# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COMMITTEE FOR THE DISABLED

### TECHNICAL DELEGATE

## COMPETITION REPORT

Name of Tournament / Championships: 1 <sup>st</sup> Parapanam Table Tennis Championships 2001
Ranking Factor Applied for:50
Name of Responsible Federation: _Argentina Paralympic Committee
Name of Organizing Committee Chairman:Hector Ramirez _
Dates of Play:November 3 – 8, 2001
Name of Technical Delegate:Christian Lillieroos, USA
Report submitted to IPC and ITTC: December 08, 2001

Accommodation: The tournament was held at the "CENARD" in Buenos Aires which stand for the National Center for High Performance sports. This is an Olympic Training Center equivalent complex with many Halls and fields for different sports. The USA team due to increased level of security was accommodated in the 5-star Hotel Marriott Plaza. The planned construction of an elevator in the CENARD was cancelled to the change in the economic situation in Argentina. The Brazil delegation, which had 50 members, was therefore lodged in a Hotel 40 minutes drive away. The Canada team did move out on their own after 3 nights in the dorms, because some team members could not use the beds provided. The organization committee decided to move them to Marriott as well. The Venezuela team moved out as well to another Hotel nearby, for an unknown reason. The organizing committee organized transportation for all parties. The standard on the rooms was like a University dormitory and not so high, but the convenience to have the cafeteria and the Hall at a walking distance made it OK.

**Venue:** The hall was at the "CENARD". Training and competition was in the same hall. The dimensions were 50 meters long and 25 meters wide with a spectator capacity of about 1,000 people. The hall was about 200 m away from the accommodations. The training hall had 8 training tables with the court dimension of 5m wide x 8 meters long, where 5 tables were for wheelchair tables, and 3 tables for standing. The competition hall had 8 competition tables, where 2 courts was for standing players with the dimension of 7 x 14 meters and 6 wheelchair courts with the dimensions of 7 x 8 meters. The organizers could not provide the same style of table for all courts. The solution was to have two styles of tables, one for standing and one for wheelchair. The entries were 107 players.

Floor: Both the training hall and the competition hall had a good wooden floor.

Lights: It was OK but not very strong. I would evaluate it to be at about 800 lux.

**Airflow:** It was OK most of the times. The training area had sometimes a draft. The two entrances where suppose to have an airlock built but this was not done due to financial constraints. When the doors were open it affected play especially in the training area.

**Spectator seats:** It was only about 1000 in seating capacity. One half was used for athletes and people with credentials and the other half was for spectators. No cover charge was charged, which was a little sad because it had a definite value.

**Referee's area:** Was located together with the result area above the competition hall.

Gluing area: Was outside on the ramp leading up to the warm up hall, with tables and chairs.

Official's room: No officials lounge was used, but no officials complained about it.

**Equipment:** Tables: 7 Butterfly Nippon green tables for standing ITTF approved, and 9

Double Happiness blue for wheelchair players ITTF and ITTC approved. The warm up hall had 3 Double Happiness wheelchair accessible tables and 5

Butterfly tables where 3 of those were wheelchair accessible. **Balls:** NITTAKKU \*\*\* ITTF, 40mm orange

#### **Competition days:**

November 3 – 8: 2001 playing days

Nov. 1, 2001: arrival and classification day, Team leader meeting + Open singles draw

Nov. 2, 2001 Draw of the Team event

Nov. 3, 2001: Open singles Men and Women, Medal ceremonies.

Nov. 4-5, 2001: Team events. The Draw for Class Singles + medal ceremonies.

Nov. 6, 2001: Team event Finals and medals ceremony + Class singles. Sport Assembly

Nov. 7-8, 2001: Continuation of Class singles and Medals ceremony + closing ceremony

Nov. 9, 2001: Day of Departure for the delegations.

The organizers had credentials made for athletes, coaches and team leaders.

**Transport:** Official transport from and to the 30-minute drive away Airports was arranged. Transport was necessary from the Hotels for USA, Canada and Brazil to the playing hall due to the cancellation of the elevator construction in the CENARD dormitories.

Officials: Classifiers: Dr. Aart Kruimer Nederlands

Dr. Rafael Martinez Cayere Duerto Rico Dr. Mexico

Co-ordinator Nadia Vaccaro Argentina

Referee: Raul Calin Spain

Deputy referee: Alejandro Ceccatti ARG

Karol Ziduliak CAN

Umpires: With 8 tables 24 umpires were needed. 8 Japanese umpires was invited, but cancelled their participation in the last moment due to the September 11 incident. It was only 14 ARG umpires and 1 from CAN. The ARG umpires were inconsistent, only 3 umpires were ITTF certified. A singles match was scheduled at 45 minutes and wheelchair team matches 3 hrs.

Classification: Started on the 1st at night and continued on the  $2^{nd}$ .

<u>Meetings:</u> The ITTC regional Sport Assembly for the Americas took place the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. The winner of the election for ITTC America's representative was Leandro Olvech.

**EDP**: Raul Calin conducted an ITTC Umpire seminar on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. Dr. Aart Kruimer conducted a Classification seminar.

**Results:** The desk was located in the main gym next to the referee table. The manned Sport information desk was located inside the warm up hall. Results were posted for the players.

Other staff: English and Spanish were both official languages. Everything was translated and Spanish and English announcers were used. They were first time volunteers so a lot of training was needed in the beginning. The Spanish announcing was good, but the English was most of the time difficult to understand. In each shift a large quantity of ball persons were available, with extras used in the warm up hall. They were also athlete escorts in the athlete presentation. It was enough volunteers for simple tasks. In supervisory positions it was more difficult to find quality people. Each day new people showed up that needed to be trained.

### Any other matter:

TV was not present which was a disappointment. It was no athlete lounge, but the cafeteria was close to the competition hall. The proposed two ITTC Coaching certification clinics never took place mainly due to the difficult economic situation that Argentina is in right now.

**Protocol:** Medals ceremonies were formal with national anthems and flags. The national anthem was missed two times which created some embarrassing moments. The Opening and Closing ceremony was one of the best ever with excellent Table Tennis and disabled sport themes included. Mr. Hector Ramirez was in charge of ceremonies and did an excellent job.

**Special Medical service:** Was organized through the Training center.

Christian Lillieroos, TD for ITTC December 18, 2001