

To: Wendell Dillon, Chair USATT Officials' Committee

From: Dick Evans and Roman Tinyszyn

Subject: International Paralympics World Table Tennis Championships
Montreux, Switzerland (Sept. 24-Oct. 2, 2006)

It was an honor and a pleasure to represent the USATT as an umpire at the IPC World Table Tennis Championships. There were 200 wheelchair and 150 standing impaired players from nearly 50 countries participating in these championships. Below are some of our observations and comments:

- There were 30 two-umpire teams from 24 countries assigned to officiate the matches. More than half the umpires wore uniforms of their national associations rather than the designated ITTF uniform.
- At the Umpires Briefing, conducted by the Referee (Patrick Ringel), we were handed a 5 page document of what was expected of us as umpires. I believe that our Association should do something similar as we sometimes forget to mention one thing or another. If it is written, then you can see if you might have forgotten something or not.
- The Deputy Referee that was responsible for the Umpire's work schedule appeared to have some difficulty in our scheduling. We as an example would have one or two matches in the morning and then a long break and then 3 or 4 matches in the middle/late afternoon. It would have been better, in our opinions, if they had us work several straight hours instead of breaking up our times. I guess if he went the other way, we would also complain.
- By far the most frequent breach of the rules by players was in making a correct serve (i.e. not tossing the ball the required height or tossing the ball backwards). This, of course, is somewhat more of a problem for wheelchair players and standing players with impaired upper extremities, but it was a subject of considerable concern to the tournament Referee and his several deputies. It will continue to be a problem.

On the whole, the weather was not the best. It rained Sunday through Tuesday morning and then again Friday through Sunday. The best days of the week was Wednesday and Thursday. These days the temperature hit near 85 and 80 respectively. We tried every day to do some sightseeing in our free time, but with the rain/showers it made things a little difficult.

If the USATT is to continue to offer Paralympics events at our major national tournaments, advance planning and provision for ball retrievers (for every day of the tournament) must be undertaken or the players advised in advance (in the entry blank if

necessary) that their coaches, families or friends will need to fulfill this function. It is difficult enough to officiate Paralympics events without the added responsibility of retrieving balls.

Tournament results are not included in this report, but probably will be by the USATT team leader and coach. It was interesting—and somewhat of a surprise—that China did not dominate this event, although their record was certainly impressive. France, Germany, Belgium and the Ukraine fielded very strong teams.

It was very helpful having Roman Tinyszyn as the USATT lead umpire in Montreux. He is thoroughly knowledgeable of the rules of disabled table tennis, is professional at the table, and kept me (Dick) from making a number of mistakes. He is, in my opinion, quite capable of being a Paralympic Referee.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Evans

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cc: Teodor Gheorghe

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