



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE FOR DISABLED
A Standing Committee of the International Paralympic Committee

TABLE TENNIS ASSEMBLY

Minutes of a meeting of the Table Tennis Assembly held on 19 August 2002 at 16h20 in the audio-visual room, third floor of the Competition Hall, Taipei.

PRESENT: nations widely practicing table tennis

Africa-Middle East: Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, South Africa

Americas: Argentina, Brazil, *Canada*, United States of America, Venezuela

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, *Lithuania*, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*

FESPIC: Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei

ALSO PRESENT (IOSDs): CP-ISRA, INAS-FID, ISMWSF, ISOD

PRESENT: Sports Assembly Executive Committee:

Elected: Christian Lillieroos (Chairperson), Vincent Boury (Athletes' Representative, Development Officer), Jiri Danek (Tournament Officer, Europe), Øivind Eriksen (Vice-Chairperson), Leandro Olvech (Americas), Nico Verspeelt (Selection Officer)

Co-opted: Alison Burchell (Secretary General), Dr Aart Kruimer (Medical Officer), Raúl Calín (Technical Officer)

OBSERVERS: Philip Craven (IPC President), Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, United States of America

APOLOGIES: Romania, Hong-Jae Lee (FESPIC)

WELCOME: the Chairperson welcomed those members present and especially the IPC President. The Chairperson explained the procedures for the motions and that no new motions would be allowed as the deadline had passed. The Chairperson introduced the members of the SAEC. The Assembly noted that 14 of the 15 motions had been submitted by the SAEC and that some SAEC members were representing nations.

The Assembly noted that there was no quorum as the required 45 members were not present. The Assembly resolved to continue the meeting in the expectation that the remaining countries would arrive during the course of the meeting.

The Assembly did not achieve a quorum and all issues on the agenda requiring a decision were put to a vote in writing. The results of the written vote are included in the minutes and were confirmed by two independent ITTF officials. All 46 nations and IOSDs participated in the written vote so achieving the quorum. The nations not present at the Assembly and the results are reflected in italics.

The IPC President addressed the Assembly dealing with various issues including the limit on the number of athletes at the Paralympic Games which would come into effect from 2008 following negotiations with the International Olympic Committee but the IPC would do what was best for the relevant sport in terms of numbers. He also indicated that the full involvement in decision-making of the athletes' representative was important.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** of the Assembly held on 23 October 2002 in Sydney, Australia were confirmed and signed. *For 43, abstention 1, spoilt ballots 2.*
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** the Assembly approved the agenda.
3. **ITTC REPORT:** the Assembly noted the report presented by the Chairperson of the SAEC, Mr. Christian Lillieroos, and the additions that:
 - the SAEC had changed its structure following the Assembly held in Sydney and now had subcommittees in place which operated their own budgets;
 - there were now 12 members of the SAEC although a representative from the Africa-Middle East region had yet to be elected as the regional championships had been cancelled as a result of the tragedy on 11 September 2001.

The Assembly noted the financial report tabled (attachment 1) and that:

- in 2001, the SAEC had received sanction and capitation fees but from 2002, these would be collected by the IPC;
- the SAEC had received a grant from the IPC for 2002 of US\$15 000,00 which contributed to the overall budget for the year of US\$40 000,00;
- the communication with the IPC Headquarters was good but often slow and as a result, the Treasurer was not able to present an updated statement of the capitation fees.

4. **MOTIONS:** the Assembly considered the motions circulated and approved them as follows:

Motion 1: that the Assembly give its in principle (conceptual) approval for the Sports Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC) to establish a working relationship with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) with the aim of the International Table Tennis Committee (ITTC) becoming an integral part of the ITTF with the following provisions for which the ITTC will remain responsible, in cooperation with the ITTF:

- 1.1 the development of Paralympic table tennis, particularly at the entry level, with a focus on the more severely disabled and women;
- 1.2 the ITTC be the body which affiliates to and represents the ITTF at meetings of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC);
- 1.3 the technical organization of separate regional, world and Paralympic championships in cooperation with the IPC (including selections, organizational arrangements, appointment of

technical officials and overseeing the application of the relevant rules for Paralympic table tennis);

1.4 the development of rules for Paralympic table tennis;

1.5 the development and maintenance of the classification system;

1.6 the training of coaches, technical delegates, referees and umpires to incorporate issues specific to Paralympic table tennis;

1.7 the maintenance of up to date ranking lists;

1.8 the current ITTC logo.

Proposed SAEC, seconded China.

For 44, spoilt ballots 2.

Motion 2: that the Assembly consider and approve any changes proposed to the ITTF constitution as a result of the integration of the ITTC together with a report and recommendations, particularly on transitional arrangements, from the SAEC before the proposed integration is formalized and the IPC Executive petitioned to approve a change in status of the ITTC from a “Championship Sport” to a programme or division of the ITTF.

Proposed SAEC, seconded USA.

For 45, spoilt ballot 1.

MOTION 3: that the Assembly approve that no player be permitted to wear jeans during competition (to take effect 1 December 2002).

