

# **The International Table Tennis Federation**



## **Handbook**

**2005-2006**



The International Table Tennis Federation

# Handbook

## 2005-2006

The ITTF encourages the reproduction of information from this Handbook provided that the source is mentioned.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), founded in 1926, is the world-governing body of the sport of table tennis with 200 member Associations in the world.

The ITTF supervises the staging of World Championships annually, which involve over 800 players from all continents, and four other world title events. Its main function is to govern and develop the sport for the benefit of over thirty million competitive players in all parts of the world.

Table Tennis is an Olympic sport and is in the programme of the Summer Olympic Games.

#### **Publication of the ITTF Handbook:**

First edition	1927
Further editions	1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1956, 1959, 1967, 1975, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
Thirty-fourth edition	2005

#### **Published by:**

The International Table Tennis Federation  
Chemin de la Roche 11  
1020 Renens/Lausanne  
Switzerland

# CONTENTS

Page

---

1	Constitution	4
2	Laws	22
3	Regulations for International Competitions	29
4	Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions	49
5	Anti-Doping Rules	65
	Directives for Match Officials at World Title Competitions	91
	Recommendations for Open International Championships	92
	Index	94

*Paragraphs which have been introduced or significantly amended as a result of decisions made at the 2005 Board of Directors Meeting or the 2005 Annual General Meeting are shown as shaded. The masculine gender is used throughout but may refer to both men and women.*

## ITTF Web-site ([www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com))

---

The current ITTF Handbook is available in its entirety on the ITTF Web-site for printing or downloading.

## Results and Statistics

---

The ITTF publishes separately a "Review-Preview" Yearbook with all results of World Title Events and the ITTF Pro Tour, as well as a "Preview" of the coming year. In addition, all results and detailed statistics from 1926 to the present are available on the ITTF Web-site ([www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com))

# 1 CONSTITUTION

---

## 1.1 NAME

- 1.1.1 The Federation shall be called The International Table Tennis Federation, referred to elsewhere in this Constitution by its abbreviated title "ITTF".

## 1.2 COMPOSITION

- 1.2.1 The ITTF shall consist of the affiliated table tennis organisations, referred to elsewhere in the Rules as "Associations", governing the sport in accordance with the principles of the ITTF in any territory generally regarded as constituting a national, historical or other unity.
- 1.2.2 The ITTF is a not-for-profit organisation governed by Article 60 and its derivatives of the Swiss Civil Code; it is endowed with legal status and its members, officers and employees shall not be responsible for its debts.
- 1.2.3 Associations shall not be regarded as agents of the ITTF.

## 1.3 PRINCIPLES

- 1.3.1 The principles of the ITTF shall be general unity of action, mutual respect of Associations in their dealings with one another and the inadmissibility of discrimination against Associations or individuals on racial, political, religious or other grounds.
- 1.3.2 The ITTF is committed to providing a sport and work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to participate and work in an environment, which promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices.
- 1.3.3 The ITTF is committed to providing a sport environment free of harassment on any basis without exception.
- 1.3.3.1 The Executive Committee shall impose appropriate disciplinary sanctions from warnings to exclusions from all kind of activity in the ITTF, when a complaint of harassment has been substantiated. The same disciplinary sanctions shall be imposed if a false accusation has been substantiated.
- 1.3.4 The ITTF shall observe the general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter and no provision of this Constitution shall be deemed to conflict with or derogate from those principles.
- 1.3.5 The ITTF shall co-operate with the IOC, ASOIF, GAISF and other organisations that recognise it as the controlling and governing authority for table tennis throughout the world.

## 1.4 OBJECTS

- 1.4.1 The objects of the ITTF shall be:

- 1.4.1.1 to uphold the principles of the ITTF and to develop the spirit of friendship and mutual assistance among Associations and players;
- 1.4.1.2 to regulate relations between Associations and between Associations and other organisations;
- 1.4.1.3 to seek continual improvement in the technical standard of table tennis and in the extent of participation in the sport throughout the world;
- 1.4.1.4 to foster friendly sporting competition and to eliminate unfair and unsporting practices such as the use of drugs to enhance performance;
- 1.4.1.5 to establish and maintain the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions;
- 1.4.1.6 to publish the standard text, which shall be the English text, of the Rules, consisting of the Constitution, the Laws and the Regulations;
- 1.4.1.7 to encourage the publication of the Rules in other languages and to check the accuracy of such publications;
- 1.4.1.8 to promote and to supervise World and Olympic title competitions;
- 1.4.1.9 to employ the funds of the ITTF as may be expedient in the interests of international table tennis;
- 1.4.1.10 to endeavour to increase participation at all levels, to enhance the popularity of the sport, to develop new sources of revenue, and to manage the sport through a systematic planning process;
- 1.4.1.11 to encourage players, coaches and officials to present the sport positively in the best ways so as to enhance its image.
- 1.4.1.12 to encourage and to support the promotion of women in sport at all levels and to ensure significant representation of women in ITTF Committees, Commissions and Working Groups.

## 1.5 MANAGEMENT

- 1.5.1 The governing body of the ITTF shall be the **General Meeting**, consisting of the assembled representatives of Associations.
  - 1.5.1.1 Each Association shall be entitled to 2 representatives, referred to elsewhere in this Constitution as “delegates” at a General Meeting.
  - 1.5.1.2 There shall be an Annual General Meeting, referred to elsewhere in this Constitution as “**AGM**”.
- 1.5.2 Between AGMs the work of the ITTF shall be managed, in accordance with policy decided by the AGM, by a **Board of Directors**, referred to elsewhere in this Constitution as “Board”, to which the AGM may delegate any of its powers.

## 1: Constitution

---

- 1.5.2.1 The Board shall consist of the President, Deputy President, Executive Vice-Presidents, Continental Vice-Presidents and 32 Continental representatives. Chairmen of Committees and Commissions shall be co-opted as members of the Board at the first meeting of the Board following the AGM.
- 1.5.2.2 The Board shall meet as required during the period of the AGM but shall otherwise conduct its business by correspondence.
- 1.5.2.3 The Board shall determine the terms of reference for Equipment, Media, Nominations, Ranking, Rules, Sports Science, Technical, Umpires & Referees and **New Technologies & Research** Committees, as well as for the Athletes Commission and Junior Commission. The Board may determine the terms of reference for any other Committee, Commission, working group or panel that it may from time to time establish.
- 1.5.3 An **Executive Committee** shall have power to deal with all current or urgent business, reporting to the Board at its next meeting.
- 1.5.3.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Deputy President and 5 Executive Vice-Presidents of which one shall be responsible for finance.
- 1.5.3.2 The Executive Committee shall meet during the period of the AGM and otherwise when convened by the President.
- 1.5.4 An **Executive Council** shall initiate and review proposals for the development of table tennis, review membership applications and appoint special working groups assigned responsibilities for the development of table tennis.
- 1.5.4.1 The Executive Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee and the Continental Vice-Presidents.
- 1.5.4.2 The Executive Council shall meet at intervals of about 6 months when convened by the President.
- 1.6 ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENT**
- 1.6.1 All members of the Board, the President, Deputy President and Executive Vice-Presidents shall be elected at an AGM held in the year following the year of the Olympic Games and shall serve for a four-year term, but shall be eligible for re-election. (*To take effect as of 2005*)
- 1.6.2 The AGM shall elect for each Continent a Continental Vice-President and Continental representatives nominated by that Continent. The number of Continental representatives, excluding the Continental Vice-President, shall be proportional to the number of its member Associations not in arrears (1.15.3.3) in that Continent and shall not exceed 32.
- 1.6.3 The AGM shall appoint, in odd numbered years, the full members of Committees and Commissions, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee.

1.6.4 The Board shall appoint, in odd numbered years, the Chairmen of Committees and Commissions, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

1.6.5 The President may appoint a President's Advisory Council to advise him on various matters. Members of the President's Advisory Council shall be invited to attend the AGM as observers.

## **1.7 VACANCIES**

1.7.1 If the President resigns or is unable to continue in office he shall be replaced by the Deputy President and the post of Deputy President shall be assumed by the Executive Vice-President having the longest continuous period of service, who shall continue to serve as an Executive Vice-President and who shall not be replaced.

1.7.2 A vacancy arising in the post of Deputy President shall be filled by the Executive Vice-President having the longest continuous period of service, who shall continue to serve as an Executive Vice-President and who shall not be replaced.

1.7.3 A vacancy arising in the posts of Executive Vice-President shall be filled by simple majority vote at a Board meeting.

1.7.4 Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board may be filled by simple majority vote at a Board meeting, but no temporary substitute shall be permitted to attend a Board meeting or to conduct Board business in place of a member absent or indisposed.

## **1.8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1.8.1 The agenda for a Board meeting shall be sent to all its members not later than 1 calendar month before the date of the meeting.

1.8.2 At its meeting the Board shall review all propositions and resolutions submitted to the Board and, where appropriate, refer them for consideration by Committees.

1.8.3 The Chairman at a Board meeting shall be the President, or, in his absence, the Deputy President; if both are absent the members present shall elect one of their members as Chairman for that meeting.

1.8.4 Every question at a Board meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast; if there is an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

1.8.5 Voting shall be by a show of hands, a roll call or a ballot, as decided by the meeting on a proposition by the Chairman.

1.8.6 The ITTF shall pay a proportion of the travel costs of its members attending Board meetings, the proportion being decided from time to time by the Executive Committee.



### **1.9 OLYMPICS COMMISSION**

- 1.9.1 The Olympics Commission shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee, the Continental Vice-Presidents and a representative of the country organising the next Olympic Games.
- 1.9.2 The Commission shall be responsible for:
  - 1.9.2.1 planning, control and supervision of the table tennis events in the Olympic Games;
  - 1.9.2.2 liaising with the International Olympic Committee, National Olympic Committees and Associations on all matters concerning Olympic competitions;
  - 1.9.2.3 enforcement of the eligibility regulations and confirmation of the eligibility of entrants for Olympic events;
  - 1.9.2.4 drafting and submission to the Board of proposals for a qualifying system for entry into Olympic events;
  - 1.9.2.5 appointing a Jury, Technical Representatives and all officials for the table tennis events;
  - 1.9.2.6 ensuring that the table tennis events at Olympic Games comply with the letter and the spirit of the Olympic Charter;
  - 1.9.2.7 initiating and reviewing proposals for the table tennis events at the Olympic Games.
- 1.9.3 The Commission shall meet during the period of the AGM and at other times when convened by the President.
- 1.9.4 A member of the management staff, appointed by the President, shall attend all meetings of the Commission and shall draft its minutes and reports.
- 1.9.5 The Commission shall submit a written report to the AGM.

### **1.10 COMMITTEES**

- 1.10.1 The number of persons serving on each Committee shall be determined by the Board a year before the nomination of Committee members.
- 1.10.2 Committees shall normally meet during the period of the AGM and shall otherwise conduct their business by correspondence.
- 1.10.3 A Committee may set up sub-committees of its members to deal with specific areas of work; any reports or recommendations of such sub-committees shall be subject to endorsement by the full Committee before publication or submission to the AGM or the Board.
- 1.10.4 Each Committee shall take interest in Continental and Regional Federations' activities in their various fields and shall advise the Federations through the ITTF Executive Committee on ideas for further development.

- 1.10.5 A member of a Committee who does not, within a reasonable specified period, express in writing an opinion on a written proposal circulated by or on behalf of the Chairman of that Committee shall be considered to have agreed to any resulting recommendation submitted in the name of the Committee.
- 1.10.6 The Chairman of each Committee shall submit to the Board an annual report and to the Executive Committee a semi-annual report of the activities of the Committee, drawing attention to any recommendations that the Committee wishes to make; acceptance of the report shall not automatically imply acceptance of such recommendations.
- 1.10.7 A Committee may be authorised to act on behalf of the Board but the extent and duration of this authority shall be specified by the Board and shall be reviewed not later than at the next meeting of the Board.
- 1.10.8 All members of Committees shall be entitled to attend General Meetings but without vote unless representing an Association.
- 1.10.9 The Nominations Committee shall be composed of 8 members including the Chairman, with an Executive Vice-President and all Continental Vice-Presidents as ex-officio members.
- 1.10.10 The Nominations Committee shall check the qualification and validity of nominations for office, shall supervise the allocation of nominees to Committees and shall recommend to the AGM the composition of Committees and Commissions; provided that sufficient number of female nominations is made for a committee, at least 25% of the full number of that Committee or Commission should be selected out of female nominees.

## 1.11 ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

- 1.11.1 Nominations for President, Deputy President, Executive Vice-President, Continental Vice-President and members of the Board or Committees may be made only with the consent of the Association of which the nominee is a member; if the consent is revoked after the nominee has been appointed he may be removed from his post only by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board.
- 1.11.2 No more than 1 person from an Association shall be nominated for the Executive Committee and no one shall be nominated for more than 1 post of the Executive Committee.
- 1.11.3 Continental representatives on the Board, other than the Continental Vice-President, shall each be from a different Association.
- 1.11.4 A member of an Association that is in arrears (1.15.3.3) shall not be eligible for election.
- 1.11.5 No person shall at the same time serve as a member of the Executive Committee and as a Continental Vice-President.
- 1.11.6 No person shall serve at the same time as a full member of more than 1 Committee and no more than 4 such posts shall be occupied by members of

one Association.

1.11.7 No member of the Executive Committee shall serve on a Committee without the specific permission of the Board.

1.11.8 A person connected in any way with the manufacture, sale or endorsement of table tennis equipment or with consultation on such equipment

1.11.8.1 shall not be eligible as a member of the Executive Committee or a Continental Vice-President;

1.11.8.2 may serve on a Committee or otherwise represent an Association but shall withdraw from a meeting or abstain from voting on an issue if so requested by a majority of the meeting that he is attending.

### 1.12 OTHER APPOINTMENTS

1.12.1 The Board shall appoint:

1.12.1.1 an **Athletes' Commission** to advise the Board on the development of table tennis, consisting of 1 representative nominated by each Continent and 2 former players nominated by the Executive Committee.

1.12.1.2 a **Calendar Working Group** to authorise the dates of World and Continental title competitions, Open International Championships and other ITTF-promoted competitions; its decisions shall be subject to appeal to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.

1.12.1.3 a **Junior Commission** to advise the Board on Junior matters and to co-ordinate international junior programmes including the World junior Championships. The Junior Commission shall meet annually at the World Junior Championships.

1.12.1.4 The Board may appoint other commissions, working groups or panels as may be needed from time to time.

### 1.13 MANAGEMENT STAFF

1.13.1 The Executive Committee shall appoint management staff on agreed terms and conditions and in accordance with the management plan approved by the Board from time to time.

1.13.2 An Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall be responsible for the direction and supervision of the ITTF's Head Office.

1.13.3 ITTF staff members are to be appointed by the Executive Director to serve as coordinator of each Committee.

### 1.14 ADMINISTRATION

#### 1.14.1 Office

1.14.1.1 The Head Office of the ITTF shall be in a place appointed by resolution of the

AGM or, in emergency, of the Board.

#### 1.14.2 **Languages**

1.14.2.1 The correspondence and proceedings of the ITTF shall be conducted in English or in such languages convenient for appropriate tasks and within the resources of the ITTF as may be determined from time to time by the Board, having particular regard to Arabic, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

1.14.2.2 All languages of ITTF members are equally official and representatives shall be entitled to address meetings of the ITTF in their own language, subject to their provision of interpretation into one of the working languages fixed for use at that meeting.

#### 1.14.3 **Publications**

1.14.3.1 The ITTF shall from time to time publish an official Handbook and other guidance documents in English; 10 copies of each such publication shall be supplied free to each Association.

1.14.3.2 The ITTF shall publish an official Bulletin and shall supply a copy of each issue free to each Association.

1.14.3.3 Each Association shall appoint a representative, notifying his name and address to the Secretariat, to co-operate with the latter in the supply of news.

1.14.3.4 A copy of each issue of each official journal shall be sent by the publishing Association to the Secretariat and to every other Association that supplies the publishing Association with an address for that purpose.

### 1.15 **FINANCE**

#### 1.15.1 **Accounts**

1.15.1.1 The financial year of the ITTF shall end on 31st December.

1.15.1.2 The Executive Vice-President responsible for finance shall ensure that an annual statement of accounts be prepared, which shall be audited by professional auditors, and that a yearly and quadrennial estimate of income and expenditure be presented.

1.15.1.3 The bank accounts of the ITTF shall be held at banks appointed by resolution of the Board on recommendation by the Executive Committee.

#### 1.15.2 **Trustees**

1.15.2.1 The President, Deputy President and Executive Vice-Presidents shall be Trustees for the purpose of purchasing, selling, leasing or otherwise dealing with any freehold or leasehold property or other assets required by the AGM or the Board for the purposes of the ITTF.

