



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

Para Table Tennis Division 2/2016

A meeting of the Para Table Tennis Division held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 14 September 2016 from 09:00 am.

MEMBERS:

Dorte Darfelt (Chairperson), Nico Verspeelt (Vice Chairperson), Alejandra Gabaglio, Barbara Talbot, Georgios Seliniotakis, Juraj Stefak

BY INVITATION:

Alena Kanova, Bruce Burton, Gael Marziou, Leandro Olvech, Michael Brown, Petra Sörling, Raul Calin, Sheng Wu and Trevor Hirth

COOPTED ADVISOR:

Oivind Eriksen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Emese Barsai

APOLOGIES:

Gorazd Vecko, John Ng, Lotfi El Haidag

WELCOME:

The Chairperson welcomed everyone, especially Mr Bruce Burton, Mr Michael Brown and Mr Sheng Wu, who attended the meeting for the first time.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting held on 04 March 2016 were confirmed and signed.

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

2.1 *about last meeting:* it was held in Kuala Lumpur during the World Championships for able-bodied. It was good to see how this event was going on and the PTT Division members could see some exciting matches.

2.2 *succession planning:* the next election will be held in 2017, and likely Nico will be replaced by Georgios and Juraj will be replaced by Sheng in case he will make the decision not to continue his work as Medical Officer at the PTT Division. ITTF also will provide more and more help and support via Development and Media department.

2.3 *nominations in 2017:* it has been known that Nico will retire after several years, he was one of the founders of the PTT Division. Juraj was also considering the retreat.

Dorte also has been thinking of retire as Chairperson because of her new job which needs an entire person. If The PTT Division members and the ITTF still think she would be able to continue, she will be the Chairperson for the following 2 years.

The terms of reference of all committees will be reviewed before the next World Championships, including the PTT Division's, and probably the structure will change as discussed in recent years.

2.4 *working group for Tokyo 2020:* this has not been working, a new structure of this working group must have been set up.

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



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3.1 *Replacement of the agreement between ITTF and Dr Wu for using the program (should be for the new Paralympic period 2017-2020):* due to the expected changes in the integrated IT system, let's sign the contract for 2 years only for the first time instead of 4 years (Paralympic period).

3.2 *Replacement of classification secretary:* Emese will take over this part of Nico's job, so she will travel to Belgium for a short meeting soon. The replacement will go into effect from 01st January 2017.

The Division asked:

➤ Nico to contact first Dr Wu then prepare the new contract draft with Emese for signing.

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

4.1. *Player biographies:* it has just finished, all necessary and requested data's were sent to IPC on time. Thanked to Gael for his special help in this matter.

4.2. *Capitation fee 2014 and 2015:* closed as every organizer had transferred the adequate amount.

4.3. *Online entry system:* there were just the closing steps remaining as connecting the system with the players' database. The plan was to use the on-line entry system already for 2016, but at that moment it was not ready. The PTT Division paid the full amount in January. It was suggested that for the next year the Division should pay less to compensate the lack of use in 2016.

4.4. *IPC Grant:* submitted for 2016 based on the received requests on behalf of the Continental Representatives. Thanks to Leandro, Michael and Glenn for their assistance on preparing our application.

4.5. *Agitos Foundation 2016:* thanks to Christian Holtz for his help preparing the application from Oceania, where was scheduled to receive 12 countries and indicates increasing participation in this part of the World.

The Division asked:

➤ Emese to check the contract with Sport 80, and Dorte to contact the company and ask them to reduce the price for 2017.

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

5.1 *Development agreements:* the Continental agreements have been signed for the next period (from 2017 to 2020). The expansion of ITTF membership reached 222 members at that moment. It means that ITTF is the number one International Federation in terms of membership. The maximum number of members could be 226.

5.2 *PTT Activities:* based on the agreement, for the first time there was one PTT project per Continent in 2016.

