



# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## PARA-TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE: 2/2007



Minutes of a meeting of the Para-Table Tennis Committee held at 09h15 and 08h30 on 17 and 18 October 2007 in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia.

**PRESENT:** Øivind Eriksen (Chairperson), Vincent Boury, Alison Burchell, Silas Chiang, Jiri Danek, Aart Kruimer, Gaël Marziou, Leandro Olvech, Nico Verspeelt, Karol Ziduliak

**APOLOGIES:** Raúl Calín (ITTF liaison)

**WELCOME:** the Chairperson opened by congratulating Silas on his IPC award, Vincent on his marriage and moving into a new house and Leandro on his engagement. The Committee noted that there was a full committee present and agreed that Alison would take two awards to Bonn for Helene and Rhodora.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** of the meeting held from 26 to 28 January 2007 in Bonn were confirmed and signed.

**2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Chairperson's report that:

2.1 marketing of PTT and sponsorship:

- Schenker: follow up with IPC on the agreement with CISM for transport assistance was in process;
- travel agency, advertising on the website and contracts: at the last meeting, the Committee agreed to postpone a decision on this until there was clarity in relation to the ITTF.
- insurance: to be discussed with the ITTF as PTT personnel and assets would no longer be covered by the IPC.

2.2 status of the PTT committee:

- the committee would remain in place until the ITTF elections in 2009 but succession planning would need to be implemented with new candidates being identified;
- the structure of the committee from 2009 would probably be 8 members made up of the chairperson, vice-chairperson and 6 others;
- consideration should be given to some members serving on other ITTF committees;
- similarly, consideration should be given to incorporating PTT regions with the ITTF regions while maintaining a link to the regional Paralympic committees;
- the PTT directory was now part of the ITTF directory;
- several PTT committee members represented the ITTF on IPC committees e.g. Alison at sports council and sometimes at the Assembly if linked to the sports council, Aart at the senior classifiers meeting but the ITTF would consider sending the relevant person to the Assembly and other applicable meetings together with a PTT representative;
- guidelines would need to be agreed by the ITTF for the involvement of TT in multi-sport games;
- areas of assistance from the ITTF should be identified e.g. finance, sponsorship and competition management.

The Committee resolved not to continue discussions with the travel agency.

The Committee asked:

- a) Alison to follow up with the IPC on transport, to respond to the travel agency that the Committee would not take up their offer to pay for advertising on the PTT website and to discuss the issue of insurance with the ITTF;
- b) Gaël to discuss merging the PTT website with the ITTF with the ITTF webmaster;
- c) all members to write job descriptions by the end of October 2007 and send to Alison (Karol was given till 15 November 2007).

**3. VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Vice-Chairperson's report that:

3.1 IPC General Assembly:

- Nico and Neil Harwood would attend;
- in terms of the motions, support should be given to the following:
  - classification code and international standards;
  - the nomination and election process for the GB;
  - changes to the by-laws for the rights and obligations of IPC members;
  - an athlete's council representative being on their NPC;
  - combining the legal and ethics committee;
  - athlete representation on each standing committee of IPC;
  - athlete representation on each STC;
  - the IPC to govern sports on the winter and summer Paralympic Games programmes but with a reasonable timeframe for this to happen as it was not consistent in terms of IPC sports;
  - a deadline for sports independence of 31 December 2012;
  - a "Seoul Convention" to be issued;
- in terms of other motions with a free vote:
  - a working group on intellectual disability;
  - service agreement (payment of) the IPC President and Vice-President;
- in terms of motions with a vote against:
  - selections for table tennis for the Paralympic Games to be done by the NPC not PTT;
  - for the membership of NPCs to include IOSDs.

3.2 signature of contract with Dr Wu and progress with implementation: the agreement had been signed and was being implemented with €1,00 per player up to a maximum €2 000,00 per annum paid to Dr Wu.

3.3 alternative method to control access to Dr Wu's programme: this was not possible;

3.4 programme draft from Dr Wu for referees to check they were familiar with it: more changes should be allowed before the event began and ideally, the computer operator should learn the programme rather than the referee.

The Committee asked:

- a) Nico to negotiate a greater ability for referees to practise on Dr Wu's programme and to allow more changes (10 to 15) to be made before a tournament began;

- b) Nico to discuss with the ITTF competitions department whether they would want to use Dr Wu's programme;
- c) Øivind to include training on the computer programme in the TD's training.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Treasurer's report that:

4.1 sanction and capitation fees for Bilbao, not approving any application for a tournament from Spain, IPC to transfer the bid fee to the IPTTC account: the Spanish NPC had been informed that no tournament would be approved for Spain while the Bilbao fees were outstanding.

4.2 report on the budget for 2006:

- funds in advance of expenditure received by members: the reconciliations and receipts had been submitted;
- Øivind to follow up the capitation from Italy, Leandro from USA and Nico from Argentina:
  - Lignano had paid;
  - Jose-Luis Campo had apparently paid the IPC in cash 2 sanction fees;
  - on 1 February 2007, USA had paid € 780,00 and Helene had confirmed this was for Las Vegas;
  - on 26 April 2007, € 580,00 had been for Copa Tango.
- no approval of tournaments till the approval fee had been paid: this was confirmed.

