



# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

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## **INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Annual General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held on Wednesday 30 April 2014 at 09h00 in the Prince Room, B1, Takanawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo, Japan**

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and opening address
2. Appointment of a Chair
3. Roll call of associations present and verification of proxies
4. Appointment of scrutineers
5. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 15 May 2013 in Paris, France
6. Presentations
  - 6.1 Merit award
  - 6.2 Other presentations
  - 6.3 2015 World Championships
  - 6.4 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games
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7. Applications for membership (Mali and American Virgin Islands)
8. Report of the Nominations Committee
9. Annual reports from the Executive Committee
  - 9.1 President: Adham Sharara (document A1)
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12. Annual reports from the committees:
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  - 12.4 Para Table Tennis Division (document D4)
  - 12.5 Rules Committee (document D5)
  - 12.6 Sports Science Committee (document D6)
  - 12.7 Technical Committee (document D7)
  - 12.8 Umpires' and Referees' Committee (document D8)
  - 12.9 Olympic and Paralympic Commission (document D9)
  
13. Finance
  - 13.1 Audited Financial Statements (2013) (document E)
  - 13.2 Appointment of auditors
  
14. Ratification of the work done by the Board of Directors and Executive Committee
  
15. Propositions and resolutions (document F)
  
16. Future world championships
  - 16.1 Update on the 2015 World Championships in Suzhou
  - 16.2 Selection of host of the 2017 ITTF World Championships
  
17. Planning DBI and P5 update
  
18. Revisions to the Constitution
  - 18.1 Timelines
  - 18.2 Affiliation of Continental Federations
  - 18.3 Nomination and appointment of Chair
  
19. Next AGM: to be held in Suzhou in May 2015
  
20. Any other business
  
21. Adjournment

# **PRESIDENT (Adham Sharara)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A1**

At the AGM in Paris I announced a new initiative for setting future goals and objectives for the ITTF. Using the Data-Base Intelligence (DBI) method, we will involve all national associations, continental federations, table tennis officials and experts in taking part in the setting of the future direction of the ITTF in the most inclusive way possible. This is a long and slow process, which was officially launched during the GAC World Tour Grand Finals (WTGF) in Dubai in January 2014. On that occasion, what is today dubbed “The Dubai Events”, in addition to meetings of the EC, OPC and DCC, many other events were held. The ITTF held its second Dream Building Fund Raising Dinner, as well as its first Star Awards celebration. Taking advantage of these multiple events plus first class table tennis, we launched the DBI process with a select group of table tennis experts from around the world.

In an effort to be inclusive and sensitive to our members’ needs, we are in the process of gathering ideas, recommendations, proposals, goals and objectives, which will be processed and formulated in the form of clear goals and objectives with a DBI plan focused on making table tennis one of the top 5 sports in the world, and making the ITTF one of the top 5 international federations in the world.

To achieve these very high standard goals, we are starting with the IOC assessment of our sport after the London Olympic Games as the base. This is already a great launching pad, as table tennis was promoted from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> group of sports in the Olympic Movement with an overall ranking of 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Realistically speaking we could consider table tennis in the middle of this field at around 11<sup>th</sup> place. To move to the top 5 is a tall order, but one that is possible to achieve if we all work together in the same direction.

Coupled with our efforts to reach the Top-5 position for our sport and for our federation, we are now more and more focused on the PROMOTION of our sport and our Federation. This is an area that I repeatedly indicated our weakness, but we are moving swiftly with determination to break through the top 5 positions in all social media platforms, as well as in the general public’s perception of our sport and our federation.

To achieve our overall goal of being in the top 5 in the world, the safest way is to target all IOC criteria and our own set benchmarks, and make every effort to reach the top 5 in all of them. To succeed we need to be fully aware of the skills available to us through our elected officials, volunteers at all levels (national, continental and international), and even friends of the table tennis family that have special skills and knowledge that can help us move to the top. This data will also take considerable time to gather, but we have started the process already.

One of the indications that table tennis is starting to make its mark in international sport are all the awards the ITTF has won over the last few years culminating into the great honour of being

invited to speak at the United Nations' conference on sport. Lately we have also received news that several of our colleagues have successfully been elected at the highest levels of their NOCs.

On the financial side, the ITTF has established a comfortable reserve fund and is striving to increase this safety net even further through more aggressive marketing actions. The contractual agreement between TMS International and the ITTF has been modified to a percentage share of income. This is in order to provide more transparency and more motivation to TMS to raise even more funds for the ITTF through the sale of TV rights and sponsorships to ITTF events.

Our federation is growing, we have now five (5) continental federations that have accepted to be "affiliated" to the ITTF and be a full and integral part of the ITTF structure, while maintaining their own identity and autonomy. The contractual agreements with these 5 CFs provides human and financial resources in the areas of development and marketing. Hopefully the 6<sup>th</sup> continent will also soon be joining this extended table tennis family so that we can all work towards making our sport one of the top 5 sports in the world.

During this AGM, if accepted, two more national table tennis associations will join our family making the ITTF the largest international sports federation in the world, together with Volleyball, at 220 member national associations.

Regarding the good governance of our federation, the Executive Committee is proposing a very important addition to our Constitution. A new position of "Chair" of the AGM, without a vote, and with limited specific responsibilities is proposed to come into effect for the 2015 AGM. This is a very positive change and would eliminate the perception that the President of the ITTF as Chair of the AGM may influence decisions especially during an election year. If passed, which I hope it does, I must confess my extreme interest in this position. Of course this would mean my resignation as president of the ITTF, but after 15 years of serving the ITTF as President, this would be a welcome change for me personally, and would also allow for a new leadership with a renewed energy for the position of President.

In closing, I sincerely thank the members of the ITTF for expressing their confidence in me. I thank my colleagues in the Executive Committee for their continuous support and dedicated work. I thank our staff for their tireless work and for working beyond the call of duty for the progress and success of the ITTF.

Together we will set the DBI goals and objectives for the ITTF, and together we will be in the Top 5.

Respectfully submitted,

**Adham Sharara**

## **DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Thomas Weikert)**

### **Report to the AGM**

### **Document A2**

Following the elections in Paris 2013, I was appointed by our President to the position of Deputy President in our EC meeting in Lausanne, an honor which I greatly and thankfully appreciate.

Until now, we had several EC meetings, which I attended:

- Paris, May 2013, directly after the elections
- Lausanne, September 2013
- Dubai, January 2014

Among my tasks as Deputy President, I represented the ITTF, at the SportAccord and ASOIF meetings in St. Petersburg, and I also attended the Men's World Cup in Verviers, Belgium in October 2013.

Our sport has improved a lot. In particular, our standing within the Olympic Family is growing and growing...thanks to the impressive work under the leadership of our President.

Nevertheless, we have to work harder and harder to improve more and more.

As our president has outlined, the plan is to become one of the best 5 sports in all ways – TV, marketing, website, member associations...only to name some of the areas identified.

Fortunately, the difficulties with the ETTU have been solved in a very good way. As you know, Stefano Bosi has resigned as president of ETTU, three of his Vice-Presidents also have resigned. New elections have taken place and Mr Ronald Kramer and the new Vice-Presidents were elected with a large majority. In the meantime, ETTU and its President have also signed the affiliation agreement.

And – luckily – all legal cases between ETTU/President/EB members of ETTU have been completed in a peaceful manner.

Thanks to all, who were involved, it was a very hard time with many legal implications, which I, within my tasks as Deputy President and also responsible for the juridical tasks, had to solve – certainly with the help of many other people inside and outside the ITTF family.

As in previous years, the topics of anti-doping (for example renewal of the World Anti-Doping Code 2015), corruption and illegal betting have been considered extensively which have to be dealt with in an ongoing way. If we want to reach our goal – to become one of the five best sports – it is without doubt necessary to stay clean! I am very confident that our work together with the Athletes' Commission and other members of our table tennis family will be fruitful.

Furthermore, the restructuring of the World Ranking and the World Tour have been done successfully. I would like to mention, as a key event, the big success of the GAC World Tour Grand Finals regarding TV and marketing.

Also in the future our concept should be, to promote table tennis in all our member countries (public and competitive sports) which also means that our concept, having big events all over the world, is the right one. We have to show and develop our beloved sport not only in “classic” table tennis countries, but also in countries of member associations which have, until now, other sports as their favorites.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the President and my colleagues in the EC for another year of trustful and productive cooperation. Moreover, my thanks go to all honorary and fulltime colleagues, headed by the ITTF staff, worldwide for our successful and trusting teamwork. As always, it was a pleasure developing our sports together with you.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in Tokyo.

**Thomas Weikert**



# SENIOR EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Khalil Al-Mohannadi)

## Report to the AGM

## Document A3

### Areas of responsibility

- World Championships
- World Cup (Team Men and Women, Singles Men and Women)

In my areas of responsibilities, I was in close contact with Judit Farago (CEO) and Karl Jindrak (Director: Competitions). In the last twelve months, we had our usual number of tournaments:

- Liebherr 2013 World Championships
- Stars 2013 Women's World Cup (Kobe, Japan),
- Liebherr 2013 Men's World Cup (Verviers, Belgium),
- GAC GROUP 2013 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)
- 2013 World Junior Championships (Rabat, Morocco)

With coordinated effort from all involved, we managed to have excellent organisation at all events. I would like to congratulate and to thank the France, Japan, Belgium, United Arab Emirates and Morocco Associations, the Organising Committees and ITTF professional staff for those exceptional efforts.

The very detailed reports from WTTC, World Cups and World Tour Grand Finals produced by ITTF Competition Managers are available for your information.

### Executive Committee Meetings

- Switzerland September 2013
- United Arab Emirates January 2014
- Slovenia March 2014

I attended all Executive Committee meetings.

### Attendance at competition events

- 2013 World Table Tennis Championships France
- GAC GROUP 2013 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals United Arab Emirates
- 2013 World Junior Championships Morocco
- 2013 Liebherr World Men's Cup Belgium
- 2013 Asian Youth Games China

It is very important for my areas of responsibility to attend as many big events as possible. This is the best opportunity to see where the weak points in organisation of our biggest events are. The visit of 2013 Asian Youth Games in Nanjing (China) was an excellent opportunity to see all facilities for table tennis events at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing. Discussion and

exchanging of ideas with Judit Farago (CEO), Karl Jindrak (Director: Competitions) and local Organising Committees produced many useful proposals for the future.

### **Attendance at Regional competition events**

- 2013 Arab Championships Iraq
- 2013 Arab Club Championships Jordan
- 2013 Gulf Club Championships Qatar
- 2013 Gulf Championships Saudi Arabia

The Arab Club Championships had, as always, a very big entry. Almost all clubs signed one professional player from the world best table tennis countries which made the Championships very attractive for the spectators.

During my attendance at regional tournaments, I had the chance to meet officials from many regional associations. That was perfect opportunity to exchange information about regional problems, to pass on information about the ITTF and to discuss how the ITTF can help to improve table tennis in the region.

Once more I would like to use this opportunity to thank delegates at 2013 AGM for electing me to ITTF Executive Committee for another four years. I can assure you that I will do my best for prosperity of our sport all over the world.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation to the ITTF President Mr Adham Sharara, to my colleagues from Executive Committee and ITTF professional staff for their support and cooperation.

**Khalil Al-Mohannadi**

## **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE)**

### **Report to the AGM**

### **Document A4**

After my re-election as an Executive Vice President in Paris 2013, I was assigned to be responsible for a couple of focus areas, some new, in addition to the general duties within the Executive Committee.

#### **FOCUS AREAS**

##### **Para Table Tennis**

It is a real pleasure to add Para to my portfolio, I have a strong interest in this area and it is very positive to see that many associations now are fully integrated or with a very good working relationship between the two groups. During the year I took part in the IPC meeting in Athens and PTT Division meeting in Copenhagen.

##### **Finance**

Final statements are not yet finalised, when writing this report. The audit will take place in the beginning of March. A new Finance Committee is established and besides me as chairperson, Mr Eberhard Schöler was appointed (PAC) and Mr D Choudhary (BoD) and the President and the CEO as ex-officio members. A representative of the Finance Committee would meet the auditors upon consolidation of the financial statements.

##### **Staff**

I have also this year assisted our president and our CEO regarding the ITTF's staff structure and human resource matters in general.

#### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Since last AGM in Paris, I participated in all the meetings of the EC

- May 2013 in Paris, France
- September 2013 in Lausanne, Switzerland
- January 2014 in Dubai, UAE
- March 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia

I represented ITTF at the following events:

- Global Cadet Challenge 2013, Slovenia
- IPC 2013, Greece
- ITTF World Tour, Swedish Open 2013, Sweden
- PTT Division meeting 2014, Denmark
- ITTF World Tour finals 2014, Dubai

It is with joy that I go into a new period and with pride of what we have accomplished and what we will accomplish. Our development program is an area that I need to mention, but also

promotion and our visibility in social media has improved substantially in the past year, which I am sure is very positive and necessary for our sport in the long run.

Finally, I would like to thank the President and my colleagues in the Executive Committee for your continuous support and the Continental Vice-Presidents, members of the Board of Directors and committee/working group members for your always kind cooperation. I take this opportunity to thank also all those who supported me for a new term, I promise to do my very best.

Last but not least I would like to express my gratitude to our professional staff, it is always a great pleasure to work together with you!

**Petra Sörling**

# **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Patrick Gillmann)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A5**

After my election as an Executive Vice-President in May 2013, I was assigned by the President to be responsible for 7 areas in addition to general duties within the Executive Committee. My goals are not only to represent ITTF at some events but to bring my experience to the commissions and committees to improve all the areas where I am involved.

### **FOCUS AREAS**

#### **Global Junior Program**

This program is one of ITTF's highlights due to a high performing staff and a lot of activities: training camps, competitions, world events, Olympic Games, qualification events, rankings and hopes initiatives.

#### **Junior commission**

I am very happy to continue the work done in the Junior Commission since its creation, following our future. I was happy to work, for many years, with the previous chair, Tony Yue, and know I will try to help and support the new chair, Dennis Davis. I have made some suggestions for the agenda in Rabat, during the informal meeting in Otocec. I attended the meeting in Rabat.

#### **The 2013 World Junior Championships**

These were held in Rabat, Morocco. The competition was very well organised with the 100% involvement of the ITTF competition manager.

#### **2013 World Cadet Challenge**

This is one of the most popular and interesting projects on the Global Junior Program. It is one of the only events that allow valuing the continents with their young players.

In 2013, Otocec, Slovenia, jumped in at the last minute after the withdrawal of Turkey as host. In this short time, they did a wonderful job and presented the event at the highest international standard. The organizer's welcome was warm and friendly and they also promoted the beauty of their country.

#### **Hopes Program**

I have not yet had time to be involved a lot with this program except to give my point of view about the Hopes team entering the WCC.

#### **Youth Olympic Games**

This year, my only investment was at the first stage qualifying event in New Caledonia where I was tournament director. For Nanjing 2014 my contribution will increase a lot.

### **Oceania (communication)**

My aim is to bring Oceania closer to ITTF. The fact that ITTF-Oceania is now affiliated is only a first step. Oceania is able to organise high level world events but needs to improve a lot in bringing the young players to an international level.

### **Umpires' and Referees' Committee**

This is a new area for me and 2013 has not given me the opportunity to work closely with the chair, Ronald Wee, as yet. This is a crucial committee as umpires and referees are a compulsory part of our sport with high media exposure. My experience as Oceania umpire and referee of Oceania championships, Pacific Games and New Caledonia Open can help me to work in good harmony.

### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Since last AGM in Paris, I participated in the meetings of the EC:

- May 2013 in Paris, France
- September 2013 in Lausanne, Switzerland

I represented ITTF at the following events:

- Oceania Cup 2013 in Bendigo, Australia
- World Cadet Challenge 2013, Slovenia
- World Junior Championships, 2013 in Rabat, Morocco

Finally, I would like to thank the President for the confidence placed in me and my colleagues in the Executive Committee and for your continuous support, the Continental Presidents, Board of Directors' members and committee/commission group members with whom I have worked for your always kind cooperation.

Last but not least I would like to express my warmest thanks to the ITTF staff for their help and the professional way they have managed all the events and meetings. If time is money, they may lose a lot because they never worry about that in the pursuit of excellence.

**Patrick Gillmann**

# **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Cherif Hajem)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A6**

### **Introduction**

As I represent the Executive Committee with regard to the committees of Nominations, Technical, Rules, as well as with regard to the tasks related to results, statistics, general meetings and election procedures and am in charge of communications with Africa, I summarise as follows my personal feelings concerning their activities during the year 2013.

### **1. Nominations**

This Committee met twice in Paris in 2013 and worked to improve the procedures related to the submission and evaluation of nominations received. My thanks to its Chair, Chan Foong Keong, and to the committee members who continue to present several recommendations needing thorough examination.

### **2. General Meetings and Election Procedures**

The Nominations Committee in collaboration with the Rules Committee and with the ITTF staff under the leadership of Judit Farago and with the assistance of Alison Burchell prepared all necessary stages very well to ensure a fluent process at our AGM as well as those related to the election procedures of candidates to the different committees of the ITTF: Executive Committee, Board of Directors or specialised committees.

### **3. Rules Committee**

This Committee is constantly approached to answer questions related to the interpretation of laws or rules. It contributes positively through its advice and propositions regarding modifications to our laws and our statutes. Congratulations to its Chair, Rudi Sporrer, and its Vice-Chair, Phil Males and to all its members.

### **4. Technical Commissioner**

After the dissolution of the Technical Committee, good cooperation continues between the Technical Commissioner, Graeme Ireland and the Competitions Department (under the leadership of Judit Farago). Mr Ireland remains a good expert and adviser for the Continental Technical Representatives.

### **5. Results and Statistics**

Arne Madsen, Chair of the Media Committee, but also supporting Results and Statistics, together with the Results and Statistics Coordinator and Promotion Manager, regularly informs the member associations and others of all events results as well as of all statistics related to major table tennis events.

## 6. Communications with Africa

“ITTF Africa” still fulfils its tasks relating to several competitions (training, proficiency or refresher courses), equipment support to various associations, contributions to continental representatives during the final stages of World Junior Championships, motivations to the medallists at the end of important competitions, as well as high level media coverage of the events organised.

Two major events have to be credited to Africa: in May 2013, 47 (out of 48) African countries were present in Paris at the ITTF AGM and the success of the World Junior Championships held last December in Morocco..

I have to thank particularly, President Adham Sharara, as well as all those who did not spare any effort in order that table tennis could spread in Africa demonstrated by the results mentioned above: the professional staff of the ITTF (Judith Farago, Glenn Tepper, Mikael Andersson, Anders Thunström, Alison Burchell, Steve Dainton, Habiba Besic, Etsuko Enami, Polona Cehovin Susin, Leandro Olvech, Christian Véronèse, Violet Le Blanc, Mohamed El Shentenawy, Ian Marshall, Matt Pound, Richard Petit, Raúl Calín, Didier Leroy, Karl Jindrak, Mohamed Dawlatly and others ...) , my colleagues on the Executive Committee, the Chairs and members of the Committees, Commissions, Continental and Regional Unions, Associations, Media, the equipment suppliers, the Sponsors, without forgetting the President of ITTF Africa, Khaled El Salhy (assisted by his colleagues of the Executive Committee: Henri Djombo, Olabanji Oladapo, Berte Bakhary, Hajera Kajee, Monqid El Haji, Balla Lo and Farah Hassan), as well as by the Board of Directors, and by the specialised Committees) and advised by George Segun, Co-Honorary President of the African TT Federation.

## 7. Missions carried out:

- Qatar (Doha) ITTF Executive Committee Meeting, 21 to 28 February
- France (Paris) World Championships and ITTF Meetings, 11 to 22 May
- France (Nice) Preparation of the "Jeux de la Francophonie" tournament, 20 and 21 June
- Congo B (Oyo) African Championships Cadets and Juniors, 28 June to 10th July
- Nigeria (Lagos) 1<sup>st</sup> Open International Tournament, 24 to 28 August
- France (Nice) "Jeux de la Francophonie", 4 to 17 September
- Switzerland (Lausanne) ITTF Executive Committee, 26 to 30 September
- Morocco (Rabat) World Junior Championships, 30 November to 9 December

## 8. Local visits

My parent Association (the Tunisian Association) has to be thanked for having invited me to its 2 events:

- Its “ITTF Africa” Junior Circuit event, as well as the African Cadets and Juniors Championships in March and April
- Its Annual General Meeting (evaluative), end of August



**To conclude:**

First of all, I repeat my thanks to the President Adham Sharara for his support to the task allocated to me and for his efforts to improve the image of our sport, in order to be ranked among the top 5 in the world, as well as to the Members of the Committees with whom I worked.

Further, in my quality of Co-Honorary President of the African TT Federation I have to thank the Presidents and the Members of all the National TT Associations in the world and especially the 48 National Associations of Africa (who are at the basis of the successes of ITTF-Africa).

Finally for their ever-lasting support to our Sport (Number 2 in the world according to the number of affiliated National Federations), I address also my thanks to the Ministries for Youth and Sport and to all the National Olympic Committees in the world.

**Cherif Hajem**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Masahiro Maehara)

## Report to the AGM

## Document A7

It is a great honor that I was elected Executive Vice-President at the AGM on 15 May 2013. I take advantage of the experience I have of players, coaches and organising international competitions as General Director of Japan Table Tennis Association. In addition, while studying as an EC member, I will dedicate my efforts to the development of Table Tennis in the world. Thank you for everyone's cooperation.

I attended two EC Meetings which were held during WTTC in Paris (from 13 to 20 May 2013), the AGM, BoD, Olympic and Paralympic Commission, ITTF Dream Building, and so on.

There were various means in tournament presentation to charm spectators, and as Japan will host the World Table Tennis in 2014, this was very informative. In the future, with each association going to work with greater awareness of the 5P listed by President Sharara, this will lead to the development of Table Tennis World:

Participation	Popularity	Profit	Planning	Promotion
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The Japan Open was held in Yokohama from 19 to 23 June 2013. 21 associations gathered this year and boost the event.

The Asian Championships were held in Busan from 30 June to 7 July 2013. I participated as a member of the ITTF EC as well as a Japanese representative to Executive Board and Congress which were held during the event. During the event, thanks to the warm hospitality by Busan South Korea Table Tennis Association Table Tennis Association, players, coaches and officials were able to concentrate on the competition with confidence.

As a representative of JTTA, I visited Doha, Qatar Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships venue from 30 August to 3 September 2013. The event management was done very smoothly as there are experienced people there and a number of international competitions are held. As all who participated in the tournament stayed in the same hotel, exchanges between players was carried out, and it was a very meaningful tournament.

Tokyo 2020 has received the honor to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games! Japan surprised with this big news in Tokyo and 7 September 2013 became a day of excitement. We salute Madrid and Istanbul who competed to the end. At the same time, as the preparation is regarded as the goal and foundation of success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan will want to continue to focus on developing and strengthening athletes more than ever.

The Starts Women's World Cup was held in Kobe from 21 to 23 September 2013 and I participated as a head of JTTA and as EC member. The Women's World Cup was held for the

first time in Japan but it was a tremendous tournament thanks to Starts 'sponsorship. I was able to work until the end of the preparation period with particular attention to the promotion of the P5 listed by the ITTF and hold a tournament that has grown enormously. In addition, during the event, I was able to see the testing of the bounce of the ball on a racket that until now, Japan has been investigating and researching. I had a discussion about this future work at the same time with Paul Schiltz (Equipment Committee Vice-Chair), Vicky Eleftheriade (Equipment Manager) who came to Japan for the meeting with members of the JTTA on 22 and 23 September 2013.

The EC meeting held on 27 and 28 September 2013 in Lausanne where the plastic ball became a hot topic, and four different manufactures have submitted official applications currently. Each manufacturer made a ball for the first time using plastic material and while it is early days, it is hoped that production of high-quality ball can improve e.g. the quality of the ball, durability, etc.

During the press conference about the World Table Tennis Championships held on 16 October 2013, the title sponsor Zen-Noh was announced, and I attended as an officer of the ITTF. At the same time, the tournament logo and poster were announced. Thanks to three players FUKUHARA Ai, ISHIKAWA Kasumi, MATSUDAIRA Kenta who attended, many of the media gathered, it was reported TV, newspapers and the Internet.

On 2 and 3 December 2013, Didier Leroy and Alison Burchell from ITTF came to Japan for the inspection of venue, accommodation for the World Championships. This time, we visited to confirm court layout, room allocation, practice hall of the venue, meeting rooms and guest rooms of the hotel. We also had a meeting to discuss all details.

I attended the EC meeting in Dubai, UAE from 9 to 12 January 2014.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the President Sharara, my colleagues in the EC and professional ITTF staff for their advice to me with growing experience as an EC member.

**Masahiro Maehara**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (MELECIO EDUARDO RIVERA)

## Report to the AGM

## Document A8

A new era has begun in the administration of President Adham Sharara. This has clearly had enormous repercussions for our organisation because it is thanks to this wise decision by the AGM that we have achieved continuity in the series of changes implemented so successfully in recent years, which has now received a great boost with the implementation of another hugely important factor in our development: the 5P (Promotion), already underway. The professionalism and dedication of all the technical and administrative staff of the ITTF has been the perfect ally in the roll-out of all these processes. President Sharara's leadership at the forefront of our organisation remains our strongest asset in the pursuit of the grand aims of making the ITTF one of the strongest International Federations in the Olympic Movement.

Over this period, our participation in the process has been framed by the specific duties commissioned to us by the President at the start of his new term, which can be summarised as follows:

**Development Program:** This program has continued under the general direction of Glenn Tepper who, with the support of his technical staff, forms one of the most solid teams at the ITTF, launching new programs, keeping tabs on those already in place on each continent, searching for new member countries to join the ITTF family, and no doubt also looking for new ways to help our continents to improve the development of our beloved sport. Our role has been to follow up on most of the programs and to liaise with our Executive Committee when needed.

**IOC relations:** This important topic will always deserve special attention. In response to requests from the IOC, the Presidency decided to appoint me to represent our organisation in the resolution of the conflict that has gone on for more than two years in Ecuadorian sport as a result of government intervention, which also affected our sport. After a series of interventions with stakeholders, we saw a glimmer of hope with the hosting of free and transparent elections in each sport, something that had not happened for more than twenty years. Our sport now has a solid new government that is working to make up for lost time during this period of conflict in all its programs and return to normality in its relations with the ITTF.

**Communications with Latin America:** As always, we have tried to deal with this topic in special detail, particularly since it is our continental organisation, the LATTU, with whose leaders we have maintained constant and fluid communication, giving advice when required or directly addressing issues such as the XXII Central American and Caribbean Games, to be held in November 2014 in Veracruz, Mexico. Another very important topic that we are currently advising on is the hosting of the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto.

**Communications with North America:** In this area, we are always willing to do everything required of us by the leaders of the NATTU (North American Table Tennis Union), with which we have maintained very good relations.

**National Olympic Committee Relations:** This is another topic of vital importance, which is closely correlated to the IOC topic as shown by the case of Ecuadorian sport. We have always been prepared to address anything required of us.

**Olympic Games:** This issue will keep us on our toes over the coming months. To date and from what we know, its preparation process has undergone a number of changes and has been followed very closely and with great success by the Olympic expert Raúl Calín insofar as concerns our sport. As the time draws nearer, these processes will be stepped up.

**ITTF– Continental Events:** As part of my responsibilities in this area, I also represented the ITTF at the following events:

- The finals of the World Junior Circuit, held in Guatemala from 19 to 24 March 2013. The organisation of this event was excellent and the event itself proved a great success.
- As one of the organisers and an EC member, I attended the ITTF Latin American Championships held in San Salvador from 19 to 24 March 2013, which was also a resounding success in all aspects. The Salvadoreans once again confirmed their good organisation skills at this tournament.
- As part of the Marketing Agreement with the ITTF, I attended the ITTF Latin American Cup in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) from 18 to 21 April 2013. This was yet another well organised event.

