

**ITTF-Para-TT Players' Committee**  
**First Meeting**  
**Lignano 26 March 2011**

Five members of the ITTF Para-TT Players' Committee met for the first time in Lignano, Italy; Alena Kanova, Egon Kramminger, Rebecca McDonnell, Jolanda Paardekam, Peppe Vella. Ed Levy sent apologies for his absence. Sally Wood-Lamont acted as Secretary.

The first item on the agenda was: **Tournaments.**

*Length of tournaments*

How many days should a tournament be? Just now a Factor 40 = 4 days and a Factor 20 = 3 days. It is obvious that the length of the tournament depends on the number of tables according to the number of applicants. For example the Rotterdam tournament is only 3 days while most factor 40 tournaments are 4 days but as Jolanda pointed out in Rotterdam there will be 30 tables and more if required. Lignano was in trouble from the beginning because there was only 19 tables and 339 participants and no calculation had been made in advance by the Referee and Technical Delegate to work out a) how many tables were required b) how long would the whole event take to complete all the matches before the Saturday evening. Finally, a Coaches' meeting was called on the second day to ask whether they would accept using the room upstairs with an extra four tables which was agreed. The final day – Saturday – for the semi-finals was chaos because they decided to take out these 4 tables upstairs which were very unpopular and only use the 19 tables downstairs. There were matches left unplayed from the Friday night and in the afternoon players were waiting up to two hours to play their final matches on any table as all the tables were occupied by other matches!

Referees and Technical Delegates must take this example as a warning to be prepared (especially in the qualifying year for the Paralympics) in advance of the tournament. If the organizer sends in the number of players and the number of tables a calculation must be prepared in advance to make sure that there are enough tables. In Lignano this could have been resolved from the beginning because there was another sports hall 150 metres away that could have been used and was offered at the site inspection with 8 tables for the standing players. However, there is a PTT Division rule that says in a Factor 40 tournament all games should be played in the same hall AND there should be no limit of players. This equation cannot work if the number of players will continue to rise, and it is obvious it will, as more and more teams bring their young players to tournaments. It was very noticeable in Lignano that certain teams have almost doubled their numbers by bringing in very young players – Germany, Hungary Netherlands, Turkey.

**Recommendations by the Players' Committee (PC)**

- **If there is going to be no limit to the numbers of players then the rule regarding that all games should be played in the same hall should be not adhered to if there are not enough tables to cover the number of games required in that hall;**

- **The referee and technical delegate should be able to foresee problems regarding the equation of tables and players as soon as the organiser sends in the number of players and therefore deal with any problems accordingly well in advance of the tournament.**

#### *Costs of tournaments*

There has been a lot of discontent regarding the ever increasing price of tournaments and in 2011 the prices have risen again culminating in the most expensive Open tournament ever – Sheffield - where the price is 570 euros for twin room accommodation and 750 euros for single room accommodation in 3\* hotels!

#### **Recommendations by the PC**

- **there should be a limit of price set by the ITTF-PTT for Factor 20 and Factor 40 tournaments – proposal 450 euros for Factor 20 and 520 euros for Factor 40;**
- **the prices set for a tournament should reflect the conditions offered so that if there is a 4\* or 5\* star hotel on offer then this can remain as an option for players to choose to pay more as in the German Open;**
- **as in Lignano and in Slovakia, alternative accommodation should be offered and options for only playing the tournament and booking your own accommodation, meals especially if the player has his own transport. If the player does not have his own transport then the Organiser should offer information regarding transport hire if they want to book their own accommodation.**

#### *Standards of tournaments*

Standards of tournaments must be maintained to reflect the needs of the players especially the Tetra players. Transport, hotels, sports hall facilities must be continually assessed for accessibility and good signing must be in place at all times to direct to disabled toilets, rest rooms etc.

#### **Recommendations by the PC**

- **each tournament should distribute a questionnaire to all participants on the quality of the tournament and feedback from this questionnaire should be used as a continual upgrading of the said tournament. Peppe offered a questionnaire which he had already used in Genoa, as a model;**
- **Factor 40 tournaments must offer a much better standard of accommodation and playing facilities.**

At this point a discussion began regarding the fact that this year there are 5 Factor 40 tournaments in Europe and only one in the rest of the world but it was pointed out that other Factor 40's have been tried in other countries by the PTT Division but with little success. Alina

had heard a suggestion that possibly next year there would be no Factor 20 and 40 tournaments because of the rating system and this was met with amazement by the other members of the PC. If this is going to be proposed by the PTT Division then the PC insist there must be a players' referendum in order to approve such a decision.

#### *Indemnity waiver form*

In the opinion of the PC the Indemnity Waiver Form has various mistakes and should be rewritten; a separate one designed for players and for staff or it should be discontinued completely. Also it is already a problem for everyone to sign it and the organizers to collect them in.

