



# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION

**Nr: 1/2015**

Minutes of a meeting of the Para Table Tennis Division held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 15 and 16 January 2015 from 16:00 pm.

**MEMBERS:** Dorte Darfelt (Chairperson), Nico Verspeelt (Vice Chairperson), Juraj Stefak (Medical Officer), Gorazd Vecko (Tournament Officer), John Ng, Barbara Talbot, Emese Barsai

**BY INVITATION:** Pieter du Plooy, Petra Sörling

**APOLOGIES:** Lill Bhagwan, Alejandra Gabaglio, Alena Kanová, Gaël Marziou

### **WELCOME:**

The Chairperson welcomed everybody to the meeting and noted afterward that it of course would be a different meeting as it was the first meeting without Alison Burchell as staff member.

The chairperson wanted to send a warm thank you for all the work and help Alison has done for PTT. A written thank you will be announced at the website. The division sends it wishes for good luck in the future.

The chairperson then welcomed the new staff member Emese Barsai and expressed on behalf of the division that we hope for a good relationship and will help in any way.

### **1. Confirmation of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 and 14 September 2014 were confirmed and signed.

### **2. Chairperson's Report**

2.1 succession planning: the process should have been continued by all members.

2.2 contact with continental federation: the Chairperson has started the process to have contact with the continental federation planning a meeting with the continental leaders during the World Championships in China. She asked the present Continental Representatives to help to find the competent persons at the federations.

2.3 working group for Tokyo 2020: this group has started the common work after the ITTF PTT World Championships which were held in Beijing. Due to diverse tasks the Division has agreed that one person of the Players' Committee or the ITTF Athletes' Commission can participate in this working group in the future. If this person will be nominated by Players' Committee the Division will check the possibility to invite her/him for a few days to China.

2.4 nomination for the Division 2015 to 2017: the deadline of the nominations for the Division is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Every present member of the Division will check their nominations at their own National Federation.

2.5 staff situation: the staff has changed from 1<sup>st</sup> January as Alison ended her job at ITTF by the end of December 2014.



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Emese will start at her job as Program Coordinator from 01<sup>st</sup> February and she will continue the daily operation regarding the PTT Division duties at the ITTF.

The Division asked:

- According to the new situation Gorazd, Nico and Emese will have a meeting as soon as possible in Brussels.
- The PTT Division will express its warm thanks to Alison and will write an acknowledgement and publish it on the PTT website.

### **3. Vice-Chairperson's Report**

The Division noted that there was nothing further to add to the Chairperson's report.

### **4. Secretariat's Report**

The Division noted that the Vice-Chairperson completed the Secretariat's report.

4.1 marketing and sponsorship: Postponed.

4.2 review of the strategic plan: Postponed

4.3 player biographies: the draft agreement had been returned to the IPC with some comments to IPC for instance of the Swiss law of data protection.

4.4 liaison with IWAS: nothing to report.

4.5 liaison with INAS: an introductory meeting had been held with the INAS president, vice-president and Executive Director on 07 October 2014 with Petra and Dorte. After that we should have started a working group to try to work closer together but this work has been postponed by staff situation.

4.6 liaison with Special Olympics International: nothing further to report.

4.7 liaison with Deaflympics/CISS/ICSD: nothing further to report

4.8 transfer of work to Headquarters:

- classification cards are being updated regularly and will be sent to the Headquarters.
- shirts were being distributed to classifiers and TD's.

4.9 online entry system: would become active soon with username and passwords being sent to associations.

4.10 Commonwealth Games 2018:

- a discussion had been held between the Vice-President responsible for Commonwealth and the CGF Vice-President.
- a process was underway to get table tennis as a core sport.
- discussions were ongoing with Gold Coast 2018 to include PTT, under the auspices of the ITTF.

4.11 capitation fees 2013: Egypt had paid the capitation fees.

4.12 IPC Grant 2014:

- a report had been prepared for the 2014 grant for which we needed some additional information before finalizing. The deadline is coming very soon.
- a new funding formula had been decided for 2015 and would be significantly less than funding received in 2014.

4.13 application to the Agitos Foundation: a video about TD and classifier education would be developed soon and a final report to the Agitos Foundation.

4.14 IPC Sports Council: the recommendations coming out of the meeting were approved by the Executive Committee following the meeting with other IFs during the IPC Gathering that

- it supports the dissolution of the IPC Sport Council.



