

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION
PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION



TECHNICAL DELEGATE

EVALUATION REPORT

Name of Tournament:	ParaPanamerican Championships 2009
Ranking Factor Approved for:	50
Name of the National Federation:	Venezuelan Paralympic Committee
Chairman of Organising Committee:	Ms. Ahiquel Hernandez
Date:	28^h September to 3rd October, 2009
Name of Technical Delegate:	Leandro Olvech - ARG
Report submitted to IPC and ITTC:	18th November, 2009

<u>Participants:</u>	10 Nations:	49 Men WC
		20 Women WC
		41 Men ST
		5 Women ST
		21 Coaches
		17 Support Staff
	Total Staff:	38
	Total:	153 People

Previous Communications with the OC

This was a critical area. The communication was not so fluent as expected, sometimes OC answered emails, sometimes took a week or more and sometimes there was no answer.

Some weeks before the championships there were elections and the chairperson of the OC was replaced as head of the Wheelchairs sports association. She informed that due health problems she won't continue leading the OC but in fact she did it until the day before the beginning of the competition, then she was replaced by the president of the NPC. This unstable situation affected the whole organisation of the event.

Reception at the airport:

There was an unpredicted presidential summit of head of states from South America and Africa in Margarita Island during the first days of the tournament. Because of security reasons the airport was locked and also the port. Most of the PTT officials had to wait several hours in Caracas to take the flight to Margarita. In my particular case, there was nobody waiting at the airport but no complaints were received from the teams on this matter. Some teams such as Brazil have arranged with the OC a ferry from the continent to the Island, a delay on their flight from Brazil made them loose a ferry and they had to wait several hours at the port.

Unexpected Problems

The OC is mostly from Caracas (the capitol city) and they have sent two trucks with the tables, surrounds, umpires tables, scorers, printers, computers, accreditations, etc. As the port was locked, the competition couldn't start on time. We had to reschedule the meetings day instead of the first day of competition.

Accreditation:

Provided on the day of the competition but without pictures, also some people didn't have accreditation such as those working for the OC outsourced, that made the access to the venue more difficult to control on the first days.

Accommodation:

The Flamingo Hotel was used, located in front of the beach with an optimal view of the sea. The service was standard with some rooms needing reparation, such as the air conditioning or in the bathrooms. It was probably very nice when new but looks like no investment was done during last years. The elevators were stuck at least once a day that made the circulation problematic in the mornings and evenings as each of them could carry only 2 wheelchair and there were 8 levels. There was no major complaint received about the accessibility. Just problems to access to bathrooms in some cases. They settled up a ramp on the restaurant-pool area.

Meals: Local meals with some international dishes were served in hotel for the breakfast, lunch and dinner with good level. On the day of the Open event lunchboxes were available as the schedule made the advancing players to stay in the venue. The rest of the days the break was long enough to permit everybody to have lunch at the hotel.
There was a grill on the last evening banquet with very good quality. The swimming pool area was just perfect, with a nice pool, beach view and a bar, the service of the hotel was “all-inclusive”

Transport: It was outsourced with the company “TioVen” that provided minibuses for the standing players and minivans for those using wheelchair, it was reliable punctual and accessible to travel. Minivans were maybe too small to access to them. Distance from hotel to venue was around 20 minutes.

Communication: The communications to the delegations worked very well from the sport technical point of view but were poor when related to logistics such as organising the departures or informing about news.

Security: Not any

Main Venue: Indoor gymnasium “LA ASUNCIÓN” 40x26m were used

Quite big and enough to use 12 tables.

Floor: Tara flex

Lighting: 700 Lux aprox. The position of the lights bothers the players from some tables in one of the sides

Temperature: It was warm

Spectator Seats: 3000

Referee’s Table: In the first line of one of the sides spectators seats. Optimal location. Just together with the production desk.

Gluing Room: Some tables outside the competition hall

Officials Rooms: One for doping control, one for the officials that was also used for VIPs and communications distribution.

Toilets: 4 restrooms with 2 accessible toilets on each. As promised during the test event those toilets were adapted for the ParaPanams.

Equipment: Tables: 11 pcs. Butterfly blue, ITTF app.
+ 1 pc. Not ITTF approved but just used for the a few rounds of the Open, + 2 pcs for warm up outside the venue under spectators seats..

Net: Butterfly, ITTF Approved

Scorers: Butterfly
Surroundings: Butterfly
Balls: Butterfly *** Orange, ITTF Approved

Programme: **September 27:** Arrival of Teams and Classification.
September 28: Regional and Technical meetings
September 29: Open event and opening ceremony
September 30: Singles
October 1: Singles
October 2: Team
October 3: Team and Closing banquet
October 4: Departure

Competition started at 9/10hs and finished between 19/20hs with a lunch break of 2 hours

The timetable was perfectly arranged by the referee and his team with advice from the TD. 40 minutes for single matches and 2 hours planned for teams.

Meetings: A technical meeting was held in the evening of 28th and included some words from the organizers. The open draw was made prior to the meeting led by the referee using Dr. Wu's software. Meeting was conducted in English and Spanish.