With regard to my Vice-President duties, I attended all of the Executive Committee meetings to which I was invited, which were as follows:

- EC Meeting in Doha (Qatar) on 23 and 24 February 2013.
- During the World Championships in Paris (France) from 11 to 21 May 2013, I attended the EC, AGM, BOD and DC meetings.
- Meeting of the Executive Committee, Continental Council and Olympic Commission in Lausanne (Switzerland) from 25 to 29 September 2013.

To conclude this report, I wish to express my gratitude to our President, Mr Sharara, my colleagues from the EC and the ITTF official staff members for their ongoing support to our work over the period gone by. In particular, I wish to extend my thanks to all member Associations, especially those in Latin America, for supporting our work through their participation in all the activities of our organisation.

**Melecio Eduardo Rivera**

# **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT (Shi Zhihao)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document A9**

This May in Paris, I was elected as an Executive Vice-President of ITTF. It is my privilege to be a new member of the ITTF family.

As the 2013 comes to the end, I would like to report my work in the past half year as follows:

### **1. Relocation of ITTF Museum in Shanghai**

In early 2013, ITTF decided to relocate the ITTF Museum from Lausanne to Shanghai in partnership with the CTTA and the Shanghai Municipal Government. As the Vice-President of ITTF, I was nominated to be in charge of this matter. I discussed the relocation project with the Shanghai Municipal Government on behalf of ITTF and gained their support. In July 2013, our President, Mr Adham Sharara, visited China. During his trip, I helped to organise a meeting between him and the Shanghai Municipal Government to negotiate the relocation project. The Shanghai Government reacted positively. The project is now in the process of getting government approval.

### **2. YOG Camp in Shanghai**

As the 2014 Youth Olympic Game will be held in Nanjing, the ITTF and CTTA jointly decided to hold a warm-up training camp before the YOG and in the hope that this camp could improve the players' performance. To ensure the success of this training camp, CTTA will send several experienced coaches and appropriate players to participate. The world champions, Wang Liqin and Zhang Yining, have also been invited. Both have confirmed their participation as YOG role models and as special guests. They will surely provide the players with special technical guidance and help in the promotion of the training camp. Apart from this, I also managed to secure an appropriate place to hold the training camp after a lot of negotiation and site inspection. Shanghai Oriental Green Training Base, which is located in the Qingpu District, is a famous professional training base with a pleasant environment and advanced facilities. The other details about the camp will be finalised soon.

### **3. Attendance at the ITTF meeting and competition events**

In the past half year, I attended the following meetings and competition events:

Executive Committee Meetings: Lausanne in September 2013, Dubai in January 2014, Ljubljana in March 2014

Competition events: 2013 Women's World Cup in Kobe, 2013 World Tour in Chang Chun and the World Tour Grand Finals in Dubai

As a new member of the ITTF, I would like to express my thanks to colleagues in the Executive Committee, to all the staff and friends in the ITTF family who helped me. I felt very proud to be one of you as I enjoyed good working relationships here. In 2014, I am sure we will continue to

cooperate with and support each other, and make further contributions to the development of table tennis around the world.

**Shi Zhihao**

# AFRICA

## Report to the AGM

## Document B1

ATTF has reached the number of 48 affiliated Associations in ITTF, and expects to add one more new candidate if the 2014 AGM approves Mali to become 49 member Associations.

The last year was a very special one for ATTF as we had a record attendance at the previous AGM; 46 member Associations were present in Paris 2013, about 96% of our total quota.

I had the pleasure to represent ATTF since the previous ITTF AGM in the following:

- Development and Continental Council – Dubai, January 2014
- Olympic and Paralympic Commission – Dubai, January 2014

### **African activities for the year 2013 were as follows:**

**2013 ITTF-Africa Juniors & Cadet Championships:** was held in Nabeul, Tunisia in April 2013 with 11 participating Associations in a very nice city, thanks to Tunisia Table Tennis Association who made a lot of effort to organise one of the super Junior & Cadet events which is very important to select the qualifiers representing Africa in the WJTTC and also to compose the African Cadet Team in WCC, plus that adding the U21 Youth events.

**2013 ITTF-Africa Seniors Cup & Clubs Championships:** were held in Oyo, Congo Brazzaville in July 2013 with 10 participating Associations and it was a wonderful and professional event for the first time to play in Oyo not Brazzaville. All players recognised the super organisation from the host, thanks to Congo Brazzaville Table Tennis Association who provided excellent hospitality in a super hotel for all participants and a very good venue which we wish to use for the next All African Games to be held in Congo Brazzaville in 2015 with a bit modification to cover its glass ceiling (from outside). The ITTF-Africa Seniors Cup was the qualifying event for the ITTF World Cups 2013 and included the African Club Championships.

**2013 ITTF World Team Cup Classic:** for the first time, Africa was on the podium of a World Title event which was held in Guangzhou, China in March 2013, a bronze medal for the representative of Africa (Egypt) in the Men's Team Cup after super results against top seeded teams in Asia and Europe (Singapore and Germany) to reach the semi-final stage.

**2013 ITTF World Juniors Championships:** ATTF had great pleasure in seeing the super success of the organisation of such a World Title event in Rabat in December 2013 for the second time in the history in Africa. It has been realised again that only Africa ensures the 100% attendance of all main qualifiers to WJTTC. I have to congratulate Mr Monqid Hajji, President of FRMTT, for the high level satisfaction of all officials and players, especially for the wonderful and amazing Awarding Ceremony. Thanks also for Mr Raúl Calín, the ITTF Events and Olympic Games Expert, for his great efforts and guidance to reach this level of professional organisation.



### **African participation & top results through the International Scene:**

- 18 Associations took part in WTTC, Paris 2013, 16 with men players (ALG-CGO-CMR-EGY-LBA-MAD-MAR-MRI-NAM-NGR-SEN-SEY-SUD-TOG-TUN-UGA) and 14 with women players (ALG-BDI-CGO-CMR-DJI-EGY-MAD-MAR-MRI-NGR-SEY-TOG-TUN-UGA). 3 men players qualified for the main round and the best result was for Omar Assar (EGY) reaching the round of 32, while 3 women players also qualified for the main round and the best result was for Dina Meshref (EGY) reaching the round of 64.
- 4 African Associations participated in the Mediterranean Games, Mersin June 2013 (ALG-EGY-MAR-TUN), in which an African player won the gold medal for the first time in such Games (Omar Assar in MS) and Egypt finished in the 3<sup>rd</sup> position for Table Tennis medals status with one gold and one bronze.
- 16 African Associations participated in the Francophone Games, Nice September 2013 (BEN-CGO-CIV-CMR-COD-DJI-GAB-GUI-MAD-MAR-MRI-NIG-SEN-SEY-TOG-TUN), and Africa was also on the podium with a bronze medal for Adem Hmam of Tunisia in MS.
- Han Xing (CGO), the winner in 2013 ITTF-Africa Cup (WS), participated in the STARTS Women's World Cup in Kobe, Japan in September 2013.
- Lashin El-Sayed (EGY), the winner in 2013 ITTF-Africa Cup, participated in the LIEBHERR Men's World Cup in Verviers, Belgium in October 2013.
- 5 Associations represented Africa in the 2013 World Juniors Championships in Rabat in December 2013, in Girls (EGY – position 15, ALG – position 17, NGR – position 19 & MAR – position 20) and in Boys (NGR – position 15, EGY – position 17, TUN – position 18 & MAR – position 20).
- There were two Euro-Africa Challenge events organised in 2013 in Africa, in Egypt in March and in Morocco "5<sup>th</sup> Hasan II" in June. Thanks to both ETTF and FRMTT for their professional organisation of both events which qualified for 2013 GAC World Tour Finals.
- There were two GJC events organised in 2013 in Africa, the first one was in Tunisia in March just prior to the ITTF-Africa Juniors Champ and the second was in Egypt in June, thanks to both FTTT and ETTF for their keen efforts to host such important ITTF sanctioned events with remarkable success and good participation from Africa.

**Development and Education in Africa:** development in Africa always satisfies the full quota of programs planned (courses, camps, equipment distribution and Women's DP) to promote table tennis much more in Africa and to help many Associations to plan better and improve results.

We had also 2 Continental Hopes Weeks well organised in CIV and EGY in 2013, with 4 qualifiers in girls and 4 qualifiers in boys (ALG-EGY-NGR-TUN), each receiving an ITTF scholarship for International Hopes Week and Challenge in WSA in June 2013 from which an African was selected for the 2013 Hopes Program (Aboubaker Bourass from TUN). Another African female candidate was selected to play for the ITTF Hopes Team in 2013 WCC in Slovenia (Eman Taha from Egypt).

In 2013, we had for the first time a PTT Dream Building Camp in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt just prior to the African PTT Championships which was a qualifying for the WPTTC in 2014.

Thanks to all Course Conductors and Camp Experts who came to Africa in 2013 and did a very good and professional job, and sincere thanks to BUTTERFLY, TINSUE and STAG for their great support to our Associations and Competitions to present such a prestigious image. Thanks also to STIGA for sponsoring the official uniform for Africa Cadet Team in the WCC for the second time in a row (2012 and 2013).

Special thanks to Ms Polona Cehovin Susin and Mr Ahmed El-Dawlatly for their keen efforts to follow up all DP programs in Africa during the year.

### **Essential Recognition**

On behalf of ATTF EC (Mr Henri Djombo, Mr Banji Oladapo, Mr Berthe Bakhary, Ms Hajera Kajee, Mr Balla Lo, Mr Monqid Hajji and Mr Farah Hasan) I congratulate Mr Adham Sharara, ITTF President and all ITTF EC members for their continuous support to Table Tennis in Africa, and all over the world to keep our sport among the top in the Olympic Games and media. We assure Mr Sharara that we will work hard with the P5 planning in our Continent.

Thanks also to ITTF CEO, Deputy CEO, the Directors and all staff for their full time engagement to help our planning and activities.

### **Khaled El-Salhy**

Continental President: Africa

# ASIA

## Report to the AGM

## Document B2

As of the end of 2013, 44 member associations have been affiliated to the Asian Table Tennis Union. The ATTU runs like a big family with issues of all kinds discussed and resolved through friendly consultation. Our beloved sport continues to enjoy huge popularity in Asia, and is sure to advance further with all 44 member associations united together.

In terms of event organisation, the year 2013 witnessed 4 ATTU-authorized tournaments being staged successfully. The 26<sup>th</sup> Asian Cup held in Hong Kong in April 2013 marked good cooperation between the ATTU and the GAC Group, a major automobile company in China, which has sponsored the event since 2011. The Euro-Asia All Star Challenges (Asian stop) was jointly hosted by the ATTU and the ETTU for the fifth consecutive year since the event was restored in 2009. Currently the ATTU is approaching the ETTU to make arrangements for the tournament next year. The biennial Asian Championships organised in Busan, Korea in July achieved great success. The Asian Junior and Cadet Championships staged in Qatar in August 2013 offered a platform where young players came to shine. The 8 cadet players who ranked high in the Championships represented Asia in the World Cadet Challenge in Slovenia, and won gold medals of all the six events. In addition, a variety of major tournaments were also held in Asia, such as the East Asia Games, the Asian Youth Games, and the ITTF World Title events. My appreciation goes to all member associations for their great contribution and hard efforts in developing our sport.

With regard to continental development program, as early as 2010, the ATTU had started an equipment assistance project, in which the Chinese Table Tennis Association offered free equipment to other Asian countries. By the end of 2013, about 40 member associations have benefited from the project. From 2014, the ATTU will carry out its new 4-year development program funded by the Shanghai Double Happiness Company. According to the agreement signed by the two sides, the ATTU-DHS Fund will be utilised to organise training camps, to send coaches overseas, and to provide equipment assistance upon requests.

In marketing, the ATTU has made some major progress. Asian events have been broadcasted live in more countries and regions, thanks to the hard effort of IEC Company, our TV promoter. At the moment, the ATTU and the IEC Company are to sign another 4-year cooperation agreement. The 5-year sponsorship from the GAC Group, the ATTU's marketing partner, to Asian Cup, has continued to be a huge support. This bilateral cooperation will last till 2015. A newly signed clothing sponsorship agreement with Nittaku Company has proved to be a great help, with both the 2013 Euro-Asia All Star Challenges and the Team Asia in World Cadet Challenge enjoying the benefits, and Nittaku has become the exclusive clothing sponsor of the ATTU.

The year 2013 was also a re-election year for both the ITTF and the ATTU. At the Busan Congress this July 2013, the leading body of the ATTU for the new term (2014-2017) was warmly received by our member associations. The 3 Asian representatives in the ITTF Executive Committee also earned full support from all. In addition, the ATTU has also restructured its 4 committees and revised its Constitution.

As the year 2013 came to the end, I would like to give my deepest thanks to all ITTF officials and staff, to my colleagues both in ATTU and in other continental unions, to my member associations, and to all ATTU sponsors for their hard effort, full support, generous offer and great contributions, which make our sport ever more exciting and popular. With their devotion and commitment, I am quite confident that the year 2014 will bring more joy and success.

**Cai Zhenhua**

Continental President: Asia

# EUROPE

## Report to the AGM

## Document B3

### 1. Member basis

The total membership of the ETTU is at present 57 Associations.

### 2. Competitions

Since the AGM in Paris, the ETTU organised the European Championships in Schwechat (Austria) with 37 men's and 35 women's teams participating. The European Youth Championships were organised in Ostrava (Czech Republic) with 149 teams spread as follows: 36 junior boys' teams, 36 junior girls' teams, 39 cadet boys' teams and 38 cadet girls' teams. In addition to these major events, ETTU organised the European Veterans Championships in Bremen (Germany) with 2 739 players participating and the Europe Youth Top 10 in Terni (Italy). I take this opportunity to thank the organisers, the Associations and all volunteers engaged for all the work well done.

Starting from 2015, European Olympic Committee will organise the first European Games with Baku (Azerbaijan) as host city and table tennis will be among the 19 sports taking part in this first edition. Preparations are underway.

### 3. Development initiatives

In the development area, the yearly coaching conference with the attendance of European coaches was organised in Cardiff (Wales).

In addition, ETTU offered training camps (on national and regional level) for boys and girls under the age of 12 on several occasions. All these camps were well appreciated by the players and coaches. During these camps, the players not only have the opportunity to train, but also their coaches are able to get involved in the daily routine and are taught by experienced coaches. These camps usually are opened to some 30-40 young players of whom 50% are girls.

ETTU Executive Board (EB) introduced a working group of coaches to work on the improvement of future development activities.

ETTU has gone through a major change in leadership, ultimately leading to improving the development in governing and administrative organisation.

### 4. Marketing Initiatives

As in the past, the cooperation with the IPTV Company "SPORTSMAN Media Group" was very positive and well appreciated by all associations.

ETTU's cooperation with suppliers' companies continues in a very positive way.

**5. Relations with Continental organisations**

As the newly elected Executive Board is in its first months on duty, priority has been given to establish improved cooperation with its Member Associations and the ITTF. The new EB is however planning to establish good relations with the other Continental Federations.

**6. Integration of Disabled Players**

ETTU established a Para TT Committee with Emese Barsai (HUN) as Chair and started also its first cooperation with Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia.

**7. Athletes' Commission**

At Schwechat during the EC, ETTU established an Athletes' Commission with Petr Korbel (CZE) as Chair.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank all the colleagues of the ETTU EB as well as all the professionals of our staff for their strong support and tireless work during a period of many changes.

Last but not least, many thanks to ITTF, its president, its officials and its staff, for the support and cooperation and the work we are doing together.

**Ronald Kramer**

Continental President: Europe

# LATIN AMERICA

## Report to the AGM

## Document B4

I am honoured to begin this report by informing you that the LATTU is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Over the last 40 years, we have seen the number of our members grow to 40. Without further ado then, I will now describe the diverse activities carried out in Latin America over the past year.

I wish to begin by pointing out the importance and excellent advantages of the current agreement between the ITTF and LATTU. This has allowed us to carry out numerous international development activities, which have showcased the positive growth of our member countries to the benefit of our players, coaches and judges.

The LATTU would like to thank the ITTF for all the support it has given to our Continent. And we extend these thanks to all the specialist companies that have collaborated with us in the area of sports equipment, which has supported and fostered the growth of new generations of table-tennis players in our countries.

**DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:** Our continent has followed the scheduled programme to a large extent (97%) and has been invaluable to our continent thus far. We nonetheless feel that we need to improve the ITTF-LATTU training camp. If we can give a boost to the self-funded courses in the countries of the region with more financial resources, we can then address and focus our financial resources on projects in support of countries with greater needs in areas such as training, technique and the preparation of players, etc.

**LATTU OFFICE:** This office is small in structure but has ensured the dynamic and positive functioning of our institution.

**SALES & MARKETING:** This field has not reaped as many successes as we would have liked because of the difficulties that Latin America faces in this regard; however, we will continue to work on stabilising this area on the Continent.

**YOUNG TALENT:** There has been a clear growth in our young talent in this department, and we are set to see some important positions in the World Rankings soon.

**COMMITTEES:** We have set up a number of committees with a view to lightening the workload and implementing LATTU programmes, and this has proven to be a successful strategy. The major ones include the Technical Committee, Development Committee, Biomechanics Committee, Womens' Committee and the Masters Committee.

**Summary of competition activities in 2013:** For the LATTU, 2013 proved to be a very important year in terms of its competition activities because it witnessed the consolidation of the

organisation of Latin America's official events, which included the ITTF-Latin American Championships, held in San Salvador (El Salvador) from 19 to 24 March with the participation of 109 players from 16 countries.

This major event was broadcast on national television across El Salvador for 6 hours and received full iTV coverage on the ITTF website, which had more than 25 spectators.

The organisation of the event was a resounding success with excellent planning of competitions and very high standards of food and accommodation.

The other big event of the year was the Third ITTF-Latin American Cup, held in Santo Domingo from 19 to 21 April. As usual, it was attended by the top 12 male and female players from Latin America. The organisational standards of the event were excellent and it received full Internet coverage on the ITTF YouTube channel and was broadcast over 4 hours on national television across the Dominican Republic.

The other official events in Latin America took place in Guatemala, which hosted the U-11 and U-13 Latin American Championships from 11 to 14 October. Over 139 players from more than 15 countries took part in the championships, which were preceded by a successful Training Camp Hopes event.

Lima, Peru was the venue of the U-15 and U-18 Latin American Championships from 16 to 22 June. A total of 170 players from over 15 countries took part in the event, which was a qualifier for the World Junior Championships and the World Cadet Challenge.

The Latin American Master Championship was hosted by Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 18 to 22 November with the participation of over 290 master players from 10 countries.

Other major events held in Latin America over 2013 and supervised by the LATTU included the Central American Games 2013, held in San José (Costa Rica), the First South American Youth Games, held in Lima (Peru) from 25 to 28 September 2013, and the Bolivarian Games, held in the city of Lima (Peru) from 23 to 29 November.

Our region also successfully organised the Junior and Cadet Open events at the following venues:

- Buenos Aires (Argentina) 23-27 April
- Lima (Peru) 23-27 June
- Guatemala (Guatemala) 7-10 August
- San Salvador (El Salvador) 13-16 August
- Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 12-15 September

A World Tour event was also organised in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 8-11 August.



The LATTU continued to support events in the three regions of the LATTU (Central America with 8 countries, South America with 10 countries and the Caribbean with a total 21 countries), with their events in the U-11, U-13, U-15, U-18, Senior and Master categories.

**Professor Oswaldo Borges**

Continental President: Latin America

# **NORTH AMERICA**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document B5**

During the time period following the World Championships in Paris, the ITTF-NA Board focused specifically on the need to raise the standard and profile of our major events and make a concerted effort to garner television coverage of all events. To this end we initiated in 2013 a bid process whereby interested associations, cities, or clubs could apply to host North American Cups and Championships in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Extensive criteria for the bid process were circulated and, for a first attempt, the interest generated was positive. The challenges ahead are to raise the standard of the events, improve television coverage, and hopefully generate a climate where more and more interest is generated for submission of future bids.

When we were in a position to analyse the bids that had been submitted, the Board met with Steve Dainton, Marketing Director of ITTF. The primary purpose of this meeting was to explore and better understand our respective positions with regards to promoting table tennis in North America. Consensus was achieved and a number of bids were awarded up to 2016. The next step is to finalise contracts with each successful bidder.

The North American Development Plan was fully and successfully executed. Components ranged from preparations for the World Cadet Challenge, a Women's Course and a Para Table Tennis Camp. A similar range of events is planned for 2014.

The re-emergence of Bermuda at USATT and NA Cup events during the past year has stimulated some additional activity geared towards the development of younger players in particular. A small sponsorship package from Joola was a good first step in recognising that a significant rebuilding effort is required. Once conditions merit it, the next step will be towards clinics for athletes and coaches. We are optimistic that this will take place during 2014.

Despite some challenges in terms of working relationships with the Toronto 2015 Organising Committee for the Pan American Games, we are making some progress towards the event. At the time of writing, the qualification process, requiring just one more minor adjustment, has basically been endorsed by NATTU and LATTU and now we need to overcome some challenges in terms of getting key, local people actively engaged in the planning and delivery of these Games.

The positive interactions with the Executive Committee of the ITTF and the other Continental Presidents have been very much appreciated. As always, it has been a pleasure working with the professionals in the ITTF as we continue to work towards a healthier sport on our continent.

**H. Bruce Burton**

Continental President: ITTF-NA

# OCEANIA

## Report to the AGM

## Document B6

The year 2013 will be kept in memory as our continental federation was fully recognised as an ITTF member and, for the first time in history, ITTF-Oceania could help players and countries to attend the Oceania Cup and the Oceania Junior Championships. Another proud moment was the inaugural Oceania Para Table Tennis Regional Championships, organised in Canberra, Australia.

### 1. Development

This is the leading activity of the OTTF thanks to Michael Brown, our Development Officer.

Thanks to a record number of training courses financed by the Olympic Solidarity Fund and financial support from the ITTF and ONOC, 20 courses took place in 14 countries, which included a record number of 8 Olympic Solidarity Technical Courses, which all included courses from the ITTF Coach Accreditation System, including the first ITTF Level 2 Coaching Course within Oceania taking place in New Zealand, in addition to the Olympic Solidarity courses, a further 6 ITTF-Oceania Development Program courses took place. There were 2 training camps offered during the year, which took place in New Caledonia and Austria. Officials were provided the opportunity to further their knowledge through 2 Basic Certified Umpires Courses, one in New Caledonia and the other in Kiribati. In addition, to the courses already mentioned, a Para Table Tennis course took place in Cook Islands, as well as a women's forum in New Caledonia as part of the ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships. For the first time, through the Development Program, an ITTF-Oceania Hopes Challenge took place, enabling a pathway for athletes under the age of 12 into international competition.

### 2. Competitions in Oceania

- K-Sports 2013 ITTF-Oceania Cup – Bendigo, Australia
- 2013 ITTF PTT Oceania Regional Para Table Tennis Championships – Canberra, Australia
- BCI 2013 ITTF-Oceania Junior Championships – Noumea, New Caledonia
- 2013 Oceania Cadet Challenge Qualification Event – Noumea, New Caledonia
- Jemati 2013 New Caledonia Junior & Cadet Open, ITTF Global Junior Circuit & Road to Nanjing Series – Noumea, New Caledonia. A record number of 17 countries participated in the event.

### 3. International Competitions

#### **2013 World Table Tennis Championships – Paris, France:**

Australia and New Zealand players participated.

#### **Men's World Cup – Verviers, Belgium**

William Henzell of Australia qualified through the ITTF-Oceania Cup.

## **Women's World Cup – Kobe, Japan**

Australia's Miao Miao and New Zealand's Li Chunli qualified through the ITTF-Oceania Cup, the first time in the history of the World Cup that there were two athletes from Oceania competing.

## **World Junior Table Tennis Championships – Rabat, Morocco:**

Australia and New Zealand qualified both boys and girls teams, however the New Zealand girls withdrew Australia finished 16<sup>th</sup> in the girls' team event and 18<sup>th</sup> in the boys'. New Zealand took the 19<sup>th</sup> place in the boys' team event. No Oceania player qualified for the main singles draw.

## **4. Contracts and Agreements**

With the help of TMS, the 2013 ITTF-Oceania Cup secured Double Happiness as equipment sponsor and Tinsue as the sports flooring sponsor.

## **5. The Management Committee**

I would like warmly to thank the members of the Management Committee who have devotedly assumed their responsibilities as well as the appointed members.

## **6. Meetings**

**Meetings of the ITTF:** As a member of the BoD, and as Continental President, I attended the meetings of the BoD, the Olympic and Paralympic Commission and of the DCC in Paris as well as the DCC meeting and the Olympic and Paralympic Commission in Dubai.

At the AGM in Paris, I had the pleasure and the honour to be elected at the ITTF EC.

As ITTF Executive Vice-President I attended a formal Junior Commission meeting in Otocec and the Junior Commission in Rabat as Vice-President in charge of the juniors.

Graeme Ireland, Anthony Ho and James Morris were present at the BoD in Paris and James Morris is now the OTTF Junior Commission member and was present in Rabat.

**Meetings of the OTTF:** 2 informal OTTF meetings took place in Paris.

## **7. Conclusion**

I would like to thank all those who enabled Table Tennis in Oceania to prosper: the International Federation, its President, TMS International, EC and administrative staff, ONOC for its unfailing financial support and actual ITTF staff members Glenn Tepper and Steve Dainton for their sensible advice, the members of the OTTF for their active participation, Michael Brown, the DO, the members of the Management Committee and the Executive Director, those responsible for Committees, those elected in international authorities for the time devoted to the service of table tennis in Oceania and a special thank you to our sponsors and TV partners.

## **Patrick Gillmann**

Continental President: Oceania

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Judit Faragó)

## Report to the AGM

## Document C1

### Current staff status

In January 2013, the transition of duties related to Competition Program finished, since then my function as CEO is to oversee all ITTF staff and programs, with direct liaison with Operations, Olympic Games, Competitions and Marketing, and through the Deputy CEO to Development, Education & Training Programs and its staff. All work is done in close cooperation with the 5 Directors of the different programs.

The re-structure of the ITTF professional staff is a continuous progress and as a result we had few changes in the personnel last year. Since my last report and until the day of submitting this report are no longer with the ITTF:

- June 2013: Ranking Consultant, position terminated
- September 2013: Executive Secretary, Ottawa office retired
- December 2013: Equipment Technician Coordinator, probation period over
- End 2013: World Ranking Officer, employment terminated with mutual agreement

Newly hired:

- February 2013: Promotion Manager
- June 2013: Results & Statistics Coordinator, with ranking functions added from January 2014
- December 2013: Equipment Coordinator replacing the former Equipment Technician Coordinator

At the moment ITTF has 22 employees and service providers, 20 of them working full-time plus there are 6 Continental Development Officers. ITTF activities are also supported by four Assigned Competition Managers and few service providers/consultants hired on event by event basis. A new administrative position in Lausanne office is planned in 2014, while web-site designer and Marketing Coordinator positions will open in the office in Singapore.

Detailed ITTF Staff graphic flow-chart listing the personnel and their title and identifying their primary and secondary functions is posted and regularly updated on the Directory section of the ITTF.com.

### Competition Program

In 2013, the program staff managed 67 ITTF events with 4 full-time staff and with the help of Assigned Competition Managers. Sometimes they get internal support when Development Officers act as ACMs at a few events on their respective continent. The number of events has increased to close to 90 (!) in 2014 which requires additional human resources. A CM workshop is planned for the second half of the year, recruiting further help plus the best candidates from the Latin American Workshop in March 2013 who will be used for events in Latin America.

Responsibilities for Karl Jindrak and Raúl Calín have been changed and increased. Karl, as Director, has more administration and coordination duties, while Raúl's position changed to Event & Olympic Games Expert after being entrusted to be in charge of the Olympic Games. From 2014, on his main focus is on Nanjing YOG and Rio Olympic Games while maintaining his role at the major, top junior events.

The Competition Program's objective in the near future is improving the bidding process for major ITTF events (with the help of Marketing and Promotion Program staff); implementing changes on the World Tour from 2015 to secure more frequent participation of top players (together with the Athletes' Commission) and proposing reform to the Executive Committee on future World Championships entries.