1.15.2.2 The Trustees shall be authorised to use the funds of the ITTF in the purchase of such property and assets and shall stand possessed thereof and of the proceeds of sale thereof upon trust for the ITTF in such manner as the Board

may from time to time direct.

- 1.15.2.3 The Trustees shall comply with any laws, statutes and requirements of the countries in which such trust property may be situated which relate to the purchase, sale and management of such property and the duties of Trustees in connection therewith.
- 1.15.2.4 The Trustees and their estates and effects shall be fully indemnified by the ITTF against all personal risk and expense arising as a result of their appointment as Trustees.
- 1.15.2.5 The Trustees shall cease to act in such capacity upon ceasing to hold office as President, Deputy President or Executive Vice-Presidents.
- 1.15.2.6 A Minute signed by the President and a member of the Management Staff shall be conclusive evidence of a decision of the Board.

### **1.15.3 Subscriptions**

- 1.15.3.1 Each Association shall pay an annual subscription of US\$ 150 or the equivalent in Swiss Francs.
- 1.15.3.2 The first subscription shall be paid with the application for membership and subsequent subscriptions shall be due on 1st January of each year.
- 1.15.3.3 An Association shall be **in arrears** if its subscription has not been paid by 31st December of the year in which it is due.

## **1.16 MEMBERSHIP**

### **1.16.1 Eligibility**

- 1.16.1.1 Any organisation representing table tennis in a territory and observing the principles of the ITTF may be elected a member but it shall be recognised as representative only of the territory in which it controls and governs the sport.
- 1.16.1.2 Where one or more Associations represent table tennis in only part of an area generally regarded as constituting a unity, an Association representing the sport in any other part of the same unity may apply for membership, provided that
  - 1.16.1.2.1 its separateness is due to circumstances outside the sport and of the players concerned;
  - 1.16.1.2.2 the jurisdiction it claims is clearly limited, in title and constitution, to the territory in which it controls the sport;
  - 1.16.1.2.3 it is otherwise qualified for membership.
- 1.16.1.3 In the consideration of such an application, the views of any Association already in membership from the same unity shall be taken into account and in no circumstances shall two Associations be recognised as exercising authority over the same territory.
- 1.16.1.4 An organisation located outside the territory of any Association may be

granted temporary attachment to an Association for the purpose of receiving aid in development and competition; the extended territory shall be regarded as being within the member's control, but approval of the attachment shall be reviewed at each AGM and shall not be renewed indefinitely.

### **1.16.2 Application and Election**

- 1.16.2.1 Applications for membership shall be made on a form approved by the Board.
- 1.16.2.2 All applications shall be submitted not later than 6 calendar months before the date of the General Meeting at which the application is to be considered.
- 1.16.2.3 The Executive Council shall review all applications on behalf of the Board and make recommendations on acceptance.
- 1.16.2.4 Applications for membership shall be considered by the next AGM and shall be accepted if they receive at least 2/3 of the votes cast. In the consideration of an application in respect of an area for which there is a recognised Continental Federation, the views of that Federation shall be taken into account.
- 1.16.2.5 In the consideration of applications for combined membership by Associations formerly in separate membership, or for separate membership by Associations which were formerly components of an Association which has divided, or for recognition of changes in the territory in which an Association controls the sport, the views of the organisations concerned and any circumstances outside their control shall be taken into account; secession in other circumstances is not to be encouraged.
- 1.16.2.6 The representatives of an Association elected to membership at a General Meeting shall be entitled to attend the meeting and to vote after election.
- 1.16.2.7 Election and membership of an Association shall not carry any implications in respect of the political, diplomatic or national status of the area concerned, but only to its conduct of table tennis therein.

### **1.16.3 Suspension and Termination**

- 1.16.3.1 An Association wishing to resign from the ITTF shall give notice in writing to the Secretariat; the resignation may take effect at any time from the receipt of such notice until the 31st December of the same year but the Association shall be liable for the subscription due for that year.
- 1.16.3.2 An Association which fails to pay its subscription for 3 successive years shall automatically be suspended from membership; it shall not be liable for subscriptions during the period of suspension and may be re-admitted to membership on payment of part or all of the subscriptions previously due, at the discretion of the Board.
- 1.16.3.3 An Association that is suspended from membership shall not be entitled to nominate or enter players for any event held under the jurisdiction of the ITTF nor to attend or be represented at a General Meeting.

- 1.16.3.4 An Association which seriously and persistently fails to maintain the principles or to respect the Constitution and decisions of the ITTF may be censured, fined, suspended or expelled by a General Meeting; a suspension may be cancelled only by a General Meeting or, in emergency, by a 3/4 majority of the votes cast at a Board meeting.

### **1.16.4 Personal Honorary Membership**

- 1.16.4.1 An official who has given long, outstanding service to the ITTF may, on retirement, be appointed a Personal Honorary Member for his lifetime by the AGM on a recommendation by the Board.
- 1.16.4.2 Personal Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend World Championships, with free hospitality, and to attend General Meetings with the right to speak but not to vote.

## **1.17 ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS**

### **1.17.1 Continental Federations**

- 1.17.1.1 Associations may group themselves into Continental Federations for the purpose of promoting and regulating table tennis within a given continental area; such Federations shall be supported and encouraged by the ITTF, which shall co-operate with them in all matters, provided that the constitution, general principles, rules and policy of the Continental Federation conform to those of the ITTF.
- 1.17.1.2 Each Continental Federation shall provide the Secretariat with a copy of its Constitution and with details of any subsequent changes not later than 3 calendar months after the meeting at which they are made.
- 1.17.1.3 Membership of the Continental Federation shall be open to Associations whose address in the ITTF Directory is situated within the appropriate Continental area except where, for reasons outside the control of sport, an Association is not acceptable to its appropriate Continental Federation; in such circumstances, which shall not necessarily prevent recognition of the Continental Federation concerned, the Association failing to secure membership shall have the right to appeal to the ITTF to assist in securing membership or, failing that, attachment to another adjacent Continental Federation.
- 1.17.1.4 Organisations eligible for membership of the ITTF but not yet having applied for membership may, with the consent of the Board, be included in the appropriate Continental Federation for a period not exceeding 1 year but renewable by each AGM; the players of such an organisation shall enjoy the privileges of players of a member Association but only in the Continent concerned.

1.17.1.5 Parts of an Association which lie wholly within a Continental area other than that in which the address of that Association in the ITTF Directory is situated may, with the permission of the Board and the consent of their Association, be attached to the Continental Federation in whose area they lie for the purpose of competition and the encouragement of table tennis; with the same permission and for the same purposes, Associations lying wholly outside but adjacent to the Continental area concerned may similarly be attached, with the consent of the Federation of the Continent of which they form a part.

1.17.1.6 The championship title competitions of a Continental Federation shall be open only to the players of its member and attached Associations and the ITTF shall recognise such competitions as the sole Continental title championships for that Continent.

### **1.17.2 Other Regional Groups**

1.17.2.1 Associations may group themselves into non-Continental regional organisations for the purpose of competition provided that, where the competition is for a regional title, the event is open to all Associations in the region and that the Constitution is observed in respect of play with unaffiliated organisations or players.

## **1.18 GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **1.18.1 Place and Time**

1.18.1.1 An AGM shall be held at the place, and during the period, of the World Championships or, if the World Championships is not held at the due time, at such other place and date as the Board may determine.

1.18.1.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened within 10 weeks of receipt by the Secretariat of a requisition in writing submitted by not less than 1/4 of the Associations not in arrears (1.15.3.3), representing at least 2 Continents.

### **1.18.2 Notice of Meeting**

1.18.2.1 Notice of the meeting, giving details of the place, date and time and the business to be transacted, together with a proxy form, shall be sent by post to each Association; the person and address to which the notice is sent shall be as last notified by each Association to the Secretariat.

1.18.2.2 For an AGM the notice shall be sent not later than 2 calendar months before the date of the meeting.

1.18.2.3 For an EGM the notice shall be sent not later than 1 calendar month before the date of the meeting.

### **1.18.3 Notice of Business**

1.18.3.1 Details in writing of business to be dealt with at an AGM must reach the Secretariat not later than 3 calendar months before the date of the meeting.



- 1.18.3.2 Notice of the actual closing date in each year for the receipt of business and propositions shall be sent to all Associations by the Secretariat not later than 6 calendar months before the date of the meeting.
- 1.18.3.3 Business and propositions, other than changes to the Constitution or the Laws, of which due notice has not been given but which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, relate to the business in hand without introducing a new principle or relate to an emergency may be admitted by a vote in favour of 2/3 of the votes cast at the AGM.
- 1.18.3.4 The requisition for an EGM shall specify the business for which the meeting is to be convened and no other business except the confirmation of the Minutes of the previous General Meeting shall be transacted at such a meeting.

### **1.18.4 Procedure**

- 1.18.4.1 The agenda for an AGM shall include:
  - 1.18.4.1.1 the appointment of a Chairman;
  - 1.18.4.1.2 a roll call of the Associations present or represented by proxies (1.18.7);
  - 1.18.4.1.3 the appointment of scrutineers;
  - 1.18.4.1.4 the confirmation of the Minutes of the previous General Meeting;
  - 1.18.4.1.5 the consideration of applications for membership;
  - 1.18.4.1.6 the receipt of reports from President, Deputy President, Executive Vice-Presidents and Continental Vice-Presidents which, with the possible exception of that from the President, shall be given in writing;
  - 1.18.4.1.7 the receipt of reports from Committees and the Olympics Commission;
  - 1.18.4.1.8 the receipt of the audited statement of accounts for the previous year;
  - 1.18.4.1.9 the consideration of propositions and the reports of any Committees that have studied them;
  - 1.18.4.1.10 when appropriate, the election of President, Deputy President, Executive Vice-Presidents and appointment of Auditors;
  - 1.18.4.1.11 the consideration of arrangements for future World Championships.
- 1.18.4.2 No speaker shall speak more than once on a proposition except that the proposer shall have the right of reply and that the Chairman may, at his discretion, allow a speaker to speak more than once to answer a query arising from his original speech.
- 1.18.4.3 The Chairman shall decide how many speakers will be permitted to speak on a proposition and when the vote shall be taken, except that a motion "that the question now be put" shall be voted on immediately, without further discussion; if such a motion is carried the proposition or any amendment before the meeting shall then be voted on immediately, without further discussion, subject to the right of reply by the mover of the substantive proposition.

- 1.18.4.4 A question once decided may not be reverted to for re-discussion and re-vote unless the Chairman rules, as a matter of urgency, that a case has been made for supposing that the decision taken may jeopardise the whole welfare of the ITTF; a motion to challenge the Chairman's ruling that the matter is not of sufficient urgency to justify reconsideration must be taken whenever it is moved.

### **1.18.5 Voting**

- 1.18.5.1 Each Association not in arrears (1.15.3.3) shall have 1 vote.
- 1.18.5.2 Questions shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast except that:
- 1.18.5.2.1 changes to the Constitution, the acceptance of belated or emergency business or propositions and the revocation of a World Championships option require a majority of 2/3 of the votes cast;
- 1.18.5.2.2 expulsions from membership and changes to the Laws of Table Tennis require a 3/4 majority of the votes cast;
- 1.18.5.2.3 dissolution of the ITTF requires a 4/5 majority of the votes cast.
- 1.18.5.3 If there is an equality of votes on an administrative or financial matter the Chairman shall have a casting vote; if there is an equality of votes on any other matter the motion shall fail and the meeting shall proceed with the next business.
- 1.18.5.4 Voting other than in elections shall be by roll call in alphabetical order of Associations, starting with a name drawn at random, except where the Chairman is satisfied after a show of hands that such procedure is not necessary.
- 1.18.5.5 Each Continental Vice-President shall nominate 2 persons from his Continent, for approval by the meeting, to form a list of scrutineers.
- 1.18.5.6 For each vote requiring scrutineers, including elections, names shall be taken from the list in alphabetical order, omitting the representative of any Association having a particular interest in the item, which is the subject of the vote.

### **1.18.6 Elections**

- 1.18.6.1 Where there are more candidates for a post or posts than the number of vacancies there shall be a ballot, which shall be won by the candidate or candidates obtaining the highest numbers of votes.
- 1.18.6.2 If there is an equality of votes in the first ballot there shall be a second ballot among those equal; if there is still an equality of votes preference shall be given to the appointment of a representative of an Association which is otherwise not represented and, where this is not decisive, the outcome shall be determined by lot.

### **1.18.7 Proxies**

- 1.18.7.1 If an Association wishes to appoint as a proxy, another Association or a member of the Board, to represent it at a General Meeting, notice of the appointment must reach the Secretariat not later than 3 days before the date of the meeting.
- 1.18.7.2 No Association shall give a proxy to another Association where the territories over which both exercise authority form part of the same state unity.
- 1.18.7.3 No Association shall hold more than 1 proxy on behalf of other Associations.
- 1.18.7.4 A Board member may hold 1 proxy on behalf of another association but may not hold a proxy as an Association delegate at the same time.

### **1.19 CHANGES TO RULES**

- 1.19.1 Rule change propositions and resolutions may be submitted to the AGM or the Board by Associations, the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, Continental Federations, Committees and Commissions and to the AGM by the Board.
- 1.19.2 Rule change propositions to be considered at an AGM or a Board meeting must reach the Secretariat not later than 3 months before the date of the meeting.
- 1.19.3 Amendments to the Constitution and the Laws of Table Tennis shall be made only at a General Meeting; amendments to other Regulations shall be made only at a meeting of the Board held immediately after the AGM.
- 1.19.4 Details of all rule change proposals shall be published in the agenda of the meeting at which they are to be considered.
- 1.19.5 Unless specifically decided otherwise changes shall take effect from the first day of the next playing season, which in the northern hemisphere shall be 1st September, except that
  - 1.19.5.1 changes affecting finance shall take effect from the first day of the next ITTF financial year;
  - 1.19.5.2 changes affecting equipment shall take effect from 1st September in the year following the year in which the change is made.

### **1.20 JURISDICTION OF ASSOCIATIONS**

#### **1.20.1 Membership and Representation**

- 1.20.1.1 A player shall be regarded as resident in a territory if his normal or main residence or base is in that territory; residence shall not be determined by continuity or by duration.
- 1.20.1.2 Before accepting a player into membership an Association shall satisfy itself that he is or intends to be resident in its territory and it shall not retain him if

he terminates such residence.

- 1.20.1.3 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.
- 1.20.1.4 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, except as provided in 1.20.1.5.
- 1.20.1.5 An Association may nominate as its representative at a General Meeting a resident of the territory in which the meeting takes place, provided that he has never been a member of another Association; such a nominee may be admitted as a representative by majority vote at the General Meeting for which he is nominated.
- 1.20.1.6 Any dispute under these regulations shall be referred to the Board.

### **1.20.2 Extent of Jurisdiction**

- 1.20.2.1 In administering and interpreting its own regulations and decisions an Association shall exercise jurisdiction over:
  - 1.20.2.1.1 players resident in its territory, while they are in that territory or in any other territory;
  - 1.20.2.1.2 visiting players, while they are in its territory, except as provided in 1.20.3.1;
  - 1.20.2.1.3 players representing it in a competition who are normally resident in the territory of another Association, but only while they are taking part in that competition;
  - 1.20.2.1.4 a resident of a territory in which a General Meeting takes place who is acting as its representative at the General Meeting, as provided in 1.20.1.5.

### **1.20.3 Visiting Players**

- 1.20.3.1 If a visiting player is officially representing his Association as a result of an invitation by the visited Association, the visited Association shall acquire no rights of penalty.
  - 1.20.3.1.1 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.
  - 1.20.3.1.2 The visited Association may protest to the visiting player's Association about such an offence, but his own Association shall retain sole jurisdiction over him and the right to impose a penalty.
- 1.20.3.2 If a visiting player participates in table tennis activities other than as an official

representative of his Association, whether or not his visit is the result of an invitation by the visited Association, he 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.

- 1.20.3.2.1 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.
- 1.20.3.2.2 If the visiting player's Association makes no appeal within 1 calendar month of being notified the penalty may be imposed.
- 1.20.3.2.3 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.

### **1.20.4 Payments to Players**

- 1.20.4.1 Except when acting under the direct instructions of his Association as its representative, a player may accept payment, reward, benefit or allowances for playing in any competition other than Olympic Games, or for exhibition or coaching, providing that he has previously obtained permission:
  - 1.20.4.1.1 for the payment of such expenses, from the Association in whose area the event is to take place and
  - 1.20.4.1.2 for the receipt of such expenses, from the Association having jurisdiction over him.
- 1.20.4.2 Subject to any over-riding provisions of 1.20.4.1, 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.

