



# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## Para Table Tennis Division 1/2017

A meeting of the Para Table Tennis Division held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 10 February 2017 from 09:30 am.

### MEMBERS:

Dorte Darfelt (Chairperson), Nico Verspeelt (Vice Chairperson), Barbara Talbot, Georgios Seliniotakis, Gorazd Vecko, John Ng, Juraj Stefak, Alena Kánová

### BY INVITATION:

Leandro Olvech, Petra Sörling, Raul Calin, Trevor Hirth

### COOPTED ADVISOR:

Oivind Eriksen

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Emese Barsai

### APOLOGIES:

Alejandra Gabaglio, Gael Marziou, Lotfi El Haidag

### WELCOME:

The Chairperson welcomed everyone.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** the minutes of the meeting held in Rio de Janeiro on 14 September 2016.

**2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Division is asked to note the Chairperson's report including:

*2.1 Paralympic Games:* was very good tournament. It seemed that the interest is growing in the part of media as well.

*2.2 succession planning and future:* as the PTT family is constantly expanding, this is the time to try to find the most effective structure how the Division could develop the common work.

The EC decided at their meeting in Doha on 9th December to convert the Para TT Division in to a Committee. Then all Committees will have the same structure.

Mr Calin said that the EC meeting minutes were sent out in the middle of January, and the PTT members were updated in Copenhagen because the regular members usually don't receive the minutes.

Ms Sörling added that this is the next step to be fully integrated. The integration process has worked well in the development area, and it is time to do the same in other areas. The new PTT Committee will start the work officially after the WC in Düsseldorf. There will be 6 full members and 6 corresponding members. The candidates will have to send their nominations through the NAs in time. Following the integration process, the players' representatives will also have to be unified in to a single representative. In this spirit, the Players Committee will cease of this form, and all players will be represented in the Committee by the PTT representative on the ITTF Athletes' Commission. The players should find the one athlete, who will be the "voice" of the athletes in the Committee.

**3. VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Division is asked to note the Vice-Chairperson's report including:

*3.1 Replacement of classification secretary:* a meeting was held in November ago and the common work started with Emese and it had already started with Georgios for more than a year.



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3.2 *Para Youth Games (Asean, European etc.)*: as far as the organizers of the Continental Youth Games accepted the regulations established by ITTF, and the PTT Division can nominate the officials (referees, classifiers, TDs) as well as the Dr Wu program will be used during the event, the PTT Division accepted the request to give FA20 for the Continental Youth Games. In the future we should seek to get possibility increasing the number of slots by the IPC where it's organized under IPC umbrella.

#### **4. SECRETARIAT'S REPORT:** the Division asked to note the Secretariat's report including:

4.1. *Financial update*: there is separated account with quite good standing. From 2008 when the integration processes started, there have been staff supported also in the part of ITTF, and there were more and more integration with the development program involved para table tennis (for example in New-Zealand, with the Agitos Foundation Grant). In the near future, it is planned to organize an integrated course for the Technical Delegates with the Competition Managers, and hopefully from 2018 ITTF will have officials who will be able to do either PTT events, Junior events or World Tours.

4.2. *Online entry system*: thank you to Dorte and especially Georgios for his hard work. The process has been started on 2013 with a Spanish company, called MSL, but it was quite expensive and did not work as the PTT Division expected. Then Para TT Division entered in to a contract with Sport 80, an English company. The fees were quite high too, and by September 2016 the system was not yet ready to be used. At the moment of the meeting, the work has started with a new company, that made the live scoring for ITTF during the Olympic Games. The development fee is smaller than any of the previous companies and what is more important, the maintenance fee will be only of 200EUR per month (2400 EUR / year), much smaller than the 20,000 GBP expected to be paid to the English company per year. The system is being finalized.

4.3. *IPC Grant applications 2016 and 2017*: the deadline will be 31st March. Some activities were reallocated in Latin America and Asia. Oceania has been running quite well. At the same time the application process has started for the IPC with the same model was used in 2016 (one activity per continent).

