



# INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

## AGM & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DOCUMENTS

### INDEX

<b>Annual General Meeting Agenda .....</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Annual reports from the Executive Committee .....</b>	<b>5-24</b>
President: Thomas Weikert .....	5
Deputy President: Khalil Al-Mohannadi .....	7
Executive Vice President (Finance): Petra Sörling .....	9
Executive Vice President: Bruce Burton .....	11
Executive Vice President: Masahiro Maehara .....	13
Executive Vice President: Alaa Meshref .....	15
Executive Vice President: James Morris .....	17
Executive Vice President: Shi Zhihao .....	19
Executive Vice President: Nestor Tenca .....	21
Athletes Commission' Chair: Zoran Primorac.....	23
<b>Annual reports from the Continental Federations .....</b>	<b>25-36</b>
Africa .....	25
Asia .....	27
Europe .....	29
Latin America .....	31
North America .....	33
Oceania .....	35
<b>Annual reports from the CEO, Sec. General, OPC, DCC and Ethics Commission .....</b>	<b>37-46</b>
Chief Executive Officer .....	37
Secretary General .....	40
Olympic and Paralympic Commission .....	43
Development and Continental Council .....	44
Ethics Commission .....	46

## INDEX (follows from page 1)

<b>Annual reports from Committees .....</b>	<b>47-63</b>
Equipment Committee .....	47
Media Committee .....	50
Nominations Committee .....	53
Para Table Tennis Committee .....	55
Rules Committee .....	56
Sports Science and Medical Committee .....	57
Umpires' and Referees' Committee .....	60
Veterans' Committee .....	62
<b>Audited Financial Statements .....</b>	<b>64</b>
Audited Financial Statements 2018 (document to be distributed) .....	64
<b>Propositions and Resolutions (AGM) .....</b>	<b>65-70</b>
<b>Board of Directors Agenda .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Annual reports from commissions and commissioners .....</b>	<b>72-78</b>
Athletes' Commission .....	72
Junior Commissioner .....	73
Technical Commissioner .....	75
Women in Sport Commissioner .....	76
<b>Propositions and Resolutions (BoD) .....</b>	<b>79-97</b>



## **INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, 09h00 at the Grand Ball Room, Corinthia Hotel, Budapest, Hungary.

### **AGENDA**

1. President Welcome and Opening Address
2. Appointment of a Chair
3. Roll Call of Associations Present
4. Appointment of Scrutineers
5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 in Halmstad, Sweden
6. Presentations
  - 6.1 Event Awards
  - 6.2 Sponsor Recognition
  - 6.3 Special Awards
  - 6.4 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games
  - 6.5 ITTF Foundation
  - 6.6 Unified Korea
  - 6.7 2020 World Championships Update
  - 6.8 2021 World Championships Bids Presentation
  - 6.9 2022 World Championships Bids Presentation
  - 6.10 Election of 2021 and 2022 Hosts
7. Membership
8. Annual General Report
9. Annual Reports from the Executive Committee
  - 9.1 President: Thomas Weikert
  - 9.2 Deputy President: Khalil Al-Mohannadi
  - 9.3 Executive Vice President (Finance): Petra Sörling
  - 9.4 Executive Vice-President: Bruce Burton
  - 9.5 Executive Vice-President: Masahiro Maehara
  - 9.6 Executive Vice-President: Alaa Meshref
  - 9.7 Executive Vice-President: James Morris
  - 9.8 Executive Vice-President: Shi Zhihao
  - 9.9 Executive Vice-President: Nestor Tenca
  - 9.10 Athletes Commission Chair: Zoran Primorac

*(continued on the next page)*

10. Annual Reports from the Continental Federations:
  - 10.1 Africa
  - 10.2 Asia
  - 10.3 Europe
  - 10.4 Latin America
  - 10.5 North America
  - 10.6 Oceania
11. Annual Reports from the CEO, SG, OPC, DCC and Ethics Commission:
  - 11.1 Chief Executive Officer
  - 11.2 Secretary General
  - 11.3 Olympic and Paralympic Commission
  - 11.4 Development and Continental Council
  - 11.5 Ethics Commission
12. Annual Reports from Committees:
  - 12.1 Equipment Committee
  - 12.2 Media Committee
  - 12.3 Nominations Committee
  - 12.4 Para Table Tennis Committee
  - 12.5 Rules Committee
  - 12.6 Sports Science and Medical Committee
  - 12.7 Umpires' and Referees' Committee
  - 12.8 Veterans' Committee
13. Finance
  - 13.1 2018 Audited Financial Statements
  - 13.2 2019 Budget and Quadrennial Forecast
  - 13.3 Appointment of the Auditors 2019 & 2020
14. Ratification of the Work Done by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee
15. Strategic Plan
16. The New World Championships
17. Propositions and Resolutions
18. Future World Championships
  - 18.1 Deadline for 2023 World Championships Bids: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019
19. Next AGM: to be held in Busan in March 2020
20. Any other Business
21. Adjournment

2018 has been again an extraordinary year for the ITTF, both on and off the court, with many outstanding events and milestones achieved, for which we can all be very proud.

This was the year in which we announced our first-ever Strategic Plan, which will guide us under the new ITTF vision “Table Tennis. For All. For Life.” under the five key pillars of the ITTF’s direction: Organisation & Governance, High Performance & Development, International Events, Promotion and Revenue. In short, we have set ourselves ambitious and sustainable objectives to ensure the bright future for Table Tennis that we all want.

Our sport showed the world just what an immense unifying power it possesses when the North and South Korean Women’s Teams joined forces to play as one Unified Korea at the 2018 World Team Championships. We saw the reunification of the teams again at the Korean Open, where the Mixed Doubles pair of Jang Woojin and Cha Hyo Sim claimed Gold in front of their fans, before earning Silver medals at this year’s World Tour Grand Finals, also in Korea.

The players, coaches, staff and everyone involved in this unique initiative are a real credit not only to the world of Table Tennis, but to mankind and we will, of course, continue our commitments to the Korean cause through 2019 and beyond.

We saw one of the best World Championships of all time at the Liebherr 2018 World Table Tennis Championships, which broke all TV and social media records to be one of the most followed table tennis events on earth! 2018 was the year that Table Tennis excited a global fanbase like never before. Our athletes’ unbelievable technical skill and the breath-taking rallies on show have attracted people in their billions to tune in on TV, online streaming and social media. They brought table tennis to a new level with exciting rallies, new records and personal achievements being witnessed throughout the year.

Approximately 1.2 billion impressions across all ITTF social platforms; over 150 million video views on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube; an ever-growing fanbase on Weibo and Wechat; almost 150 million unique viewers tuning into Chinese online streaming platform, Zhibo TV: the big numbers more than back up a meteoric rise for the ITTF’s digital media channels over the last year with momentum building into 2019 ahead of the World Championships.

Our constant mission to grow the game is also at the centre of our decision for a revolutionary expansion of the World Championships to ensure maximum participation of ITTF member associations, thus better reflecting our enviable position of having national associations in all 226 countries around the world, the first International Federation to do so.

Ground-breaking figures in viewership are also driving unprecedented commercial growth and record marketing revenue. We struck a historic deal with Sportsmaster to work together to grow commercial revenues on our way to our biggest-ever rights cycle in 2021 when we will put all our rights into a commercial vehicle which we believe will bring us the revenue we need to take the sport to the next level.

With record-high prize money on offer at Tour events and at World Cups, not to mention a much-improved all-round sports presentation of ITTF events, we are already seeing the fruits of increased investment. At the same time, Para Table Tennis is constantly on the rise with better event organisation and participation thanks to the work of new staff members, while the ITTF is also running more development courses than ever before. All of this stands for proof that Table Tennis is establishing itself among the elite sports.

Thanks to the ITTF Foundation, instrumental in supporting the Unified Korea campaign after being officially launched earlier in the year, there will be an increasing number of humanitarian projects to promote peace and break down social barriers through Table Tennis.

Further proof of our sport's power to unite people from across the globe came resoundingly on 6 April 2018 at World Table Tennis Day: 94,000 people at 579 events in 97 countries all took part in a true day of celebration, where Table Tennis once again was the tool to a greater good. We are striving for even higher participation in 2019!

Our mission must be that our smaller and economically weaker regions receive our support via the Development Programme, with the aim to ensure that table tennis in such countries has a secure structure and basis for growth. It is not only equipment that may be needed, education and training are equally vital. This is what we want to achieve with our projects.

In general, the ITTF can act in this area as a partner by providing support, but we also need the support and commitment of the associations; this is still for me a personal goal. It is my policy to work in a transparent and realistic way. I will not make any empty promises about funds that do not exist, but I am working hard to extend our development programmes as far as possible.

May I take this opportunity to thank the continental and national associations who have supported the initiatives.

Our new ITTF team is growing faster and stronger than ever, with more recruitment of professional staff and a new staff structure in place to make the organisation more professional, epitomised by the recent move of many staff members to a cutting-edge, modern Asia Pacific office in Singapore.

The discussions and negotiations with Swaythling Club International went well in 2018 and the World Veterans Tour will start in 2019.

We can all agree that 2018 was our best year yet, but what's even more exciting is we are ready to take Table Tennis to another level altogether in 2019!

Finally, I thank the members of the ITTF for the trust they have placed in me. I would like to extend a special thank you to my Deputy President Khalil Al-Mohannadi and my special advisor Frank Ji as well as to my colleagues on the Executive Committee for their unwavering support in what has been an incredible year off the table. I thank the Chairs of ITTF Committees; the ITTF professional staff for their efforts; and last but not least, I thank all member associations and their athletes for their tremendous support.

Tokyo 2020 is already casting its shadows and an exciting year awaits us!

Thank you!

**Thomas Weikert**

## DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Khalil Al-Mohannadi)

### Report to the AGM

Document A2

First of all, I would like to thank the ITTF President Thomas Weikert, my friends, members of the EC, our ITTF CEO and all the staff for their hard work and their cooperation and help in all my duties for the best of our beloved Table Tennis.

In my areas of responsibility, the two most important points have been:

1. To be in close contact with the 2019 WTTC Organising Committee and to make sure that the 2019 WTTC and 2019 AGM will strictly follow ITTF WTTC and AGM Directives.
2. To fulfill all my duties as the ITTF Deputy President.

#### Areas of Responsibility

- Signing Ceremony for the Pioneering Plans for 2021 Commercial Rights Cycle
- Deputize for the President – Inspection in Budapest for the 2019 WTTC
- World Championships (Administration)
- World Championships (Technical)
- World Cups (Men's World Cup in Paris in 2018)
- ITTF Senior Staff Management Meeting held in Qatar
- Agreement Signing Ceremony for the 2019 ITTF World Championships, to be held in Budapest, Hungary
- Meeting with **Table Tennis England** to discuss the celebration of the International Table Tennis Association on the occasion of the 100th anniversary in 2026
- 2018 Jakarta Asian Games: Attending the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia and holding intensive meetings of the delegation of the International Table Tennis Association headed by the ITTF President, ITTF CEO Steve Dainton, the Advisor of His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd Al-Sabah, the Chairman of the Asian Olympic Council and myself, and another important meeting with the Chinese Sports Minister in order to work together for the improvement of Table Tennis and events organized in China and the co-operation with other countries worldwide.

We had our usual events:

- LIEBHERR 2018 World Championships (Halmstad, Sweden)
- LIEBHERR Men's World Cup (Paris, France)
- 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- SEAMASTER 2018 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals (Incheon, Korea)

I would like to underline the excellent collaboration between the Organizing Committees, sponsors and ITTF staff, which resulted in all events being very well organized. In particular, the organizers of the WTTC in Halmstad did an extraordinary job at the highest level.

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

#### Attendance at ITTF Executive Committee Meetings

- EC Meeting in London
- EC Meeting in Halmstad
- EC Meeting in Prague
- EC Meeting in Incheon

#### Attendance at ATTU Executive Committee Meetings

- EB Meeting in Phuket

Attendance at major events is giving me the opportunity to discuss with the Organizing Committees, ITTF Competition, Marketing and Promotion Directors the problems we have faced and improvements we can make in the future. Those discussions have produced many good proposals for the 2019 events.

Through my responsibilities as President of the Arab Table Tennis Federation, I attended the following tournaments and meetings:

- 2018 Arab Championships in Cairo, Egypt, August 1-9
- 2018 Arab Club Championships in Tunis, Tunisia, November, with more than 39 Clubs
- Arab AGM Meeting in Cairo, August 2018

As President of the Arab Table Tennis Association, I am fully involved in all matters, including detailed questions and problems that member associations face on their way toward progressing in our beloved sport.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to ITTF President Mr. Thomas Weikert, my colleagues on the Executive Committee, and the ITTF professional staff for their support and co-operation. I am also grateful to all association members of the ITTF and the Arab Table Tennis Association.

**Khalil Al-Mohannadi**



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

## **Report to the AGM**

**Document A3**

Since I was elected as an Executive Vice President in 2009, I was assigned to be responsible for a couple of focus areas in addition to the general duties within the ITTF Executive Committee (EC).

### **FOCUS AREAS**

#### **Para Table Tennis**

It is a pleasure to have Para TT in 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 have a very good working relationship. Also, within the ITTF, we are working closely together and I'm proud that Para TT has been converted from a Para TT Division to a Committee and that we have dedicated staff in Para while also making use of all the experts within the ITTF. One sport, one family.

#### **Finance**

In finance, we have done a lot since we hired our first CFO in the end of 2017. We continued our work with the risk assessment workshop under the guidance of our auditors. Last year in Halmstad, we introduced also for the very first time a Financial Forum and we received very positive feedback. This is something we will continue to organize and the next one will be in Budapest before the AGM. The Financial Forum gives all our members a chance to more deeply discuss and understand our financial reports. We also changed to a new software that supports our needs more easily within finance.

#### **Staff**

This year I have also actively assisted our president, our CEO and Secretary General regarding the ITTF's staff structure and human resource matters in general. As the ITTF is growing fast, it has been a very busy year in this area and we have also introduced a new software to support this work. For the very first time, the ITTF organized a Staff retreat; it was a very dynamic gathering. Management team meetings have also been held before our EC meetings in order to better plan for important discussions and decisions. Our CFO is responsible for HR in the daily operations and I have supported him and took part in different meetings as requested.

#### **ITTF Foundation**

As the ITTF Vice President in charge of finance, I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the ITTF Foundation. The Board of Trustees is the controlling body of the Foundation and appoints the external auditor to approve the yearly financial statements.

### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

- April, 2018 in Halmstad, Sweden
- August, 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic
- December, 2018 in Incheon/Seoul, Korea
- February, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand

I represented the ITTF at the following events (chronologically sorted):

- ITTF World Tour, German Open 2018, in Germany
- ITTF World Championships 2018, Sweden
- ITTF European Youth Championships 2018, in Romania
- ITTF European Championships 2018, in Spain
- ITTF Women's World Cup, 2018, in China
- ITTF Para World Championships 2018, in Slovenia
- ITTF World Tour, Swedish Open 2018, in Sweden
- ITTF World Tour Grand Finals 2018, in Korea

I represented the ITTF at the following meetings:

- Audit in Lausanne, Switzerland in 2018
- Para Selection meeting, Switzerland 2018
- Para Committee meeting, Slovenia 2018
- Risk Assessment Workshop, Switzerland 2018
- ITTF Finance and staff follow-up meeting, Qatar 2018
- ITTF Continental Forum, Romania 2018
- Veterans meeting, Germany 2018
- ITTF Foundation meeting, Sweden 2018
- ITTF Foundation Unified Korea, DPR Korea 2018
- Finland TTA 80th year anniversary, Finland 2018

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for giving me your trust and confidence. 2018 was a very special year for table tennis in general and for me as president of the Swedish Table Tennis Association. It was a big honour to welcome you all to our World Championships in Sweden in the city Halmstad and to see the unified Korean team on my home soil was a true memory for life!

I also would like to thank our President Mr. Thomas Weikert and all my colleagues on the Executive Committee. It is my pleasure to work with you all! And thanks to the Continental Presidents, Board of Director members and committee members for your always kind cooperation. Last, but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to our professional staff and its leadership; it is always a great pleasure to work together with you. I'm very proud to be part of the ITTF family. Table Tennis. For All. For Life!

**Petra Sörling**

## **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (H. Bruce Burton)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document A4**

Last year's momentous developments in Halmstad involving the adoption of a Strategic Plan, a reformed Constitution, expansion of our World Championships, and the formation of the ITTF Foundation have since led to significant activity. The following overview of the focus areas for which I have responsibility highlights some of this activity.

#### **Competition Department**

This area has certainly occupied me the most this past year. Reviewing Platinum, World Tour, and the ever-increasing Challenge and Challenge Plus events has been time consuming and rewarding at the same time. Our current staff has been pushed to the limits to meet all the expectations and I certainly foresee the need for enlarging the group as we continue to expand.

I have been involved in the process of seeking bids for 2021 and 2022 World Championships. These are being reviewed at the time of writing. I have also been involved with the Future Events Working Group as we explore the details necessary for all phases of the expanded format of the Individuals and Team Championships. Deloitte has been involved for the past months and their work will guide the proposals that are brought to the BOD for consideration.

I attended a Competition Managers conference in Singapore last November. It was an excellent opportunity for both new and experienced CMs to meet and exchange ideas. In our rapidly evolving competition structure these types of sessions are invaluable. Kudos to our Competition Director, Vicky Eleftheriade, for making this a reality.

#### **High Performance and Development Department / ITTF Foundation**

While I remain in regular contact with Director Polona Cehovin on Development matters, my involvement this year has focused more on the work of the ITTF Foundation. The Governing Board has focused on getting the Foundation officially set up and we are close to finalizing office space in Leipzig. Meanwhile the core staff is increasing and a variety of activities are ongoing. Particularly noteworthy is the Ping Pong Diplomacy initiative involving the Unified Korea Team. Further details may be found in the report of the Foundation Director – Leandro Olvech.

#### **Multi-Sport Games**

##### Pan Am Games:

Scheduled for Lima, Peru, planning is well advanced for competitions in a total of seven events. The status of the Men's and Women's Singles are further elevated by the fact that the winners automatically qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The qualification process has already started, and anticipation is growing for another highly competitive event.

##### Para Pan Am Games:

There will be 37 events at the Lima event, and it will also serve as a direct qualifier for the Tokyo Paralympics. For me, one of the highlights of 2015 was to witness the Para Pan Am competition in Markham, Canada. I have no doubt that the 2019 version will be equally competitive.

##### Commonwealth Games:

Building on the success of the 2018 Gold Coast Games, efforts have already turned to Birmingham 2022. While table tennis is a core sport on the able-bodied programme, it is an optional sport for the Para programme. We have made a case for inclusion of Women's and Men's

events for both standing and wheelchair athletes. I wish to thank Sara Sutcliffe and Simon Mills for their invaluable work in the preparation and presentation to the Review and Costing Assessment Panel in Birmingham. Some indication of the outcome should be known by March, and the formal approval would be granted at the CGF General Assembly in September.

### **Media and Promotion**

2018 saw record heights achieved on our social media platforms and overall media coverage. As our activities increase, so does the need to grow the size of our team. A new Content Manager has been hired and additional website editors are being sought.

The 2018 Star Awards in Incheon, Korea were extremely well presented. The mixture of entertainment, superb video presentations, and the superb class of nominees and winners made this a most memorable event.

By far the biggest news is that we are now actively exploring a Commercial Rights Tender which will ultimately lead to a fully integrated commercial programme. This innovative approach will place us at the forefront of International Federations.

### **North America Relations and Events**

The 2018 World Veterans Championships in Las Vegas were undoubtedly the highlight of the year. Superbly organized and well attended, the competition and accompanying activities certainly lived up to the expectations one would expect from this entertainment hotspot.

It is only fitting here to acknowledge the contributions of Tony Kiesenhofer and Gordon Kaye as they have worked tirelessly as the CEOs of TTCAN and USATT. They have also both served over the years as ITTF BoD members as well as Continental Presidents. While they have moved away from their positions, their influence will continue as Gordon joins the ITTF as the Managing Director of Product Innovation and Tony joins ITTF North America.

### **Umpires and Referees Committee**

In August 2018 the Executive Committee approved the new Directives for Match Officials and with that the new umpire scheme was put into place for the 2019 Platinum and World Tour events, as well as World Title events. Used on a trial basis at a number of 2018 events, the scheme was well received. Of course, there will be a need for continued monitoring and tweaking of the system, but I am confident that this is an important step forward for our officials.

The recent establishment of a committee to review the current evaluation system for umpires will allow for a more streamlined system that places even greater emphasis on improving the skills of our officials in match management. The timing of this review is particularly good given the adoption of the new umpire scheme.

### **Conclusion**

I wish to thank the Executive Committee members for the cooperative spirit shown as we move forward, and I especially thank our professional staff for stepping up and taking on the additional responsibilities and challenges posed by our new initiatives.

**H. Bruce Burton**

# **EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Masahiro Maehara)**

## **Report to the AGM**

**Document A7**

This report covers my activities in 2018.

### **Events Attended**

#### **ITTF Inspection, Japan (20<sup>th</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> January)**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of January, our President Thomas Weikert, CEO Steve Dainton and Secretary General Raul Calin visited Japan to see the “All Japan Table Tennis Championships,” the most decorated competition in Japan, which was held in the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, the same venue where the 2020 Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games will be held.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we also had a meeting at the “Tokyo Organising Committee office” to talk about the preparation of the event.

#### **ITTF Team World Cup, England (22<sup>nd</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> February)**

It has been a while since England last held an international competition, but the venue, transportation and other parts of the competition were all very well organised.

During this event the EC meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

#### **Opening of the ITTF Museum, China (31<sup>st</sup> of March)**

With the great support from the Chinese Table Tennis Association and Shanghai Municipality, the historical items of Table Tennis which were in Lausanne was transferred to Shanghai, where the new museum of table tennis was built. My first time to see the building was at the Opening Ceremony, but I must say that I was overwhelmed and deeply moved by it.

I would like to thank Mr. Shi Zhihao and all the Chinese officials who were involved in the completion of this museum and also Mr. Chuck Hoey (ITTF Museum Curator).

#### **World Table Tennis Championships, Sweden (29<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May)**

Seeing the WTTTC being very well organised by Halmstad with a population of approx. 60,000 people made me aware that Sweden is a country having Table Tennis as one of its traditional sports.

During this event there were a lot of movements in the world of table tennis such as Unified Korea. I truly hope that we will carry on working towards world unity through table tennis.

I attended the following events / meetings in 2018:

28<sup>th</sup> April: ITTF EC Meeting 1

30<sup>th</sup> April: ATTU Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> May: ITTF OPC Meeting, ITTF Foundation Reception

3<sup>rd</sup> May: ITTF BoD Meeting

29<sup>th</sup> April: Opening Ceremony

1<sup>st</sup> May: ITTF AGM

6<sup>th</sup> May: ITTF EC Meeting 2

#### **ITTF World Tour, Japan Open (6<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> June)**

Due to the solid organizational work of Fukuoka Prefecture and Kitakyushu City, a lot of Table Tennis fans visited the venue to watch and support the players. We also had a lot of coverage from the media and all this gave me a clear feeling of the improvement in the table tennis market in Japan.

