
2020 World Amateur Team Championships

To: IGF National Federation Members
cc: Peter Dawson, Mike Davis, Martin Slumbers
From: Antony Scanlon
Date: 5 May 2020

Dear Presidents and Secretaries General,

I hope that this correspondence finds you all in good health and good spirits, even under these difficult circumstances.

You will all recall that on 16 January 2020, the Administrative Committee determined that it was in the best interests of the 2020 World Amateur Team Championships (WATC), to relocate the staging of the event from Hong Kong to Singapore, in order to allay the memberships concerns on the social unrest that was occurring in Hong Kong at the time and to remove uncertainty about the staging of the event.

Since that decision, the Singapore Golf Association (SGA) has been outstanding in its planning and preparations for these Championships and had everything in place for this to be a highly successful championships and a memorable experience for all participants, despite the challenge of organising this under such a short timeframe. The IGF has been hugely impressed with the quality of the work of the SGA for the 2020 WATC.

However, much has happened since January, where the world as we then knew it has been changed dramatically due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. We are now all living in times of extreme uncertainty and experiencing the far-reaching consequences of the coronavirus crisis around the world. This pandemic has affected all areas of society, including all of us in golf, significantly.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IGF and SGA continued to progress with its planning and preparations, but also established key priorities and parameters to ensure that the 2020 WATC is feasible and successful, some of these included;

- Equal and open access to golf facilities for all athletes to practice and prepare
- Ability for National Federations (NFs) to select their teams
- Financial viability and capacity of NFs to afford to attend
- No restrictions of entry into Singapore for any NFs and requirements to self-isolate on arrival
- Ability to book flights to Singapore
- Strength of interest of NFs to participate
- Level of certainty that the event would be able to be held given restrictions on mass gatherings and events in Singapore

The highest priority was to safeguard the health and safety of all athletes, officials and volunteers at the 2020 WATC, relying on the advice of the World Health Organisation (WHO) concerning the organisation of mass gatherings and events.

We now have reached a time where a decision has to be made on whether the 2020 WATC can be held, having delayed the need to do so as late as possible. Leading up to this, I have recently spoken to many NFs across all the regions, as well as the Administrative Committee, about these priorities and the viability of staging the 2020 WATC.

No one, on any of these calls, was able to say with any certainty and conviction that all of these priorities could be achieved by October 2020, and most importantly, that the risk to the health and safety of all participants would be at an acceptable level.

Consequently, today during a conference call to discuss the matter, the Administrative Committee regrettably took the decision to cancel the 2020 WATC.

It should be noted that thoughtful consideration was given to postponing the Championships to 2021, however, this created considerable scheduling and logistical issues that were insurmountable. Additionally, and most importantly, when reflecting on the key priorities, based on what we know today, there is considerable uncertainty and risk that the WATC could be held safely in 2021. Therefore, it was preferred that the IGF look forward to focusing on the success of the organisation of the France 2022 WATC.

From such challenges, comes opportunity. During the call, the Administrative Committee members agreed, subject to scheduling, to hosting the WATC after France 2022 in 2023 and to establish, from then on, for the WATC to be held biennially in the odd years. This would end the conflict the WATC has with the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games and would give rightful prominence of the WATC in those years, as well as priorities over resources to the WATC within the IGF.

Also on this call, the Administrative Committee acknowledged the level of planning and the quality of the work of the SGA for the 2020 WATC, and recommended that for the hosting of a 2023 WATC a submission be accepted only by the SGA and that they be put forward to the 2020 Biennial Meeting for approval. We had offered this opportunity to Hong Kong following the removal of the 2020 WATC, but they did not respond within the timeframe when offered. Should SGA decline the offer we will open the bidding process up for consideration.

In the meantime, please stay strong, safe, and healthy.

Yours sincerely,



Antony Scanlon
Executive Director