



# TECHNICAL DELEGATE

## EVALUATION REPORT

<b>Name of Tournament :</b>	<b>Arafura Games 2011</b>
<b>Ranking Factor Applied for :</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Responsible Federation :</b>	<b>Australia Paralympic Committee</b>
<b>Chairman of Organising Committee :</b>	<b>Michael Hartung (APC) Mr. Graham Symons (Coordinator)</b>
<b>Dates of Play :</b>	<b>11 - 13 May 2011</b>
<b>Name of Technical Delegate :</b>	<b>Steven Lee</b>
<b>Report submitted to IPC and ITTF PTT :</b>	<b>24 May 2011</b>

## **1-Background**

The Arafura Games in the past was a tournament for able-bodied athletes. It is a leading international sporting competition for emerging champions of the Asia Pacific region and is held every two years in Darwin, the capital of Australia's Northern Territory.

This year is the third time that the Disabled table tennis events have been held in the Arafura Games and also incorporates the Oceania Paralympic Championships AWD Program for men and women. There are 8 events for the disabled athletes; Table Tennis is one of these events. Other sporting events include: Athletics, Cycling, Swimming, Powerlifting, CP Football, Pistol Shooting and Tennis.

## **2-Accommodation**

No entry fees were charged for the games. Food and accommodation were the responsibilities of the participating nations. The Organising Committee provided information regarding accommodation venues and bookings.

Almost all of the accommodation houses were located close to the Central Business District and a short drive from sporting venues. These ranged from five-star hotels, motels and apartments to backpacker-style accommodation, with facilities for the disabled athletes.

The tournament officials, Japanese team and Thailand team all stayed at Quest Palmerston. This hotel located near the playing venue only a 3 minute walk. The hotel was completed in October last year and is self serviced with 84 rooms, 13 of them are for disabled persons. There are 2 lifts and a restaurant at the side, and cooking facilities in the rooms.

## **3-Venue**

The Table Tennis was held at Palmerston Recreation Centre, approximately 30 minutes drive from Darwin's central business district.

This stadium was built 3 year ago. It is air-conditioned and the floor is of wooden construction. The area of the playing venue is about the size of two basketball courts, where fifteen tables were set up. There is a viewing area located on the first floor with room for about 100 spectators. Wheelchair persons can watch the matches on the playing area.

The design utilises natural sunlight, and there are plenty of glass fittings to allow sunlight to shine through, this was not optimal for table tennis.

The glass window area at the side of the venue must be fully covered to enable the tournament to take place.



There was a tournament control room with computers.

The stadium only has two disabled toilets. Wheelchairs can access the normal toilets, so

the problem is not critical. If the number of wheelchair athletes increases, then mobile toilets must be added.

Floor:	Wooden floor, very good for wheelchair players
Lighting:	Not very good, about 400 lux
Spectator seats:	about 100 for the participants and spectators for wheelchairs – directly on the playing area
Official rooms:	2
Toilet and change rooms:	4

## 4-Equipment

(all ITTF approved)

- Tables: 15, Stigar Elite Roller
- Balls: Stige (3\*) white
- Surroundings and Score boards

Most of the barriers are green in colour, with some blue in colour. The colour is not uniform. If the colour is the same for all the barriers, the image of the tournament will be improved.

## 5-Competition Days

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - 7th May (Sat)          | Arafura Games Opening Ceremony |
| - 8th May (Sun)          | Team Arrival                   |
| - 9th and 10th May (Mon) | Classifications                |
| - 10th May (Tue)         | Managers meeting               |
| - 11th May (Wed)         | Individual Singles event       |
| - 12th May (Thur)        | Teams event                    |
| - 13th May (Fri)         | Teams event                    |
| - 14th May (Sat)         | Closing Ceremony / Departure   |

Because of the limited number of entries, the scheduled timetable was not too busy. The tournament commenced at 9:30/10:00am, and finished at about 7:00pm.

## 6-Number of Participants

There were 82 players in the second entry, but only 65 turned up as athletes from Timor and Fiji had withdrawn.

A total of eleven countries participated. - Australia, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Caridonia , New Zealand, Philippine and Thailand.

Mens Wheelchair players:	22
Mens Standing players:	31

Womens Wheelchair players: 5

Womens Standing players: 7

With a total of 65 players.

The numbers of participants were less than expected in this tournament. It may be due to the long travel distance involved.

