

Report from the XII Paralympic Games from 17. - 28. September 2004 in Athens

Racket Control

The event was held in the Galatsi Olympic Hall. The facilities for racket control were good, with sufficient storage rooms with locking, good ventilation and lighting, enough furniture, and located near the area where players and umpires were preparing for the marshal.

Before we started we agreed with the referee to have after-match tests as the general rule. In case he wanted something special he should notify us.

We also agreed to spread the tests to as many associations as possible. Later the referee (and the competition manager) wanted that when we picked a player, we should also take his opponent.

The first day we had voluntary tests, but due to the timing with the opening ceremony, it became a short period available. Therefore we also accepted such tests during the next days.

The importance was placed mainly on the glue and rubber testing, together with the explanation to the players involved.

Some checking was done on the general appearance of the racket, but very little was done with gloss as this did not seem to be required here. This was a change from Sydney.

Starting with team matches we changed to before-match testing. When the teams gathered to enter the hall, we collected rackets, which were afterwards delivered to the referee's desk. From here the referee or involved umpires brought the rackets to the players - usually after the first match.

Summary:

	Men	Women	Total
Total players	180	69	249
Total in %	72,29%	27,71%	100%
Tested	116	41	157
Tested in %	64,44%	59,42%	63,05%

Some players were tested more than one time. Only one association was never tested.

Two players were disqualified from a single event due to too much solvent. At the request of the referee we sent a report to the associations in question - ref. Law 3.5.3.2.

Some players - 12 - had traces of solvents and were warned against using too fresh coverings from the factory.

Some illegal racket coverings (= not on the List of Authorised Racket Coverings) were found, and the players in question changed their rubbers.

Some Dräger test tubes failed, and were reported to the supplier.

Files with details are attached.

The Racket Control team consisted of Cathrine Spanou and Dana Papadimitriou, both from the organizer, Hosny Sonbol (Egypt) and yours truly. The first and last had experience, and the operation run smoothly.

Athen, 29. September 2004.

Odd Gustavsen