#### **ITTF EC Meeting, Czech Republic (17<sup>th</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> August)**

### **Asian Games, Indonesia (26<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September)**

I would like to thank and send my gratitude to the Indonesian Table Tennis Association for their effort in completing this major event successfully. I hope the experience of this event will be passed on to the next Asian Championships, which will take place in Bali.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August I attended the welcoming reception.

### **2018 Youth Olympic Games, Argentina (25<sup>th</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October)**

During this event I participated as a member of the jury. We respectfully appreciate the efforts made by the Argentine Table Tennis Association who ran and managed the competition well.

Throughout the event, it was evident that the skills of the players from the 6 continents have improved vigorously and a high-level performance was seen everywhere. I felt that the promotion made by the ITTF has started to show its achievements.

### **2018 World Cadet Challenge, Japan (25<sup>th</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October)**

During the ITTF official Training Camp, with the approval of the ITTF, we have added “Anti-Doping Education” and “Nutrition Education,” which ended with great achievements. I would like to continue adopting this educational program for the younger players in the coming events.

I would like to proudly share that we have received a lot of positive responses from the participants. Congratulations and thanks to the Tottori Prefecture, Tottori City and Tottori Table Tennis Federation for their hard work organising this event.

I would also like to thank all the ITTF staff who worked very hard during this event.

### **ATTU Meeting, Thailand (23<sup>rd</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> November)**

The meeting was based on the discussion of the following topics: reports on events and competition, cash recovery rate on the subscription fee, the competition schedule for the future events, world ranking, and the Olympic qualification system.

### **World Junior Championships, Australia (3<sup>rd</sup> December to 9<sup>th</sup> December)**

During my stay, I took the opportunity to exchange information with the officials from each NF and coaches. I was also given the privilege to act as the presenter for the award ceremony.

The event ran well, with the support of the local volunteers, under the Australian Table Tennis Association. The only regret was the small number of spectators.

### **World Tour Grand Final, Korea (12<sup>th</sup> December to 16<sup>th</sup> December)**

12<sup>th</sup> December: Star Award

13<sup>th</sup> December: ITTF EC Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> December: OPC Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> December: ITTF World Tour Grand Finals

16<sup>th</sup> December: World Tour Grand Finals, Award Ceremony

Finally, I would like to mention that with Thomas Weikert as the President, and our EC Members, and the ITTF professional staff, I look forward to working towards a better and further developed Table Tennis World.

**Masahiro Maehara**

This report covers the period from January, 2018 until January 2019 (the time of writing this report).

**Areas of Responsibility:**

1. Africa (Communications) – Continental Role
2. Supervise and follow up on Information Technology issues
3. Supervise and follow up on Equipment-related issues
4. Vice-President of the Arab Table Tennis Federation - Regional Role

**1) Meetings and Events Attended**

DATE	EVENT	SITE	MEETINGS (MINUTES ON THE ITTF WEBSITE)
FEB, 2018	World Team Cup	London, ENG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Meeting</li> </ul>
APR/MAY, 2018	WTTC	Halmstad, SWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 EC Meetings</li> <li>• AGM</li> <li>• BoD Meeting</li> <li>• Olympic &amp; Paralympic Commission</li> <li>• African EGM</li> <li>• ARAB Meeting</li> </ul>
AUG, 2018		Prague, CZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Meeting</li> </ul>
DEC, 2018	WT Grand Finals	Incheon, KOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Meeting</li> <li>• Olympic &amp; Paralympic Commission</li> </ul>

**2) Role Related to Communications with Africa – Continental Role**

DATE	EVENT	SITE	MEETINGS
MAR, 2018	African Cup	Nairobi, KENYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting ITTF-Africa Council members</li> </ul>
JUN, 2018	Mediterranean Games	Tarragona, SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meetings (ITTF representative)</li> </ul>
SEPT, 2018	African Championships	Port Louis, MAU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITTF Forum</li> <li>• ATTF AGM</li> <li>• ATTF Council Board</li> </ul>

The ATTF has taken several positive steps during the last year:

1. The ATTF opened an official bank account in Cairo, Egypt.
2. During the ATTF Council Board meeting held in Kenya (March, 2018), the ATTF was finalizing discussions to hold an EGM to adopt their new Constitution. It was exceptionally agreed to be held during the WTTC in Halmstad. After some fruitful discussions during the EGM, the new Constitution was adopted.
3. The ATTF appointed an auditor who started by auditing the financial statement presented in the AGM held in Mauritius during the African Championships. Improvement in such statements is expected in the coming years in which the auditor will be in charge throughout the whole year and not rely on data provided to him, as in this year's statement.

The only missing step is development of a Strategic Plan adapted to the specific needs of the ATTF. I plan to try to finalise some form of commercialisation agreement for Africa in the very near future.

The ITTF Forum held in Mauritius included presentations from the ITTF staff and the discussions clearly showed the need to flexibly adapt ITTF programs, especially in development, to the specific needs of the African Associations. Such a Forum would definitely help in shaping the implementation plan being currently developed as the next cornerstone after finalising the ITTF Strategic Plan. There is a clear need for financial support to take African events to the next level of ITTF World events. The African events held in Kenya and Mauritius surpassed expectations despite the financial constraints faced by both countries.

I would like to congratulate the African Associations for the results and ranking of their players. The top senior African players were able to keep hold of their top 50 ranking, and even reached the top 20 in some months. Several associations have shown success in their youngsters and this was interpreted to high ranking positions for these young players, giving hope to a better future for the continent.

### **3) Information Technology**

- It is very evident to everyone that the new IT system (100% owned by the ITTF) is a great success, and is considered a huge step forward in this domain.
- The 2019 WTTC is already receiving entries through the newly-developed Online Entry System, which will eventually be the system used for all events including Para and Veterans later this year.
- A new fully automated World Ranking Online platform has been developed and is currently being tested, aiming at eliminating errors and mistakes in the published lists.
- Improvements to the system and new ideas of our dedicated and innovative staff are being developed at a rapid pace.
- Renovation of the website is currently under planning in the hands of the same company responsible for the results management system.
- Growth of the IT department with in-house expertise may be needed in the near future.

### **4) Equipment**

I would like to congratulate Claudia Herweg for her new position as a full-time staff member dedicated to equipment activities. I believe the importance of the equipment domain for the ITTF deserves a full department.

The working group studied after treatment (boosting) of rubbers. There were several discussions by email and some meetings. They provided the EC with their opinion not to allow boosting. However, research to find better testing methods is needed and steps are being taken in that direction.

The Equipment Committee is one of our most active committees within the ITTF. Together with dedicated ITTF equipment staff, I am expecting major steps forward in all the important activities related to equipment; whether testing equipment for approval or authorisation, developing databases for equipment lists, monitoring unauthorised use of the ITTF logo and developing a strict policy and penalty for cheaters, random testing and a revision of our technical leaflets. I believe we need to develop our own in-house lab and carry out research projects.

### **5) Vice-President of the Arab Table Tennis Federation - Regional Role**

I could only attend the Arab meeting during the WTTC in Halmstad during this year. I would like to thank Mr. Frank Ji for his financial sponsorship, and STAG for their equipment sponsorship of Arab events.

*In conclusion, I would like to thank ITTF President Mr. Thomas Weikert, my colleagues on the Executive Committee and the professional ITTF staff for all of their support and cooperation.*

**Alaa Meshref**



Since my last report a year ago I am pleased to report steady progress has been made within my areas of responsibility.

**1. Strategic Planning.**

With the adoption of the ITTF Strategic Plan at last year's AGM, I report strong progress with the next steps, which is the roll out of the Operational Plan.

Deloitte has continued to give the ITTF guidance in this most important part of the execution of the Strategic Plan.

Key staff members under the direction of Michael Brown have been tasked with one of the 'Key Pillars' under the Strategic Plan and are working towards rolling out an operational plan in those areas. I would like to record a special thanks to those staff members who have taken on leadership roles here along with the extra workload.

The success of any Strategic Plan is the actual implementation of the operational side and this is set to be firmly in place later this year.

As this is a living and breathing document, I say to you all as stakeholders: please contact me any time if you have any comments or ideas on improvement.

It has also been encouraging to see some Continental Federations taking up the ITTF's offer to also use Deloitte to assist with strategic direction at a Continental level.

This can only strengthen Table Tennis worldwide.

I take this opportunity to thank you all around the world who have had input and have taken the time to contribute to this monumental document.

**2. Continental Commercial Agreements.**

There has been a slight change in that North America has restructured their agreement and negotiations are still pending with Africa and Asia.

We are listening to Continents and, based on some experiences, are looking to rebrand or reposition this investment, to better align to the specific needs of each region.

**3. Veterans.**

A very successful World Veterans Championships was held this year in Las Vegas (USA) and enjoyed by all.

During the Championships the ITTF launched the World Veterans Tour concept and this proved very popular with more than 1,500 people attending the function.

As I write this report, there has been an expression of interest from 16 different hosts around the World, to organize a World Veterans Tour event, which demonstrates the strong Veterans movement across the globe.

Swaythling Club International and the ITTF are finalizing an agreement that will see the World Veteran Championships completely under the direction of the ITTF beginning in 2022.

#### 4. Oceania Continent.

Mr Anthony Ho, the current President of ITTF-Oceania, will have a detailed report for this region; I, therefore, will limit my comments.

It was pleasing to see Oceania hosting for the first time a World Junior Championships in Bendigo, Australia. It was a long time coming to this region and I congratulate those local authorities for their vision.

Reports from the Competition Management spoke of the very high professional standard of the event and I believe this is a direct result of the full-time staff that ITTF-Oceania now has on the ground through the Commercial Agreement with the ITTF.

This also was evident with the Australian Open Platinum event which again saw a very well-run tournament that was financially successful.

To have many of the best players in the world in our region is very special, so I thank those who competed for participating and showing their skills in Oceania.

I acknowledge Anthony Ho and his team for the ongoing work promoting Table Tennis in Oceania.

#### 5. Meetings.

I attended all EC meetings.

World Veterans Championships, Las Vegas (USA).

World Junior Championships Bendigo (Australia).

Finally, I wish to say that this last year has been a big year for the ITTF with many new exciting happenings.

I thank President Thomas Weikert and my Executive Committee colleagues for their support. Special thanks must go to Steve Dainton and his dedicated staff who constantly go beyond the call of duty to make Table Tennis one of the great sports on the planet.

**James Morris**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Shi Zhihao)

## Report to the AGM

## Document A8

The year 2018 has come to an end. During this year, our sport attracted a lot of attention from all over the world, especially the World Table Tennis Championships in Halmstad, which gained historical achievements of the media attention. I'm very glad to be a witness of this great year. And now, I would like to report on my work in 2018.

### 1. ITTF Pre-YOG training camp

The ITTF Pre-YOG training camp was held at the CTTC in Shanghai, from August 8 to 24, 2018. As an ITTF Vice President and the CTTC President, I was very glad to see that the camp was going on smoothly under the cooperation between the ITTF and the CTTC working group. In total, there were 46 participants: with coaches (13) and players (13 boys and 20 girls) from 17 different countries participating in the camp.

### 2. ITTF Museum

After several years of hard work and cooperation, I'm very proud to report that the ITTF Museum finally held its Opening Ceremony on March 31, 2018. On behalf of the Museum working team, I would like to express our gratitude for your attendance at the ceremony and for your kind support of our work.

After the Opening Ceremony, the Museum team not only worked on the daily operations but also held several activities for the promotion of the ITTF Museum, including the "Table Tennis Communication Forum" by famous players such as Ding Song and Zheng Minzhi, and the "Challenge the Big Big Stars!" by famous players like Xu Xin, etc. These events successfully supported the promotion for the Museum. Based on the date of the Opening Ceremony to November 30, 2018, there were over 1 million visitors to the Museum.

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM (31-03-2018~30-11-2018)	
Visitors	Number of People
Individual Visitors	33,139
Teams	14,667
VIP	1,851
Foreign Guests	725
Students	3,485
Pressure Testing	3,541
Visitors to 2018 Itinerant Exhibitions	≥50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>≥107,408</b>

In 2019, the Museum working team will enhance the work on promotion, objects collection, electronic technique of the exhibition, etc, for better development of the ITTF Museum and protection of our table tennis history.

### **3. Attendance in ITTF Meetings**

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

#### Executive Committee Meetings

- London February 2018
- Sweden April 2018
- Korea December 2018

#### BoD Meeting

- Sweden May 2018

#### OPC Meetings

- Sweden May 2018

#### High Performance Meeting

- Sweden May 2018

#### AGM

- Sweden May 2018

#### WTTC

- Sweden April to May 2018

As a conclusion, I'd like to express my gratitude to my colleagues and friends in the ITTF family for your kind support and great efforts in the past year. I sincerely hope we will have more great cooperation together in 2019.

**Shi Zhihao**

## EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT (Nestor Jose Tenca)

### Report to the AGM

Document A9

During 2018 the ITTF, under the leadership of our President Thomas Weikert and the support of the Executive Committee and the staff, continued with the decision to consolidate the direction and administration of the ITTF with the best standards of Olympic principles and professional organization. The changes in terms of the Constitution, Strategic Plan and the World Championships system are going in the right direction. The goals are common among the table tennis family: more and better table tennis in the world with more sponsors, TV hours, and sustained development that will permit all countries to bridge the gap in potential.

As part of my responsibilities as an Executive Vice President, I had the opportunity to represent our Executive Committee in the following activities:

1. I attended the **ITTF Pan Am Cup** that took place in the city of **Asuncion, Paraguay**, from June 15th to 17th, 2018.
2. I attended the **Pan Am Juniors Championships** that took place in the city of **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**, from July 10th to 15th, 2018.
3. I attended the **3rd Youth Olympic Games** that took place in the city of **Buenos Aires, Argentina**, from October 6th to 18th, 2018.
4. I attended the **ITTF Pan American Championships** that took place in the city of **Santiago, Chile**, from November 20th to 25th, 2018.
5. I attended the **ITTF Latino American Continental Forum** that took place in the city of **San José, Costa Rica**, from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Most countries of Latin American were present at the event and the results were very satisfactory.

Those events were very well organized and constituted a success in Pan American development.

In addition, regarding my duties to “Pan American Events and Structure” I was working and collaborating to achieve the new continental organization in the near future.

Within my responsibilities as Executive Vice-President, I attended all the meetings of our Executive Committee to which I was summoned, and offer the following details:

- I attended the **Executive Committee Meeting** that took place during the **ITTF Team World Cup** in the city of **London, England**, from February, 22th to 25th, 2018.
- During the **World Team Championship** that took place in the city of Halmstad, Sweden, from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I took part in the **Executive Committee, AGM, BoD and OPC Meetings**.
- I attended the **Executive Committee Meeting** that took place in the city of **Prague, Czech Republic**, on August 18th, 2018.
- I also attended the **Executive Committee and the Olympic and Paralympic Commission meetings** that took place in the city of **Incheon, Korea**, during the **Seamaster 2018 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals** from December 13th to 16th, 2018. I enjoyed the tournament and the Gala Dinner to honor the stars of our sport.

- Finally, I want to sincerely recognize our President **Thomas Weikert**, my colleagues on the EC, and members of the ITTF official staff, particularly CEO **Steve Dainton** and Secretary General **Raul Calin**, for always working toward the new vision of our sport and for always supporting my work. I want to convey my appreciation, gratitude, and recognition to all the member associations, especially to the Latin American countries, for your daily support in all actions and activities of the ITTF.

**Nestor Jose Tenca**

# **ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Zoran Primorac)**

## **Report to the AGM**

**Document A10**

### **Introduction**

First, I would like to thank our former Chairman of the Athletes' Commission (AC), Vladimir Samsonov, for the tremendous job he did. During his two mandates, he did many excellent things for the athletes and he was a strong voice for athletes within the ITTF leadership.

In addition, I would like to thank Ryu Seungmin, who served as the Interim Chair from the 2018 World Championships in April until the Athletes' Commission Chair election during the ITTF World Tour Grand Finals in December. Despite his busy schedule as an IOC member and his full participation in the project of unified Korea, Ryu was very motivated and was a great host in Korea during the AC's Chair election.

### **Changes within the Athletes' Commission – Elections and Structure**

Since the last Athletes' Commission report by Vladimir Samsonov submitted at the 2018 World Championships, the AC has had two elections. At the first one in May of 2018 in Halmstad, Ryu Seungmin was elected as an Interim Chair, which was prior to the election of the Para athlete representatives to the AC. The second election took place in Incheon, Korea where I (Zoran Primorac) was elected as the chair for a term from 2018-2022.

Our new Athletes' Commission is composed of 13 members:

- 1 Chair - Zoran Primorac
- 2 Deputy Chairs - Galia Dvorak and Dana Cechova
- 2 Para Athletes - Alena Kanova (Para wheelchair) and Trevor Hirth (Para standing)
- 8 Athletes – Sarah Hanffou, Jasna Rather, Ryu Seungmin, Liqin Wang, Jean-Michel Saive, Elsayed Lashin, Marcos Madrid and Matthew Hetherington.

### **Overview of the Athletes' Commission Activities from May 2018 until January 2019**

#### EC Meetings:

- May 2018 in Halmstad, Sweden
- July 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic
- December 2018 in Incheon, Korea

#### IOC Outreach Program:

- In June 2018, the IOC Athlete Career Programme (ACP) staged a "New Educator" course at the Olympic Training Centre in Rome, designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver ACP Outreach workshops. Jasna Rather and Ryu Seungmin attended and successfully completed the course.
- In August 2018, Jasna Rather successfully delivered a workshop during the Pre-YOG training camp in Shanghai.
- In November and December 2018, Ryu Seungmin delivered two workshops in Korea.

Since the ITTF has Jasna Rather, Ryu Seungmin, Vladimir Samsonov, Jean-Michel Saive and Zoran Primorac trained as educators to deliver ACP Outreach workshops, there is a significant potential to organize a higher number of ACP workshops in the future, with athletes of different age groups and needs. The objective of those workshops is to promote dual careers, which emphasizes the importance of professional athletes' education and/or building different skills while athletes are still active in the sport.

#### WADA's First Global Athlete Forum:

- In June 2018, WADA's Athlete Committee organized its first-ever Global Athlete Forum in Calgary, Alberta, Canada to discuss key developments in the anti-doping practice. The Forum brought together 104 athlete-leaders from 54 countries and five continents. The ITTF AC representative at the Forum was Ryu Seungmin.

Protecting the rights of clean athletes is the WADA Athlete Committee's highest priority. To that end, the Forum enabled further development of the Anti-Doping Charter of Athlete Rights with the hope of including key principles within the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code.

#### ITTF Foundation:

- The AC, together with the ITTF Foundation financially helped support the recovery of Alexa Szvitacs, a female Hungarian player who had serious health problems.
- In the future, and with cooperation with the ITTF Foundation, we plan to create the Athletes' Emergency Fund (AEF) to deal with emergency health situations (illnesses and/or accidents).

#### The New World Ranking System:

The idea of the new world ranking is good, but many things have to be improved and directly communicated to players. When making changes, timing needs to be considered, especially if it is too close to the Olympics. The scheduling of changes created dissatisfaction among athletes. Any additional corrections and improvements should be done right after the 2020 Olympics so that everyone has time to adapt to the new ranking system.

#### Men's World Cup in Paris:

The tournament was played in Paris Disneyland, which was great publicity for table tennis. The hall was sold out, so players really enjoyed playing in a full hall in front of 4,000 people.

The World Cup is one the most important ITTF tournaments, and it should reflect that importance by the conditions presented, which was not the case in Paris. Based on the written feedback from athletes who participated, there were issues with airport transportation, food, the players' lounge, the practice hall, scheduling, the VIP access, the floor, etc. Future hosts of the World Cup, as well as other ITTF events, need to provide better conditions for athletes and to enhance their experiences.

#### World Tour Events:

In communication with table tennis athletes, the AC suggested the following priorities regarding tournament organizational needs, which will be further addressed:

- Increase the prize money;
- Negotiate a price reduction in hotel accommodations; and
- Control of full implementation of Tournament Directives, such as: increase the number of training tables needed for the warm-up before matches; players' lounges need to have hot food, snacks and beverages; and strict control of the halls in conformance to regulations set by the ITTF.

Finally, I would like to thank all the athletes (para and able bodied) as well as the members of the Athletes' Commission for giving me the opportunity to serve as the AC Chairman. Since the players are the core of our sport, it is very important that their views and opinions are well represented in the decision-making bodies.

I am looking forward to the future cooperation with the ITTF President Thomas Weikert and the ITTF Executive Committee members for the benefit of table tennis as a sport and most importantly its athletes.

I use this opportunity to wish a lot of success to all ITTF stakeholders in their effort to lift table tennis to the place that our sport deserves.

**Zoran Primorac**



2018 was a very special year for the ATTF due to the start of our new policy with the ITTF Development Department to work more closely through our 5 regions to ensure reaching all of our affiliated 54 Associations in the ITTF/ATTF and to help all of them to be more active in hosting Development Programs and activities.

After the 2018 ITTF AGM, I had the pleasure in December to represent the ATTF at the ITTF Development & Continental Council meeting in Incheon (Korea), which was held in conjunction with the World Tour Grand Finals and 2018 Star Awards.

### **African Activities for the Year 2018**

#### **2018 ITTF-Africa Top 16 Cup**

The African Top 16 Cup was held in Nairobi, Kenya in March, 2018 with 32 players (Men & Women) from 13 different countries, representing a qualifier from each region, plus the ATTF top-ranked players. Thanks to the Kenya Table Tennis Association which took care of hosting the event with such a perfect organization. The ITTF-Africa Cup was the qualifying event for the 2018 ITTF World Cups, with the result of Omar Assar of EGY for men and Dina Meshref of EGY for women to represent Africa in 2018. Then we had the honour to have another qualifier by ITTF ranking: Quadri Aruna of NGR for men, due to his high ranking in the ITTF. Unfortunately, however, only one player represented Africa in the ITTF Men's World Cup since Omar Assar has been suspended by the ETTF.

#### **2018 ITTF-Africa Juniors & Cadet Championships**

It was held in Abidjan in April, 2018, with 11 participating countries. Thanks to the Cote d'Ivoire Table Tennis Association for hosting such a successful event, including the African Youth U21 Championships. ITTF/ATTF celebrated with them their WJC event, which was conducted in Abidjan along with the excellent organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> ITTF World Table Tennis day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. It was a very nice celebration in Africa.

#### **2018 African Youth Games**

It was held in Algeria in July, 2018, with 25 participating NOCs (which is a record for all other participating sports in the Games). Thanks to the Algerian Table Tennis Association & COJAJ for hosting such a successful and wonderful event with the same system of play and events in the Youth Olympic Games (Buenos Aires). EGY won 3 Gold medals; followed by TUN with 2 Silver medals; then NGR with 1 Silver, plus 1 Bronze medal; followed by ALG & MRI with 2 Bronze medals each; followed by GAB & CMR with one Bronze medal each.