4.4. *Tokyo 2020 program*: IPC is open for some changes but the PTT Division agreed it is too early to think in XD events at the Paralympic Games. After the World Championships in Dusseldorf and with the new committee in place, a working group will be set up to check the possibilities (doubles, mixed doubles) for 2024.

4.5. *2024 bid cities update*: site inspection made in 3 candidate cities (Los Angeles, Paris, Budapest). After more discussions, the table tennis venue could be very nice for our Paralympic Games. Despite the fact the IFs cannot vote, but whatever the decision will be taken, the table tennis family can be sure that we will have a nice venue for table tennis.

4.6. *2017 African Championships*: the PTT Division had accepted the only BID for 2017 PTT African Championships, which was sent by KETTD indicating that it was sent in partnership with Kenya TTA. Just few weeks ago, the Kenya TTA sent us a letter informing that they were not supporting this BID until the local issues are not solved. The PTT Division will re-open the BID process for looking for the host for the 2017 PTT African Championships.

4.7. *Eligibility*: based on the earlier ITTF rules, the players who move to another Association can play individual events at Open International Championships. To play team events they can do only if they have the passport of the country of the new Association, and only after 3 years since their last competition representing the former association. Furthermore, to compete at World Championships special rules may apply.



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On the case of the Syrian refugees who are living in Jordan, it was discussed that they can play singles and doubles at open international events if the Jordan Association enters them, as residents in their territory. The Para TT Division understood this is a very special case.

The Division asked:

- Emese to prepare the Budget for 2017 based on the last year.
- Continental representatives to forward their activity plan for 2017 until 25 February.
- The office to manage to re-open the BID for 2017 PTT Africa Championships.
- Georgios to reconfirm with Jordan that if the Syrian refugees will be able to take part in the PTT Jordan Open if the Jordan Association enter them and they can also deliver their residence in Jordan.

**5. DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** the Division is asked to note the report from the Development Program including:

5.1 *Development agreements:* the six continental agreements were signed in Rio de Janeiro. In 2016, there were executed 166 activities (record number) including Coach Education, Training Camps, URC courses, Para TT, Women's, Marketing and Tournament Organization courses. 30 major equipment packages were distributed.

5.2 *PTT Activities:* Continental Development Agreements include a PTT exclusive development project per year. In 2016, there were some changes, so at the end the courses allocated as follows:

- Africa: Nigeria – Classification
- Asia: Hong Kong – Coach Education
- Europe: Slovakia – Junior Training Camp
- Latin America: Peru – Coach Education and Training Camp
- North America: USA – Training Camp
- Oceania: Tahiti – New Zealand - Samoa

Courses allocated for 2017:

- Africa: TBD
- Asia: Indonesia
- Europe: TBD
- Latin America: Mexico
- North America: TBD
- Oceania: Fiji

5.3 *TT for All:* the third edition will be held in 6 April, so far 97 registered events in 20 countries. The event should have been promoted on the PTT website.

The main event probably to be held in Denmark during the SportAccord, where some Danish TT players will be invited. The first main event was held in Buenos Aires, the second one in Nepal.

5.4 *Dream-building:* new program has been started, called ITTF Olympic Bridge – Buenos Aires/Tokyo. ITTF is planning a project to connect the host cities of next Summer Olympics. Development Centers to be opened in Argentina with Japanese support. One of the five venues will be PTT exclusive, probably the main children's hospital.

Another program has been planned for the refugees: set up tables in Al-zaatari camps (Jordan) and show and teach table tennis for the refugees – it is not confirmed yet.

5.5 *Classification Manual:* Classification manual Level "A" is delivered. The related screen presentation and videos have been in progress, then will be continued with the Level "B" and Level "C".



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The final deadline is to comply with the IPC Code is 01 January 2018, so the PTT Division would have to accept the general principles in the updated Code this year with help of Mr Pablo Pérez.

5.6 *PTT Oceania project*: there was held a PTT L1 Coaching Course presented by Christian Holtz (PTT Oceania Development officer) for 28 players and coaches from 8 Oceania countries (Australia, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu).

