

Dear All

Thanks for sending the PTT Division a copy of your report. It is always useful to have interaction and hopefully, it will be face to face regularly as this is better than a continual discussion by email. I hope that there will be time in Rotterdam for whichever players are there to attend at least part of the PTT meeting.

In any case, your recommendations will be added to the PTT agenda and if there are any more that come up in the next week, please send them to me urgently.

I think that Gaël has included some responses on the Forum but I am adding them below as it could be that not everyone reads the Forum.

Alina had heard a suggestion that possibly next year there would be no Factor 20 and 40 tournaments because of the rating system and this was met with amazement by the other members of the PC. If this is going to be proposed by the PTT Division then the PC insist there must be a players' referendum in order to approve such a decision.

The rating system has nothing to do in this potential change. As you can see on the rating system page, we have allocated different weights for factor 20 and 40 tournaments. Both can work if we can clarify their differences and give them meaningful and marketable names (e.g. World Cup, Pro Tour, ...) rather than the meaningless Fa 20 and 40.

A question arose regarding seedings: if there are combined classes for example class 6-8 men how are the seedings calculated as the ranking points are very different for each class?

The seeding is done the same way as when there is one single class by using the ranking points with no adjustment.

- *PTT Division should check the Data Protection Act to see if this is allowed;*

This is done in ITTF for able-bodied for many years, so I suppose it is. The data is not published and used to collect reliable data: player's name and date of birth. You would be surprised how many errors were found. Having reliable birth dates is useful for organizing special events for juniors or veterans.

- *a list should now be made of all passports scanned and sent out to all NTTA/NPC's so that they know whose passport still requires to be scanned and they can be asked to send in the required passport scanned;*

David Jackson manages the players passports, he sent me this list that I will publish.

a PC page should be created on the website and an e-mail facility be provided for all players to contact the PC easily ;

I created the mailing list and I am working on the page.

- *results of tournaments should be put on the PTT website as the tournament is playing.*

I do it when the TD or organizers send me the results daily and I am available. Organizers can also easily do it by themselves when they have their own web sites.

Other comments are:

1. As Gaël indicated above, there is very little difference between a Fa20 and 40 (perhaps only the number of classifiers) and this was discussed by the SOC in February in the context of the overall tournament structure. Fa40 was supposed to be a PTT equivalent of the Pro Tour but it has been difficult to get there as sponsorship is an issue. It is an ongoing issue. Thus one of the areas of difference could be the length of the event.
2. It is not only the responsibility of the TD and referee to calculate the number of tables and days needed but there is some responsibility on the organisers who are generally table tennis people but ultimately, the TD is the PTT representative at the event and needs to be responsible. We can also turn it around and the organisers can advise the TD how many entries they can reasonably accept and then cut off the entries received later or through whatever mechanism is decided.
3. We are not aware of any rule that says events must only be played in 1 hall but we do say that if there are 2 halls, 2 deputy referees are required.
4. The costs of tournaments is a continuing issue and we do need to find a way to address it but we also need to recognize that the costs of organising an event will differ from country to country as well as with standard of accommodation. However, we have been under some pressure to reduce costs while ensuring more games which often means more time at an event so how to find the “happy medium” should be discussed.
5. We have in the past distributed a questionnaire to players to get feedback on tournaments – not a huge response unfortunately.
6. Passport scanning – according to information received yesterday, 349 passports have been scanned out of a number of active players 2 580 so we are about 21% of the way there. As Gaël says above, we have started to work on reducing the workload of this and have a list available and we will correlate it with the data_common when it is available which is something we need to ask TDs and/or Nico to do (send to David so he can identify players whose passports we still need).
7. Some comments in the spirit of food for thought (not requiring an answer):
 - a. Brazil – it is not likely that many of the additional players who played in the team event are going to go anywhere near the world championships or Paralympic Games as the national association is quite strict on sending players to events i.e. they send only the top players. With Brazil being the host, several players were “on the doorstep” and sometimes we need to consider this

aspect to promote our sport, particularly in the country hosting the 2016 Games. However, the point about applying the rules is taken and maybe we need to look at a “B division” in such instances but this would end up being Brazil players playing against each other.