4.3 report on the budget for 2007:

- the ITTF took over the financial responsibility on 1 July 2007;
- €18 856,48 was the surplus and with the advanced payments of €3 190,28, € 666,20 had been transferred from IPC to ITTF;
- once the transfer of governance agreement had been signed, €0 000,00 would be transferred from IPC to ITTF;
- Jiri had worked with Lila to check payment of approval fees;
- from 2008, the ITTF (via PTT) would pay for the website;

4.4 asset register to be lodged with the ITTF: the old IPTTC asset register should be updated.

The Committee asked:

- a) Alison to follow up again with the IPC to get the 2006 world championships bid application fee of US\$1 500,00 paid to the PTT account to offset the outstanding fees of € 778,59 payable by Bilbao;
- b) Alison to contact Helene to double check on whether any further income had been received by the IPC;
- c) Gaël to contact Øivind about payment for the website in 2008;
- d) Jiri to follow up with TDs to ensure payment of the capitation fees payable to ITTF since 1 July 2007;
- e) Alison to work on updating the asset register and lodge it with the ITTF.

**5. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Secretary General's report that:

5.1 communication deadlines for the submission of articles below:

- ITTF magazine: 20 December 2007: an article on the merger of PTT and national TT associations should be addressed;
- IPC newflash: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month;

- IPC bulletin: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month;
  - Paralympian: 2 November 2007: if possible, an article about the merger of PTT and national TT associations should be addressed;
  - website: should be merged with the ITTF website;
- 5.2 volunteer form for the website with job descriptions (classifier by Aart or Nico, referee and umpire by Karol and TD by Øivind): this should be removed from the website but the job descriptions should still be submitted and included on the committee functions on the Executive page.
- 5.3 strategic plan update and work done for IPTTC by the IPC: this had been done and would be reviewed at the next meeting.
- 5.4 code of conduct for IPTTC including final approval: the existence of a code of conduct within the ITTF should be investigated.
- 5.5 IPC logo included in the ITTC logo: discussed with the ITTF: this should be in line with the ITTF corporate identity.
- 5.6 equipment and gifts: storage in Lausanne offices was preferable.

The Committee asked:

- a) Alison and Nico to draft an article on the merger of PTT committees nationally with national TT associations;
- b) Gaël to put job descriptions on the website once approved at the next meeting;
- c) Alison to contact ITTF about their code of conduct;
- d) Gaël to take the ITTF logo and put Para Table Tennis underneath and circulate to the Committee which, if approved, should be sent to the ITTF for final approval and launched;
- e) Nico to transfer the PTT clothes to the ITTF head office;
- f) Jiri to transfer any gifts to the ITTF head office;
- g) all to take relevant items for the Museum for donation.

**6. ITTF LIAISON REPORT:** the Committee noted the ITTF Liaison's report that:

6.1 status of relations including:

- in 2002, the Assembly in Taipei had agreed to work with the ITTF and in 2003, the IPC Assembly had agreed to sports becoming independent and in 2005, the ITTF had agreed to take over the governance of PTT;
- in April 2007, the IPC Governing Board had agreed to transfer governance of table tennis to the ITTF with effect from 1 July 2007, the written agreement had not yet been signed but should be signed by the end of October 2007 in Beijing;
- the committee established by the ITTF: meeting was held on 17 and 18 March 2007 in Lausanne;
- both Øivind and Nico had attended the ITTF AGM end of May 2007 in Zagreb;
- by 31 December 2006, IPTTC had accumulated €148 442,41 and at 30 June 2007, there was a surplus of € 666,20 for the IPC to transfer to ITTF and another €50 000,00 once the agreement had been signed with the ITTF and another €50 000,00 in early 2008;
- the IPC proposal to support the appointment of an administrative person with 50% of a salary as the ITTF had originally agreed to provide 50% had not been taken further;
- the capitation fees from the regionals and other tournaments generated had been paid to the ITTF since 1 July 2007;

- further discussions on integration with ITTF including the circuit, U14, U17 and U21 events had not been taken further;
  - the ITTF constitution review would be done in due course;
  - membership (NPC or NF) discussions with the ITTF when in April 2009, for the elections and nominations, the national TT association would submit nominations for the PTT committee and the chairpersons would be appointed by the ITTF Executive after nominations had been vetted by a special nominations committee;
  - name for the STC within the ITTF had been agreed as Para-Table Tennis as one of the ITTF's committees;
  - ITTF grant from the IPC of up to €24 000 to support its contribution to the Paralympic Games would continue and for this year, was included in the surplus;
  - changes to the technical rules would be voted on by the ITTF Assembly or Executive;
  - currently, entries would be accepted for PTT tournaments from both national TT associations and/or NPCs;
  - following the transfer of governance from the IPC to ITTF, the same process should be followed at a national level;
  - as ITTF was now responsible for PTT players and nationally the TT associations would follow, at some agreed date, the entries should only be accepted from the national TT associations;
  - the link to the IPC would be maintained for Paralympic Games, some multi-sport games, TUE for the Paralympic Games and classification although the PTT committee remained the custodian of the classification system.
- 6.2 list of countries and abbreviations: in ITTF, the GBR countries were represented separately and this would have to be investigated for PTT.
- 6.3 AGM in Guangzhou (CHN) from 24 February to 2 March 2008: for the ITTF.
- 6.4 TUEs: would no longer go to the IPC (except for Paralympic Games and other events under its auspices) but via the ITTF TUE committee.
- 6.5 invoices for approval fees and capitation fees: were being processed by Lila and Habiba.

