate its success stories, promote its key sports pillars and position the ITF as a values-led brand and organisation. The strategy will aim to move beyond an information and results-led communication to build positive perception of the ITF, integrate the players and legends at the heart of the story-telling and as active advocates of tennis, the ITF's events and activities that grow the sport.

Board Appointments

ITF Board Member Ismail El Shafei has been appointed Chairman of the Davis Cup Committee. and ITF Athlete Board member, Mark Woodforde, has been appointed as a Davis Cup Steering Committee representative.

Dave Haggerty
President