Country	Total Number of Athlete	Male										Female									
		TT1	TT2	TT3	TT4	TT5	TT6	TT7	TT8	TT9	TT10	TT1	TT2	TT3	TT4	TT5	TT6	TT7	TT8	TT9	TT10
AUS	25				2	1	8	1	5	1	1	1		1		1	1			1	1
INA	1				1																
IND	1									1											
ITA	1					1															
JPN	8				1	1	1	1	1	1										1	1
MAC	5		1			4				1										1	
MSA	5							1		3	1										
NCL	1								1												
NZL	7		1	2	2		1		1												
PHI	1																		1		
THA	10			2	1	2	1	1					1	1						1	
	65	0	2	4	7	9	11	4	8	6	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	3	2
		22					31					5					7				

## 7-Transport

Hotel transfer was arranged at the airport. A free bus network operated for all accredited Arafura Games participants.

During the competition, there were shuttle bus service for pick up to and from the accommodation venues and playing venue, including large buses for the wheelchairs.

Graham Symons was responsible for the transportation of the disabled players with scheduled vehicle for transport. The teams could also book vehicles in accordance with the needs.

## 8-Officials

Classifiers: Aart Kruimer (NED)

Arthur Wilks (AUS)

Referee: Maurie Poole (AUS)

Deputy referee: Leow Lim Hai (MAS)  
Coordinator: Graham Symons (AUS)  
John Pudney (AUS)  
Computer: Brian James (AUS)  
Bev James (AUS)

There were 15 umpires assisting in the tournament, 10 from Australia and 5 from overseas. Among the overseas umpires, 3 were from Malaysia and 2 from Japan.

The resources were limited. There was no rest period for the umpires during the peak period. Fortunately the number of participants was not large; otherwise there would have been problems.

Mr Leow, the Malaysian deputy referee also assisted in the able bodied events and was most helpful in the smooth running of the tournament. I take this opportunity to thank him for his assistance.

The table tennis event was managed by Graham Symons and John Pudney who were very capable, willing to help and very friendly. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to them for the great work done.

## **9-Meetings**

The Team Manager's meeting was held at 4:00pm on 10th May. The meeting finished with a short briefing from the Coordinator, TD and the referee regarding matters that needed to be addressed and changes to the player's list in the Team events.

## **10-Draws**

The draw was made according to the rules and regulations of ITTF PTT.

The computer program used in the tournament was not Dr Wu's, but the software from Brian James which had been used for all major events in Australia. Both the able bodied and disabled events used the same software. The arrangements and recordings were efficient. After the competition, the standard results format was lodged with PPT.

## **11-Classification**

The Classifier seminar was conducted by Aart Kruimer and Arthur Wilks. Two classifiers were responsible for classifying players. They were very efficient with a total of 25 players requiring classification. They continued to monitor the athletes during the competition.

## **12-Results**

All the schedules and results were generated by the computer which was very quick and efficient. The results were sent to the Games Centre for distribution as well as being posted on the official web site. All information was given at the venue to the teams.

After the competition was finished, John managed to put the results on memory sticks and they were distributed to the teams after presentation ceremony.

## **13-Other Staff**

The number of volunteers at the table tennis venue is inadequate. Ball boys/girls were only available in some sessions, and were lacking in some time slots. Other volunteers and reserve umpires were needed to do the task.

The venue did not have medical assistants on duty. However, The Sports Medicine Clinic was centrally located in the Marrara Sports precinct. If required, medical officers would attend immediately.

## **14- Conclusion**

The tournament progressed smoothly throughout in a great atmosphere. Amongst some of the players from Australia and New Zealand were first-timers in international competition who benefited from the experience.

The Northern Territory government was very supportive in this event. Overall, this tournament was successful. The players were satisfied and indicated that they will return in two years' time. However there is still some way to go and room for improvement to meet the ITTF requirements. It is hoped that the organizing body can make use of the opinions from all sides to make the tournament improve.

There are some suggestions for future improvements as follows:

1. If the venue is to be used again in the future, the glass areas at the venue must be fully covered so that sunlight cannot leak through.
2. As the venue is limited in size, there are no practice tables available. Players can only practice in the morning or during the breaks between matches. The referee should organize a timetable for practice.
3. The tournament incorporates the Oceania Paralympic. As a result there was some confusion in the entries. Table Tennis Australia (TTA) has sent an Australian team to participate. However the rules of Arafura Games stipulate that TTA can endorse non-representative players to participate, therefore there were no restrictions on the number of entries. For example, the Men's Class 6 category had 8 Australian players. Fortunately 2 of them are juniors and therefore all could take part in the individual events. However in the team event, the non-representative players had to play alongside Class 8 or Class 9 players to form a team and therefore there was

some disappointment from the players. The organising body must discuss this issue with the APC and TTA to arrive at a suitable arrangement in the future.

4. Some athletes pulled out of the competition. It is suggested that in future Games, the entry fee is to be paid in advance to minimize the loss from cancellation.
5. If the number of participants increases, the number of qualified umpires will not be enough. To be able to handle more athletes in the future, Northern Territories TTA should recruit and train more local umpires to assist in the tournament. Otherwise more overseas umpires will be required.

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ITTF PTT Technical Delegate