The Committee asked:

- a) Øivind and Nico to attend the ITTF Assembly in Guangzhou in 2008;
- b) Alison to clarify which decisions were taken by which ITTF committee.

**7. TD COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the TD Coordinator's report that:

- 7.1 the handbook, selection section, examination, an application form, a checklist with explanation of items on the checklist available for 2007, recruitment criteria, doping control and managing discipline:
- Leandro and Raúl were developing a competition organisers' course;
  - the entries should be done online from 2009;
  - the equivalent of a competition manager should be considered instead of a TD in future for the PTT Pro Tour;
  - Fa20 tournaments should have trained TDs in place;
  - guidelines for tournaments, competition managers, TDs and deputy competition managers should be drawn up;
  - a budget for TD travel should be drawn up for the next meeting.

7.2 TD ID cards and certificates: the same certificates as already in use would be used and ID cards should be issued for all PTT personnel and athletes but would be discussed with the ITTF.

The Committee asked:

- a) Jiri to draft the guidelines for tournaments, competition managers, TDs and deputy competition managers by the end of November 2007;
- b) Øivind to prepare a budget for TD travel for the next meeting;
- c) Øivind to discuss with the ITTF ID cards for PTT personnel.

**8. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Committee noted a report from the acting Development Officer that:

8.1 development of women and the severely disabled in all areas:

- this should be included in all reports from committee members as each committee had to take responsibility for these areas;
- Alejandra Gabalio had been co-opted onto the ITTF women's working group;
- a major issue to be addressed for the "athletes with high support needs" (formerly the more severely disabled) was assistance;
- gender issues should be mainstreamed into the ITTF and not run in parallel.

8.2 promotional DVD, funding and distribution: 100 DVDs had been sent to the IPC office and should be sent to the ITTF and the DVD should be updated before it was translated.

8.3 new mandate including "new table tennis nations" (Kenya, Lesotho, East Timor and Ghana), equipment and a Fa 10 tournament, facilitating education, recreation, social activities leading to elite player development: would be discussed with the ITTF.

8.4 Lebanon and Nigeria: had submitted applications to IPC for development funding for table tennis, Lebanon had been accepted but safety issues had caused members of the Lebanese federation to attend courses in Slovenia rather than host training in Lebanon and no support had been given to Nigeria.

8.5 ITTF development:

- the ITTF had appointed Leandro to coordinate development in Africa, Europe and Latin America;
- the ITTF was looking mostly at coaching and training camps;
- there were development officers in Europe and Latin America but none in Africa;
- funding from the Goodwill Fund (for humanitarian issues) had been used in areas of conflict;
- a memorandum of understanding was signed with the regions for seminars and donations of equipment;
- funding was received from Olympic Solidarity;
- a publication would be produced every 4 years;
- level 1 coaching facilitators were being trained at level 1;
- Leandro would also assist the integration of PTT into ITTF when required.

The Committee asked:

- a) Leandro to ask Alejandra to liaise with Alison on gender issues;
- b) Alison to get the DVDs sent from the IPC to the ITTF;

- c) Alison to discuss the best mechanism to support Kenya, Lesotho, East Timor and Ghana with the ITTF Development Manager;
- d) Øivind to provide the process that Norway followed to achieve integration over 12 years.

**9. ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Athlete Representative's report that:

- 9.1 player education on the rules and updated brochure: a new version was being checked before volunteers were found to translate the brochure it was distributed;
- 9.2 database for athletes with the identification numbers of athletes fitting into the rating system ID numbers and IPC database: linking the athlete ID numbers to ranking/rating and classification should be done internally.
- 9.3 website development and hall of fame: one athlete had been recruited to assist.
- 9.4 athletes' committee: 2 athletes would now hopefully contribute to the committee.

The Committee asked Vincent to speak to Karol about who may be able to assist with translation.

**10. TOURNAMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Tournament Officer's report that:

- 10.1 tournament application form (Fa 20 and 40) would be put on the website and all other templates and documents needed by TDs would be developed by the end of 2007.
- 10.2 regional championships in 2007: all 4 would be held, the ParaPanAm and European Championships had been very well organised with Asia-Oceania and Africa (5 countries with 76 players) still to be organised.
- 10.3 World Singles Cup: all those approached had indicated that this was too expensive to organise.
- 10.4 shorter questionnaire on the organisation of tournaments, review and feedback: this was optional for teams to complete but a shorter version would assist.
- 10.5 new tournament system, number of tournaments in 2008, Pro-Tour conditions and bidding process:
  - due to unconfirmed dates for the regional championships in 2009, a number of test events could be considered for 2009 with the Tour starting in 2010 and the final being in 2011;
  - it may be possible to organise the Tour from January to August 2009;
  - the final of the Tour should be before the world championships;
  - it would be possible to have Tour events in March, April and May 2009;
  - the Tour events should be allocated regionally if possible and if not, the events in Europe should be close together to maximise the benefit for other regional players;
  - only players on the ranking list would play the Tour which would allow 3 classifiers to be present at each event.
- 10.6 tournament organiser's handbook and education: no progress had been made.
- 10.7 regional championships 2009:
  - guidelines for bidding and selecting organisers for world and regional championships were necessary;
  - this would be to protect the Committee;
  - this may mean that 2 people would need to do site inspections and could be extended to Fa20 to 40 tournaments;
  - PTT events were more complex in terms of needs;