Medal Presentations:

Right at the end of the evening sessions when all the events of that type were finished. It took too long on the Open event but almost perfect for the singles and teams.

Production: The production team was composed by the producer, two floor assistants, and two announcers (English and Spanish) and a DJ. At the beginning they were laying too much on the TD and then expected that the TD continue organising it. There was a marching before every round of matches; it was carried by the players, coaches and umpires. The rounds with semifinals and final matches were all announced.

Classification: 21 players from 8 countries were classified

EDP: There was a Classification seminar led by Dr. Aart Kruimer. 11 eleven participants (coming from AUS-BRA-CAN-GER-VEN) took it

Results: The results were given to the delegates in electronic format.

Capitation Fee: As the banking system in Venezuela is complicated, the OC preferred to pay it in cash to Mr. Nico Verspeelt for then easy bank transfer within Europe.

Officials:

Technical Delegate: Leandro Olvech – ARG
 Deputy TD: Nico Verspeelt - BEL
 Referee: Karol Ziduliak – CAN
 Deputy Referees: Hernan Brizuela – ARG
 Juan Carlos Medina - VEN
 Classifiers: Aart Kruimer – NED
 Juraj Stefak – SVK
 Nadia Vaccaro – ARG
 Cintia Marino – ARG
 Horacio Miyagi - ARG
 Umpires 31 totally, 9 foreigners and 22 nationals.

Organizing Committee:

Chairperson	Ahiquel Hernandez (Dilia Olivares before)
Competition Manager	Luis Noguera
Finances	Ali Solano
Protocol	Margot Salazar
Medical	Jeannette Hernandez
Administrative	Laura Perez
Administrative	Mary de Legon
Logistic	Russel Blanco
Logistic	Ivan Segura
Logistic	Jose Sanchez

Doping Control: 12 controls were done, 6 to singles medals winners and 6 randomly. Not any news regarding results was received up to this time.

Racket Control: A racket control was done but no report was received

Software: The used software to run the competition was Dr. Wu’s program

Press: not any organised from the OC. Two articles were published by the TD on the ITTF website

Meetings / Presentations:

- **A Meeting of the Americas nations** was held on 28th September chaired by Nico Verspeelt as PTT Vice chairperson
 - **Attended by representatives from:** ARG-BRA-CAN-CHI-CRC-USA-VEN
- Final ATTC Chairperson’s Report, by Leandro Olvech as concluding a period of 8 years as ATTC chairperson and Americas Rep on the PTT executive.
 - Introduction of the new PTT members by Nico Verspeelt
 - Edimilson Pinheiro was formally introduced as ATTC chairperson and Americas Rep.
 - Panams 2011: Update about Guadalajara, MEX by Edimilson Pinheiro
 - Briefing about news in classification from Juraj Stefak.
 - Update on ITTF-PTT integration by Leandro Olvech
 - Explanation about the Para Tour by Nico Verspeelt
 - Presentation about the ITTF Development Program by Leandro Olvech

Evaluation:

Location: To organise a tournament in an island made the background quite attractive and touristic but also made logistics more difficult not only for the OC, also for the delegations to arrive.

Accommodations: The hotel was just good but they should invest more to keep it functioning correctly

Transport: Very good system, the minivans should have bigger doors.

Venue: Very good but the ramp for access to the spectators' seats was finished on the second day

Sport Equipment: Most of the tables' surfaces were damaged. The balls used were not the informed on the prospectus.

Umpires: Good level. They worked really hard with continuous shifts. Thanks to all of them but especially to those coming from abroad!

Ball Retrievers: Many volunteers, always smiling and helping.

Competitions: Time schedule perfectly followed, just a few rounds started late because of long matches on previous round.

Information: The information was distributed by OC and deputy referees slow at the beginning but fast and often after first day.

Spectators Attendance: poor

Spectators Services: not any at all, not even a buffet to buy something to drink.

Medal Presentations: The first round was too long but then it improved to be almost perfect.

Computers and Software: worked perfectly

Org. Committee:

The change of the chairperson the day before teams arrivals affected the whole competition. It shouldn't be done EVER, the chairperson must continue until the end OR give a step to a side longer before.

There was a presidential summit that affected also the starting of the competition the OC should send the trucks with equipment earlier to avoid last minute problems. The OC worked to solve the problems faced daily but didn't think in advance what can happen tomorrow.

Positions within the OC must be more clearly established and then followed.

Check lists must be used, it is not acceptable that on the beginning of the first day there were no chairs for the coaches assisting a match or even water under those warm conditions. Many times the ITTF officials have had to repeat the same requests in order to ensure accomplishment.

Final Message: First of all **THANKS** to the OC for the hard work during the competition, two circumstances affected the organisation, the presidential summit and the change on the head of OC. You did your best to ensure the best possible conditions. Next time don't let internal politics affect the organisation of a tournament. Thanks again,

Leandro Olvech
ITTF PTT – Technical Delegate