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- it supports the establishment of a technical committee to coordinate issues relating to Paralympic Games and, in principle, to send 2 people to these meetings (TD and another).
- it supports the establishment of a Para ASOIF structure but that it should not have the IPC as a member.
- rights similar to those ASOIF enjoys as a result of relationship with the IOC should be rights of the Para ASOIF.

4.15 IPC Gathering: following the 2013 General Assembly, the IPC had a meeting in Berlin from 04 to 07 October 2014 to discuss the following main topics with the IPC membership:

- Building a Sustainable Financial Model.
- Developing Fair and Understandable Athletes Classification.
- Creating an Athletes Development Pathway.
- Developing the Paralympic Games Sport Program.
- Enhancing the Partnership with the Olympic Movement.

Petra Sörling, Dorte Darfelt and Alison Burchell participated in the gathering.

4.16 ITTF Hall of Fame: following the change in the criteria, 8 players would receive a Hall of Fame plaque following the AGM in Suzhou in April 2015.

4.17 Budget 2014: while final figures are not yet available, estimated income is €98 163, 79 and expenditure €72 391, 27.

4.18 Budget 2015:

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>2015</b>
IPC	15000	Meetings		
Sanction fees	3900	➤ PTTD	34000	40000
Capitation FA20, FA40	50000	➤ Other	6000	
Interest	0	Chairperson		3600
Classification	3000	Vice-Chairperson		1000
<b>TOTAL: 71900</b>		Development program		30000
		Medical officer		4000
		Selection officer		8000
		Tournament officer		1000
		Webmaster		5000
		Referee education		5000
		Athlete representative		1000
		Players Committee		5500
		Regions		25000
		➤ Africa	5000	
		➤ Americas	5000	
		➤ Asia	5000	
		➤ Europe	5000	
		➤ Oceania	5000	
		Media/TV		5000
		Other expenses		3500
		Gifts		2000
		Dr. Wu		2000
		Online entry system		25000
		Class 11 provision		5000
		Racket testing provision		5000
		<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>176600</b>



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The Division asked:

- all members to submit motivations for budget allocations for 2015.
- to provide possibility to see the monthly bank statements of the Division bank account details to the Chairperson.
- to update to all members on the financial position of different areas.
- to see how many Euros went for development program in 2014.
- Pieter, Emese – ask Steve to help to prepare a marketing plan for the Division.

### 5. Development Report

The Division is asked to note the report from the Development Program including:

#### 5.1 Development report 2014:

- 134 activities were executed in 2014, including Coach education, Training Camps, URC courses, PTT, Women's, Marketing and Tournament Organization courses
  - ~ 32 major equipment packages were distributed
  - ~ 6 courses funded by PTT Division.
- 5 PTT Courses have been held (South Africa, Ecuador, USA, Tonga and Nauru)
- UNOSPD: the ITTF has been present in their 5 Youth Leadership Programs (YLP) where leaders from developing countries attend for 2 weeks to learn about the use of sport for social change. 2014 YLP were in Japan, Germany, USA, Korea Republic and Sweden.
- United Nations – International Working Group: through a cooperation with its Sport for the Disabled committee, a pilot project will be launched next year. Four countries were targeted and Nepal was selected. The project aims to develop PTT in three years including a 70.000 USD funding from UN.

#### 5.2 Continental development for 2015

- PTT Coaching Course and Training Camp at the end of February
- Weekly TT Classes during the year
- 6<sup>th</sup> April: 1<sup>st</sup> ITTF World Table Tennis Day part of the program Table Tennis for All and not by chance the same date as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, declared by UN and IOC two years ago. This day will be celebrated with a symbolic match at the Everest Base Camp in Nepal. ([www.tt4all.com](http://www.tt4all.com))

The Division

- thanked Leandro for the very detailed report.
- asked Gorazd and Emese starting to work with Steve and Leandro- as the part of the Division's future development program, if it is possible to try to support one or two players from this area by inviting them for some FA competition and training camp.

### 6. Players' Committee Report

The Division noted the report from the representative of the Players' Committee.

6.1 Feedback from the last few months: the new Players' Committee started to evolve better communicate as it was before and it is being more professional. Very good communication is going on now.

6.2 Budget: it is planned for Players' Committee for 2015. Someone needs to be present on behalf of the Committee in ITTF PTT European Championships.



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6.3 Integration: shall be fully integrated. This is a long process, but one of the main goals is to organize every competition at the same place and at the same time. But the main problem is that in some countries the NPC lose the support in case of integration and the laws could be another very significant barrier.

6.4 Prize money: it is possible to get points and prize money both in a competition if the organizers can provide this for the players. According to the huge number of events it is more difficult to provide prize money than in able-bodied competitions.