- if only one organiser submitted a bid, the procedures should be simpler;
  - bids had been received from Venezuela (Americas 21 to 29 September 2009) and Italy (Europe 3 to 13 June 2009);
  - Thailand was a potential organiser for Asia-Oceania;
  - there was a problem with dates being too close between the Americas and Europe which could be resolved by Italy bringing its dates earlier;
  - the African Table Tennis Federation had approached Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa to host the African Championships as the organisers would be the national table tennis federation;
  - both Italy and Venezuela should organise a test event;
  - for 2008, there would be 10 events.
- 10.8 World Championships 2010: Korea and Slovenia had expressed interest.
- 10.9 distribution of players' education brochure: should be distributed by TDs.
- 10.10 regional awards and selection of best players: awards had been ordered and distributed and the system of selection of the best players was in place via Gaël.
- 10.11 IWAS and Arafura Games:
- the CP-ISRA, IWAS, Arafura and other similar games were not covered by our regulations;
  - the provisions of our regulations were therefore not applied;
  - these games provided competition opportunities;
  - contracts should be signed to ensure our regulations were applied;
  - all multi-sport games could be Fa20 with an exception that PTT qualified officials could be appointed from the host country;
  - these games perhaps brought new players into the system;
  - these games were more mass participation as players did not in fact stay in the system;
  - there were 2 types of players: those in the system who participated to get easy ranking points and those who were not skilled players;
  - the tournament system of PTT should be reviewed to assess whether it met the needs of all players.
- 10.12 mandate for Karol, with input from Raúl, Gaël and Nico to look at the maximum number of matches played at the Paralympic Games and at the world championships to enable a review of the factor allocated to various tournaments at the next meeting: no mandate had been given and was assessed as not being necessary.
- 10.13 regulations for the new tournament system including 4 days with 3 events, limiting the entry fees, signing a contract, having 4 players from 2 countries to make an event:
- these regulations would be developed by end November 2007;
  - the KO system for the team could be used for Fa20;
  - a class doubles event could be included instead of the team event either through the pool or KO systems at the discretion of the TD;
  - this should be included in the application and in the tournament information otherwise players may complain;
  - this would shorten the time to 3 or 4 days without playing long hours;
  - in reality, there was not a sufficient number of teams for a KO event;
  - another possibility was for teams to play the best of 2 of 3 rather than 3 of 5;
  - with 4 teams      round robin would have 6 matches                      4 in KO
 

5	10	5
6	10	6



7	13	7
8	16	8

- the request to reduce playing time by implementing a KO system for the team was proposed by the players;
  - implementing 1 December 2007 would affect ranking points prior to selections for Beijing;
  - an option was to apply the ITTF rule to play the best of 3;
  - in the USA, there were not enough tables for the number of matches;
  - playing the best of 3 was the same number of matches but shorter.
- 10.14 control of entries, refunds (first entry fee non-refundable), coordination of entries and entry fee payments by TT association or NPC, assistance to players requested from organisers, information about smoking areas:
- problems had been experienced with numbers per team the for first entry being reduced for the second entry affecting financial commitments of the organisers;
  - organisers were not able to give refunds but teams expected refunds;
  - some countries effectively sent 3 or 4 teams without NPC or NTTA coordination;
  - there should be one contact person per national team;
  - cancellation of tournaments should be included in the tournament information;
  - should a player need assistance, either the team should take responsibility or the organiser could assist at the cost of the player or team.
- 10.15 glue testing for volatile compounds introduced by ITTF wef 1 January 2008: normally this would take effect from the end of the Paralympic Games.
- 10.16 contracts including their purpose, implementation, monitoring and action to be taken if organisers and/or IPTTC default, capitation fees, use of PTT rules for multi-sport (IOSD) Games, world championships, regional championships contracts and all other tournaments would be assessed.
- 10.17 doping control agreements through the ITTF together with TUE forms: this was now operational.
- 10.18 TD appointments:
- the first schedule of tournaments had been sent including those TDs who had been requested by organisers;
  - having rotation of TDs was also a form of development;
  - using the classification system of allowing TDs to indicate when they would be available would be advisable and this was done for the referees too;
  - the criteria for appointment should be considered e.g. new TDs at uncomplicated tournaments.
- 10.19 junior and veteran tournaments:
- the IOC was beginning the Youth Olympics again;
  - having youth development programmes was different from having youth tournaments i.e. development programmes would lead to demand for youth tournaments;
  - feasibility of youth and veteran tournaments should be considered in terms of numbers of participants, the best age for competition.

The Committee asked:

- a) Karol to delete the world singles up from the regulations;