### **Operations Program**

After Jordi Serra's departure and re-distribution of his duties, the operation and administration in ITTF Headquarters in Lausanne continued smoothly without hiring an additional staff thanks to great efforts and dedicated work of Alison Burchell and Habiba Besic. Their hard work is highly appreciated and acknowledged, however on the long run they will need administrative assistance in the office.

Also some new responsibilities were added to Habiba's job in her new position as Office Manager. She was in charge to host the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee in Lausanne and to manage the renovation and rent of specific parts of the ITTF building.

A decision was made on relocation of the ITTF museum to China and on rental of the Annex house and part of the Chateau in order to generate income for the ITTF. Implementation of these projects also requires long working hours, not only from Alison and Habiba, but of course also from the Museum Curator, Chuck Hoey.

### **Marketing and Promotion Program**

Hiring Matt Pound as Promotion Manager definitely brought a new approach and fresh blood into the ITTF. Table tennis improved significantly in the last year not only in image but, according to the figures, in terms of promotion, media appearance and on social media platforms.

During the year Kimberly Koh was promoted and now hired by TMS, which is why a junior marketing staff is needed in Singapore soon to assist the daily work.

Under leadership of the Marketing Director, Steve Dainton, the activity profile and the staff is constantly growing in the Asia-Pacific Office, they come up with a lot of new ideas and innovations, like Social Responsibility Programs, Star Award Gala, new ITTF branding and promotional activities using video images.

*(Information on the Development and Education & Training Programs is in the Deputy CEO's report)*

### **Others**

We had big administration challenges recently transferring website to a new server, changing all ITTF email accounts and introducing an automated World Ranking system, first for the World Team Ranking and just recently for the individual ranking.

### **Meetings, travels** (other than events and official meetings):

- Regular visits to the ITTF offices and staff (Lausanne - 5, Vienna - 4, Singapore - 1)
- Representing ITTF at 2013 SportAccord, at 2013 IOC Session and at 2013 IF Forum
- Meeting with IOC and Rio 2016 officials
- Inspection visits at future major events, meetings with future organisers (Halmstad, Kuala Lumpur, Paris, Dubai, Nanjing, Shanghai, Suzhou).

### **Acknowledgement**

I wish to thank the Executive Committee the trust in and support of the professional staff, and to all ITTF officials who contribute with their expertise and advice in their free time. Special thanks to my Deputy, Glenn Tepper, for the close cooperation and easy communication and also to all Directors for their huge contribution. I am proud to have a group of colleagues with such high motivation, endless working capacity and love of our sport. We all work to achieve the goal to place table tennis in the top 5 sports in the world and to secure our firm position on the Summer Olympic Games program.

**Judit Faragó**

# **DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Glenn Tepper)**

**(Responsible for Development, Education and Training Programs)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document C2**

### **1. Development and Education & Training Programs Summary**

The Development and Education & Training Programs continued to work closely in 2013:

- 2013 Development and Education Magazine covering the Olympic Cycle 2009-2012 was distributed at the AGM in Paris and is available also online.
- 2013-2016 ITTF Continental Development Agreements were signed with Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania, while Asia and Europe were close to signing for 2014-2016 at the time of writing.
- 69 ITTF Coaches and Course Conductors conducted 93 ITTF Development Program or Olympic Solidarity Courses in 2013 including coach education (40 following the ITTF Coach Accreditation System), Training Camps, URC courses (13 following the URC Accreditation System), PTT, Women's, and Tournament Organisation Courses, while 25 major equipment packages were provided and many smaller ones, all based on rotation and needs policy.

ITTF continued to work closely with the International Olympic Committee and Olympic Solidarity. In 2013, 21 Technical and "Developing a National Sports Structure" courses, and 6 "Scholarships for Coaches" with a total budget of over US\$260,000 were conducted, while 17 "Road to Nanjing" Scholarships totalling US\$130,000 were provided together with administrative support.

Co-operation with UNHCR and Peace & Sport continued in 2013 while Butterfly-Nittaku-Xiom-Stag-Double Happiness-Tibhar-DTTB-Foundation for Global Sports Development all supported Development and/or Education projects with equipment and/or funding.

ITTF-Peace & Sport-DTTB-Butterfly "Peace through Ping Pong-Ping Pong Paix" Project won Sport Accord's "Spirit of Sport" Awards

National and Continental Hopes Projects were held in the lead-up to World Hopes Week from which 10 Hopes players (born 2001 or 2002) were selected for World Hopes Team August activity while 8 players from any of the previous Hopes intakes were selected for the World Cadet Challenge World Hopes Team. Emphasis was placed on continental balance and developing countries.



ITTFEducation.com, an Online Learning Platform, was launched with many Coaching, Hopes and URC projects already activated, while ITTF-PTT L1 and ITTF Advanced Coaching Manuals were converted to e-manuals and are now available on iTunes and Amazon.

25 ITTF Hot Spots (training centres) are recognised with varying activity levels. 3 new short films were released-one based on UNOSDP projects, and 2 based on PNG, following the pathways of a player and coach respectively, through Oceania Development Program. The first ITTF Dream Building fundraising dinner was held at the Paris World Championships with US\$80,000 raised for new projects in Development (Palestine and Uganda), Junior Program (Hopes and Road to Nanjing Camp and Hopes Ambassador) and PTT (Africa PTT Camp and Player Scholarships).

More details will be provided in Development and Education & Training Director reports.

## **2. ITTF Membership**

One of the ITTF Development Program aims is to have table tennis played in every country of the world.

With 1 new member in 2013, Bonaire, ITTF now has 218 member countries, second in terms of membership for all sports (when the Development Program began in 1999 we had 180 members). For countries with National Olympic Committees, ITTF has full membership in Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania. We are strongly targeting the 4 African and 1 Latin American countries remaining and have an equipment package sponsorship deal as an incentive for new members. We are also working closely with Olympic Solidarity to use Technical Courses as a means to assist with forming their National Federations.

## **3. International Conferences**

The ITTF Development and Education Programs were represented at the following International Conferences:

- UN-IOC International Forum on Sport, Peace and Development - Glenn Tepper
- IOC Sport for All Conference - Leandro Olvech
- Peace and Sport Conference, Monaco - Leandro Olvech
- Beyond Sport, USA - Leandro Olvech
- International Council for Coaching Excellence, RSA - Polona Cehovin Susin
- Sport Accord International Federation Seminar, Switzerland - Glenn Tepper
- EducaSport, France -Polona Cehovin Susin
- TAFISA Sport for All Conference - Leandro Olvech

## **4. Thanks!**

Butterfly and Stag for their kind and unwavering support of the ITTF Development and Education Programs since 1999.

Nittaku, Xiom and Tibhar for funding special projects in 2013.

German Table Tennis Federation for their ongoing equipment support since 2006 providing equipment for both “Ping Pong Paix” Peace and Sport Project in Burundi-Congo DR and ITTF Development Program in 2013.

Foundation for Global Sports Development for their ongoing support of the ITTF Development Program since 2009

Olympic Solidarity and in particular Pere Miro, and Coaches Department, Yassine Yousfi, Carina Dragomir, and Cynthia Anami and Athletes Department, Silvia Ragazzo Lucciarini, Olivier Niamkey and Edward Kensington for their close cooperation and support.

Thanks to the hard-working Development and Education Staff: Leandro Olvech, Polona Cehovin Susin and Mikael Andersson; Education Consultants: Zita Pidl and Dejan Papic  
Continental Development Officers: Ahmed Dawlatly (Africa), Afshin Badiie (Asia), Lilamani De Soysa (Europe), Ramon Ortega Montes (Latin America), Dejan Papic (North America) and Michael Brown (Oceania).

Thanks to ITTF President, Adham Sharara, for his vision, and support. Thanks to ITTF Executive Vice-President responsible for development, Melecio Rivera, and Shi Zhihao, ITTF Executive Vice-President responsible for education for their support, guidance and efforts to develop table tennis worldwide.

Thanks to all course conductors and ITTF staff connected with the Development and Education Program.

**Glenn Tepper**

# COMPETITIONS (Karl Jindrak)

## Report for the AGM

## Document C3

This report covers the period of the last 12 months, so it is almost in line with the yearly calendar basis operation of the Competition Program. This way I summarise what happened in 2013 and give a short preview for 2014.

### Competition Program

The objective of the Program is the same since the start: to provide opportunities to the ITTF members to take part in international competitions both at elite level and in terms of mass and global participation. At the same time to improve further the level of organisation partly by practical assistance on site and partly by leaving a legacy of event management skills.

As a “service provider”, the Competition Program is responsible for:

- Offering and coordinating ITTF competitions through the ITTF calendar;
- Supervising all ITTF events;
- Ensuring the implementation of the contractual agreement between ITTF and the organisers as well as between TMS and its commercial partners;
- Assisting organisers in running the events according to the directives.

The 2013 ITTF Calendar included 117 tournaments in total, 67 sanctioned and authorised by ITTF, 16 registered, 26 approved and 8 recognised events by ITTF. Compared to 2012, we had 7 events more, even though 2012 was the Olympic year with many Olympic Qualification tournaments, 45 of them in the first half of 2013. No need to say how big challenge to manage it properly with the available human and financial resources. The significant increase in the number of events was mainly due to the growing number of continental tournaments under the agreement with Continental Federations to support and integrate their cups and championships.

The Competition Program is responsible for implementing the ITTF Event Classification Policy established by the Executive Committee for event inclusion and approval to the ITTF Calendar and to the ITTF World Ranking system.

While we continue reaching high and record figures in visual and web coverage worldwide, we were not successful in improving the local and general promotion of our events and to attract more spectators in general. We do hope to change this in 2014 with the help of our Promotion Manager who started work at ITTF in February 2013.

### ITTF Sanctioned events (all sanctioned events are listed below)

- LIEBHERR 2013 World Championships in Paris (France)
- World Junior Table Tennis Championships in Rabat (Morocco)
- LIEBHERR Men’s World Cup in Verviers (Belgium)

- STARTS Women's World Cup in Kobe (Japan)
- Times Property World Team Classic in Guangzhou (China)
- GAC GROUP 2013 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals in Dubai (UAE)
- GAC GROUP ITTF World Tour events (19 events in total)
  - Super Series (5 events): KUW (Kuwait City), QAT (Doha), CHN (Changchun), JPN (Yokohama), GER (Berlin)
  - Major Series (6 events): AUT (Wels), KOR (Incheon City), CZE (Olomouc), POL (Spala), RUS (Yekaterinburg), SWE (Stockholm)
  - Challenge Series events (8 Challenge events in total):
    - Euro Africa Challenge Series (6 Euro Africa events): ESP (Almeria), EGY (Cairo), CRO (Zagreb), MAR (Rabat), BLR (Minsk), BEL (Antwerpen) – cancelled
    - Americas Challenge Series (2 Americas Challenge events): USA (Las Vegas), BRA (Santos)
- ITTF World Tour Harmony Open in Suzhou (China)
- Global Junior Circuit Finals in Guatemala City (Guatemala)
- Global Junior Circuit (32 events in total)
  - Premium events (16 premium events): BRN (Manama), CZE (Hodonin), SWE (Orebro), ITA (Lignano), FRA (Metz), THA (Bangkok), POL (Wladyslawowo-Cetniewo), EGY (Ismailia), TPE (Taipei), KOR (Daejeon), HKG (Hong Kong), BRA (Rio de Janeiro), CHN (Chengdu), CHN (Taicang), IND (Mumbai), HUN (Szombathely)
  - Regular events (16 regular events): TUN (Nabeul), MLT (Cottonera), ARG (Buenos Aires), ESP (Platja d'Áro), SVK (Senec), PER (Lima) – back after 2002 (11 years break), MEX (Pueblo) – cancelled, GUA (Guatemala City), ESA (San Salvador), NCL (Noumea) – back after 9 years, IRQ (Erbil), CAN (Vancouver), POR (Funchal), CRO (Varazdin) – new organiser, SRB (Vrnjacka Banja), SVK (Bratislava) Cadet only
- ITTF World Cadet Challenge in Otocec (Slovenia)
- ITTF Latin American Championships ESA (San Salvador)
- ITTF African Junior, Cadet and U21 Championships TUN (Nabeul)
- ITTF Latin American Cup DOM (Santo Domingo)
- ITTF North American Cup USA (Westchester, N.Y.)
- K-Sports ITTF Oceania Cup AUS (Bendigo)
- ITTF African Cup CGO (Oyo)
- ITTF North American Championships CAN (Vancouver)

The LIEBHERR 2013 World Championships in Paris was a huge success both in terms of sport presentation and hospitality. Local organising team did a very good job they worked very professionally and the only problem was the lack of volunteers. The championships had all-time record in number of associations participation (801 players from 127 associations), not only because of the high entry interest but also thanks to the great efforts of Fédération Française de Tennis de Table (FFTT) to secure visas for all delegations.

We had 3 World Title tournaments last year. The LIEBHERR Men's World Cup in Verviers, Belgium, the STARTS Women's World Cup in Kobe (Japan) and the TIMES PROPERTY World Team Classic in Guangzhou (China). All three ITTF World Title events were organised at a high level. This year, organisers for the LIEBHERR Men's World Cup will certainly provide the highest possible level in terms of quality, presentation and spectators attendance.

In 2013, the World Tour (former Pro Tour) went successfully through a real transformation: it got a new name "ITTF World Tour"; the overall title sponsor, GAC Group extended their agreement until 2015 and it ended traditionally with the Grand Finals in January 2014 in Dubai offering US\$1million dollars prize money – for the second time in the history of ITTF.

The World Tour changed to a 3 tier system and the Euro Africa and America Challenge was "merged" into the World Tour called "Challenge Series". 3 tiers have been announced for 2013: Super Series, Major Series and Challenge Series.

In 2014, new organisers have come forward on the GAC GROUP ITTF World Tour, like Philippines, Nigeria, Argentina and Australia will be back after 14 years break.

Other excellent news is that TMS secured Eurosport with 35 hours coverage on the World Tour 2014.

Bangkok, Thailand will host the GAC GROUP ITTF World Tour Grand Finals in December 2014.

The ITTF Global Junior Circuit has a firm system with about 32 events last year, including all six continents. In 2013 we welcomed 1 new organiser and 2 nearly new organisers after a long break: Croatia (new), New Caledonia (back after 2004) and Peru (back after 2002). Participation reached magical numbers: last year exactly 2121 different players entered representing 103 national associations! Last year and this year the interest of top-level junior players will certainly grow significantly due to the start of the Youth Olympic Games qualification process.

The GJC Finals were held as a stand-alone tournament for the second time in January 2014 in Portugal after its separation from the World Cadet Challenge. The last World Cadet Challenge in October 2013 was held successfully in Slovenia. After two years in Oceania and Latin America, the World Cadet Challenge came back to Europe. Small associations repeatedly give evidence that they can organise major and title junior events with high playing and hospitality conditions all over the world.

The ITTF's Competition Program and the Marketing Division assisted four Continents with ten ITTF-Continental Championships and Cups according to the contractual agreement between the ITTF, TMS and the Continental Federations concerned. Last year ETTU signed the agreement between the ITTF-TMS as well and the first event took place in Lausanne (DHS

Europe Cup), Qualification tournament for the World Cups later this year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> event will be the ITTF European Team Championships in September in Portugal.

It became a tradition to present awards to the best organisers of different ITTF tournaments based on the Tournament Evaluation Reports, it is well received by the associations.

### **Coordination of the Competition Management team**

The above mentioned comprehensive competition program is mainly implemented by five full time staff: Didier Leroy, Raúl Calín, Mohamed Dawlatly, Zoltan Bencsik and myself as I am acting as Competition Manager at some events during the year as well. I take also this opportunity to thank all of them for their tireless and dedicated work as well as for their professional approach.

In the recent years a group of Assigned Competition Managers (ACMs) were selected and trained who regularly help the ITTF on a contractual basis. This program has run since 2009, the last follow-up seminar was held in January 2013. At present we have 4 ACMs plus 3 of the Development Officers also assigned to help the ITTF in the competition area when requested on their respective continents. Another ACM Seminar will be planned at the last quarter of 2014.

Due to the heavy schedule and geographical distances it is difficult to hold a joint meeting, however we always find at least 2 days every year “out-of-competition” to meet beside the seminars.

Since 1 January 2013 I took over most of the operational responsibilities at the Competition Program from our ITTF CEO Judit Farago.

### **Administration and communication**

National Associations are in the main line of communication either as participating associations or as host associations organising ITTF events.

The administration work of the Competition Program covers:

- preparing, announcing, distributing and posting Prospectus, invitations, entry forms
- reporting on inspections and on competitions
- finalising and updating the ITTF calendar
- preparing, announcing, distributing and posting directives and policies
- preparing contracts for organisers of ITTF Sanctioned events
- announcing and collecting bids for different events

### **Tournament Management System**

Work is almost completed with the former IT Manager, Mohamed El-Shentenawy, on the development of the ITTF Result Management System (RMS) for both team and individual competitions. For the Team competitions we focused more recently to prepare our RMS for the WTTC in Japan. As all the Continental events became ITTF events we need to focus on an

update for the individual RMS as well in order that our RMS can cover all our ITTF Sanctioned events.

In its present format, the system makes the work of Competition Managers and local organisers already much easier and independent from IT assistance. At the same time it is used as a local Tournament Management System at several world title and World Tour events (in 2013 WTTC in Paris, Women's World Cup in Kobe, WJTTC in Rabat, Qatar Open). The 2014 WTTC in Tokyo will be also managed by one fully integrated system locally and on the ITTF website, with one result input on a local intranet system.

A new online entry system for Junior Circuit events was introduced from January 2013 which is a big step forward in strict and fair implementation of the entry deadlines and again making it easier for both the Competition Manager and for the organisers. The version 2.0 was updated and introduced in January 2014. The Online entry system for Junior events was programmed and done by one of our Assigned Competition Managers, Dimosthenis Messinis.

### **Cooperation**

The Competition Program's cooperation is very close and effective with other programs, with the ITTF committees, with TMS, with officials and staff colleagues in all areas.

### **Acknowledgement**

Finally I wish to thank the Executive Committee for trusting and supporting our work, and all ITTF officials, professional staff colleagues for helping and cooperating in the most efficient way. I am grateful to the national associations, our partners, helping to reach our common goal: to show the best image of our sport both at the participation and organisational levels.

**Karl Jindrak**

# **DEVELOPMENT (Leandro Olvech)**

## **Report for the AGM**

## **Document C4**

### **Development Program 2013 Overview**

The ITTF Development Program has been fully implemented in Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania in 2013 while it is expected Asia and Europe will be ready for the beginning of 2014.

Three highlights of 2013 are:

- the inclusion of Hopes activities at all levels (world, continental and national). National Associations (NAs) have been activated as it is a new concept for many of them, while the launch of the ITTFEducation.com online platform by Education and Training proved to be very useful.
- Addition of a Para Table Tennis (PTT) activity per continent annually funded by the PTT Division, to be used targeting specific countries on a rotation and needs basis.
- The growing tendency of NAs to organise self-funded courses, mainly coach education, in addition to the over 100 ITTF Development Program funded courses annually. This shows an increasing joint commitment to development worldwide.

### **ITTF Coach Accreditation System**

Beginning a new cycle was a good opportunity to review and update the resources of the ITTF Coach Accreditation System, including new documents, syllabus, appearances following new marketing guidelines and others. English, French, Spanish and Arabic versions are finalised.

ITTF Level 3 Coach Education was successfully tested in 2012 in Malaysia while formal implementation on a global scale commenced in 2013.

As above, several NAs are adopting the ITTF System and expanding through self-funded courses including USA, Brazil, India and Singapore. The Turkish and Iranian NAs are planning to follow shortly and are in the process of translating the resources.

The ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching manual has been released in e-book format and available to be purchased initially in English and Spanish through Amazon and iTunes.

### **Dream Building**

Peace and Sport: Already established joint Table Tennis for Peace projects in Colombia, East Timor and Burundi-Congo DR which continue to flourish and expand.

“Ping Pong Paix” in Burundi/Congo DR received more equipment support thanks to the German Table Tennis Federation which was also the major funding partner since inception.



Next project is planned for Palestine and conversations started in early 2011 but for political reasons, these take much longer than previous cases. I have done a preparation visit together with Peace and Sport in June 2013 with the aim to launch it next year in 11 venues located in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Nittaku Dream Building in El Salvador has developed fast and strongly. Nittaku is highly satisfied and confirmed the desire to continue the support with a new project. There are conversations to launch another project in Asia.

The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) is an ITTF partner and organises Youth Leadership Camps which leaders from developing countries attend for 2 weeks to learn about the use of sport for a social change. So far 3 were organised in 2012 and 4 in 2013. The last camp in 2013 was held in South Korea where the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon addressed the group. The ITTF's role on the camps is much appreciated by UNOSDP as the only International Federation (IF) providing equipment and educational resources to all participants and also following up after the camp supporting selected projects. Only a few IFs have attended all camps. Hosts for 2014 will be Japan, USA, Germany and Korea Republic.

The successful Dream Building Fundraising Dinner held last May in Paris provided funds for a development project from UNOSDP in Uganda and the upcoming one in Palestine.

### **Women in Sport Program**

The previously named Women's Development Program is now the Women in Sport Program.

All the gender related matters and areas have been integrated in the regular Continental Development Programs that also resulted in the Women's Working Group ceasing to exist. At the same time the ITTF introduced the position of Women in Sport Commissioner and Ms. Hajera Kajee was appointed in Paris in 2013. Besides, Ms. Petra Sörling, the ITTF Executive Vice-President continues to be the Executive Committee member in charge of the area. New primary contact from ITTF staff is Ms. Vicky Eleftheriade who is based in the ITTF Singapore Office.

The Friendship Trophy was successfully celebrated in all Continents during March, 2013 some of the hosts were Switzerland, Wales, Georgia, Djibouti, Tunisia, Brunei, New Caledonia, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, Malaysia, Japan among others.

### **Staff**

Major changes during 2013 were in Africa, Latin America and North America where Ahmed Dawlatly, Ramon "Moncho" Ortega and Dejan Papić respectively have added significantly to the DP's of their continents as Continental Development Officers. Their portfolios, in different ways, are combined with duties related to other programs and/or the mandate to deliver some courses.

## **Promotion**

Three new development films were produced in 2013, two about the Oceania Development Program already completed and third covers the cooperation between the ITTF and the UNOSDP.

Development and Education Magazine 2009-2012: The DP traditionally produces a report in a magazine format, which used to be released every four years in the Olympic cycle. Since 2010 it has been released every two years. The newest magazine was released at the AGM in Paris, covering the cycle ending 2012 but stressing 2011-12. The main changes are greater inclusion of the ET projects in line with closer cooperation and a more pictorial style (easier to solve language barriers and to get a quick overview). It is also available online.

## **Awards**

Great start for 2013 with the recognition of SportAccord “Spirit of Sport Award” given to the ITTF “Ping Pong Paix” project.

Then the ITTF was shortlisted as “Best Governing Body” in the field of Sport for Development by Beyond Sport, which was finally granted to the NFL (US Football).

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award from Dubai, created a new category for Summer Olympics International Sport Federations. The ITTF applied to this award which includes US\$250,000 prize.

Thanks to all contributors that made 2013 a successful year! (All are listed in the Deputy CEO’s report).

## **Leandro Olvech**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING (Polona Cehovin Susin)

## Report to the AGM

## Document C5

The ITTF Education & Training Program is proud to report on another fruitful year full of action, in which the already well-established programs continued to be implemented successfully, but at the same time, a number of novelties and new approaches were developed in the pursuit of excellence in our sport:

- Education & Training Program funding has been systematically included in the Development Program Agreements with Continents;
- An online education platform was launched and in less than one year more than 2 400 users registered;
- The Education & Training section was added to the ITTF website, which further facilitates the flow of information and promotion of projects run within the Program;
- Thanks to the success of the Dream Building program, a special Ambassador scholarship was made available for the Hopes and an additional training camp was made possible for the Hopes Team.

### 1. Hopes

The Hopes, set up as a Global Talent Identification Program for Players of under 12 years and their Coaches, continues to be one of our most popular projects. The “think globally, act locally” pathway has reached new dimensions with the inclusion of special funding into the Continental Development Programs.

- 82 National Associations registered for the Hopes Program in 2013 and the number of National Hopes activities held worldwide in the first four months of the year is increasing year by year;
- On some continents, Continental Hopes Weeks were successfully introduced giving even more relevance to the link between National Associations and Continents that represent an important milestone in the development of Players’ careers;
- The ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge, organised at the Werner Schlager Academy in Schwechat (AUT), 10 to 16 June 2013, was very well attended with 60 players and 35 coaches representing 33 National Associations from all 6 continents participating and benefitting from excellent training conditions, top level coaching and 15 coach education sessions that were held on such a large scale for the first time.
- The World Hopes Team of 6 boys and 4 girls, selected from the World Hopes Team Week & Challenge activity, gathered for a top level training experience for the first time ever in North America, at the Lily Yip Training Centre, while the 2013 World Cadet Challenge Hopes Team, again for the first time with members from all 6 continents, participated successfully at the event in Slovenia.

## **2. With the Future in Mind / the “ITTF Road to Nanjing”**

The program continues to represent the core component of the Athletes’ Development Model and it mainly targets Prospects from non-traditional markets that however, have a great potential to make a difference in the way elite table tennis looks today.

In the new Olympiad, the implementation model changed in such a way that in the first two years of the Olympic cycle, the focus is on candidates for the Youth Olympic Games, while in the last year, the targeted group will be composed of aspirants for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.

In 2013, there were 17 players on the Road to Nanjing list, who took part in different joint activities, i.e. special Road to Nanjing Training Camps, organised in connection with Global Junior Circuit events, who mostly had the opportunity to prepare for the YOG qualifications on very individual basis, based on their needs. More emphasis was given also on the cooperation with National Associations and coaches aiming to get the greatest possible legacy in the area of knowledge and capacity building.

## **3. Hot Spots Network**

The Network continues to represent the backbone for educational as well as Athletes’ Development initiatives. Currently the Network consists of 25 training centres from 5 continents and the interest to join is still growing.

The nature of activities held in different Centres varies a lot, depending on their focal area, but basically they are active in the organisation of camps of national and/or regional nature, while some have become proper international hubs with a well diversified menu of activities on offer, i.e. short-term training camps, long-term stay and training opportunities for WFIM players, different Hopes and other talent identification related activities, formation of Hot Spot Youth Teams attending Global Junior Circuit events etc.

For the future, the wish is to add the Academy level that would further contribute to the creation of a solid practical coach education platform.

## **4. Online Services**

The platform “ittfeducation.com” was born with the ambition to expand our primary classrooms, training and competition halls, to a virtual, web-based environment. In the initial phase the content was closely connected to the Hopes, in particular to the National and Continental phases, however, in the future, the plan is to offer more advanced content and topics, relevant for the Athlete Development Model.

The successful implementation of the Young Umpires’ Project, run completely online on our own platform, proved that online education offers unlimited opportunities for enriching existing or creating new educational tools in all technical areas of our sport, for example umpiring, refereeing, competition management and the like, and this not only on international, but also on continental and national level.

The platform also works well for communication and promotion purposes, which are two important elements when it comes to effective cooperation of all stakeholders of any of the Education & Training and Development Programs.

Furthermore, we continued our cooperation with Sport Accord that results in educational opportunities for the wider public in the fields of Anti Doping, Fair Play and Illegal Betting.

#### **5. Dream Building Ambassador**

Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico was nominated as the first ever Dream Building Hopes Ambassador.

Finally, I would like to thank the Education & Training Team – Mikael, Zita and Dejan for their efforts throughout the year; the Development Program Team – Leandro and all the Continental Development Officers for a very successful first year of joint implementation of Education & Training projects through the Development Program; the ITTF President and the entire Executive Committee, for their trust in us; all the officials and staff members for their contributions and assistance, and in particular Glenn for his guidance and support.

Last but not least, a special note of thanks to all our partners, the National Associations, experts, coaches etc., who are the real creators and performer of the programs in the field.