#### **2018 ITTF-Africa Senior Championships**

The African Championships were held in Beau Bassin, Mauritius in September, 2018 with 17 different countries. Thanks to the Mauritius Table Tennis Association which took care of hosting the event with a very professional organization of the competition, the Special ITTF-ATTF Forum and the ATTF AGM. EGY won 5 Gold, 5 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals; followed by NGR with 2 Gold, 2 Silver, and 4 Bronze medals; followed by ALG with 3 Bronze medals; South Africa with 2 Bronze medals; and CIV and TOG with 1 Bronze medal each.

### **African Participation & Top International Results**

- EGY represented Africa in the 2018 World Team Cup (Men & Women) in London. Neither team advanced from their preliminary groups. Their final positions were between 9 and 12.
- 8 African Associations took part in the LIEBHERR 2018 World Table Tennis Team Championships in Halmstad (ALG – CGO – EGY – MAR – NGR – RSA – TOG – TUN), with the

best results of: EGY in position 21, followed by NGR in position 29 in Men's Teams, and EGY in position 21 in Women's Teams. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> time that a country from Africa made it to the Championships Division in the WTTTC in both the Men's and the Women's Divisions.

- 3 African Associations participated in the Mediterranean Games in Tarragona (ESP) in June, 2018 (ALG – EGY – TUN). Africa was there on the podium with a Gold medal for Dina Meshref (EGY) in Women's Singles.
- 5 African Associations participated in the Seamaster Arab Championships in Cairo (EGY) in August, 2018 (ALG – EGY – LBA – SUD – TUN) in five age categories (Seniors-Youth-Juniors-Cadet-Mini Cadet). Africa was there on the podium with 27 Gold, 24 Silver and 14 Bronze for EGY, ALG & TUN.
- Dina Meshref (EGY), the winner of the 2018 ITTF-Africa Cup (WS) participated in the Uncle Pop Women's World Cup in Chengdu, China in September, 2018.
- Quadri Aruna (NGR), the qualified player by ITTF ranking, participated in the LIEBHERR Men's World Cup in Paris, France in October, 2018.
- There was one WT (Challenge Series) event organized in Nigeria in August, 2018, thanks to the NTTF & Lagos State for their tradition of professional organization and for being a part of the World Tour for the fifth year in a row with the title sponsor "Seamaster." Quadri Aruna (NGR) won the Gold medal in MS. The NTTF has already applied to continue hosting the event in 2019.
- There were three WJC events organized in 2018 in Africa: in Tunisia in March, in Cote d'Ivoire in April and in Egypt in October. Thanks to FTTT, FITT & ETTF for their good level of representation for Africa to host such important ITTF-sanctioned events with remarkable success and with a good participation level from Africa.

### **Development & Education in Africa**

The main African Hopes Week/Challenge was well organized in MRI (May) with 18 players (boys and girls) from 4 different participating Associations.

Africa was a part of the ITTF Hopes Team in 2018 WCC through GODA Hana (EGY).

Thanks to all professional Course Conductors and Camp Experts who came to Africa in 2018. Sincere thanks to the BUTTERFLY and TRIOFLOR brands for their great and continuous support of our associations and competitions. They helped create a prestigious image at our events. Thanks to the STAG brand for the same support towards promotion of African associations. Thanks also to the STIGA brand for sponsoring the official uniform for the African Cadet Team in the WCC for the seventh year in a row (since 2012).

Special thanks to Ms. Polona Cehovin, Mr. Nicolas Petit & Mr. Ramzi Ben Mabrouk for their keen efforts to follow up all Development Programs in Africa and the regions during the whole year.

### **Essential Recognition**

On behalf of the ATTF EC, I thank Mr. Thomas Weikert, the ITTF President, and all ITTF EC for their support of Table Tennis in Africa, and all over the World.

Thanks also to the ITTF CEO, Secretary General, the Directors and all staff for their full-time engagement in helping our planning and activities even through obstacles in our continent.

### **Khaled El-Salhy**

Continental President: Africa

#### **Number of Member Associations**

The Asian Table Tennis Union has maintained 44 member associations through the end of 2018.

#### **Events**

Asia organized a few series of table tennis events in its five regions in 2018. The 24<sup>th</sup> Asian Junior & Cadet Championships 2018 was hosted by Myanmar TTA in Nay Pyi Taw with its 5 Regional Qualification Tournaments respectively hosted by the Mongolian TTA in East Asia, the Thailand TTA in Southeast Asia, the Jordan TTA in West Asia, the Maldives TTA in South Asia and the Iran TTA in Middle Asia. Its top ranking cadet players composed the Asia Cadet Team to compete in the 2018 World Cadet Challenge held in Torri, Japan and its top 3 winning teams gained the chance to represent Asia in the World Junior Championships 2018. The Japanese TTA and the Chinese TTA, respectively, organized the other two events authorized by the ATTU, one is the LION 31<sup>st</sup> ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup 2018 in Yokohama, Japan in April and the other is the Asia-Europe All Stars Challenge in Nantong, China in August.

Member associations of the ATTU also helped organize 5 ITTF World Tours, 8 ITTF Junior Circuit Events and the 2018 World Tour Grand Finals. Events for women and disabled players were also organized.

#### **Development Programs**

The Double Happiness Company in China is a long-term strategic cooperation partner of the ATTU. With ATTU-DHS development fund, the ATTU finished two Development Programs in 2018. The fund was used to help pay hospitality of a certain number of players on participating Asian teams in the ITTF Junior Circuit of the Taicang Event and the Hong Kong Event. Cadet players in Asia are benefitting from the two programs which will last for a few years into the future.

Hopes Week Activities were organized in Asia. Four regional Hopes Weeks were held respectively in South Asia, South East Asia, Middle Asia and West Asia. And Asia Hopes Week was hosted by the Thailand TTA finally, whose organization received good remarks. Its top position players gained the chance for World Hopes Week to compete for more successful chances there.

The use of the ITTF Development Fund was based on items in the Contract. Training courses and programs were organized for coaches, umpires and event organizers in different countries and regions.

#### **Marketing Initiative**

The ATTU continued to grant Lagardere Sports Asia the exclusive media promotional rights for ATTU events. LSA will use its power to let TT fans watch more ATTU events on various social

media platforms. Its coverage of the 2018 Asia-Europe All Stars Challenge held in Nantong, China has extended from Asia to North America.

The Double Happiness Company and the Nittaku Company kept their long-term cooperation with the ATTU over the past year. Their contribution to table tennis in Asia is witnessed and is cherished by the Asian Table Tennis family.

### **Relations with Continental Organizations**

The Asia-Europe All Stars Challenge was reorganized in 2018 after its suspension last year. The two teams were made up of top-10 players from Asia and Europe. As arranged by the organizer, the players experienced local life and Chinese TT fans' enthusiasm. In this sense, the event was more like a reunion of two continents within the table tennis family.

### **ATTU Website Live Streaming**

Live streaming is becoming a new trend of promoting sports' events around the world currently. In 2018 the ATTU successfully live-streamed the 2018 Asian Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships held in Myanmar on its website. The breakthrough in event broadcasting was a great step forward in the history of ATTU development. This new platform will be open to other Asian TT events in the future.

The website also published the monthly-ranking of Asian Players and news on Asian events.

Finally, I thank all my colleagues in the ATTU, the ITTF and member associations for their trust in me and their support of various works in ATTU.

### **Cai Zhenhua**

Continental President: Asia

#### **Member Basis**

The total membership of the ETTU is at present 58 Associations.

#### **Competitions/events**

2018 was for several reasons a year with many “ups” and just a few “downs,” if any. Traditionally, the first of ETTU’s events in the calendar year is the prestigious ITTF-Europe Top-16 Cup. In 2018 we saw the first of three consecutive events held in Montreux (SUI) entitled the “China Construction Bank 2018 ITTF Europe Top-16 Cup.” Thanks to our very competent Swiss colleagues, it was a most memorable event. Because the event will stay in Montreux for the two years ahead, all involved can use their experience from the preceding year to make every year better. After such a great start, this, however, will not be an easy challenge. The Belgosstrakh U-21 Championships in Minsk (BLR) showed the exceptional quality of our Belorussian hosts to organise a “5 star event.” The STAG 61st European Youth Championships took place in Cluj-Napoca (ROU); they were another highlight in 2018. Great performances by 42 junior boys’ teams, 39 junior girls’ teams, 38 cadet boys’ teams and 40 cadet girls’ teams. We will not easily forget the next to perfect organisation and the great hospitality shown by our Romanian colleagues! This year’s Asia-Europe All Stars Challenge took place in Nantong (CHN) in early August. It is one of the examples of the continuing close cooperation between the ETTU and our Asian friends from ATTU. In September the ETTU organised the LIEBHERR ITTF European Championships (individual) in Alicante (ESP) with 129 men and 112 women participating. The warmth and enthusiasm of our Spanish hosts was important for the success of the event. The Europe Youth Top 10 was staged in Vila Real (POR) later in September and showed the growing experience and quality of our Portuguese colleagues.

#### **Congress Meetings 2018**

During the Extraordinary Congress in Halmstad much time was used to discuss merely political issues. Apart from that, the Executive Board updated the Member Associations on the Development Program, the Club Competitions, Finances, the Constitutional review, the European Games and the European Championships in its new format.

The Ordinary Congress which took place in Alicante during the LIEBHERR 2018 European Championships voted on a number of propositions, including about eligibility, the dates of the European Championships and the maximum number of participants from one Association in the Top-16 Cup (from 4 to 2). The Congress also agreed with the German proposition that the payments to the ETTU President were in line with the budgets approved and confirmed by the auditors and the Congress. The Congress also adopted a proposition by the Malta Association to instruct the ETTU’s Executive Board to put forth a motion in the ITTF AGM in Budapest, requiring the BoD to return to the system at the WTTTC In Kuala Lumpur (96 men’s and women’s teams).

#### **Development Activities**

In 2018 more emphasis was laid on the harmonisation of the different areas of our development program. At the end of 2018 we may say that we have achieved many, if not all, of our goals as described in the ITTF-ETTU Development Programs, including greater coaches’ participation and a National Associations’ Assistance program, which supports the non top-ranked

Associations in their development activities. In the Eurotalents project 387 U-13 players were evaluated, of which 12 players will participate in the Development Program for 2019 (together with 10 youth players from previous selection). European successes in the World Cadet Challenge, the Youth Olympic Games and the World Junior Championships give us hope that we are on the right track in closing the gap with our Asian friends.

### **Marketing and Commercial Initiatives and Club Competitions**

In intense cooperation based on the ETTU-ITTF Strategic Commercial Agreement, major progress is being made in social media, internet and even TV. European events are not always easy to sell to TV and sponsors, but surely there are some positive signs, in particular relating to the Top-16 and, to lesser extent, the European Championships. During the European tournaments, including the club competitions, more and more fans are following our content. In particular the number of Facebook followers rose from 25k to 41k in 2018.

### **Athletes' Commission**

AC Chair Galia Dvorak has contributed very well to our work and has shown great enthusiasm and skills as a co-opted member of the Executive Board.

### **Finance**

Under the guidance of our VP for Finance, the ETTU's Executive Board and the secretariat have worked hard and not without success to further improve our financial situation.

### **Honours**

During the Congress in Alicante, by standing acclamation Honorary Membership was awarded to Rudi Sporrer (AUT). Three members of the European Table Tennis family were decorated with the ETTU Badge of Honour for their contribution to our sport.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank my colleagues of the ETTU Executive Board as well as the staff for the loyal way they are working for the improvement of the ETTU's performance.

Although some challenging matters seem ahead, many thanks to the ITTF, its officials and its staff, and the other Continental Federations for their inspiration, their support and cooperation, and the work we are doing together.

### **Ronald Kramer**

Continental President: Europe

The year 2018 was a period of great expectations for the Table Tennis Family of the Latin American continent, especially after signing the LATTU-ITTF Strategic Investment Agreement, in Halmstad, Sweden. Without a doubt, the execution of this agreement is going to produce extraordinary results, unprecedented in the life of Table Tennis in Latin America. It is in this year 2019, that the executions of the Plan begin. I thank Steve Dainton, Raul Calin, and Michael Brown for their support.

The work for the conformation of the Pan-American Table Tennis Confederation is in its final phase. Latin America is ready to take the step of the historical integration of the Americas.

Also, in this period, the competitive results of our athletes have marked unprecedented milestones, filling with joy the lovers of our sport in all continents. The athletes, Hugo Calderano and Adriana Díaz, continue to surprise the world with their achievements. Hugo, to date, is in the top 10 in the World.

### **Competitions**

In 2018, the three (3) major Pan American Championships were held in Latin American countries, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Chile, with extraordinary quality standards and live broadcast on TV, and with very high technical and competitive level of the athletes participating in both genders.

We must emphasize the fulfilment of the scheduled events that take place throughout the continent and the three regions (South America, Central America and the Caribbean); especially the Latin American Senior Championship, held in Cuba, with a spectacular live broadcast on television every day of the competition. Likewise, the very good organization at the Latin American Cadet Championship, qualifier for the World Cadet Challenge, held in Costa Rica, and the Hopes Training Camp and the Latin American Championship U11- U13, which took place in the Dominican Republic.

Once again, the Brazilian team managed to climb unforeseen steps in the past World Team Table Tennis Championship held in Halmstad, Sweden reaching the quarterfinals.

### **World Junior Circuit and World Tour Events**

- Paraguay Junior & Cadet Open
- El Salvador Junior & Cadet Open

## **Education and Development**

- 14 coaching courses ITTF / PTT Level 1 (9 self-funded)
- 3 coaching courses ITTF Level 2 and 1 coaching course ITTF Level 3
- 1 course conductors ITTF Level 2 course
- 9 URC basic umpires' courses (6 self-funded) and 4 URC basic referees' courses (1 self-funded)
- 9 URC international umpires' courses (4 self-funded)
- 3 Regional Hopes activities (Paraguay, Mexico and Dominican Republic)
- 1 Continental Hopes activity (Dominican Republic)
- 1 Regional training camp (Colombia)
- 4 Scholarships for players and 4 for coaches for World Hopes Week
- 1 Training in Japan in preparation for the World Cadet Challenge
- 1 Activity for Women in Costa Rica
- 1 PTT activity in Ecuador
- 1 Olympic Solidarity Technical Course
- 2 ITTF Level 2 Course conductors trained
- 1 ITTF URC Course conductor trained
- 14 equipment packages for associations (24 if we include those providing manuals)
- 2 New ITTF-PTT L1 course conductors doing courses

## **Marketing:**

- Unprecedented live broadcast: the three major Pan American events and the Latin American Senior Championship were broadcast live
- Record of online audience: 6,000 users in Chile and 5,000 in the Dominican Republic and 440,000 reproductions of the Pan Am Junior Championships
- First title sponsor: SPARTA (for the Pan Am Championships in Chile)

## **Juan Vila**

Continental President: Latin America



## **NORTH AMERICA (Anne Warner Cribbs, OLY)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document B5**

It is with great respect that I submit this report to the AGM as the new ITTF-North America Continental President. I would like to thank our past board members, Tony Kiesenhofer (Canada) and Gordon Kaye (USA) for their service to ITTF-North America over the last four years and look forward to a bright future under our new leadership team. Under their guidance and leadership ITTF-North America has made significant progress – and I look forward to building on the strong foundation established during their tenure.

As I write this today, I am proud to report that as a direct result of the efforts and activities on the Continent, North America has made significant progress in the development of our elite athletes, in particular our junior players who have achieved unprecedented success on the international stage.

### **North American Development Program**

As in previous years, ITTF North America completed all development activities as planned except our Women's Course, which is scheduled for January 2019. (It was postponed due to the lack of availability of a course conductor).

The **Para Table Tennis** camp was held in Orlando, FL last December with participants from the US and Canada. The camp was organized to fit in with the preparation plan for the upcoming 2019 Para table tennis season, including the Para Pan American Games. The focus of the camp this year was for wheelchair athletes, although the camp was open to all ITTF North American Para athletes.

### **ITTF North America Hopes Challenge**

Our Continental Hopes program continues to grow, with over 250 players participating across North America in 2018. Both USA and Canada held their regional and national Hopes activities to tie in to the ITTF World Hopes program and started the process of refocusing the emphasis of the program towards more training and education. ITTF North America selected its World Hopes Challenge participants at the Continental Hopes Challenge at the Pan Am Centre in Markham, Ontario. The winners represented North America in the World Hopes week in Alicante, Spain, and we were pleased that both players (Nandan Naresh and Emily Tan, both from the United States) performed well enough to qualify for the World Cadet Challenge in Tottori, Japan.

### **Junior Training Camps**

ITTF North America conducted its Junior Training Camp prior to the World Junior Championships in Australia. Players from Canada and the United States participated in the camp under the guidance and supervision of coaches and senior leadership of the two countries.

### **World Cadet Challenge**

North America once again had a successful World Cadet Challenge, with both the Boys (4<sup>th</sup>) and Girls (3<sup>rd</sup>) North American teams claiming top-4 spots in the team event. In the Boys singles events, Nikhil Kumar (USA) and Hopes-qualifier Nandan Naresh (USA) made the top-16, while on the girls' side only Rachel Sung (USA) had similar success. North America was represented in the quarterfinals of each of the doubles events (Boys, Girls, and Mixed).

## **Pan American Championship Events**

2018 marked the second year of a full slate of Pan American championship events in cooperation with the Latin American Table Tennis Union. For the second year, all three 2017 Pan American events were held in Latin America (Pan Am Junior Championships – Dominican Republic; Pan Am Cup – Paraguay; and Pan Am Championships – Chile). We congratulate our LATTU partners for the excellent organization of the 2018 events and look forward to continuing the partnership in 2019.

At the Pan Am Junior Championships, ITTF-North America players captured 14 medals in individual events, including Gold in every event except the Junior Girls Singles (silver/bronze). The USA Junior Boys team claimed the championship for the second straight year in the Boys Team event, while it was a North American “sweep” in the Junior Girls event, with the USA defeating a strong Canadian team in the finals of that event.

At the Pan Am Cup, North America once again had an excellent performance, with ZHANG Mo (CAN) defeating WU Yue (USA) in the women’s final. JHA Kanak (USA) continued his excellent performance in 2018 capturing the bronze medal. All three of the North American players were invited to participate in the 2018 World Cups.

At the Pan Am Championships, North America once again struck multiple gold, with JHA and ZHANG capturing the top prize in men’s and women’s singles events respectively – with North America also capturing the top place in Women’s Doubles (ZHANG Mo and COTE Alicia (CAN) in Women’s Doubles, and JHA Kanak and WU Yue (USA) in Mixed Doubles). Players from North America captured a total of six medals, securing top-4 spots in each event except Men’s Doubles.

## **International Events**

Although North America hosted only one ITTF event in 2018 (Canada Junior Open), players from the Continent were more active in ITTF global events last year. Of note, in the January 2019 World Ranking list North America has four (4) players in the adult top-100 in the world (JHA Kanak – 51, ZHANG Mo – 20, WU Yue – 46, and ZHANG Lily – 95). In addition, North America has five (5) boys and seven (7) girls ranked in the under-18 top-100 listing as well as three (3) boys and five (5) girls in the under-15 top-100 ranking list. Kanak Jha (USA) ended 2018 as the number one under-18 player in the world (December 2018 ranking), and Amy Wang (USA) started 2019 as the number two player in the world (January 2019 ranking).

## **Looking Forward**

The future is bright in North America thanks in part to the collaborative work between the ITTF, USATT and TTCAN and we look forward to further collaboration within the continent as the Bahamas become a more active member in the association in 2019.

## **Anne Warner Cribbs, OLY**

Continental President: North America

On behalf of the International Table Tennis Federation – Oceania (i.e., ITTF-Oceania) I congratulate our 24 member associations, players, coaches, officials and volunteers for your continued commitment to develop the sport of table tennis in our region. In 2018, ITTF-Oceania engaged with 15 national associations through technical courses, implemented sport-for-development programmes with 5 national associations, and we delivered 11 international events. Without a doubt, ITTF-Oceania further enhanced its reputation in the region as one of the most innovative and active sports federations in Oceania.

In 2017, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) signed off on a 4-year agreement to invest in ITTF-Oceania through the Commercialisation Agreement. Combined with our Development and Marketing Agreements, the ITTF continues to be our main funding partner with over AU\$500,000 in support. This enables us to further enhance our governance, increase our capacity and partner with our member associations. We acknowledge and thank the ITTF for its continued support in 2018.

Furthermore, I would like to recognise the contribution of the Australian Government through the Pacific Sports Partnership. Funding for the Smash Down Barriers programme exceeded AU\$220,000 in 2018, and the Australian Government remains an invaluable partner of our sport-for-development initiatives. Therefore, this empowers ITTF-Oceania to use table tennis as a means to achieve development outcomes like promoting social inclusion and healthy lifestyle behaviours.

The ITTF-Oceania operations team has done an outstanding job this year implementing the activities set out in the 2017 – 2020 Strategic Plan. Over the past 12 months, ITTF-Oceania continued to develop the sport by providing 24 technical courses to 575 athletes, coaches and officials. Furthermore, our participation programme engaged with over 2,000 Pacific islanders and employed 24 development officers and administrators in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Our reputation as a continental association was further enhanced this year with the delivery of 8 regional events including the prestigious Oceania Cup in Vanuatu, the Oceania Championships held in Australia and the Oceania Junior Championships and a Youth Olympic Qualifications held in Cook Islands. The launch of the ITTF-Oceania Tour provides increased opportunities for our Oceania-based athletes, adding 6 new events in the region. Similarly, ITTF-Oceania took on the challenge of hosting the 2018 Seamaster ITTF World Tour / Australian Open and the 2018 World Junior Table Tennis Championships, delivering in both events a world class experience for all athletes, and gaining benefits for the entire region in the form of increased finances, new partnerships, and greater access to ITTF World Events for our athletes, coaches and officials.

Whilst not our responsibility as hosts, ITTF Oceania was also very proud of Australia's hosting of the Commonwealth Games bringing a world class table tennis event and many of the top table tennis countries to the region.

Naturally, this increased activity means ITTF-Oceania incurred significantly more expenses and adopted more risk than in previous years. It is important to acknowledge the diligence of our management committee in providing the oversight required, and our operations team's effort to ensure our annual activities were delivered with mitigated risk and increased financial sustainability.

On a personal note, I'm very excited about the future of our great organisation. I look forward to working with our member associations and stakeholders in 2019 and contributing to our vision of inspiring excellence in life through table tennis.