- b. Hungary is something we need to look at and draw the attention of the referee and TD to the issue in a constructive way.
 - c. In Lignano, it was apparently not possible to do the draw again as the event had already started.
8. The PTT Division is responsible for making decisions and has specifically established the Players’ Committee in order to relieve the pressure on the players’ representative and to ensure broader involvement and consultation and this is the start of the process!
 9. The rules and regulations are in the process of being updated (partly my fault) but we are in the process of moving in line with the document format of the ITTF so you will see that the tournament directives are now on the website and hopefully at the Board of Directors meeting on 12 May 2011, other aspects will be approved in terms of chapter 3 and 4 of the ITTF Handbook (international event regulations and world title and Olympic and Paralympic Games regulations). The rating explanation is part of this process. I am also working on a document for penalties for withdrawals from events which will be the equivalent of the ranking default policy of the ITTF. Gaël does a great job as a volunteer in keeping the website up to date contrary to the wide statement made in your report.
 10. On the classification rules, it is not clear exactly what you mean. There is a Classification Code on the website which has now been approved by the ITTF Executive Committee and Olympic and Paralympic Commission. We are working on a classification manual which is a major undertaking. Hopefully once these are in place, we will be able to consolidate documents relating to classification.
 11. Format of play in London with 2 players going to the knock out rounds has been considered and there is simply not enough time in the day to do this. It will be considered for 2016. Nico has indeed worked on this together with Gorazd and others.
 12. A national association has the jurisdiction over its players in terms of section 1.21.2 of the ITTF constitution so we cannot unfortunately tell associations that they can or cannot allow a player within their jurisdiction to enter any particular event. If this situation arises, the PTT Division should be alerted so that it can approach the relevant association to try and assist.

If it is possible, we also need to find a way to raise concerns at the event rather than keeping them till much later so that we have a chance of putting things right at the time. Both Gorazd and Vincent were in Lignano and it may have been a good idea to have them present for part or all of your meeting as some of the issues you have raised could have been clarified if not

resolved. Vincent has in particular been asked to facilitate the handover at the PTT meeting in Gwangju and this would have provided a good opportunity.

The tournament indemnity is an ongoing discussion and perhaps Aléna and I can find some time in Rotterdam to sit down and discuss it as we need to protect the organisers and the ITTF and yes, teams should have their own insurance but at present the organisers take that in good faith as I suspect that organisers do not check. The form also covers that players promise not to cheat, not to take prohibited substances, not to cheat in classification and to allow us to use their likeness e.g. in advertising, educational videos etc so it is more than just about insurance. I reiterate that this is a form which was developed based on similar forms used by the UCI for their Para Cycling world championships and the IPC for their world championships but let Aléna and I discuss.

In my other capacity of working with the Umpires' and Referees' Committee, I am working with a professor whose speciality is training and he is reviewing the way in which umpires and referees are trained and become qualified. I have raised as part of that process as well as with the URC that we need to look at the content of the training so this is an ongoing process. Similarly, Gorazd and I are updating the TD training both in terms of the process and the content but this is taking some time. Many of your comments have already been incorporated but we need also to be clear that the TD's job is quite different from the classifier's and the referee's so it will be specified in the training.

In closing, we hope that we can sort some of the tournament problems out as it is also important for us to focus on development and integration issues. As I said, the intent is to clarify issues and not get into an email debate as we can probably discuss more effectively in Rotterdam with whichever PC members are around.

Thanks again for this information and the beginning of a very happy working relationship – we are indeed all human, make mistakes on occasion and we all have room for improvement! As the saying goes: only people who do things make mistakes, those who do nothing do not!

Ta

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