



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION: 2/2012

Minutes of a meeting of the Para Table Tennis Division held in the ITTF office, ExCeL, London, UK on 4 September 2012 at 09h00.

PRESENT: Øivind Eriksen (Chairperson), Emese Barsai, Lill Bhagwan, Alejandra Gabaglio, John Ng, Juraj Stefak, Nico Verspeelt, Barbara Talbot, Gorazd Vecko

COOPTED ADVISORS: Alena Kánová, Gaël Marziou, Jolanda Paardekam

BY INVITATION: Neil Harwood (Deputy President), Yves Drapeau (INAS), Polona Cehovin Susin, Leandro Olvech

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Burchell

WELCOME: the Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting.

- 1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** the minutes of the meeting held from 20 to 22 January 2012 were confirmed and signed.
- 2 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Chairperson's report including:
 - 2.1 succession planning: as a committee which was very functional, all members should identify a person to shadow them and to take over should the need arise.
 - 2.2 PTT terms of reference: had been noted by the Board of Directors and approved by the Executive Committee.
 - 2.3 improvements in tournaments: at the Paralympic Games, the medal ceremonies should, if possible, be held soon after the event to encourage spectator attendance for medal ceremonies.

The Division asked all members to identify successors and trainees in terms of succession planning.

- 3 **VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** the Division noted there was nothing to add to the Vice-Chairperson's report.
- 4 **TREASURER'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Treasurer's report including:
 - 4.1 income and expenditure for 2011: according to the extract of the books, the income was €207 254,48 and expenditure €110 568,34.
 - 4.2 outstanding capitation fees 2011: had been received from Copa Tango, European and African Championships.
 - 4.3 sanction fees 2012: all had been paid.
 - 4.4 capitation fees 2012: all had been paid except Copa Tango (in process) and San Diego (still to happen).
 - 4.5 IPC grant: 50% of €29 065.00 had been received and a further report by 21 September 2012 was required.
- 5 **SECRETARIAT'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Secretariat's report including:
 - 5.1 marketing and sponsorship:

- a DVD had been produced and distributed at the ITTF AGM including PTT, the women's development programme, the Hopes programme and development (Dream Building) to be distributed to potential sponsors.
 - a PTT specific DVD had also been distributed.
- 5.2 review of the strategic plan: this still had to be finalised.
- 5.3 code of conduct: still to be signed by Øivind, Lill, John, Nico and Gaël.
- 5.4 education of referees: new IRs to PTT were being introduced and the system would continue in 2013.
- 5.5 liaison with IWAS: ongoing primarily for the IWAS Games (youth and senior).
- 5.6 liaison with CP-ISRA: nothing to report.
- 5.7 liaison with INAS:
- a summary of the meeting held on 10 July 2012 had been circulated.
 - the partnership with INAS was working well.
 - some proposals for the integration process were expected soon.
 - a presentation on the integration process may be done at the next INAS executive meeting.
 - INAS was ready to work with ITTF and had accepted the classification process devised by INAS and ITTF.
- 5.8 liaison with Special Olympics International: the next world games would be held in USA in 2015 and contact had been made about an MoU.
- 5.9 liaison with Deaflympics/CISS/ICSD: the ITTF had appointed a representative, a technical committee member and referee for the World Deaf Championships and discussions about an MoU had begun.
- 5.10 transfer of work to Headquarters:
- 4 years of classification sheets had been scanned for the database, a majority of forms from 1999 to 2004 had been completed but 2008 to 2012 still had to be done.
 - the ICC had been updated and would be put into electronic form for 2013.
 - some of ICCs were illegible and lacking in detail which could be important for protests.
- 5.11 online entry system:
- a specifications document had been issued.
 - 3 companies had submitted quotes.
 - a small group of Gaël, Graeme and Alison had considered the proposals and followed up with a particular company which, although it was the most expensive quote, had agreed that they would reduce the quoted price significantly.
 - some modules already existed and would need to be adapted.
 - the next steps required a more detailed specification and rule definition.
 - the company could also provide ongoing support and server space.
- 5.12 Commonwealth Games 2014 and 2018: table tennis had been replaced by cycling on the programme for 2014 but for 2018, table tennis would probably be back on the programme.