#### **Recommendations by the PC**

- **it should be stated there that every player should his/her own medical insurance and every Table Tennis Federation should ensure that their players always have medical insurance especially those outside the European Union;**
- **every tournament should include a clause to the effect that “players participate in these competitions at their own risk”;**
- **all organizers should have a transport insurance which covers prostheses and wheelchairs;**
- **all sports halls and hotels have their own insurance which covers all eventualities.**

If all these items are applied then there would be no need for an indemnity waiver form.

- if it is deemed necessary for it to remain then one signed one is sufficient per year which can be taken to every tournament.

#### *Passport scanning*

The first question regarding passport screening to be put forward by the PC to the PTT Division is: **does this not contravene the Data Protection Act? Has anyone looked into this?**

In Hungary all passports were scanned by the Technical Delegate (a new job for the TD?) and in Lignano, unless the players had been in Korea, all passports were scanned by a member of the Organising Committee.

#### **Recommendations by the PC**

- **PTT Division should check the Data Protection Act to see if this is allowed;**
- **it is logical that if there were 339 players at Lignano and 275 in Korea almost 60% of passports of active players have now been scanned;**
- **a list should now be made of all passports scanned and sent out to all NTTA/NPC's so that they know whose passport still requires to be scanned and they can be asked to send in the required passport scanned;**

- **in Slovenia there will be 370 players so there is no need to scan again those who have been in Lignano for instance;**
- **basically this causes an awful lot of work which seems to be being repeated again and again at every tournament. There must be a methodology applied that will simplify this procedure.**

### *Seedings*

A question arose regarding seedings:

- if there are combined classes for example class 6-8 men how are the seedings calculated as the ranking points are very different for each class?

### *Rules and Regulations of play*

Unfortunately it seems that it depends now on the TD or the Referee of each tournament whether certain well known rules apply which can unfortunately cause major changes in the ranking lists:

- **Brazilian Open 2010** - TM3: 6 teams from BRA; TM5: 3 teams from BRA; TM10: 3 teams from BRA; TF5: 3 teams from BRA. **The rule is only 2 teams per country per class;**
- In the **Hungarian Open 2011** **three teams were allowed from France** in the combined 8-9 event
- In the **Hungarian Open** a class female 8 player was allowed to play with a high seeded Slovakian player instead of playing with a low seeded Hungarian player in the combined class of 8-10 as well as a class 10 Hungarian player without ranking points was allowed to play with a high ranking Brazilian player instead of the class 8 Hungarian player;
- In the **Lignano Open 2011** in the combined class Female 9-10 a German player decided to go home leaving the Brazilian player without a partner. There was plenty time to prepare a redraw and the Australian offered to take the Brazilian girl in their team who was devastated at losing the chance to play. This was refused and no redraw was made and it remained two groups of 4 and one group of 2 teams where the French did not play one match to qualify for the semifinals. If a redraw had been completed it could have been 1 group of four and 2 groups of three

### **Recommendations by the PC**

- **all Technical Delegates and Referees should be made aware of their mistakes in the rules and regulations of a tournament;**
- **great care should be taken that uniformity in regulations in all tournaments is maintained;**
- **all new regulations should be announced for approval to players first.**

### *Website*

The ITTF Para-TT website is not being updated regularly. Just now all the old rules and regulations regarding the format of competitions, regarding the Open which does not exist any longer, ranking point calculation are all still the old versions on the site;

### **Recommendations by the PC**

- **the website should be updated now to cover all the new regulations in their rightful place on the site etc;**
- **a PC page should be created on the website and an e-mail facility be provided for all players to contact the PC easily ;**
- **new rules for classification should be published on the website;**
- **a Players Committee page also should be made in facebook**
- **results of tournaments should be put on the PTT website as the tournament is playing.**

### **Other business:**

### **Recommendations by the PC**

#### *Format of play in London 2012*

The PC strongly recommends that in London there should be groups of 3 and 4 players and the first two should go forward. We appreciate that Nico Verspeelt has tried very hard to accomplish this and would only like to support his attempts.

#### *Federations preventing players from participation in tournaments (does not apply to disciplinary action or suspension of players)*

The PC recommends that within the spirit of the European law, players who want to choose their tournaments in which to participate should be permitted to do so.

The next full meeting of representatives of the PC was decided as Sheffield in September 2011 though there will be smaller meetings in Slovenia and Rotterdam. The PC voted for Jolanda Paardekam to be Chairwoman of the PC for 2011 and to represent them at the next meeting of the PTT Division also in Rotterdam.

The PC warmly welcome suggestions, problems and other matters concerned with players to be sent the members of the PC where they assure each notification to be dealt with personally.

**Alena Kanova** Egon Kramminger Rebecca McDonnell Jolanda Paardekam **Peppe Vella**  
Slovakia Austria Australia The Netherlands Italy