#### **Polona Cehovin Susin**

# MARKETING (Steve Dainton)

## Report to the AGM

## Document C6

2013 has been another interesting year for the activities of the ITTF Marketing Program based in the ITTF Asia Pacific Office in Singapore. Since moving office to Singapore in 2011, the responsibilities and team has been growing. Over the past 12 months, the key responsibilities, enhancements and work have included:

### **TMS International Partnership – Management**

The Marketing Program works very closely with TMS International on all aspects of the ITTF's commercial activities. The Marketing Program mainly assists with new and existing sponsor relations, TV partnerships and to develop new business. As our office is based in Singapore, we also assist heavily with the events and partners that are also located in the Asia Pacific region. As the ITTF's marketing revenue has grown over recent years and there are now numerous commercial partners, this area is the key focus of our daily activity.

For 2013, our Program and office was heavily involved in all matters related to several key partners: GAC Group (and especially the renegotiation of their contract), China Unicom, Total Sports Asia and several of the table tennis manufacturers in the region. As GAC is now the overall Title Sponsor of the World Tour, we have worked closely with the Competition Program to develop this property further.

### **Continental Events – Commercial Support**

The Marketing Program, with the support of TMS International, continues to manage the marketing agreements with the continental federations of Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania.

The project continues to grow and 2013 was no exception. There were various successes, with the major highlights including:

- Oceania having excellent presentation of its event and TV exposure of its Oceania Cup throughout the region
- North America starting to embrace many of the goals to try and raise the level of their events – new website, bids for events etc.
- The Latin American events in El-Salvador and the Dominican Republic being an extremely well presented event with local TV broadcast.

### **Other Properties – Commercial Growth**

There are several other properties and ideas, which our Program has been feverishly trying to support and develop in order to help further commercialise and help bring further support to the ITTF and its programs in 2013. The main areas being:

1. *YouTube Development.* A commercial arrangement with YouTube began in 2013 and we now benefit financially from the broadcast of ITTF activities on the YouTube platform. All non itTV events can now also be streamed on YouTube.
2. *Trick Shot Competition.* A wonderful social media idea to bring more persons to our sport and find extra sponsorship revenue.
3. *ITTF Awards Night – Dream Building Dinners.* In Paris close to US\$100 000 was raised by our new CSR marketing campaign – Dream Building. This money goes towards supporting our Development, Para and Junior Programs. Due to the success, an Awards night in January 2014 was held in Dubai to raise money for Dream Building. The Dubai event was much bigger and even more glamorous, at time of writing the final amount raised is not clear but will no doubt surpass the money raised in Paris.
4. *Para World Table Tennis Championships –* We continue to try and bring television and sponsorship to the most important Para event, the PTT World Championships.

### **Media - Promotion**

In 2013, in line with the new direction of the ITTF and the greater need to promote better our sport Mr Matt Pound was hired as the Promotion Manager to be based in Singapore. His hiring in a short period has already had a tremendous impact on the visibility of the ITTF activities which are now seen in greater numbers all around the world. As well as being an overall team player in the above activities, the Promotion Manager has been heavily involved with:

- Developing and managing the ITTF's social media platforms
- Setting up and managing the ITTF's Chinese social media accounts
- Creating and maintaining relationships with major media partners, in particular sports and Olympic related media
- Setting up a partnership with Action Images/Reuters
- Searching for an employee to develop ITTF.com
- Writing new media operation guidelines for ITTF events
- Working with event organisers to assist with event promotion and obtaining local and global media coverage
- Writing and distributing event and sponsorships press releases.

### **General Picture**

In 2013, we have seen an increase in the number of TV channels broadcasting ITTF properties around the world. Sponsorship remains ITTF's stronger point with several long term agreements coming into play in 2013.

There is still a lot of work to be done in many of the developing table tennis continents and this will require constant updating and refreshing of the ITTF properties in order better to achieve this. We need to try and find ways to improve our product so we are less reliant on a few key markets and be stronger globally. That said, the wheels are in motion for long term success.

**Steve Dainton**

# OPERATIONS (Alison Burchell)

## Report to the AGM

## Document C7

With the departure of Jordi Serra, with 14 years of experience, the learning curve has been long and steep. At the outset, I would like to thank my colleagues for the support in ensuring that there has been no obvious break in the delivery of services from the Operations Program.

**Current structure:** in the Program, we have 4 full-time and 1 part-time employees. During the year, we also had an intern for 6 weeks who worked on compiling the initial draft of a technical manual for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We also had the support of a volunteer who assisted in scanning classification cards for PTT. The staff structure has been reviewed and new job descriptions have been developed. Habiba Besic has taken on additional work under the title of “Office Manager” as has Alison Burchell as “Director”. Etsuko Enami has moved to a part-time capacity as “Project Manager”. Vicky Eleftheriade continued to work as Equipment Manager from the Singapore office.

**Office and adjacent house:** the house on the property in Renens has been renovated and advertised for rent. There are several visits which have occurred, each lasting a minimum of an hour, but which have yet to materialise into a signed agreement. Hopefully this status will have changed by the AGM. The Museum space, by contrast, has been rented early on by a construction company who will move in from 1 May 2014 with 12 staff members. There were other eager potential tenants who, as a result, were unsuccessful. The space will be renovated once the Museum moves out and new cabling installed for technology and electricity. The management of the rental space is now Ms Besic’s responsibility.

**Museum:** a large part of the focus has been on the proposed move of the Museum to Shanghai in 2014. In order to achieve this, an inventory has been developed with photographs for the 5 000 items in the Museum. A delegation from China visited in September 2013 and January 2014 to prepare for the physical move in February and March 2014. A small exhibit will remain in one of the offices at the headquarters. The travelling museum, which has the world championships as its main activity, has been organised from the headquarters with the help of Mr Yao and in future, this will be organised via the Museum in Shanghai.

While the Museum has been formally open to the public since 1 January 2013 following an agreement with the Commune of Renens, the uptake in visitors has not been significant.

The Curator has produced 3 editions of the newsletter and 5 issues of the Magazine from 1 May 2013 to 1 May 2014. This will continue once the Museum relocates.

**Video archive:** in preparation for the relocation of the Museum, about 23 large boxes of videos were sent to be transferred from old VHS and Beta cassettes into a digital format. This has taken nearly a year to achieve and will enhance our capacity to provide video footage from



yesteryear for those interested. Such footage includes both world championships and Olympic Games. While the trend now is to put such footage on YouTube, having such an archive will provide useful for training officials as well as for historians.

**Finance:** the transfer of the large majority of financial operations from Ottawa to Lausanne has taken place during the year. The Singapore office runs its own accounts based on transfers made from the headquarters. During the year, we processed about 1 132 payments and 131 invoices. Some excess funding has been invested and, with the income from rental in 2014, will hopefully increase our liquid assets.

This year also sees the preparation of a fully consolidated audit covering the ITTF offices in Lausanne, Ottawa and Singapore.

Processes are underway to allow payments to be made online using some credit cards through a Swiss company. This will allow payments to be made for ITTF merchandise as well as courses.

**Support to various multi-sport events:** while 2012 saw the Olympic and Paralympic Games being run in a consolidated way for the first time, there are several other events which are supported from the headquarters. These include the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the 2014 Youth Olympic Games, the 2014 Commonwealth Games, 2014 the Asian and Asian Para Games as well as the 2015 Pan American and Para Pan American Games.

**Support to various committees:** the Program provides administrative support to the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, AGM, Olympic and Paralympic Commission, Equipment, Nominations, Rules, Sports Science and Medical Committee as well as the URC, Veterans' Committee and Para Table Tennis Division.

**Support to other Programs:** is provided by Ms Enami to the Development and Education and Training Programs as well as the distribution of electronic communications to the associations and various committees as required for all Programs. There is close cooperation with all Programs for invoices and payments as well as with the Competition Program for anti-doping matters, the appointment of referees, umpire training and evaluation and the availability of racket testing equipment.

**Equipment:** the lists of equipment approved and authorised by the ITTF are published on the website on a regular basis once updated and certificates of approval are issued to the equipment manufacturers. 369 invoices were issued for tests on and approval of equipment. Equipment tested included balls (19 balls tested), support for floors, tables (9 tests and 2 inspections), nets (5) and racket coverings (260). With the retirement of Odd Gustavsen, the full operations related to racket coverings have been transferred to the Equipment Manager.

During the year, a memorandum of understanding was signed with ISR Singapore outlining cooperation for testing for balls, racket coverings and a proposal to develop a device to test the thickness of rackets.

A major undertaking is the coordination of racket testing equipment being sent to events at which racket testing is done and training umpires in racket testing is undertaken. This includes dealing with customs issues and ensuring the equipment is calibrated on a regular basis at the miniRAE offices in Spain.

**Alison Burchell**

# EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

## Report to AGM

## Document D1

**Introduction:** We could say that 2013 has been a year of transition for the Equipment Committee after the election of new members during the WTTC held in Paris. As a result of the new composition of the Equipment Committee, a restructure of the roles and responsibilities among members was decided in Paris as follows:

- Mr Kagin Lee (USA) took responsibility for racket coverings.
- Dr Torsten K neth (GER) took responsibility for balls.
- Mr Piet van Egmond (NED) took responsibility for racket testing.
- The Chair passed from Mr Odd Gustavsen (retired) to Mr Federico Lineros (ESP).
- Table authorisation remains with Mr Paul Schiltz (LUX), and net authorisation remains with Mr Peter Bradley (ENG).
- Floorings still are responsibility of Mr Schiltz (LUX), but it is expected to pass to Mrs Edite Pires (POR) at the beginning of 2014.
- Mr Nobuyuki Shirakawa (JPN) remains as our liaison with Japan, and Mr Yuan Hua (CHN) remains as our liaison with China.

With all these changes, the year has not been easy at all with passing information from former members to current ones.

Mr Schiltz presented a draft of a document during the WTTC in Paris about “The Field of Play” which intends to help in the organisation of the FOP and the different equipment used in the playing area. More discussion is needed among different groups (URC, ITTF Competition Department, manufacturers, etc.) before a final proposal is presented.

It was agreed in Paris to produce a new technical guide for Net Gauges. Net Gauges are excellent tools for use by umpires and referees during competitions. A draft document, illustrating the design and usage of this device, has been written by Mr Shirakawa (JPN) and will be discussed in Tokyo prior to submission to the Executive Committee.

Also there have been changes in the ITTF staff dedicated to equipment matters. A new Equipment Coordinator was hired in the Singapore’s office in May 2013, who was replaced by a new person at the end of the year.

**Approved/authorised equipment:** at the last count of approved/authorised equipment we had:

Equipment	2013	2012
Balls	51	55
Tables	114	109

<b>Nets</b>	48	44
<b>Floors</b>	10	13
<b>Racket Coverings</b>	1394	1373

**Balls:** a new issue of the Technical Leaflet T3 was approved by the BOD in Paris. Most of the changes in this document related to the description of the requirements for balls made of a plastic material other than celluloid (requirements for celluloid balls remain in the document). Several suppliers have applied for p-ball (plastic ball) approval. However, none has passed all the tests completely during 2013. The properties, however, have significantly improved during these tests and some balls are expected to be approved early in 2014. We are working with the University of Vienna and the Nanyang Technological University's Institute for Sport Research in Singapore (ISR) to improve the current veer test, but this work not yet completed.

**Tables:** a new issue of the Technical Leaflet T1 was approved by the BOD in Paris. The table testing was conducted as usual twice a year. The show tables inspected have all been found excellent after minor adjustments.

A new approval procedure and criteria for removable table skirts is being discussed by the Equipment Committee. Further discussion will take place in Tokyo for a final agreement in this matter.

The CEN (European Standardisation Committee) working group for tables, convened by Mr Schiltz, intends to conclude its work by 2014. It is not expected to have any effect in the requirements for approval of the Technical Leaflet T1, as this document has always followed the requirements of this standard.

**Nets:** a new issue of the Technical Leaflet T2 with minor changes was approved by the BOD in Paris. An evaluation form for a survey of nets was sent to competition managers, tournament directors and referees towards the end of the year. This was due to the concern about the quality of some nets found during recent competitions. The result of the survey was not available when this report was written.

**Floorings:** in order to have all non-permanent floors tested according to the new Technical Leaflet T6, the Committee, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, asked all present manufacturers to reapply for approval. They also made an open call for all other interested companies to apply for approval. The samples will be tested in 2 laboratories. The Committee produced 3 forms for this testing which would allow them to compile relevant data for an ITTF data base about flooring. The Committee was aware of the problems that this major change would cause floor managers, who have to provide several certificates about the sporting and safety features of their floors (as they are requested in many countries having adopted strict standards). Therefore the Committee informed all floor suppliers in August 2013 about the ITTF request. Unfortunately the Committee has not received all the information on time and, at the

time of this report, some data are still missing so testing is delayed. Hence the Committee will not be able to submit to BOD, in 2014, the probable required adjustments to T6.

The Committee will propose to the Executive Committee the ITTF Testing Institute for the future at the end of the procedure.

**Racket coverings:** a new issue of the Technical Leaflet T4 with minor changes was approved by the BOD in Paris.

The administrative part of the authorisation has been transferred to the ITTF Office in Singapore, whilst the technical aspects and the final decision about authorisation is the responsibility of the Mr Lee.

We are working in two directions after the proposition made by the JTТА in Paris about a “bounce test”:

- Define a maximum threshold of bounce for any racket covering as per the authorisation process as per racket control during the competitions.
- Design a device for this new test.

A meeting in Kobe (JPN) was arranged between JTТА, Equipment Manager and Mr Schiltz to get more information about the research that this association had done. At the same time we are discussing a re-wording of The Law 2.4 for a better definition of the blade and the handle.

**Racket testing:** a new issue of the Technical Leaflet T9 was approved by the BOD in Paris. The main changes were in the direction of avoiding information repeated in this document and the Directives for Racket Control.

There are still problems with the method for measuring the thickness of the racket coverings. This is because the method is not able to detect the real measurement of a rubber if the blade has been manipulated. ISR has been working on different projects for solving this problem but, as yet, there is not a suitable solution.

I would not like to finish this report without, publicly, giving thanks to Mr Odd Gustavsen for his tireless work for the ITTF during the last 30 years!!!

Also I would like to thank the ITTF staff for their support and efficiency.

**Federico Lineros**

# **MEDIA COMMITTEE**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document D2**

After the decision of the AGM held in 2012, the responsibilities of the Media Committee from 2013 included promotion and marketing matters, which have an influence on the coverage of table tennis.

In the terms of reference it is mentioned, that the Committee shall *“advise on all media matters and in all matters, including promotion and marketing, that have an influence on the coverage of table tennis across the full media spectrum.”*

The daily responsibility is now placed in the Marketing office in Singapore, and this move has been quite successful. The office under leadership of Steve Dainton has done a marvellous job. Our Promotion Manager, Matt Pound, and Kimberley Koh, TMS, have implemented a lot of new ideas on the website, Facebook and Twitter and integrated our work to get more media exposure and promotion at a high standard. The best rallies of an event and of the month, trick shots, review of events and the ITTF award show are some of the ideas implemented.

Contact with our fans is improving constantly. We had more than 80 000 people, who voted for player of the year. We can, in an hour, get into contact with more than 60 000 people through Facebook. Many videos on YouTube are seen by more than 1 million people per week. We are number 5 among IFs in the number of videos shown on YouTube.

Followers on Twitter: 9 000

Views on YouTube: 14 275 829 (just on ITTF's Channel) – 5<sup>th</sup> out of Olympic IF's

Subscribers on YouTube: 37 000 - 5<sup>th</sup> out of Olympic IF's

Facebook: 131 000 (as of 15 January 2014) - 5<sup>th</sup> out of Olympic IF's

### **World Championships in Paris**

General Conditions: the press centre, the mixed zone, the press conference room and the press stands were very close. As was done in Rotterdam, the photographers did not have access to the press tribunes to work and had to work in their dedicated area in the press centre. This was well accepted by them and worked well.

Accreditation: We checked each application for accreditation and decided whether or not to approve them to be accredited for the event. The French media accreditations were directly controlled by the OC. A strict policy was followed according to AIPS guidelines, so only websites where journalists are members of national or international journalist associations got accreditation. Press officers from associations as is the ITTF policy also gained accreditations.

Print media and websites: 40 domestic and 146 foreigners were approved. 54 did not show up.

Photographers: 26 domestic, 43 foreigners. 8 did not show up  
Electronic media: 100 domestic, 100 foreigners.  
393 media accreditations were granted, 166 from France, 97 from Japan, 45 from China and 13 from Germany.

Media Facilities: the media area provided tea, coffee, mineral water, sandwiches and salads for free during all the competition, which was well received.

#### Press Centre

- 120 positions equipped with LAN connections
- 4 computers with 2 printers were available for free to the journalists
- Special space for photographers with LAN connections: lockers were provided for everyone so they could safely store their cameras and equipment.
- Press centre was equipped with plasma TV's, which showed live results and the matches that were live on TV.

Scholarships: We received about 30 applications for the 3 scholarships for young journalists to attend the world championships. The winners were Andrea Jacobsen, Canada, Teo Kian Nguan, Singapore and Gonzalo Barak from Argentina.

**Media training:** During the world junior championships, our Promotion Manager trained the participants in how to deal with the media. It is an important object to educate our young players to deal with the media. The session was very successful and can hopefully be continued before big events like the Olympic Youth Games and future Youth championships.

**Awards evening:** The first table tennis awards driven by GAC motors was held during the World Tour Grand Finals of the GAC world series in Dubai and was a great success and looks likely to be well received by the athletes and the sponsors. It is a nice gesture, that the table tennis family can honour and celebrate the greatest moments of the year.

2013 has been an exciting table tennis year, but the next year will be even more exciting. Thanks to everybody, who has contributed to improve the promotion, media and sponsor work in the ITTF.

**Arne Madsen**

# NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document D3

### 1. MEETING

1.1 The Committee held two meetings during the 2013 WTTC in Paris as follows:-

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Date : 13.5.2013

Time : 1700

Present : Abdullah Al-Mulla, Valerie Murdoch, Nicole Coury, Sirje Lubi, Andreas Georgiou, Ivam Passos Vinhas, Chan Foong Keong, Walter Rönmark

In Attendance: Khaled El Salhy, Judit Farago, Alison Burchell

Absent : Monqid El Hajji

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

Date : 18.5.2013

Time : 1000

Present : Andreas Georgiou, Ivam Passos Vinhas, Chan Foong Keong, Valerie Murdoch

In Attendance: Khaled El Salhy, Alison Burchell

Absent : Monqid El Hajji, Sirje Lubi, Nicole Coury

### 2. REVIEW OF NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Members of the committee were requested to submit their views and proposals to improve the existing nomination procedures through correspondence.

The following members had contributed their views and proposals: Nicole Coury, Valerie Murdoch, Ivam Passos Vinhas, Chan Foong Keong

As a result of the discussions the committee had forwarded the following proposals for consideration by the Executive Committee:

#### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

**Eligibility:** Anyone is eligible if nominated by an affiliate in the prescribed form submitted before the deadline.

**Nomination Form:** The existing form is appropriate as it covers all information needed.

**Deadline:** All nominations should be submitted on or before the deadline. Nominations submitted after the deadline should not be accepted.

**Type of Committee:** Currently, there are various types of committee/commission/division whereby the members are appointed or elected as follows:-



- Junior commission = Affiliate nominated and continentally endorsed
- Normal committees = Affiliate nominated with continental representation
- Athletes Commission = Elected and appointed
- PTT Division = Continentally endorsed nomination with specialities
- Technical Commissioners = Appointed by Executive Committee
- Nomination Committee = Appointed by Executive Committee

**Vetting the nominations:**

**Timeline:**

The Nomination Committee should be given three months before the World Table Tennis Championships to vet the nominations, holding a meeting to discuss the final list of nominations at least four (4) days before the AGM or alternately, the AGM should be scheduled on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day of the WTTC.

**Nominees Assessment:** From the curriculum submitted by the candidates with emphasis on:

- relevant knowledge and experience on the work of the committee nominated
- table tennis involvement at national, regional and international levels

**Gender Representation:** In order to ensure 25% female representation, it is proposed enforce the following conditions in the nomination instructions:

- Affiliate with 1 nomination = to nominate either female or male
- Affiliate with 2 nominations = must nominate at least 1 female
- Affiliate with 3 nominations = must nominate at least 1 female
- Affiliates with 4 nominations = must nominate at least 2 female

This will ensure that there will be enough female candidates to be considered. Affiliates must ensure to nominate candidates with relevant technical knowledge and experience.

**Corresponding Member:** There are no existing terms of reference as to the role of the Corresponding Member and often there is also not much communication from the Chairperson to the Corresponding Members. It is normal that the most suitable Corresponding Member be nominated as Full Member should a vacancy exist. However, there is no specific rule enforcing this condition. It is proposed that proper terms of reference for Full and Corresponding Members be clearly established.

**Member Assessment:** Presently, only the Chairpersons comment on the performance of the relevant members to enable the Nomination Committee to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. If there is a need to have alternative comments, Executive Committee should decide who should be authorised to do so. There are no established criteria on what area the members should be assessed. When requested by the Nominations Committee, the Chairpersons will normally submit a brief report on the members whether he/she is satisfied with the performance of the respective members. A set of guidelines on members'

assessment should be established by the Executive Committee. A standard form for assessment should be designed for the Chairperson to submit their assessment.

**Assessment of Chairpersons:** The existing practice is for the Executive Committee to assess the performance of the Chairpersons. There are no guidelines as how the Chairperson be assessed by the Executive Committee

**Nominations Committee Interaction with Other Committee:** It had been proposed that the Nominations Committee could and should work closely with the various committees as follows:

- One member be assigned to work with one Chairperson to monitor the members' contributions.
- One member be assigned to attend the meeting of one committee

**List of Nominees:** The list of nominees should be published seven (7) days after the closing date.

#### **TIMING OF NOMINATIONS**

**Closing Date:** The closing date for nominations should be three months before the WTTC. Once established, the closing date should not be changed without the approval of the Executive Committee

**Change of Nominee:** Nominees cannot be changed after the closing date except with approval by Executive Committee.

#### **PROXY**

**Reason for Proxy:** Proxies should be allowed as some affiliates are not financially capable of attending the AGM. Most companies and corporations have proxy provisions for their AGM. An association which is not an affiliate yet cannot submit a proxy for the AGM but can vote once accepted as a member.

**Proxy Form:** The existing procedure is for the proxy to be submitted on the letterhead of the association. A standard form with standard instructions will make it easy for affiliates to submit their proxy.

**Authority for Proxy:** Presently, the proxy must be signed by the President of the association. There is no sure way to prove that the signature is authentic unless ITTF can obtain in advance signature of all presidents of all affiliates. A proxy should be submitted by the affiliate concerned and not by 3<sup>rd</sup>. party.

**Postal Vote:** There are two schools of thought as follows:

- Postal vote should not be allowed as there is already provision for proxy vote.

- Postal vote can be considered as this will eliminate the problems faced by proxy vote like genuine signature, etc.
- Postal vote is practised by many countries for their general elections.

## **ELECTIONS**

**Manifesto:** all candidates should submit manifesto in order that the affiliates can assess their credentials.

**AGM Timing:** Presently, the AGM is held three days after the commencement of the WTTC. There is view that the delegate will only attend the AGM and leave without witnessing the rest of the matches. There is suggestion to hold the AGM on the last day of the WTTC. There is also view that the delegate may only come on the last day. Between the two options, I feel that the first option is better as some delegates may come together with the team members by settling the financial matters and leave after the AGM.

**List of AGM Delegates:** The list of delegates attending the AGM should be published as and when received by ITTF. However, there will be some changes as normally change of delegate can be accepted 3 days before the AGM. It is proposed that the submission of AGM delegates be maintained as 3 days before the AGM. Any person can be a delegate as long as nominated by an affiliate according to the established procedures.

**Committee Member Nominees – Code of Conduct:** the nominees should sign a code of conduct and submit together with their nominations. A standard Code of Conduct has to be established in order to implement this condition.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

**Assessment of Committee Nominations and Proxy:** From past experience the Nominations Committee has always been pressed for time to hold meeting to assess the nominations and proxy before the AGM. As stated above, it is proposed that either the Nominations Committee hold its meeting earlier or the AGM to be convened later.

### **Distribution of Responsibilities:**

- The Chairperson be responsible to:
  - prepare full lists of nominations according to affiliates, gender and continents
  - obtain and prepare list of meeting attendance of all members for the last four terms
  - obtain assessment/report from chairpersons for their members
  - obtain views and suggestions from chairpersons on possible candidates for their committees.
  - obtain CV of all nominees
  - obtain full list of proxy
- The members be responsible to:
  - assess the eligibility and capability of the nominees based on the CV

- evaluate the legality and acceptance of the proxy votes
- provide view and suggestion on nomination of candidates

**Executive Committee Cum Board of Directors' member:** There is no existing condition that an EC cannot be a BoD. It is suggested to establish condition that EC and BoD should be different person.

**Chan Foong Keong**

# **PARA TABLE TENNIS DIVISION**

## **REPORT TO THE AGM**

## **DOCUMENT D4**

At the AGM in Paris May 2013, the third Para Table Tennis Division was elected. I was appointed the new Chairperson.

In August 2013, the Vice-Chairperson, Director (Operations and PTT) and I had the first meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark and later on in October 2013 in Lignano, Italy we had a meeting with the whole Division. During the meeting in Copenhagen, we had a site inspection in Vejle, Denmark for the Para TT European Championships in 2015 for which Denmark had applied. Later on in Lignano, the championship was allocated to Denmark. Other continental championships will be allocated in due course.

The work in Para TT Division can be seen as two different areas – and in many ways very different areas.

The first one is the political area. Integration is, of course, still a great challenge and will be for many years. We have to continue this work and to push the national federations to go on with the integration process and, of course, we also have to hold on to the ideas behind the decisions about integration internally. Inside ITTF we also have the debate once in a while. We have to continue the work, especially in the regions and to push the continents to support the PTT regional representatives in their work.

In November 2013, the International Paralympic Committee) had its quadrennial General Assembly. The Executive Vice-President (Finance) Petra Sörling and the Director (Operations and PTT) took part in the Assembly. The communication and political work with IPC is also a very important area both in connection with integration and also get as much influence as possible to create the best conditions for table tennis e.g. in connection with the Paralympic Games.

The second area but not second in priority is the sport itself. Besides the normal tasks such as appointing officers for competitions, supporting organisers and all other things that have to do with the sport and the events, we have discussed the rating system and how to develop that.

At this point we have a fine website but in the future we also have to think about development of that and possibly integrating it into the ITTF website.

For me, the appointment as Chairperson and all the challenges we have ahead of us is one of the most exciting tasks I have ever accepted and I am looking very much forward to the next years' of work in the Division.

I would like to express my thanks to the people who believed in me. Thanks to the former chairperson, Øivind Eriksen, for giving me good advice. Thanks to all members of the Para TT Division. Last but not least, thanks to Nico Verspeelt and the Director (Operations and PTT) who have taken on the hard job to teach me as much as possible about Para TT. Without your support it would have been much more difficult for me. It is really a pleasure for me to work with you all.

**Dorte Darfelt**

# RULES COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document D5

Main tasks of the ITTF Rules Committee in the season 2013-2014 were:

**Enquires/interpretations on Rules:** The Rules Committee had to reply to more than 250 questions and enquires about table tennis laws and regulations. The majority of questions affected eligibility rules and the service rule. We noted a significantly reduced amount of questions regarding equipment regulations.

**Propositions to the AGM and Board of Directors Meeting 2014:** The Rules Committee again provided written explanations and comments on propositions and resolutions to the AGM and BoD 2014. Furthermore we are presenting some propositions in order to improve consistency of existing rules.

**Committee Structure:** We welcome the former Committee members Professor Azmy Ibrahim (USA) and Mr Nabil Almamoon (Egypt) as Special Advisors to the Rules Committee.

With great sadness we were informed that one of the most active advisors of the Rules Committee, Mr Hans Giesecke, passed away in late December 2013. He and his invaluable services will sadly be missed.

**The Service Rule:** Since early 2013, some initiatives asking for the “service in front of the body” started. As a consequence we can be positive we will reach the best possible solution for a table tennis service rule soon.

**Review of the ITTF Handbook:** The Committee is continuously trying to correct inconsistencies of our rules by preparing related propositions to the AGM and the Board of Directors or by editorial amendments.

