



TECHNICAL DELEGATE

EVALUATION REPORT

Name of Tournament :	Arafura Games 2009
Ranking Factor Applied for :	20
Responsible Federation :	Australia Paralympic Committee
Chairman of Organising Committee :	Michael Hartung (APC) Mr. Graham Symons (Coordinator)
Dates of Play :	12 - 15 May 2009
Name of Technical Delegate :	Steven Lee
Report submitted to IPC and ITTF PTT :	10 June 2009

1-Background

The Arafura Games in the past was a tournament for able-bodied athletes. It is a leading international sporting competition for emerging champions of the Asia Pacific region and is held every two years in Darwin, the capital of Australia's Northern Territory.

This year is the second time that the Disabled table tennis events have been held in the Arafura Games and also incorporates the Oceania Paralympic Championships for men and women AWD Program. There are 8 events for the disabled athletes; Table Tennis is one of these events. Other sporting events include: Athletics, Cycling, Swimming, Powerlifting, CP Football, Pistol Shooting and Tennis.

2-Accommodation

No entry fees were charged for the games. Food and accommodation were the responsibilities of the participating nations. The Organising Committee provided information regarding accommodation venues and bookings.

Almost all of the accommodation houses were located close to the Central Business District and a short drive from sporting venues. These ranged from five-star hotels, motels and apartments to backpacker-style accommodation, with facilities for the disabled athletes.

3-Venue

Table Tennis was located at Palmerston Recreation Centre, approximately 25 minutes drive from Darwin's central business district.

This stadium was built a year ago. It is air-conditioned and the floor is of wooden construction. The area of the playing venue is about the size of two basketball courts, where sixteen tables were set up. There is a viewing area located on the first floor with room for about 100 spectators. Wheelchair persons can watch the matches on the playing area. This playing venue is satisfactory.

The design utilises natural sunlight, and therefore there are plenty of glass fittings to allow sunlight to shine through. Although some glass areas have been covered, one area near the top of the stadium is not covered. Sunlight went through between 3pm and 5pm, and thus leading to some tables not being useful.



There was a tournament control room with computers.

The stadium only has two disabled toilets. Wheelchairs can access the normal toilets, so the problem is not critical.

Floor:	Wooden floor, very good for wheelchairs players
Lighting:	Not very good, about 400 lux
Spectator seats:	about 100 for the participants and spectators for wheelchairs – directly on the playing area
Official's room:	2
Toilet and change room:	4

4-Equipment

- (all ITTF approved)
- Tables: 16, Stigar Elite Roller
- Balls: Stige (3*) white
- Surroundings and Score boards

5-Competition Days

- 9th May (Sat) Arafura Games Opening Ceremony
- 10th May (Sun) Team Arrival
- 11th May (Mon) Classifications
- 12th May (Tue) Open events
- 13th May (Wed) Teams event
- 14th May (Thur) Teams event / Individual Singles event
- 15th May (Fri) Individual Singles event
- 16th May (Sat) Closing Ceremony / Departure

6-Number of Participants

There were 64 entries on second entry, but only 51 turned up as athletes from Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong had withdrawn. 1 player from BUL and 6 from GHA entered but did not arrive.

A total of twelve countries participated. - Australia, Malaysia, Timor, Germany and Thailand.

Mens Wheelchair players: 12
 Mens Standing players: 29
 Womens Wheelchair players: 3
 Womens Standing players: 7
 With a total of **51** players.

The number of participants was less than expected in this tournament. It may be due to the financial crisis and the long travel distance involved.

		Male										Female									
Country	Total Number of Athlete	TT1	TT2	TT3	TT4	TT5	TT6	TT7	TT8	TT9	TT10	TT1	TT2	TT3	TT4	TT5	TT6	TT7	TT8	TT9	TT10
		AUS	20	1			2		6	2	3	1		1			2	1			1
FIJ	1							1													
GER	2							1			1										
GHA	0																				
INA	2				1	1															
JPN	4			1	1						1								1		
MAC	2					2															
MAS	7							3	1	3											
NCL	1										1										
PHI	1			1																	
THA	3						1		1										1		
TLS	8				2	0		1	1	1	0						2			1	
Sub-total	51	1	0	2	6	3	7	8	6	7	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	3	1	
		12					29					3					7				

7-Transport

Hotel transfer was arranged at the airport. A free bus network operated for all accredited Arafura Games participants.

During the competition, there were shuttle bus service for pick up to and from the accommodation venues and playing venue, including large buses for the wheelchairs. If there was a request for wheels, arrangements were made for transportation by small buses.

8-Officials

Classifiers: Aart Kruimer (NED)
 Arthur Wilks (AUS)
 Referee: Maurie Poole (AUS)
 Deputy referee: Phil Males (AUS)
 Coordinator: Graham Symons (AUS)
 John Pudney (AUS)
 Computer: Brian James (AUS)
 Bev James (AUS)

NTTTA conducted an umpire course before the Games. A total of 5 umpires passed the test. In addition to the 6 umpires from Japan and 1 from New Zealand, there are a total of 12 umpires.

The table tennis event was managed by Graham Symons and John Pudney who were

very capable, willing to help and very friendly. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to them for the great work done.

9-Meetings

Team Manager's meeting was held at 2:00pm on 11th May. The meeting finished quickly with a short briefing from the Coordinator, TD and the referee regarding matters that needed to be addressed and changes to the player's list in the Open Doubles and Team events.

10-Draws

The draw was made according to rules and regulations of ITTF & IPTTC.

The computer program used in the tournament was not Dr Wu's, but the software from Brian James which had been used for all major events in Australia. Both the able body and disabled body events use the same software. The arrangements and recordings are very efficient. After the competition, the standard results format was lodged with PPT.

11-Classification

Classifier seminar was conducted by Aart Kruimer.

Two classifiers were responsible for classifying players. They were very efficient with a total of 30 players requiring classification. They continued to monitor the athletes during the competition.

12-Results

All the schedules and results were generated by the computer which was very quick and efficient. The results were sent to the Games Centre for distribution as well as being posted on the official web site. All information was given at the venue to the teams.

After the competition was finished, John managed to put the results on memory sticks and they were distributed to the teams after presentation ceremony.

13-Other Staff

The number of volunteers at the table tennis venue is inadequate. Ball boys/girls were only available in some sessions. They were lacking in some time slots. Other volunteers and reserve umpires were needed to do the task.

The venue did not have medical assistants on duty. However, The Sports Medicine Clinic was centrally located in the Marrara Sports precinct. If required, medical officers would attend immediately.

14- Conclusion

The tournament progressed smoothly throughout in a great atmosphere. Amongst some of the players from Australia and Timor are first-timers in international competition who benefited from the experience.

The Northern Territory government was very supportive in this event. Overall, this tournament was successful. The players were satisfied and indicated that they will return in two years' time. However, there are some suggestions for future improvements as follows:

1. If application can be made earlier from ITTF PTT on the categories, there may be more participants take part in the competition.
2. If the venue is to be used again in the future, the glass areas at the venue must be fully covered so that sunlight cannot leak through.
3. Participants arrange their own accommodation and meals during the games. To normal people, this is not a problem. However it is better for the organising committee to arrange the accommodation and meals through some 'package' methods. In this way, the participants are not spread out in various accommodation locations. This will help save time in arranging transport.
4. Some athletes pulled out of the competition. It is suggested that in future Games, the entry fee is to be paid in advance to minimise the cancellation.
5. If the number of participants increases, the number of qualified umpires is not enough. To be able to handle more athletes in the future, Northern Territories TTA should train more umpires to assist in the tournament.

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