



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE

CLASSES 6 - 10 REVISION - PROPOSAL

Starting points.

The volume of action (three-dimensional) and the reaction time (four-dimensional) determine the capabilities of the table tennis player.

Athletes with cerebral problems, e.g. cerebral palsy and traumatic brain injury, mostly demonstrate a longer reaction time and reduced level of co-ordination.

The volume of action is determined by the length of the playing arm, the range of movement of the trunk and the capabilities of the legs to move the athlete behind the table.

The precision of the hand movements is depending on the co-ordination and the anatomical relationships of the upper limb.

Balance functions, which are a special expression of co-ordination, are also depending on anatomical relations.

The standing classes must become a gradually system.

The frame work of the standing classes.

Class 6:

Severe impairments of legs and arms

Class 7:

(Very) severe impairments of legs

or

Severe to moderate impairments of playing arm

or

Mild impairments in playing arm and moderate in the legs

Class 8:

Moderate impairments of the legs

or

Moderate impairments of playing arm

Class 9:

Mild impairments of the legs

or

Mild impairments of playing arm

or

Very severe impairments of non-playing arm

Class10:

- Very mild impairments in legs
- or
- Very mild impairments in playing arm
- or
- Severe to moderate in non-playing arm

CLASSES 1 – 5 REVISION - PROPOSAL

The Medical Committee proposes to bring the dividing line between class 3 and 4 to the level of +/- T 10. The assumption is that at this level of function of the upper abdominal muscles and the corresponding back muscles do not have a functional input on rotation functions of the trunk. The assumption is that their effect on rotation is too small, too weak, in order to move the heavy mass of the upper body.

The Committee checked that by making a high speed video of the rotation of a typical class 3 athlete and of a borderline athlete and of a typical class 4 player.

These recordings demonstrated in slow motion that in the fore arm swing there was no initial rotation of the trunk. The body stayed to the backrest of the wheelchair although there were some movements caused by reaction forces due to the swing action.

The observation is useful as well in cases of incomplete spinal cord lesions and polio or other impairments.

The Committee does not assume that there will be a cascade effect for the higher class 3 players nor that the old class 5 players as a group will come in a more favoured position.

In this classification revision the new class 4 players will be in an equitable situation.

- All constructive suggestions are welcome !

Please send these to Aart Kruimer : a.kruimer@vogellanden.nl

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No later than May 15th, 2002

- Details shall be published on the ITTC website around [June 15th, 2002](#), after a special seminar in Piestany June 5th-9th, 2002.

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