## **1.21 UNAFFILIATED PLAYERS AND ORGANISATIONS**

- 1.21.1 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 play 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.
- 1.21.2 A player affiliated to an Association shall not take part in any competition, exhibition or coaching
  - 1.21.2.1 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;
  - 1.21.2.2 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;
- 1.21.2.3 organised by an unaffiliated body, unless permission for the event has been given by the Executive Committee, except as provided in 1.21.6.
- 1.21.3 The Association controlling the territory in which a player is resident shall be responsible for ensuring that he complies with the requirements of 1.21.2.
- 1.21.4 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, exhibition or coaching in the territory of an 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.
- 1.21.5 The Executive Committee may give permission for a table tennis competition to be organised by an unaffiliated body provided that
- 1.21.5.1 the organising body has undertaken to comply with the appropriate ITTF regulations;
- 1.21.5.2 the organising body has undertaken not to include affiliated players in the event unless their Associations have given permission;
- 1.21.5.3 the organising body has undertaken not to include unaffiliated players in the event unless the Executive Committee has given permission;
- 1.21.5.4 the application to organise the event is supported by the Association, if any, controlling the territory in which the competition is to take place;
- 1.21.5.5 the supporting Association has accepted responsibility for ensuring that the organising body observes the requirements of 1.21.5.1-3.
- 1.21.6 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.
- 1.22 DISSOLUTION**
- 1.22.1 The ITTF shall not be dissolved other than at a General Meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 1.22.2 The balance of funds in hand at the time of dissolution shall be divided equally among the Associations not at that time in arrears (1.15.3.3).

## **2 THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS**

---

### **2.1 THE TABLE**

- 2.1.1 The upper surface of the table, known as the playing surface, shall be rectangular, 2.74m long and 1.525m wide, and shall lie in a horizontal plane 76cm above the floor.
- 2.1.2 The playing surface shall not include the vertical sides of the tabletop.
- 2.1.3 The playing surface may be of any material and shall yield a uniform bounce of about 23cm when a standard ball is dropped on to it from a height of 30cm.
- 2.1.4 The playing surface shall be uniformly dark coloured and matt, but with a white side line, 2cm wide, along each 2.74m edge and a white end line, 2cm wide, along each 1.525m edge.
- 2.1.5 The playing surface shall be divided into 2 equal courts by a vertical net running parallel with the end lines, and shall be continuous over the whole area of each court.
- 2.1.6 For doubles, each court shall be divided into 2 equal half-courts by a white centre line, 3mm wide, running parallel with the side lines; the centre line shall be regarded as part of each right half-court.

### **2.2 THE NET ASSEMBLY**

- 2.2.1 The net assembly shall consist of the net, its suspension and the supporting posts, including the clamps attaching them to the table.
- 2.2.2 The net shall be suspended by a cord attached at each end to an upright post 15.25cm high, the outside limits of the post being 15.25cm outside the side line.
- 2.2.3 The top of the net, along its whole length, shall be 15.25cm above the playing surface.
- 2.2.4 The bottom of the net, along its whole length, shall be as close as possible to the playing surface and the ends of the net shall be as close as possible to the supporting posts.

### **2.3 THE BALL**

- 2.3.1 The ball shall be spherical, with a diameter of 40mm.
- 2.3.2 The ball shall weigh 2.7g.
- 2.3.3 The ball shall be made of celluloid or similar plastics material and shall be white or orange, and matt.

## 2.4 THE RACKET

- 2.4.1 The racket may be of any size, shape or weight but the blade shall be flat and rigid.
- 2.4.2 At least 85% of the blade by thickness shall be of natural wood; an adhesive layer within the blade may be reinforced with fibrous material such as carbon fibre, glass fibre or compressed paper, but shall not be thicker than 7.5% of the total thickness or 0.35mm, whichever is the smaller.
- 2.4.3 A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimples rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2mm, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4mm.
  - 2.4.3.1 *Ordinary pimples rubber* is a single layer of non-cellular rubber, natural or synthetic, with pimples evenly distributed over its surface at a density of not less than 10 per sq. cm and not more than 30 per sq. cm.
  - 2.4.3.2 *Sandwich rubber* is a single layer of cellular rubber covered with a single outer layer of ordinary pimples rubber, the thickness of the pimples rubber not being more than 2mm.
- 2.4.4 The covering material shall extend up to but not beyond the limits of the blade, except that the part nearest the handle and gripped by the fingers may be left uncovered or covered with any material.
- 2.4.5 The blade, any layer within the blade and any layer of covering material or adhesive on a side used for striking the ball shall be continuous and of even thickness.
- 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.
- 2.4.7 Slight deviations from continuity of surface or uniformity of colour due to accidental damage or wear may be allowed provided that they do not significantly change the characteristics of the surface.
- 2.4.8 At the start of a match and whenever he changes his racket during a match a player shall show his opponent and the umpire the racket he is about to use and shall allow them to examine it.

## 2.5 DEFINITIONS

- 2.5.1 A *rally* is the period during which the ball is in play.
- 2.5.2 The ball is *in play* from the last moment at which it is stationary on the palm of the free hand before being intentionally projected in service until the rally is decided as a let or a point.
- 2.5.3 A *let* is a rally of which the result is not scored.



## 2: The Laws of Table Tennis

---

- 2.5.4 A *point* is a rally of which the result is scored.
- 2.5.5 The *racket hand* is the hand carrying the racket.
- 2.5.6 The *free hand* is the hand not carrying the racket; the *free arm* is the arm of the free hand.
- 2.5.7 A player *strikes* the ball if he touches it in play with his racket, held in the hand, or with his racket hand below the wrist.
- 2.5.8 A player *obstructs* the ball if he, or anything he wears or carries, touches it in play when it is above or travelling towards the playing surface, not having touched his court since last being struck by his opponent.
- 2.5.9 The *server* is the player due to strike the ball first in a rally.
- 2.5.10 The *receiver* is the player due to strike the ball second in a rally.
- 2.5.11 The *umpire* is the person appointed to control a match.
- 2.5.12 The *assistant umpire* is the person appointed to assist the umpire with certain decisions.
- 2.5.13 Anything that a player *wears or carries* includes anything that he was wearing or carrying, other than the ball, at the start of the rally.
- 2.5.14 The ball shall be regarded as passing *over or around* the net assembly if it passes anywhere other than between the net and the net post or between the net and the playing surface.
- 2.5.15 The end *line* shall be regarded as extending indefinitely in both directions.

### 2.6 THE SERVICE

- 2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.
- 2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.
- 2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.
- 2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner and by anything they wear or carry.
- 2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net.

The space between the ball and the net is defined by the ball, the net and its indefinite upward extension.

- 2.6.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a correct service.
- 2.6.6.1 If the umpire is doubtful of the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, declare a let and warn the server.
- 2.6.6.2 Any subsequent service of doubtful legality of that player or his doubles partner will result in a point to the receiver.
- 2.6.6.3 Whenever there is a clear failure to comply with the requirements for a correct service, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point.
- 2.6.7 Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a correct service where he is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.

## **2.7 THE RETURN**

- 2.7.1 The ball, having been served or returned, shall be struck so that it passes over or around the net assembly and touches the opponent's court, either directly or after touching the net assembly.

## **2.8 THE ORDER OF PLAY**

- 2.8.1 In singles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return and thereafter server and receiver alternately shall each make a return.
- 2.8.2 In doubles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return, the partner of the server shall then make a return, the partner of the receiver shall then make a return and thereafter each player in turn in that sequence shall make a return.
- 2.8.3 When two players who are in wheelchairs due to a physical disability are a pair playing doubles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return but thereafter either player of the disabled pair may make returns. However, no part of a player's wheelchair shall protrude beyond the imaginary extension of the centre line of the table. If it does, the umpire shall award the point to the opposing pair.

## **2.9 A LET**

- 2.9.1 The rally shall be a let
  - 2.9.1.1 if in service the ball, in passing over or around the net assembly, touches it, provided the service is otherwise good or the ball is obstructed by the receiver or his partner;
  - 2.9.1.2 if the service is delivered when the receiving player or pair is not ready, provided that neither the receiver nor his partner attempts to strike the ball;
  - 2.9.1.3 if failure to make a service or a return or otherwise to comply with the Laws is due to a disturbance outside the control of the player;

## 2: The Laws of Table Tennis

---

- 2.9.1.4 if play is interrupted by the umpire or assistant umpire;
  - 2.9.1.5 if the receiver is in wheelchair due to a physical disability and the ball
  - 2.9.1.5.1 leaves the receiver's half after touching it in the direction of the net ;
  - 2.9.1.5.2 comes to rest on the receiver's half;
  - 2.9.1.5.3 in singles leaves the receiver's half after touching it by either of its sidelines.
- 2.9.2 Play may be interrupted
- 2.9.2.1 to correct an error in the order of serving, receiving or ends;
  - 2.9.2.2 to introduce the expedite system;
  - 2.9.2.3 to warn or penalise a player or adviser;
  - 2.9.2.4 because the conditions of play are disturbed in a way which could affect the outcome of the rally.

### 2.10 A POINT

- 2.10.1 Unless the rally is a let, a player shall score a point
- 2.10.1.1 if his opponent fails to make a correct service;
  - 2.10.1.2 if his opponent fails to make a correct return;
  - 2.10.1.3 if, after he has made a service or a return, the ball touches anything other than the net assembly before being struck by his opponent;
  - 2.10.1.4 if the ball passes over his court or beyond his end line without touching his court, after being struck by his opponent;
  - 2.10.1.5 if his opponent obstructs the ball;
  - 2.10.1.6 if his opponent strikes the ball twice successively;
  - 2.10.1.7 if his opponent strikes the ball with a side of the racket blade whose surface does not comply with the requirements of 2.4.3, 2.4.4 and 2.4.5;
  - 2.10.1.8 if his opponent, or anything his opponent wears or carries, moves the playing surface;
  - 2.10.1.9 if his opponent, or anything his opponent wears or carries, touches the net assembly;
  - 2.10.1.10 if his opponent's free hand touches the playing surface;
  - 2.10.1.11 if a doubles opponent strikes the ball out of the sequence established by the first server and first receiver;
  - 2.10.1.12 as provided under the expedite system (2.15.2).

### 2.11 A GAME

- 2.11.1 A game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring 11 points unless both players or pairs score 10 points, when the game shall be won by the first player or pair subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.

## **2.12 A MATCH**

- 2.12.1 A match shall consist of the best of any odd number of games.

## **2.13 THE ORDER OF SERVING, RECEIVING AND ENDS**

- 2.13.1 The right to choose the initial order of serving, receiving and ends shall be decided by lot and the winner may choose to serve or to receive first or to start at a particular end.
- 2.13.2 When one player or pair has chosen to serve or to receive first or to start at a particular end, the other player or pair shall have the other choice.
- 2.13.3 After each 2 points have been scored the receiving player or pair shall become the serving player or pair and so on until the end of the game, unless both players or pairs score 10 points or the expedite system is in operation, when the sequences of serving and receiving shall be the same but each player shall serve for only 1 point in turn.
- 2.13.4 In each game of a doubles match, the pair having the right to serve first shall choose which of them will do so and in the first game of a match the receiving pair shall decide which of them will receive first; in subsequent games of the match, the first server having been chosen, the first receiver shall be the player who served to him in the preceding game.
- 2.13.5 In doubles, at each change of service the previous receiver shall become the server and the partner of the previous server shall become the receiver.
- 2.13.6 The player or pair serving first in a game shall receive first in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a doubles match the pair due to receive next shall change their order of receiving when first one pair scores 5 points.
- 2.13.7 The player or pair starting at one end in a game shall start at the other end in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a match the players or pairs shall change ends when first one player or pair scores 5 points.

## **2.14 OUT OF ORDER OF SERVING, RECEIVING OR ENDS**

- 2.14.1 If a player serves or receives out of turn, play shall be interrupted by the umpire as soon as the error is discovered and shall resume with those players serving and receiving who should be server and receiver respectively at the score that has been reached, according to the sequence established at the beginning of the match and, in doubles, to the order of serving chosen by the

pair having the right to serve first in the game during which the error is discovered.

2.14.2 If the players have not changed ends when they should have done so, play shall be interrupted by the umpire as soon as the error is discovered and shall resume with the players at the ends at which they should be at the score that has been reached, according to the sequence established at the beginning of the match.

2.14.3 In any circumstances, all points scored before the discovery of an error shall be reckoned.

### 2.15 THE EXPEDITE SYSTEM

2.15.1 Except where both players or pairs have scored at least 9 points, the expedite system shall come into operation if a game is unfinished after 10 minutes' play or at any earlier time at the request of both players or pairs.

2.15.1.1 If the ball is in play when the time limit is reached, play shall be interrupted by the umpire and shall resume with service by the player who served in the rally that was interrupted.

2.15.1.2 If the ball is not in play when the time limit is reached, play shall resume with service by the player who received in the immediately preceding rally.

2.15.2 Thereafter, each player shall serve for 1 point in turn until the end of the game and if the receiving player or pair makes 13 returns the receiver shall score a point.

2.15.3 Once introduced, the expedite system shall remain in operation until the end of the match.

# 3 REGULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

---

## 3.1 SCOPE OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### 3.1.1 Types of Competition

3.1.1.1 An *international competition* is one that may include the players of more than one Association.

3.1.1.2 An *international match* is a match between teams representing Associations.

3.1.1.3 An *open tournament* is one that is open to the players of all Associations.

3.1.1.4 A *restricted tournament* is one that is restricted to specified groups of players other than age groups.

3.1.1.5 An *invitation tournament* is one that is restricted to specified Associations or players, individually invited.

### 3.1.2 Applicability

3.1.2.1 Except as provided in 3.1.2.2, the Laws (Chapter 2) shall apply to World, Continental and Olympic title competitions, open tournaments and, unless otherwise agreed by the participating Associations, to international matches.

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

3.1.2.3 The Regulations for International Competitions shall apply to

3.1.2.3.1 World and Olympic title competitions, unless otherwise authorised by the Board of Directors and notified in advance to the participating Associations;

3.1.2.3.2 Continental title competitions, unless otherwise authorised by the appropriate Continental Federation and notified in advance to the participating Associations;

3.1.2.3.3 Open International Championships (3.7.1.2), unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Committee and notified in advance to the participants in accordance with 3.1.2.4;

3.1.2.3.4 open tournaments, except as provided in 3.1.2.4.

3.1.2.4 Where an open tournament does not comply with any of these regulations the nature and extent of the variation shall be specified in the entry form; completion and submission of an entry form shall be regarded as signifying acceptance of the conditions of the competition, including such variations.

### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

- 3.1.2.5 The Laws and Regulations are recommended for all international competitions but, provided that the Constitution is observed, international restricted and invitation tournaments and recognised international competitions organised by unaffiliated bodies may be held under rules laid down by the organising authority.
- 3.1.2.6 The Laws and the Regulations for International Competitions shall be presumed to apply unless variations have been agreed in advance or are made clear in the published rules of the competition.
- 3.1.2.7 Detailed explanations and interpretations of regulations, including equipment specifications, shall be published as Technical Leaflets authorised by the Board of Directors and in Handbooks for Match Officials and Tournament Referees.

## 3.2 EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

### 3.2.1 Approved and Authorised Equipment

- 3.2.1.1 The approval and authorisation of playing equipment shall be conducted on behalf of the Board of Directors by the Equipment Committee; approval or authorisation may be withdrawn by the Board of Directors at any time if its continuation is found to be detrimental to the sport.

From 1st January 2006 new glues will only receive the ITTF authorisation if they are based on not volatile organic solvents.

- 3.2.1.2 The entry form or prospectus for an open tournament shall specify the brands and colours of table, net assembly and ball to be used; the choice of equipment shall be as laid down by the Association in whose territory the competition is held, selected from brands and types currently approved by the ITTF.
- 3.2.1.3 The covering material on a side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF and shall be attached to the blade so that the brand and the ITTF logo are clearly visible near the edge of the striking surface.

*Lists of all approved and authorised equipment and materials are maintained by the ITTF Office and details are available on the ITTF web site.*

### 3.2.2 Playing Clothing

- 3.2.2.1 Playing clothing shall normally consist of a short-sleeved or sleeveless shirt and shorts or skirt or one-part sports outfits, socks and playing shoes; other garments, such as part or all of a track suit, shall not be worn during play except with the permission of the referee
- 3.2.2.2 The main colour of a shirt, skirt or shorts, other than sleeves and collar of a shirt shall be clearly different from that of the ball in use.