The Division asked:

- a) the SOC to finalise the strategic plan for approval at the first meeting in 2012.
- b) Øivind, Lill, John, Nico and Gaël to sign the code of conduct form and submit to Alison.
- c) Alison to follow up with SOI, INAS, CISS.
- d) the working group to continue with the online entry system.

6 DEVELOPMENT REPORT: the Division noted the report from the Development Program:

- the coaching course had integrated PTT.
- the advanced coaching course had been developed for the able-bodied and would be developed for PTT, starting later in 2012.
- courses for umpires and referees were integrated.
- some requests for training camps had been received and the centre in Düsseldorf could be the first "PTT Hot Spot" but this would be developed with the Education and Training Program.

- the definition of “young” in the context of PTT should be defined in terms of age and/or newly disabled players.
- course conductors with experience in PTT were being trained.
- 4 nominations had been submitted for SportAccord’s “Spirit of Sport Awards” including PTT; the women’s programme won.
- continental development agreements incorporating PTT for 2013 to 2016 to which PTT should contribute US\$4 000 per continent for an activity for associations already integrating PTT.

The Division resolved:

- a) to establish the age for a “young” player at 25 years.
- b) to ask the SOC to consider an allocation, in principle, to the Development Program of US\$4 000 per annum per continent (6 continents) for 2013 to 2016 for an activity to promote development and integration.

The Division asked the Develop Program to follow up on distributing wheelchair accessible tables as part of the equipment packages and the inclusion of PTT in the continental agreements for the next quadrennium.

7 PLAYERS’ COMMITTEE REPORT: the Division noted the report including:

- 7.1 brochure on player education on the rules including racket testing and doping control: a member was working on that.
- 7.2 donations to the Museum: the PC would not pursue this due to time constraints.
- 7.3 criteria for an award for the best organised tournament: the questionnaire had been put online and would be used to determine the best tournament in December 2012.
- 7.4 criteria for the best players awards: should be selected every year and consideration should be given to including class 11 and 1 vote per country had not worked when previously tried which was why statistics had been used.
- 7.5 criteria for “players’ player” award: still to be discussed.
- 7.6 medals for coaches in team events: only at world and regional championships but if, before 2015, an organiser wished to award medals for coaches, this would be welcomed.
- 7.7 racket testing: there was already provision for voluntary testing at any time during an event.
- 7.8 integration: was ongoing and regional representatives were following up but the ITTF had to deal with its members.

The Division asked:

- a) Alena and Jolanda to advise Alison what form the acknowledgement for the best organised tournaments.
- b) the Players’ Committee to propose criteria and processes should be followed for best players’ and players’ players award.

The Division resolved that:

- i) medals be awarded to coaches or team leaders in team events with effect from 2015 at regional and world championships.
- ii) any medals awarded to coaches or team leaders would not count for the Hall of Fame.

8 ATHLETES’ REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: the Division noted the report including:

- 8.1 IPC Athletes’ Council: elections were being held during the Paralympic Games and a table tennis player was standing.
- 8.2 ITTF Athletes’ Commission:
 - a meeting had been held during the World Championships and racket testing was discussed.
 - the chairperson had attended the Paralympic Games and was impressed what he had seen.