**ITTF Ranking Default Policy:** The Chair participated in the Ranking Default Policy (RDP) Panel dealing with default cases at all ITTF sanctioned events including Continental Championships based on reports of responsible ITTF competition managers.

**Meetings:** As usual, two meetings of the Rules Committee were scheduled during the World Individual Championships 2013 in Paris. At the first, propositions for the AGM and the BoD meeting were finally discussed; at the second, decisions taken at these meetings were considered and a possible wording for new rules was proposed. Almost all full Committee members participated in our meetings and we were pleased to welcome a number of important guests as well.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Rules Committee members for their appreciated contributions. My special thanks go to the Deputy Chair, Phil Males, who assisted in managing the Committee in a most efficient way, whenever I was not available.

I also express my sincere thanks to the ITTF Executive Vice-President Cherif Hajem, to Alison Burchell as ITTF staff member, the members of the President's Advisory Council, to my colleagues, the Chairpersons of the Athletes Commission, the Umpires' and Referees' Committee and the Equipment Committee, for their appreciated support.

**Rudi Sporrer**



# SPORTS SCIENCE AND MEDICAL COMMITTEE

## Report to the AGM

## Document D6

In May 2013, the ITTF elected a new chairperson. Due of this change, some activities have been led in a different way than before. Nevertheless during last 6 months Sports Science and Medical Committee (SSMC) has provided some activities, which are improving the role of our committee.

Since the AGM, some activities have been accomplished.

1. During WTTC in Paris the chairperson had two meetings with representatives of Double Happiness and Double Fish. The SSMC asked both companies to provide each member around 200 new plastic balls for further testing. Unfortunately one can find some results on testing of new balls, but there is no official statement that those measurements have been done with official balls. We hope that we will be able to get those balls as soon as possible.
2. Because ITTF web site has moved to a new server we did not start with our new project: "presentation of scientific papers in important scientific journals". Even though our project has been slowed down, we have started to present these papers on the old site. With the IT consultant, we agreed to proceed with the project as soon as all ITTF materials are copied to the new server. Until then you can find announcements at: [http://www.ittf.com/front\\_page/ittf4.asp?category=science](http://www.ittf.com/front_page/ittf4.asp?category=science)
3. We received a request from medical student conducting a review of the safety of pregnant women participating in sports. She sent a questionnaire to the governing bodies of all Olympic sports. Members of SSMC filled out this questionnaire and we await her final report.
4. We also received a request from the Rio 2016 Operations Manager in the medical services department to send information to assist them to align their services with our expectations and with the medical regulations within ITTF. A document was been prepared by members of SSMC (Miran Kondrič, Jean-François Kahn and Shiro Matsuo) and the Director: Operations & Para TT.
5. During WTTC in Paris, several meetings were held with representatives from China regarding our next science congress, which should be organised during WTTC in Suzhou in 2015. SSMC member Zhang Xiaopeng has been asked to get in contact with Suzhou University. There are two possibilities to organize the congress:
  - a. the 14<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science congress – possible dates are 24 and 25 April 2015.
  - b. the 5<sup>th</sup> Racquet Sports Congress together with 14<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science congress – possible dates are 23 to 25 April 2015.The decision is up to the Suzhou University and Zhang Xiaopeng is the main coordinator between SSMC and university.
6. SSMC member Jean-François Kahn is in charge of preparing the final proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress which was organised in Paris in May 2013. All papers have been reviewed and at the present time we are just waiting for final corrections. Proceedings will be published on ITTF web site by the end of the year.

7. The number of the samples collected in the fight against doping by the ITTF as the testing authority was 177. ICT (in-competition testing) was 154 and OOCT (out-of-competition testing) was 23. Prohibited substances were detected in two samples (same player) and sanctions were imposed on him. In addition to this, there were four missed tests.

Tasks to be completed by April 2014:

- Publication of the journal International Journal of Table Tennis Sciences No.8.
- Searching for the tool to prepare a database for scientific papers and scientists in table tennis.
- Updating the database of scientific papers, which have been published in different scientific journals.
- Updating the database of scientists who are working in the field of table tennis.
- Preparation of scientific meeting, which will be held before WTTC in Tokyo.
- Activities and announcement of the 14<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress in Suzhou.
- Other activities.

**Miran Kondrič**

# **TECHNICAL COMMISSIONER**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document D7**

This is the first report of the Technical Commissioner following the dissolution of Technical Committee. Accordingly it only covers the period since last year's AGM. The mandate of the Technical Commissioner includes:

- liaise with the Competition Program and advise the BoD on the organisation of World Title competitions and to make recommendations of the system of play;
- assist the Competition Program and referee with the World Championships draw;
- advise on the playing schedule for the World Championships if necessary;
- act as the chair of the jury at World Championships;
- work closely with the Competition Program to achieve the above objectives;
- provide technical expertise and guidance to the Equipment and Rules Committees, URC, PTT Division and professional staff;

These responsibilities are handled in close cooperation with the Competition Program.

In 2013, my main role was to assist the Competition Department on playing format, schedules, and general enquiries relating to technical rules for all major events. These included World Cups, Europe Cup, World Championships, World Junior Championships, Youth Olympic Games and Global Junior Circuit finals. I have also provided expertise and assistance as required to other Committees, mainly to URC, and ITTF staff whenever requested. I am also available to liaise with the continental representatives on technical issues related to continental events to align them more closely to ITTF's events.

**Graeme Ireland**

# UMPIRES' AND REFEREES' COMMITTEE

## REPORT TO THE AGM

## DOCUMENT D8

**Standardised procedures for Competition Managers (CM) and Referees:** the procedures on field of Play (FoP), communication before, during and after the competition, conducting draws, assigning playing tables, results and results management was completed and is available on the ITTF website.

**Meeting with CM:** the first meeting was held between Karl Jindrak (Director: Competitions) and Deputy Chair Werner Thury in September 2013 and quarterly meetings will be held to discuss on the organisation of previous events, identifying issues that need improvement or good practices for implementation.

**Communication with Referees:** various means to help standardise procedures are used including:

- quarterly newsletters have been sent via email to communicate with Referees worldwide in a new initiative by URC.
- a Referees' Facebook page has been created (ITTF URC and Referees) where referees are invited to discuss specific cases and FAQs as well as a tool for them to communicate and their share experiences.
- a "Referee Tool Box" on the website which contains all documents and information necessary for referees (match officials' briefing, racket control directives and requirements, referee checklist and report, umpires briefing) which will be evaluated and updated during the year.
- Referee reports are collected, analysed and if necessary follow up actions are implemented with the relevant agencies i.e. CM or referees with lessons learnt being shared with the referees through Facebook and at future IR Conferences.
- Workflow on call area and racket control centre (RCC) with a detailed description on each stage with various scenarios is available on the website.

**Referee Career Development:** a document outlining the career development process for referees, including the criteria to maintain an 'Active' status as well as pre-requisites for each level is available on the website.

**Evaluation for referees:** The group of referees in the Advanced Referee Project (ARP) has already developed a set of criteria to evaluate referees during tournaments. By the end of January 2014, all but one of the ten ARP referees will have been evaluated by the Expert Referee Group using these new criteria. These referees and experts will meet in Copenhagen in March 2014 to consider special topics, a review of the evaluation criteria, an examination, and interviews of the candidates.

**Young Umpires' Project (YUP):** The main target of the YUP is to engage aspiring young officials under 26 years of age world-wide to qualify as umpires for the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing in 2014 through an online educational project. The URC together with Education and Training Program has successfully conducted the YUP for 55 umpires from 30 countries. Special thanks to our two course conductors Michael Geiger (Germany) and Jonathan Whitaker (Scotland). Twelve candidates were selected for Nanjing YOG.

With the success of YUP for the world, this was implemented for China targeting English speaking umpires to train and prepare them for the Nanjing YOG. Some of the English speaking umpires also joined the program to train them to international level. There were 77 candidates from China and 1 from Ivory Coast for this program. The two course conductors were CK Chan (Hong Kong) and Joseph Lau (Singapore).

**Recruiting new Evaluators:** the URC invited National Associations to nominate candidates to become evaluators for the Blue Badge Programme receiving 30 nominations from 18 countries. Eight new evaluators have been appointed viz. Katja Brand (Switzerland), Predrag Colovic (Macedonia), Michael Geiger (Germany), Harald Schaffhauser (Sweden), Zhang Yingqiu (China), Christian David (France), Wolfgang Wulz (Austria) and Chim Mei Fan (Hong Kong).

**Umpire training video:** in collaboration with Beijing Sports University, the URC has produced an umpire training video which shows the roles and responsibilities of umpires, the procedures for the FoP, racket control, illegal services, hand signals and PTT. This video was used for the online training for the YUP. While in English, each National Association will be given a copy of the video to be dubbed into their national language.

**Hand Signals for illegal services:** the URC also developed a set of hand signals to show various illegal services committed by the players. These hand signals will be easily understood by players, coaches and spectators so as to eliminate any controversies related to players being faulted. The video of the hand signals has been circulated to the members of the Rules Committee and Athletes' Commission for comment and feedback.

**AUT courses:** the URC conducted 6 AUT courses for 92 participants

**Evaluations:** there were 559 evaluations over 6 events for 265 umpires and a total of 22 new Blue Badge umpires qualified.

**IR School:** 1 IR School was organised in USA where 5 of 8 participants qualified.

**The Way Ahead:** the URC will continue to work towards improving the standards of our officials. We will review our IR School contents and enhance our teaching by producing a referee training video as well as review the way we conduct our AUT course to include in more practical sessions and best practices.

**Acknowledgement:** I wish to thank my fellow members of the URC for their support and contribution, the Special Advisors for their guidance, ITTF staff for providing background information and her assistance in coordinating with the Associations, organisers and other agencies for the successful hosting of tournaments.

**Ronald Wee**

# OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION

## REPORT TO THE AGM

## DOCUMENT D9

Following the successful completion of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in London, all indications were that the table tennis event had exceeded expectations. This has set the bar fairly high for Rio 2016 as they prepare for the next edition and the OPC starts the cycle once again.

Two representatives of Rio 2016 attended the 2013 World Championships held in Paris in order to acquaint themselves with an event as important in the ITTF calendar as the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The comparative size of the events and the organisational structure are different but the basic concept of the event layout is the same. The representatives, the Head of Sport Competition (Rodrigo Garcia) and the Table Tennis Manager (Edimilson Pinheiro), attended their first meeting of the OPC and presented the initial plans and report on progress made. Some important information noted and approved was:

- San Ei will provide the tables, Tinsue the floor and Double Happiness the balls.
- The venue layout proposed was not feasible as the line of sight for spectators would be inhibited and the number of seats significantly reduced.
- Rio 2016 and ITTF will support the process of training of NTOs and, where possible, ITOs.
- The competition venue in Barra is adjacent to the Village.
- Discussions about test events for both Games are underway.

At the meeting held In Dubai in January 2014, the Rio representative was unfortunately unable to attend but the venue layout proposed is now for a rectangular bowl allowing more seats to be sold and for all spectators to have a good view of the field of play. The OPC, in the knowledge that the proposal to include the mixed doubles had not been accepted by the IOC, discussed the format of play, qualification guide, order of events and decided as follows:

- There will be 1 team guaranteed per continent.
- Qualification will be via the continental qualification events supported by allocations from the ranking list.
- The team event would be played first in groups of 4 and, if not possible, in groups of 3 in the Olympic system format.
- As in 2012, 4 tables will be used.
- P accreditations, used till now only for a replacement on medical grounds, can be used by NOCs in an unrestricted way.

The implications of the change in the format of play, if groups of 4 are accepted, is that the team event will take 7 days (2012: 6 days) with 32 matches (2012: 16).

The qualification guide for the 2016 Paralympic Games was approved by the International Paralympic Committee and was published at the end of January 2014. Few changes to the

systems implemented in 2012 have been made but the doubles will be the first match in the team event followed by 1 or 2 singles matches as required and there will be a maximum of 3 players in a team. The IPC has confirmed that only players who compete in the team event will be eligible for a medal and that there will be a bronze medal play-off.

The OPC also oversees the Youth Olympic Games which are scheduled for August 2014. The “Road to Nanjing 2013 Series” has been developed providing an additional 6 months in 2013 for players to qualify which has been a successful innovation as numbers of participants have increased. The best players from the RtNs2013 competed at the YOG World Qualification for the first places to be secured for Nanjing. The February 2014 ranking list, the RtN 2014 Series and the continental qualification events provide a wide range of possibilities to qualify for the YOG. The Organisers used the Asian Games to run a full test event in August 2013. The IOC and Organisers have agreed to have the event over 7 days using 4 tables which allows greater focus on the players over a longer period of time. DHS will provide the tables and balls and Tinsue the floor. The OPC also decided that the current celluloid ball would be used in the Youth Olympic Games and not the new plastic ball.

As with the Youth Olympic Games held in 2010, the URC and Education and Training Program ran an online education course for young umpires. The number of candidates reduced significantly from 2010 where 185 candidates registered from 54 countries to 55 from 30 countries. All 55 candidates took the course with 2 mentors and did an online exam over 70 minutes. The final recommendation for 12 to be selected was based on exam results balanced with geography and gender and these were announced on 20 January 2014. As a result of this process, the URC and other committees doing training are being encouraged to consider moving training online wherever possible noting that practical assessments will still remain a necessary part of the qualification process.

Appointments have been made as follows:

- 2014 Youth Olympic Games Event Delegate: Raúl Calín
- 2014 Youth Olympic Games Referee: Kirill Mazaev and deputy Silvia Garro
- 2016 Olympic Games Technical Delegates: Graeme Ireland and Richard Scruton
- 2016 Paralympic Games Technical Delegate: Georgios Seliniotakis

**Alison Burchell and Raúl Calín**



2/3 majority required

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b><u>Proposed by the Athletes' Commission</u></b></p> <p><i>To amend 1.5.3.1:</i></p> <p>1.5.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President and 8 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be nominated by the President as Deputy President and another one shall be responsible for finance; the Chair of the Athletes' Commission, <del>or his or her appointee</del>, shall be an <del>ex officio</del> member of the Executive Committee with <u>a no vote and should an appointee of the Athletes' Commission attend, he or she shall have no vote at Executive Committee meetings.</u></p> <p>Effective date: 5 May 2014</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p>As part of this process, the AGM will receive the list of candidates and approve that one will become the chair of the Athletes' Commission and therefore a member of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>We have witnessed that athletes are very passionate individuals, whose ultimate goal is only for the betterment of the sport. Without having a voice in all decision-making bodies, no organisation can make most educated decisions without hearing the athletes' point of view. If we are to have just one athlete on the Executive Committee with full voting rights, he or she will still be a very small minority in voting power. However that person will be able to offer invaluable information, knowledge, and experience to the group.</p> <p>In the majority of International Federations representing Olympic sports, the Athletes Commission's representative is required to have voting rights at the highest level of governance. Some have percentage mandates where at least 20% of all committee members must be athletes. Although we are not asking for this percentage, by just having one full voting spot on the Executive Committee would be very meaningful to the athletes. Additionally, doing so would bring the ITTF in line with the International Olympic Committee and other successful International Federations. The ITTF has an active and well-functioning Athletes Commission; by gaining EC voting rights we will promote that the ITTF and AC are jointly tackling the issues that table tennis faces together.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b><u>Proposed by the Executive Committee</u></b></p> <p><i>To add to 1.19.4.1.1 under AGM procedure:</i></p> <p>1.19.4.1.1 the appointment of a Chair:</p> <p><u>1.19.4.1.1.1 who shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the AGM;</u></p> <p><u>1.19.4.1.1.2 whose term of office shall coincide with that of the Executive Committee;</u></p> <p><u>1.19.4.1.1.3 who may be re-elected.</u></p> <p>Effective date: 1 September 2014 (exceptionally for the first mandate)</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p>Based on the request made prior to the 2013 EC elections in Paris that the Chair of the AGM should be impartial and not the ITTF president, it would be a positive step to establish the new position of Chair, without voting powers, elected by the AGM upon nomination by the EC.</p>

	<p>The newly elected position of chair should be established with the responsibility of chairing the AGM, without voting rights, and reviewing the Constitution. The nomination shall be made at the AGM immediately after the confirmation in office of the newly elected Executive Committee during election years. The Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the AGM.</li> <li>• shall serve until the next election year, inclusive, and may be nominated for re-election.</li> <li>• may be assigned additional responsibilities by the President from time to time.</li> </ul>
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### 3/4 majority required

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p>2.5 DEFINITIONS  <i>To delete the current 2.5.14 and re-number 2.5.15 as 2.5.14:</i>  2.5.14 <del>The ball shall be regarded as passing over or around the net assembly if it passes anywhere other than between the net and the net post or between the net and the playing surface.</del></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  The purpose of the proposed change is to simplify and make clearer the wording of the Laws. The change is purely editorial, and there is no change to the principles of the Laws.</p>
<p><b>4a</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.2:</i>  2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least <u>30</u> 46cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  <u>The 2 parts of the proposition intend to implement a higher toss of the ball during services and to keep the palm open during projection.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 16 cm (height of the net, diameter of a racket) are very difficult to judge for the umpires: because of the speed of execution of the service it is nearly impossible to use the net or racket as a reference.</li> <li>It often happens that the ball leaves the palm visible 16cm for the umpire but only 6 to 10 cm for the receiver because it is normal that a hand projecting the ball will not stop abruptly and its fingers may hide the ball to the receiver for a more or less big part of the 16 cm. The receiver has little chance to prepare.</li> <li>The past decade has shown the service being a major factor of winning but also services with a higher toss being the same dangerous. Higher-toss services at least give the receiver a fair chance of observation and anticipation and reduce considerably the degree of stupefaction for the receiver, the umpire and the spectator.</li> <li>The minimum height of projection from the palm easily allows backhand service and does not adversely affect not so tall (young) players.</li> <li>For players in a wheelchair or physically disabled standing players who may not be able to project the ball 30 cm upwards, law 2.6.7 is applicable (“the umpire may relax the requirements for a correct service”).</li> <li>Fortunately many umpires are requesting that the player’s free hand remains open (with a certain degree of tolerance about the precise curvature of the server’s hand according to HMO 10.2.1) also during the projection of the ball upwards, but this is not part of the service-law. Presently the palm only needs to be open for the start of the service (law 2.6.1).</li> </ol>

4b	<p><b>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.2:</i></p> <p>2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least <u>30</u> or 16cm after leaving the <u>open</u> palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  <u>The 2 parts of the proposition intend to implement a higher toss of the ball during services and to keep the palm open during projection.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The 16 cm (height of the net, diameter of a racket) are very difficult to judge for the umpires: because of the speed of execution of the service it is nearly impossible to use the net or racket as a reference.</li> <li>b) It often happens that the ball leaves the palm visible 16cm for the umpire but only 6 to 10 cm for the receiver because it is normal that a hand projecting the ball will not stop abruptly and its fingers may hide the ball to the receiver for a more or less big part of the 16 cm. The receiver has little chance to prepare.</li> <li>c) The past decade has shown the service being a major factor of winning but also services with a higher toss being the same dangerous. Higher-toss services at least give the receiver a fair chance of observation and anticipation and reduce considerably the degree of stupefaction for the receiver, the umpire and the spectator.</li> <li>d) The minimum height of projection from the palm easily allows backhand service and does not adversely affect not so tall (young) players.</li> <li>e) For players in a wheelchair or physically disabled standing players who may not be able to project the ball 30 cm upwards, law 2.6.7 is applicable (“the umpire may relax the requirements for a correct service”).</li> <li>f) Fortunately many umpires are requesting that the player’s free hand remains open (with a certain degree of tolerance about the precise curvature of the server’s hand according to HMO 10.2.1) also during the projection of the ball upwards, but this is not part of the service-law. Presently the palm only needs to be open for the start of the service (law 2.6.1).</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.3:</i></p> <p>THE SERVICE:</p> <p>2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his or her court and then <del>after passing over or around the net assembly,</del> touches directly the receiver’s court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  The purpose of the proposed change is to simplify and make clearer the wording of the Laws. The change is purely editorial, and there is no change to the principles of the Laws.</p>
6	<p><b>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.4:</i></p> <p>2.6.4 <del>From the start of service</del> <u>While it is projected upwards</u> until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his or her doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.</p>

	<p><i>Rationale:</i> Many players show the ball very nicely on the open palm, but over the table, i.e. before the server's end line. They move the ball horizontally backwards behind the server's end line and then project it upwards near vertically. Too often such service is considered as illegal because there was "no visible stop between the nearly horizontal and nearly vertical part of the movement". <u>This proposition shall maintain the intention of the law and make clear that the ball needs to be behind the server's table end line but only during its upwards projection.</u> Starting the upwards projection over the table will remain illegal.</p>
7	<p><b><u>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</u></b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.4:</i> 2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver <u>nor from the umpire and assistant umpire</u> by the server or his or her doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Since more than a decade ITTF requires that "the ball shall not be hidden to the receiver", and knows that the present rule cannot be applied. It is not a matter of education, awareness or quality of umpires, but of laws of physics: According to our service-law, the umpire should take the position of the net posts while in reality he or she observes from meters behind, and the other references, the player and the ball, are moving ones. Calling fault or not in such a situation of triple parallax includes necessarily a high percentage of guessing: the ball may be hidden by the server's head or shoulder or not, in most of the cases umpires cannot be sure. As a logical consequence, such calls are very rare and regularly result in fights with the players, and many, many services remain illegal. It also happens that receivers tell the umpire who dared to fault a service: "I have seen the ball". The only solution is that <u>both match officials shall see the ball (matter of fact); in other words only services "in front" of the server will be acceptable.</u> [If The AGM finally accepts this major but necessary change, the HMO shall advise how the visibility of the ball to the umpires shall be understood, and ITTF needs to decide a distance "umpire-net" that is nearly the same for all playing areas).</p>
8	<p><b><u>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</u></b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.5 (if 7 above is accepted):</i> 2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net. The space between the ball and the net is defined by the ball, the net <u>including its extension to the umpires</u> and its indefinite upward extension.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The net shall also be extended sideward until to the umpires and not only upward, so that 2.6.5 complies with a changed 2.6.4.</p>
9	<p><b><u>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</u></b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.6.5:</i> 2.6.5 As soon as the ball <u>starts falling</u> <del>has been projected</del>, the server's free arm and hand shall be <u>completely off</u> <del>removed from</del> the space between the ball and the net.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> As arm and hand projecting a ball naturally follow the ball during the first part of its raise, "as soon as" is difficult to determine and to handle; in case of a low toss the ball is normally not visible 16cm for the receiver.</p> <p>The second part "shall be removed" can be interpreted as a result or as an action: more and more</p>

	<p>players start to remove the arm "as soon as" but the remove only ends just before they hit the ball. We shall have a clear non-ambiguous wording that responds to the intention of the law.</p>
10	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.7.1:</i>  THE RETURN  2.7.1 The ball, having been served or returned, shall be struck so that it <del>passes over or around the net assembly</del> and touches the opponent's court, either directly or after touching the net assembly.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  The purpose of the proposed change is to simplify and make clearer the wording of the Laws. The change is purely editorial, and there is no change to the principles of the Laws.</p>
11	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.9.1.1:</i>  The rally shall be a let.....  2.9.1.1 if in service the ball <del>in passing over or around the net assembly</del>, touches <u>it the net assembly</u>, provided the service is otherwise correct or the ball is obstructed by the receiver or his or her partner;</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  The purpose of the proposed change is to simplify and make clearer the wording of the Laws. The change is purely editorial, and there is no change to the principles of the Laws.</p>
12	<p><b>Proposed by the Rules Committee</b></p> <p><i>To add a new paragraph 2.10.1.5 and re-number the current 2.10.1.5 to 2.10.1.14 as 2.10.1.6 to 2.10.1.15 as a consequence:</i></p> <p>Unless the rally is a let, a player shall score a point.....  <u>2.10.1.5 if the ball, after being struck by an opponent, passes between the net mesh or between the net and the net post or between the net and the playing surface;</u></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  The purpose of the proposed change is to simplify and make clearer the wording of the Laws. The change is purely editorial, and there is no change to the principles of the Laws.</p>
13	<p><b>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p><i>To amend 2.10.1.8:</i>  Unless the rally is a let, a player shall score a point.....  2.10.1.8 if an opponent, or anything an opponent wears or carries, displaces the table or a table half or lifts its table top <del>moves the playing surface;</del></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  When the rule "moves the table surface" was written 50 years ago, tables were made of a one-piece rigid undercarriage without wheels and hinges and a one-piece tabletop often lying loosely on the undercarriage: after the surface was moved it remained in a different position. We now have <u>tables</u> whose rigidity is in-between a defined tolerance, and players who touch them <u>may easily move their</u></p>

surface which comes back to its original position: the reasonable umpires do not call fault despite of the formulation of the rule. If a player however displaces the table, or lifts its tabletop (what normally also moves the net), it shall continue being a fault.

## Resolution to the AGM

### Simple majority required

#### **Proposed by Chinese Table Tennis Association**

That the ITTF will support and encourage ball suppliers and national associations to invest in the research on coloured balls (balls that of two or more colours), to see if current white/orange balls can be replaced.

*Rationale:* What makes table tennis different from other net ball games is its various spins. However, such spins are often invisible to the eyes of audience, as well as the TV camera. This has prevented table tennis from developing into a popular spectator sport. Coloured balls, compared to single-color ones, can make the spins much easier to spot, which will bring the following merits:

#### **From the perspective of spectators**

Once the audience can see the diverse spins of the balls, they will begin to grasp the real charm of table tennis, and learn to appreciate the difference of TT from other ball games. Colored balls not only show the spins clearly, but have stronger visual impact. Such changes will inject more excitement to TT, which help to make TT a more popular and enjoyable spectator sport.

#### **From the perspective of TV crew**

The movement of colored balls will be distinct in broadcasting, especially in slow motion replay. This gives TV commentators and other technical staff more tangible material to do analysis, as more statistics can be generated, including the speed of ball, speed of spin, the trace of ball, and etc. Such data can also provide spectators with more information, and make TT a more professional sport.

The CTTA and the DHS company have already launched some research on coloured balls. Tests find that balls which are half white and half orange joined by a 1mm-wide black line on the equator are well-received by spectators, umpires, as well as the players. This may serve as a reference for future studies. A picture of such coloured ball is shown below.



The CTTA and the DHS company also organised a game in which coloured balls were played. Such initiative was applauded by spectators on site and the TV crew.



# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

**A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday 2 May 2014 at 09h00 in the Zuiko Room, Pamir Conference Centre, Takanawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo, Japan**

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening address
2. Roll call and welcome of new members
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the BoD held on 17 May 2013 in Paris, France
4. Change in members of the Board of Directors
5. Annual reports from commissions and working groups:
  - 5.1 Athletes' Commission (document G1)
  - 5.2 Junior Commission (document G2)
  - 5.3 Veterans' Committee (document G3)
  - 5.4 Women's in Sport Commissioner (document G4)
6. Propositions and resolutions (document H)
7. World Junior Championships
  - 7.1 World Junior Championships 2014 (China)
  - 7.2 World Junior Championships 2015 (France)
  - 7.3 World Junior Championships 2016
8. Global Junior Programme
  - 8.1 2014 World Cadet Challenge presentation
  - 8.2 Update on Global Junior Circuit and Finals
  - 8.3 Youth Olympic Games
9. World Title Events and World Tour update
10. Updates of technical leaflets
11. Special appointments
12. Ratification of the work done by the committees, commissions and working groups
13. Next meeting: to be held in Suzhou in May 2015
14. Any other business
15. Adjournment

# ATHLETES' COMMISSION

## Report to the BoD

## Document G1

### 1. Meeting with the URC and Rules Committee Members

At the end of the WC in Paris, a meeting with the URC and Rules Committee members was held. Together we decided to ask the Executive Committee for testing the following in a special event:

- a) The service that is more visible to the opponent/opponents and the umpires (to modify item 2.6.5 in the ITTF Handbook).
- b) If the ball touches the net during an otherwise correct service, "Let" shall not be called.
- c) The proposal of the Chinese TT Federation to play with more than one ball, taken at random by the umpire (to modify the item 3.4.2.1.1.).