- b) Jiri to shorten Leandro's questionnaire on the quality of tournaments and Alison to check the language;
- c) Jiri to send out applications for Fa40 events as soon as possible with a deadline of 31 December 2007;
- d) Jiri and Øivind to develop regulations for Fa40 events for approval of the Committee by mid-November 2007 to be published on the website;
- e) Jiri to work with Raúl to ensure that PTT issues were addressed in the ITTF's tournament organisers' training;
- f) Jiri to present guidelines for tournaments (bidding and selecting organisers), guidelines for competition managers, assistant competition managers and TDs by the end of November 2007;
- g) Silas to confirm Thailand as organisers and the date of the event;
- h) Alison to work with the ATTF to recommend an organiser and dates as soon as possible;
- i) Jiri and Øivind to do a site inspection for Italy (new hall);
- j) Jiri to send an application form to Slovenia and Korea for the world championships requesting bids to be submitted by 30 November 2007;
- k) Nico to convene a group of Aart and Alison to make recommendations to the next meeting on how to manage multi-sport games which did not comply with PTT regulations;
- l) Nico to contact Dr Wu to ensure that his programme catered for KO in teams and the best of 3 in team events;
- m) Karol to propose regulations to change IPC to ITTF, for the control of entries, refunds (first entry fee non-refundable), coordination of entries and entry fee payments by TT association or NPC, assistance to players requested from organisers, information about smoking areas and sanctions, cancellation of tournaments by 30 November 2007 to circulate to the Committee for approval;
- n) Jiri to send the contract to all tournament organisers for 2008 before the tournament was approved;
- o) Jiri to send out the tournament calendar to check availability of TDs;
- p) Jiri to investigate junior and veteran tournaments.

The Committee agreed to:

- i) recommend to the ITTF that Italy be appointed as host for the 2009 European Championships;
- ii) recommend to the ITTF that Venezuela be appointed as host for the 2009 Americas Championships;
- iii) the organisation of 3 Fa40 test events in 2009, if possible 5 Fa40 events;
- iv) have round-robin team events where there were less than 4 teams and knock out for 4 and more teams effective 1 January 2007 for Fa10 to 30;
- v) for the tournaments in USA and Italy in December 2007 playing the best of 3 in the round-robin in the team event should be considered by the TD and referee;
- vi) ask the ITTF AGM to provide PTT tournaments with an exception to apply the changes to the glue testing system from the end of the Paralympic Games so requesting a national member to submit this motion to the ITTF.

**11. TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Technical Officer's report that:

- 11.1 the handbook: had been updated.
- 11.2 translation of the handbook: into:

- French (Patrick Ringel) had been completed except for the medical section due to the technical language;
  - Spanish (Fernando Aguilar) and Chinese (CK Chan) would be complete by the end of 2007;
  - Farsi (Sima Limoochi) had been completed;
  - a translator into Russian had to be confirmed.
- 11.3 new page on the website to draw attention to changes in rules and regulations had been done.
- 11.4 database:
- had been updated for umpires on the website and would be updated at the beginning of each year;
  - the referee for each tournament was added to the calendar regularly;
  - a database for referees would be added from 2008;
  - for tournaments, proficiency in English was necessary for both referees and umpires.
- 11.5 umpires:
- education seminars (“teachers”) were run by PTT referees;
  - review of the umpires’ exam should include translation into different languages and the number of questions related to PTT should be increased within the exams run by ITTF;
  - certification was issued when umpires passed the exam;
  - regional umpires only existed in the Americas;
  - the presentation had been received;
  - the training video would be developed in 2008.
- 11.6 plan for referees’ seminars in 2008: currently referees learnt on the job as no seminars were held.
- 11.7 mixed gender events and consultation at tournaments: this item should be dropped from the agenda.
- 11.8 electronic entry form process: should still be investigated.
- 11.9 mandatory for participating nations to bring an umpire to the regionals: seemed to be a process which led to the desired result.
- 11.10 technical committee appointments: Cindy Shiltz-Leung, Patrick Ringel and Dr Wu had already been appointed and Sima Limoochi and Gaël (part-time) should be added.
- 11.11 selection advisory committee for umpires for 2008:
- Patrick Ringel, Graeme Ireland and Karol had discussed umpires to be appointed for the Paralympic Games;
  - a recommendation on the continental representation of umpires had to be made by 15 November 2007.

The Committee asked:

- a) Karol to discuss an integrated referees’ and umpires’ seminar with the URC, increasing the number of PTT questions in the umpires’ exam;
- b) Karol to ensure that proficiency in English was addressed with umpires and referees;
- c) Nico to discuss with Dr Wu adding an electronic entry form process for tournaments;
- d) Karol to recommend strongly to the selection advisory committee for umpires that umpires be selected from Asia-Oceania 4, Africa 2, Europe 4 and Americas 2 with a good representation of women to be appointed.