*15 National Associations actively engaged in development activities*

*575 athletes, coaches and officials took part in 24 technical courses*

*2,097 Pacific Islanders engaged through sport-for-development programmes*

*33% female participation*

*19% of all participants have a disability*

*8 regional events and 3 ITTF World Events*

*9 new commercial partnerships with governments and sponsors*

*19,000 unique visitors to ITTFOceania.com*

*170k average monthly reach on social media*

**Anthony Ho**

Continental President: Oceania

# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Steve Dainton)**

## **Report to the AGM**

## **Document C1**

### **Overview**

In my first full calendar year as the ITTF CEO, and looking back at 2018, it is a year that I hope will be remembered as a transformational year for the ITTF. Being given the “reins” to implement a relatively large modernisation and professionalisation approach to the organisation was an exciting challenge. A new World Ranking started in 2018; a Strategic Plan was delivered, approved, and came to life; and the new ITTF Foundation was inaugurated. Plus, we were able to increase investment in Development, in the Continents, in High Performance, in Staff and in our events - including increasing prize money.

On top of that, there were two decisions taken that I believe will shape the future of our sport in a more positive way than anything else that we have done in recent years:

1. The decision of the Board of Directors to reformat the World Table Tennis Championships. Whilst it is not easy for the internal stakeholders to see, this decision can slowly but surely ensure our sport becomes a real powerhouse in the future. The increased visibility that our sport will receive with this change will be truly transformational.
2. The decision to set up the future of our commercial rights in a wholly-owned ITTF commercial vehicle that is purely purposed to commercialise the sport. With this, we can ensure that our events are following a professional business approach that will truly allow the business world to get involved in our sport. All of this will ultimately help us to break the mould of our sport being very much undervalued, ensure our events are more professional, and ultimately make our most important assets, the athletes, real global stars in the World of Sport.

With all that said, and whilst I prefer to stay positive, we must also be realistic. Relatively large changes in a short amount of time are quite disruptive for the internal stakeholders. The changes are not understood by those who have, over many years, worked and developed in the ITTF under different circumstances. Delivering with minimal resources is also a massive challenge. That said, there is a real desire, passion and fighting spirit from the staff and our entire team to achieve great results for the ITTF and table tennis. I do hope our internal partners and, most importantly, our members give us the required time to ensure our vision can be successful – rather than try to knock it over before even giving it a shot. We have been working hard to articulate our vision through organising Continental Forums.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to recall arguably our most proud and memorable moment of 2018. The unified Korea team in Halmstad and the subsequent Foundation project of the Unified Korea doubles' pairs at the World Tour. We were brave to prove that the ITTF thinks bigger than within itself when trying to help humanity with a diplomatic purpose, just as the ITTF has done many times in the past. This moment showed that the “New ITTF” is not only prepared to take some tough decisions, but also is able to think externally to the bigger picture in terms of how our sport can impact the world and society.

## **Staff Expansion**

With the Strategic Plan approved and with an increased investment in the sport, it was also important to make certain that we have the human resources to ensure our ambitious goals in the years to come. We, therefore, undertook what was arguably the most expansive human resource increases ever for the ITTF in 2018. From High Performance needs to seeking professionals to manage our areas of equipment, and finally with the two key Directors in Marketing and Competitions being filled, this meant there was more consolidation of staffing in these two areas and at the senior level. Added to that was the addition of new assets and properties, which we also filled with professional staff, culminating in the Singapore office moving to a modern professional space starting in 2019.

## **Strategic Plan**

Ensuring that we created a professional, well thought-through, collaborative Strategic Plan was a huge task in early 2018. Having it adopted and accepted at the 2018 AGM was a proud moment, but it also meant that immediately the work had to begin. We hustled for the rest of the year to ensure the plan could be achieved. In order to achieve it, an Operational Plan has been in development and, as already mentioned, human resources added. As we all know, it's a very bold plan with ambitious goals, and it will need the full support of the whole table tennis community to achieve it.

## **The Commercial Update**

2018 was another strong year, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our rights being in-house, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the commercial cycle. Some new brands sponsoring events and several sponsors renewing proved that they believe more and more in the future of table tennis.

Our partnership with Sportsmaster – Seamaster, through their Chairman Mr. Frank Ji, increased in 2018 with a fantastic agreement made to test the possibility of combining their T2 product for the future, as well as agreeing to sponsor the Challenge series in 2019 and 2020. This partnership has helped us to show the commercial sporting world that we are very much open for business and ready to look for opportunities in the world of commercial sports.

On top of this, was the agreement to set up the ITTF-owned Commercial Vehicle - with the goal to optimise the full potential of the ITTF's commercial rights from 2021 onwards when the new rights cycle for the ITTF begins. The challenge over the next two years is to ensure that our products remain competitive whilst we prepare for this change, which should lead to a strong boost to our overall finances in 2021. And even though we have been able to increase prize money to the athletes in 2018 - the above Commercial Vehicle will have increased prize money as one of its most important strategic priorities for the future as we must do much more in this area than currently.

## **Future World Table Tennis Championships**

There was great joy for many of us when the BoD, with a resounding majority, agreed on the change of the WTTC structure. We knew that this was, however, just the beginning. Developing a robust, dynamic, fair and, more importantly, more commercial system would be an extremely

important next step. Alicante, Spain hosted a Future Events Working Group meeting with technicians from each continent, an Athletes' Commission representative and senior management to debate the future system. With the magnitude of work, it was also decided to ask Deloitte back to help deliver what will be the WTTC Manual in 2019. Whilst we clearly understand that there is still some doubt over the decision, we are committed to all of the promises made to ensure its success and we are daily working on the plans to make it a huge success. These plans will be revealed soon.

## **Development and the ITTF Foundation**

The ITTF Development Department and programs, with the very solid base having been built over many years, went through some transformation also in 2018. High Performance for the first time in years became a priority for the future. If we want to become a more successful sport, we simply need more stars from more parts of the world. This is imperative for the future of table tennis. It was agreed to set up the ITTF Foundation, which was inaugurated during the WTTC in Halmstad. This meant that the ITTF could more clearly define its work in Sports for Development and sports development – two very different areas of the Development Sphere. Most of the High Performance was planning for the future whilst also releasing extra funds for continental development. The Foundation was also off and running building amazing new programs, continuing support of projects that had been built in recent years; providing support for the Unified Korea project; and establishing an extra pillar “Health,” with the creation of the first-ever Parkinson’s World Table Tennis Championships, just to name a few things.

## **Conclusion**

2018 was very transformational, with a lot of bold new ideas created, passed and approved, all of which will lead our sport into the next decade, and hopefully beyond. We are under no illusions. Massive tasks lie ahead. I sincerely thank the ITTF and its members for your support. We believe we must work hard everyday to ensure table tennis reaches the next level and truly positions itself away from how it is seen in most parts of the world as a “basement sport” versus as a “professional sport.”

We really believe that table tennis can become bigger and more important in the world of sports, especially if we all work collaboratively, without self-interest, and with the passion that I know exists in all of our table tennis family. If we believe, we can make the rest of the world believe.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made my work a real pleasure in 2018. First and foremost, the ITTF Executive Committee – we all felt the pressure and then the pride of delivering successfully our first AGM and various meetings in 2018. Most importantly, I would like to thank the dedicated team of staff I lead – you are all AMAZING and you are the reason why the ITTF is growing. The amount of work you all do to deliver what is truly a strengthening sport and organisation cannot be stated or rewarded enough. And finally, to the whole ITTF Family, thanks for pushing us, challenging us and encouraging us to keep moving the sport forward in the best interests of table tennis worldwide.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

**Steve Dainton**

This report complements the one of the Chief Executive Officer.

### **Institutional Relations**

Having been involved in our sport since 1991, and more specifically as an ITTF staff member since 2004, I would say that 2018 has been the best year in the ITTF's relations with the IOC and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) in the 21st century.

Looking back to 2017 when the Olympic Day celebrations included four sports demonstrations, including table tennis, the 2018 Olympic Day celebrations, by contrast, were focused totally around our sport. Table Tennis stars from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gathered at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne to celebrate Olympism around a table tennis table. The IOC and ITTF Presidents and many members of the IOC were in attendance as well as Presidents and Secretaries General of other Summer and Winter Sport Federations.

Moreover, the ITTF and the IOC worked closely in supporting PRK table tennis athletes in different programmes, and in addition, the regular programmes coordinated with the IOC took place, supporting member associations and athletes in their preparations for the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

The decision of the Spanish Government not to allow the Kosovo delegation to compete at the European Championships held in Alicante in September, although sad and disappointing, strengthened the cooperation between the ITTF and the IOC. This resulted in joint official communications which ended with a historical decision by the Spanish Government to accept the Kosovo delegation at future sporting events. I want to thank particularly Mr. Pere Miro, the Deputy Director General of the IOC, and Mr. Jérôme Poivey, Head of Institutional Relations, for their support, and the Kosovo Table Tennis Association for their patience.

Our gratitude goes also to ASOIF, led by its President, Mr. Francesco Ricci Bitti, and its Executive Director, Mr. Andrew Ryan. Being an institution with limited human resources, ASOIF continues to be a very important source of guidance and facilitation for the summer sport organisations in particular, but I would say also for the entire sporting community in general. The presence of Mr. Ricci Bitti at our 2018 AGM was applauded by our delegates, and we look forward to continuing working closely with ASOIF. His message was clear: International Federations need Good Governance.

### **Membership**

After a period of suspension, the Kuwait Table Tennis Association re-started its operations last October, through the formation of an interim committee. We look forward to the complete re-instatement of the KTTA within the ITTF family.

### **Operations**

The incorporation of a Chief Financial Officer in late 2017 has already greatly improved our financial and oversight capabilities in 2018. Moving from having the accounting files of the ITTF shifting between the computers of two persons until the end of 2017, to having an online accounting software fully deployed in 2018, was not an easy task. I want to thank my colleague Mr. Michael Brown for the dedicated work done in this area, not always perceived, especially when moving from the system previously in place. Nowadays, a total of seven persons within the ITTF, including elected officials and staff, plus our auditing firm, Mazars SA, have real-time access to our accounting software, including every single financial transaction detail.



## **Equipment**

The incorporation of Ms. Claudia Herweg to our staff team in 2018 reinforces the professionalisation mentioned by the CEO in his report. In a few months, already some positive results have been identified. We look forward to further improvements in 2019.

## **Para Table Tennis**

In February 2018, Mr. Pablo Perez joined the ITTF as the first staff member totally focused on Para Table Tennis. This was a necessary step following the modernization in our structure, which resulted in the former Para Table Tennis Division becoming a Committee, opening the door for closer interaction with other areas of the ITTF.

Slovenia hosted a high-level World Para Table Tennis Championships and, while room for improvement is still big, looking back to the times I was Para Table Tennis coach 20 years ago, I can say without hesitation that the integration in the ITTF is positive, and we hope this will be better noticed in the coming years.

## **Anti-Doping**

Ms. Françoise Dagouret, our former anti-doping manager, joined the WADA team in Montreal in June 2018. I want to thank her for her contribution to the ITTF over the last couple of years. Following her departure, the ITTF became the first new International Federation to sign an agreement with the International Testing Agency, externalizing the management of our anti-doping program. This provides better independence in the planning, selection and operations in all matters related to anti-doping activities.

## **Committees and Commissioners**

We are pleased to report on the cooperation with the different committees and commissioners.

While we as ITTF staff are here to assist our membership and our elected and appointed officials, I want to take the opportunity to highlight the always outstanding contribution of our Technical Commissioner, Mr. Graeme Ireland. His knowledge and expertise are very valuable for our institution.

We want also to thank in particular the positive and collaborative approach of the new Nominations Committee Chair, Mr. Wahid Oshodi; the ideas and facilitation of our Gender Commissioner, Ms. Hajera Kajee, and in general, all other Committee Chairs and members and the Commissioners for their continuous support to the ITTF.

## **Athletes' Commission**

It was not so far back in time when the 2014 AGM defeated the proposition to have the AC Chair join the ITTF Executive Committee. Nowadays, however, having an Executive Committee meeting without the voice of the athletes present is simply inconceivable. This says a lot about the modernisation of the ITTF in the sense of the integration of the athletes into the ITTF management.

In a year of elections in the Athletes' Commission, Mr. Vladimir Samsonov ended his tenure in May; Mr. Ryu Seungmin, the 2004 Olympic Champion, was the Interim Chair from May until December, and since 12<sup>th</sup> December, Mr Zoran Primorac is the new Chair. While wishing him success in his mandate, we want to thank the contributions of all three of them, as well as of the other elected and appointed members.

## **Multi-Sport Events**

The 2018 Commonwealth Games held in the Gold Coast were organized at a very high level and the sport of table tennis was very well showcased. The players from India, in particular, performed outstandingly, and following their resounding success there, India also won their historical first medal at the Asian Games in Indonesia. The ITTF continued supporting other Multi-Sport Games held in different parts of the World, trying to continue our philosophy of making our sport available to all.

### **Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

The progress of the preparations in 2018 was not ideal. The reconstruction of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium limited the ability of the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee to facilitate the ITTF inspections, which will be resumed in 2019. The qualification system for the Olympic and Paralympic Games was confirmed by the ITTF OPC and ratified by the IOC and IPC Executive Boards respectively.

### **Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games**

Buenos Aires delivered a fantastic Youth Olympic Games. The public attendance, the “urban” Opening Ceremony in the streets of the Argentinean capital, and the good technical conditions in our venue, concluded with the table tennis community having very positive feelings.

### **Conclusions**

I want to thank the ITTF Executive Committee members for their guidance, the Continental Presidents for their cooperation, and the rest of the members of the Board of Directors, the Committee Chairs, Commissioners and the different members of the committees, commissions and working groups for their devotion and contribution to our sport.

Similarly, I want to thank my staff colleagues for their day-to-day efforts to make our International Federation better in a continuously more competitive sport field.

Just as for the CEO in his position, 2018 was also my first full year as the ITTF Secretary General. From being a modest international federation, with minimal growth over the last 6 years, we became one of the more dynamic international federations in 2018, starting a process of modernisation that was needed.

But with so many changes, and evoking the words of an ITTF World Champion, Mr. Peter Karlsson, I would say that in this moment we need from our membership two things: **T**ime and **T**rust. **T**ime and **T**rust comes with the same initials as our sport: **T**able **T**ennis.

I'm confident that if the ITTF members confirm in 2019 and 2020 the confidence shown in 2018, when the ITTF Strategic Plan was adopted, and the first step in our Governance Review was made with the initial Constitutional reform, the ITTF and the sport of table tennis can shine in the next decade.

As we are getting closer to the 100th year celebration of the founding of the ITTF, I want to repeat, just as I wrote in 2018, that you, the 226 Member Associations are the ITTF. The values expressed in our Constitution are nowadays complemented by our Strategic Plan, unanimously adopted in 2018: **T**able **T**ennis. **F**or **A**ll. **F**or **L**ife. We will continue working for you, trying to take our sport to new heights.

Respectfully submitted,

**Raul Calin**

Secretary General

# OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMISSION

## Report to the AGM

## Document C3

### Meetings

The Olympic and Paralympic Commission (OPC) met twice during the year 2018: at the World Championships in Halmstad, Sweden, and at the World Tour Grand Finals in Incheon, Korea. In addition to these meetings, the activity of the OPC started quite early in the year with the approval on-line of the qualification system for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which were later ratified by the IOC and IPC Executive Boards respectively.

### Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games

As mentioned in the report of the Secretary General (C2), Buenos Aires delivered a fantastic Youth Olympic Games. The two Athletes' Role Models, Galia Dvorak and Ryu Seungmin, interacted not only with the ITTF Family but also with other Olympians in the Olympic Village, giving a good image of our Sport. The IOC President, Dr. Thomas Bach, was in attendance for our Team Finals, alongside with the IOC Sports Director, Mr. Kit McConnell and other members of the IOC leadership.

### Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The reconstruction of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium limited the ability of the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee to facilitate the ITTF inspections, with actually just one inspection conducted in 2018. The communication was mainly via email and through meetings with the Sports Manager, Ms. Sachiko Yokota. The schedule for the Olympic Games was ratified, including a rest day between the individual and the team events, which certainly will help the athletes and operations. The format of play of the team event was also confirmed at the first OPC meeting in 2018. The Test Event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will be the Team World Cup, to be held in the same facilities, the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The second OPC meeting held in December confirmed the selection procedure criteria for the Technical Officials for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

### Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games

Dakar, Senegal, was confirmed as the host for the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games. The ITTF OPC decided to apply to the IOC to have two bronze medals in the table tennis events and also to work with the IOC to explore possibilities towards having innovative formats.

### Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Within the development of the plans for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Paris 2024 proposed to the ITTF to utilise the Grand Palais Ephemere as the new Paralympic venue. This facility is situated in an ideal location, very close to the Eiffel Tower. The ITTF staff and technical delegate will work closely with the Paris 2024 organizing committee in the analysis of the venue map.

Respectfully submitted,

**Raul Calin**

Secretary General

(On behalf of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission)

# DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINENTAL COUNCIL

## Report to the AGM

## Document C4

In 2018 the ITTF Development and Continental Council met on 14 December during the World Tour Grand Finals in Incheon, South Korea. It featured full attendance, i.e., all Continental Federations were represented along with ITTF Officials and relevant staff.

The meeting was focused on the following topics:

- Continental Updates in which each of the Continental representatives presented a verbal update related to the implementation of the Continental Development Programs and also expressed their opinions and experiences regarding the revised Programs, proposed to be implemented in the last two years of the Olympic Cycle.
- The Junior and Gender Commissioners presented written reports. It was acknowledged that the Global Junior Program is running efficiently, especially considering the increased participation at the World Junior Circuit events, although some global events may need to be revised in order to be better aligned with the newly-set objectives related to the areas of development and high performance. In the area of gender balance it was noted that in some areas, particularly education of coaches and officials, the percentage of female representation on some continents is below expectations. It was recommended to look for a new way to incentivize more women to become, or stay active, in the different roles.
- An update was presented in relation to the new Continental Development model that was proposed to the Continental Federations through a revised Memorandum of Understanding for the period 2019-2020. With practically all the Continents, the discussions about the revised development activities and budget distributions were still underway. With the aim to have the new programs in place in a timely manner, ideally by the end of the first quarter of 2019, it was determined that the agreements would be finalized individually with each Continental Federations. Their specific needs and realities will be considered within the ITTF's general policies, overall priorities and objectives arising from the Strategic Plan. Moreover, it was agreed that in case a Continental Federation does not sign the proposed new Memorandum, then the Development Program on that particular continent will continue running based on the 2017-2020 Agreement. In that case, the corresponding budget would also remain in place, rather than benefit from the 30% increase that was offered through the revised Program.
- The revised High Performance Program was introduced to the DCC, which aims at providing a seamless pathway of programs for players in the U11 to the U21 age group, including the preliminary plans regarding the ITTF Centers of Excellence and Regional Development. It was emphasized that also in this area the global and continental activities have to be well synchronized in order to provide as many opportunities as possible to the young promising players and their coaches. This will maximize the investments in the future stars of our sport on all levels.

- In the area of education, the DCC was briefed on the newly-developed Educational Matrix that aims to provide a comprehensive educational pathway for all the roles that are present in the sport. In terms of delivery, the goal is to offer to all the stakeholders the opportunity to learn via contemporary blended learning methods, with a strong online base targeting a wider audience.
- The ITTF Foundation reported on the work done in the first year of its creation and presented the ambitious plans for the future. The plans include the following programs: TT DreamBuilding, NeTTworking, TT4All, Ping Pong Diplomacy, TT4Health and TT Legacy. The DCC was very pleased with the outcome of the first initiatives and the momentum that was created with the Foundation.
- Eventually it was agreed that all the reports should be provided in writing in order to optimize the meeting by spending more time for interactions and discussions related to all the relevant and/or critical areas that the Continents face within the scope of the DCC.

Respectfully submitted,

**Polona Cehovin**

High Performance and Development Director

(On behalf of the Development and Continental Council)

In 2018, the Ethics Commission dealt with one complaint, related to a hiring process in one of the ITTF continental associations.

After a review, the Ethics Commission decided that the complaint had no merit and closed the case without further action. The complainant then initiated an appeal process to the Executive Committee. Despite being provided with the option of a verbal or written hearing, the complainant did not respond further. As a consequence, after the deadline established as per the ITTF regulations was passed, the ITTF Executive Committee also dismissed the case.

In addition, the ITTF dealt with two potential harassment cases which, according to the ITTF Constitution, were addressed by two harassment officers each.

In the first case, the respondent appealed the ITTF decision to CAS and CAS considered the ITTF's decision to be invalid.

In the second case, the complainant decided to withdraw the complaint.

**Raul Calin**

Secretary General

Ethics Commission Officer

(On behalf of the Ethics Commission)

# EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (Paul Schiltz)

## Report to the AGM 2019

Document D1

### Duty Assignments after the Meetings in Halmstad

Among the Committee members, these are the areas of responsibility.

Paul **Schiltz**, Chair: tables, racket control, racket coverings, research;

Torsten **Küneth**, Vice-Chairman: balls;

Phil **McCallum**: nets;

Atsushi **Hasegawa**: floors;

Piet **van Egmond**: market scrutiny;

Wendy **Chim** and Ian **Zubar**: field-of-play in cooperation with URC; and

Fred **Yuanhua**: net gauges.

The cooperation and coordination from Vicky **Eleftheriade**, until the end of her mandate, and Emese **Barsai** has been great, and we highly appreciate the helpful involvement of Dr. Alaa **Meshref** in our work and reflections. Since September 2018, Claudia **Herweg** has taken over the function of the ITTF equipment manager.

### General

The Equipment Committee (EqC) is continuously working to maintain and improve the quality of table tennis equipment in order to provide reliable and safe playing conditions; new good equipment was approved.

The FIT Working Groups about various equipment items permit exchange of reflections with EqC members or regular communication on equipment topics and envisage financial participation of manufacturers in research projects. Meetings with manufacturers were held in Halmstad, Paris and Incheon.

Full and corresponding members of the EqC, as well as concerned ITTF staff, are always invited to contribute to the projects to be directed to the EC or BoD and to the discussions solving problems. Not all the members involved themselves. Thank you to those who contributed so much.

Legal and marketing aspects are considered in the projects and decisions of EqC.

### Approved/Authorised Equipment – Evolution since 2014

Equipment (31.12.)	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Balls</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>97</b>	88	91	80
<b>Tables</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>130</b>	116	119	132
<b>Nets</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	52	54	52
<b>Floors</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	18	17	10
<b>Racket Coverings</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>1548</b>	1483	1483	1414

### Good Governance

Thanks to the care of the EqC experts and the ITTF staff, the approval fees generate a yearly income of about \$ 1.3 million. The financial and administrative aspects of the equipment management are ensured by the ITTF professional staff; the tests are outsourced to professional institutes; the test results are studied, and decisions about (non-) approval are taken by the EqC experts, who also supervise research. The analysis of the situation shows missing clear task definitions, informative work-flow, more precisely framed orientation for the EqC, research. One more staff member should be hired as soon as possible. High testing costs at some institutes may be reviewed.