All proposals were discussed at the EC meeting in Lausanne in September 2013.

### 2. Para TT

Players were very pleased to be included in the Star Awards.

The next Players' Committee elections will be held this year.

In some countries, the integration is still a problem. The players often face enormous difficulties when some National Federations just do not do enough for them.

The players are still not happy with the rating system in the world ranking. However, the Para Division is seriously considering to make some changes.

### 3. Rubbers Test

We have received test rubbers that are thicker than 4.0 mm. Mostly European players tested Butterfly Tenergy 4.25, 4.50, 4.75, 5.0mm thick, and Double Happiness Hurricane (same thickness as the Tenergy).

The additional rubber thickness contributes to the increase in speed and to better control. Some players commented that already at 4.50mm, you cannot feel the blade and that the use of booster does not make sense as the rubber is already very fast. After 4.25mm there is not much acceleration when you use more power. The 4.75 and 5.00mm thick rubbers are worse than 4.25 and 4.50mm - very heavy (the difference of up to 10g per rubber, comparing to the rubbers under 4.0mm thick), no acceleration.

### 4. Plastic Balls with Seam Test

Players gave mostly positive comments; still, the difference between plastic balls with seam and without seam is huge. It is important to make sure that ITTF tournaments are played only with a top quality balls, and to decide in advance which balls (with or without seam) will be used in ITTF tournaments. So far, the balls with seam have received much better reviews than the balls without seam - better quality, more similar to the celluloid balls.



## **5. World Ranking System Proposal**

Proposals to increase Bonus points and decrease points for a loss were submitted to the EC.

## **6. Proposal for the Future World Tour Super Series**

Proposal for the Future World Tour Super Series was submitted to the EC.

## **7. World Tour Series Prize Money Allocation**

After many complaints, we propose to stop prize money deductions of 30% from the future World Tour Events.

## **8. ETTU Athletes' Commission Elections**

During the European Championships 2013 and the Para European Championships 2013, the first ETTU Athletes' Commission was elected. Petr Korbel will serve as chairperson. We hope that other continents will follow Europe.

**Vladimir Samsonov**

# **JUNIOR COMMISSION**

## **Report to the BOD**

## **Document G2**

### **World Junior Championships**

The Moroccan Table Tennis Association, with assistance from the African Table Tennis Federation, hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> World Junior Championships in Rabat, Morocco. With the continued leadership of Raúl Calín working with the organising team it was a success. There were some bumps along the road but there were lessons learned and the ITTF should be confident that future events in Morocco would be at a world-class standard. The most memorable moment was after the end of the award ceremony both singles champions were carried around the stadium in victory with great Moroccan flair! These champions will never forget this moment!

### **World Junior Circuit**

2013 was another strong year for the ITTF Global Junior Circuit. Again, 30 events were organised and the number Associations sending players increased to 105. There is continued commitment from associations organising events but we will try actively to expand in new markets like North America.

We are working on the details to enable ITTF HotSpot Centers to enter teams into Junior Circuit events through their member associations. This will drive additional participation in Junior Circuit events and also will stimulate activity at the HotSpots as well.

### **World Cadet Challenge**

The Slovenian Table Tennis Association and the Local Organising Committee stepped up on short notice to host a great event in Otocec. The organisation was excellent, the hall and the hotels were next door and the hospitality was the best!

The Junior Commission proposes to keep the 8 team format as before but the Hopes Team be limited to players under 13 years old for future competitions.

### **Junior Circuit Finals**

Recently held in Vilanova de Gaia, Portugal with 32 players from 18 countries. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time Portugal has hosted the Junior Circuit Finals. The first time was back in 2004. Reports I have received say the organisation was very good and positive feedback from the participants and coaches as well. Bravo!

### **Hopes Program**

The activity in the Hopes Program has stimulated Hopes activities in continental federations as well as national associations. ITTF should push forward in this innovative program. The focus will continue to be on learning and growth not only for the players but the coaches as well as we continue to introduce seminars for coaches, players and parents.

### **Appreciation**

We are fortunate to have great staff like Polona Cehovin Susin and Raúl Calín. Polona

drives the education and training implementation forward with passion and great sense of fun! Special thanks to Raúl Calín for his tireless passion, deep feeling of responsibility, leadership, commitment to excellence and most importantly delivering results. The combination of capability and passion makes Raúl an individual we are fortunate to have on staff and we should continue to appreciate and never take for granted.

I also want to thank Adham Sharara for his innovative leadership. We should keep pushing forward not afraid to taking some chances with the Global Junior Program!

Respectfully Submitted,

**Dennis Davis**

# VETERANS' COMMITTEE

## Report to the BoD

## Document G3

This is my first report as Chair of the ITTF Veterans' Committee.

### 1. Composition of the committee:

Chair: Reto Bazzi (Switzerland, Europe)

Deputy Chair: Galal Ezz (Egypt, Africa)

Members: Ahmed Juma Albahar (UAE, Asia), Martin Clark (England, Europe),  
Dean Johnson (USA, North America), Ina Jozepsone (Latvia, Europe),  
Paul Kyle (New Zealand, Oceania), Margie Luckay (South Africa, Africa)

Swaythling Club International: Diane Schöler (Germany, Europe)

World Veterans Championships Committee: Hans Westling (Sweden, Europe)

Special Advisors: Alaor Azevedo (Brazil, Latin America), Houshang Bozorgzadeh (Iran, Asia)

Executive Vice-President: Masahiro Maehara

Staff member: Etsuko Enami

### 2. Transition and Communication:

As the former Chair, Jens-Erik Linde, left the committee some months before the end of his term of office, I organised a meeting during the World Championships in Paris, FRA. The different projects e.g. collection of national veterans' contacts, information about the organisation of veterans events have been discussed. The members thanked Jens-Erik Linde for his efforts during the last period. It was stated that an introduction of an International Veterans ranking would be very complicated and should not have a high priority for the moment.

After the meeting in Paris, communication was conducted through e-mail correspondence and/or by phone. Most of the members have already confirmed their presence at the next meeting in Tokyo in May 2014.

### 3. Terms of Reference and Committee aims:

Based on the approved "Terms of Reference" the committee elaborated and confirmed the following summary of aims (first priority):

- Exchange of views, ideas and experience on how to promote table tennis for veterans
- Support Continental Federations to encourage and motivate national federations to develop veterans' activities
- Co-operation with Swaythling Club International (SCI)

### 4. Committee's work and activities:

Most of the committee members announced their readiness to contribute in the respective working areas:

- Publications and information about veterans events (M. Luckay, D. Johnson)
- Veterans' calendar (H. Westling)

- Veterans' results, statistics and rankings (H. Westling)
- Website (I. Jozepsone)
- World (and Continental) Veterans' Championships (D. Schöler, G. Ezz)

Most of the committee members regularly send their inputs and reports. The members have been encouraged to send articles and photos of veterans' activities from all continents for publication on the website.

#### **5. Co-operation with Continental Federations and Swaythling Club**

At the end of September 2013, the Deputy Chair and myself discussed with the President of the African Table Tennis Federation how to develop and promote table tennis for veterans in Africa.

I attended one meeting of the SCI World Veterans Championships (WVC) Committee and one meeting of the SCI Executive Committee (EC) in September 2013. There was also a discussion regarding possible improvements for publications on the "SCI/WVC" website. Discussions continued at the next meeting held in January 2014.

The World Veterans Championships will be held in Auckland, New Zealand (12 - 17 May 2014), only one week after the World Team Table Tennis Championships in Tokyo, Japan. The ITTF Veterans Committee was involved and informed due to the close co-operation with the SCI.

**Reto Bazzi**

# WOMEN IN SPORTS COMMISSIONER

## Report to the BoD

## Document G4

My report will cover the period May 2013 to January 2014.

I was appointed by the ITTF Executive Committee in Paris 2013 to the position of Women in Sport Commissioner for a period of four (4) years coinciding with the Executive Committee's term of office.

My mandate is to:

### ***Liaise with the Development Program, Education and Training Program and Development and Continental Council***

Development Programs and Education Training Programs were conducted in all six (6) Continents. Globally the participation of Women and Girls dropped by 1%. It is important to note that the participation of Women and Girls in Africa dropped from 34% (2012) to 26% (2013) which is a worrying factor. This will be addressed with the President of the African Table Tennis Federation.

### ***Advise the Executive Committee on policy and progress relating to gender equity.***

In consultation with the Executive Vice-President (Finance), Petra Sörling, and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, update the Executive Committee on gender matters at the Executive Meetings.

### ***Monitor gender equity in the ITTF***

Gender equity is closely monitored with the assistance of the Development department; liaison with the Continental Presidents was initiated, however had partial response.

### ***To provide technical expertise and guidance to all committees and professional staff***

During this period, I had limited interaction with the ITTF committees but regular contact with staff at ITTF, during which I was able to offer advice where necessary.

### **Meetings chaired within this role**

Women's Working Group Meeting Paris, France.

Women's Development Programme - open session Paris, France

Athletes meeting in Kobe, Japan during the Women's World Cup

### **Planned programme for 2014**

- The Equipment Manager, Vicky Eleftheriade, will now manage the Women in Sport programs
- A Women's Meeting will be held in Tokyo as part of the Development, Education and Women's Workshop on 29 April 2014.
- A cocktail party will be held at the Women's World Cup as meetings have not been well attended. It is envisaged that hosting a cocktail evening will aid networking and provide a

more informal atmosphere to discuss gender issues within the sport and relevant concerns.

### **Conclusion**

Being a new portfolio, I have not been able to address fully all aspects of the terms of reference, however, the concerns that have been raised i.e. reduced female participation in Africa will be addressed within forthcoming meetings with appropriate action plans.

Communication with ITTF committees and continental Presidents during this period was limited; I expect that communication will improve within the coming year.

Thank you to the President, Adham Sharara, for your continued support of the development programs for women and girls in sport.

To the Executive Vice-President (Finance), Petra Sörling, thank you for your support.

My thanks are also extended to the CEO, Ms Judit Farago, Deputy CEO Mr Glenn Tepper, Director: Education and Training, Ms Polona Cehovin Susin, and Director: Operations and PTT. Ms Alison Burchell.

**Hajera Kajee**

Simple majority required

<p>14</p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</b></p> <p>To amend 3.2.1.1:</p> <p>3.2.1.1 The approval and authorisation of playing equipment shall be conducted on behalf of the Board of Directors by the Equipment Committee; approval or authorisation may be withdrawn by the <del>Board of Directors</del> <u>Executive Committee</u> at any time if <del>its continuation is found to be detrimental to the sport.</del></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> There are many possible reasons for withdrawal of approval/authorisation, such as failure to comply with ITTF requirements. The Executive Committee has the power to deal with urgent business (1.5.3) and therefore is the body which would take action.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</b></p> <p>To amend 3.2.1.1:</p> <p>3.2.1.3 The covering material on a side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be currently authorised by the ITTF and shall be <del>identified by</del> <u>attached to the blade so that the ITTF logo, the ITTF number (when present), the supplier and brand names</u> <del>and shall be attached to the blade so that this identification is</del> <u>are</u> clearly visible nearest the handle.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> The ITTF logo has always been regarded as mandatory, but this requirement was mistakenly removed from the Regulations in 2010 even though there was no proposal or vote to remove it.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation</b></p> <p>To amend 3.4.2.1.1:</p> <p>3.4.2.1.1 Wherever possible players shall be given the opportunity to choose one or more balls before coming to the playing area and the match shall be played with <u>the ball proposed by the players or, in case of no agreement between players,</u> <del>one of these balls,</del> taken at random by the umpire.</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> In case both players agree with a particular ball to be the best among the 3 or 4 they have chosen in the call area or if only one player proposes a ball, <u>why the umpire shall take (another) one</u> at random? If no players come, 3.4.2.1.2 applies.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p><b>Proposed by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p>To add to 4.1.3.1:</p> <p>4.1.3.1 Only an Association which is not in arrears (1.16.3.3) <u>and has taken part with at least one player or team (an entry) in its preceding Continental Championships or Continental Games</u> shall be eligible to enter teams or individual players in the Championships.</p>



	<p>Effective date: to be applied from the 2014 continental championships and continental games</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> In order to implement the resolution made by the BoD and to respect the ITTF-Continental agreements, this condition (prerequisite) is formalised in order to give more importance to the Continental Championships and to ensure the participation of the top players. If passed, this will apply to the 2014 Continental Championships (singles, teams or combined) to be eligible for the 2015 WTTC (individuals) an exception may be made in the first year of implementation due to a late date of a continental championships.</p>
18	<p><b>Proposed by the Chinese Table Tennis Association and Athletes' Commission</b></p> <p>To delete to 4.1.9.2 (World Championships): <del>4.1.9.2 In doubles events, both players shall be from the same Association.</del></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p><b>To give incentives to NAs to further develop table tennis</b> The new rule will give more participating NAs a big chance to get better result, and even gold medals, in the doubles events, which can be a great boost for NAs. As a result, NAs will be encouraged to invest more in further developing the sport, as well as to attend and hold table tennis tournaments.</p> <p><b>To make doubles competition more appealing for spectators</b> Once the new rule is adopted, the odds of two pairs from one association confronting each other in the finals, as well as in the previous rounds, will be significantly reduced. This can make doubles competition more exciting and appealing for the audience, attract the attention of the media, and generate more revenue for OCs.</p> <p><b>To upgrade the overall performance of doubles events</b> If players are no longer confined to select partners within their own association, they will be able to search the most suitable one that complements his/her style in a much larger pool. Such improvement can not only guarantee players best choice available due to more options in finding partners, but facilitate the exchanges of playing techniques between players from various associations. This can bring closer the capacities of players from various NAs, so as to achieve the overall improvement of doubles competition.</p> <p><b>To accelerate the global promotion of table tennis</b> Once pairs made up by players from different associations are welcomed to the field of play in WTTC, double partners will be able to learn directly from each other by playing side by side. Players from more developed NAs can then introduce their advanced techniques, tactics, and training methods to their fellow players. Such first-hand information will help to narrow the gap of technical standards among players, and promote the development of table tennis worldwide.</p>
19	<p><b>Proposed by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p>At the World Championships (Individual events), an association may enter 3 men and 3 women as a basic entry. Any association with at least one player ranked in the top-100 in the ITTF January Ranking list may enter an additional player, in addition any association with at least one other player ranked in the top-20 (January Ranking) may enter an additional player, for a maximum of 5 men, 5 women, 2 men doubles, 2 women doubles and 2 mixed doubles. The host association has the right to enter the maximum allowable entries (5M, 5W, 2MD, 2WD and 2XD) regardless of ranking. Hospitality will be provided to a maximum of 3 men, 3 women and one delegate from each entered association.</p> <p>Effective date: to be applied at the 2015 WTTC</p>

**Proposed by the Chinese Table Tennis Association and Athletes' Commission**

To amend 4.1.9.6:

4.1.9.6 Each Association shall be entitled to 5 entries in each singles event, with one additional player in the appropriate event for each player in the first 20 places of the first issue of the ITTF world ranking list in the year of the Championships up to a limit 2 men and 2 women in singles with 6 3 men and 6 3 women pairs in the doubles and 3 pairs in the mixed doubles; all players may be different and each pair can come from a different association.

*Rationale:*

Such an amendment will give pairs formed by players from different associations the green light to enter the doubles events in the World Championships, as allowed before, and this will bring the following merits:

**To give incentives to NAs to further develop table tennis**

The new rule will give more participating NAs a big chance to get better result, and even gold medals, in the doubles events, which can be a great boost for NAs. As a result, NAs will be encouraged to invest more in further developing the sport, as well as to attend and hold table tennis tournaments.

**To make doubles competition more appealing for spectators**

Once the new rule is adopted, the odds of two pairs from one association confronting each other in the finals, as well as in the previous rounds, will be significantly reduced. This can make doubles competition more exciting and appealing for the audience, attract the attention of the media, and generate more revenue for Organising Committees.

**To upgrade the overall performance of doubles events**

If players are no longer confined to select partners within their own association, they will be able to search the most suitable one that complements his/her style in a much larger pool. Such improvement can not only guarantee players best choice available due to more options in finding partners, but facilitate the exchanges of playing techniques between players from various associations. This can bring closer the capacities of players from various NAs, so as to achieve the overall improvement of doubles competition.

**To accelerate the global promotion of table tennis**

Once pairs made up by players from different associations are welcomed to the field of play in WTTC, double partners will be able to learn directly from each other by playing side by side. Players from more developed NAs can then introduce their advanced techniques, tactics, and training methods to their fellow players. Such first-hand information will help to narrow the gap of technical standards among players, and promote the development of table tennis worldwide.

**Proposed by the Executive Committee**

To amend 4.1.9.3:

4.1.9.3 The system of play in team and individual events, the system of qualification in the team event and its implementation date shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Technical Commissioner and the Competition Program.

At the World Team Championships 72 men's teams and 72 women's will take part and will qualify as follows:

- 27 through Continental Championships results (4 Africa, 8 Asia, 8 Europe, 4 Latin America, 1 North America and 2 Oceania)
- 38 through previous World Team Championships results (top 36 teams plus top 2 of 3rd Division)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Host nation, if not already qualified</li> <li>• 6 or more through the ITTF Team Ranking to fill all remaining places.</li> </ul> <p>Effective date: to be applied at the 2016 WTTC</p> <p><i>Note:</i> as an exception, for the 2016 World Championships, the top 2 teams from the 4<sup>th</sup> division of the 2014 World Championships will be included bringing the total to 74 teams, if not already qualified.</p>
<b>22</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Sports Science and Medical Committee</b></p> <p><i>To adopt the changes to Chapter 5 (ITTF Anti-Doping Rules) necessitated by the adoption of the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code (separate document).</i></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  <i>The World Anti-Doping Agency, with those involved in the fight against doping in sport, has revised and adopted an amended World Anti-Doping Code which will come into effect on 1 January 2015. This has necessitated changes to the ITTF Anti-Doping Rules in order to ensure that the ITTF complies with the 2015 Code as required of signatories to the Code.</i></p>
<b>23</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</b></p> <p><i>To modify Technical Leaflets:</i>  22.1 T3 Ball (update)  22.2 T4 Racket Coverings (update)</p>
<b>24</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Equipment Committee</b></p> <p><i>To adopt a new Technical Leaflet: T5 Net Gauge</i></p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>Proposed by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p><i>To amend the terms of reference for all committees as follows:</i></p> <p>1.1 <del>a chairperson appointed by the Board of Directors (BoD) from nominations received from national associations in odd numbered years;</del></p> <p>1.2 X members and Y corresponding members appointed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) from nominations received from national associations on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee in odd numbered years, <u>one of whom shall be appointed chairperson by the Board of Directors.</u></p> <p>Effective date: immediate</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i>  This clarifies that the chairperson is not an additional position in the committee.</p>

# Resolution to the Board of Directors

## Simple majority required

**Proposed by the Luxembourg Table Tennis Federation**

To evaluate pros and cons of the following approach and report to AGM in 2015:

Entitle the umpire to accept a service as correct if he/she judges that the non-observance of a single requirement of the service law by the server is not significant or important enough for affecting in an adverse way the return of the receiver.

**B**

*Rationale:*

The table tennis service-law develops a multitude of requirements; each of them intends to contribute to protect the receiver by ensuring visibility of the ball and preventing unfair tricks. But is the strict observance of all requirements important for all types of services?

Example: In case of a low toss service, the requirements “open palm, ball above the level of playing surface” are most important, but can they disadvantage the receiver or may they advantage the server in case of a 2m-high-toss service?

## Introduction

This leaflet describes, for the benefit of manufacturers and as a support to players the tests, which are applied to table tennis balls by the ITTF, and gives details of the criteria used in granting or withholding approval (chapters A - D). All ball brands approved have to meet all appearance standards and all qualitative and quantitative criteria described in the following sections. The procedure for ITTF approval is described in Technical Leaflet T7.

## ~~Laws~~ Terms of reference

The Laws of Table Tennis relating to the ball are as follows:

- 2.03 The Ball
- 2.03.01 The ball shall be spherical with a diameter of 40mm
- 2.03.02 The ball shall weigh 2.7g
- 2.03.03 The ball shall be made of celluloid or similar plastics material and shall be white or orange, and matt

## International Regulations

Regulations for International Competitions require equipment authorized or approved by the ITTF.

## Approval of Ball Brands

A ~~manufacturer~~ supplier may have approved ball brands differing in:

- colour, i.e. white and orange
- material, i.e. celluloid and non-celluloid ~~a different plastic~~
- brand name and trademark

## Material

Notwithstanding the instability and flammability of celluloid, it has always been the standard material for a table tennis ball. The Laws do not prescribe the material, leaving manufacturers free to experiment. We need better materials, and manufacturers are still encouraged to search for ~~one~~ these and optimize them.

The ITTF Equipment Committee will approve ~~support~~ balls with a playing performance similar or identical to that of celluloid balls. Therefore, the specifications for non-celluloid balls are as identical as possible to the ones for celluloid, with slight adjustments that proved reasonable to support the task of inventing a new material. ~~We are aware that some of the specifications given in the Technical Leaflet can be met only with difficulty by non-celluloid balls. The Committee is prepared to accept a compromise, which makes an approval possible if the playing characteristics are similar or identical to those of currently approved balls. However, the ball~~ Our goal is that balls of any material shall have the same good level of quality and stable properties, which must not change at typical use before, during and after play, except a regular ageing, which should be kept at a minimum. E.g.: Permanent indentations or stress whitening as well as a flimsy or battered appearance must be clearly avoided.

## A. Qualitative Criteria and Appearance

### A.1 General Appearance

The ball shall be white or orange, and matt (see B. 12). Balls differing in colour may have the same trademark, but shall be otherwise identical in appearance.

### A.2 Seam

A ball must appear to be uniform. ~~We accept that it is in generally impossible to disguise the seam, but~~ In particular there must appear to be only one seam. After the two halves of the ball have been jointed in manufacturing, the ball may be subsequently moulded. If the equator of the ball - i.e. the joint - is not coplanar with the line of separation of the two halves of the mould, another line will be formed, looking like a second seam. This is not acceptable.

When there is no seam, artificial seams will be made applied by the laboratory for testing purposes, refer "Appendix – Marking balls without seam" at the end of this document.

### A.3 Stamp

The stamp on a ball may cover an area no greater than 280mm<sup>2</sup>. It may be printed in one or two colours, but the same colour or combination must be used for all balls of the same brand and colour. The wording used in the stamp has to be in compliance with ITTF regulations (see chapter "C. Marking").

### A.4 Packaging

The balls must be packaged appropriately, e.g. in paper or plastic boxes or in a blister pack. The wording used on this package ~~has to~~ shall contain either

"40" or "40mm" for celluloid balls, or

"40+" for non-celluloid balls.

Any packing of the balls, even those for big quantities, must contain a date or a date code and must be in compliance with the ITTF regulations (see chapter "C. Marking"). If a big packing contains several small packings, this requirement applies to both.

## B. Quantitative Criteria

Tests are conducted on groups of 24 balls; the number normally purchased is one package more than is needed to provide this number (i.e. usually 30 balls). Statistical "outliers" are ignored when calculating means and standard deviations, but all values within a normal distribution but outside the permitted limits are included.

*Note: „Conformity“ means compliance with a specification set down in the Laws of Table Tennis or Regulations for International Competitions, and „regularity“ means degree of uniformity within a sample.*

Anyone wishing to know how we analyse test results statistically is invited to contact the ITTF Equipment Manager.

### Test Procedures

The ITTF equilibrates balls at 23° (± 1°) Celsius, 50% (± 5%) R.H. for at least three days (standard conditions according to Class 1 EN ISO 291). For seamless balls the colour test should be done first and then the ball should be equipped with artificial seams according to the Appendix.

**Weight** is measured on an electronic analytical balance reading to 0.001g, and the results are rounded to the nearest 0.01g.

**Diameter** We use a calibrated ~~electrical~~ electronic device with ~~an accuracy~~ a precision of at least 0.001mm which measures the diameter with a precision of 0.01mm. The ball is fixed slightly pressed by a vertical pin (diameter 10mm). The force of the pin is kept as small as possible, but strong enough to guarantee that the ball is absolutely fixed. A force up to 5 (five) N has proved not to influence the diameter of the ball. For fixation the ball is supported by an annular ring whose upper inside surface slopes at an angle of 45 degrees. The outer diameter of the ring is 40mm and the inner diameter at the bottom of this slope is 20mm. In this position the ball is placed between two lateral, horizontal flat measuring pins (diameter 6mm), which automatically adapt to the ball diameter by soft springs. The force of the soft springs is between 0.5 and 1.5 N.

**For balls with seam:**

The diameter of the ball is monitored while turning the ball with a mechanical device about the polar axis (1), an axis crossing the equator twice perpendicularly and comprising the center (2), and about further two arbitrary axes comprising the center of the ball (3 & 4). By (1) the seam line, by (2) a line including both poles and by (3) and (4) arbitrary lines on the balls surface are monitored.

**For balls without seam:**

The diameter of the ball is monitored while turning the ball with a mechanical device about the red line (1), the blue line (2), the green line (3) and about one further arbitrary axis (4). By (1) the seam line, by (2) and (3) two lines including both poles and by (4) one arbitrary line on the balls surface are monitored.

**For all balls:**

By rotating the ball about the described axes in said directions the minimum and maximum diameters are determined. The difference between the two values gives the lack of sphericity.

*Alternatively, the following procedure can be applied: The ball is placed arbitrarily between a flat and the measuring pin, and the diameter is ~~observed~~ measured. In order to guarantee that the measuring pin is vertically above the center of the ball we use two vertical flats with angle of 90° against which the ball is horizontally pressed during the measurement. By rotating the ball in various directions the minimum and maximum diameters can then be determined. The difference between the two gives the lack of sphericity.*

**Bounce** is measured by releasing the ball mechanically without spin. After its bounce on a standard steel plate the ball is monitored with a digital camera with a calibrated mm scale in the background. The photos are evaluated. The geometric mean of three determinations then permits calculation of the maximum height of bounce of the "south pole" of the ball. A standard steel plate is made of Steel S235 with a surface roughness of Ra ≤ 1.0 µm and Rmax ≤ 7.5 µm. The size is no smaller than 20mm thick and 200 x 200 mm large.

*Alternatively the rebound height can be measured by other methods, which give the same results.*

**Veer** is a measure of the total sphericity of the ball, not merely its external aspect. It is measured by rolling the ball down a slight incline onto a horizontal surface, and measuring the distance by which it deviates from a straight line, the "centre line", as it rolls across the surface. The incline is 100mm long at 14 degree to the horizontal; on a table that is 100cm long this gives a rolling time of about 3 seconds. Each ball is measured three times. A negative result is reported if the ball fails the test twice. A "failure" is defined as the event that the ball is hitting one of the two "side lines" which run parallel to the centre line in a distance of 175mm to the left and 175mm to the right.

We will register where a ball eventually hits the side line measured from the start point; X1 = 0 – 50 cm, X2 = 50 – 75 cm, X3 = 75 – 100 cm and o = ball does not hit the side line at all. This is for collecting data for the future.

The rolling surface is at least 20mm thick with a roughness of Ra ≤ 1.0 µm and Rz ≤ 7.5µm.

**For balls with seam:**

Rolling twice on the seam, and once about an arbitrary axis.

**For balls without seam:**

Rolling one time on red, blue and green lines.

**Hardness** is measured on a fully automated and computerised Zwick tester (or equivalent). We use a preload of 0.5 N and testing starts 10 sec after preloading. A 20mm diameter pin presses against the ball with a 50 N force loaded at 10 mm/min, and the indentation is recorded with a precision of 0.01mm. The ball is supported by an annular ring whose upper inside surface slopes at an angle of 45 degrees. The outer diameter of the ring is 40mm and the inner diameter at the bottom of this slope is 20mm.

Measurements are made on each pole and once on the seam / red line (see Appendix E); the average for the poles provides a measure of the hardness, and the difference between that and the seam indentation is a measure of the lack of symmetry for hardness.