**12. MEDICAL OFFICER’S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Medical Officer’s report that:

- 12.1 classification cards (new format, indication of limits on serve): no progress had been made.
- 12.2 classification handbook and consistent terminology (with interim coaching committee), definition of severe disability, Nanism or dwarfism, need for a newsletter:
- no progress had been made on the classification handbook;
  - no progress had been made on consistent terminology with the coaching committee;
  - no finality had been reached on the definition of severe disability;
  - minimal disability in terms of Nanism or dwarfism would begin at 140cm for men and for women at XXXcm;
  - if there was more than one impairment leading to increased loss of ability, the player may be classed down;
  - this approach would be used for the lower limbs and the combination of arms and limbs;
  - no finality had been reached on the need for a newsletter.
- 12.3 INAS-FID classification update: nothing had happened from the IPC perspective.
- 12.4 athlete nominees for Classification Committee: 2 athletes from Denmark and Brazil had been added to the committee.
- 12.5 players' list on the website (Classification Secretary) and link to the IPC unique identity number: no progress had been made and this item would be dropped from the agenda.
- 12.6 liaison with CP-ISRA: the CP-ISRA Assembly would be held next week.
- 12.7 classifier education: was ongoing and at the European Championships, the Lebanese trainees had been excellent.
- 12.8 classification account closure and transfer of €250: this account would be kept open but accounting done regularly through the ITTF.
- 12.9 implementation of the new system for sitting classes for 2009 and review of class 5 players during the regionals and other tournaments, voluntary moves and moves with effect from 1 January 2009, new players: there had not been enough time to address this at the senior classifiers' meeting.
- 12.10 transparencies in powerpoint presentation format: was in process.
- 12.11 need for classifiers in 2007: no problems had been experienced.
- 12.12 requests for reviews:
- there were 3 types of player classification status: competition confirmed status (CCS previously PPS), competition review status (CRS) and competition new status (CNS) which could include a player with a new disability or impairment;
  - a review would only take place for a player with a CCS during the regional championships held every 2 years, the World Championships and for lower factor tournaments if special arrangements were made;
  - there must be 5 senior classifiers (at least 3) with the chief classifier plus two panels which work independently making a protest possible;
  - after the first assessment, a protest would be possible, which also would be the last one at the tournament i.e. only one protest against a particular player would be allowed per tournament;
  - the review could result in a player going a class or 2 down, remaining in the same class or going up a class;
  - each request for review should be by written request to the classification secretary at least 3 weeks ahead of the review date, with a doctor's assessment (written in English), a copy of the classification card and, if necessary, X-rays;
  - on the day of the review, an amount of €50 must be paid to the chief classifier, which would be refunded if the request was upheld;

- the result of the review would come into effect after the regional or world championships or the relevant agreed lower factor tournament;
- the player who was being reviewed must demonstrate clear evidence of reduction of capabilities as it was possible that more impairments would not necessarily lead to a reduction of abilities;
- therefore, a “cooling down” period of 6 to 12 months could be considered during which the player would be observed by 3 senior classifiers;
- players with a progressive disease needed to be filmed at their first classification and annually thereafter;
- a player “under review“ meant that the class had not been confirmed and therefore the player had no class until the review was complete.

#### 12.13 protests in tournaments and championships:

- there were 3 kinds of protest: a protest by the player (or his/her NPC) against his/her class, a protest by a country against the class of a player of another country or a protest by a classifier via the chief classifier against the class of a player;
- a protest against a player’s own class must be lodged within 30 minutes of the completion of the classification on a completed protest form together with a fee of €50 submitted to the chief classifier;
- the protest form must be completed and a €50 fee paid to the chief classifier which fee would be refunded if the protest was upheld;
- in a regional championship or world championship, the second classification team could see the player;
- in a lower factor tournament, a protest would only be possible at the next tournament depending on the number of classifiers necessary and appointed for the next tournament;
- a protest against another country’s player could be submitted at any time via the chief classifier;
- the player would be seen as soon as possible;
- the only possibility for a protest would be: 1 country, 1 protest against 1 athlete with a fee of €50 but other countries could submit a protest at the same time;
- a protest from a classifier could be lodged at any time with the chief classifier;
- the following rule would apply: a panel of a lower factor tournament may never overrule the class given at a higher factor tournament but such a panel must send their comments to the classification secretary and the chief classifier would decide if the request would be accepted;
- if a protest was considered at the regional championships, the next time a protest against that player could be considered would be the world championships i.e. at a tournament with the same factor or higher;
- only one protest against a particular player would be allowed per tournament;
- the classification card belonged to the player.

#### 12.14 procedures to be added in the Handbook: no progress had been made.

12.15 height of cushions: was confirmed as 15cms in the sitting position for a maximum of 2 cushions.

#### 12.16 above knee amputations:

- exarticulation in hip was class 7;
- AK amputation with short a-functional stump was class 7 with the function of the stump dependent on length of bony part (smaller than 25% of the length on the non-amputated

side) and the firmness of the soft tissues of the stump influencing the fixation of the prosthesis;

- measuring of stump length was from the anterior superior iliac spine or from the Greater Trochanter or on an X-ray;
- sitting on the handle of the crutch while playing was not a reason as such for class 7;
- a stump of normal length belonged in class 8.

12.17 general classification issues:

- players reporting for classification must have full playing apparel i.e. with all equipment used during competition: sport suit, racket, competition wheelchair with all additions, gloves, and all other additions i.e. braces, orthotics, strapping, belt, etc.
- if a player did not appear in the right attire, he/she would be sent back until all attire and equipment was available;
- during classification, the full cooperation of player and trainer/coach would be mandatory;
- in case of doubt related to the class, a cooling down period of maximum 3 hours would be given (players may be tired caused by a long travel, etc.);
- in cases of big differences between the level of performance during classification and competition, review or disqualification may be considered by the chief classifier;
- objective technical measurements would also be used like videos of both the level of performances;
- players were very concerned about classification especially those perceived as cheating;
- having coaches as classifiers, as previously proposed, could assist.

12.18 multiple sub-minimal disability: an investigation was ongoing where 2 or more minimal disabilities were in evidence.

12.19 technical classification issues: Sheng Wu would share the technical aspects of table tennis with all classifiers.

The Committee asked:

- a) Vincent, Aart and Alison to make recommendations to the Committee by 30 November 2007 on the changes required to the Handbook and procedures to be followed to address the increasing number of allegations related to players cheating and undermining the integrity of the classification process so that the Committee could approve them for implementation with effect from 1 January 2008;
- b) Aart to check the terminology used by the senior classifiers for the coaching committee;
- c) Aart to attend the CP-ISRA Assembly with PTT contributing 50% of the costs.

