



**INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION  
PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION**

**Technical Delegates Report**

**Tournament:** 2013 Asian Youth Para Games

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Dates of Play:** 26 – 30 October, 2013

**Factor:** 20

**Organiser:** Asian Paralympic Committee

**Chair:** Mr Billy Lee

**Technical Delegate:** Mr Graham Symons

## **Introduction**

The 2013 Asian Youth Para Games was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and hosted by the Asian Paralympic Committee chaired by Mr Billy Lee. The Games involved multiple sports and national delegations were accommodated by country.

The table tennis competition provided a development opportunity for athletes aged between 14 and 23 years.

Sixty four athletes participated, coming from 16 countries. Thirty eight were participating in international competition for the first time.

The Table Tennis event manager was Mr Chan Foong Keong. Mr Chan and his staff were very friendly and helpful throughout the tournament.

The table tennis tournament was a success, it was enjoyed by the players and appreciation was expressed by the team managers for the management of the competition and the suitability of the venue.

Fully servicing all the individual needs of all sports in a multi-sports games is always challenging and there were a few logistical areas for future improvement.

## **Accommodation**

Athletes and team officials were accommodated, by country, in several hotels in Kuala Lumpur. The accommodation was generally satisfactory. However, in one hotel the bathrooms were not well adapted for wheelchairs and the same hotel suffered from an infestation of cockroaches.

Tournament officials were all accommodated in the Olympic Hotel next to the playing venue which was very convenient and avoided the necessity of transport.

## **Meals**

Meals for athletes and team officials were provided at the hotels. Teams brought lunch boxes from their hotels if they had lunch at the venue. Most teams found the meal arrangements satisfactory.

## **Transport**

Athletes and team officials were transported by bus from the hotels to and from the playing venue. Heavy Kuala Lumpur traffic meant that teams had to allow one hour for the trip. Several teams experienced delays waiting for buses to pick them up and some teams expressed the need for more frequent buses.

## **Venue**

The venue was the Olympic Council of Malaysia Indoor Sports Arena.

Lighting was satisfactory.

The playing floor was made of parquet wood and was a good playing surface.

Practice tables (6) were located on the floor below the playing hall and were accessible by lift. The classification area, racket control and the supply of drinking water were also located on that floor.

Medical staff were located at the rear of the playing hall.

The facilities for tournament officials were located along one side of the playing hall.

Assistance with wheel chair repairs was available on request.

Both the male and female toilets in the playing hall included one wheelchair accessible toilet each. This was just adequate for the number of wheelchair players because in any session no more than a half of the wheelchair players were scheduled to play.

An area was set aside at the rear of the playing area for spectators in wheelchairs. Other spectators mostly used the mezzanine floor overlooking the playing area. This provided a good view of the table tennis but seating was limited.

There was Wi-Fi at the venue, however, the signal was weak which resulted in frequent interruptions to internet access. The Referee and Technical Delegate used their own modems to ensure internet access.

Generally, the venue proved a good playing venue for the tournament.



Playing area

## **Equipment**

There were 6 tables in the playing arena, which was more than adequate, given the number of players and the time available. Three of the six tables were adapted for use by wheelchair players.

Most of the tables, nets and surrounds were Tibhar and the equipment was all ITTF approved.

The presentation of the playing arena was good.

## **Umpires**

There were a total of 22 umpires, of which 17 were qualified at the international level. This included 16 Malaysian umpires and 6 overseas umpires (2 Japanese, 2 from Hong Kong, and 1 from Singapore). This provided a good supply of umpires for the tournament. Mr Patrick Ringel attended the tournament to provide umpire evaluations.

## **Competition Days**

24 Oct. - most delegations and officials arrived and classification commenced

25 Oct. - Technical Meeting, Umpires Briefing, Draw for Singles events

26 Oct. - Singles matches commenced, Draw for Team events

27 Oct. - Singles matches completed, Singles Medal Ceremony

28-29 Oct. - Team matches

30 Oct. - Team matches completed, Team Medal Ceremony

30-31 Oct. - Delegations and officials departed.

## **Competition Hours**

Matches commenced at 9.00am except for the first and last days when the starting time was 10.00am. There was a break in play each day from 1-2pm and matches were completed by 6pm every day except the last day on which play finished at 11am.



## Number of Participants

There were a total of 64 athletes from 16 national delegations, comprising 18 females and 46 males. There were 27 wheelchair players and 37 standing players. There were 28 team leaders, coaches and support staff from the national delegations dedicated to the table tennis athletes. There were other delegation officials whose responsibilities covered several sports.

## Tournament Officials

Games Table Tennis Manager: Mr Chan Foong Keong

Referee: Mr Lee Yock Chin

Deputy Referees: Mr Roger Ho & Mr Leow Lim Hai

Field of Play Manager: Mr Tan Kheng Hong

Computer: Mr Tay Peng Sin

Racket Control: Ms Siew Sook Fun; Ms Ti May Li; Ms See Yui Lee

Classifiers: Ms Se To Phui Lin & Mr Ong Tah Fatt

Technical Delegate: Mr Graham Symons

## Ball Boys/Girls

Ball boys/girls were available on request by the player or coach.

## Classification

The requirements for the classification area were not initially understood by the organisers, however, the classifiers were able to set the area up appropriately. 38 players were classified. The team arrival schedule was not available to officials and the initial classification schedule needed to be revised. One team arrived late, but otherwise classification proceeded on time.

## **Results**

Results were progressively posted on the notice boards and in team pigeon holes. All teams received a printed Results Book at the end of the tournament.

## **Publicity**

Several countries had their own media personnel visiting the Games and some TV footage was taken. The Table Tennis event manager arranged for some photos to be taken of matches and the medal ceremonies which were provided to ITTF along with the results.

## **Evaluation**

The table tennis competition was well managed and provided a good development opportunity for the young players.

The officials performed well and any issues that arose were resolved swiftly.

The venue and equipment was good and the playing arena was well presented and well managed.

The accommodation and meal arrangements were mostly adequate with one hotel failing on accessibility and cleanliness.

Transport was an area for future improvement with several teams indicating that there had been delays and inconvenience.

There were a few communication issues with 4 of the teams which would have been assisted by the presence of liaison officers with the appropriate language skills being present at the Technical Meeting and on call during the tournament.

Overall, this was a good tournament for young athletes, with over half experiencing their first international competition. The players enjoyed the experience of the tournament which was at a good standard and played in good spirit.

Graham Symons  
Technical Delegate  
2 November 2013