- 3.2.2.3 Clothing may bear numbers or lettering on the back of the shirt to identify a player, his Association or, in club matches, his club, and advertisements in accordance with the provisions of 3.2.4.9; if the back of a shirt bears the player's name, this shall be situated just below the collar.
- 3.2.2.4 Any numbers required by organisers to identify a player shall have priority over advertisements on the centre part of the back of a shirt; such numbers shall be contained within a panel having an area not greater than 600cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2.2.5 Any markings or trimming on the front or side of a playing garment and any objects such as jewellery worn by a player shall not be so conspicuous or brightly reflecting as to unsight an opponent.
- 3.2.2.6 Clothing shall not carry designs or lettering which might cause offence or bring the game into disrepute.
- 3.2.2.7 Any question of the legality or acceptability of playing clothing shall be decided by the referee.
- 3.2.2.8 The players of a team taking part in a team match, and players of the same Association forming a doubles pair in a World or Olympic 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.
- 3.2.2.9 Opposing players and pairs shall wear shirts that are of sufficiently different colours to enable them to be easily distinguished by spectators.
- 3.2.2.10 Where opposing players or teams have a similar shirt and cannot agree which of them will change, the decision shall be made by the umpire by lot.
- 3.2.2.11 Players competing in a World or Olympic title competition or Open International Championships shall wear shirt and shorts or skirt of types authorised by their Association.

#### **3.2.3 Playing Conditions**

- 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 1.5 m length.
- 3.2.3.2 The following equipment and fittings are to be considered as part of each playing area: The table including the net assembly, umpires tables and chairs, score indicators, towel boxes, printed numbers identifying the table, surrounds, floor mats, boards on the surrounds indicating the names of players or Associations.



### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

- 3.2.3.3 The playing area shall be enclosed by surrounds about 75cm high, all of the same dark background colour, separating it from adjacent playing areas and from spectators.
- 3.2.3.4 In World and Olympic title competitions the light intensity, measured at the height of the playing surface, shall be at least 1000 lux uniformly over the whole of the playing surface and at least 500 lux elsewhere in the playing area; in other competitions the intensity shall be at least 600 lux uniformly over the playing surface and at least 400 lux elsewhere in the playing area.
- 3.2.3.5 Where several tables are in use, the lighting level shall be the same for all of them, and the level of background lighting in the playing hall shall not be greater than the lowest level in the playing area.
- 3.2.3.6 The light source shall not be less than 5m above the floor.
- 3.2.3.7 The background shall be generally dark and shall not contain bright light sources or daylight through uncovered windows or other apertures.
- 3.2.3.8 The flooring shall not be light-coloured, brightly reflecting or slippery and its surface shall not be of brick, ceramics, concrete or stone; in World and Olympic title competitions the flooring shall be of wood or of a brand and type of rollable synthetic material authorised by the ITTF.

#### 3.2.4 Gluing

- 3.2.4.1 Coverings may be attached to racket blades only by means of pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets or adhesives that do not contain a prohibited solvent; a list of prohibited solvents is available from the Secretariat.
  - 3.2.4.1.1 Adhesives containing volatile organic solvents shall not be used at the playing venue from 1st September 2006 on and shall not be used at all from 1st September 2007 on.
- 3.2.4.2 Tests for prohibited solvents will be carried out at World and Olympic title competitions and major Pro-Tour tournaments and a player whose racket is found to contain such a solvent is liable to be disqualified from the competition and reported to his Association.
- 3.2.4.3 A properly ventilated area shall be provided for the attachment of racket coverings to rackets and liquid adhesives shall not be used anywhere else in the playing hall.

#### 3.2.5 Advertisements

- 3.2.5.1 Inside the playing area, advertisements shall be displayed only on equipment or fittings listed in 3.2.3.2 and there shall be no special additional displays.
- 3.2.5.2 At Olympic Games advertisement on playing equipment, on playing clothing and on umpires' clothing shall be according to IOC regulations.

- 3.2.5.3 Fluorescent or luminescent colours shall not be used anywhere in the playing area.
- 3.2.5.4 Lettering or symbols on the inside of surrounds shall not include white or orange nor more than two colours and shall be contained within a height of 40cm; it is recommended that they be in a slightly darker or slightly lighter shade of the background colour.
- 3.2.5.5 Markings on flooring shall not include white or orange; it is recommended that they be in slightly darker or slightly lighter shade of the background colour.
- 3.2.5.6 There may be up to 4 advertisements on the floor of the playing area, 1 at each end and 1 at each side of the table, each contained within an area of 2.5m<sup>2</sup>; they shall not be less than 1m from the surrounds and those at the ends shall not be more than 2m from the surrounds.
- 3.2.5.7 There may be 1 temporary advertisement on each half of each side of the tabletop and 1 on each end, clearly separated from any permanent advertisements and each contained within a total length of 60cm; they shall not be for other table tennis equipment suppliers.
- 3.2.5.8 Advertisements on nets shall be in a slightly darker or slightly lighter shade of the background colour, shall not be within 3cm of the tape along the top edge and shall not obscure visibility through the mesh.
- 3.2.5.9 Advertisements on umpires' tables or other furniture inside the playing area shall be contained within a total area on any face of 750cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2.5.10 Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to
  - 3.2.5.10.1 the maker's normal trademark, symbol or name contained within a total area of 24cm<sup>2</sup>;
  - 3.2.5.10.2 not more than 6 clearly separated advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 600 cm<sup>2</sup>, on the front, side or shoulder of a shirt, with not more than 4 advertisements on the front;
  - 3.2.5.10.3 not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a total area of 400cm<sup>2</sup>, on the back of a shirt;
  - 3.2.5.10.4 not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 80cm<sup>2</sup>, on shorts or skirt.
- 3.2.5.11 Advertisements on players' numbers shall be contained within a total area of 100cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2.5.12 Advertisements on umpires' clothing shall be contained within a total area of 40cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2.5.13 There shall be no advertisements on players' clothing or numbers for tobacco goods, alcoholic drinks or harmful drugs.

#### **3.3 MATCH OFFICIALS**

##### **3.3.1 Referee**

3.3.1.1 For each competition as a whole a referee shall be appointed and his identity and location shall be made known to the participants and, where appropriate, to the team captains.

3.3.1.2 The referee shall be responsible for

3.3.1.2.1 the conduct of the draw;

3.3.1.2.2 the scheduling of the matches by time and table;

3.3.1.2.3 the appointment of match officials;

3.3.1.2.4 conducting a pre-tournament briefing for match officials;

3.3.1.2.5 checking the eligibility of players;

3.3.1.2.6 deciding whether play may be suspended in an emergency;

3.3.1.2.7 deciding whether players may leave the playing area during a match;

3.3.1.2.8 deciding whether statutory practice periods may be extended;

3.3.1.2.9 deciding whether players may wear track suits during a match;

3.3.1.2.10 deciding any question of interpretation of Laws or Regulations, including the acceptability of clothing, playing equipment and playing conditions;

3.3.1.2.11 deciding whether, and where, players may practise during an emergency suspension of play;

3.3.1.2.12 taking disciplinary action for misbehaviour or other breaches of regulations.

3.3.1.3 Where, with the agreement of the competition management committee, any of the duties of the referee are delegated to other persons, the specific responsibilities and locations of each of these persons shall be made known to the participants and, where appropriate, to the team captains.

3.3.1.4 The referee, or a responsible deputy appointed to exercise authority in his absence, shall be present at all times during play.

3.3.1.5 Where the referee is satisfied that it is necessary to do so he may replace a match official with another at any time, but he may not alter a decision already made by the replaced official on a question of fact within his jurisdiction.

3.3.1.6 Players shall be under the jurisdiction of the referee from the time at which they arrive at the playing venue until they leave it.

##### **3.3.2 Umpire, Assistant Umpire and Stroke Counter**

3.3.2.1 An umpire and an assistant umpire shall be appointed for each match.

3.3.2.2 The umpire shall sit or stand in line with the net and the assistant umpire shall sit directly facing him, at the other side of the table.

- 3.3.2.3 The umpire shall be responsible for
  - 3.3.2.3.1 checking the acceptability of equipment and playing conditions and reporting any deficiency to the referee;
  - 3.3.2.3.2 taking a ball at random as provided in 3.4.2.1.1-2;
  - 3.3.2.3.3 conducting the draw for the choice of serving, receiving and ends;
  - 3.3.2.3.4 deciding whether the requirements of the service law may be relaxed for a player with physical disability;
  - 3.3.2.3.5 controlling the order of serving, receiving and ends and correcting any errors therein;
  - 3.3.2.3.6 deciding each rally as a point or a let;
  - 3.3.2.3.7 calling the score, in accordance with specified procedure;
  - 3.3.2.3.8 introducing the expedite system at the appropriate time;
  - 3.3.2.3.9 maintaining the continuity of play;
  - 3.3.2.3.10 taking action for breaches of the advice or behaviour regulations;
  - 3.3.2.3.11 drawing by lot which player, pair or teams have to change their shirt, should opposing players or teams have a similar shirt and cannot agree which of them will change.
- 3.3.2.4 The assistant umpire shall
  - 3.3.2.4.1 decide whether or not the ball in play touches the edge of the playing surface at the side of the table nearest him;
  - 3.3.2.4.2 inform the umpire for breaches of the advice or behaviour regulations.
- 3.3.2.5 Either the umpire or the assistant umpire may
  - 3.3.2.5.1 decide that a player's service action is illegal;
  - 3.3.2.5.2 decide that, in an otherwise good service, the ball touches the net assembly while passing over or around it;
  - 3.3.2.5.3 decide that a player obstructs the ball;
  - 3.3.2.5.4 decide that the conditions of play are disturbed in a way that may affect the outcome of the rally;
  - 3.3.2.5.5 time the duration of the practice period, of play and of intervals.
- 3.3.2.6 Either the assistant umpire or a separate official may act as stroke counter, to count the strokes of the receiving player or pair when the expedite system is in operation;.
- 3.3.2.7 A decision made by assistant umpire or stroke counter in accordance with the provisions of 3.3.2.5-6 may not be overruled by the umpire.
- 3.3.2.8 Players shall be under the jurisdiction of the umpire from the time at which they arrive at the playing area until they leave it

### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

#### **3.3.3 Appeals**

- 3.3.3.1 No agreement between players, in an individual event, or between team captains, in a team event, can alter a decision on a question of fact by the responsible match official, on a question of interpretation of Laws or Regulations by the responsible referee or on any other question of tournament or match conduct by the responsible management committee.
- 3.3.3.2 No appeal may be made to the referee against a decision on a question of fact by the responsible match official or to the management committee on a question of interpretation of Laws or Regulations by the referee.
- 3.3.3.3 An appeal may be made to the referee against a decision of a match official on a question of interpretation of Laws or Regulations, and the decision of the referee shall be final.
- 3.3.3.4 An appeal may be made to the competition management committee against a decision of the referee on a question of tournament or match conduct not covered by the Laws or Regulations, and the decision of the management committee shall be final.
- 3.3.3.5 In an individual event an appeal may be made only by a player participating in the match in which the question has arisen; in a team event an appeal may be made only by the captain of a team participating in the match in which the question has arisen.
- 3.3.3.6 A question of interpretation of Laws or Regulations arising from the decision of a referee, or a question of tournament or match conduct arising from the decision of a competition management committee, may be submitted by the player or team captain eligible to make an appeal, through his parent Association, for consideration by the ITTF Rules Committee.
- 3.3.3.7 The Rules Committee shall give a ruling as a guide for future decisions, and this ruling may also be made the subject of a protest by an Association to the Board of Directors or a General Meeting, but it shall not affect the finality of any decision already made by the responsible referee or management committee.

#### **3.4 MATCH CONDUCT**

##### **3.4.1 Score Indication**

- 3.4.1.1 The umpire shall call the score as soon as the ball is out of play at the completion of a rally, or as soon as is practicable thereafter.
- 3.4.1.1.1 In calling the score during a game the umpire shall call first the number of points scored by the player or pair due to serve in the next rally of the game and then the number of points scored by the opposing player or pair.

- 3.4.1.1.2 At the beginning of a game and when a change of server is due, the umpire shall point to the next server, and may also follow the score call with the next server's name.
- 3.4.1.1.3 At the end of a game the umpire shall name the winning player or pair and shall then call the number of points scored by the winning player or pair followed by the number of points scored by the losing player or pair.
- 3.4.1.2 In addition to calling the score the umpire may use hand signals to indicate his decisions.
- 3.4.1.2.1 When a point has been scored, he may raise his arm nearer to the player or pair who won the point so that the upper arm is horizontal and the forearm is vertical with the closed hand upward.
- 3.4.1.2.2 When for any reason the rally is a let, he may raise his hand above his head to show that the rally has ended.
- 3.4.1.3 The score and, under the expedite system, the number of strokes shall be called in English or in any other language acceptable to both players or pairs and to the umpire.
- 3.4.1.4 The score shall be displayed on mechanical or electrical indicators so that it is clearly visible to the players and the spectators.
- 3.4.1.5 When a player is formally warned for bad behaviour, a yellow marker shall be placed on or near the score indicator.

#### **3.4.2 Equipment**

- 3.4.2.1 Players shall not choose balls in the playing area.
  - 3.4.2.1.1 Wherever possible players shall be given the opportunity to choose one or more balls before coming to the playing area and the match shall be played with one of these balls, taken at random by the umpire.
  - 3.4.2.1.2 If a ball has not been chosen before players come to the playing area, the match shall be played with a ball taken at random by the umpire from a box of those specified for the competition.
  - 3.4.2.1.3 If a ball is damaged during a match, it shall be replaced by another of those chosen before the match or, if such a ball is not available, by one taken at random by the umpire from a box of those specified for the competition.
- 3.4.2.2 A racket shall not be replaced during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used; if this happens the damaged racket shall be replaced immediately by another which the player has brought with him to the playing area or one which is handed to him in the playing area.
- 3.4.2.3 Unless otherwise authorised by the umpire, players shall leave their rackets on the table during intervals.

### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

#### 3.4.3 Practice

- 3.4.3.1 Players are entitled to practise on the match table for up to 2 minutes immediately before the start of a match but not during normal intervals; the specified practice period may be extended only with the permission of the referee.
- 3.4.3.2 During an emergency suspension of play the referee may allow players to practise on any table, including the match table.
- 3.4.3.3 Players shall be given reasonable opportunity to check and to familiarise themselves with any equipment which they are to use, but this shall not automatically entitle them to more than a few practice rallies before resuming play after the replacement of a damaged ball or racket.

#### 3.4.4 Intervals

- 3.4.4.1 Play shall be continuous throughout an individual match except that any player is entitled to
  - 3.4.4.1.1 an interval of up to 1 minute between successive games of an individual match;
  - 3.4.4.1.2 brief intervals for towelling after every 6 points from the start of each game and at the change of ends in the last possible game of a an individual match.
- 3.4.4.2 A player or pair may claim one time-out period of up to 1 minute during an individual match.
  - 3.4.4.2.1 In an individual event the request for a time-out may be made by the player or pair or by the designated adviser; in a team event it may be made by the player or pair or by the team captain.
  - 3.4.4.2.2 If a player or pair and an adviser or captain disagree whether a time-out is to be taken, the final decision shall be made by the player or pair in an individual event and by the captain in a team event.
  - 3.4.4.2.3 The request for a time-out, which may be made only when the ball is out of play, shall be indicated by making a "T" sign with the hands.
  - 3.4.4.2.4 On receiving a valid request for a time-out the umpire shall suspend play and hold up a white card; he shall then place the card on the court of the player or pair making the request.
  - 3.4.4.2.5 The white card shall be removed and play resumed as soon as the player or pair making the request is ready to continue or at the end of 1 minute, whichever is the sooner.
  - 3.4.4.2.6 If a valid request for a time-out is made simultaneously by or on behalf of both players or pairs, play will resume when both players or pairs are ready or at the end of 1 minute, whichever is the sooner, and neither

player or pair shall be entitled to another time-out during that individual match.

3.4.4.3 Observing a practice period (3.4.3.1) successive matches of a team match shall be played continuously except that

3.4.4.3.1 a player who is required to play in such successive matches may claim an interval of up to 5 minutes between those matches.

3.4.4.4 The referee may allow a suspension of play, of the shortest practical duration, and in no circumstances more than 10 minutes, if a player is temporarily incapacitated by an accident, provided that in the opinion of the referee the suspension is not likely to be unduly disadvantageous to the opposing player or pair.

3.4.4.5 A suspension shall not be allowed for a disability which was present or was reasonably to be expected at the beginning of the match, or where it is due to the normal stress of play; disability such as cramp or exhaustion, caused by the player's current state of fitness or by the manner in which play has proceeded, does not justify such an emergency suspension, which may be allowed only for incapacity resulting from an accident, such as injury caused by a fall.