A coherent “ITTF Equipment Approval Policy” was proposed by the EqC, to replace T7, which was abolished in 2011, as a directive for actions maintaining the high quality of equipment bearing the ITTF logo, creating data-bases, introducing transparent rules about withdrawal, deletion, re-integration and use of equipment after its withdrawal, introducing a charter of integrity, establishing an appeal possibility at the EC level against EqC decisions.... Without rules, decisions risk to be considered as “case by case”, which is not desirable. It is, however, essential to organize the presentation and guide the reading of such

documents (just as for all other publications related to equipment) in a more attractive way permitting to select chapter by chapter.

Abuse of the label “ITTF approved” and sales of equipment that does not conform to ITTF requirements or to the samples tested are a domain, which requires higher attention.

## **Racket Coverings**

Companies that supply illegal products for treating rubbers have been contacted to stop their marketing, otherwise their rubbers will be removed from the LARC and their equipment will no longer be authorized.

## **Research**

A budget for research has been agreed to by the EC in order to cover costs for improving current testing.

The EqC recommends to join the ITF (Tennis) Technical Centre in London for guiding research before implementation of equipment changes. Some tests may also be conducted there.

## **New Materials for Blades**

The preparatory phase for the research is nearly finished. Together with the manufacturers, blades and rubbers to be used have been determined. A call for “new” blades has been launched: they shall be made completely or partly of new materials, or of different design using similar layers as in the actual rackets.

## **Balls**

As reported last year and now confirmed by test results, the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of non-celluloid balls have reached a high quality and durability level. For safety reasons, the ITTF should consider halting approval of celluloid balls.

The EqC considers the problem of the aging of the plastic balls, which is reported to be stronger than for celluloid balls, and especially for the balls with an initial higher grip (friction). A research project about balls, proposed by the EqC, should be carried out in order to develop adequate testing.

## **Tables**

The application of the new method and devices for determination of the friction has unfortunately been delayed another time. The EqC hopes to provide better news before the AGM.

## **Data-bases and Pictures of Approved Equipment Published**

The EqC has prepared online forms, expressed its view about data-collection and presentation, and hopes that the efforts produced for the re-publication of pictures of the approved equipment will soon be visible.

## **Racket Control and Boosting**

Since registered racket failures may lead to the suspension of players, the ITTF must ensure that the testing devices, methods and organization are correct. The testing personal shall be skilled, careful and precise.

Anti-boosting testing methods are being further investigated to finally be able to apply existing or future rules.

A pilot phase may be started in which players remove their racket coverings after they have played their last match in the tournament. The coverings and blade will then be inspected on site, without consequences, with the results being kept anonymous. The observations shall then be discussed, and conclusions made. The EqC is ready to prepare and achieve racket inspections and propose tools for the controls. Such project however requires time, and correct and strict procedures.

At the moment when this report has been put together, the EqC has not yet been informed about the decision of the EC based on the report of the WG “Booster.”

## **Colour of Balls and Racket Coverings: EqC Propositions to AGM**

Years ago, the rules were changed to require rackets to be black on one side and bright red on the other, in order to help players to detect which side of the racket hit the ball. It was a quick answer to solve the problem of invisible racket twiddling. Based on the experience gained, and to allow for more individuality,



the EqC believes additional bright colour options can be added to the bright red without adversely affecting the original goals, with the other side to remain black.

Originally, the second colour for table tennis balls was canary yellow. Yellow was replaced with orange because it was deemed to be more distinct and special, despite the fact that our eyes are much less sensitive to yellow. Tennis successfully uses yellow balls because of superior visibility (TV, spectators) and perception (players). If the proposition is accepted, the use of any of the three colours white, yellow and orange will be permitted.

**Paul Schiltz**  
Chair

#### **2018 has been another fantastic table tennis year.**

The Media and Marketing office has brought the promotion and the coverage of table tennis to the next level. Our staff has implemented many new ideas on the ITTF website, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms, and integrated our work to get more media exposure and promotion and the number of followers on social media platforms have increased about to 3.131.741 in January, 2019 from 2,458,800 in the beginning of 2018.

#### **World Team Table Tennis Championships**

The Liebherr 2018 World Table Tennis Championships in Sweden had a fantastic number of viewers and followers on all the platforms.

The world's biggest table tennis event, which was held in Halmstad, was followed by fans in 140 territories through TV broadcast and was seen by 291 million viewers through 862 hours of coverage. In China alone 170,96 million tv viewers tuned in to catch their favorite stars in action. Also in Japan and Sweden impressive ratings of all viewers with up to 40 % were achieved.

- TV Broadcast: 140 Countries
- TV Viewership in China: 170,95 million
- Worldwide TV Viewership: 291 million
- ITTF.com Unique Visitors: 691,000
- Sessions on itTV: 3,61 million
- Total Facebook Reach: 20,4 million
- Facebook Impressions: 27,3 million
- Facebook Engagement: 1,77 million
- Facebook Video Views: 4.3 million views; 2.7 million minutes viewed
- Twitter Impressions: 3.5 million
- Instagram Impressions: 13,3 .5 million
- YouTube Video Views: 977.000 views; 1,54 million minutes viewed
- Weibo Impressions: 490,16 million
- Media Articles: 27.595

#### **Increasing Figures on Social Media**

In January, 2019 the ITTF had 3.131.741 followers on social media platforms.

Approximately 1, 2 billion impressions were registered on the ITTFs social media channels including almost 550 million on YouTube, over 300 million on Weibo and 200 million on Facebook with Facebook posts reaching as many as 140 million unique users in 2018.

The growth rate reached on Instagram was up 50 %, to almost 7 million interactions.

Follower growth rate was 37% on Twitter, 41% on Instagram and 48% on YouTube and the ITTF Facebook page reached the milestone of 500.000 followers

## **Video Content**

155 million video views were seen on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. 355 years and 125 days of watch time on YouTube. 50 million video views on Facebook was the reward for strong rallies, match highlights and fun player content.

The ITTF's official online streaming platform ITV has broken new ground in 2018, with more than 1 million users tuning in during the calendar year for average sessions of over 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, an extraordinary 142.3 million unique viewers tuned into Chinese online streaming platform Zhibo TV to watch the 2,593 matches (both in qualification and main competition) broadcast over the course of the calendar year, resulting in a total of almost 405 million page views!

## **Facebook**

Followers: 536,000; total reach users: 140.000.000, total impressions: 205.000.000

## **Twitter**

Followers: 58.000; 36.000.000 impressions

## **Instagram**

Followers: 176.000, total likes 6.600.000

## **YouTube**

Subscribers: 294,800; total impressions 546.200.000, watch time 187.000.000 minutes!

## **Weibo (China)**

Followers: 1,740,000; total reach: 86.200.000

## **Website**

2018 was a year to remember also for the ITTF's official website. 40 million page views marked a 40% increase from the previous year, while there was also an increase in total website sessions (13.3 million) and the number of visitors (over 3.2 million).

## **Seamaster 2018 World Tour Coverage**

The six platinum events were broadcasted 1.500 hours and had an audience of over 200 million people and each of the platinum had about 100 million impressions on social media. The Japan Open was the most successful regarding coverage, with more than 36 million viewers on TV, 31 million impressions and over 1 million interactions.

## **ITTF Star Awards**

The ITTF Star Awards was held for the sixth time to celebrate the achievements of our table tennis stars in Incheon in Korea. The table tennis stars were crowned in December 2018 in the following categories:

Male and Female Star: Fan Zhendong and Ding Ning, China

Male and Female Para Table Tennis Star: Jordi Morales, Spain and Kelly van Zon, Netherlands

Star Point: Xu Xin, China

Table Tennis Star Coach: Massimo Costantini, Italy

Breakthrough Star: Manika Batra, India

Since the inauguration of its first edition in Dubai in 2013, the ITTF Star Award Gala has been a year-end finale that athletes, fans, and everyone in the table tennis community has been looking forward to throughout the year. Thanks to the Korean organizers for hosting another enjoyable and unforgettable Star Awards 2018.

The star Award Gala in Incheon had 1.130.000 live viewers on ITTF platforms, and the number of impressions on the social platforms were 50,870,000

Thanks to all the organizers, staff and all who have contributed to the breaking of all social and digital media records, which made 2018 another exciting table tennis year.

**Arne Madsen**

Chair

# NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Wahid Enitan Oshodi)

## Report to the AGM

Document D3

### INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee of the ITTF at its meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018 in Halmstad, Sweden, appointed the underlisted Eight (8) persons as Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the Nominations Committee respectively.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018 – 2020**

NAMES	COUNTRY	POSITION
Wahid Enitan OSHODI	Nigeria	Chair
Abdulla Al-MULLA	Qatar	Deputy Chair
Andreas GEORGIU	Cyprus	Member
Sandra DEATON	England	Member
Lotfi GUERFEL	Tunisia	Member
Henry REIMBERG	Chile	Member
David JACKSON	Canada	Member
Matthias VATHEUER	Germany	Member

The main duties of the Committee include but are not limited to validating and forwarding recommendations to the Executive Committee in respect to nominations to Committees and Commissions, review of nominees for, recipients of the Merit Award taking into consideration such important criteria as Gender Representation, Competence, Experience, Skills, Commitment, Knowledge and a fair and equitable distribution among member associations and continents.

The Committee upon being constituted agreed that to enable the Committee to carry out its duties in a more efficient and timely manner, we needed to create an avenue for members to interact and discuss issues that arose quickly. Consequent upon this, we created a WhatsApp group and a new Email group, which has aided us in reacting expeditiously to issues and reaching decisions more quickly.

In a bid to ensure that our future recommendations with respect to Committee membership meets the important criteria of Gender and Fair, Equitable distribution we undertook a breakdown of the current total membership of Committees with respect to Gender and Continental representation. The summary of results shown below will assist greatly in making future recommendations with a view to ensuring that the ITTF Committees are fairly representative of the member associations and meet the Gender requirements, as recommended by the International Olympic Committee and other Global bodies.

### **BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

	MALE	FEMALE	EU	AS	NA	LA	AF	OC
CHAIR	7	1	6	1				
DEPUTY CHAIR	1			1				
MEMBERS (FULL)	36	12	20	14	4	3	4	3
MEMBERS (CORRESPONDING)	23	11	16	10	1	1	6	0
SPECIAL ADVISER	3		3					
CO-OPTED MEMBER	1		1					

## PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL FEMALE MEMBERSHIP IN ALL COMMITTEES

<b>FEMALE CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL FEMALE MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>25.26%</b>

### ATHLETES' COMMISSION

1. In late September 2018, the Committee worked closely with **Mr. Raul Calin** and **Ms Iulia Necula** reviewing the nominations for the elections of Para Athletes for the Athletes Commission and, after a thorough perusal of the nominees, the Committee duly validated and approved the nominations for election onto the Commission. I must commend the Committee members for their commitment in carrying out the review expeditiously.
2. In early December, the Committee, as part of its duties, also undertook a review of the nominations for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Athletes' Commission. The Committee duly reviewed the nominations and approved the nominations.

The Committee in the course of its review duly concluded that for future elections, with regard to the Athletes' Commission, the sooner the validation and approval of nominations of persons into the Commission having been sought and obtained, and such Athletes having been so duly elected, then such validation and approval would suffice for the later internal elections to the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commission, respectively, without such Athletes having to undergo a second review at that stage by the Nominations Committee.

### ITTF MERIT AWARDS

The Committee having taken on board various opinions as to the suitability of the ITTF Merit Awards criteria, it was suggested that there might be a need to review the current criteria in light of certain contradictions therein. Consequently, it was resolved by the Committee that a review was definitely in order. To this effect the Committee, after evaluating the criteria, will be working closely with the Secretary General Mr. Raul Calin in coming up with a clearer and simplified procedure for National Associations seeking to nominate individuals to receive the various categories of Merit Awards. Upon completion of this review, our recommendation will be forwarded to the EC for consideration.

### CONCLUSION

The ITTF Nominations Committee will continue to work closely with the ITTF CEO, Secretary General and Chairs of the various Committees and Commissions in a bid to ensure that we fully take on board the required skills and expertise of persons needed to serve in the Committees and Commissions. We believe that the information gathered from our interaction with the relevant Chairmen will help us develop a more focused procedure in assessing the suitability of candidates nominated by National Associations. This will ultimately lead to improvement in the work and development of the Committees and Commissions.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would also like to extend my thanks and extreme appreciation to my Deputy Chair and all our Members, for their excellent contributions, advice and guidance.

I would like to thank the ITTF President Mr. Thomas Weikert, Deputy President Khalil Al-Mohannadi, ITTF CEO Steve Dainton for their support and special thanks to the ITTF Secretary General Raul Calin for his kind cooperation and patience.

I must also extend our gratitude to Iulia Necula, for providing excellent support to the Nominations Committee.

**Wahid Enitan Oshodi**

Chair

## **PARA TABLE TENNIS (Dorte Darfelt)**

### **Report to the AGM**

**Document D4**

In 2018 a lot of competitions in nearly all continents have been carried out by engaged organisers and with many players.

The highlight of 2018 was the World Championship in Slovenia in October 2018. 51 federations from 5 continents took place in the championships. The organisers did as usual a very good job. The hotel was great, the food fine and the transport also worked fine, and the hall was good. The players by that had very fine conditions and they thanked us by playing very interesting and exciting matches. I myself had the pleasure of watching the last matches and the honour of presenting some of the prizes.

On the day after the World Championships, the PTT committee had its yearly meeting. Besides the committee members and advisors Pablo Perez (ITTF PTT manager), Raul Calin (ITTF Secretary General) and Petra Sörling (ITTF EC member) took part in the meeting. This meeting was the first time the Committee met after the election in 2017. In my opinion it is important to have face to face meetings at least once a year, otherwise it is difficult to have fruitful talks and discussions, for example, about development.

There are challenges to go from a division to a Committee but step-by-step, things happen. One of the first steps towards the integration of the Para TT into the ITTF competitions has been done with the appointment of Vicky Eleftheriade as the Competitions Director.

I know that the players and organisers are looking forward to more integration in the marketing and press area.

A classification research project has been conducted at the National Taiwan University of Sport (2018 and 2019), which will lead to a progressive improvement in the classification system.

It is a pleasure that the Para TT now have two members on the Athletes Commission, Alena Kanova and Trevor Hirth. Trevor and Alena have already participated in a meeting in the Commission. I am very pleased that Para now is represented by a standing player and a wheelchair player and a male and a female player at the same time.

No doubt that it will take time before Para is fully integrated into the ITTF but I know that the members of the Committee and also our PTT manager will work tirelessly to achieve the best result for Para table tennis.

For me it is time to say goodbye as Chair. It has been one of the best experiences I have had in table tennis to be involved in Para. I have met so many enthusiastic and dedicated people -- leaders, coaches, players and others. It is impossible for me to mention everyone so, therefore, THANK YOU to you all. I have learned so much and I will always follow from a distance what happens in the future.

**Dorte Darfelt**

Chair

# **RULES COMMITTEE (Rudi Sporrer)**

## **Report to the AGM**

**Document D5**

During the 2018-2019 period, the main tasks of the ITTF Rules Committee were:

### **Questions / Interpretations on Rules**

The Rules Committee had to deal with about 90 questions and inquiries about table tennis laws and regulations. This is a significantly smaller number than in former years (2018: almost 170 inquiries). Still the majority referred to players' eligibility and the jurisdiction of associations.

### **Propositions to the AGM and Board of Directors Meeting 2019**

The Rules Committee is presenting a few propositions regarding the ITTF Constitution, Laws and regulations.

In particular, the 2018 AGM requested us to provide a proposal regarding an amended and improved structure of the "Jurisdiction of Associations" section of our Constitution. An internal group, consisting of our members Chan Cheong Ki, Igor Heller, Liu Yi, Sara Sutcliffe and myself, worked on this subject and prepared a specific proposition.

### **Ranking Default Policy**

The Chairman of the Rules Committee again participated in the RDP Panel dealing with quite a high number of cases at ITTF sanctioned events, including Continental Championships.

### **Code of Ethics**

According to the ITTF Code of Ethics, the Chair of the Rules Committee has to officiate as Chair of the ITTF Ethics Commission, composed of himself, a member of the Executive Committee, a member of the Athletes Commission, plus one staff member.

### **Meetings**

As usual, two meetings of the Rules Committee took place during the Liebherr 2018 World Table Tennis Team Championships in Halmstad.

In the first meeting, propositions and resolutions to the AGM and the BoD meeting were discussed and related comments were made. At the second meeting, the Committee was going through the final decisions taken; and consequently, proposals for the final text of new regulations were presented.

All full Committee members and some corresponding members participated in our meetings and we were pleased to welcome some distinguished guests as well.

### **Committee Structure**

I am proud to say that 3 out of 6 full members of the Rules Committee are women. Nevertheless, my special thanks go to all Committee members and in particular to the Deputy Chairman, Prof. CHAN Cheong Ki, for their skilful and continuous contributions.

I have to use this opportunity to mention explicitly a great and outstanding personality: My predecessor as Chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. Colin CLEMETT, celebrated his (unbelievable) 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019! For more than three decades, he put his heart and soul into this Committee and still his advice is highly appreciated by our members.

Let me also express my sincere thanks to our Secretary General, Mr. Raul CALIN; to my colleagues; the chairpersons of the Athletes Commission; the Umpires & Referees Committee; and the Equipment Committee; as well as to the Technical Commissioner, Mr. Graeme IRELAND, for their appreciated support.

**Rudi Sporrer**

Chair



The year 2018 has been yet another active one for the ITTF's Sport Science and Medical Committee (SSMC), although a part of its regular activities relating to anti-doping has been outsourced to the International Testing Authority (ITA). Regardless of the fact, the ITTF SSMC has remained very active in conducting all its other activities in the fields of sports science and sports medicine. Our primary responsibility at the present time is still the cooperation with the IOC regarding the injury and illness prevention, as well as the next ITTF Sports Science Congress, which will be held in Budapest in 2019.

We have accomplished some activities since the beginning of 2018, and we expect to accomplish others prior to the next WTTC in Budapest, 2019:

1. The most important achievement in 2018 for ITTF SSMC is the publication of a special issue specifically focusing on table tennis within *Journal of Sports Sciences* (publisher Taylor&Francis Online). This journal has one of the highest impact factors in the field of sports science and table tennis is one of the rare sports who has succeeded in publishing special issue. These papers were composed by scientists from seventeen different nations covering five continents reflecting the established and ongoing international cooperation. The papers included studies focused on the broad range of disciplines of sports science, e.g. biological sciences, physiology and nutrition, sports medicine and biomechanics, sports performance and social and behavioural sciences performance. More than 60 papers were sent to the editor and 17 of them ultimately were published. I would like to take this opportunity and thank our SSMC member Irene Faber, PhD and Prof. Martin Lames for their hard work and excellent outcome.
2. From March 21<sup>st</sup> until 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018, Francoise Dagouret and I took part at the *WADA Symposium* in Lausanne, Switzerland.
3. Prior to the WTTC in Halmstad, the project on "*net height changes*" had been concluded, and a report was presented to the SSMC members and ITTF CEO. Further activities need to be accomplished.
4. At the WTTC in Halmstad sports science conference "*The Science and Practice of Racket Sport for Improved Performance and Health: Special Focus on Table Tennis*" at the Halmstad University was organized from April 25<sup>th</sup> until 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The response of nearly 100 participants in Halmstad was received as very positive. The main organizer of this event was the University of Halmstad, represented by Prof. Lars Kirsten and Prof. Urban Johnson, supported by the ITTF SSMC members who also participated at the conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Mikael Andersson, Prof. Lars Kirsten and Prof. Urban Johnson for their involvement in the organizational and scientific part of the conference.
5. Two regular meetings of the SSMC were organized during the WTTC in Halmstad.
6. From the University of Ningbo (CHN), I received an invitation to present table tennis research topics. I have visited Faculty of the Physical Education at Ningbo University from May 20<sup>th</sup> until 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 and delivered a lecture to PhD students on the current status of sports science in table tennis.

7. From May 25<sup>th</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup>, we co-organized the 6<sup>th</sup> *World Congress of Racket Sport Science* together with the Badminton World Federation, Thailand Badminton Association and Mahidol University. More than 170 participants took part at this event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the SSMC members for their help and contribution to the congress. Some numbers: abstracts received: 72; total authors: 165; registered participants: 178 (including the invited speaker); countries participating: 22; invited speakers: 4. The Book of abstracts of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Racket Sport Science was published jointly with the Badminton World Federation and Mahidol University.
8. From September 15<sup>th</sup> until 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 ten foreign invited participants took part in a jointly organized *scientific meeting with the JTТА SSMC*. The meeting was organized by Dr. Shiro Matsuo and Prof. Kazuto Yoshida. Over 40 Japanese scientists took part and presented recent trends in sports science and medicine related to table tennis development. Nine members of the ITTF SSMC took part in this two-day meeting in Tokyo with interesting oral presentations followed by a fruitful discussion. A representative from Halmstad University was invited to present his activities. We used this opportunity also to have our third ITTF SSMC meeting where some new proposals for the future work were presented (see the Minutes of the meeting). We are expecting to have another JTТА SSMC and ITTF SSMC jointly-organised meeting in September 2019.
9. During the gathering in Tokyo, we continued with the work on medical services at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Further activities in terms of medical support have been provided through e-mail exchanges with Sachiko Yokota. Thanks to her and Dr. Shiro Matsuo, the ITTF SSMC will have a more active role at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Thanks also to Mr. Maehara-san for his involvement and final dinner for SSMC members.
10. At the end of gathering in Tokyo, the final decision of Niigata Institute was presented to grant Kei Kamijima her postdoctoral study at the University of Ljubljana. Kei will pay a visit to the University of Ljubljana for 10 months during the 2019-2020 academic year under the supervision of Prof. Miran Kondric and will proceed with her studies in the field of table tennis. This grant is a result of our previous meetings. We hope to get even more applications to provide young researchers with more possibilities to work abroad and to focus on table tennis research.
11. In October, we proceed with the study conducted last year in Otočec (Slovenia) during the final selection camp of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) as a part of the project "*Profiling elite youth table tennis players using a multidimensional approach*," which is a project of an international research group including SSMC members. Students from the Faculty of Sport (Lj) were included in this year's measurements. The ETTU supported the study by providing overnight lodging, meals, transportation, and compensation for the assessors on the site. We thank the ETTU for their support, but also to Michael Fuchs and Wisanu Wattayawong for all provided work in Otočec. This was our last measurement for the pilot project. The final report on this pilot project will be available at the Congress in Budapest.