6.5 Special classification system opportunity in women class 1: the rating system is going on well in all class except for women class 1 and 2. There are not enough players yet and they are never playing in their own class, only combining the higher classes. With the new system they never lose points and can get the classification for example for the PTT World Championships very easily.

6.6 To get credit points in events: just a request to clear the rules for getting tournament points in the events.

The Division asked:

- The Division will put into the Agenda of the next meeting which will be held in Vejle (ITTF PTT European Championships) one more point with welcome the representatives of PC for the part of the meeting, and the present PC members will be invited by the Division and will be available to take part at this point.
- The Division should prepare and provide an integration guideline for the interested family members.
- In January 2014, the rating system was amended to include the rule which states "No deduction of points is made against the loser when his/her class is lower than the opponent's".

After applying this rule for a year, it was discovered that the permanent combination of ladies class 1 and 2 events led to an unfair situation which affects the seeding for Rio 2016 as demonstrated by the fact that a class 1 player defeated by a class 2 player doesn't lose any point at all!

To avoid this unfair rating, the Division has decided to use the previous rating system for the ladies class 1 event, which means, a class 1 player will lose points when defeated by a class 2 player in single event.

In Team event, the system remains as it is.

This change is effective as of January 2015.

- The Division confirmed that there is no possibility to enter new player in Single events after the first entry, but until the second entry the coaches can decide to enter the player in both Single and Team events or only in Single events or in Team events. The second entry should reflect the final decision. In each case the player will get the tournament credit points.

### **7. Athletes' Representative Report**

The Division noted the report from the Athlete's Representative including:

7.1 The Athletes' Commission proposal to have voting rights in the Executive Committee was defeated.

7.2 The AC wants to be in touch with as many players as possible and takes part in the ITTF Committee for working with other ITTF Committees and commissions.

7.3 The AC have attended a meeting with the Rules, Equipment, Umpires and Referees Committees.



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### **8. Tournament Officer's Report**

The Division noted the Tournament Officer's report including:

8.1 review of the tournament structure and quality of the tournaments including a world junior championships, world individual and team championships held separately: we planned to start in Hungary connecting with the FA20 event, but we were not ready. Many organizers have been waiting for the possibility to organize a junior event.

There will be world individual championships every 4 years effective 2018 (with limited number of players), and the world team championships will be organized every 2<sup>nd</sup> year effective 2017. It means:

2017 World team championships

2018 World individual championships

2019 World team championships

2020 Paralympic Games

2021 World team championships

2022 World individual championships

Some countries have indicated that they would like to organize EC or WC in 2017 (Slovenia, Croatia, and Italy).

8.2 organizer for a junior test event in 2016: to start in Eger, Hungary but the best solution is to be held in as many countries as it is possible all over the World.

8.3 2015 calendar: is ready for 2015. There is one open question in Americas, because Argentina and Costa Rica would like to organize a FA 40 event instead of FA20. Every continent has to organize at least one FA20 and one FA40 competition.

8.4 2015 regional championships (Africa outstanding):

Africa: TBD

Australia: Bendigo, Australia

Asia: Amman, Jordan

America: Toronto, Canada

Europe: Vejle Denmark

8.5 tournament organizers' handbook and education: no progress had been made.

8.6 TD training, nominations and review for 2015: The Division needs more qualified TD in every continent, but mainly from Australia, Asia and America. The next TD training will be organized during the PTT European Championships in Denmark.

8.7 eligibility: report on the eligibility appeal of Victoria Safanova: have been waiting for the IOC answer.

8.8 directives: to consider:

- whether the "minus one rule" should be applied for medals to be awarded from 2015.
- whether only players who participate in the team event should get a medal.

The Division asked:

- Gorazd, Dimitrios, Juraj, Nico to develop a proposal about the junior events including: world ranking, ranking points, age, classification etc. for the next meeting in Denmark.
- Gorazd to make a site inspection in Argentina and in Costa Rica too before the Division should make a very quick decision.
- Emese (with Gorazd) to present the organizers' handbook as soon as possible.



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- Gorazd and Emese will prepare the documents for the following TD training and put an appeal into the website.

The Division agreed:

- to make decision very soon about the organizers for 2017 and 2018, and review the number of players to participate in world individual championships. For the world team championships there shall not be required a classification system for taking part, only criteria could be that how many teams could be entered per class from one country.
- For the coming Paralympic Games, change in the playing sequence in Team event will be as follows: Double match to be played first follow by one or two Single matches. Nominations for the double and singles matches are to be done before the team matches start.  
This rule shall also apply henceforth to the Team events in each Regional Championships 2015.