3.4.4.6 If anyone in the playing area is bleeding, play shall be suspended immediately and shall not resume until that person has received medical treatment and all traces of blood have been removed from the playing area.

3.4.4.7 Players shall remain in or near the playing area throughout an individual match, except with the permission of the referee; during intervals between games and time-outs they shall remain within 3 metres of the playing area, under the supervision of the umpire.

## 3.5 DISCIPLINE

### 3.5.1 Advice

3.5.1.1 In a team event, players may receive advice from anyone.

3.5.1.2 In an individual event, a player or pair may receive advice only from one person, designated beforehand to the umpire, except that where the players of a doubles pair are from different Associations each may designate an adviser, but with regard to 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 these two advisors shall be treated as a unit; if an unauthorised person gives advice the umpire shall hold up a red card and send him away from the playing area.

3.5.1.3 Players may receive advice only during the intervals between games or during other authorised suspension of play, and not between the end of practice and the start of a match; if any authorised person gives advice at other times the umpire shall hold up a yellow card to warn him that any further such offence will result in his dismissal from the playing area.



### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

- 3.5.1.4 After a warning has been given, if in the same team match or the same match of an individual event anyone again gives advice illegally, the umpire shall hold up a red card and send him away from the playing area, whether or not he was the person warned.
- 3.5.1.5 In a team match the dismissed adviser shall not be allowed to return, except when required to play, and he shall not be replaced by another adviser until the team match has ended; in an individual event he shall not be allowed to return until the individual match has ended.
- 3.5.1.6 If the dismissed adviser refuses to leave, or returns before the end of the match, the umpire shall suspend play and report to the referee.
- 3.5.1.7 These regulations shall apply only to advice on play and shall not prevent a player or captain, as appropriate, from making a legitimate appeal nor hinder a consultation with an interpreter or Association representative on the explanation of a juridical decision.

#### 3.5.2 Misbehaviour

- 3.5.2.1 Players and coaches or other advisers shall refrain from behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, offend spectators or bring the sport into disrepute, such as abusive language, deliberately breaking the ball or hitting it out of the playing area, kicking the table or surrounds and disrespect of match officials.
- 3.5.2.2 If at any time a player, a coach or another adviser commits a serious offence the umpire shall suspend play and report immediately to the referee; for less serious offences the umpire may, on the first occasion, hold up a yellow card and warn the offender that any further offence is liable to incur penalties.
- 3.5.2.3 Except as provided in 3.5.2.2 and 3.5.2.5, if a player who has been warned commits a second offence in the same individual match or team match, the umpire shall award 1 point to the offender's opponent and for a further offence he shall award 2 points, each time holding up a yellow and a red card together.
- 3.5.2.4 If a player against whom 3 penalty points have been awarded in the same individual match or team match continues to misbehave, the umpire shall suspend play and report immediately to the referee.
- 3.5.2.5 If a player changes his racket during an individual match when it has not been damaged, the umpire shall suspend play and report to the referee.
- 3.5.2.6 A warning or penalty incurred by either player of a doubles pair shall apply to the pair, but not to the non-offending player in a subsequent individual match of the same team match; at the start of a doubles match the pair shall be regarded as having incurred the higher of any warnings or penalties incurred by either player in the same team match.

- 3.5.2.7 Except as provided in 3.5.2.2, if a coach or another adviser who has been warned commits a further offence in the same individual match or team match, the umpire shall hold up a red card and send him away from the playing area until the end of the team match or, in an individual event, of the individual match.
- 3.5.2.8 The referee shall have power to disqualify a player from a match, an event or a competition for seriously unfair or offensive behaviour, whether reported by the umpire or not; as he does so he shall hold up a red card.
- 3.5.2.9 If a player is disqualified from 2 matches of a team or individual event he shall automatically be disqualified from that team event or individual competition.
- 3.5.2.10 The referee may disqualify for the remainder of a competition anyone who has twice been sent away from the playing area during that competition.
- 3.5.2.11 Cases of very serious misbehaviour shall be reported to the offender's Association.

#### **3.5.3 Good Presentation**

- 3.5.3.1 Players, coaches and officials shall uphold the object of good presentation of the sport; in particular players have to do their utmost to win a match and shall not withdraw except for reasons of illness or injury.
- 3.5.3.2 Any player who deliberately fails to comply with these principles shall be disciplined by total or partial loss of prize money in prize events and/or by suspension from ITTF events.
- 3.5.3.3 In the event of complicity proven against any adviser or official the relevant national Association is also expected to discipline this person.
- 3.5.3.4 A Disciplinary Panel appointed by the Executive Committee, consisting of 4 members and a chairman, shall decide on whether an infringement committed and if necessary on appropriate sanctions; this Commission shall decide according to directives given by the Executive Committee.
- 3.5.3.5 An appeal against the Disciplinary Panel's decision may be made by the disciplined player, adviser or official within 15 days to the ITTF Executive Committee whose decision on the matter shall be final.

### **3.6 DRAW FOR KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS**

#### **3.6.1 Byes and Qualifiers**

- 3.6.1.1 The number of places in the first round proper of a knockout event shall be a power of 2.
- 3.6.1.1.1 If there are fewer entries than places, the first round shall include enough byes to make up the required number.

### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

- 3.6.1.1.2 If there are more entries than places, a qualifying competition shall be held such that the number of qualifiers and the number of direct entries together make up the required number.
- 3.6.1.2 Byes shall be distributed as evenly as possible throughout the first round, being placed first against seeded places, in seeding order.
- 3.6.1.3 Qualifiers shall be drawn as evenly as possible among the halves, quarters, eighths or sixteenths of the draw, as appropriate.

#### **3.6.2 Seeding by Ranking**

- 3.6.2.1 The highest ranked entries in an event shall be seeded so that they cannot meet before the closing rounds.
- 3.6.2.2 The number of entries to be seeded shall not exceed the number of entries in the 1st round proper of the event.
- 3.6.2.3 The entry ranked 1 shall be placed at the top of the first half of the draw and the entry ranked 2 at the bottom of the second half, but all other seeded entries shall be drawn among specified places in the draw, as follows:
  - 3.6.2.3.1 the entries ranked 3 and 4 shall be drawn between the bottom of the first half of the draw and the top of the second half;
  - 3.6.2.3.2 the entries ranked 5-8 shall be drawn among the bottom places of the odd-numbered quarters of the draw and the top places of the even-numbered quarters;
  - 3.6.2.3.3 the entries ranked 9-16 shall be drawn among the bottom places of the odd-numbered eighths of the draw and the top places of the even-numbered eighths;
  - 3.6.2.3.4 the entries ranked 17-32 shall be drawn among the bottom places of the odd-numbered sixteenths of the draw and the top places of the even-numbered sixteenths.
- 3.6.2.4 In a team knockout event only the highest ranked team from an Association shall be eligible for seeding by ranking.
- 3.6.2.5 Seeding by ranking shall follow the order of the latest ranking list published by the ITTF except that
  - 3.6.2.5.1 where all the entries eligible for seeding are from Associations belonging to the same Continental Federation the latest list published by that Federation shall take precedence;
  - 3.6.2.5.2 where all the entries eligible for seeding are from the same Association the latest list published by that Association shall take precedence.

#### **3.6.3 Seeding by Association Nomination**

- 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.
- 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.
- 3.6.3.5 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.
- 3.6.3.6 A men's or women's doubles pair consisting of players from different Associations shall be considered a pair of the Association of the player ranked higher in the World Ranking List, or, if neither player is in this list, in the appropriate Continental Ranking List; if neither player is included in a World or Continental Ranking List, the pair shall be considered a member of the Association whose team is ranked higher in the appropriate World Team Ranking List.
- 3.6.3.7 A mixed doubles pair consisting of players from different Associations shall be considered a pair of the Association to which the man belongs.
- 3.6.3.8 Alternatively, any doubles pair consisting of players from different Associations may be considered a pair of both of these Associations.
- 3.6.3.9 In a qualifying competition, entries from the same Association, up to the number of qualifying groups, shall be drawn into separate groups in such a way that qualifiers are, as far as possible, separated in accordance with the principles of 3.6.3.3-5.

#### 3.6.4 Alterations

- 3.6.4.1 A completed draw may be altered only with the permission of the responsible management committee and, where appropriate, the agreement of the representatives of Associations directly concerned.
- 3.6.4.2 The draw may be altered only to correct errors and genuine misunderstandings in the notification and acceptance of entry, to correct serious imbalance, as provided in 3.6.5, or to include additional players or pairs, as provided in 3.6.6.
- 3.6.4.3 No alterations other than necessary deletions shall be made to the draw of an event after it has started; for the purpose of this regulation a qualifying competition may be regarded as a separate event.

### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

3.6.4.4 A player shall not be deleted from the draw without his permission, unless he is disqualified; such permission must be given either by the player if he is present or, if he is absent, by his authorised representative.

3.6.4.5 A doubles pair shall not be altered if both players are present and fit to play, but injury, illness or absence of one player may be accepted as justification for an alteration.

#### **3.6.5 Re-draw**

3.6.5.1 Except as provided in 3.6.4.2, 3.6.4.5 and 3.6.5.2, a player shall not be moved from one place in the draw to another and if for any reason the draw becomes seriously unbalanced the event shall, wherever possible, be completely re-drawn.

3.6.5.2 Exceptionally, where the imbalance is due to the absence of several seeded players or pairs from the same section of the draw, the remaining seeded players or pairs only may be re-numbered in ranking order and re-drawn to the extent possible among the seeded places, taking account as far as is practicable of the requirements for seeding by Association nomination.

#### **3.6.6 Additions**

3.6.6.1 Players not included in the original draw may be added later, at the discretion of the responsible management committee and with the agreement of the referee.

3.6.6.2 Any vacancies in seeded places shall first be filled, in ranking order, by drawing into them the strongest new players or pairs; any further players or pairs shall be drawn into vacancies due to absence or disqualification and then into byes other than those against seeded players or pairs.

3.6.6.3 Any players or pairs who would have been seeded by ranking if they had been included in the original draw may be drawn only into vacancies in seeded places.

### **3.7 ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS**

#### **3.7.1 Authority**

3.7.1.1 Provided the Constitution is observed, any Association may organise or authorise open, restricted or invitation tournaments within its territory or may arrange international matches.

3.7.1.2 In any season, an Association may nominate one senior, one junior and one veterans' open tournament which it organises as its Senior, Junior or Veterans' Open International Championships;

- 3.7.1.3 A player may compete in such Open International Championships only with the permission of his Association, but such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- 3.7.1.4 A player may not take part in a restricted or invitation tournament without the permission of his Association, unless general permission has been given by the ITTF or, where all the players concerned are from the same Continent, by the appropriate Continental Federation.
- 3.7.1.5 A player or team may not take part in an international competition if he/it is suspended by his/its Association or Continental Federation.
- 3.7.1.6 No event may use a World title without the permission of the ITTF, or a Continental title without the permission of the appropriate Continental Federation.

#### **3.7.2 Representation**

- 3.7.2.1 Representatives of all Associations whose players are taking part in an Open International Championships event shall be entitled to attend the draw and shall be consulted on any alterations to the draw or any decisions of appeal that may directly affect their players.
- 3.7.2.2 A visiting Association shall be entitled to nominate at least one representative to the management committee of any international match in which it is taking part.

#### **3.7.3 Entries**

- 3.7.3.1 Entry forms for Open International Championships shall be sent to all Associations 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.
- 3.7.3.2 All entries nominated by Associations for open tournaments shall be accepted but the organisers shall have power to allocate entries to a qualifying competition; in deciding this allocation they shall take account of the relevant ITTF and Continental ranking lists and of any ranking order of entries specified by the nominating Association.

#### **3.7.4 Events**

- 3.7.4.1 Open International Championships shall include men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles and women's doubles and may include mixed doubles and international team events for teams representing Associations.
- 3.7.4.2 In world title competitions, players in youth, junior and cadet events must be under 21, under 18 and under 15 respectively on 31st December immediately

### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

before the calendar year in which the competition takes place; these age limits are recommended for corresponding events in other competitions.

3.7.4.3 It is recommended that team matches at Open International Championships be played according to one of the systems specified in 3.7.6; the entry form or prospectus shall show which system has been chosen.

3.7.4.4 Individual events proper shall be played on a knockout basis, but team events and qualifying rounds of individual events may be played on either a knockout or a group basis.

#### 3.7.5 Group Competitions

3.7.5.1 In a group, or "round robin", competition, all members of the group shall compete against each other and shall gain 2 match points for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match; the ranking order shall be determined primarily by the number of match points gained.

3.7.5.2 If two or more members of the group have gained the same number of match points their relative positions shall be determined only by the results of the matches between them, by considering successively the numbers of match points, the ratios of wins to losses first in individual matches (for a team event), games and points, as far as is necessary to resolve the order.

3.7.5.3 If at any step in the calculations the positions of one or more members of the group have been determined while the others are still equal, the results of matches in which those members took part shall be excluded from any further calculations needed to resolve the equalities in accordance with the procedure of 3.7.5.1 and 3.7.5.2.

3.7.5.4 If it is not possible to resolve equalities by means of the procedure specified in 3.7.5.1-3 the relative positions shall be decided by lot.

3.7.5.5 In the qualifying stages of World, Olympic and Open International Championships players shall be drawn into groups and assigned group positions in descending order of their current world ranking, taking account as far as possible of separation by Association.

3.7.5.6 Unless otherwise authorised by the Jury, if 1 player or team is to qualify the final match in the group shall be between the players or teams numbered 1 and 2, if 2 are to qualify the final match shall be between the players or teams numbered 2 and 3 and so on.

#### 3.7.6 Team Match Systems

3.7.6.1 Best of 5 Matches (5 singles)

3.7.6.1.1 A team shall consist of 3 players.

3.7.6.1.2 The order of play shall be A v X, B v Y, C v Z, A v Y, B v X.

3.7.6.2 Best of 5 Matches (4 singles and 1 doubles)

3.7.6.2.1 A team shall consist of 2, 3 or 4 players.

3.7.6.2.2 The order of play shall be A v X, B v Y, a doubles, A v Y, B v X.

3.7.6.3 Best of 7 Matches (6 singles and 1 doubles)

3.7.6.3.1 A team shall consist of 3, 4 or 5 players.

3.7.6.3.2 The order of play shall be A v Y, B v X, C v Z, a doubles, A v X, C v Y, B v Z.

3.7.6.4 Best of 9 Matches (9 singles)

3.7.6.4.1 A team shall consist of 3 players.

3.7.6.4.2 The order of play shall be A v X, B v Y, C v Z, B v X, A v Z, C v Y, B v Z, C v X, A v Y.

**3.7.7 Team Match Procedure**

3.7.7.1 All players shall be selected from those nominated for the event.

3.7.7.2 Before a team match the right to choose A,B,C or X,Y,Z shall be decided by lot and the captains shall name their teams to the referee or his representative, assigning a letter to each singles player.

3.7.7.3 The pairs for a doubles match need not be nominated until the end of the immediately preceding singles match.

3.7.7.4 A team match shall end when one team has won a majority of the possible individual matches.

**3.7.8 Results**

3.7.8.1 As soon as possible after the end of a competition and not later than 7 days thereafter the organising Association shall send to the ITTF Secretariat and to the Secretary of the appropriate Continental Federation details of the results, including points scores, of international matches, of all rounds of Continental and Open International Championships and of the closing rounds of national championships.

**3.7.9 Television**

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

3.7.9.2 Participation in an international event presumes the consent of the Association controlling the visiting players to the televising of that event; in World, Continental or Olympic title competitions such consent is presumed for



### 3: Regulations for International Competitions

---

the showing anywhere of live or recorded television during the period of the event and within 1 calendar month afterwards.

#### 3.8 INTERNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- 3.8.1 Eligibility in Olympic title competitions is regulated separately by 4.3.1.
- 3.8.2 A player shall be regarded as representing an Association if he accepted to be nominated by this Association and subsequently participates in a competition listed in 3.1.2.3 other than individual events at Open International Championships.
- 3.8.3 A player is eligible to represent an Association only if he is a national of the country in which that Association has jurisdiction, except that a player who has represented an Association of which he was not a national before 1st September 2004 in accordance with previous rules may retain that eligibility.
  - 3.8.3.1 Where the players of more than one Association have the same nationality, a player may represent one of these Associations only, if he is born in or has his main residence in the territory controlled by that Association.
  - 3.8.3.2 A player who is eligible to represent more than 1 Association shall have the right to choose which of the relevant Associations he will represent.
- 3.8.4 A player is eligible to represent a Continental Federation (1.17.1) in an event of continental teams only if he is eligible to represent a member Association of this Continental Federation according to 3.8.3.
- 3.8.5 A player shall not represent different Associations within a period of 3 years.
- 3.8.6 An Association may nominate a player under its jurisdiction (1.20) to enter any individual events of Open International Championships which may be indicated in ITTF publications such as the World Ranking list but does not result in eligibility of this player to represent the nominating Association according to 3.8.2.
- 3.8.7 A player or his Association shall, if so requested by the referee, provide documentary evidence of his eligibility.
- 3.8.8 Any appeal on a question of eligibility shall be referred to an Eligibility Commission, consisting of the Executive Committee, the chairmen of the Rules and Ranking Committee and the chairman of the Athletes' Commission, whose decision shall be final.