- Africa: a classification seminar with 20 participants was held in Nigeria (May 2016). Thanked to Nico and Juraj for their assistance.
- Asia: also a classification seminar was planned to be organized in Malaysia, but it has been cancelled at the last minute in the absence of entries.
- Europe: a junior training camp will be held in Slovakia.
- Latin-America: there was an activity planned in Honduras.
- North-America: PTT course and Women course were planned in USA.
- Oceania: Tuvalu/Tahiti/Samoa



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The most common request was to be hosting a classification seminar with the aim to increasing the number of classifiers. For example there was a classification seminar in North-Korea and Australia.

5.3 *TT for All*: the second edition was held on 6th April with 196 events and they were held in 83 countries (<http://www.tt4all.com/>).

5.4 *Dream-building*: UNOSDP managed 4-6 camps for the Sport Federations and taught them how to run a global project with different needs and conditions. This year there has been a camp already in Germany and Japan. The participation of young leaders with a disability is highly encouraged and there is a quota for them.

5.5 *UNOSPD initiative*: there was a pilot project run in Nepal with the aim to promote the practice of PTT. The project has been launched on April 6 2016 as the ITTF official celebration of the World Table Tennis Day.

A new person will begin to work half time on development and half time on education helping in implementation of development program.

5.6 *Special Olympics*: they were interested in partnership with us. This common path was just started and the PTT Division should continue the joint work with the INAS too.

5.7 *Manual*: the classification manual for each level have been planned for a while. With assistance of Juraj and Sheng, Mr Pablo Perez from Spain has started the preparations.

The Division asked:

- Leandro to prepare a written agreement in this matter together with the ITTF office.

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

The players loved the junior tournaments.

6.1 *Players' Committee ToR*: the PC together with the AC just updated and sent out the draft with changes to four years term of office, stricter guidelines for running election, and no elections to be held at Paralympic Games.

6.2 *Ideas, proposals and feedback*:

6.2.1 2018 World Championships should be played by the same system as it was in 2014 (Beijing) – singles and teams.

6.2.2 The PC would like to have 2 bronze medals awarded at 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

6.2.3 More attention should be given to check and prepare properly the Training Halls at FA20, FA40 events and also the 2017 World Team Championships.

6.2.4 The standard of Umpires especially in the wheelchair classes is not enough. The PTT Division should review the system of umpires' selection process.

6.2.4 Meals at Hotels usually is not nutritional enough.

6.2.5 Prize money to be awarded for Tournaments: the PTT Division will contact with the Marketing department (for example inviting Caifeng for the next meeting) and have to work how we could find income.

6.2.6 Supporting the pregnant players: the system has been working as everyone can apply for wild card if they have any problems with the tournament credit points.

6.2.7 RDP: if the flat 35 points deduction to be only valid for 12 months, there is no real consequence.

6.2.8 To allow 2 coaches at team events, even if the team is not composed of players from different countries. It will be checked for the next meeting after look at the current ITTF rules.

6.2.9 PTT website: it has been already in progress.



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6.3 Ongoing issues:

- 6.3.1 The PC believes there is no need to change the serving rule or Class 1 and 2.
- 6.3.2 The PC would like to have live streaming at all the FA40 and FA50 events.
- 6.3.3 Only those balls approved in the prospectus should be used for an event.

The Division asked:

- Petra and Raul to follow up the case if ITTF will make the final decision and contact IPC about having 2 bronze medals at 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games in Tokyo.
- Bruce to represent the PTT Division during the next URC meeting regarding the renewal of the umpires' selection process for PTT events.
- Emese to prepare one "food guidelines" for the future PTT events.
- Trevor with Emese to contact Dimitrios and check if there is any possibility to rewrite the valid RDP based on the ITTF rules.
- Emese to prepare the mandatory live streaming for the FA40 and higher FA events in the Directives.

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

7.1 Athletes Committee news

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:* the first World Team Championships will be held in Bratislava in 2017. The team structure will be the same used at Paralympic Games in Rio.

- 1 team per class per Country – choice of players by the Country
- team composition, 2 or 3 players maximum – each player need to be classified as no classification will be organized before and during the event
- will try to be organized each class Men and Women (if possible)
- playing system of Rio with Round Robin in first stage follow by KO in second stage – group of 3 or 4 teams with the 2 first going over to the second stage
- maybe consolation KO (for 3rd and 4th position) if possible and have time
- WTC (80 points) will not be taken in consideration for the TC points needed for the World Individual Championships 2018

8.2. *2017 Calendar:* it has been closed, just few ongoing issues. At that moment the FA40 events will be in Italy, Slovenia, Germany, Thailand and Korea. There will be held 5 Fa20 events in Europe, 3 in Asia and 5 in America.