### 9. Classification Officer's Report

The Division is asked to note the Classification Officer's report including:

9.1 classifier education, especially technical classification: it will be organized during the European Championships in Denmark. Upon request this could be organized in any other regional championships too in 2015.

9.2 classification manual: has not been finished yet, but it will be finished for the seminar and will be sent out for every classifier before the EC. And after the European Championships will be published on our website.

9.3 profile update: the last time it was updated in London, during the Paralympic Games. Since there are only few minor changes it will be ready for the EC too.

9.4 INAS classification update, INAS list to match the ITTF list, tournaments for classification, touchscreen: this is already updated. So it could be published on the website very soon.

About the touchscreen: we have 2 pieces but one of these does not work.

9.5 seminars in 2015 (level A and B): see 9.2

9.6 review of the classification code: detailed comments as approved had been submitted to the IPC and the Executive Committee had approved the following to:

- endorse the comments submitted to the IPC.
- take a position on 8.7 (and some similar articles like 9.1.5) that the autonomy and responsibility of the ITTF must be maintained i.e. that 8.7 is not supported.
- support the principle of a standardized approach to classification but that the IF be allowed flexibility, to follow its own classification rules which are largely in concert with the code proposed.
- work with other IFs in a continuing way to present a united front on the code and the international standards.

The Division asked:

- to ask the IPC to change the unusable touchscreen for a usable one. Action by Emese.

### 10. Selection Officer's Report

The Division is asked to note the Selection Officer's report including:

10.1 selection issues for the 2016 Paralympic Games (tournament credit)



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Gael and Dimitrios have been working with this separately, the Division had to collect all the information between the first competition and has to be aggregated.

### 11. Webmaster's Report

The Division noted that there was nothing further to add to the Webmaster's report.

11.1 integration with the ITTF website and web server: there is officially YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ITTFParaTableTennis>

11.2 players' database including classification: the data stored on the ITTF database had been deleted and only the information necessary had been put into the MSL system.

11.3 source code in Chinese and license for Dr. Wu's program: some progress had been made on translation.

11.4 New features: players' profiles migrated to [www.stats.ipptc.org](http://www.stats.ipptc.org)

There are several photos per players in the website and new match history stats too.

### 12. Rating Report

The Division is asked to note the report.

12.1 Dimitrios Katis replaced David Jackson to generate rating updates.

### 13. Regional Reports

The Division is asked to note the regional representatives' reports including:

13.1 Americas: no report

13.2 Africa: for 2015, as the supported development course, has been allocated to Nigeria, and maybe there will be organized a coach education in Seychelles.

13.3 Asia: completed with his report to underlined the opportunities of finding new countries for the para family as Tajikistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

13.4 Europe: there is a new Chairperson, Georgios Seliniotakis, who started his work with sending a questionnaire to all European members, including

- junior program in Europe.
- sharing Europe 3 parts for a new development program.
- creation a special fund for Europe.

13.5 Oceania:

- The regional championships are being held in Bendigo in Australia and run at the same time the Oceania Cup for able-bodied, which leads up to Rio qualification.
- New Zealand planning to organize sanctioned tournament in the future.
- The Pacific Games to be held in New Guinea in 2015 is planning to include para table tennis for the first time.
- continue to try and liaise with Special Olympics.

13.6 affiliation to regional Paralympic Committees: at the moment only Europe is member of the regional Paralympic Committee. It is very important to find the way to integrate in the other local continents too.

The Division asked:

- Petra to check the official situation with New-Caledonia.



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## 14. 2016 Paralympic Games

The Division is asked to note a report including:

14.1 recommendations for a chair and 2 members of the jury: Nico Verspeelt the chair, and one of the jury could be Sue Stevenson from Australia and a third person which we are looking for now. Responsible Dorte and Nico.

14.2 referee and deputy referee appointment: the OPC has approved CK Chan as referee and Maria Ferrer as 1 deputy referee.

There will not be a test event in Rio before Paralympic Games.

## 15. Next meeting

The Division agreed to meet in Vejle, during the ITTF PTT European Championships. The arrival date is 09 October and the departure date is 12 October.

## 16. Nominations for the 2015 International Women’s Day Recognition

The Division agreed to nominate Ms. Alison Burchell for this award.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 18h15 on 16 January 2015.

<b>READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING</b>
<b>HELD ON:</b> .....
<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> .....

AMB/ 16 January 2015