## 4 REGULATIONS FOR WORLD AND OLYMPIC TITLE COMPETITIONS

*(Additional to Regulations for International Competitions)*

---

### 4.1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### 4.1.1 Authority for Organisation

- 4.1.1.1 The title "World Championships", referred to in this Chapter as "Championships", shall be bestowed by the AGM on the championship events at a tournament organised by an Association entrusted with the task.
- 4.1.1.2 The closing date for applications to stage World Championships shall be specified by the Executive Committee and notified to all Associations, giving at least 6 months' notice; applications shall be accepted only for the next 2 World Championships.
- 4.1.1.3 All applications shall be considered by the Executive Committee and shall be submitted to the AGM, together with the report of the Selection Committee, if applicable, on venues for the occasion in question.
- 4.1.1.4 Where necessary, the AGM 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.
- 4.1.1.5 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 2/3 majority vote at the AGM preceding the Championships; between AGMs the Board of Directors shall have power to transfer the Championships or to take any other appropriate action.

#### 4.1.2 Responsibilities of Organisers

- 4.1.2.1 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.
- 4.1.2.2 Organisers shall provide accommodation and meals from the evening before the Championships begin until the morning after the Championships end for
  - 4.1.2.2.1 not more than 3 men and 3 women players nominated by an Association;
  - 4.1.2.2.2 1 delegate to the AGM from each Association if he is not already included in the nominated players listed above;

#### 4: Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions

---

- 4.1.2.2.3 members of the ITTF Executive Council, the Board of Directors and the Olympics Commission and full members of Committees;
- 4.1.2.2.4 up to 4 members of the Doping Control Panel appointed by the Sports Science Committee;
- 4.1.2.2.5 up to 3 members of the Calendar Working Group;
- 4.1.2.2.6 up to 8 members of the Athletes' Commission;
- 4.1.2.2.7 Personal Honorary Members;
- 4.1.2.2.8 International Umpires and Referees from other Associations invited in accordance with directives issued by the ITTF;
- 4.1.2.2.9 up to 3 members of the ITTF staff.
- 4.1.2.3 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.
- 4.1.2.4 Organisers shall provide free medical care and medicine for all participants, but each Association is recommended to insure its players and officials against illness and injury for the duration of the Championships.
- 4.1.2.5 Organisers shall meet the cost of transport between the place of accommodation and the playing hall,
- 4.1.2.6 Organisers shall request their national authorities to waive visa charges for all participants.
- 4.1.2.7 Organisers shall ensure free access to the playing hall and free circulation therein for all the players, officials and members listed in 4.1.2.2, for any additional players and committee members and for any interpreter, doctor or medical adviser appointed by the ITTF.
- 4.1.2.8 Organisers shall provide first-class interpreting in at least three languages, preferably by simultaneous translation with the appropriate equipment.
- 4.1.2.9 Organisers shall provide the ITTF with offices at the venue of the Championships and place at its disposal translation, computer, internet, telephone, telefax and duplicating facilities.
- 4.1.2.10 Organisers shall publish a prospectus giving the main details of the organisation of the Championships, including
  - 4.1.2.10.1 the dates and place of the Championships;
  - 4.1.2.10.2 the events to be held;
  - 4.1.2.10.3 the equipment to be used;
  - 4.1.2.10.4 the procedure for entry, the entry fees and the undertakings required;
  - 4.1.2.10.5 the date and place of the draw;
  - 4.1.2.10.6 the dates of Jury meetings and of AGM sessions;
  - 4.1.2.10.7 the extent of hospitality for players and officials;

- 4.1.2.10.8 any directives authorised by the Board of Directors for the Championships.
- 4.1.2.11 During the Championships Organisers shall make available promptly to members of the ITTF Executive Council, Board of Directors members and team captains details of results, including points scores; as soon as possible after the completion of the Championships Organisers shall publish the complete results, including points scores, and circulate them to all Associations.
- 4.1.3 Eligibility**
- 4.1.3.1 Only an Association which is not in arrears (1.15.3.3) shall be eligible to enter teams or individual players in the Championships.
- 4.1.3.2 All players nominated by an Association must be eligible to represent it in accordance with the provisions of 3.8.
- 4.1.4 Entry Fees and Levy**
- 4.1.4.1 The entry fees shall be US \$100 for each entry in a team event, US \$50 for each pair in a doubles event and US \$25 for each entry in a singles event.
- 4.1.4.2 The entry fees shall be paid to the organisers at the time of entry and shall be shared equally between the organisers and the ITTF.
- 4.1.4.3 Fees for entries from an Association are due from that Association and shall always be payable, except that the Board of Directors may waive the fees where an Association is prevented from participating in the Championships by circumstances outside its control.
- 4.1.5 Submission of Entries**
- 4.1.5.1 The intention to enter teams or players shall be notified to the organisers and the ITTF in a preliminary notification form provided by the Secretariat; the closing date for the receipt of this form shall be not later than 4 calendar months before the start of the Championships.
- 4.1.5.2 Entries shall be submitted on forms distributed, together with the prospectus, by the Secretariat.
- 4.1.5.3 Two sets of these entry forms shall be returned to the organisers and one set to the Secretariat; the closing date for the receipt of these forms shall be not later than 2 calendar months before the start of the Championships.
- 4.1.5.4 An Association may nominate up to 5 players and a non-playing captain for a team event; if a non-playing captain is not appointed one of the team players shall be designated as captain.
- 4.1.5.5 An Association shall rank its nominated players and pairs in order of playing strength, which shall be consistent with their current world ranking.

## 4: Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions

---

- 4.1.5.6 Organisers may accept only formal nominations by an eligible Association, which are received, properly signed by a responsible representative of the nominating Association, on or before the closing date.

### 4.1.6 Modification of Entries

- 4.1.6.1 Additional or modified entries may be accepted by the organisers, if notified by a representative of the nominating Association, at any time up to the date of the draw.
- 4.1.6.2 The nominating Association may change the composition of a team by notifying the organisers up to the time of the Jury meeting preceding the Championships, but in no circumstances after the start of the event.
- 4.1.6.3 As soon as he arrives at the Championships venue, the representative of an Association requesting a change to the draw in consequence of any error or absence shall notify the referee or his deputy, or confirm any change already notified, on a form provided for the purpose.
- 4.1.6.4 A request for modification of an entry cannot be considered unless it is made or confirmed by the representative of an Association immediately on arrival, other than a request based on the subsequent absence, illness or injury of one player of a doubles pair, which shall be made as soon as the contingency arises.
- 4.1.6.5 All alterations that are authorised shall be notified immediately to team captains and, where appropriate, to Association representatives.

### 4.1.7 Entry Obligations

- 4.1.7.1 The entry form shall contain a statement, to be signed by a responsible representative of the nominating Association on behalf of all its nominated players and captains, that they understand and accept the conditions of the Championships and that they are prepared to compete against all other teams and individuals participating; no entry shall be valid unless accompanied by this declaration.
- 4.1.7.2 In individual events 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 accepted to take part, and they shall not withdraw except for reasons of illness or injury.

### 4.1.8 Jury

- 4.1.8.1 The Jury shall consist of the Technical Committee, the Chairmen of the Ranking and Rules Committees, a representative of the Umpires & Referees Committee, the Championships Director (or his equivalent), a representative

of the organising committee and the referee; the referee shall have the right to speak but not to vote.

- 4.1.8.2 If either the Chairman of the Ranking Committee or the Chairman of the Rules Committee is unable to attend a meeting of the Jury he may nominate to attend in his place another member of his Committee, who shall have the right to speak and to vote.
- 4.1.8.3 The Chairman of the Jury shall be appointed by the Technical Committee.
- 4.1.8.4 Any Association directly affected by a matter under consideration at a Jury meeting shall be entitled to be represented at that meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.
- 4.1.8.5 The Jury shall have power to decide any question of appeal within the jurisdiction of a tournament management committee and to authorise team changes.
- 4.1.8.6 The Jury shall meet before the start of the Championships to be informed of all draw alterations requested up to that time and to decide any requests for changes in the composition of teams; any subsequent questions of draw alteration shall be decided by the Technical Committee and the Jury shall meet again only when convened by that Committee to consider appeals against its administrative decisions or decisions of the referee.

### 4.1.9 Events

- 4.1.9.1 In even numbered years, the Championships shall include men's team and women's team events; while in odd numbered years the Championships shall include men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles events.
- 4.1.9.2 In doubles events, both players shall be from the same Association.
- 4.1.9.3 The system of play in team and individual events, shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, and shall be notified to all Associations not later than 30 calendar months (team events) and 6 calendar months (individual events) before the start of the Championships.
- 4.1.9.4 Team matches shall be the best of 5 singles, as provided in 3.7.6.1.
- 4.1.9.5 There shall not be more than 128 places in the first round proper of a singles and mixed doubles event nor more than 64 places in the first round proper of a men's and women's doubles event, unless otherwise authorised by the Executive Committee.
- 4.1.9.6 Each Association shall be entitled to at least a set number of entries in each singles event, but additional entries may be allowed to the organising Association and to other Associations with players near the top of the ranking list current 3 calendar months before the Championships; the number of

## 4: Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions

---

entries permitted to each Association and the basis on which entries may be assigned to a qualifying competition shall be authorised by the Board of Directors and notified to all Associations not later than 6 calendar months before the start of the Championships.

4.1.9.7 Each Association shall be entitled to 5 entries in each singles event, with 1 additional entry in the appropriate event for each place held by its player in the first 10 places of the first issue of the ITTF world ranking list in the year of the Championships, up to 7 players in each individual event.

4.1.9.7.1 The host Association may enter up to 7 pairs in the mixed doubles and 7 players in each other individual event.

4.1.9.7.2 Different players may be entered in each doubles event.

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

### 4.1.10 Default

4.1.10.1 An Association whose team is entered in the draw but which fails to compete in the event without adequate justification may be subject to disciplinary action by the AGM.

4.1.10.2 A team may begin, continue and complete a team match only with the full complement of players specified for the event, except that the referee may, at his discretion, allow a team to play with one player absent or an individual match to be omitted from the sequence where he is satisfied that the absence is due to accident, illness, injury or other circumstances outside the control of the player or the Association concerned, including disqualification by the referee in accordance with his authority.

4.1.10.3 An Association whose team begins to play in the event but which fails to complete its schedule of matches shall be liable to forfeit its entitlement to hospitality for its representatives at the Championships; an appeal against forfeit may be made to the Jury, whose decision shall be final.

### 4.1.11 Doping Control

4.1.11.1 Doping controls shall be carried out in accordance with ITTF Anti-Doping rules.

### 4.1.12 Awards and Presentations

4.1.12.1 The permanent Championship trophies shall be:

4.1.12.1.1 the Swaythling Cup for the men's team event;

4.1.12.1.2 the Marcel Corbillon Cup for the women's team event;

- 4.1.12.1.3 the St Bride Vase for the men's singles event;
- 4.1.12.1.4 the G Geist Prize for the women's singles event;
- 4.1.12.1.5 the Iran Cup for the men's doubles event;
- 4.1.12.1.6 the W J Pope Trophy for the women's doubles event;
- 4.1.12.1.7 the Heydusek prize for the mixed doubles event.
- 4.1.12.2 The Association whose team wins a team event, and the winner of an individual event, shall be entitled to hold the appropriate trophy until 31st December in the year following that in which it is won; the pair winning a doubles event shall agree or decide by lot the order in which each of them shall hold the trophy for half of the specified period.
- 4.1.12.3 A player who wins the men's or women's singles event 3 times in succession or 4 times in all shall receive from the ITTF a half-size replica of the appropriate trophy as a permanent possession.
- 4.1.12.4 In both team and individual events the winners shall receive gold medals, the losing finalists silver medals and the losing semi-finalists bronze medals.
- 4.1.12.5 At presentation ceremonies for both team and individual events the national flags of the gold, silver and bronze medal winners shall be raised and the national anthem of the gold medal winner shall be played.
- 4.1.12.6 The Association whose team or player wins a trophy shall acknowledge its receipt in writing and at the end of the specified period shall deliver it, within 14 days of a formal notification by the Secretariat, at an agreed time and to an agreed place.
- 4.1.12.7 The Association acknowledging receipt of a trophy shall be responsible for its safe keeping including the arrangement of insurance, but the cost of insurance and of inscription of winners' names, which in team events should include any non-playing captain, shall be borne by the ITTF.
- 4.1.12.8 If a trophy is lost while in the possession of an Association, that Association shall be responsible for the provision of a similar replacement.
- 4.1.12.9 A representative of the city in which the Championships is held shall be entitled to hold until the next World Championships the Egypt Cup, the symbol of the friendship of the Championships, handed over at the opening ceremony.
- 4.1.13 Television**
  - 4.1.13.1 The right to televise the Championships shall be vested in the ITTF, which shall receive a levy on any fees paid of US\$32,000 or 20% of the fees, whichever is the greater, unless otherwise agreed by the Executive Committee.



### **4.2 WORLD CUP**

#### **4.2.1 Composition**

- 4.2.1.1 Separate World Cup Tournaments for men and women will be held annually and each will be a singles competition for 16 players.
- 4.2.1.2 The participants will consist of the current holder of the World Cup, the champion player or the strongest current player from each of the 6 continents, 1 player from the host Association, the top 6 players from the World Ranking List and 2 "wild card" selections.
- 4.2.1.3 There shall not be more than 2 players from an Association unless a third is invited as a "wild card" selection.
- 4.2.1.4 Participants will be provided with free meals and accommodation from dinner on the evening before the start of the competition to breakfast on the morning after it ends; continental representatives will also be provided with free return travel tickets to the venue.

#### **4.2.2 Authority**

- 4.2.2.1 The ITTF shall be the sole owner of the World Cup title and tournaments.
- 4.2.2.2 An Association may be granted permission to organise the tournament; submission of an application to do so shall be regarded as implying knowledge and acceptance of these and all other applicable regulations.
- 4.2.2.3 Organisers shall not, without prior consent of the ITTF, delegate any of their authority nor make any contract or agreement with any other body, such as a Regional Association, a municipal authority or a sponsor.
- 4.2.2.4 Any agreement made between the organisers and any other body shall not conflict with nor derogate from the principle of these regulations; in case of any dispute the authority of the ITTF, as exercised through its representatives, shall be paramount.
- 4.2.2.5 The ITTF may enter into contracts with promoters or sponsors.

#### **4.2.3 Appointments**

- 4.2.3.1 For each tournament the Executive Committee shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a Tournament Director and a Technical Representative, each of whom shall be a member of the ITTF Executive Council or an ITTF official.
- 4.2.3.2 The Tournament Director shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for ensuring observance of the conditions laid down for the tournament, including approval of the arrangements made by the organisers for ceremonies and presentations, protocol and seating arrangements at ceremonies and social functions and the presentation of play.

- 4.2.3.3 The Technical Representative shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for ensuring the adequacy of equipment and playing conditions, supervising the draw and, in collaboration with the Tournament Director, scheduling matches.

### **4.2.4 Publications**

- 4.2.4.1 Organisers shall submit for the ITTF's prior approval the proposed wording of all posters, publicity material, programmes and other printed matter about the tournament.
- 4.2.4.2 In addition to meeting the normal requirements for reporting results Organisers shall supply the Secretariat, as soon as possible after the end of the tournament, with an agreed number of copies of all posters, programmes, souvenir programmes and results, an album containing press cuttings and a selection of the best photographs of play and of any ceremonies.

### **4.2.5 Playing System**

- 4.2.5.1 In the 1st stage of each tournament the players will be divided into 4 equal groups, with all the members of a group playing each other, and in the 2nd stage the group winners and runners-up will compete in a knockout.
- 4.2.5.2 For the 1st stage, the highest-ranked player will be placed in Group A, the 2nd highest in Group B, the 3rd highest in Group C and the 4th highest in Group D, and the remaining players will be drawn into the groups 4 at a time in ranking order.
- 4.2.5.3 If there are 2 players from the same Association, they will be drawn into separate groups but a 3rd player from the same Association may be drawn into any group.
- 4.2.5.4 For the 2nd stage, the winners of Groups A and B will be placed in positions 1 and 8 and the winners of groups C and D will be drawn between positions 4 and 5; the runners-up will be drawn into the remaining places, in opposite halves from the winners of the same groups.
- 4.2.5.5 In the semi-finals, the winner of the 1st quarterfinal will play the winner of the 2nd and the winner of the 3rd will play the winner of the 4th; the winners of the semi-finals will play each other in the final.
- 4.2.5.6 The tournaments will be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions, as modified or supplemented by any directives authorised by the Board of Directors.
- 4.2.5.7 All matches shall be the best of 7 games.