**13. SELECTION OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Selection Officer's report that:

- 13.1 regional championships 2007, events and format of play leading to the Paralympic Games: had been published in the Qualification Guide with women 1-2, 6-7, men 4-5 and 9-10.
- 13.2 rules for Paralympic Games selections: were explained at the regional assemblies.
- 13.3 ranking system for combined classes in the Paralympic Games: had been published on the website.
- 13.4 the points system for team events for the Paralympic Games: had been published on the website.
- 13.5 slot allocation to the silver winner when gold is not possible: this was not included in the Qualification Guide e.g. change of class, disqualification from doping control.

- 13.6 seeding selections on 1 July 2008 via ranking: this was noted as no rating was in place.
- 13.7 pre-selections and requests for BPC (wild cards): request issued 20 January 2008 to be submitted by 15 February 2008: this was noted.
- 13.8 wild card meeting, committee composition, date and venue (January or February 2008): traditionally the meeting was held in Grenoble.
- 13.9 confirmation of selections, WC, team composition format and team composition request issued 15 March 2008 to be submitted by 4 April 2008: this was noted.
- 13.10 protest for WC allocations acceptable and if so, meeting composition, date and venue: this would need to involve IPC as it was linked to the Paralympic Games.
- 13.11 confirmations of reallocation of unused slots and team compositions request issue 15 April 2008: this was noted.

The Committee asked:

- a) Alison to confirm with IPC that, should a gold medallist in the regional championships be disqualified, the silver medallist would replace the gold medallist as the qualified player for the Paralympic Games;
- b) Nico to convene the “wild card” committee of Vincent, Gaël, Silas and Lila de Soysa on 8 to 9 March 2008;
- c) Nico to convene an “protest committee” with Fred Jansen (IPC) and Jiri end of March or beginning of April 2008.

**14. COACHING COMMITTEE SECRETARY’S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Coaching Committee Secretary’s report that:

- 14.1 six hours content for the ITTF level 1 coaching course, translations, printing (1 000 copies in English), copyright and sale of manual:
  - the level 1 manual was being copyrighted;
  - the printer in Shanghai was the cheapest for 2 000 copies;
  - the cover had been changed and reflected integration;
  - the Spanish and French versions were complete;
  - the Italian and German versions were in process;
  - the manual would be distributed via the Lausanne office;
  - shipping costs were determined by the ITTF.
- 14.2 criteria for best coach: this was no longer necessary.
- 14.3 coaches’ education:
  - the seminar should be 12 hours and if in conjunction with the ITTF seminar, 6 hours was sufficient;
  - the next seminar would be in Iran, Spain;
  - seminars had been held in Patagonia, Argentina, Brazil;
  - following this would be a course conductor’s seminar in selected venues;
  - there was no course fee.
- 14.4 the next conference: none was planned.
- 14.5 integration with the ITTF as well as level 2 and 3:
  - level 2 and 3 would be started soon;
  - ITTF lecturers would be trained in the PTT section of the course;
  - there was no coaching committee within ITTF.
- 14.6 certification, database, 30 hours of practical work: would be investigated.

14.7 composition of the committee: was Alejandra Gabaglio, Ela Madjeski and Leandro Olvech.

The Committee agreed to appoint Sima Limoochi to the coaching committee subject to her availability.

**15. RANKING DIRECTOR AND WEBMASTER'S REPORT:** the Committee noted the Ranking Director and Webmaster's report that:

15.1 ranking database collaboration with classification database: this would depend on the re-design of the database to incorporate players who changed from sitting to standing classes and vice versa.

15.2 calendar management by Tournament Officer: with the re-design of the website, including the tournament information, the Tournament Officer could then update the calendar of events.

15.3 rating and ranking:

- contact had been made with the ITTF ranking director;
- the ITTF system could not be used as it was similar to the current ranking system;
- contact had been made with the person in charge of the British system which was similar to Norway and France's systems;
- the changes to the ranking database should assist this process;
- results from tournaments were coming through faster as a result of the programme being used;
- the ranking list was being updated to incorporate queries;
- it was impossible to adapt ranking points, in the current system, when a player changed classes.

The Committee asked:

- a) Gaël to check on the ITTF ranking list as this had apparently been changed recently;
- b) Gaël to purchase more disc space.

The Committee recommended to the ITTF, that with effect from 1 January 2009, a change be made to the ranking points system once clarity had been secured as to the correct procedures to be followed for formal approval of such changes:

From	To
0,5 (1-2 and 6-7)	0,5 (1 and 6)
	0,75 (2 and 7)
1 (3 and 8)	1 (3 and 8)
1,5 (4-5 and 9-10)	1,25 (4 and 9)
	1,5 (5 and 10)

**16. REGIONAL REPORTS:** the Committee noted the regional representatives' reports that:

16.1 Americas:

- payment of classification seminar fees to PTT, receipts for seminars to Nico: this was not done as Nadia had about US\$100,00 with which she was developing a DVD;
- 15 countries in the regionals with 115 players, 6 days and 10 tables;



- a regional meeting was held;
- best players: Yanellis Silva (wheelchair female), Jane Rodrigues (standing female), Claudiomiro Segatto (wheelchair male) and Mitch Seindenfed (standing men);
- Yanellis Silva and Erich Manso (both Cuba) elected players' players;
- the Atos Origin system was used but information about this was late;
- Øivind was present which proved useful to improve contact with the nations;
- PanAmerican Games would be in Mexico and the ParaPanAms would be hosted there too;
- an umpires' seminar was organised in Brazil;
- the ITTF women's working group presentation was done in Brazil;
- the region hoped to organise 4 PTT or ITTF level 1 coaching courses at no cost to the participant;
- there was no charge for umpires' seminars and €50,00 per person for classification courses, no charge for ITTF courses;
- the pilot project could be a coaching course in each region working with the ITTF regions;
- the region hoped to promote class 1 and 2 women with a training camp prior to an event with a female coach from the host country if possible;
- 2 classification seminars level A to be held;
- funding could be sourced from ITTF, national sponsors and table tennis associations as part of the integration process.