It can be published after the meeting in Rio.

8.3. *TD seminars:* there will be one TD seminar in USA during the US Open in December.

8.4 2020 Paralympic Games:

- The Division will check if there is any possibility to have 2 bronze medals at the next Paralympic Games in Tokyo
- Depending on the entries, the organisers and the Technical Delegate reserve the right to combine classes as may be necessary, under the philosophy to protect the lower classes as follow:
Women: class 1-2, class 6, class 7 and class 11.
Men: class 1, class 6 and class 11.



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will be allowed to have a minimum of 5 teams per class and will not be combined with a higher class. In this case it will be played only a round robin group with 5 teams with only 3 medals 1 gold 1 silver and 1 bronze medal.

- let's discuss about the potential team composition after we will know the IPC's plan

The items were discussed after the meeting by e-mail.

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, January – August:

There were 7 tournaments and in 4 of these classifications were done.

Summary of classifications:

- 81 physically disabled - standard,
- 21 physically disabled – junior tournaments
- ID classifications

Total: 107 classifications /it is 26.7 per tournament in average/

Sometimes it is necessary to nominate classifiers from other continent, because there still have not been a classifier with the needed skills in the host country. There are more than 60 classifiers on the list, which will be updated at the end of the year on the website.

The next Classification Seminar will be held in USA during the US Open.

9.2. Senior classifiers meeting held in Bratislava in 5/2016, information and conclusions:

Present: Stefak /SVK/, Verspeelt /BEL/ Sheng Wu /TPE/, Sonn /RSA/ Zwerina /AUT/

Important discussions with conclusions for future in 4 main areas:

Player with disability, Organisation of classification process, WEB information, Organisation of classifiers' education.

9.3 Classification seminars, evaluation of the year 2016 and 2017 planning:

Due to 4 seminars in four regions in 2015, no seminar was planned for 2016.

After demand of Italy, seminar Level A was organized in Lignano in 2/2016 with 7 participants.

For 2017 there are planned classification seminars during all five regionals as:

B/C in European and American, A/B in Oceanian, A in Asian and African and still open based on the requests.

9.4 ID classifications and re-evaluations in 2016 and planning for 2017

In 2016 ID classifications were held in Spain and Pattaya (Thailand).

In 2017 ID classifications are planned in all five Regional championships.

Besides ID classifications will be also in special appointed Fa 40 or 20 tournaments for re-evaluations and protest solving: Suva, Lasko, Mungyeong, Sao Paulo

9.5 Classification agenda on webpage

Necessary publish and regularly upgrade Classifiers' master list, Players' master list and actual classification results from tournaments.

9.6 Evaluation of classification documents in paper and electronic form and storing of the documents:

From the 2017 all upgraded ICCs will be filled in electronic form.

Still necessary to have copy signed from the player, that will be sent to Lausanne.

9.7 Classification manual

There were discussions with Raul and Leandro about possibility how to manage progress in making this material in 2017, with good result.

9.8 Development Program seminars – evaluation of the year 2016 and possibilities for future.

There were held two in 2016: Nigeria with 20 participants /Lecturer: Pablo Perez ESP/



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DPR of Korea with 10 participants /Lecturer Sharad Pandit AUS/

For future is possible to send experienced classifiers to lecture these seminars, important is to know the date enough time in advance. The best option is to know at the end of this year for 2017.

9.9. *The cost of the sent classifiers*: normally the organizers must pay all the costs of them. The basic rule that the ITTF PTT Division always try to reduce the cost, for example sending the classifiers from the same continent.

From next year the PTT Division could support the hosts of the Regional Championships and pay one classifier's airfare.

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

10.1. *RUS situation – participation on competition*: after the Paralympic Games the PTT Division will allow for the Russian players to attend at the ITTF PTT events because ITTF has not imposed any ban on the Russian Table Tennis Federation.