## **4.3 OLYMPICS COMPETITION**

### **4.3.1 Eligibility**

- 4.3.1.1 To be eligible for participation in the Olympic Games a player, coach or official shall comply with the Olympic Charter as well as with the ITTF rules. In particular the above mentioned persons shall
  - 4.3.1.1.1 be entered by their National Olympic Committee (NOC);
  - 4.3.1.1.2 respect the spirit of fair play and non violence, and behave accordingly on the sportsfield;
  - 4.3.1.1.3 respect and comply in all aspects with the World Anti-Doping Code;
  - 4.3.1.1.4 not allow their person, name, picture or sports performances to be used for advertising purposes during the Olympic Games, except as permitted by the IOC Executive Board.
- 4.3.1.2 The entry or participation of a player in the Olympic Games shall not be conditional on any financial consideration.
- 4.3.1.3 Any player shall be a national of the country of the NOC which is entering him.
  - 4.3.1.3.1 A player who is a national of 2 or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect.
  - 4.3.1.3.2 After having represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognised by the ITTF, a player may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in 4.3.1.3.3.
  - 4.3.1.3.3 A player who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognised by the ITTF and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the Olympic Games to represent his new country provided that at least 3 years have passed since the player last represented his former country.
  - 4.3.1.3.4 The 3-years-period mentioned in 4.3.1.3.3 may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the NOCs concerned and the ITTF Executive Committee, by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.
  - 4.3.1.3.5 If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NOC is recognised by the IOC, a player may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his country or be entered in the Olympic Games by his new NOC if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once.
- 4.3.1.4 All disputes relating to the determination of the country which a player may represent in the Olympic Games and in particular issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the player,

including the duration of any waiting period, shall be resolved by the IOC Executive Board.

### **4.3.2 Events**

- 4.3.2.1 The Olympics competition shall include at least men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles and women's doubles.

### **4.3.3 Doping Control**

- 4.3.3.1 Doping control shall be carried out in accordance with IOC rules.

## **4.4 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **4.4.1 Authority for Organisation**

- 4.4.1.1 The title "World Junior Championships", referred to in this Chapter as "Championships", shall be bestowed by the AGM on the championship events at a tournament organised by an Association entrusted with the task.
- 4.4.1.2 The closing date for applications to stage World Junior Championships shall be specified by the Executive Committee and notified to all Associations, giving at least 6 months' notice; applications shall be accepted only for the next 2 World Junior Championships.
- 4.4.1.3 All applications shall be considered by the Executive Committee and shall be submitted to the **Board**, together with details on venues for the occasion in question.
- 4.4.1.4 Where necessary, the **Board** or the Executive Committee may ask one member of the Junior Commission 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.
- 4.4.1.5 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 2/3 majority vote at the AGM preceding the Championships; between AGMs the Board of Directors shall have power to transfer the Championships or to take any other appropriate action.

### **4.4.2 Responsibilities of Organisers**

- 4.4.2.1 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 Junior Championships, as

#### 4: Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions

---

modified or supplemented by any directives authorised by the Board of Directors.

4.4.2.2 Organisers shall provide accommodation and meals from the evening before the Championships begin until the morning after the Championships end for

4.4.2.2.1 not more than 2 boys players nominated by an Association eligible for the boys team event;

4.4.2.2.2 not more than 2 girls players nominated by an Association eligible for the girls team event;

4.4.2.2.3 not more than 1 coach of an Association **participating** in 1 or 2 team events;

4.4.2.2.4 members of the **ITTF Executive Committee** and the Junior Commission;

4.4.2.2.5 up to 2 members of the Doping Control Panel appointed by the Sports Science Committee;

4.4.2.2.6 up to 2 ITTF Committee or Commission Chairmen nominated by the Executive Committee;

4.4.2.2.7 International Umpires and Referees from other Associations invited in accordance with directives issued by the ITTF;

4.4.2.2.8 up to 3 members of the ITTF staff;

4.4.2.3 Organisers shall provide free medical care and medicine for all participants, but each Association is recommended to insure its players and officials against illness and injury for the duration of the Championships.

4.4.2.4 Organisers shall meet the cost of transport between the place of accommodation and the playing hall.

4.4.2.5 Organisers shall request their national authorities to waive visa charges for all participants.

4.4.2.6 Organisers shall ensure free access to the playing hall and free circulation therein for all the players, officials and members listed in 4.4.2.2, for any additional players and ITTF officials and for any interpreter, doctor or medical adviser appointed by the ITTF.

4.4.2.7 Organisers shall provide the ITTF with offices at the venue of the Championships and place at its disposal translation, computer, internet, telephone, telefax and duplicating facilities.

4.4.2.8 Organisers shall publish a prospectus giving the main details of the organisation of the Championships, including

4.4.2.8.1 the dates and place of the Championships;

4.4.2.8.2 the events to be held;

4.4.2.8.3 the equipment to be used;

4.4.2.8.4 the procedure for entry, the entry fees and the undertakings required;

- 4.4.2.8.5 the date and place of the draw;
- 4.4.2.8.6 the dates of Jury meetings;
- 4.4.2.8.7 the extent of hospitality for players and officials;
- 4.4.2.8.8 any directives authorised by the Board of Directors for the Championships.
- 4.4.2.9 During the Championships Organisers shall make available promptly to members of the ITTF Executive Council, Board of Directors members and team captains details of results, including points scores; as soon as possible after the completion of the Championships Organisers shall publish the complete results, including points scores, and circulate them to all Associations.

### 4.4.3 Eligibility

- 4.4.3.1 Only an Association which is not in arrears (1.16.3.3) shall be eligible to enter teams or individual players in the Championships.
- 4.4.3.2 The system of qualification for team and individual events shall be determined by the **Board** not later than **18 months** before the start of the Championships.
- 4.4.3.3 All players nominated by an Association must be eligible to represent it in accordance with the provisions of 3.8 and must belong to the junior category according to 3.7.4.2.

### 4.4.4 Entry Fees

- 4.4.4.1 The entry fees shall be \$ 50 for each entry in a team event, \$ 30 for each pair in a doubles event and \$ 15 for each entry in a singles event.
- 4.4.4.2 The entry fees shall be paid to the organisers at the time of entry and shall be shared equally between the organisers and the ITTF.
- 4.4.4.3 Fees for entries from an Association are due from that Association and shall always be payable, except that the Board of Directors may waive the fees where an Association is prevented from participating in the Championships by circumstances outside its control.

### 4.4.5 Qualification and Entries

- 4.4.5.1 The intention of an Association qualified to enter teams or players shall be notified to the organisers and the ITTF in a preliminary notification form provided by the Secretariat; the closing date for the receipt of this form shall be not later than 4 calendar months before the start of the Championships.
- 4.4.5.2 Entries shall be submitted on forms distributed, together with the prospectus, by the Secretariat.

#### 4: Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions

---

4.4.5.3 Two sets of these entry forms shall be returned to the organisers and one set to the Secretariat; the closing date for the receipt of these forms shall be not later than 2 calendar months before the start of the Championships.

4.4.5.4 An Association may nominate up to 4 qualified boys and up to 4 qualified girls players.

4.4.5.5 An Association shall rank its nominated players and pairs in order of playing strength, which shall be consistent with their current ranking in the World Junior Ranking List.

4.4.5.6 Organisers may accept only formal nominations by an eligible Association, which are received, properly signed by a responsible representative of the nominating Association, on or before the closing date.

#### 4.4.6 Modification of Entries

4.4.6.1 The nominating Association may change the composition of a team by notifying the organisers up to the time of the Jury meeting preceding the Championships, but in no circumstances after the start of the event.

4.4.6.2 As soon as he arrives at the Championships venue, the representative of an Association requesting a change to the draw in consequence of any error or absence shall notify the referee or his deputy, or confirm any change already notified, on a form provided for the purpose.

4.4.6.3 A request for modification of an entry cannot be considered unless it is made or confirmed by the representative of an Association immediately on arrival, other than a request based on the subsequent absence, illness or injury of one player of a doubles pair, which shall be made as soon as the contingency arises.

4.4.6.4 All alterations that are authorised shall be notified immediately to team captains and, where appropriate, to Association representatives.

#### 4.4.7 Entry Obligations

4.4.7.1 The entry form shall contain a statement, to be signed by a responsible representative of the nominating Association on behalf of all its nominated players and captains, that they understand and accept the conditions of the Championships and that they are prepared to compete against all other teams and individuals participating; no entry shall be valid unless accompanied by this declaration.

4.4.7.2 In individual events 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 accepted to take part, and they shall not withdraw except for reasons of illness or injury.

#### **4.4.8 Jury**

- 4.4.8.1 The Jury shall consist of the Chairmen of the ITTF Junior Commission, the Chairmen of the ITTF Ranking and Rules Committees, a representative of the Umpires & Referees Committee, the ITTF Junior Program Manager, the ITTF Competition Manager, the Championships Director (or his equivalent), a representative of the organising committee and the referee; the referee shall have the right to speak but not to vote.
- 4.4.8.2 If either the Chairman of the Ranking Committee or the Chairman of the Rules Committee is unable to attend a meeting of the Jury he may nominate to attend in his place another member of his Committee, who shall have the right to speak and to vote.
- 4.4.8.3 The Chairman of the Jury shall be appointed by the Chairmen of the ITTF Junior Commission or in his absence by the ITTF Junior Program Manager.
- 4.4.8.4 Any Association directly affected by a matter under consideration at a Jury meeting shall be entitled to be represented at that meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.
- 4.4.8.5 The Jury shall have power to decide any question of appeal within the jurisdiction of a tournament management committee.
- 4.4.8.6 The Jury shall meet before the start of the Championships to be informed of all draw alterations requested up to that time; any subsequent questions of draw alteration shall be decided by the ITTF Junior Commission and the Jury shall meet again only when convened by that Commission to consider appeals against its administrative decisions or decisions of the referee.

#### **4.4.9 Events**

- 4.4.9.1 The Championships shall include boys' team and girls' team events as well as boys' singles and doubles, girls' singles and doubles and mixed doubles events.
  - 4.4.9.1.1 With the exception of mixed doubles events, both players of a doubles shall be from the same Association.
- 4.4.9.2 The system of play in the team and individual events, in groups and stages, shall be decided by the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Junior Commission, and shall be notified to all Associations not later than 6 calendar months before the start of the Championships.

#### **4.4.10 Default**

- 4.4.10.1 An Association whose team is entered in the draw but which fails to compete in the event without adequate justification may be subject to disciplinary action by the AGM.



## 4: Regulations for World and Olympic Title Competitions

---

4.4.10.2 A team may begin, continue and complete a team match only with the full complement of players specified for the event, except that the referee may, at his discretion, allow a team to play with one player absent or an individual match to be omitted from the sequence where he is satisfied that the absence is due to accident, illness, injury or other circumstances outside the control of the player or the Association concerned, including disqualification by the referee in accordance with his authority.

4.4.10.3 An Association whose team begins to play in the event but which fails to complete its schedule of matches shall be liable to forfeit its entitlement to hospitality for its representatives at the Championships; an appeal against forfeit may be made to the Jury, whose decision shall be final.

### **4.4.11 Doping Control**

4.4.11.1 If doping controls are done, they shall be carried out in accordance with ITTF Anti-Doping rules.

### **4.4.12 Awards and Presentations**

4.4.12.1 In both team and individual events the winners shall receive gold medals, the losing finalists silver medals and the losing semi-finalists bronze medals.

4.4.12.2 At presentation ceremonies for both team and individual events the national flags of the gold, silver and bronze medal winners shall be raised and the national anthem of the gold medal winner shall be played.

### **4.4.13 Television**

4.4.13.1 The right to televise the Championships shall be vested in the ITTF.

## 5 ITTF ANTI-DOPING RULES

---

At the ITTF Board of Directors meeting held on 23 May 2003 in Paris, ITTF accepted the World Anti-Doping *Code* (the "*Code*"). These Anti-Doping Rules are adopted and implemented in conformance with ITTF's responsibilities under the *Code*, and are in furtherance of ITTF's continuing efforts to eradicate doping in table tennis. These rules apply from 8 March 2004 on.

Anti-Doping Rules, like *Competition* rules, are sport rules governing the conditions under which sport is played. *Athletes* accept these rules as a condition of participation. Anti-Doping Rules are not intended to be subject to or limited by the requirements and legal standards applicable to criminal proceedings or employment matters. The policies and minimum standards set forth in the *Code* and implemented in these Anti-Doping Rules represent the consensus of a broad spectrum of stakeholders with an interest in fair sport and should be respected by all courts and adjudicating bodies.

### Scope

These Anti-Doping Rules shall apply to ITTF, each *National Association* of ITTF, and each *Participant* in the activities of ITTF or any of its *National Associations* by virtue of the *Participant's* membership, accreditation, or participation in ITTF, its *National Associations*, or their activities or *Events*.

These Anti-Doping Rules shall apply to all *Doping Controls* over which ITTF and its *National Associations* have jurisdiction.

### 5.1 DEFINITION OF DOPING

5.1.1 Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the anti-doping rule violations set forth in Article 5.2.1 through Article 5.2.8 of these Anti-Doping Rules.

### 5.2 ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

The following constitute anti-doping rule violations:

5.2.1 The presence of a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* in an *Athlete's* bodily *Specimen*

5.2.1.1 It is each *Athlete's* personal duty to ensure that no *Prohibited Substance* enters his or her body. *Athletes* are responsible for any *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* found to be present in their bodily *Specimens*. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or knowing *Use*

on the *Athlete's* part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping violation under Article 5.2.1.

5.2.1.2 Excepting those substances for which a quantitative reporting threshold is specifically identified in the *Prohibited List*, the detected presence of any quantity of a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* in an *Athlete's Sample* shall constitute an anti-doping rule violation.

5.2.1.3 As an exception to the general rule of Article 5.2.1, the *Prohibited List* may establish special criteria for the evaluation of *Prohibited Substances* that can also be produced endogenously.

### 5.2.2 Use or Attempted Use of a *Prohibited Substance* or a *Prohibited Method*

5.2.2.1 The success or failure of the *Use* of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* is not material. It is sufficient that the *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* was *Used* or *Attempted* to be *Used* for an anti-doping rule violation to be committed.

5.2.3 Refusing, or failing without compelling justification, to submit to *Sample* collection after notification as authorized in these Anti-Doping Rules or otherwise evading *Sample* collection.

5.2.4 Violation of the requirements regarding *Athlete* availability for *Out-of-Competition Testing* including failure to provide required whereabouts information set forth in Article 5.5.4.2 (*Athlete* whereabouts requirements) and missed tests which are declared based on reasonable rules.

5.2.5 *Tampering*, or *Attempting* to tamper, with any part of *Doping Control*.

### 5.2.6 Possession of *Prohibited Substances* and *Methods*

5.2.6.1 *Possession* by an *Athlete* at any time or place of a substance that is prohibited in *Out-of-Competition Testing* or a *Prohibited Method* unless the *Athlete* establishes that the *Possession* is pursuant to a therapeutic use exemption granted in accordance with Article 5.4.4 (Therapeutic Use) or other acceptable justification.

5.2.6.2 *Possession* of a *Prohibited Substance* that is prohibited in *Out-of-Competition Testing* or a *Prohibited Method* by *Athlete Support Personnel* in connection with an *Athlete*, *Event* or training, unless the *Athlete Support Personnel* establishes that the *Possession* is pursuant to a therapeutic use exemption granted to an *Athlete* in accordance with Article 5.4.4 (Therapeutic Use) or other acceptable justification.

5.2.7 *Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.*

5.2.8 Administration or *Attempted* administration of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* to any *Athlete*, or assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, covering up or any other type of complicity involving an anti-doping rule violation or any *Attempted* violation.

### 5.3 PROOF OF DOPING

#### 5.3.1 Burdens and Standards of Proof

ITTF and its *National Associations* shall have the burden of establishing that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred. The standard of proof shall be whether ITTF or its *National Association* has established an anti-doping rule violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the hearing body bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made. This standard of proof in all cases is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Where these Rules place the burden of proof upon the *Athlete* or other *Person* alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation to rebut a presumption or establish specified facts or circumstances, the standard of proof shall be by a balance of probability.