- 9 TOURNAMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Tournament Officer's report including:
- 9.1 review of the tournament structure:
- 9.1.1 more than 1 event per country:
- the host for the next Paralympic Games or world championships should have a test event before the regional championships.
 - Fa20 1 per country but between 10 and 15 per year world-wide.
 - Fa40 1 per country up to a maximum of 5 per year world-wide.
 - only 1 tournament Fa20 or Fa40 per year per country.
 - multi-sport events should have a rating of 1.0.
- 9.1.2 more regular world championships: should take place every 2 years but moving to odd years with a proposal of having continental championships every year to be considered.
- 9.1.3 junior events and age groups, rating factor:
- players should be 25 years old in the calendar year of the event.
 - the junior event should lead into a senior event on the calendar.
 - 1.0 rating for a junior event.
- 9.1.4 class 11 events: rating of 0 if organised by INAS or 1.0 if organised under ITTF rules and regulations and where organised, more class 11 players should participate in identified events.
- 9.1.5 prize money event: rating 1.0 but the ITTF rules and regulations must apply.
- 9.1.6 special tournaments: rating 1.0 only if under ITTF's rules and regulations.
- 9.1.7 tournament credit for players from other continents: there should be a differentiated tournament credit per continent and all players should participate in events organised in a continent other than their own.
- 9.1.8 tournaments in continents: few tournaments were scheduled in Africa.
- 9.1.9 quality of tournaments: discussions were ongoing to improve the quality.
- 9.2 format of play including doubles match 3rd in the team event: for teams, 3 in a group with 2 advancing to the KO stage; singles groups of 4 with 2 advancing to the KO stage and doubles match 3rd in the team event.
- 9.3 calendar for 2012 including TV: television coverage for the 2 events identified did not occur.
- 9.4 calendar for 2013:
- television coverage should be investigated for Lasko and Lignano.
 - there were 6 events which had applied for Fa40 of which 5 were in Europe.
 - if an event did not get Fa40, a Fa20 could still be organised.
- 9.5 Regional Championships 2013: allocated to Italy (Europe), China (Asia), Oceania (Australia) with Americas (Brazil) and Africa to be approved with AUT courses to be encouraged at these events.
- 9.6 2015 regional championships: no candidate for Africa, Para Pan Am Games (Canada), possibly Oceania (New Zealand), Asia (Thailand) and Europe (France, Czech Republic, Slovakia, England).
- 9.7 World Championships 2014:
- a meeting had been held with the Marketing Director and Gorazd.
 - 1 or 2 TV tables were proposed.
 - the Marketing Director was assisting with sponsorship beginning with equipment.
 - there were few entertainment facilities nearby.
- 9.8 racket testing: covered above.
- 9.9 prices of tournaments: organisers could, in terms of the regulations, offer an entry fee to cover the basic costs of the event and/or a package including local transport and accommodation.
- 9.10 tournament contracts: these would be updated for next year.
- 9.11 tournament organisers' handbook and education: no progress.
- 9.12 TD training:
- handbook had been completed.
 - trainers had been tested.

- candidates would be identified through an application process for 2013.
- job description had been developed.
- an application form had been developed and would be issued soon for 2013.
- certification and qualification had been done and trainee TDs would work closely with TDs in events with over 200 players.
- 4 or 5 people would be invited to a refresher course.
- a number of good new TDs were now coming through the system.

9.13 rules for mixed standing and sitting players should be developed for the 2013 AGM.

9.14 European Youth Games 2012 and 2013: a report had been circulated and the event could develop from a recreational to competitive event.

The Division approved the following recommendations that:

- a) the host for the next Paralympic Games or world championships should have a test event before the regional championships.
- b) Fa20 1 per country but between 10 and 15 per year world-wide.
- c) Fa40 1 per country up to a maximum of 5 per year world-wide.
- d) only 1 tournament Fa20 or Fa40 per year per country.
- e) multi-sport events, rating of 1.0, depending on the organisers.
- f) class 11 events have a rating of 0 if organised by INAS or 1.0 if organised under ITTF rules and regulations.
- g) for prize money events, rating 1.0 if organised in terms of ITTF rules and regulations.
- h) special tournaments would have a rating of 1.0 if organised under ITTF's rules and regulations.
- i) from 2017, to organise world championships in odd years.
- j) youth events age group would be 25 years old in the calendar year of the event with a rating of 1.0.
- k) for PTT events in teams, the doubles match 3rd would be played in the team event with 3 teams playing in a group with 2 advancing to the KO stage;
- l) for PTT events in singles, groups of 4 with 2 advancing to the KO stage.
- m) to approve Lignano, Lasko and Bayreuth Fa40; Ostrava Fa20 and the last Fa40 to be decided between San Diego and Bayreuth.
- n) to allocate, in principle, Fa20 to the European Youth Games.

The Division asked Gorazd to:

- i) investigate TV coverage for 2 events in 2013.
- ii) recommend if San Diego should organise a Fa40 event after the event to be held in 2012.
- iii) work with Graeme to propose motions for the AGM to cover mixed sitting and standing players.

10 MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT: the Division noted the Medical Officer's report including:

10.1 classification code review: the code had been approved and would be published after the Paralympic Games.

10.2 classifier education and manual:

- this would include some additions from the parts removed from the code.
- class descriptions had been clarified.

10.3 INAS classification update, INAS list to match the ITTF list:

- there was insufficient interest in the seminar to be offered in Eger.
- the next seminar was planned for San Diego.
- there were 20 active classifiers who were appropriately qualified but who were not always available to work (about 8 were qualified for class 11).
- therefore another 10 should be added to ensure they were all working and current.
- about 250 classifiers on the list were inactive.