#### 16.2 Africa:

- AAG: this did not include the disabled as happened in 2003 which affected numbers of participants;
- donation 500 racquets had been secured through the ITTF and discussions were being held with the ATTF about distribution;
- working with ATTF as part of the inclusion process to develop the sport through the national table tennis associations.

#### 16.3 Europe:

- seminar in Ukraine 16 to 19 April 2007: 16 countries were invited, some did not answer, others were not able to afford the costs, NPCs did not distribute the invitation to those involved in table tennis but it went ahead with a small number of people;
- as a result of this, it was possible that 2 countries could in future organise events in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

#### 16.4 Asia-Oceania:

- 4 tournaments were organised in the region;
- over 200 players participated in the Jordan tournament which raised various issues related to organisation to be considered by the Committee;
- for the regional championships, 156 players had entered from 13 nations;
- the Assembly would be held during the regionals;
- Asia had not shown interest in participating unless they were certain to get a slot allocation;
- Guangzhou would host the Asian Para-Games;
- Singapore was to open a regional research centre;
- there was a large number of islands in Asia-Oceania.

The Committee asked Silas to contact the APC about travel to the islands.

**17. BEIJING 2008:** the Committee noted the TD and assistant TD's report:

- 17.1 report of meetings in Beijing including the placement of the LCD: this had been addressed with BOCOG.
- 17.2 acceptance by deputy referees for the Paralympic Games: Karol Ziduliak, Gaj Vidmar and Mr Sun from China.
- 17.3 technical:
  - 12 overseas and 20 Chinese umpires (discussed under 11 above);
  - 3 classifiers with Aart as chief classifier and the others to be appointed;
  - 2 racket controllers with Odd Gustavsen and a controller to be appointed from China;
  - the schedule would be approved by the referee taking into account BOCOG's request that all finals be played on 1 table for support and television;
  - the referee was investigating the allocation of 30 minutes for round robin matches as 40 minutes were preferred;
  - a draft competition programme had been developed which was the same as that for Athens;
  - result forms where Gaël would assist earlier than was the case in Athens.
- 17.4 check during the Pro Tour in December 2007: Silas would do the check during the Pro Tour.
- 17.5 accommodation: Øivind and Alison should be lodged in the IPC hotel, Jiri, Leandro, Vincent and Gaël in a hotel for the 2008 Games (5 to 18 September 2008), noting that this could change after discussions with the ITTF.

The Committee asked Alison:

- a) to update the ITTF on appointments for the Paralympic Games already made: Silas as TD, Nico assistant TD, Cindy as referee, Karol and Gaj as deputy referees, Aart as chief classifier;
- b) to submit to the ITTF the recommended appointments: Mr Sun as deputy referee, Odd as racket controller and a controller to be appointed from China.

**18. LONDON 2012:** the Committee noted a report from the TD designate that there had been some correspondence.

**19. GENERAL:** the Committee considered the following items:

- 19.1 longer term sanctions for disciplinary offences to be discussed with the ITTF once the recommendations had been approved by the Committee.
- 19.2 IWAS liaison: nothing to report.
- 19.3 business cards: were now necessary for the Committee.
- 19.4 change to the wheelchair serve: with rule 1.2.1.1, currently players used this let system to have many attempts at serving.
- 19.5 rules relating to behaviour: these were not applied consistently with disabled players when they intimidated their opponents or behaved in an unsporting way.
- 19.6 meetings of regional Paralympic committees: EPC and APC paid for the travel costs for sports representatives to attend their meetings; in Americas, the sports had not been invited to the last assembly and in Africa, the sports were currently not invited.

19.7 IOSD and other multi-sport games: the organisers of such games should be informed that applications need to be submitted and commitments made and maintained to apply PTT rules and regulations.

19.8 relations with IOSDs: was discussed in relation to the benefit for PTT.

The Committee asked:

- a) Karol to ensure that all referees briefed umpires to apply the rules relating to behaviour to PTT players in the same way as they would for players without a disability;
- b) Alison to ask the ITTF headquarters for an outline of what should be included and to order cards for the Committee;
- c) Alison to request the IPC to inform the organisers of multi-sport games that applications need to be submitted and commitments made and maintained to apply PTT rules and regulations.

The Committee resolved to recommend to the URC that rule 1.2.1.1 be amended to say that “if a player in wheelchair play serves and the ball leaves the table by either of the receiver’s sidelines, the point will be awarded to the receiver”.

**20. NEXT MEETING:** the Committee agreed to hold the next meeting in Lausanne arriving 8 February and leaving 10 February 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 17h30.

**READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING**

**HELD ON .....**

**CHAIRPERSON .....**

AMB/

7 October 2007