Website article: <http://www.ittf.com/2016/12/28/bonding-one-family-one-sport-theme-auckland/>

The activities were funded by Agitos Foundation, and both ITTF-Oceania and the Smash Down Barriers program contributed 20% each.

5.7 *2019 African Championships*: Cape Verde plans to host the first Para African Games in 2019 and they are interested to include table tennis.

5.8 *Magazine*: at the end of the each Olympic cycle, ITTF DET releases a quadrennial report in magazine format. The one covering the finished cycle will be released at the next AGM in Düsseldorf and the cover highlight the PTT Project Table Tennis for NepAll.

5.9 *ITTF Membership*: the current ITTF Membership is composed by 222 National Associations which makes it the largest International Sport Federation (ISF) in that sense. There are only 4 countries in the World that are not yet ITTF members: Bahamas, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Eritrea. Except Bahamas, the others already applied to become ITTF members and that will be officially approved during the next AGM in Düsseldorf in May.

5.10 *Promotion*:

Five new films were produced:

Dream Building – “Improving the World Through Table Tennis”:

<https://youtu.be/e3UCaKrzt4E?list=PLB78036B55F8DB867>

Smash Down Barriers - “Table Tennis Shame to Fame”:

<https://youtu.be/4IUQwVJMm8Y?list=PLB78036B55F8DB867>

ITTF and Diplomacy – “Breaking Down Barriers”:

[https://youtu.be/LPBmJkF\\_7DA?list=PLB78036B55F8DB867](https://youtu.be/LPBmJkF_7DA?list=PLB78036B55F8DB867)

“Best of World Table Tennis Day” –

<https://youtu.be/CvWkAtluRjQ?list=PLB78036B55F8DB867>

“Table Tennis for NepALL”:

<https://youtu.be/aioRGf1pLOs?list=PLB78036B55F8DB867>

5.11 *Awards 2016*:

The ITTF has been awarded in 2016 as follows:

- FICTS Festival: Sport & Society Film (Table Tennis for NepALL – Mention d’Honneur)
- FICTS Festival: Sport & Society Film (Best of 2016 World Table Tennis Day – Shortlisted)
- Peace & Sport: April 6 Initiative of the Year (World Table Tennis Day – Winner)

The Division asked:

- the Continental representatives (Africa, Europe and North America) to send their activity proposal for the Development department within 2 weeks.

## 6. PLAYERS’ COMMITTEE REPORT: the Division is asked to note the Players’ Committee report including:

6.1 *Follow up from Rio meeting*

- Full live streaming of all tables: it will take time, but will be started at the F40 event.
- Having two bronze medals at the Paralympic Games: there is an official form which we have to fill in, and the final decision will be made by the IPC.



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- Food guidelines: will be inserted into the contracts.

### 6.2 *Ideas, questions, proposals and feedback*

6.2.1 Used the Davis Cup format again during the team event: the new system is much better for the table tennis, and supported by the majority of the players. During the FA events, the longer team matches are not be conducted in 3 or 4 days.

6.2.2 New medical classification: it has been in progress, and will be ready at the end of this year.

6.2.3 Online entry system: will be started in this year. Firstly it will be started parallel with the old system, then independently.

6.2.4 Woman Class 1 service rule: it is not possible to change the rule only in one class. The referee will have to draw the attention of the umpires for the enforcement of the legal serve.

6.2.5 Asking for 2018 WC Tournament Credit compensation for 2016 Lignano: the selection process for 2018 WC started after the 2016 Paralympic Games. There is no any reason to give TC retroactively for (only) Lignano. The selection guide was published in time.

### 6.3 *Important feedback from questionnaire*

The questionnaire could be acceptable if the majority of the players are complaining.

6.4 *Plans for 2017*: the system will be changed after the AGM in Düsseldorf.

## 7. **ATHLETES' REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** the Division is asked to note the Athlete's Representative report including:

The Athletes Committee has a meeting once a year. Next one will be held during the WC in Düsseldorf.

7.1 *World Ranking*: the use of new WR will be checked by the players until the end of June.

