



USATT Umpire/Referee Memo 2003-4

November 3, 2003

SUBJECT: Blue Badge IU Qualifications

1. In 2002 the ITTF developed an Advanced Umpire Training (AUT) Program.
2. The objective was to develop a small number of the most qualified umpires for world title events. The ITTF expects to qualify approximately 5-10% of the 4000+ current IU's as "Blue Badge" umpires. These umpires will be selected to umpire the late rounds of world title events.
3. Invitations to the Olympics will be limited to Blue Badge umpires. Invitations to other world title events will normally include (for USATT) an invitation for two umpires, at least one of whom will be Blue badge. This will permit us to send an umpire to attend that event and be eligible to take the AUT course before the event.

CRITERIA:

1. The AUT consists of a one day seminar followed by an advanced IU exam. The exam is a very tough exam requiring full understanding of the Laws of Table Tennis, The Regulations for International Competition and the Handbook for Match Officials (HMO). The exam is not taught at the seminar.
2. The umpire must attend the AUT and get a passing grade on the exam.
3. ITTF evaluators evaluate umpires during a match. The evaluation standards are high. Evaluators observe actions before, during and after play. Attention is paid to the procedures outlined in the HMO. During the match attention is given to enforcement of the laws such as coaching, correct enforcement of the service law, correct and prompt calls for let, point, and use of proper hand signals.
4. The ratings are: Meets expectations; Meets expectations, needs improvement; and Does not meet expectations. Most ratings fall in the needs improvement column.
5. Blue badge qualification requires four "Meets expectations" ratings from at least two different events as well as an oral interview to determine proficiency in the English language.
6. Whenever possible evaluations will be conducted by evaluators not from the umpire's association. So far USATT has 10 umpires who have passed the AUT exam.
7. The recent invitation for the 2004 Olympics specified having passed the exam and at least one rating of "Meets expectations". To date USATT has only 4 umpires that met those criteria. Larry Kesler was selected to umpire at the 2004 Olympics.

Wendell Dillon

Wendell Dillon, IR, Chairman
Rules/Officials Committee