12. During the Para Table Tennis World Championships, which was organised in Slovenia (Laško and Celje), I took the opportunity and had a meeting with ITTF EC member Petra Sörling and ITTF staff member Emese Barsai.
13. From November 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> I was invited to Luxembourg to attend the “*International Table Tennis Congress-linking practice and science*” conference, where I delivered a lecture on the future of table tennis research (Table tennis research horizon 2025).
14. In the field of *anti-doping*, most of duties in first half of the year 2018 have been provided by Francoise Dagouret who left the ITTF office and has moved to WADA headquarters. All the anti-doping activities has been outsourced to ITA. Herewith I would like to thank one more time Francoise for her dedicated work and preparation of materials for WADA.
15. From December 27<sup>th</sup> until 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, I was invited to Alzahra University to deliver a workshop on physical preparation in table tennis and to provide a lecture on published research in recent years to PhD students.
16. The ITTF SSMC has been playing an active role in the development of global university-level coach education project. We continue to work together with head coordinator Prof. Goran Munivrana on further improvement of this study. The consensus within the SSMC is to continue to provide organisational help and support for such a project that would benefit the whole table tennis community.
17. I would like to take this opportunity to thank CEO Steve Dainton, for his contribution to the work of the ITTF SSMC with regard to scientific topics and cooperation with the IOC. I also would like to thank Mr. Masahiro Maehara for his support of our activities in the field of sports science and medicine as well as the Secretary General Raul Calin and staff member Emese Barsai. Thanks also to all members of the ITTF SSMC who are dedicated to the work in sports science, the anti-doping fight and medicine. Herewith I need also to congratulate our member Prof. Tsung Min Hung who has been elected as an international fellow for the *National Academy of Kinesiology* (US) and has been awarded with an *Excellent Research Award from the Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan*.

#### **Tasks to Be Fulfilled prior to April 2019:**

- Updating the database of scientific papers that have been published in different scientific journals in cooperation with the Head of Education;
- Conducting activities for the “16<sup>th</sup> ITTF Sports Science Congress;”
- Proposing to the ITTF EC to provide some budget for scientific research;
- Proposing to the ITTF EC studies which should be supported by the ITTF; and
- Helping NA’s regarding prevention and carrying on other activities.

**Prof. Miran Kondrič, PhD**

Chair

**1. New Approach "Match Officials"**

In August 2018 the new Directives for Match Officials were approved and, in 2019, all six World Tour Platinum Events, six World Tour Events and the World Title Events will use the approach, which was successfully tested in 2018. The invitation for the World Tour and World Tour Platinum events 2019 were published in October 2018 and the selection was done in January 2019. It was the first time that officials could plan their year well in advance knowing their events already at the beginning of the year.

337 umpires from 66 countries applied for these prestigious events. Taking into account the performance of each official in the last three years, 116 umpires from 43 countries were selected.

**2. International Referee School**

ITTF Oceania and the URC organised an IR school in Brisbane from October 25th to 28th, 2018. The ITTF URC is proud to welcome three new International Referees and Fanny Ho is the only female referee now in Oceania.

The 2019 ITTF URC and Japanese Table Tennis Association will organise an IR school in Osaka from 22nd to 25th August, 2019.

**3. Nomination of Referees for ITTF Events**

The URC is working closely with the ITTF office / organisers to confirm / facilitate nominations of referees for ITTF events and to include new referees and referees from different continents.

**4. Referee Tool Box**

A toolbox with 13 documents is available for all referees and is updated regularly. This is to provide guidelines and help standardise procedures in all tournaments.

**5. Referee Report**

The electronic referee report is used by all referees and for all ITTF events. The database is used not only for keeping records and analysis but also for education. This is also linked to other ITTF databases. The ITTF Para Table Tennis Manager has direct access to the database and together the cooperation is strengthened between Para and the URC.

**6. Referee Report / Frequently Asked Questions / Case Studies Document**

The ITTF URC evaluated all referee reports and used the cases/recommendations of these reports for quality assurance and training. The cases were included in the FAQ and Case Study Document, which is updated regularly

**7. Competition Manager and URC**

The ITTF URC joined the ITTF Competition Manager Seminar in Singapore. During this seminar a lot of common topics were discussed and the importance of close cooperation between the Competition Manager and Referee were highlighted.

**8. IU Exam**

The bi-annual IU Exam took place in 2018. The URC initiated a pilot project to offer educational courses to Associations in order to help candidates prepare for the exam. Courses took place in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Latin America. Responses and results are very encouraging. Close cooperation has been undertaken with the Development Department. This project will be further refined and be part of the ongoing education efforts.

## **9. AUT, ARE and Evaluations**

The URC conducted 3 AUT courses, 6 ARE's and evaluations at 20 events. The activities took place at Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and Africa with Europe and Asia being the most active continents. As of December 2018, there are 275 active BB Umpires. There are 20 new BB umpires in 2018.

## **10. ARE for Evaluators**

Following the implementation in Suzhou, the course conductors and evaluators continue to take the mandatory ARE. This will ensure our course conductors and evaluators themselves are up to date with the current rules and regulations. Three new evaluators were selected after a thorough process by a panel of experts. They have all been mentored and trained by experienced trainers and are now fully capable to conduct evaluation in the recommended way.

## **11. Young Umpire Project**

In preparation for the 2018 Youth Olympics, the Young Umpire Project (YUP) took place during the latter part of 2017. In collaboration with ITTF Education, an online forum was set up for young umpires from all continents to participate in a month-long training. Out of 42 candidates under the age of 25, 22 umpires passed the exam. They will be included for further consideration for umpiring at the Youth Olympic Games.

## **12. Evaluation Process**

A small working group, comprised of representatives of players, referees, umpires and Competition Managers, was formed to look into the pros and cons of the current practices of evaluation. With the implementation of a New Approach, there is a need to further examine the umpire evaluation process. Recommendations from the report will be further discussed for implementation.

## **13. Acknowledgement**

I wish to thank my fellow URC members, mentors and Special Advisors for their help and guidance. I would also like to thank the ITTF leaders and their staff members Emese, Silvia and Habiba for providing their full support to the work of the URC and for lending a hand in co-ordinating with the Associations, Organisers and other agencies for the successful hosting of tournaments.

**Young-Sam Ma**  
Chair

### **1. Composition of the Committee (Period 2017 - 2019)**

Reto Bazzi (Switzerland / Europe), Chair; Galal Ezz (Egypt / Africa), Hyunsook Chung (Korea / Asia), Ina Jozepsone (Latvia / Europe), Paul Kyle (New Zealand / Oceania), Dean Johnson (USA / North America), Hans Westling (Sweden / Europe), Swaythling Club International (SCI) / World Veterans Championships Committee (WVC).

### **2. Committee Meetings / Communication**

The following committee officials attended the meetings in April 2018 during the World Championships in Halmstad / SWE:

Reto Bazzi, Chair; Galal Ezz, Hyunsook Chung, Ina Jozepsone, Dean Johnson, Paul Kyle, Hans Westling (SCI/WVC).

During the year the Chairperson communicated with the committee members mainly through e-mail correspondence.

### **3. Committee's Activities**

Following the purpose (mandate) according to the "Terms of Reference" the Committee concentrated his activities in the following areas:

#### **3.1 Support the SCI in Organising World Veteran Championships**

At the 19<sup>th</sup> World Veteran Championships in Las Vegas / USA the Committee was represented by its Chairperson and three other committee members attended the championships (Hyunsook Chung, Ina Jozepsone, Dean Johnson).

During the championships I also participated in several meetings with the organisers of the 20<sup>th</sup> World Veteran Championships in Bordeaux / FRA.

In Halmstad / SWE the SCI together with the ITTF signed a letter and invited all Member Associations to send their applications to organise the 21<sup>th</sup> World Veteran Championships in 2022. Before the final deadline 31.12.18 Korea, Malaysia and Oman sent their application documents to the SCI. Respective presentations and the decision about the host of the WVTTC 2022 will be held during the World Championships in Budapest / HUN.

In Las Vegas James Morris, ITTF Executive Vice President announced the new concept for the "World Veteran Tour" on behalf of the ITTF. It is planned that the Veteran Tour will commence in 2019 with several events in different continents. The Veterans Committee is ready to support all efforts to promote veterans table tennis activities.

I also attended the SCI AGM 2018 in Halmstad / SWE, the meetings of the SCI Executive Committee 2018 / 2019 and one separate meeting of the WVC Committee in Hamburg / GER in September 2018.

### **3.2 Encourage Continental and National Federations to Promote Veterans' Table Tennis Activities**

There was a continuation of the dialogue and good co-operation with the Chairpersons of Continental Veterans Committees.

### **3.3 Support Continental and National Federations in Preparing Ranking Lists for Veteran Players**

With the support from Hilmar Heinrichmeyer, Chairman of the Ranking Committee of the German Table Tennis Federation (DTTB), it was possible to present a first draft of a "Veterans Ranking list" just before the 19<sup>th</sup> World Veteran Championships in Las Vegas / USA. The list was very useful to support the seeding procedure for the different age categories in Las Vegas. In the next update of the ranking list (spring 2019) all results from Las Vegas will be included. Hopefully the "Veterans Ranking List" will also be helpful for the new World Veteran Tour in 2019.

### **3.4 Update Veterans' Activities on the ITTF Website, SCI/WVC Section, in Co-operation with the SCI**

With the support from Ian Marshall and efforts from Hans Westling it was possible to publish again some articles about Veteran events on the ITTF website (period June 2018 to January 2019):

- 19<sup>th</sup> World Veterans Championships in Las Vegas / USA
- 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Veterans Tournament in Guangdong / CHN
- 14<sup>th</sup> Tibhar Veterans Cup in Balatonfüred / HUN
- Northern European Veterans Championships in Uppsala / SWE
- Sardinian Veterans Open in Bosa / ITA
- Ifo Veterans Open in Gothenburg / SWE
- Latin American Masters Championships in Santiago / CHI

As usual the veterans' calendar was regularly updated by Hans Westling and published on the website.

## **4. Appreciation**

I take the opportunity to express my thanks to the Committee members for their support and contributions during the last year.

I also express my sincere thanks to the chairpersons of the continental Veterans Committees, the EC and WVC Committee members of the SCI, Etsuko Enami and Ian Marshall for the always good co-operation.

**Reto Bazzi**  
Chair

# **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018**

**Report to the AGM**

**Document E1**

**TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS PART OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**



# Propositions to the ITTF AGM 2019

---

## Proposition 1

(2/3 majority required)

### Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee.

In accordance with a Resolution of the AGM 2018 the Rules Committee proposes a basic change of paragraphs 1.8.4 (Membership and Representation) and 1.8.5 (Unaffiliated Players and Organisations) of our Constitution.

#### (A) Proposed Changes of present Regulations 1.8.4 and 1.8.5:

##### 1.8.4 JURISDICTION OF ASSOCIATIONS

###### 1.8.4.1 Membership and Representation

- 1.8.4.1.1 A player shall be regarded as resident in a territory if his or her normal or main residence or base is in that territory; residence shall not be determined by continuity or by duration.
- 1.8.4.1.2 Before accepting a player into membership, an Association shall satisfy itself that he or she is or intends to be resident in its territory and it shall not retain him or her if he or she terminates such residence.
- 1.8.4.1.3 Unless notified of any suspension or expulsion, Associations shall be entitled to regard any player or organisation resident in the territory of an Association and known to have been affiliated to it as eligible for participation.
- 1.8.4.1.4 No Association shall make a resident in a territory controlled by another Association or, except after a genuine change of residence, a member of another Association, a member or representative of itself without the prior permission of the other Association.
- 1.8.4.1.5 Any dispute under these regulations shall be referred to the Executive Committee.

###### 1.8.4.2 Extent of Jurisdiction

- 1.8.4.2.1 In administering and interpreting its own regulations and decisions, an Association shall exercise jurisdiction over:
  - 1.8.4.2.1.1 players resident in its territory, while they are in that territory or in any other territory;
  - 1.8.4.2.1.2 visiting players, while they are in its territory, except as provided in 1.8.4.3.1;
  - 1.8.4.2.1.3 players representing it taking part in a competition under its jurisdiction who are normally resident in the territory of another Association, but only while they are taking part in that competition;

###### 1.8.4.3 Visiting Players

- 1.8.4.3.1 If a visiting player is officially representing his or her Association as a result of an invitation by the visited Association, the visited Association shall acquire no rights of penalty.
  - 1.8.4.3.1.1 The responsible management committee shall have jurisdiction over the conduct of the competition, but no subsequent penalty shall be imposed on a visiting player for any offence committed in connection with that competition.
  - 1.8.4.3.1.2 The visited Association may protest to the visiting player's Association about such an offence, but his or her own Association shall retain sole jurisdiction over him or her and the right to impose a penalty.
- 1.8.4.3.2 If a visiting player participates in table tennis activities other than as an official representative of his or her Association, whether or not his or her visit is the result of an invitation by the visited Association, he or she shall be subject also to the jurisdiction of the visited Association, which shall have the right to impose a penalty for any offence committed in connection with such activities.
  - 1.8.4.3.2.1 No such penalty shall come into operation until at least 1 calendar month after its notification with an account of all the circumstances, to the visiting player's Association.
  - 1.8.4.3.2.2 If the visiting player's Association makes no appeal within 1 calendar month of being notified the penalty may be imposed.

## Propositions to the ITTF AGM 2019

---

~~1.8.4.3.2.3 — If an appeal is submitted within 1 calendar month the matter shall be referred to the Board and the penalty shall not come into operation before the appeal has been decided.~~

### **1.8.4.4 — Payments to Players**

~~1.8.4.4.1 — Except when acting under the direct instructions of his or her Association as its representative, a player may accept payment, reward, benefit or allowances for playing in any competition other than Olympic and Paralympic Games, or for exhibition or coaching;~~

~~1.8.4.4.2 — Subject to any over-riding provisions of 1.8.4.4.1, each Association shall have absolute discretion to determine and regulate its own policy for payments, rewards, benefits and allowances in respect of players and events under its jurisdiction.~~

### **1.8.5 UNAFFILIATED PLAYERS AND ORGANISATIONS**

~~1.8.5.1 — The object is to control, but not to prevent, play between affiliated and unaffiliated players; only teams and players nominated by Associations shall participate in World and Continental Championships, but otherwise such player will, when not contrary to the principles of the ITTF or to the interests of its members, generally be permitted provided due application is made.~~

~~1.8.5.2 — A player affiliated to an ITTF member Association shall not take part in any competition; or exhibition or coaching:~~

~~1.8.5.2.1 — in the territory of another Association, unless the body under whose auspices the activity takes place is affiliated to and in good standing with the Association of the visited territory, except with the prior permission of that Association;~~

~~1.8.5.2.2 — in a territory not having an Association or whose governing organisation is not affiliated to the ITTF, except with the permission of the Executive Committee, unless the Board has previously given permission for the governing organisation to be included temporarily in the appropriate Continental Federation pending an application for membership;~~

~~1.8.5.2.3 — organised by an unaffiliated body, unless permission for the event has been given by the Executive Committee, except as provided in 1.8.5.6.~~

~~1.8.5.3 — The Association controlling the territory in which a player is resident shall be responsible for ensuring that he or she complies with the requirements of 1.8.5.2.~~

~~1.8.5.4 — A player resident in a territory which has no governing organisation or whose governing organisation is not affiliated to the ITTF shall not take part in any competition or exhibition or coaching in the territory of an ITTF member Association, except with the permission of the Executive Committee, unless the Board has previously given permission for the governing organisation to be included temporarily in the appropriate Continental Federation pending an application for membership.~~

~~1.8.5.5 — The Executive Committee may give permission for a table tennis competition to be organised by an unaffiliated body provided that:~~

~~1.8.5.5.1 — the organising body has undertaken to comply with the appropriate ITTF regulations;~~

~~1.8.5.5.2 — the organising body has undertaken not to include affiliated players in the event unless their Associations have given permission;~~

~~1.8.5.5.3 — the organising body has undertaken not to include unaffiliated players in the event unless the Executive Committee has given permission;~~

~~1.8.5.5.4 — the application to organise the event is supported by the Association, if any, controlling the territory in which the competition is to take place;~~

~~1.8.5.5.5 — the supporting Association has accepted responsibility for ensuring that the organising body observes the requirements of 1.8.5.5.1-3.~~

~~1.8.5.6 — Where an Association is prepared to accept responsibility for the conduct of an event organised in its territory by an unaffiliated organisation no special permission is required, but the Association shall notify the Secretariat, which will advise all other Associations that the event is in order.~~

# Propositions to the ITTF AGM 2019

---

## *(B) Proposed Wording of new Paragraphs 1.2.6 and 1.2.7:*

### **1.2.6 JURISDICTION OF ASSOCIATIONS**

1.2.6.1 A player shall be regarded as resident in a territory if his or her normal or main residence is in that territory; residence shall not be determined by continuity or by duration.

1.2.6.2 In administering and interpreting its own regulations and decisions, an Association shall exercise jurisdiction over

1.2.6.2.1 players resident in its territory;

1.2.6.2.2 players taking part in a competition under its jurisdiction who are normally resident in the territory of another Association.

### **1.2.7 UNAFFILIATED PLAYERS AND ORGANISATIONS**

1.2.7.1 A player affiliated to an ITTF member Association shall not take part in any competition or exhibition in a territory whose governing organisation is not affiliated to the ITTF, except with the permission of the Executive Committee.

1.2.7.2 A player resident in a territory which has no governing organisation or whose governing organisation is not affiliated to the ITTF shall not take part in any competition or exhibition in the territory of an ITTF member Association, except with the permission of the Executive Committee.

#### *Rationale:*

*In order to observe the new and more compact structure of the Constitution some outdated, or even historic parts should be deleted. The remaining modified paragraphs should be moved to section 1.2 (Membership) by introducing **new paragraphs 1.2.6 and 1.2.7.***

---

## **Proposition 2**

**(2/3 majority required)**

### **Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To amend Constitution 1.5.4.2 so to ensure that any IOC member of our sport can be co-opted to the ITTF Executive Committee.

1.5.4.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Chair of the Athletes Commission, and 8 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be appointed by the President as Deputy President and another one shall be appointed for finances. In addition, any IOC member having served at least two years in the ITTF BoD, may be ex-officio (no voting rights) as ITTF Executive Committee member by majority decision of the elected EC members.

#### *Rationale:*

*Provided having acquired the necessary experience in the ITTF management, co-opting IOC members to the ITTF EC will strengthen the capacity of the EC.*

## Propositions to the ITTF AGM 2019

---

### Proposition 3

**(2/3 majority required)**

**Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

#### 1.8.4.3 Visiting Players

1.8.4.3.1 If a visiting player is officially representing his or her Association **or the ITTF in TTX and Veterans events** as a result of an invitation by the visited Association, the visited Association shall acquire no rights of penalty.

1.8.4.3.1.2 The visited Association may protest to the visiting player's Association **or the ITTF in TTX and Veterans events** about such an offence, but his or her own Association **or the ITTF in TTX and Veterans events** shall retain sole jurisdiction over him or her and the right to impose a penalty.

1.8.4.3.2.1 No such penalty shall come into operation until at least 1 calendar month after its notification with an account of all the circumstances, to the visiting player's Association **or the ITTF in TTX and Veterans events**.

1.8.4.3.2.2 If the visiting player's Association **or the ITTF in TTX and Veterans events** makes no appeal within 1 calendar month of being notified the penalty may be imposed.

..//..

#### 1.8.5 UNAFFILIATED PLAYERS AND ORGANISATIONS

1.8.5.2.1 in the territory of another Association, unless the body under whose auspices the activity takes place is affiliated to and in good standing with the Association of the visited territory, except with the prior permission of that Association **or the ITTF in TTX and Veterans events**;

*Rationale:*

*To allow players to enter TTX and Veterans events directly.*

---

### Proposition 4

**(2/3 majority required)**

**Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

..//..

1.8.5.5.1 the organising body has undertaken to comply with the appropriate ITTF regulations, **unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee**;

1.8.5.5.2 the organising body has undertaken not to include affiliated players in the event unless their Associations **or the ITTF** have given permission;

1.8.5.5.4 the application to organise the event is supported by the Association **or the ITTF**, if any, controlling the territory in which the competition is to take place;

1.8.5.6 Where an Association **or the ITTF** is prepared to accept responsibility for the conduct of an event organised in its territory by an unaffiliated organisation no special permission is required, but the Association shall notify the Secretariat, which will advise all other Associations that the event is in order.

*Rationale:*

*To have the possibility to allocate events directly by the ITTF to National Associations and / or other potential hosts.*

## Propositions to the ITTF AGM 2019

---

### Proposition 5

**(3/4 majority required)**

#### **Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee.**

To amend Law 2.3.3 so to permit yellow balls.

2.3.3 The ball shall be made of ~~celluloid or similar plastics~~ plastic material and shall be white, **yellow** or orange, and matt.

The implementation date shall be in 2021 (after the Olympic Games), and the final colour domain will be defined by the Equipment Committee to be submitted to the BoD in 2020.

N.B.: Celluloid is the first thermoplastic created in 1856; it is a "plastic material", but highly flammable. ITTF should not specify this material in the "Laws".

#### *Rationale:*

*The human eye is highly sensitive to yellow. A yellow ball is more visible to players and spectators and can be used on red floors.*

*If players can track the ball better, their performance may improve, perception errors being reduced.*

---

### Proposition 6

**(3/4 majority required)**

#### **Proposed by HKG, ITTF member association, and the ITTF Equipment Committee.**

To amend Law 2.4.6 so to permit more bright colours than red for racket coverings.

2.4.6 The surface of the covering material on a side of the blade, or of a side of the blade if it is left uncovered, shall be matt, ~~bright red on one side and black on the other~~ **black on one side, and of a bright colour clearly distinguishable from black and from the colours of the ball as defined in Law 2.3.3, on the other.**

The implementation date shall be after the next Olympic Games. If the AGM accepts the proposition, the Equipment Committee will coordinate efforts in order to develop a list of authorised colours, with their specific technical limits. The specifications will then be submitted to the BoD in 2020, for implementation in 2021 (Regulations for International Competitions and Technical Leaflet).

#### *Rationale:*

*As long as the colours of the two sides of a racket are clearly different and clearly distinguishable by the players, they should not be limited to black and red. However, the ball should remain visible on a racket covering. It is proposed to retain black as one of the colours as it helps players with deficiency in colour vision.*

## Propositions to the ITTF AGM 2019

---

### Proposition 7

**(3/4 majority required)**

#### **Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee.**

To amend Law 2.10.1.7.

2.10.1 Unless the rally is a let, a player shall score a point

.....

2.10.1.7 if an opponent deliberately strikes the ball ~~twice~~ **more than once** in succession;

#### *Rationale:*

*This modification should clarify the situation if a player deliberately strikes the ball more than twice in succession.*

---



## **INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Board of Directors Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 09h00 at the Grand Ball Room, Corinthia Hotel, Budapest, Hungary.