**Colour:** The ball colour is measured and calculated according to the CIE Lab system, giving three values  $\Delta L$ ,  $\Delta a$  and  $\Delta b$  ( $\Delta$  = Greek letter "delta" meaning "difference"). These values show the differences compared to the Munsell color standards given below for white and orange. L indicates the black/white value on a scale from 0 to 100; "a" indicates the green/red value; and "b" the blue/yellow value, both on a scale from minus to plus 100. The measurements are performed on the seam and two other points on the surface. If no seam is available three random points of measurement have to be taken. 4 balls are selected from different boxes. The L, "a" and "b" values of the sample are determined by averaging over all 4 balls. ~~The device is a we-use~~ Spectrophotometer according to ISO 7724 (D65/10° incl. gloss) with a black velvet hemisphere behind the ball as background for the measurement. Supplier of Munsell Standards: X-Rite Inc., 4300 44<sup>th</sup> Street S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49512 U.S.A.

**Specifications**

For the calculation of the following values two digits are taken into account.

**B.1 Weight Conformity**

Law 2.3.2 specifies 2.7g, but any weight between 2.67 and 2.77g is acceptable for any one ball. No more than 1 ball out of the 24 sampled may be outside this range. The sample mean must be between 2.69 and 2.76g. In carrying out statistical calculations we treat any weights less than 2.60g or greater than 2.85g as outliers.

**B.2 Weight Regularity**

The standard deviation may not exceed 0.03g.

**B.3 Size Conformity****For celluloid balls:**

The minimum diameter of every ball must be at least 39.50 mm, and its maximum diameter must not exceed 40.50 mm. The sample mean average diameter, i.e. the mean of the average of the maximum and minimum diameters for each ball, must be in the range 39.60-40.40 mm. Values below 39.25 mm or above 40.75 mm are considered in our calculations as outliers.

**For non – celluloid balls:**

The minimum diameter of every ball must be at least 40.00mm and its maximum diameter must not exceed 40.60mm. The sample mean average diameter, i.e. the mean of the average of the maximum and minimum diameters for each ball, must be in the range 40.00-40.50mm. Values below 39.70mm or above 40.75mm are considered in our calculations as outliers.



## B.4 Size Regularity

The standard deviation of the average diameter may not exceed 0.06mm.

## B.5 Sphericity Conformity

### **For celluloid balls:**

The sphericity of any ball must be less than 0.35mm, and the sample mean sphericity must be less than 0.25mm. (The sphericity of a ball - more correctly the lack of sphericity - is the absolute difference between its minimum and maximum diameters.) In our calculations values greater than 0.50mm are treated as outliers.

### **For non – celluloid balls:**

The sphericity of any ball must be less than 0.25mm, and the sample mean sphericity must be less than 0.20mm. (The sphericity of a ball - more correctly the lack of sphericity - is the absolute difference between its minimum and maximum diameters.) In our calculations values greater than 0.30mm are treated as outliers.

## B.6 Sphericity Regularity

The standard deviation of sphericity must be less than 0.06mm.

## B.7 Bounce Conformity

All 24 balls must rebound to a height of not less than 240mm and not more than 260mm when dropped from a height of 305mm on to a standard steel block.

## B.8 Bounce Regularity (to be examined)

There is no specification for this property. Dynamic tests will be investigated.

## B.9 Veer

No more than two balls shall fail, i.e. deviate twice by more than 175mm from the center-line.

## B.10 Hardness Conformity

### **For balls with seam:**

The geometric mean pole hardness for any ball shall be in the range **0.68 – 0.81mm**.

The geometric mean pole hardness for the sample shall be in the range **0.69 – 0.81mm**

The mean seam hardness for the sample shall be in the range **0.72 – 0.83mm**

The within-ball (uniformity) coefficient of variation of the measurements on each pole and once on the seam shall be no greater than **0.17mm**.

The sample mean within-ball (uniformity) coefficient of variation shall be no greater than 0.08mm.

### **For balls without seam:**

The geometric mean hardness for any ball shall be in the range 0.70 – 0.90mm.

## B.11 Hardness Regularity

The coefficient of variation shall be not greater than 0.06mm.

## B.12 Colour

The specifications for the L, a and b values according to the CIE Lab system are for white balls: **Standard reference: Munsell notation: N9.5/ M**

$$\begin{aligned} -6 &\leq \Delta a \leq +5 \\ -12 &\leq \Delta b \leq +5 \\ -21 &\leq \Delta L \end{aligned}$$

for orange balls: **Standard reference: Munsell notation: 7,5YR 8/10M**

$$\begin{aligned} -15 &\leq \Delta a \leq +10 \\ -15 &\leq \Delta b \\ -10 &\leq \Delta L \end{aligned}$$

All 4 balls tested have to meet these standards. Any decimals in the measurement are rounded as usual, for example  $\Delta b = -12.4$  is acceptable for white balls, whereas  $-12.5$  is not.

## B.13 Material thickness

**For non – celluloid balls:**

Material thickness shall be measured using an ultrasonic device on the 6 measuring positions. This is done on the 5 samples which were worst in the veer test, and the 5 samples which were best. This is only for collection of information ~~while we are looking for improved~~ in order to further improve balls and methods.

## C. Marking

If the grade of the ball is indicated by a numbering system, no number higher than 3 may be used, e.g. „Three Star“.

### C.1 The Stamp

The stamp on the ball must include the following ~~four~~ three components:

- The ITTF Approval. This may be indicated by the initials "ITTF" or by "ITTF approved", or by the ITTF logo.
- the trademark or brand name
- the inscription of either:
  - "40", or "40mm" for celluloid balls
  - "40+" for non-celluloid balls

The stamp on the ball may in addition include one or both of the following two components:

- The name of the country where the company headquarters are registered ~~or~~
- the expression "Made in", followed by the country of production. The same text must appear on all balls of an approved brand. I.e. it is not ~~permissible~~ permitted to put one country name on some balls and a different one on others with the same brand name. Wrong claims will be penalized with a fine and can lead to immediate withdrawal of the ITTF approval.

No other text is permitted. The stamp may cover an area no greater than 280mm<sup>2</sup> described by a circle or a rectangle with a maximum side length of 25mm circumscribing all letters and symbols. It may be printed in one or two colours, but the same colour or combination must be used for all balls of one brand. All inscriptions must be easily readable. The trademark or brand name should be the most pronounced inscription.

## C.2 Trademark or Brand Name

The Approval of the ITTF, the country or the expression “made in ....” are not considered to be part of the trademark or the brand name. The trademark or brand name must be unique and may not be used for another type of ball, especially not for an unapproved one. All balls with the same trademark or the same brand name must have ~~an identical~~ the same level of quality.

Also, a celluloid and a non-celluloid ball of the same supplier must not carry the same trademark or brand name, respectively. If the supplier wishes to brand his celluloid and non-celluloid balls as similar as possible, the minimum difference accepted is that the term “40+” is added to the brand of a celluloid ball to define the brand of a non-celluloid ball. For example, “Super Supplier – Mega Brand” and “Super Supplier – Mega Brand 40+” are an acceptable combination for the brand name.

With a brand name containing “40+”, both requirements no. 2 and 3 of C.1 are considered as fulfilled. However, the “40+” then cannot just be used on the ball stamp, but must be used everywhere (packaging, sales channels, advertisements etc).

An ITTF approved ball may lose its approval if the supplier markets another non-ITTF-approved ball with the same or similar appearance as the ITTF approved one, with which it could be confused.

The ITTF will make its best effort to ensure that the trademark or brand name does not infringe on the already existing balls brands. The ITTF is not responsible for any illegal use of registered trademarks. Verifying the correct and legal use of trademarks is not part of the ITTF approval procedure.

## C.3 Packaging

The stamp on the packaging must include the following four components:

- The same three mandatory components as on the ball (C.1)
- The expression “Made in” followed by the country of production

The packaging ~~must have the same information as is on the stamp and~~ may also include the name of the country where the company headquarters are registered and may have additional information such as technical data or national approvals. The wording used on the packing may not contain false claims.

## C.4 Date Code

~~The~~ All packagings (see A.4), but not the ball itself, must be marked with a date or a date code corresponding to the date of production (month / year). The date code must be readable without the need to destroy the packing. As long as the supplier uses his own date code system the supplier must inform the ITTF Equipment Committee about the date code used and its decoding. From January 2004 on a uniform date code system will be used.

The date code consists of 4 characters: the first 2 for the month and the last 2 for the year. Month and year are encoded using the capital letters from A to I for the numbers 1 to 9 (A = 1; B = 2; etc. up to I = 9; X = 0).

Examples: a) ABXC means 1203, which is decoded as December 2003.

b) XEAA means 0511, which is decoded as May 2011

This date code system will be mandatory for all ITTF approved ball brands.

Manufacturers are strongly encouraged to clarify the design of the stamp, the packaging and the date code before production with the ITTF Equipment Committee.

A missing date code is penalized with a fine (~~see T7~~).

### C.5 Guidelines for the use of the ITTF Logo on the ball and the packaging

#### THE STAMP

**Recommended:**  
**LOGO 4**  
(Line Art Version:  
Black On White  
Background)



The stamp on the ball must include the ITTF Approval as described above. This may be indicated by "ITTF", "ITTF approved", or by the ITTF logo.



When the ITTF logo is printed, it should:

- be in Black or Gray, but not in any other colours
- not have text or shapes overlapping it, although the safety area is not mandatory for printing on balls

✗ Incorrect

✓ Correct



#### THE PACKAGING

**Recommended:**  
**LOGO 1**  
(3D Logo: Green  
On White  
Background)



The ITTF Logo can also be printed on the packaging, but should adhere to the guidelines stated in the "External Branding Guidelines" document ([http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/Ext\\_branding\\_v1\\_0.pdf](http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/Ext_branding_v1_0.pdf)).

For more information, please refer to the ITTF Branding Guidelines v2.0 here: [http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/2013\\_ITTF\\_Branding\\_Guidelines\\_v2\\_0.pdf](http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/2013_ITTF_Branding_Guidelines_v2_0.pdf)  
All versions needed, of the ITTF logo, can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/ittflogos>

## D. Administrative Matters

### D.1 Changes

Any change of the trademark or the brand name, the date code, the stamp, the packaging, the ball quality, the source of supply and any other changes relevant for ITTF approval must be notified to the ITTF Equipment Committee. If the stamp or box design is changed two boxes must be sent to the address given on the ITTF.com web-site under "Equipment / Balls". The changes must be confirmed by the ITTF **in writing**.

The failure to announce changes to the ITTF will be penalized with a fine (~~see T7~~) or can even lead ~~in severe or repeated cases of failure~~ to an end of the ITTF approval in cases of severe or repeated failures.

### D.2 Publication

A list of all ITTF approved ball brands is published in the Internet. The approval list is published in alphabetical order by trademark or brand name.

### D.3 Approval Code

The ITTF uses an approval code consisting of

- a serial number according to the date of application for ITTF approval and
- the month and year of application for approval.

Example: ITTF-21-B-06/00; meaning: 21<sup>st</sup> ITTF approved ball (B), approved in June 2000. The manufacturer is free to use the approval code in his advertisements.

## E. Appendix – Marking balls without seam.

### General:

Balls without seam must be equipped with artificial seams for testing. This is to obtain an even distribution of the measurements. There would be no end in measuring if we should check every theoretical spot on the ball. Instead, we are trying to get some distributed data through a simpler procedure.

The sequence of testing is not important, apart from colour testing which should be made before the marking of lines / "seams".

### Sequence:

1. Individual numbering of the received balls - beginning with no. 1 - in an arbitrary position.
2. Measuring colour, on 3 independent spots.
3. Drawing an "equator" under the number with **red** ink.
4. Making a **blue** circumference 90° perpendicular on equator on the right side of the number.
5. Making a **green** circumference 90° perpendicular both on equator and on the **blue** line on the left side of the number.
6. We will now have 6 measuring positions; i.e. 4 along the **red** equator where **blue** and **green** lines cross, and 1 on each pole ("**North**" is above the number and the equator and "**South**" is below); in addition to the 3 circumferences, i.e. the **red**, **blue** and **green** lines.
7. The balls are then ready for testing.
8. These designations to be used in the reporting.

### End of T3



## Introduction

Most table tennis equipment is provided by club or competition organisers, and over the years it has remained fundamentally unchanged. Although the racket is the player's choice of the player himself, it too remained unchanged during the ITTF's first decades. ~~But~~ However it then appeared that a modification into the characteristics of the racket could mean the difference between victory and defeat. The subsequent decades have accordingly seen continual development, ~~some of it not salutary.~~

A system of ITTF authorisation of racket coverings has been introduced ~~in order to ensure that any future changes are to the benefit and not the detriment of the sport, a system of ITTF authorisation of racket coverings has been introduced, and~~ Hence important changes have been made to the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.

This leaflet sets out the current Laws and Regulations, defines some of the terms used and lists some additional criteria for ITTF authorisation of racket coverings and thereafter entering the List of Authorised Racket Coverings (**LARC**).

## Laws

The racket must comply with paragraphs 2.4- and 3.2.1.3 in ~~the ITTF Handbook, under the~~ *The Laws of Table Tennis* and the *Regulations for International Competitions*, respectively.

## Definitions

**"4.0 mm"** maximum thickness of sandwich **rubber** (~~The Law 2.4.3~~), and **"2.0 mm"** maximum thickness of pimped **rubber** (~~The Laws 2.4.3 and 2.4.3.2~~) will be interpreted statistically to mean 4.0 and 2.0 mm respectively; implying that these limits are absolute values, and on no part of the playing surface on a racket covering should these measurements-limits be extended. These thicknesses refer to the total of the racket covering including any reinforcement in the rubber (for instance textile) and any ~~glue~~ adhesive used to attach it to the blade.

**"Supplier"** and **"Brand"** (~~The Law Regulation 3.2.1.3~~) refers to the supplier name and brand name, respectively, as they appear in the rubber mould and the LARC.

**"Bright red"** (~~The Law 2.4.6~~) is defined on the Munsell system by three co-ordinates:

Hue:	4.0 - 6.5 R
Value:	min. 3.1
Chroma:	min. 7.5

Colours for red top sheets will be measured on a white background, as complete racket coverings-, i.e. with all colours of sponges the racket covering will be sold with. Red top sheets alone can will be measured only upon the supplier's request-; ref. Konica no.1864-721 (CM-A101W).

**"Cellular rubber"** (~~The Law 2.4.3.2~~) is also known as sponge.

**"Continuity"** (~~The Law 2.4.5~~) implies that each layer shall be continuous; for instance, a blade consisting of one type of plywood in the centre and another type at the edge would not be considered to be continuous. -It is accepted that the veneers of plywood are normally made by edge-gluing pieces together to make a continuous sheet; the resulting joints may appear in the blade, but joints in more than one direction are not permitted, and neither are joints that extend from one face through to the other.

**"ITTF logo"** (~~The Law Regulation 3.2.1.3~~) is to be used on all authorised racket coverings, and within a frame for new and changed racket coverings. Ref. C. and D.4. below.

**"ITTF number"** (~~The Law Regulation 3.2.1.3~~) is the unique identification for new racket coverings.



**"List"** (~~The Law Regulation 3.2.1.3~~) is the List of Authorised Racket Coverings (**LARC**). It has a validity period specified in the header.

**"Matt"** (~~The Law 2.4.6~~) implies that the rubber will be considered to be unacceptable if the gloss of "pimples-in" rubber or of either the base of "pimples-out" rubber or the tops of the pimples are so high as to permit the shape contours of a light-source to be distinguished in its reflection. See B.1.4.

**"Natural wood"** (~~The Law 2.4.2~~) implies **continuity** throughout the blade; this permits plywood but not, for example, particle-board, flake-board and other composites.

**"Ordinary pimpled rubber"** (Law 2.4.3.1) and **"Sandwich rubber"** (Law 2.4.3.2) can both be referred to as **"Racket coverings"**; refers to the rubber, with or without a sponge underneath, used to strike a ball. The sheet of pimpled rubber when used over a sheet of sponge is referred to as a "Top sheet".

**"Rigid"** (~~The Law 2.4.1~~) is intended to apply to the blade and the handle taken as a whole. Flexibility is not permitted in a racket except in the racket covering.

**"Rubber"** (~~The Laws 2.4.3.1 and 2.4.3.2~~) implies any material that can be stretched at room temperature to twice its original length, and that, after being held in the stretched state for one minute, retracts within one further minute to less than 1.5 times its original length.

**"Smoothness"** (to be specified). Tests will only take place in case of doubt.

**"Top sheet"** refers to the sheet of pimpled rubber when used over a sheet of sponge.

## A. Qualitative Criteria

### 1. General Appearance

The racket consists of blade, adhesive, and racket covering(s) with or without sponge.

#### 2. ~~1.1.~~ Blade

A very thin layer of lacquer is permitted on the blade, only for the purpose of anchoring wood ~~fibres~~ fibres, thereby facilitating replacement of the racket covering. Anything more than this will be deemed to constitute a layer of plastic, and will not be permitted. This layer may be no more than 0.1 mm thick, and should not hide the wood from sight or touch. It is considered to be part of the blade, rather than part of the thickness of the racket covering.

A thin layer of paint or plastic laminate is permitted on an uncovered non-striking side of the blade, for the purpose of having a proper red or black side.

#### 3. ~~1.2.~~ Adhesive

The use of a thick layer of adhesive is NOT permitted either within the blade (~~The Law 2.4.2~~), or between the blade and the racket covering.

The manufacturers should be aware that the practice of "re-gluing", i.e. removing the racket covering, adding adhesive and re-applying the racket covering immediately before a match, might cause rubber / sponge to expand. When the resulting thickness is measured by an umpire it may be found to be illegal.

##### 3.1. ~~1.2.1.~~ Solvents

Manufacturers should expose rackets or sandwich rubber combinations to air before packing them. To remove volatile solvents which they manufacturers utilise during their processes, they should expose rackets or sandwich rubber combinations to air before packing them, and p players should similarly air their rackets - for up to 72 hours - that could contain some of in order to remove the solvents left over

from the production process or their own gluing. Refer to our Technical Leaflet T9 for Racket Control, to be applied at ITTF events.

### **3.2. ~~1.2.2.~~ PSA (Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive sheets)**

Apart from adhesives, a PSA may be used for fixing the rubber to the blade. Some of these are water-based systems.

PSA may not be more than 0.1 mm thick and may not be cellular. It may consist of two layers of adhesive supported on the two sides of a plastic film or a cellulosic paper, or may be one solid layer of film. The packaging should carry the trade name and instructions for use.

### **4. ~~1.3.~~ Sponge**

The use of sponge (i.e. cellular rubber) is governed by [The Law 2.4.3](#).

### **5. ~~1.4.~~ The racket covering**

The rubber surface of the racket coverings should be uniform and without coating.

The appearance of the racket covering on the blade must be uniform in colour; it is not permitted for markings on the sponge or the blade to show through.

In addition to the requirements of [The Law 2.4.3.1](#):-

#### **5.1. ~~1.4.1.~~ Pimples**

All pimples should be equal. Each pimple must have a circular symmetry, with its axis perpendicular to the plane of the base layer. At any height above the base it shall be no wider than at any point closer to the base. This permits cylinders, cones (but not inverted cones) and combinations thereof.

Pimples must be evenly spaced along three sets of parallel lines at 60 degrees to each other.

The surface of the pimple top must be parallel to the base of the sheet, but may be smooth or roughened (see quantitative criteria below) (~~up to 0.1 mm~~), though not to an extent that would constitute hollowness in the pimple. Hollow pimples are not acceptable.

For pimples-in racket coverings some deviation from an ideal shape is acceptable, like irregularities on the side of the pimple, or a "hat shape" on the pimple tops – when this is not a general trend, but is found on individual pimples. For the pimples-out racket covering, deviation from an ideal shape is not acceptable.

#### **5.2. ~~1.4.2.~~ Ordinary pimped rubber**

"Ordinary pimped rubber" may carry pimples on one side only; the other side must be smooth, although it may be bonded to a thin layer of fabric, which should not be visible on the playing side and should not add to the total thickness.

#### **5.3. ~~1.4.3.~~ Sandwich rubber**

More than one layer of cellular rubber (sponge) is not permitted, even if the layers are of the same composition.

~~However, if the top sheet is translucent, then the layer underneath must be uniformly coloured; it is not permitted for a manufacturer's logo on the lower layer, or on the blade, to show through.~~

## **B. Quantitative Criteria**

### **1. The racket covering**

It should be noted in particular that:

Authorisation is given to the top sheet plus the top sheet / sponge combination. Red and black top sheets with the same ITTF number or supplier and brand name must have the same geometry,





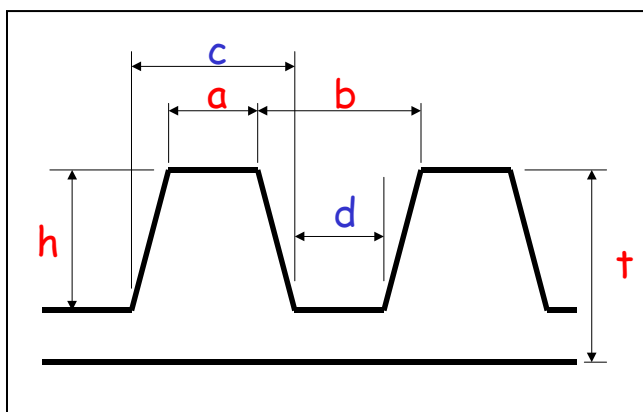
properties, and ~~text-branding area~~ (wording and numbering). The surface colours must be uniform. Red and black top sheets of the same brand do not require separate authorisation fees.

**2. ~~1.1~~ Pimple dimensions**

In LARC the racket coverings are categorised in four types:

- In = pimples-in (~~determined by the text in the mould~~branding area on the smooth side),
- Anti = pimples-in (this term may be applied on supplier demand),
- Out = pimples-out (~~determined by the text in the mould~~branding area on the pimples side),
- Long = pimples-out (when the aspect ratio – see below - is > 0.89).

Covering type	Pimple diameter on top = <u>Aa</u>	Distance between pimple tops = <u>Bb</u>	Pimple height = <u>Hh</u>
<b>In and Anti</b>	min. 1.0 mm	min. 0.5 mm	min. 0.5 mm
<b>Out and Long</b>	1.0 – 2.2 mm	1.0 - 2.0 mm	min. 1.0 -mm



Dimensions "c" and "d" are indicated here, since they may be reported in the Form which accompanies applications for new racket coverings.

**3. ~~1.2~~ Rubber thickness**

~~The Laws specify a maximum rubber thickness (dimension "t") of 2.0mm. For authorisation purposes, a maximum of 2.00mm will be permitted.~~

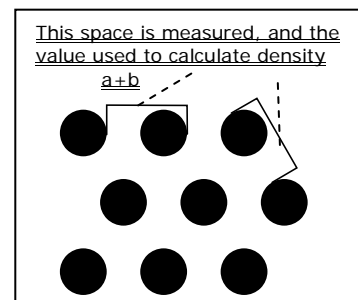
**4. ~~1.3~~ Aspect ratio**

Aspect ratio, i.e. pimple height (h) / pimple diameter (a), shall not be > 1.10 for pimples-out rubbers.

**5. ~~1.4~~ Pimple density**

The minimum and maximum pimple densities per cm<sup>2</sup> are 10 and 30 respectively, as specified in Law 2.4.3. These are regarded as statistical measures of density, not counts of discrete pimples within a specific area.

Because pimples must be evenly spaced and the pimple layout is symmetric, the density is found by measuring the linear pimple spacing (dimensions "a" + "b") and calculating the resulting pimple density as: [1 / (spacing \* spacing \* cos30)].



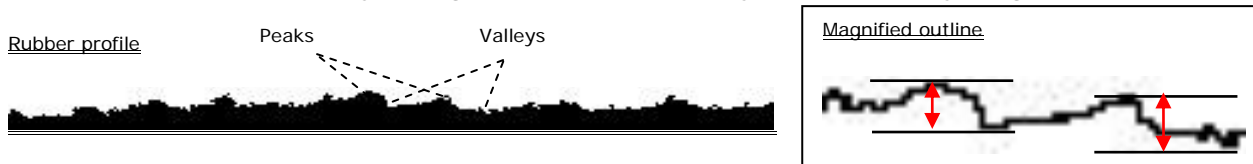


**6. ~~1.4.~~ Gloss — (shininess)**

An acceptable surface is one whose gloss, measured with an EEL gloss meter at 45° head setting, is not > 6%; corresponding measurements of 60° specular gloss using ASTM procedure D523 must give values not > 24%.

**7. ~~1.5.~~ Smoothness/Roughness**

“Roughness” refers to unevenness in the plane of a surface, occurring across the entire surface but measured at localized areas. “Smoothness” is the opposite of roughness, and both terms are used to describe the same property. Roughness is measured by peak-to-valley height in millimetres.



The maximum peak-to-valley roughness of individual pimples is 0.10mm.

For pimples-in, the maximum peak-to-valley roughness of the smooth side is 0.010mm.

For pimples-out, the maximum peak-to-valley roughness of the smooth side is 0.050mm.

For all racket coverings, the moulded branding area up to 25mm high is exempt from the smoothness and regularity requirements.

**8. ~~1.5.~~ Friction for pimples--out**

The coefficient of kinetic friction between the rubber and a table tennis ball must be at least 0.50. In the test laboratory, a normal force of 50mN is applied. The minimum friction level is 25 mN (Milli Newton).

**9. ~~1.6.~~ VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) testing:**

This test is performed with the maximum limits according to the latest decision by the Executive Committee. All racket coverings must meet the latest VOC limits given by the ITTF Executive Committee, at the time of authorisation, as well as during any subsequent inspection of retail samples.

**10. ~~1.7.~~ Player’s responsibilities**

It is the player’s responsibility to limit the total thickness of his racket covering to no more than **4.0 mm**, including top sheet, sponge and adhesive. Without sponge, not more than **2.0 mm**.

It is also his responsibility to ensure that a red top sheet does not become too dark when affixed to the sponge, or a black top sheet becoming too light. It is the player’s responsibility to use racket coverings that comply with the rules. For example, a red racket covering may become too dark when affixed to a dark sponge or blade. A thick glue layer may cause the racket covering to exceed the maximum thickness regulation of 4.0mm including top sheet, sponge, and adhesive; or 2.0mm for rubber and adhesive without sponge. Players are advised to air a brand-new rubber before use, even though the manufacturer is expected to aerate the rubber before packaging. Use of post-factory treatments is not permitted and may cause the racket covering to exceed the permitted thickness, friction, pimple density, etc.





**C. Rubber identification**

The ITTF number or the combination of supplier name / brand name is the identification of the racket covering. Hence it must be unique and should not create confusion in relation with other racket coverings. It will found in the rubber mould as well as in the LARC.

The ITTF will make its best effort to ensure that the trademark or brand name does not infringe on the already existing racket coverings brands. The ITTF is not responsible for any illegal use of registered trademarks. Verifying the correct and legal use of trademarks is not part of the ITTF authorisation procedure.