7.2 *Plastic balls*: too many kind of balls are used currently. In order to find the best quality, the Committee Chairman is in constant contact with the manufacturers.

7.3 *Service working group*: still working, and also active players are inside.

### 7.4 *Others*:

ITTF has established a working group to consider the possibility of having doubles and mixed doubles at the 2020 or 2024 Olympic Games.

ITTF council: there were one candidate nominated on behalf of the table tennis, but unfortunately she did not get enough votes.

## 8. **TOURNAMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Division asked to note the Tournament Officer's report including:

8.1. *review of the tournament structure of World Team WC and the Junior event (U23) including the ranking points:*

*Junior events*: the numbers of the participants are constantly increasing. If the event can be organized the first day, there is a possibility to organize doubles or mixed doubles but as an unofficially event without ranking points. The main goal is to provide more play opportunities for the players.

*World Team Championships*: the first team WC, at that moment 100 teams had entered. The PTT Division can allow to have an event with only four teams, but just according to the IPC rules giving only gold and silver medal. The event will be running with only few tables making it more visible.

### 8.2. *2017 Calendar*:

*FA events*: in 2017 there will be held 3 F40 events in Europe, 2 or 3 in Asia.

Taichung will be FA40 event also in 2017. As it seems there will not be held any FA20 event in Asia, so the classification could be held during the Asian Regional Championships. In America, Las Vegas will be able to get the facility to have a FA40 event, as the conditions are appropriate. Chile could be a candidate in the future also



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if they will develop the conditions and they really would like to organize a FA40 instead of FA20.

8.3. *TD seminars 2017 and 2018*: should have been organized in all regional championships, but it depends on the changes in the structure.

8.4. *BIDs for next WC 2018 championships (closed on 30 November 2016)*:

5 candidates: Denmark, Italy, Jordan, Morocco and Slovenia.

After the Chairperson and the Tournament Officer excused from the decision, the Committee preselected the following two candidates: Denmark and Slovenia.

The two site inspections should be taken by the same two persons until the end of April and decision can be taken by e-mail on May before the AGM and the BOD meeting in Düsseldorf.

8.5. *2019 Regional Championships*: the BID should be published soon with a deadline of 31 August if it is possible, but regarding the Continental events, the Continental Presidents and Representatives should be involved better in the future.

8.6. *2019 Team World Championships*: after having the first experiences of the 2017 Team World Championships, the BID should have been 30 November 2017.

8.6 *Paralympic Games*:

- 2 bronze medals in the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo: as discussed earlier, we will send our officially formal request regarding this matter.

8.7 *PTT Open in Japan*: the PTT Division has confirmed their requested date one month before the application deadline as it is very important for Japanese organizers to have experiences before the 2020 Paralympic Games. The PTT Division regretted the cancellation of 2017 PTT Japan Open, but also confident that the 2018 PTT Japan will be held.

8.8 *Umpiring at the Rio Paralympic Games*: the level of the umpiring was very poor, as the selected umpires did not have enough previous experiences. For 2020 Tokyo the selection process will be revised taking into account also the practical preparedness.

The Division asked:

- Gorazd to contact Mr Jan Riapos to check and clarify the opportunities.
- Nico to forward his answer for JTITA to Raul and Mr Weikert will answer for their officially request.

**9. CLASSIFICATION OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Division is asked to note the Classification Officer's report including:

9.1 *General overview on Classification process in the year 2016 (Tournaments, athletes, classifiers)*: there were 13 events including the Paralympic Games in 2016. Classification was held on 9 tournaments and ID classification was on two events.

Totally 181 new players were classified in 2016 (36 junior players) plus 12 with ID classification.

2 classification seminars level "A" were held: first was in Lignano with 7 participants, the second one in Argentina with 6 participants.

9.2 *Classifiers as to 1st of January 2017 – analysis (with attention to Levels and Continents distribution, etc.) published on the web*:

At that time the PTT Division have 8 senior and 35 Classifiers "C", who can work alone plus 15 Classifiers B"" and 88 Classifiers Level "A".