### **AGENDA**

1. President Welcome and Opening Address
2. Roll call and welcome and ratification of new members
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the BoD meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 in Halmstad, Sweden
4. Annual reports from the Athletes Commission and the Commissioners
  - 4.1 Athletes' Commission
  - 4.2 Junior Commissioner
  - 4.3 Technical Commissioner
  - 4.4 Women in Sport Commissioner
5. Appointment of Committee Chairs
6. Future Events Working Group Report
7. Propositions and resolutions
8. Competition Updates
  - 8.1 World Championships Update
  - 8.2 World Cup Updates
  - 8.3 World Tour and Challenge Events Update
  - 8.4 Global Junior Program Update
    - 8.4.1 2019 World Junior Championships (Thailand)
    - 8.4.2 2020 World Junior Championships (Portugal)
    - 8.4.3 Future World Junior Championships
  - 8.5 World Veteran Championships 2022 ratifications
  - 8.6 World Veterans Tour update
9. Ratification of the work done by the committees, commissions and commissioners
10. Personal Honorary Membership recommendation
11. Next meeting: to be held in Busan in March 2020
12. Any other business
13. Adjournment

# **ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Zoran Primorac)**

**Report to the AGM**

**Document G1**

**PLEASE REFER TO A10 (Page 23)**



# **JUNIOR COMMISSIONER (Heike Ahlert)**

## **Report to the BoD**

## **Document G2**

### **World Junior Circuit**

- In 2018, 26 WJC events were organized across the world, in all continents, and divided into 4 golden, 9 premium and 13 regular events. No event was cancelled.
- There was a large increase of participants from 2,179 players (97 national associations) in 2017 to 2,385 players (99 national associations), and more than 20,000 matches in total, which is almost half of the total ITTF matches played in 2018. The main reasons for such an increase were the qualifications for the 2018 YOG and the new world ranking system.
- The Allocation of Prize Money for Junior Standings Has Been Decided. US\$32.000 will be provided by the ITTF for the best 8 players of each gender in the Final Junior standing. There is a restriction: only 1 player per association in each gender. The association can enter the player in one or more Challenge or Challenge Plus event using the money provided by the ITTF (i.e., \$3.500 can be used for the winner of the Junior Standing).

### **Youth Olympic Games 2018**

- The Buenos Aires YOG was a great success in many aspects: full participation of players, no replacements needed, no visa problems, and 4 days of TV Coverage.
- The NOC of IRAN rejected to play the Mixed Doubles with a female partner from another association. This must not happen again. The IOC will make rules to avoid this situation next time. (The same case happened during the World Cadet Challenge – this time rejected by the Iran National Association.) IRAN is asked to make sure that this does not happen again.
- The format for the single's event should not be changed, but it should be discussed whether another format could be used for team events or doubles?

### **World Junior Championships (WJTTC)**

- The WJTTC in Bendigo, Australia, was very well organized, with very good conditions in the venue.
- The new format with 16 teams and 80 participants per gender was played for the first time in Bendigo this year. In the single's events 78 boys and 79 girls entered. The schedule used for this format is much more convenient for all (players, coaches, and organizers).
- The team events were played with 16 teams each, but no African team played although 4 were qualified to play. This was discussed in the DJCC with the continental federation of Africa to assure that also Africa is represented by at least 1 national team (the quota is 2 per gender).
- The Ranking Point System with the special seeding implementation caused many complaints by associations. Both events (single's and teams) were affected. The problems regarding the Ranking Point System have to be solved. Therefore, the Ranking Point System must be rethought. To make sure that the Ranking Point System will be clear and transparent already at the start of the 2019 junior program, the Junior Commission asked the Ranking Committee:
  - to come up with, as soon as possible, a guideline for the seeding and to reconsider whether a special seeding is really needed; and
  - to involve the head of the Junior program, the competition director for junior events and the Junior Commissioner in the final decision.
- The bids for the 2021 WJTTC are now open and the associations have until March to bid. The decision about who will organize the 2021 WJTTC has to be made at the BoD meeting in Budapest in April 2019.

## **World Cadet Challenge**

- The WCC 2018 in Tottori, Japan, was a big success. Both the training camp and the competition itself were very well organized.
- In 2019 (Poland) and 2020 (Thailand) the last editions of the WCC with the current system will take place. Both events are already confirmed.
- The Future of the WCC from 2021 on has to be decided in 2020, at the latest. As agreed last year in the DJCC meeting, the current format will be evaluated and perhaps be changed (e.g., to be continental.)

In Budapest, during the WTTC, a small working group including the head of the Junior program, the Competition Director, the high performance manager and maybe one representative of the continents (either junior commissioner or development manager) will meet. The first meeting will take place in Budapest in April 2019 and the working group should come up with a proposal as soon as possible. The decision about the future of the WCC should be taken in 2020 at the latest.

Last but not least, I thank everyone who was/is involved and engaged in the ITTF junior program – a special thank you goes to Mounir Bessah for his great work as head of the junior program. It was and is a pleasure to work together with you all.

**Heike Ahlert**

## **TECHNICAL COMMISSIONER (Graeme Ireland)**

### **Report to the BoD**

**Document G3**

The mandate of the Technical Commissioner includes:

- Liaise with the Competition Department and advise the BoD on the organisation of World Title competitions and to make recommendations on the system of play;
- Assist the Competition Department and referee with the World Championships draws;
- Advise on the playing schedule for the World Championships and World Cups, if necessary;
- Serve as a member of the Ranking Default Commission;
- Act as the Chair of the Jury at the World Championships;
- Provide technical assistance for Multi-Sport Games and Continental Championships;
- Work closely with the Competition Department to achieve the above objectives; and
- Provide technical expertise and guidance to the Equipment, Rules, Umpires and Referees Committees, PTT Division and professional staff.

These responsibilities are handled in close co-operation with the Competition Department.

In 2018 my main role was to assist the ITTF and the Competition Department on the playing format, schedules, and general inquiries relating to technical rules for all major events. These included the Olympic Games, World Cups, World Championships and World Junior Championships. I have also assisted as a member of working groups looking at various items, such as the new ranking system, service rule, the Olympic playing system and the Olympic qualification system, and have also provided expertise and assistance as required to other Committees, mainly to the URC, and the 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 with the ITTF's events.

**Graeme Ireland**

My report will cover the activities for the period of January to December 2018

### 1. Third International Federation Gender Equality in Leadership Summit

Dora Jeler represented the ITTF at the Summit from the 27-28 March 2018 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The summit was hosted by the International Olympic Committee in partnership with the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

The summit provided a platform for IF leaders to discuss the IOC's 25 Gender Equality Review Project findings and recommendations, share best practices to adapt to their own organisations, and seek new solutions to improve gender equality in sports leadership.

### 2. Seventh IWG World Conference Women and Sport

The 7th World Conference was held from the 17th-20th May 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana. The Conference theme was **“Determine The Future Be Part Of The Change”**.

The conference adopted many resolutions on Gender Equality and the promotion of both girls and boys. The ITTF was represented by

- **Fungai Zinatsa** (Zimbabwe)
- **Lelentle Mokhupuki** (Botswana)

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand

### 3. ITTF Extends Three-Year Title Sponsorship Deal with Uncle Pop for Women's World Cup

- The partnership deal has been extended between the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and the Chinese leisure food company Uncle Pop for the ITTF Women's World Cup for another three years.
- The ITTF Women's World Cup is one of the most prestigious events on the ITTF calendar and is one of three tournaments that counts towards the Grand Slam (the World Championships, the World Cup, and the Olympic Games).
- **Uncle Pop 2018 ITTF Women's World Cup, 28-30 Sep 2018, Chengdu, China** will feature 20 of the world's best players.

### 4. 2018 Women Development Programmes

Participation Figures for All Continents (as of 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2018)

	2018	2017	2016
Women	32% (392)	38% (1,492)	36% (1,756)
Men	68% (931)	62% (2,452)	64% (3,117)
The table above demonstrates that women's participation has decreased at an average of 49 % over the three years.			

## 5. ITTF Events Participation

<b>a. Liebherr 2018 World Team Table Tennis Championships- Sweden</b>		
<b>Women</b>	281 Players	49% (2018)
<b>Men</b>	294 Players	61% (2018)
<b>b. World Junior Table Tennis Championships- Australia</b>		
<b>Boys</b>	16 Teams	50%
<b>Girls</b>	16 Teams	50%
<b>Boys</b>	78 Players	50%
<b>Girls</b>	78 Player	50%
<b>c. ITTF 2018 World Tours</b>		
<b>Women</b>	599 players	41%
<b>Men</b>	877 Players	59%

## 6. 2018 Women-Specific Development Program Courses

<b>Continent</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Course Type</b>
<b>Africa</b>	Ghana	8- 15 October 2018	Basic Umpires, Referees and Tournament Organising Course
<b>ASIA</b>	Iran	13-18 January 2018	ITTF Level 2 Coach Education
<b>Europe</b>	Sweden	6-8 August 2018	Women's Coaching Course
<b>Latin America</b>	Costa Rica	23-29 September 2018	Leadership and Management
<b>North America</b>	USA	January 2019	Competition Manager Education
<b>Oceania</b>	Guam	March 2019	Coaching Education Level 1 and Tournament

## **7. 2018 ITTF Success Stories**

- a.** Mr. Leandro Olvech, member of the Women in Sport IPC Committee
- b.** \$3500 awarded to three female participants to attend the Sports Science Conference.
- c.** Ms Vicky Eleftheriade was appointed as the ITTF Competitions Director.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

My appreciation and thanks to the President Mr. Thomas Weikert, the ITTF Executive Committee Members, and the Continental Presidents for their commitment to the promotion of Gender Equality.

A special thanks to the ITTF Chief Executive Officer Mr. Steve Dainton, the Directors, and the ITTF staff for their support.

**Hajera Kajee (Ms)**

## Proposition 8

### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.1.2.2:

- 3.1.2.2. The ~~Board of Directors~~ **Executive Committee** shall have power to authorise the organiser of an open tournament to adopt experimental law variations ~~specified by the Executive Committee~~.

*Rationale:*

*As the EC meets 4 times a year, this provides more dynamism and opportunities.*

---

## Proposition 9

### Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee.

To amend 3.2.2.7:

- 3.2.2.7 The players of a team taking part in a team match, and players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in a World, Olympic or Paralympic Title Competition, shall be dressed uniformly, with the possible exception of socks, shoes and the number, size, colour and design of advertisements on clothing. Players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in other international competitions may wear clothes of different manufacturers, ~~if the basic colours are the same and their National Association authorises this procedure.~~

*Rationale:*

*It cannot be the task of the referee to identify whether the clothing is authorised by the relevant Association or not.*

*Particularly in youth events, it is nearly impossible to enforce players to wear similar clothing during the entire event.*

---

## Proposition 10

### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.2.2.7:

- 3.2.2.7 The players of a team taking part in a team match, and players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in a World, Olympic or Paralympic Title Competition, shall be dressed uniformly, with the possible exception of socks, shoes and the number, size, colour and design of advertisements on clothing. ~~Players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in other international competitions may wear clothes of different manufacturers, if the basic colours are the same and their National Association authorises this procedure.~~

*Rationale:*

*There are many instances of pairs from different Associations playing doubles wearing different coloured shirts, and this is also now allowed in World Championships. As the sport becomes more professional and players have personal sponsors the current rule is no longer necessary.*

---

## Proposition 11

### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.2.2.10:

3.2.2.10 Players competing in a World, Olympic or Paralympic title competition ~~or Open International Championships~~ shall wear shirt and shorts or skirt of types authorised by their Association.

#### Rationale:

*As the sport becomes more professional and players have personal sponsors the current rule is no longer necessary for Open tournaments.*

---

## Proposition 12

### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.2.3.1:

3.2.3.1 The playing space shall be rectangular and not less than 14m long, 7m wide and 5m high, but the 4 corners may be covered by surrounds of not more than 1.5m length; for wheelchair **and veteran** events, the playing space may be reduced, but shall not be less than 8m long and 6m wide for wheelchair **and 10 m. long and 5 m wide for veteran**.

#### Rationale:

*To allow to introduce in the Chapter 4 of the ITTF Handbook, the World Veteran Championships as official World ITTF event with the current playing field dimensions used for these Championships.*

---

## Proposition 13

### Proposed by CHI, ITTF member association.

To amend 3.2.5.1.1:

3.2.5.1.1 Advertisements or markings in or next to the playing area, on playing clothing or numbers and on umpires' clothing, shall not be for tobacco goods, **distilled** alcoholic drinks, harmful drugs or illegal products and they shall be without negative discrimination or connotation on the grounds of race, xenophobia, gender, religion, disabilities or other forms of discrimination.

#### Rationale:

*Alcoholic beverage companies have been a major sponsor of sports for a long time, providing much needed income required to grow the development and popularity of sports. There are increasing number of requests from local organisers and alcoholic beverage companies to sponsor table tennis events, and our sport is losing out on these opportunities to other sports each time we reject them. However, we recognise and respect that distilled alcohols, or otherwise known as hard liquor, has higher alcohol content and is not in line with table tennis's values.*

---



### Proposition 14

#### Proposed by the ITTF Media Committee.

To amend 3.2.5.7:

- 3.2.5.7. There may be 2 advertisements on nets on each side of the table which shall be clearly different from the colour of the ball in use, shall not be within 3cm of the tape along the top edge; advertisements placed on parts of the net within the vertical extensions of the side lines of the table shall be a logo, wordmark or other icons in a single dark colour, and shall be contained within 6cm height and 20cm width not obscure visibility through the mesh.

*Rationale:*

*To avoid discussions between umpires and sponsors, and the change does not harm the players.*

---

### Proposition 15

#### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.2.5.9.3:

- 3.2.5.9.3. not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a total area of 400cm<sup>2</sup>, on the back of a shirt; if players' numbers are not used additional advertisements for tournament sponsors shall be allowed, contained within a total area of 100cm<sup>2</sup>.

*Rationale:*

*As the sport becomes more professional, we should look to move away from having back numbers. This already happens at Olympics, major multi-sport events, World Tour and ParaTT events and was also introduced at the World Junior Championships. The additional clause is to allow additional advertisements, as are currently on back numbers, to be put on players' shirts (e.g. iron-on transfer) for sponsors.*

---

### Proposition 16

#### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.6.3:

- 3.6.3.1 Nominated players and pairs of the same Association shall, as far as possible, be separated ~~so that they cannot meet before the closing rounds of an event~~ in terms of 3.6.3.3 and 3.6.3.4 unless otherwise stated in the specific regulations for such particular event or group of events.
- 3.6.3.2 Associations shall list their nominated players and pairs in descending order of playing strength, starting with any players included in the ranking list used for seeding, in the order of that list.
- 3.6.3.3 The entries ranked 1 and 2 shall be drawn into different halves and those ranked 3 and 4 into quarters other than those occupied by the first two.
- ~~3.6.3.4 The entries ranked 5-8 shall be drawn as evenly as possible into eighths other than those occupied by the first four.~~
- 3.6.3.4 Remaining entries shall be separated only in groups and in the first round of the qualification draw for Knock-outs and the main draw, but not in further rounds.
- ~~3.6.3.5 The entries ranked 9-16 shall be drawn as evenly as possible into sixteenths other than those occupied by higher-ranked players or pairs and so on, until all the entries have been allocated.~~

#### Rationale:

*The intent of the current rule is that players from the same Association, who often have to travel a long way, do not have to play matches against compatriots. However, this should only apply to the top players, with all others guaranteed not to meet in the first round proper. This will also make the draw much more simplified and easier to follow.*

---

### Proposition 17

#### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.7.1.2:

- 3.7.1.2 **Except for Veteran competitions**, players from affiliated ITTF member Associations, when competing internationally, can only participate in ITTF events, ITTF approved events and ITTF registered events entered through their national Association, as well as in ITTF recognised events entered through their National Olympic Committee or National Paralympic Committee respectively. Participation in any other type of event can only be allowed with the express written permission of the national Association of the player or the ITTF; permission to players will be considered given unless a specific or general notification is made by the national Association of the player or the ITTF withholding the permission to participate in an event or series of events.

#### Rationale:

*To allow the introduction of the World Veteran Championships as official World Title events in the ITTF, with the possibility to use the current entry system for these Championships.*

---

### Proposition 18

#### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

To amend 3.7.1.2:

3.7.1.2 Players from affiliated ITTF member Associations, when competing internationally, can only participate in ITTF events, ITTF approved events, ~~and ITTF registered events~~ **and entered through their national Association,** ~~as well as in ITTF recognised events entered through their National Olympic Committee or National Paralympic Committee respectively.~~ Participation in any other type of event can only be allowed with the express written permission of the national Association of the player or the ITTF; permission to players will be considered given unless a specific or general notification is made by the national Association of the player or the ITTF withholding the permission to participate in an event or series of events.

../..

3.7.3.1 Entry forms for Open International Championships shall be ~~sent~~ **made available** to all Associations **and/or players** not later than 2 calendar months before the start of the competition and not later than 1 calendar month before the date for the close of entries.

../..

3.7.9.1 An event other than World, Continental, Olympic or Paralympic title competitions may be broadcast by television only with the permission of the Association from whose territory the broadcast is made **or by the ITTF.**

*Rationale:*

*To allow the entries directly by the athletes.*

---

**Proposition 19****Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To amend 3.7.6.3:

3.7.6.3 Best of 5 matches (Olympic system, 4 singles and 1 doubles)

..//..

3.7.6.3.2 The order of play shall be:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1) <del>A v X</del>                                   | doubles B/C v Y/Z |
| 2) <del>B v Y</del>                                   | A v X             |
| 3) <del>doubles C &amp; A or B v Z &amp; X or Y</del> | C v Z             |
| 4) <del>B or A v Z</del>                              | A v Y             |
| 5) <del>C v Y or X</del>                              | B v X             |

*Rationale:*

To align the Handbook with the proposition of the Olympic and Paralympic Commission for the format of play in the team event to be played at the Tokyo Olympic Games after the analysis at the Team World Cup

**Proposition 20****Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To amend 4.1.9.7:

4.1.9.7. Players of the same Association shall be separated according to 3.6.3.1 and 3.6.3.3 ~~3.6.3.4 and 3.6.3.5~~ only in preliminary rounds and groups and in the first round of the draw but not in further rounds.

*Rationale:*

The intent of the current rule is that players from the same Association, who often have to travel a long way, do not have to play matches against compatriots. However, this should only apply to the top players, with all others guaranteed not to meet in the first round proper. This will also make the draw much more simplified and easier to follow.

**Proposition 21****Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To add 4.5.2.3:

4.5.2.3. Players of the same Association shall be separated according to 3.6.3.1 and 3.6.3.3 ~~3.6.3.4 and 3.6.3.5~~ only in preliminary rounds but not in further rounds.

*Rationale:*

The ITTF World Ranking should be the main criteria for Olympic Draws.

**Proposition 22****Proposed by the Executive Committee under recommendation of the Future Events Working Group**

In accordance with the proposition of the 2018 BoD on the new format for the World Championships there are three (3) options recommended, on how the new WTTC can be structured.

*Note: The relevant points in the Handbook, under 4: Regulations for World, Olympic and Paralympic Title Competitions, will be updated accordingly once the proposition has passed.*

**OPTION 1**

*(Recommendation from Deloitte)*

1. The World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) is expanded and will be open to all national associations.
2. It will be consisting of the following stages:
  - 2.1. Finals
  - 2.2. Inter-Continental Stage (only applicable for team events)
  - 2.3. Continental Stage
  - 2.4. Regional Stage (where applicable for each Continent)
3. In even numbered years, the Finals shall include men's and women's team events; while in odd numbered years the Finals shall include men's, women's singles, men's, women's and mixed doubles events.
4. An initial official document containing all details for each year's WTTC different stages will be published prior to the first stage (regional).
5. In addition to the current eligibility rules, players and teams are eligible to participate in each stage, provided that they have participated in the earlier stages. The only non-mandatory event is that of the Regional Stage and according to each continent.
6. A dynamic formula has been devised for the calculation of quota places per Continent, for each stage:
  - 6.1. the formula comprises of three metrics; universality, performance, active participation.
  - 6.2. the formula and the numbers deriving from it, for each stage, will apply before the first stages of the WTTC on a fixed date, which will be announced on the initial official document for each year's WTTC.
7. **Finals**
  - 7.1. The Finals for **teams** will comprise of 32 men's and 32 women's teams:
    - 7.1.1. 1 Team, as the host association (the continent hosting the WTTC will receive an equivalent number of places to the continental allocation, in addition to what will derive from the dynamic formula).
    - 7.1.2. 6 Teams, from the Inter-Continental Stage
    - 7.1.3. 25 Teams, from the Continental Stage
  - 7.2. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify 1 men's and 1 women's team.
  - 7.3. The system of play will be comprising of two phases:
    - 7.3.1. The first stage which will be a round robin of eight (8) groups of four (4) teams. The winner and runner up of each group will qualify to the final stage.
    - 7.3.2. The final stage will be a straight knockout of 16 teams.
  - 7.4. The Finals for **individuals** will comprise of 128 men's singles, 128 women's singles, 64 mixed doubles, 64 men's doubles and 64 women's doubles:

- 7.4.1. 3 players in Singles, 2 pairs in Doubles, as the host association (the continent hosting the WTTC will receive an equivalent number of places to the continental allocation, in addition to what will derive from the dynamic formula).
- 7.4.2. 93 players in Singles, 47 pairs in Doubles from the Continental Stage.
- 7.4.3. 32 players, 15 pairs in Doubles highest-ranked players/pairs, not already qualified via the Continental Stage.
- 7.5. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify up to 3 men and 3 women players in each singles event, with one additional player ranked in the top 100 and one additional player ranked in the top 20 of the ITTF world ranking list (month and year will be determined on the initial official document) to a maximum of 5 men and 5 women. The maximum number for each association is 4 players for men's doubles, 4 players for women's doubles and 2 men and 2 women for mixed doubles; all players may be different, however, each association can only qualify a maximum of 2 combined pairs (players from different associations) per doubles event.
- 7.6. Players/pairs qualifying for the Finals are individually qualified and their places cannot be reallocated to other players of the same association, unless the next eligible player/pair is from the same association.
- 7.7. The system of play will be comprising of one stage only and will be played in straight knockout for all individual events.

#### **8. Inter-Continental Stage** (only applicable for team events)

- 8.1. The Inter-Continental Stage for teams will comprise of 12 men's and 12 women's teams:
  - 8.1.1. 6 highest-ranked teams from each continent, not already qualified to the Finals through the Continental Stage, according to the Team World Ranking. For Continents with only one guaranteed place for this stage a decision can be made by ITTF and announced in the official initial document, to have the runner up from the Continental stage qualifying.
  - 8.1.2. 6 teams, based on the performance at the Continental stage and the number of Continental quota places, as deriving from the dynamic formula.
- 8.2. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify 1 men's and 1 women's team.
- 8.3. The system of play will be comprising of:
  - 8.3.1. A round robin of four (4) groups of three (3) teams. The winner of each group (total 4) will qualify directly to the Finals and the runner ups (4) of Groups A and B and Groups C and D, will play a knockout match for the remaining two (2) places. Groups A and B would need to play in the same location and so would groups C and D, to allow the second placed teams to play-off without further travel.

#### **9. Continental Stage**

- 9.1. (According to the pilot proposition as found in the Deloitte report. Details are to be discussed and confirmed per Continent).

#### **10. Regional Stage**

- 10.1. (According to the pilot proposition as found in the Deloitte report. Details are to be discussed and confirmed per Continent).