New racket coverings submitted for authorisation, and existing rubbers that undergo changes in text design, must have the ITTF logo, an ITTF number, a supplier and a brand name (in Roman/ Latin letters) within a 25mm branding area in the rubber mould, in accordance with the guidelines shown below:-

<b>RUBBER</b>	
<p><b>Recommended:</b> <b>LOGO 4</b> (Line Art Version: Black On White Background)</p> 	<p>The ITTF logo on rubbers <del>should</del><u>shall</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a minimum of 10 mm height</li> <li>• <del>have a colour is according to</del> <u>be the same colour as the</u> rubber</li> <li>• not have text or shapes overlapping it, although the safety area is not mandatory for embossing on rubbers</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>The ITTF number, consisting of 5 or 6 digits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or 3 first digits being the supplier number - to be supplied by ITTF - followed by a dash.</li> <li><del>b. 3</del> next digits being a brand number, usually starting with 001 and in regular succession, normally without gaps - controlled by the supplier.</li> </ol> <p>The ITTF number <del>should</del><u>shall</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be in font Arial Normal</li> <li>• have a minimum of 5mm height</li> <li>• <del>have letter height min</del> <u>be placed at least</u> 0.2 mm above <u>the</u> rubber base</li> <li>• be adjacent to the ITTF logo, (over, under, or on one side)</li> <li>• not overlap the ITTF Logo.</li> </ul>



	<p style="text-align: center;">  12-345                   12-345                  12-345                   12-345  </p> <p>The ITTF logo and ITTF number <del>should</del> <u>shall</u> be enclosed by a single frame of any shape, with nothing else inside.</p> <p><u>All letters, logos, ornaments, etc. must be placed in the branding area which may have a maximum height of 25mm.</u></p> <p>Example:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <u>12-345</u>      <b><u>SUPER SUPPLIER</u></b>  <span style="float: right;"><i>Mega Brand</i></span> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">  12-345             <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 10px;">                 } ITTF Logo - minimum 10mm height                  } ITTF Number - Arial Normal, minimum 5mm height                  } Entire branding area - maximum 25mm height             </div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">  12 - 345      <b>SUPER SUPPLIER</b>  <span style="float: right;"><i>MEGA BRAND</i></span> </div>
<b>RUBBER PACKAGING</b>	
<p><b>Recommended: LOGO 1</b> (3D Logo: Green On White Background)</p>	<p>The ITTF Logo can also be printed on the packaging, but should adhere to the guidelines stated in the "External Branding Guidelines" document (<a href="http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/Ext_branding_v1_0.pdf">http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/Ext_branding_v1_0.pdf</a>).</p>

For more information, please refer to the ITTF Branding Guidelines v2.0 here: [http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/2013\\_ITTF\\_Branding\\_Guidelines\\_v2\\_0.pdf](http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/2013_ITTF_Branding_Guidelines_v2_0.pdf)

All versions ~~needed~~, of the ITTF logo, can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/ittflogos>

~~In addition a racket covering may carry the name of a country or that of the Association in that territory, or both.~~

~~All letters, logos, ornaments, etc. should all be placed in the text area i.e. extending max. 25 mm into the playing surface and positioned towards the same edge of the top sheet.~~

It is possible to equip the covering with two text-branding areas, positioned at 90 degrees to each other, but when mounted on the blade, only the one close to the handle is accepted.



It is possible to have two pictures of the ~~text branding~~ area at any time for one brand on the ITTF web site.

The Equipment Committee will give advice on the layout of any ~~text branding~~ area when submitted.

The supplier and brand names and the frame - with the ITTF logo and ITTF number (when applied) - must be visible on the racket covering when it is mounted on the blade (~~The Law Regulation 3.2.1.3~~).

When an ITTF number is withdrawn, it cannot be used again for 10 years.

## D. Administrative Procedure

### 1. Submitting racket coverings for testing

~~Prospective n~~New suppliers interested to be included in LARC, ~~of racket coverings~~ should first contact the ITTF Equipment Coordinator ~~or the person in charge for of racket coverings~~, at the address given on the ITTF web site:

[www.ittf.com / Home Page / Main Page / Equipment / Racket Covering / Contact person](http://www.ittf.com / Home Page / Main Page / Equipment / Racket Covering / Contact person)

A new supplier will be provided with an ITTF number and, if required, be ~~explained given~~ step by step the procedures to follow for ~~having to secure~~ a racket covering authorisation ~~and be~~ included in the LARC, ref. below.

~~Racket coverings, to be tested, should NOT be sent to the ITTF Headquarters or other ITTF addresses, but to the address given on the ITTF web site of the person in charge of racket covering authorisation procedures, after contacting this person, for example by e-mail.~~

The supplier should - in summary (more details below):

1. Submit ~~samples~~ the Supplier Info form.
2. Submit ~~the descriptive form~~ Form R-A together with an image file of the branding area with dimensions.
3. Submit ~~an image file of the text area~~ racket covering samples for testing.
4. Pay the appropriate testing fee to ITTF.

~~The results will be given to the supplier As soon as the results from the laboratories are available, and after reception of the payment for subject to the testing fees having been received, the results will be given to the supplier.~~

The received samples will be stored for future reference.

~~If there exists a special version for sale without sponge and equipped with a reinforcement (for instance of textile), this / these should also be submitted (these are sometimes named OX).~~

The use of another table tennis supplier name as part of a brand name requires a written statement from the supplier in question to be submitted to ITTF when applying for authorisation.

Any supplier / manufacturer wishing to have racket coverings measured may send them to the ~~Equipment Committee~~ contact person as given above, with the testing fee to be paid when invoiced.

### 2. The detailed procedure of obtaining authorisation

A racket covering which is ~~included~~ listed in the LARC is ~~considered having an~~ authorised for the period ~~in~~ given in the header.



**2.1 General**

The time the entire procedure may take is uncertain. A laboratory test normally ~~can use~~ takes about 6 – 8 weeks, ~~in addition~~ the time for transport, Customs and administration, is normally a further covered by approximately 2 weeks. However, under special circumstances it may take longer. In general, the procedure runs smoothly, but the ITTF declines all responsibility if there are delays and other unforeseen complications.

~~The~~ Under the Normal procedure, racket coverings that have been tested and found acceptable 2 weeks before ~~the publication~~ shing of the LARC (see 2.2, Para. 9 below) ~~using either the Normal or the Simplified method~~ will be included in the LARC.

The samples that are submitted to the ITTF for testing are taken to be representative ~~for~~ of the normal production, and our decisions are based on that.

~~Any supplier / manufacturer wishing to have racket coverings tested may send them to the Equipment Committee as given below, with the testing fee to be paid when invoiced.~~

**2.2 Normal procedure (Recommended)**

1. A new supplier (or an existing supplier using a new supplier name) should submit the Supplier Information form, found on the second tab of Form R-A on the ITTF web site. The ITTF will then issue a supplier number to the new supplier.
2. The supplier should submit Form R-A for each racket covering. An image with dimensions (in JPG format) of the branding area of the new racket covering should accompany each Form R-A, for ITTF verification prior to mould fabrication. A black and white version is recommended. Please follow the guidelines in section C above.
3. The supplier should submit the following to the address given under "Contact Person" on the ITTF web site:
  - One top sheet sample of each colour – ~~without~~ no sponge.
  - One red racket covering for ~~all each available~~ sponge colours to be applied, with the thickest available sponge, in plastic retail packaging.
  - One black racket covering ~~with any colour,~~ with the thickest available sponge in any colour, in plastic retail packaging.
  - For pimples-out, one additional sample with or without sponge in red. Pimples-out racket coverings are subject to a friction test which may take additional time and will be invoiced additionally. This extra sample is intended to save time any colour (to save time, ref. para. 11 below).
  - If a special version will be sold without sponge and equipped with a textile or other reinforcement, a sample of this should also be submitted.
  - ~~The racket coverings with sponge should be delivered in parcels as it is presented to the market — in a plastic bag or similar.~~

~~(These will be our reference samples for all testing thickness, VOC, colour and friction.)~~

~~to the address given under "Contact Person" on ITTF web site. Please ensure that all charges are paid before shipment.~~

2. ~~Include a Form duly filled for each supplier / brand combination. This Form and the instructions for this are available on our website.~~
3. ~~Include an image file (preferably in .jpg format) showing the text area for each supplier / brand combination – for the ITTF web site. A black & white version is recommended.~~



4. Ship the samples, free of any charge and declared as "sample for inspection, no commercial value". If a value must be stated, do not set it to more than \$20, ~~nor~~ or less than \$1 on the paperwork which follows. If any additional costs must be paid, which is rare, the supplier will be charged.
5. After the samples have been received, unless ~~other agreements~~ agreed otherwise, they will be sent to a laboratory for testing. The supplier will be informed and given a reference number.
6. A testing fee invoice carrying the reference number will be sent from the ~~Lausanne headquarters~~ ITTF to the supplier. Each new required test will generate a new fee invoice.
7. The supplier will be informed about the result ~~When the test results are available, the supplier will be informed about the result,~~ provided the test fee has been paid.
8. After the racket covering has passed all tests and the testing fees are paid, the racket covering ~~If the racket covering is according to our Technical Leaflet T4 and therefore can be authorised,~~ it will be included in the next issue of the LARC. A fee per year will be invoiced from ~~our Lausanne~~ the ITTF office.
9. ~~LARC is updated 1. October (valid from 1. January) and 1. April (valid from 1. July) only. New racket coverings are valid from the publishing date; see information in the LARC header.~~
10. ~~9.~~ When submitting racket coverings for repeated tests or the ten year re-test, paragraphs 21 and 32 above are not required.
11. ~~For pimples out only: Racket coverings will be subject to the special friction test which may take additional time and will be invoiced additionally. An extra sample may then reduce time. An authorisation is not valid before also this test is passed.~~

### 2.3 Simplified procedure

This procedure may help ~~When time is short, this procedure may help.~~ However, it can only be used with prior approval from the ITTF. Suppliers which have been on the LARC for less than three years must use the normal procedure above.

~~1.~~

1. ~~A.~~ Submit according to paragraphs 2 and 3 in the Normal procedure to the address given under "Contact Person" on ITTF web site.
2. ~~B.~~ Attach a message with a promise not to do any marketingsale or distribution of this brand before the ITTF has notified the supplier that the racket covering has passed all necessary tests ~~racket covering has been authorised.~~
3. ~~C.~~ The brand will be included in the next LARC, and the fee will be invoiced.
4. ~~D.~~ A complete sample set equipped with text in the rubber mould should be submitted by the supplier as soon as possible. The racket covering must pass all tests within 4 months after the printing/publication of the LARC ~~following paragraph 4 in the Normal procedure.~~ If not, the brand will be omitted in the following LARC.
5. Paragraphs 5 - 7 ~~and 11~~ in the Normal procedure to be followed.



6. E.—Once the ITTF has provided notification that the racket covering has passed all tests, it will be officially authorised and the supplier will be notified that they may proceed with the sale and distribution of the racket covering.

#### **~~2.4. Further remarks~~**

~~Parcels with racket coverings arrive via ordinary mail, by delivery companies, or as registered letters to be collected at the post office. Sometimes the Customs Clearance withholds a parcel, asking for invoice or the content, and then also charging fees and value added tax. Such fees may be paid back if applied for, but taxes are not, so then a refund will be invoiced to the supplier.~~

~~If the suppliers submit parcels with "ITTF" – or the full name – in front of the address given, the Customs tends to treat the parcel in a – for the receiver – simpler and better way, thereby helping to avoid a delay.~~

~~However, time cannot be guaranteed in this process, so it is advisable to be early. Remember that all such incidents may require extra time. If time is essential, please consider the Simplified procedure.~~

~~All racket coverings received will be regarded and tested as new ones and any reference to other similar and previously authorised racket coverings is of limited interest.~~

~~*The received samples will be stored for future reference.*~~





**3. The List of Authorised Racket Coverings (LARC)**

LARC is ~~issued~~ published only twice per year. The publication ~~dates / printing is~~ are normally 1<sup>st</sup> April 1<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> October 1<sup>st</sup>. New racket coverings in LARC – marked as **bold** - are ~~valid~~ authorised from that day. The other racket coverings are ~~valid~~ authorised half a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup>, respectively.


The authorised racket coverings at any time are those in the ~~valid~~ current version of the LARC, for the ~~period specified~~ period, see in the header. The Internet version may be corrected for errors during the season. Information will be given on the ITTF web site. It is not permitted to use racket covering outside the valid periods given in the LARC.

It is recommended that new samples for testing should be submitted at least two months ahead of the publication date in order to be included in time ~~for~~ the coming season’s LARC. The ITTF ~~may~~ will not be held responsible for any delays occurring at customs, during transport or in the laboratory.

New racket coverings should not be sold or distributed to any customers before all tests have been passed, the authorisation has been completed and the racket covering appears on the published LARC. If a racket covering is sold before it has passed all tests and the racket covering appears on LARC, the authorisation will be void immediately. However, marketing activities such as promotion, advertisement etc. are allowed provided that the exact validity date is clearly indicated. ~~The LARC now omits all reference to sponge colours.~~

**4. The use of the ITTF logo on assembled rackets.**

This logo is the property of the ITTF. Hence, the suppliers may use the ITTF logo only on equipment that is properly authorised, i.e. here only the racket covering itself. It is considered illegal to use the main ITTF logo in connection with an assembled product like an assembled racket etc.

ASSEMBLED RACKET PACKAGING	
<p><b>Recommended: (Authorised Racket Covering Logo)</b></p> 	<p><u>When an authorised racket covering is used on <del>For an</del> assembled rackets packaging, please use the logo on the left <u>may be used on the packaging.</u></u></p>

**5. Fees**

There is a **testing** fee, which must be paid before the results of any actual tests are published. The testing fees are subject to changes year by year. The ITTF Equipment Coordinator may be contacted for information about testing fees. This is also the case for any extra tests made for suppliers and for the retesting of racket coverings after a period of ten years. If more frequent testing is considered necessary by the Equipment Committee, the supplier will have to pay the fee. The fees will be invoiced from the ITTF ~~Headquarters in Lausanne.~~

An **authorisation** fee is paid for being included in the LARC (on the paper version and on Internet, including the image files). Lack of payment will mean withdrawal from the next LARC.

The authorisation fees are paid for LARC, which are published in April. In October only new racket coverings entering LARC for the first time are subject to the additional fee / racket covering.

When a new supplier is entering LARC in October for the first time, it is subject to the authorisation fee, half the amount for the first racket covering and full amount for each additional racket covering, according to the list of fees, and will be invoiced again in April next year.



If a racket covering is removed from the LARC for technical or financial reasons, there will be no refund.

If it is desired to re-authorise a known racket covering that has been removed from the LARC for whatever reason, it will be treated as a new brand with new test and authorisation fees.

### 6. Changes in racket coverings

The ITTF authorisation applies to a racket covering as originally submitted and tested; its subsequent alteration, by a supplier, a player or anyone else, is not permitted (~~The Law 2.4.7~~).

Changes from the original design will normally not be permitted. However, changes to the ~~text~~ branding area only may be allowed, and must be confirmed with samples and image files submitted.

### 7. Supplier's responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the suppliers to keep their brands on the LARC by paying the fees and maintaining the original properties of the racket covering as authorised, without alterations. ~~In addition a Contract with ITTF must be adhered to.~~

### 8. Withdrawal of authorisation of racket coverings

It should be noted:

1. that the Equipment Committee has been instructed to deny authorisation to any racket covering that it deems detrimental to the sport,
2. that the Board of Directors (BoD) has the right to withdraw the authorisation of any racket covering at any time, if it finds it detrimental to the sport (~~The Law Regulation 3.2.1.1~~),
3. that not paying the yearly fee or requested test fees will result in a deletion from the LARC and a notice on the ITTF web site if required.

Only red and black racket coverings are permitted in ITTF events and have the right to carry the ITTF logo. All other racket coverings of any other colour are illegal.

### 9. Re-testing of racket coverings

Racket coverings will be re-tested approximately every ten years after having been included on the LARC. The suppliers will be notified to submit samples, and there is no additional information required. The test fee will be invoiced from the ITTF ~~Headquarters~~.

When comparing two rubbers of the same brand at different times – for instance when making the 10-year test - the rubbers must be recognizably similar: for example in translucency, thickness, and pimple shape, spacing and dimensions. Rubbers which do not match will not be authorized as the same brand. the sum of the pimple diameter on top (A) plus the distance between the pimple tops (B) must be the same within 20% for these to be accepted to be the same brand. If not, they will be considered to be different brands.

In addition, retail samples of racket coverings may be inspected at any time to verify continued compliance with these specifications.

### ~~10. Extended testing of racket coverings.~~

~~ITTF is making an effort to reduce the use of VOC (volatile organic components) due to the health risk involved. This work is also fully supported by IOC and United Nations.~~

~~The Law 2.4.7. says "The racket covering shall be used without any physical, chemical or other treatment." Our reference point here is the authorisation. However, there have been criticisms that~~



~~ITTF does not authorise the complete racket covering, only the rubber itself (top sheet). Hence, to remove any doubts, we are enlarging the testing.~~

~~We are doing racket controls at ITTF events, and this testing will be increased. By collecting the information from these events we will be able to compare with data from this testing. We will start concentrating on VOC and thickness which have shown to be the most important areas here. These will then be our main reference points for comparison.~~

***End of T4***

## Introduction

At present, net gauges are not applicable equipment for approval by ITTF. Nevertheless net gauges have a very important role to keep the matches fair such that:

- (i) the result of a rally should not be influenced by the net condition or
- (ii) a net gauge can indicate illegality of players' racket.

Net gauges can also be used for the detection of glossy surfaces of rubbers.

Therefore the ITTF intend to regulate the specifications or requirements of the net gauge as "Technical Guidelines". Umpires should use only a net gauge conforming to the requirements described in this "Technical Guidelines" document. The responsible person should check the capability of umpires' net gauges, not only for using as a net gauge, but also when it will be used as a tool for Racket Control, before starting the tournament.

Two types of net gauges are wholly used by umpires:

1. **Light net gauges:** They are to be used for the adjustment of the height of the net, at about 30cm from the net posts.
2. **Heavy net gauges:** They are to be used exclusively for the adjustment of the net tension, in the middle of the net. This cannot be used for adjusting the net height.

Additionally to the above functions of the net gauge, a light net gauge may often be used to check the extensions, flatness and thickness of the rubbers on a player's racket as well as the height of the cushions of the wheelchairs.

## Terms of reference

### A. Net height and net tension:

1. Law 2.02.03: The top of the net, along its whole length, shall be 152.5mm above the playing surface.
2. Technical Leaflet T2 - The Net Assembly:
  - 2.1. The tension of the net cord may be checked in the middle of the table either by using fingers or, preferably, by a 100g **heavy tension gauge**. The 142.5mm high part of the gauge should hang on the net; the tension is correct if the bottom of the gauge comes next to the table-top surface without touching it. Otherwise the devices to adjust the net tension must be operated.
  - 2.2. The height of the net shall be checked about 30cm from the upright posts: it shall reach the correct height. The height should preferably be adjusted with the normal **light net gauge** that does not depress the net: the bottom of the freely and vertically hanging gauge should just touch the table-top. Otherwise the devices to adjust the net height have to be operated until the 152.5mm are reached everywhere.

### B. Rubber thickness, flatness and extensions

1. Law 2.04.01: The racket may be of any size, shape or weight but the blade shall be flat and rigid.
2. Law 2.04.03: A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimped rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2.0mm, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4.0mm.
3. Law 2.4.4: The covering material shall extend up to but not beyond the limits of the adhesive on a side used for striking the ball shall be continuous and of even thickness

### C. Wheelchairs

The height of one or maximum two cushions is limited to 15cm in playing conditions with no other addition to the wheelchair, as indicated in the Directives for PTT Events, page 7, point 3.15.3.

### The requirements for net gauges

All net gauges may have a height of about 180 mm. Their width shall be less than 48 mm (heavy gauges) and less than 42 mm (light gauges) but slimmer is better. Their thickness shall be 2.0mm so that they can be used for determining the extension of the racket covering up to or beyond the edges of the blade as recommended in HMO 7.1.1. As net gauges can also be used for the detection of glossy surfaces at an angle of about 45°, their background may be dark and letters or logos may be white. There are no rules for advertisements on the net gauges, other than **the ITTF logo shall only be used for net gauges that have been approved by the ITTF**. Along one of its edges the net gauge shall have a ruler of 15cm scaled in mm so that it may serve for measurements as the height of the cushions of wheelchairs. Figures 3 & 4 draw basic shapes for net gauges used at ITTF tournaments. Other features may be added but may not change a basic requirement as described in Table 1 and in the text.

The design of a net gauge shall allow it to hang vertically on a cord. If it does not, the centre of gravity of its plane is located outside its medium vertical axis, which may lead to incorrect measurements because the lower part of the gauge will touch the net. For the same reason, the central split may not be narrower than 7 mm.

On one side the net gauge shall have an incision of 4.0 mm with a tolerance of +/- 0.05mm, and on the other side it may have an incision of 2.0mm with a tolerance of +/- 0.05mm. The angles of the projecting part at the top of the incisions must be 90° exactly and rounding on the outside or inside corners is strictly prohibited. The height of the lateral incisions shall not be less than 152.5 mm, so that both long edges can be used for flatness checks. All relevant dimensions shall be properly indicated on the gauge.

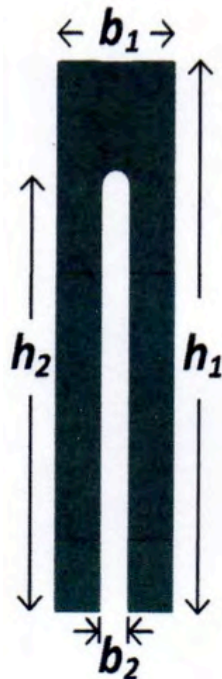


Figure 3: Basic net tension gauge

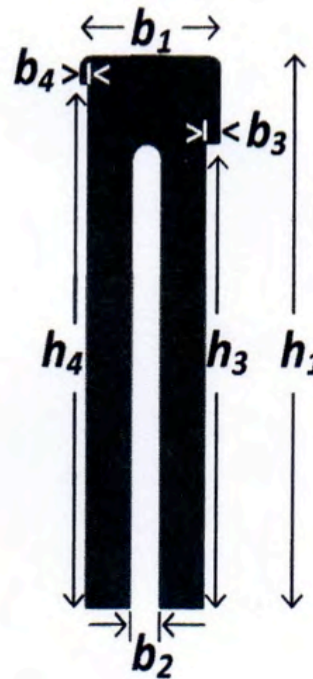


Figure 4: Basic net height gauge

**Table 1. Requirements for features, dimensions and design of net gauges**

Net gauges		Figure	Heavy gauge	Light gauge
Functions			net tension & racket covering	net height & racket covering
Lateral incisions for racket covering thickness		4	optional	compulsory (both incisions)
Overall maximum width		3 & 4	$b_1 = 48 \text{ mm}$	$b_1 = 42 \text{ mm}$
Overall height		3 & 4	$h_1 = \text{approximate } 180 \text{ mm}$	
Overall thickness			$2.0\text{mm} \pm 0.1\text{mm}$	
Weight			$100.0 \pm 0.5 \text{ g}$	$< 15 \text{ g}$
Height of central split (exactly!)		3 & 4	$h_2 = 142.5 \text{ mm}$	$h_3 = 152.5 \text{ mm}$
Width of central split		3 & 4	$b_2 < 12 \text{ mm}$ , preferred $b_2 \text{ 7- } 8 \text{ mm}$	
Depth of lateral incisions if any		4	$b_3 = 4.0 \text{ mm}$ and $b_4 = 2.0 \text{ mm}$	
Height of lateral incision	for 2 mm depth	4	$h_4 = 152.5 \text{ mm}$ or $172.5 \text{ mm}$	
	for 4 mm depth	4	$h_3 = 152.5 \text{ mm}$	
Roundness of	central split top	3 & 4	rounded	straight
	lateral incision top	4	straight	straight
	corners on top of the lateral incision	4	$90^\circ$ sharply, strictly no rounding	$90^\circ$ sharply, strictly no rounding
Sides of	lateral incision	4	straight, strictly no convexity or concavity	
Recommended colour			background: dark; lettering: white	

If the responsible person confirms that a net gauge satisfies all the requirements shown in table 1, he/she gives the approval to the supplier to use the ITTF logo and the manufacturing date on the net gauges. The approval is only valid for the specific manufacturing series and any changes for future manufacturing series should first be approved by the ITTF.

The market presently provides heavy gauges with a central split, open up to 15 mm, for the height. As long as the heavy gauge can hang vertically and safely on the net for the height of 142.5 mm, its central split is acceptable for the tension adjustment (but should not be used for the height adjustment). Lateral incisions are not made for tension adjustment; height adjustments are possible but they are fussy and questionable. Therefore, lateral incisions may not be used for adjusting the tension or the height of the nets. Lateral edges must be straight because gauges are used for the check of thickness and flatness of the rackets.

**Example of the heavy net gauges in the market**

# 142.5 mm and 152.5 mm or



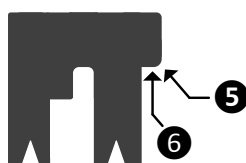
# 142.5 mm and 162.5 mm.



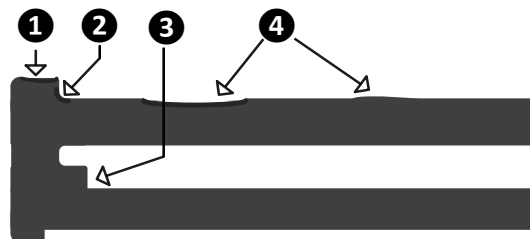
Figure 5: Gauge hanging vertical on a cord

**Gauges showing any of the following defects shall not be used, because they do not allow:**

- correct, safe or quick determinations of the tension of the net: ③
- reliable checks of the thickness of racket coverings: ① ② ⑤ ⑥
- correct checks of the flatness of racket sides: ② ④



**Strictly prohibited defects**  
 ⑤ = rounded outside corner at the top of a lateral incision  
 ⑥ = lateral incision depths different to 4.0 or 2.0 mm



**Defects which are not acceptable**  
 ① = edge not straight  
 ② = inside corner rounded  
 ③ = top of the tension split straight  
 ④ = edge not straight

Figure 6: Strictly prohibited defects of net gauges

Figure 7: Prohibited defects of net gauges

### How to check the correctness of net gauges based on the requirements

1. A vernier caliper, a large size, 200 mm, is recommended for checking each dimension of a net gauge.  
You can buy it at any tools shop. You don't need to select a high precision one.
2. Easy method for checking the net gauge by using metal pins.  
The accuracy of the diameter of the metal pins should be 3.95 mm ~ 4.00mm.

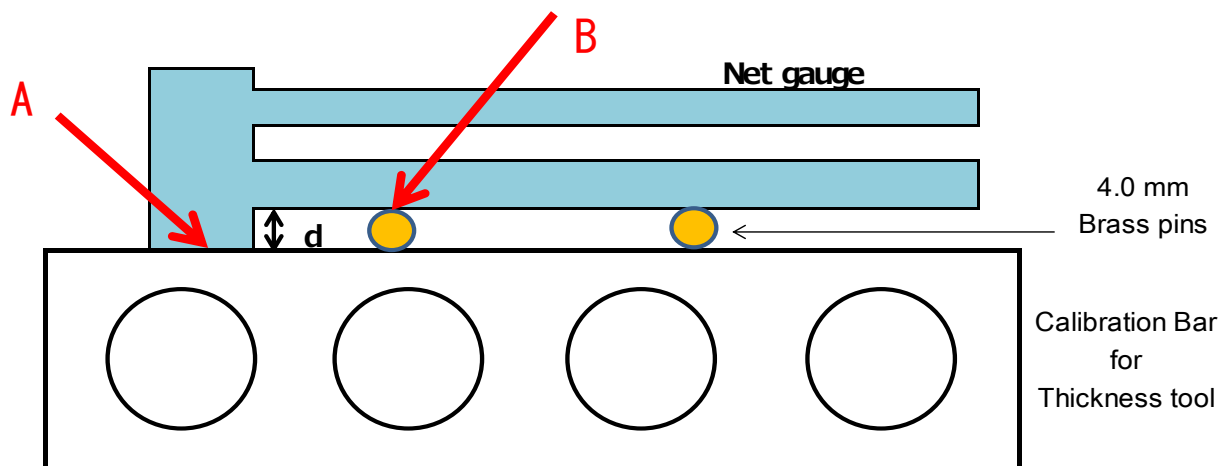


Figure 8: Easy Method for checking the net gauge, by using metal pins

- 1)  $d$  of net gauge  $\leq 4.0$  mm  $\rightarrow$  any gap will be found at A ( tolerance  $\leq 0.1$  mm)
  - 2)  $d$  of net gauge  $\geq 4.0$  mm  $\rightarrow$  any gap will be found at B ( no tolerance )
3. The easy method for checking the net gauge is by using the digital thickness device for racket coverings. This method is suitable to check the heavy net gauge, but not the light net gauge because of bending under the weight of the digital device.



Figure 9: Easy method for checking the net gauge by using the digital thickness device

### How to check or adjust the tension and the height of the net by using net gauge

Those are concretely described in Technical Leaflet T2 - The Net Assembly.  
It is strongly recommended to first adjust for tension and then for height.

### How to check the thickness of rubbers with net gauge

It is described in detail in Technical Leaflet T9 - Racket Control.

End of T5