11. WEBMASTER'S REPORT: the Division is asked to note the Webmaster's report including:

11.1 *website*: the PTT Division's website is focus for the communication and for function as the officially website for the Federations and not for fun, it is not the real function of this site. It was possible to change the function but as the new integrated website is under progress now, it may not necessary.

11.2 Good collaboration with Emese and Dimitrios.

11.3 *Weak points of results in Excel*: no real time and fragile.

11.4 Simplifying importing results into stats database.

11.5 Getting rid of Microsoft Access database to use only PostgreSQL or MySQL depending on ittf.com.

11.6 Using an open source CMS if ittf.com has chosen one.

11.7 *Building a mobile app, and which features*: If someone has any good idea regarding this matter, please share it with the others.

The Division asked:

➤ Bruce and Gael to follow up and help to set up the PTT page on the new ITTF website.

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

12.1 *Ranking list*: in numerical information of the last 2 years: rating calculation and rating update of data_common file for 38 tournaments, 19 published ranking lists, 99 new players got initial rating and approximately 120 e-mails and several messages on Facebook account received.

12.2 *Rating Program*: all the new rating rules had been implemented to the rating program.

12.3 *Communication with players*: the officially page "PTT Ranking" is very helpful for us also.

12.4 *Proposals*:

12.4.1 The recent changes on PCF (Players' Classification Form) helped the rating calculations a lot avoiding class errors and makes clear the whole player's reclassification process – it has been solved.

12.4.2 Every rated player should be unrated after 4 years of inactivity. It is a very long period during which the players' situation could have been changed significantly. That was no problem until that moment as the recent Ranking System is applied after 2012.01.01 and all the rated players with latest participation before that date were confronted as new unrated players.



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These players will be considered as new rated players after 4 years.

12.4.3 Each new unrated player should be rated after participating in 4 tournaments even without achieving the required two wins against already rated players. It could encourage new low rated players who are participating in events but not making any wins. This is postponed for further clarification.

The Division asked:

- PC to check how the 12.4.3 proposal could be the most effective.

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

13.1. *Americas:* the next Parapan American Games will be in Lima and the organizers would like to have a coaching and a classification seminar. A TD Course will be held at the end of 2016 in Las Vegas (US Open), but it could be useful to organize a TD course also in Spanish language in 2017.

It seems that the Parapan Youth Games will be postponed by a year.

13.2. *Africa:* no report

13.3. *Asia:* a classification course, planned in Malaysia, was canceled at the last minute.

Invitations have been extended to Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to hold ITTF sanctioned courses but to date no response.

13.4. *Europe:* attended at the EPC meetings, and the next European Paralympic Games' preparation has been underway.

To organize junior events for has been started and needed.

13.5. *Oceania:* Christian Holtz, PSP Para Development Officer has continued in his great work of development in Oceania expanding to now include Tonga and Solomon Islands.

Special Olympics New Zealand will be approached to encourage their players to compete in the National PTT Championships in December 2017.

Tournaments is Region:

- Fiji will be the host of the 2017 Regional Championships combining with Classifiers Seminar.
- New Zealand is hosting a Championship inviting players from the region in December 2016.
- There could be organized a FA20 event again in Darwin, Northern Territory Australia funded by the Northern Territory Government.

Oceania PTT Committee has formed a sub Committee to work particularly towards Para expansion.

Based on the recommendations for discussion from ITTF-Oceania:

- It is possible to get the supporting in advance for the Continental Regions, just the will have to apply with a planned program/proposal and reasons.
- To set up a new online entry system is already in progress.
- To develop a basic online course for Regional representatives to complete to be approved to conduct site visits, which is a good idea and the Division will discuss this matter in the next meeting.
- Regarding any anti-doping issues anybody can contact Ms Françoise Dagouret, who is ITTF anti-doping manager.
- If the classification will be available again at FA40 events to ensure that new and review athletes had an increased opportunity to be classified means that 2 classifiers will have to be invited and paid again by the hosts.



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14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen (Denmark), arrival on 09th and departure on 11 or 12 February.

15. Any other business

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| <u>READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING</u> |
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| HELD ON: 10 February 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark |
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| CHAIRPERSON: |
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