**OPTION 2**

*(Based on FEWG feedback. Differences compared to option 1 marked in green highlight)*

1. The World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) is expanded and will be open to all national associations.
2. It will be consisting of the following stages:
  - 2.1. Finals
  - 2.2. Inter-Continental Stage (only applicable for team events)
  - 2.3. Continental Stage
  - 2.4. Regional Stage (where applicable for each Continent)
3. In even numbered years, the Finals shall include men's and women's team events; while in odd numbered years the Finals shall include men's, women's singles, men's, women's and mixed doubles events.
4. An initial official document containing all details for each year's WTTC different stages will be published prior to the first stage (regional).
5. In addition to the current eligibility rules, players and teams are eligible to participate in each stage, provided that they have participated in the earlier stages. The only non-mandatory event is that of the Regional Stage and according to each continent.
6. A dynamic formula has been devised for the calculation of quota places per Continent, for each stage:
  - 6.1. the formula comprises of three metrics; universality, performance, active participation.
  - 6.2. the formula and the numbers deriving from it, for each stage, will apply before the first stages of the WTTC on a fixed date, which will be announced on the initial official document for each year's WTTC.
7. **Finals**
  - 7.1. The Finals for **teams** will comprise of 32 men's and 32 women's teams:
    - 7.1.1. 1 Team, as the host association (the continent hosting the WTTC will receive an equivalent number of places to the continental allocation, in addition to what will derive from the dynamic formula).
    - 7.1.2. 6 Teams, from the Inter-Continental Stage
    - 7.1.3. 25 Teams, from the Continental Stage
  - 7.2. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify 1 men's and 1 women's team.
  - 7.3. The system of play will be comprising of two phases:
    - 7.3.1. The first stage which will be a round robin of eight (8) groups of four (4) teams. The winner and runner up of each group will qualify to the final stage.
    - 7.3.2. The final stage will be a straight knockout of 16 teams.
  - 7.4. The Finals for **individuals** will comprise of 128 men's singles, 128 women's singles, 64 mixed doubles, 64 men's doubles and 64 women's doubles:
    - 7.4.1. 3 players in Singles, 2 pairs in Doubles, as the host association (the continent hosting the WTTC will receive an equivalent number of places to the continental allocation, in addition to what will derive from the dynamic formula).
    - 7.4.2. 93 players in Singles, 47 pairs in Doubles from the Continental Stage.
    - 7.4.3. 32 players, 15 pairs in Doubles highest-ranked players/pairs, not already qualified via the Continental Stage.
  - 7.5. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify up to 3 men and 3 women players in each singles event, with one additional player ranked in the top 100 and one additional player ranked in the top 20 of the ITTF world ranking list (month and year will be determined on the initial official document) to a maximum of 5 men and 5 women. The maximum number for each association is 4 players for men's doubles, 4 players for women's doubles and 2 men and 2 women for mixed doubles; all players may be different, however, each association can only qualify a maximum of 2 combined pairs (players from different associations) per doubles event.

- 7.6. Players/pairs qualifying for the Finals are individually qualified and their places cannot be reallocated to other players of the same association, unless the next eligible player/pair is from the same association.
- 7.7. The system of play will be comprising of one stage only and will be played in straight knockout for all individual events.

**8. Inter-Continental Stage** (only applicable for team events)

- 8.1. The Inter-Continental Stage for teams will comprise of 24 men's and 24 women's teams:
  - 8.1.1. 12 highest-ranked teams from each continent, not already qualified to the Finals through the Continental Stage, according to the Team World Ranking. For Continents with only one guaranteed place for this stage a decision can be made by ITTF and announced in the official initial document, to have the runner up from the Continental stage qualifying.
  - 8.1.2. 12 teams, based on the performance at the Continental stage and the number of Continental quota places, as deriving from the dynamic formula.
- 8.2. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify 1 men's and 1 women's team.
- 8.3. The system of play will be comprising of:
  - 8.3.1. A round robin of six (6) groups of four (4) teams. The winner of each group (total 6) will qualify directly to the Finals.

**9. Continental Stage**

- 9.1. (According to the pilot proposition as found in the Deloitte report. Details are to be discussed and confirmed per Continent).

**10. Regional Stage**

- 10.1. (According to the pilot proposition as found in the Deloitte report. Details are to be discussed and confirmed per Continent).



**OPTION 3**

*(Based on the team numbers as discussed at the FEWG meeting in September 2018. Differences compared to option 2 marked in green highlight)*

1. The World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) is expanded and will be open to all national associations.
2. It will be consisting of the following stages:
  - 2.1. Finals
  - 2.2. Inter-Continental Stage (only applicable for team events)
  - 2.3. Continental Stage
  - 2.4. Regional Stage (where applicable for each Continent)
3. In even numbered years, the Finals shall include men's and women's team events; while in odd numbered years the Finals shall include men's, women's singles, men's, women's and mixed doubles events.
4. An initial official document containing all details for each year's WTTC different stages will be published prior to the first stage (regional).
5. In addition to the current eligibility rules, players and teams are eligible to participate in each stage, provided that they have participated in the earlier stages. The only non-mandatory event is that of the Regional Stage and according to each continent.
6. **For individuals** a dynamic formula has been devised for the calculation of quota places per Continent, for each stage:
  - 6.1. the formula comprises of three metrics; universality, performance, active participation.
  - 6.2. the formula and the numbers deriving from it, for each stage, will apply before the first stages of the WTTC on a fixed date, which will be announced on the initial official document for each year's WTTC.
7. **For the first edition of the Team WTTC (in 2022) the places per Continent, for each stages will apply as discussed in the last FEWG**
  - 7.1. **WTTC Finals places (Africa: 3, Asia: 8, Europe: 9, Latin America: 3, North America: 1, Oceania: 1)**
  - 7.2. **Inter-Continental stage places (Africa: 1, Asia: 5, Europe: 3, Latin America: 1, North America: 1, Oceania: 1)**
8. **Finals**
  - 8.1. The Finals for **teams** will comprise of 32 men's and 32 women's teams:
    - 8.1.1. 1 Team, as the host association (the continent hosting the WTTC will receive an equivalent number of places to the continental allocation, in addition to **the pre-determined numbers**).
    - 8.1.2. 6 Teams, from the Inter-Continental Stage
    - 8.1.3. 25 Teams, from the Continental Stage
  - 8.2. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify 1 men's and 1 women's team.
  - 8.3. The system of play will be comprising of two phases:
    - 8.3.1. The first stage which will be a round robin of eight (8) groups of four (4) teams. The winner and runner up of each group will qualify to the final stage.
    - 8.3.2. The final stage will be a straight knockout of 16 teams.
  - 8.4. The Finals for **individuals** will comprise of 128 men's singles, 128 women's singles, 64 mixed doubles, 64 men's doubles and 64 women's doubles:

- 8.4.1. 3 players in Singles, 2 pairs in Doubles, as the host association (the continent hosting the WTTC will receive an equivalent number of places to the continental allocation, in addition to what will derive from the dynamic formula).
- 8.4.2. 93 players in Singles, 47 pairs in Doubles from the Continental Stage.
- 8.4.3. 32 players, 15 pairs in Doubles highest-ranked players/pairs, not already qualified via the Continental Stage.
- 8.5. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify up to 3 men and 3 women players in each singles event, with one additional player ranked in the top 100 and one additional player ranked in the top 20 of the ITTF world ranking list (month and year will be determined on the initial official document) to a maximum of 5 men and 5 women. The maximum number for each association is 4 players for men's doubles, 4 players for women's doubles and 2 men and 2 women for mixed doubles; all players may be different, however, each association can only qualify a maximum of 2 combined pairs (players from different associations) per doubles event.
- 8.6. Players/pairs qualifying for the Finals are individually qualified and their places cannot be reallocated to other players of the same association, unless the next eligible player/pair is from the same association.
- 8.7. The system of play will be comprising of one stage only and will be played in straight knockout for all individual events.

#### **9. Inter-Continental Stage** (only applicable for team events)

- 9.1. The Inter-Continental Stage for teams will comprise of 24 men's and 24 women's teams:
  - 9.1.1. 12 highest-ranked teams from each continent, not already qualified to the Finals through the Continental Stage, according to the Team World Ranking. For Continents with only one guaranteed place for this stage a decision can be made by ITTF and announced in the official initial document, to have the runner up from the Continental stage qualifying.
  - 9.1.2. 12 teams, based on the performance at the Continental stage and the number of Continental quota places, as deriving from the pre-defined numbers.
- 9.2. Each Association shall be entitled to qualify 1 men's and 1 women's team.
- 9.3. The system of play will be comprising of:
  - 9.3.1. A round robin of six (6) groups of four (4) teams. The winner of each group (total 6) will qualify directly to the WTTC Finals.

#### **10. Continental Stage**

- 10.1. (According to the pilot proposition as found in the Deloitte report. Details are to be discussed and confirmed per Continent).

#### **11. Regional Stage**

- 11.1. (According to the pilot proposition as found in the Deloitte report. Details are to be discussed and confirmed per Continent).

#### *Rationale:*

*There are three options recommended on how the new WTTC can be expanded in such a way that players from all Member Associations have the opportunity to take part in the WTTC, through-out different stages leading to the WTTC Finals where each Continental Federation shall be represented.*

**Proposition 23****Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.**

To add 4.8:

**4.8 WORLD VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS****4.8.1. Authority for Organisation**

4.8.1.1. The title "World Veteran Championships", referred to in this Section as "Championships", shall be bestowed by the Board of Directors on the championship events at a tournament organised by an Association entrusted with the task.

4.8.1.2. The Championship can be organised by other bodies than Associations (area associations, clubs, etc.) if they have the necessary facilities but, an organization outside of the Association must have its sanction. The Association will be the contract partner of the ITTF.

4.8.1.3. The closing date for applications to stage Championships shall be specified by the Executive Committee and notified to all Associations, giving at least 6 months' notice.

4.8.1.4. All applications shall be considered by the Executive Committee and shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, together with the report of the Selection Committee, if applicable, on venues for the occasion in question.

4.8.1.5. Where necessary, the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may ask one or more members of the appropriate Committee to visit the country of an Association applying for the right to organise the Championships to satisfy themselves as to the adequacy of the proposed playing and other arrangements; the cost of such visits shall be borne by that Association.

4.8.1.6. If, after an option has been granted, circumstances change in such a way as to be likely to prejudice the satisfactory conduct of the Championships, the option may be revoked by a majority vote at a Board of Directors prior to the Championships; between the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee shall have power to transfer the Championships or to take any other appropriate action.

**4.8.2. Responsibilities of Organisers**

4.8.2.1. An Association granted the right to organise the Championships, hereafter referred to as the "organisers" shall be responsible for conducting them in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis, the Regulations for International Competitions and the Regulations for World Title Competitions, as modified or supplemented by any directives authorised by the Board of Directors.

4.8.2.2. Expenses for two inspection visits – usually within 6 months after the presentations and again within 6 months before the start of the event – by the ITTF Computer Expert and/or other ITTF Competition Department members (altogether travel expenses and hospitality costs for four persons) are to be met by the organisers. Should any further visits be necessary, details will be discussed and agreed upon with the organisers.

4.8.2.3. Organisers shall provide free internal transport (between the place of accommodation and the playing venue and between the hotel and the nearest international airport upon arrival and departure) and accommodation and meals from lunch on the day before the Championships begun until breakfast on the day after the Championships end for

4.8.2.3.1. ten (10) participants (preferably 5 men and 5 women) nominated by the Executive Committee after consultation with the Veterans Committee and the Swaythling Club International (SCI).

4.8.2.3.2. three (3) persons (mainly the Computer Experts and the ITTF Competition Manager) starting five (5) days prior to the event for organisational purposes.

4.8.2.3.3. seven (7) persons to be nominated by the SCI Executive Committee, starting three (3) days prior to the event.

4.8.2.3.4. all members of the ITTF Executive Committee and the ITTF Veterans Committee Chair.

4.8.2.3.5. International Umpires and Referees from other Associations invited in accordance with the ITTF directives for match officials at World Title Competitions.

4.8.2.3.6. up to four (4) members of the ITTF staff.

- 4.8.2.4 If the business of the ITTF extends outside the period of the Championships the period of hospitality for those entitled to participate in such business shall be extended correspondingly.
- 4.8.2.5 Organisers shall provide free first aid/medical duty at the playing venue for all participants. All the participants are responsible for their physical and mental fitness and they must have their own health insurance against illness, accidents and injuries for the duration of the Championships.
- 4.8.2.6 Organisers shall provide the ITTF and the SCI with offices at the venue of the Championships and place at its disposal translation, computers, internet access, telephone and duplicating facilities
- 4.8.2.7 Organisers shall publish a prospectus (Bulletin No 1) giving the main details of the organisation of the Championships, including
- 4.8.2.7.1 the dates and place of the Championships;
  - 4.8.2.7.2 the categories and events to be held;
  - 4.8.2.7.3 the equipment to be used;
  - 4.8.2.7.4 the procedure for entry, the entry fees and the undertakings required;
  - 4.8.2.7.5 the date and place of the draw;
  - 4.8.2.7.6 the dates of Jury meetings and social activities;
  - 4.8.2.7.7 the extent of hospitality for technical and officials;
  - 4.8.2.7.8 any directives authorised by the Board of Directors for the Championships.
- 4.8.2.8 During the Championships Organisers shall make available promptly and regular public display of all results, including point scores.
- 4.8.2.8.1 Immediately after the Championships, the organisers shall present the final standings of the medallists in all age categories to the ITTF, together with photos of all medal awards to the players during the winners' ceremony.
  - 4.8.2.8.2 All results shall be published on the official website for the event and on the ITTF official website.

**4.8.3 Eligibility**

- 4.8.3.1 All individuals who are older than 40 years of age or who will be 40 years of age in the year of the Championships are eligible to participate.
- 4.8.3.2 Each competitor is allowed to participate in one Single and one Doubles Event. In the Doubles, not necessarily in one's own age category but always in the category of the younger player in the partnership.

**4.8.4 Entry Fees**

- 4.8.4.1 The entry fee and the accompanying persons fee shall be decided by the ITTF Executive Committee in conjunction with the selected Organiser.
- 4.8.4.2 No entry fee will be requested to the 10 invited playing guests.
- 4.8.4.3 The entry fees shall be paid to the Organisers at the time of the entry.

**4.8.5 Qualification**

- 4.8.5.1 The Championships will be held in two stages: the Qualifying Competition and the Competition Proper. An optional Consolation event will be held for players not qualified for the Proper event.
- 4.8.5.2 The Qualifying competition will be played the first days of the Championships, in groups. The first and second placed in each group will qualify for the Proper competition. The others will have the option to play the Consolation competition.
- 4.8.5.3 In the event with less than 6 players or pairs entered in one age category the Competition Manager may decide to play a "round robin" in only one group. The exact system to be published before the start of the competition.
- 4.8.5.4 The Competition Proper and the Consolation events will be played according to the knock-out system.

**4.8.6 Entry Obligations**

4.8.6.1 The on-line entry form shall contain statements committing the participants to the ITTF Anti-Doping Rules, requesting the acceptance of the ITTF Racket Control Regulations and confirming their availability to compete against all other individuals participating at the Championships.

4.8.6.2 All entrants are accepted as individual competitors; they shall be bound to do their utmost to win the events for which they are entered, irrespective of whether other entrants from the same Association have been entered, and they shall not withdraw except for reasons of illness or injury.

4.8.6.3 By entering the event, players agree to abide by all ITTF rules and regulations. All entered individual players agree to be under the auspices of the ITTF and its agents in all matters concerning television coverage, video, internet web casting, motion picture coverage, and photographic coverage of any kind. Participants release all rights, or rights held by their agents or sponsors, in all matters relating to television and web casting coverage, video and motion picture coverage, and photographic coverage of any kind. A participant's refusal of above listed coverage may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the competition.

**4.8.7 Jury**

4.8.7.1 The Jury shall consist of 3 representatives: the chair of the ITTF Veterans Committee, as chair of the Jury, a representative of the Organising Committee and a representative of the ITTF Competition Department.

4.8.7.2 The referee or his/her deputy will be invited to attend the Jury meetings with the right to speak but not to vote.

4.8.7.3 The Jury shall have the power to decide any question of appeal within the jurisdiction of a tournament management committee.

4.8.7.4 Appeals can be lodged against the decision of the referees only and they have to be submitted in writing immediately after the completion of the match.

4.8.7.5 No member of the Jury can take part in the tournament as a player.

**4.8.8. Events**

4.8.8.1 The Championships shall include at least men's and women's singles and men's and women's doubles events.

4.8.8.2 Each event shall have the following categories of age:

40 to 44 years (+40),  
45 to 49 years (+45),  
50 to 54 years (+50),  
55 to 59 years (+55),  
60 to 64 years (+60),  
65 to 69 years (+65),  
70 to 75 years (+70),  
75 to 79 years (+75),  
80 to 84 years (+80),  
85 to 89 years (+85)  
and over 90 (+90)

4.8.8.3 In the event of less than four players entering any one event, the Competition Manager has the right to either cancel the said event either introduce a reasonable alternative for all concerned. Players have to be informed regarding any alterations/cancellations as soon as possible.

**4.8.9 Default**

4.8.9.1 Each participant is obliged to compete at the table and time set by the competition schedule.

4.8.9.2 Each participant is responsible for keeping her/himself informed when and where to play. Any player who fails to appear at the scheduled time will automatically lose the match after 5 minutes waiting period.

**4.8.10. Doping Control**

4.8.10.1 Doping control shall be carried out in accordance with ITTF Anti-Doping rules (Chapter 5).

**4.8.11. Awards and Presentations**

4.8.11.1 In all the events the winners shall receive gold medals, the losing finalists silver medals and the loser/s of the semi-final's bronze medals.

4.8.11.2 If there is only one group in the Qualifying Competition of an age category and no match/es schedules for the Competition Proper, medals will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed players/pairs of the respective groups, according to the final standing of the groups.

4.8.11.3 Winners and runners-up of the Consolation event shall receive a small souvenir and a certificate with their names inscribed thereon.

**4.8.12 Commercial Rights**

4.8.12.1 The ITTF exclusively owns and controls all commercial rights in and to the Championships. Such Commercial Rights to include, without limitation and in each case on a worldwide basis, all:

4.8.12.1.1 audio, visual and audio-visual and data rights (in every medium, whether or not existing as at the date of these regulations);

4.8.12.1.2 sponsorship, advertising, merchandising, marketing and other forms of rights of association;

4.8.12.1.3 ticketing, hospitality and other concession rights; and

4.8.12.1.4 other rights to commercialise the Championships (including without limitation any so-called "event rights" and any right to authorise the taking of bets on the Championships).

4.8.12.2 The ITTF shall be entitled to exploit the Commercial Rights in such manner as it considers appropriate, including granting licences in respect of the same (or part thereof) to the relevant Association or to other third party(ies) from time to time.

4.8.12.3 All the participants at the Championships (officials, players, delegates and other affiliates) shall:

4.8.12.3.1 comply with any and all rules, regulations and/or guidelines in relation to the exploitation of the Commercial Rights which may be issued from time to time by or on behalf of the ITTF; and

4.8.12.3.2 provide such rights, facilities and services as are required to enable the ITTF and/or the relevant third party to fulfil their obligations under any arrangements for the exploitation of any of the Commercial Rights and shall not by any act or omission infringe any exclusive rights granted there under or otherwise cause any breach thereof to occur. For the avoidance of doubt only the ITTF may enforce this rule against a participant and no third party shall be entitled to do so.

**4.9. Transitory provision**

4.9.1 The Executive Committee shall approve a 2022 Event Guidelines in order to preserve the rights and duties for the Organisers of the 2022 World Veteran Championships according to the existing SCI rights and duties.

*Rationale:*

*According with the decision taken at the BoD meeting in Moscow 2010 and in agreement with the SCI.*

### Proposition 24

#### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee.

#### World Junior Championships Qualification System

To allow the relocation of unused team quotas to the World Ranking, without limitation per continents, if there are not enough teams from a particular continent willing to enter satisfying the qualification criteria.

#### *Rationale:*

*To ensure the possibility to have full participation, as otherwise limiting to five entries per continent it may happen that there are not 16 eligible teams.*

---

**Resolution A****Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee.**

For safety reasons, (the highly flammable) actually ITTF approved celluloid balls shall no more be marketed as ITTF approved from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and disappear from the related ITTF list as soon as their approval period ends, but latest on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. New celluloid balls shall no more be approved, with immediate effect.

*Rationale:*

*ITTF had stated in the past that celluloid balls will not be banned at short term. This was to guarantee a sufficient transition period for manufacturers and players. After seven years, this transition is now completed, and as a matter of fact approvals of celluloid balls are already being discontinued by the brand owners.*

---

**Resolution B****Proposed by ETTU, ITTF affiliated continental federation.**

The European Table Tennis Union requests the ITTF Board of Directors postpone changes to the system of play for the World Table Tennis Championships (Individual events: singles, doubles and mixed doubles) until 2023 at the earliest or until changes to the system of play for the World Team Table Tennis Championships are agreed and concluded.

*Rationale:*

*For the vast majority of ITTF Member Associations team events are crucial. This resolution asks for adequate and sufficient time for full consideration and concentration to be given to changes.*

---



**Resolution C****Proposed by ETTU, ITTF affiliated continental federation.**

Following the decision of the ITTF Board of Directors at Halmstad, May 2018, regarding the future World Team Table Tennis Championships, the European Table Tennis Union requests the ITTF Board of Directors to

- (1) directly qualify 26 teams from the 1st stage (Continental) including the host Association and 4 teams by World Team Ranking,
- (2) directly qualify 6 teams from the 2nd stage (Intercontinental),
- (3) play the 2nd stage with 6 groups, each of 4 teams, round robin system, and a group played in each Continent,
- (4) provide Europe with quotas of 8 places from the 1st stage and 10 places in the 2nd stage.

*Rationale:*

*In the past 10 years Europe has had consistently between 17 to 21 teams within the best 32 teams at the World Team Championships, both men and women. Four Continents, Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania, have not had more than 2 teams each within the best 32 teams. For Europe to lose the possibility of this number of teams participating, the overall playing level of the Final stage will be lowered.*

*Four quota places should be available to Associations with the highest World Team Ranking not yet qualified to the Final stage, providing a dynamic quota for all Continents.*

*Playing home/away matches is tiring for players, reduces valuable time for training, and intercontinental travel is expensive.*

*From the experience of European Champions League knockout matches over many years if a team loses 0-3 in the 1st match, the 2nd team match (the return match) can be of little or no interest after the 1st game or 1st individual match. For promotion, marketing and media this is not an attractive proposition.*

*Therefore, playing the Intercontinental stage in groups will allow better promotional possibilities and increase the footprint of the World Team Championships in all Continents.*

*Playing the Intercontinental stage in groups will give 24 Associations the opportunity and possibility to reach the Final stage.*

*There is also the possibility, as demonstrated by UEFA in the football Europe Nations Cup, to group the 6 lowest ranked teams at the Intercontinental stage in one group to guarantee a place in the Final stage for an Association which might not otherwise gain a place.*