9.3. *Classifiers' nominations for 2017 tournaments and championships*:

Thanks to Nico for his help, it already has been prepared.

9.4. *Classification seminars for 2017 – planning*:

Four official seminars are planned for 2017, and "B" seminars are planned during the Regional Championships, except African Championships, where Level "A" seminar will be held.



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9.5. *ID classifications and re-evaluations planning for 2017 - class 11*: four tournaments will be held at the Oceania Regional Championships, PTT Slovenia Open, PTT Korea Open, PTT Brazil Open and only class 11 classification during the Asian Championships.

9.6. *Classification agenda on webpage – analysis and regular upgrade*: it is getting better with sharing more and more information on the web.

9.7. *Introduction of New ICC (International Classification Card)*: the new form is in electronic form from 2017. Thanks to Pablo Perez for his hard work and help. It will be used first time at PTT Lignano Open.

9.8. *Introduction of New Consent Form*: it is the same for both, physically and also ID athletes.

9.9. *Classification manual*: as discussed earlier, it is in progress.

**10. SELECTION OFFICER'S REPORT:** the division is asked to note the Selection Officer's report including:

10.1 *2018 Individual World Championships and 2017 PTT Regional Championships*:

The players who played in able-bodied event can be able to get Tournament credit points if the competition was held at the same time, plus the players must take part at the PTT Regional Championships and one more FA event during the selection period at least.

The best junior player will be selected automatically for the 2018 Individual World Championships. Only the first one, and if this player has been selected from the Regional Championships or Ranking selection, the slot is reverting back to the PTT WR.

10.2 *RDP points due to the food poisoning at the 2016 Thailand Open*: at that moment the rule is clear and there is no possibility break it, so the point deduction will remain.

The Division asked:

- Nico to prepare to draw the attention on PTT website, that the players who take part in able-bodied events, plus the players must take part at the PTT Regional Championships and one more FA event during the selection period at least.
- Nico to prepare an amendment that only the top junior player can be taken part in 2018 PTT Individual WC automatically.

**11. WEBMASTER'S REPORT:** no report

**12. RATING REPORT:** the Division is asked to note the report including:

12.1 *Penalty policy*: included the penalty policy for non-shows into the rating program and first applied the rule at Thailand's Open.

**13. REGIONAL REPORTS:** the Division is asked to note the regional representatives' reports including:

13.1. *Americas*: no report

13.2. *Africa*: no report

13.3. *Asia*:

- *Development*: the development course will be held in Indonesia in 2017.
- *India*: unfortunately this problem has been present for ages. At that moment it seemed there was held a meeting between the Indian NPC and India TTA few days before, and still waiting for the information.
- *Asean Para Games*: the biennial multi-disciplinary sports will be hosted in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 23 September 2017.



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#### 13.4. Europe:

- *Cooperation with EPC*: close cooperation with EPC.
- *Events in Europe*: the European Youth Paralympic Games will be hosted in Genova (Italy) in October 2017.
- *Training camp and education*: was held in Slovakia in 2016.

#### 13.5. Oceania:

- *Development in the Region*: five countries were targeted with the Smash Down Barriers program (Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).
- *Regional Championships – Oceania – Fiji*: expected approximately 70 players from 13 countries for the 2017 PTT Oceania Regional Championships.
- *Special Olympics*: South Australia is hosting the National Games in 2017 and are for the first time having table tennis as demonstration sport.
- *Recommendations for discussion from Oceania as*:
  - Minutes be distributed within 1 month.
  - Entry process: will be online soon.
  - Online course for Regional representatives can be set up in the future.
  - Site visits process: only one sites inspection should organized – it can be if there is no any changes during the preparation period for the FA 20 and FA40 events, but there are two site visits for the major tournaments.
  - *Cancellation of the anti-doping requirement from the contract*: it is not possible, today it is one of the main goal the clean sport.

#### **14. NEXT MEETING**

Depending on the election, the new Committee will have to be set up first.

#### **15. Any other business**

The request on behalf of the Israel TTA may be taken into account by the PTT European Championships LOC and officials if there is a way.