Proposed SAEC, seconded Spain.

For 43, against 2, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 4: that the Assembly approve that if a player must use a belt (around the waist) and/or corset due to his or her disability, he or she has to prove that it is necessary to the classification panel. The onus is on the player to draw the use of such equipment to the Official Classifier either for the initial or review of classification. Permission for use of a belt and/or corset will be given under the following conditions:

- a) permanent – this must be written on the player’s international classification card (ICC) by the Official Classifier at the relevant tournament.
- b) temporary – the player must provide a full explanation from his or her own doctor who must certify the period for which the belt and/or corset is/are required. This certificate must be signed and dated by the medical doctor and submitted to the Official Classifier at the relevant tournament. The player must report this to the Referee before the start of competition in which he or she participates.

(to take effect 1 December 2002).

Proposed SAEC, seconded Slovakia.

For 43,1 against, 1 abstention, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 5: Should host/organizing countries be able to organize more events, preference be given to events which encourage juniors, ladies and players of severe disability. (This is the current section).

That the Assembly approve the addition: Such tournaments, where they are “closed” events, may be given a ranking factor of 10 at the discretion of the Tournament Officer, and the results will be included in the next publication of the ranking list. (This sentence to be added and take effect 1 December 2002).

Proposed SAEC, seconded Brazil.

For 39, against 4, abstentions 2, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 6: that the Assembly approves that the same number of ranking points be allocated for the doubles match in the team event as the singles match (to take effect 1 January 2003).

Proposed SAEC, seconded France.

For 43, against 1, abstention 1, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 7: that the Assembly approve that ranking points be allocated for the doubles match in the open doubles event. The ranking points will be divided equally between the two players winning the doubles match such that one extra point is allocated to the players winning for every class above their own that the losing players played in i.e. 3 points are generally allocated for a win plus if the players in class 2 defeat players in class 4 = 2 points = a total of 5 to be divided equally between the winning players = 2,5 (to take effect 1 January 2003).

Proposed SAEC, seconded Brazil.

For 42, against 1, abstentions 2, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 8: that the Assembly approve that the same number of ranking points be allocated for the doubles match in the class doubles event as the singles match in the class singles event. The ranking points will be divided equally between the two players winning the class doubles match (to take effect 1 January 2003).

Proposed SAEC, seconded Chinese Taipei.

For 42, against 1, abstention 2, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 9: that the Assembly approves the reduction of the five current sitting classes to four classes.

Proposed SAEC, seconded CP-ISRA.

For 14, against 18, abstention 13, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 10: this motion was withdrawn as motion 9 did not pass.

Motion 11: this motion was withdrawn by the SAEC.

Motion 12: that the Assembly consider and approve the recommendation that the ITTC Handbook be amended to clarify the rules for players touching, moving and/or using the table as follows:

The racket hand is the hand in which the racket is held or strapped.

The free hand is the hand in which the racket is not held or strapped.

A player strikes the ball if he or she touches it in play with his or her racket, held in or strapped to the hand, or with his or her racket hand below the wrist.

A player shall score a point, unless the rally is a let, if the:

- a) opponent or anything the opponent wears or carries, moves the playing surface;
- b) opponent or anything the opponent wears or carries, touches the net assembly;
- c) opponent's free hand touches the playing surface;

More specifically, this means that from a pure “rule point of view”, a player may touch the table with the playing hand, if the table does not move. Ultimately the umpire will distinguish between “move” and “touch” the table (to take effect 1 December 2002).

Proposed SAEC, seconded ISMWSF.

For 45, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 13: that the Assembly consider and approve the recommendation that, should additions of a certain structure be made to the wheelchair, whether attached to the wheelchair or not (except cushions), all players must ask for a classification or a re-classification in this modified wheelchair. All additions to the wheelchair without re-classification and authorisation written on the ICC, shall be considered as illegal and the player will be disqualified (to take effect 1 December 2002).

Proposed SAEC, seconded CP-ISRA.

For 40, against 4, abstention 1, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 14: that the Assembly approve the establishment of a working committee to investigate and make recommendations on a “rating system” to the next Assembly meeting as a motion to be voted on to be held during the 2004 Paralympic Games. This working committee would comprise the Ranking Director, Sean O’Neill, Dr Chi-Shih Wu and one person to be co-opted by the working committee.

Proposed SAEC, seconded Israel.

For 42, abstentions 3, spoilt ballot 1.

Motion 15: that the Assembly approve that in factor 30 tournaments, each country be entitled to participate with up to two teams in each class and up to six players in singles (to take effect 1 December 2002).

Proposed Spain, seconded CP-ISRA.

For 34, against 6, abstention 2, spoilt ballots 4.

The Assembly noted, in discussions on various motions, that:

- a demonstration event would be held in wheelchair and standing events during the ITTF World Championships in Paris in 2003 (motions 1 and 2);
- the sanction for wearing jeans would be in terms of the ITTF rules (motion 3);
- Islamic dress for women would not be affected (motion 3);
- youth tournaments would be under 21.