10.4 IPC Medical Code: legal advice had been sought and the Code had been signed after an agreement had been reached with the IPC.

10.5 evaluation of the pre-Paralympic classification process:

- the changes made to classes in the lead up to the Paralympic Games had been appropriate.
- the organisers of the European Championships 2011 were not happy that of 5 classifiers, only 1 was from Europe but this was due to the need to run a seminar.
- otherwise classifiers were appointed taking into consideration travel costs.
- players should be checked once they had turned 18.

10.6 seminars in 2013:

- local classifiers could be used in the regional championships.
- organisers had expressed an interest in hosting a classification seminar.
- cooperation to provide basic seminars through the Development Program was being investigated.

11 **SELECTION OFFICER'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Selection Officer's report including:

- 11.1 selections for the 2012 Paralympic Games: completed.
- 11.2 selection issues resulting from the implementation of the rating system: players were correctly seeded and in the correct groups.
- 11.3 selection issues for the 2016 Paralympic Games: rating would be used and consideration should be given to an NPC replacing a player selected by ITTF with another on the alternate list.

12 **WEBMASTER'S REPORT:** the Division noted the Webmaster's report including:

- 12.1 integration with the ITTF website and web server: no progress.
- 12.2 players' database including classification:
 - players' biographies had been done in time for the Paralympic Games.
 - statistics had been developed in time for the Paralympic Games and various other statistics would be added.
 - the database would be developed in the near future.
- 12.3 rating system review:
 - double disqualification had been resolved.
 - players did not want to play in combined events particularly if they lost.
 - players withdrew from events after the entry list had been published or during the event in which case, the withdrawal penalty policy should be applied by the TD.
 - several players did not travel to events in other continents.
 - it seemed to be difficult for new players to get onto the rating list if there were insufficient numbers of rated players against whom they could be measured at a particular event.
- 12.4 rating list for class 11: this would improve over time as more results came in.
- 12.5 source code for Dr Wu's programme: this had been received but some parts were in Chinese.

The Division asked Gorazd to develop a proposal for amendments to the rating system to be submitted by 15 October 2012 for SOC to finalise for 2012.

The Division asked:

- a) Alison to discuss updating the rating list after every event.
- b) Nico to request Dr Wu to update the programme and programming in English.

13 **REGIONAL REPORTS:** the Division noted the regional representatives' reports including:

- 13.1 Americas:
 - 13.1.1 Para Pan Am Games 2015: these would be held in Toronto, Canada and table tennis had been included on the programme.
 - 13.1.2 CD: this would be converted to a DVD in November 2012.
 - 13.1.3 integration: various associations had been followed up to encourage integration.
 - 13.1.4 development and new countries: a coaching course had been held in Uruguay in July 2012 and another would be organised in Argentina with the national association and the disabled table tennis group at the initiative of the latter.

- 13.1.5 regional committee: no progress.
- 13.2 Africa:
 - 13.2.1 All Africa Games 2015: the Games would be held in Congo Brazzaville in 2015 and Nigeria had not got support from its government to host the African Championships in 2013.
 - 13.2.2 integration: Seychelles, Djibouti, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Gabon had made contact about PTT.
 - 13.2.3 development and new countries: there was interest from national associations in the courses offered by the Development Program.
 - 13.2.4 regional committee: no progress.
- 13.3 Asia:
 - 13.3.1 integration and India: no real progress had been made due to internal politics.
 - 13.3.2 development and new countries:
 - a coaching course would be held in Korea funded by the remaining funds from FESPIC.
 - there would be a classification course linked to a national tournament and a classifier should be nominated.
 - 13.3.3 regional committee: some discussions with the Asian Paralympic Committee had started to establish a regional committee.
- 13.4 Europe:
 - 13.4.1 integration:
 - the ETTU had agreed to establish a PTT committee which would be appointed in October 2012 during the European Championships.
 - the ETTU had also agreed to affiliate directly to the EPC.
 - an audit on the state of integration had begun.
 - 13.4.2 development and new countries: several coaching courses had been held.
 - 13.4.3 regional committee: would be the newly appointed ETTU PTT Committee.
- 13.5 Oceania:
 - 13.5.1 integration:
 - there were no problems in this area and a presentation had been done at the biennial OTTF AGM and follow up discussions were held with several associations.
 - negotiations were underway to have PTT in the Pacific Games in 2015 although Australia and New Zealand were not included.
 - 13.5.2 development and new countries:
 - the new continental development officer continued to integrate PTT into his courses.
 - an event for men and women standing and sitting had been held during the OTTF championships in June 2012 which also included the Deaf.
 - 13.5.3 regional committee: no progress.
- 13.6 co-option of the regional representatives on to the continental association boards:
 - Neil had made contact with all continental presidents who had been receptive to the idea.
 - Oceania already had co-opted Barbara.
 - in Europe, Dorte Kronsell had responsibility for PTT on the ETTU Board and a European PTT committee would be established in October 2012.
 - in LATTU, Alejandra submitted reports but had not been co-opted.
 - in NATTU, cooperation was close and integration nationally was in place.
 - Africa had not co-opted Lill onto its committee as yet.
- 13.7 affiliation to regional Paralympic committees: contact had been made with all regional NPCs.