The Assembly further noted that following a mandate given from the Assembly in Sydney, there would be amendments instituted to the classification system for the standing classes to make it a progressive system with effect from 1 December 2002 and that the ranking points accrued prior to this date would be carried forward.

Following a petition to vote on this matter, a written vote was distributed and the results were:

For 25, against 6, abstention 3.

5. FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BIDS: the Assembly noted the presentation by the Athens Paralympic Organizing Committee (ATHOC) and the following that:

- ATHOC expected 4 000 athletes from 130 countries, 2 000 team officials, 1 000 technical officials, 3 000 media, 2 500 Paralympic family and 15 000 volunteers;
- no entry fees would be charged for the Paralympic Games;
- a new logo for the Paralympic Games had been designed;
- there would be 11 staff and 95 volunteers for table tennis;
- there would be 240 athletes for table tennis;
- the venue for table tennis would be in the Galatsi Olympic Hall with a seating capacity of 4 200 15kms from the Village;
- the Opening and Closing Ceremonies would be on 17 September and 28 September 2004 respectively;
- the individual events for table tennis would be from 18 to 21 September 2004, 22 September 2004 would be a day off and the team events would be 23 to 27 September 2004;
- hours of competition would be 10h00 to 14h00 and 18h00 to 22h00;
- a draft competition schedule was now ready;
- national technical officials would be trained;
- test events would be decided in conjunction with the Hellenic Paralympic Committee;
- Joola 200S tables, taraflex floor and white Double Happiness balls would be used;
- preparations catered for the intellectually disabled.

The Assembly noted further that the eligibility system for intellectually disabled seemed to be good but it was not applied uniformly and that the IPC Management Committee discuss this issue at its meeting in mid-October 2002.

The Assembly noted the presentation by the committee bidding to host the world championships in 2006 (30 September to 6 October 2006) from Montreux, Switzerland and that Bilbao, Spain and Korea had expressed an interest although they had not yet fulfilled the IPC bid requirements. The Assembly noted that the bid would be awarded by the IPC by the end of 2002 on the recommendation of the SAEC after site visits had been completed.

- 6. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SAEC 2002 – 2006:** the Assembly noted that, in order to ensure continuity, it had elected some officials in Sydney during the Paralympic Games and some others would be elected now for the period 2002 to 2006. Specifically, the Assembly noted that the following had been elected in Sydney to serve until the next Paralympic Games in 2004:

Chairperson	Christian Lillieroos
Athletes' representative	Vincent Boury
Members at large	Øivind Eriksen, Jiri Danek, Silas Chiang, Nico Verspeelt

The Assembly noted that the SAEC had allocated the following portfolios to the members at large:

Vice-Chairperson	Øivind Eriksen
Tournament Officer (also elected the representative for Europe)	Jiri Danek
Treasurer	Silas Chiang
Selection Officer	Nico Verspeelt

The Assembly also noted that the SAEC had co-opted the following persons to serve as:

Technical Officer	Raúl Calín
Medical Officer	Aart Kruimer
Secretary General	Alison Burchell

The Assembly noted the election of the regional representatives to serve from 2001 to 2005 as follows:

Americas	Leandro Olvech
Europe	Jiri Danek
FESPIC	Hong-Jae Lee

The Assembly noted that the representative for the African-Middle East region would be elected during the African-Middle East Championships in 2003 as no quorum had been present during the African-Middle East Assembly held prior to this Table Tennis Assembly.

The Assembly noted the voting procedures as follows:

- i) each candidate would be asked to address the Assembly for no more than two minutes;
- ii) the voting would be conducted by secret ballot on forms supplied by the Secretary General;
- iii) the Assembly would appoint independent scrutineers to count the votes (Ron and Fran Keyhoe were appointed);

- iv) the nominee polling the highest number of votes would be declared elected by the Chairperson (without revealing the number of votes polled by each candidate);
- v) should there be an equality of votes, there would be a re-vote for the relevant two nominees to break the tie;
- vi) once the election results have been declared, the Assembly would give permission for the ballots to be destroyed.

The Assembly noted the withdrawal of the candidates nominated by Malaysia (*confirmed in writing prior to the written vote held after the Assembly*) and as a result confirmed the elections of:

Linda Chen as Vice-Chairperson
 Nico Verspeelt as Selection Officer
 Aart Kruimer as Medical Officer

The Assembly then elected Raúl Calín as Technical Officer (*confirmed in the written vote held after the Assembly*).

The Assembly thanked all candidates for making themselves available to serve on the SAEC.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Quorum: the Assembly expressed its support for the SAEC to propose to the IPC Sports Council, Executive and Assembly that the quorum for Sports Assembly meetings be reduced to 40% of the nations widely practising the sport and the IOSDs noting that the quorum for IPC Assemblies was 30%.

7.2 Minimum disability: the Assembly asked the SAEC to develop minimum disability definitions for sitting and standing players and to present them to the next Assembly to be held in Athens as a motion.

There being no further business, the Assembly closed at 21h32.

READ AND CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING

HELD ON

CHAIRPERSON

AMB/

1 September 2002