13 LONDON 2012: the Division noted a report from the TD that:

- the work of the Division in implementing live scoring and other activities was appreciated.
- the rest day should be reconsidered.

- spreading the medal ceremonies to ensure spectators stayed and ceremonies followed as closely as possible to the end of the event could help.
- the competition schedule was too long and moving to direct knock out could help which would follow the Olympic competition format.
- there were more comments and enquiries about television coverage indicating a pleasing trend.

14 2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES: the Division noted a report including:

14.1 proposed events and format of play:

- it was going to be difficult to increase the number of slots or medal events for table tennis without giving something back as there were 2 more sports added to the programme for 2016.
- the inclusion of class 11 may be linked to the transfer of governance process.
- the players wanted to keep the current programme.
- the working group had proposed:
 - doubles with 6 points for the sitting teams and 16 points for the standing team or mixed team events with men and women's singles and then doubles.
 - currently having team events combined class 6 to 10 was not fair to the players.
 - in doubles with a class 1 player, he or she would be the focus of attention.
 - all options assumed 21 singles events.
 - separating women's class 1 and 2 in singles would promote development, players with high support needs and women.
- groups and direct elimination.
 - players did not like 1 player progressing from the group to the KO stages.
 - having a double knock out allowing those eliminated in the first round would allow more matches and for players to compete for the bronze medal.
 - 2 bronze medals should be awarded in preference.
- maintaining the rest day was not necessary.
- reducing the number of tables would improve the spectator experience as they could focus better on the sport.

14.2 in Fa50 and 80 events, play in groups of 4 with 2 progressing to the direct elimination: this would be implemented for PTT regional and world championships and separating women's singles 1 and 2.

14.3 appointment of sport manager: Edimilson Pinheiro had been appointed by the Rio organising committee.

The Division resolved to recommend to the Olympic and Paralympic Commission and IPC that, for Rio 2016, the programme should be:

- a) 22 singles events (separating SW1 from SW2) played in a direct knock out with those knocked out in the first round playing for 2 bronze medals in a double knock out.
- b) 6 events in doubles (men and women sitting and standing plus 2 for class 11).
- c) a maximum of 2 teams per country in each doubles event playing in double knock out format.

16 NEXT MEETING: the Division noted that the next meetings would be:

- 16.1 SOC: 9 to 11 November 2012 in Norway.
- 16.2 PTT: 25 to 27 January 2012 in Switzerland.

In closing the meeting, the Chairperson mentioned the upcoming "elections" of the PTTD in Paris May 2013 and:

- the history and development of ITTC, IPTTC and PTTD from 1996 to 2012 including:
 - positive changes in the financial status.
 - integration from IPC to ITTF.
 - moving from no world ranking to a world ranking and now to world rating.

- an increase in the number of tournaments per year from 2 or 3 tournaments to 15 to 20 tournaments per year.
- improving quality in all parts of PTTD.
- the goal to be “Table Tennis: Paralympic sport No 1”.
- the experience from committees and divisions in the former ITTC, IPTTC and PTTD “elections” including that:
 - PTT had built a system that worked independent of committee/division executive members involved.
 - there had always been outgoing/incoming executive members in previous “elections”.
 - every organisation, ITTF PTTD included, needed changes and development from time to time.
 - no-one was elected forever.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 17h50.

READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING

HELD ON

CHAIRPERSON

AMB/

8 September 2012