#### 5.3.2 Methods of Establishing Facts and Presumptions

Facts related to anti-doping rule violations may be established by any reliable means, including admissions. The following rules of proof shall be applicable in doping cases:

5.3.2.1 *WADA*-accredited laboratories are presumed to have conducted *Sample* analysis and custodial procedures in accordance with the *International Standard* for laboratory analysis. The *Athlete* may rebut this presumption by establishing that a departure from the *International Standard* occurred.

If the *Athlete* rebuts the preceding presumption by showing that a departure from the *International Standard* occurred, then ITTF or its *National Association* shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the *Adverse Analytical Finding*.

5.3.2.2 Departures from the *International Standard* for *Testing* which did not cause an *Adverse Analytical Finding* or other anti-doping rule violation shall not invalidate such results. If the *Athlete* establishes that departures from the *International Standard* occurred during *Testing* then ITTF or its *National Association* shall have the burden to establish that such departures did not cause the *Adverse Analytical Finding* or the factual basis for the anti-doping rule violation.

### 5.4 THE PROHIBITED LIST

#### 5.4.1 Incorporation of the *Prohibited List*

These Anti-Doping Rules incorporate the *Prohibited List* which is published and revised by *WADA* as described in Article 4.1 of the *Code*. ITTF will make the current *Prohibited List* available to each *National Association*, and each *National Association* shall ensure that the current *Prohibited List* is available to its members.<sup>1</sup>

#### 5.4.2 *Prohibited Substances* and *Prohibited Methods* Identified on the *Prohibited List*

Unless provided otherwise in the *Prohibited List* and/or a revision, the *Prohibited List* and revisions shall go into effect under these Anti-Doping Rules three months after publication of the *Prohibited List* by *WADA* without requiring any further action by ITTF. As described in Article 4.2 of the *Code*, ITTF may request that *WADA* expand the *Prohibited List*. As provided in the *Code*, *WADA* shall make the final decision on such requests by ITTF.

#### 5.4.3 Criteria for Including Substances and Methods on the *Prohibited List*

As provided in Article 4.4.3 of the *Code*, *WADA*'s determination of the *Prohibited Substances* and *Prohibited Methods* that will be included on the *Prohibited List* shall be final and shall not be subject to challenge by an *Athlete* or other *Person*.

#### 5.4.4 Therapeutic Use

5.4.4.1 *Athletes* with a documented medical condition requiring the use of a *Prohibited Substance* or a *Prohibited Method* must first obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption ("TUE").

5.4.4.2 *Athletes* included by ITTF in its *Registered Testing Pool* and other *Athletes* prior to their participation in any *International Event* must obtain a TUE from ITTF (regardless of whether the *Athlete* previously has received a TUE at the national level). TUE's granted by ITTF shall be reported to the *Athlete's National Association* and to *WADA*. Other *Athletes* subject to *Testing* may obtain a TUE from their *National Anti-Doping Organization* or other body designated by their *National Association*. *National Associations* shall promptly report any such TUE's to ITTF and *WADA*.

5.4.4.3 The ITTF Executive Committee shall appoint a panel of physicians to consider requests for TUE's (the "TUE Panel"). Upon ITTF's receipt of a TUE request, the Chair of the TUE Panel shall appoint one or more members of the TUE Panel (which may include the Chair) to consider such request. The

---

(1) The *Prohibited List* in force is available on *WADA's* website at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org)

TUE Panel member(s) so designated shall promptly evaluate such request in accordance with the *International Standard* for Therapeutic Use Exemptions and render a decision on such request, which shall be the final decision of ITTF.

- 5.4.4.3.1 *International-Level Athletes* who are included in the ITTF's *Registered Testing Pool*, should apply to ITTF for the TUE at the same time the *Athlete* first provides whereabouts information to the ITTF and, except in emergency situations, no later than 21 days before the *Athlete's* participation at an *International Event*.
- 5.4.4.3.2 *Athletes* participating in *International Events* who are not included in the ITTF *Registered Testing Pool* must, except in emergency situations, request a TUE from ITTF no later than 21 days before the *Athlete's* participation at an *International Event*.
- 5.4.4.4 WADA, at the request of an *Athlete* or on its own initiation, may review the granting or denial of any TUE to an *International Level Athlete* or a national level *Athlete* that is included in a *Registered Testing Pool*. If WADA determines that the granting or denial of a TUE did not comply with the *International Standard* for Therapeutic Use Exemptions in force at the time then WADA may reverse that decision. Decisions on TUE's are subject to further appeal as provided in Article 5.13.

## 5.5 TESTING

### 5.5.1 Authority to Test

All *Athletes* affiliated with a *National Association* shall be subject to *In-Competition Testing* by ITTF, the *Athlete's National Association*, and any other *Anti-Doping Organization* responsible for *Testing* at a *Competition* or *Event* in which they participate. All *Athletes* affiliated with a *National Association* shall also be subject to *Out-of-Competition Testing* at any time or place, with or without advance notice, by ITTF, WADA, the *Athlete's National Association*, the *National Anti-Doping Organization* of any country where the *Athlete* is present, the IOC during the Olympic Games, and the IPC during Paralympic Games.

### 5.5.2 Responsibility for ITTF *Testing*

The ITTF shall be responsible for overseeing all *Testing* conducted by ITTF. *Testing* may be conducted by members of the ITTF or by other qualified persons so authorized by ITTF.

### 5.5.3 **Testing Standards**

*Testing* conducted by ITTF and its *National Associations* shall be in substantial conformity with the *International Standard for Testing* in force at the time of *Testing*.

- 5.5.3.1 Blood (or other non-urine) *Samples* may be used either to detect *Prohibited Substances* or *Prohibited Methods* or for screening procedure purposes only. If the blood is collected for screening only, it will have no other consequences for the *Athlete* other than to identify him/her for a urine test under these anti-doping rules. In these circumstances, the ITTF may decide at its own discretion which blood parameters are to be measured in the screening *Sample* and what levels of those parameters will be used to indicate that an *Athlete* should be selected for a urine test.

### 5.5.4 **Out of competition testing**

- 5.5.4.1 Out of competition testing may be carried out in any country at any time. ITTF has identified a *Registered Testing Pool* of those *Athletes* who are subject to out of competition testing: this pool includes all athletes in the top 200 places of the men's and women's ITTF world ranking list as well as all athletes qualified for the Olympic games. ITTF may revise its *Registered Testing Pool* from time to time as appropriate.

- 5.5.4.2. *Athlete* Whereabouts Requirements: each *Athlete* in the *Registered Testing Pool* shall provide ITTF with information which specify the locations and times where the *Athlete* will be residing, training and competing. *Athletes* shall update this information as necessary so that it is current at all times. The ultimate responsibility for providing whereabouts information rests with each *Athlete*, however, it shall be the responsibility of each *National Association* to use its best efforts to assist ITTF in obtaining whereabouts information as requested by ITTF.

- 5.5.4.3 Whereabouts information provided pursuant to Article 5.5.4.2 shall be shared with *WADA* and other *Anti-Doping Organizations* having jurisdiction to test an *Athlete* on the strict condition that it be used only for *Doping Control* purposes.

### 5.5.5. **Selection of *Athletes* to be tested**

- 5.5.5.1 At *International Events*, the ITTF shall determine the number of finishing placement tests, random tests and target tests to be performed.

5.5.5.2 At *National Events*, each *National Association* shall determine the number of Athletes selected for *Testing* in each *Competition* and the procedures for selecting the *Athletes* for *Testing*.

#### 5.5.6 Retirement and return to competition

5.5.6.1 An *Athlete* who has given notice of retirement to ITTF may not resume competing unless he or she notifies ITTF at least six months before he or she expects to return to competition and is available for unannounced *Out-of-Competition Testing*, at any time during the period before actual return to competition.

### 5.6 ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

*Doping Control Samples* collected under these Anti-Doping Rules shall be analyzed in accordance with the following principles:

#### 5.6.1 Use of Approved Laboratories

ITTF shall send *Doping Control Samples* for analysis only to *WADA*-accredited laboratories or as otherwise approved by *WADA*. The choice of the *WADA*-accredited laboratory (or other method approved by *WADA*) used for the *Sample* analysis shall be determined exclusively by ITTF.

#### 5.6.2 Substances Subject to Detection

*Doping Control Samples* shall be analyzed to detect *Prohibited Substances* and *Prohibited Methods* identified on the *Prohibited List* and other substances as may be directed by *WADA* pursuant to the Monitoring Program described in Article 4.5 of the *Code*.

#### 5.6.3 Research on *Samples*

No *Sample* may be used for any purpose other than the detection of substances (or classes of substances) or methods on the *Prohibited List*, or as otherwise identified by *WADA* pursuant to its Monitoring Program, without the *Athlete's* written consent.

#### 5.6.4 Standards for *Sample* Analysis and Reporting

Laboratories shall analyze *Doping Control Samples* and report results in conformity with the *International Standard* for Laboratory Analysis.

### 5.7 RESULTS MANAGEMENT



### 5.7.1 Results Management for *Tests* Initiated by ITTF

Results management for *Tests* initiated by ITTF (including *Tests* performed by *WADA* pursuant to agreement with ITTF) shall proceed as set forth below:

- 5.7.1.1 The results from all analyses must be sent to ITTF in encoded form, in a report signed by an authorised representative of the laboratory. All communication must be conducted in such a way that the results of the analyses are confidential.
- 5.7.1.2 Upon receipt of an A *Sample Adverse Analytical Finding*, the ITTF Anti-Doping Administrator shall conduct a review to determine whether: (a) an applicable therapeutic use exemption has been granted, or (b) there is any apparent departure from the *International Standards* for *Testing* or Laboratory Analysis that undermines the validity of the *Adverse Analytical Finding*.
- 5.7.1.3 If the initial review under Article 5.7.1.2 does not reveal an applicable therapeutic use exemption or departure from the *International Standard* for *Testing* or the *International Standard* for laboratory analysis in force at the time of *Testing* or analysis that undermines the validity of the *Adverse Analytical Finding*, ITTF shall promptly notify the *Athlete* of: (a) the *Adverse Analytical Finding*; (b) the anti-doping rule violated, or, in a case under Articles 5.7.1.8 or 5.7.1.9, a description of the additional investigation that will be conducted as to whether there is an anti-doping rule violation; (c) the *Athlete's* right to promptly request the analysis of the B *Sample* or, failing such request, that the B *Sample* analysis may be deemed waived; (d) the right of the *Athlete* and/or the *Athlete's* representative to attend at their/his expense the B *Sample* opening and analysis if such analysis is requested; and (e) the *Athlete's* right to request copies of the A and B *Sample* laboratory documentation package which includes information as required by the *International Standard* for Laboratory Analysis.
- 5.7.1.4 Arrangements shall be made for *Testing* the B *Sample* within three weeks of the notification described in Article 5.7.1.3. An *Athlete* may accept the A *Sample* analytical results by waiving the requirement for B *Sample* analysis. ITTF may nonetheless elect to proceed with the B *Sample* analysis.
- 5.7.1.5 The *Athlete* and/or his representative shall be allowed to be present at the analysis of the B *Sample*. Also a representative of the *Athlete's National Association* as well as a representative of ITTF shall be allowed to be present.
- 5.7.1.6 If the B *Sample* proves negative, the entire test shall be considered negative and the *Athlete*, his *National Association*, and ITTF shall be so informed.

- 5.7.1.7 If a *Prohibited Substance* or the *Use* of a *Prohibited Method* is identified, the findings shall be reported to the *Athlete*, his *National Association*, ITTF, and to *WADA*.
- 5.7.1.8 The ITTF Anti-Doping Administrator shall conduct any follow-up investigation as may be required by the *Prohibited List*. Upon completion of such follow-up investigation, ITTF shall promptly notify the *Athlete* regarding the results of the follow-up investigation and whether or not ITTF asserts that an anti-doping rule was violated.
- 5.7.1.9 For apparent anti-doping rule violations that do not involve *Adverse Analytical Findings*, ITTF shall conduct any necessary follow-up investigation and shall then promptly notify the *Athlete* of the anti-doping rule which appears to have been violated, and the basis of the violation.
- 5.7.2 **Results Management for Tests Initiated During Other *International Events***  
Results management and the conduct of hearings from a test by the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, or a Major Event Organization, shall be managed, as far as sanctions beyond Disqualification from the Event or the results of the Event, by ITTF.
- 5.7.3 **Results Management for Tests initiated by *National Associations***  
Results management conducted by *National Associations* shall be consistent with the general principles for effective and fair results management which - underlie the detailed provisions set forth in Article 5.7.1. Results of all *Doping Controls* shall be reported to ITTF within 14 days of the conclusion of the *National Association's* results management process. Any apparent anti-doping rule violation by an *Athlete* who is a member of that *National Association* shall be promptly referred to an appropriate hearing panel established pursuant to the rules of the *National Association* or national law. Apparent anti-doping rule violations by *Athletes* who are members of another *National Association* shall be referred to the *Athlete's National Association* for hearing.
- 5.7.4 ***Provisional Suspensions***  
The ITTF Executive Committee, after consultation with the ITTF Anti-Doping Administrator, may Provisionally Suspend an *Athlete* prior to the opportunity for a full hearing based on an *Adverse Analytical Finding* from the *Athlete's A Sample* or *A and B Samples* and the review described in Article 5.7.1. If a *Provisional Suspension* is imposed, either the hearing in accordance with Article 5.8 shall be advanced to a date which avoids substantial prejudice to the *Athlete*, or the *Athlete* shall be given an opportunity for a *Provisional*

*Hearing* before imposition of the *Provisional Suspension* or on a timely basis after imposition of the *Provisional Suspension*. *National Associations* may impose *Provisional Suspensions* in accordance with the principles set forth in this Article 5.7.3.

### 5.8 RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING

#### 5.8.1 Hearings arising out of ITTF *Testing* or *Tests* at *International Events*

5.8.1.1 The ITTF Executive Committee shall appoint a standing panel consisting of a Chair and four other experts with experience in anti-doping ("ITTF Doping Hearing Panel"). The Chair shall be a lawyer. Each panel member shall be otherwise independent of ITTF. Each panel member shall serve a term of four years.

5.8.1.2 When it appears, following the Results Management process described in Article 5.7, that these Anti-Doping Rules have been violated in connection with ITTF *Testing* or *Testing* at an *International Event* then the case shall be assigned to the ITTF Doping Hearing Panel for adjudication.

5.8.1.3 The Chair of the ITTF Doping Hearing Panel shall appoint three members from the panel (which may include the Chair) to hear each case. At least one appointed member shall be a lawyer. The appointed members shall have had no prior involvement with the case and shall not have the same nationality as the *Athlete* or other *Person* alleged to have violated these Anti-Doping Rules.

5.8.1.4 Hearings pursuant to this Article shall be completed expeditiously following the completion of the results management process described in Article 5.7. Hearings held in connection with *Events* may be conducted on an expedited basis.

5.8.1.5 The *National Association* of the *Athlete* or other *Person* alleged to have violated these Anti-Doping Rules may attend the hearing as an observer.

5.8.1.6 ITTF shall keep WADA fully apprised as to the status of pending cases and the result of all hearings.

5.8.1.7 An *Athlete* or other *Person* may forego a hearing by acknowledging the Anti-Doping Rule violation and accepting *Consequences* consistent with Articles 5.9 and 5.10 as proposed by ITTF.

5.8.1.8 Decisions of the ITTF Doping Hearing Panel may be appealed to Court of Arbitration for Sport as provided in Article 5.13.

#### 5.8.2 Hearings Arising Out of National *Testing*

- 5.8.2.1 When it appears, following the Results Management process described in Article 5.7, that these Anti-Doping Rules have been violated in connection with *Testing* other than in connection with ITTF *Testing* or *Testing* at an *International Event*, the *Athlete* or other *Person* involved shall be brought before a disciplinary panel of the *Athlete* or other *Person's National Association* for a hearing to adjudicate whether a violation of these Anti-Doping Rules occurred and if so what *Consequences* should be imposed.
- 5.8.2.2 Hearings pursuant to this Article 5.8.2 shall be completed expeditiously and in all cases within three months of the completion of the Results Management process described in Article 5.7. Hearings held in connection with *Events* may be conducted by an expedited process. If the completion of the hearing is delayed beyond three months, ITTF may elect to bring the case directly before the ITTF Doping Hearing Panel at the responsibility and at the expense of the *National Association*.
- 5.8.2.3 *National Associations* shall keep ITTF and *WADA* fully apprised as to the status of pending cases and the results of all hearings.
- 5.8.2.4 ITTF and *WADA* shall have the right to attend hearings as an observer.
- 5.8.2.5 The *Athlete* or other *Person* may forego a hearing by acknowledging the violation of these Anti-Doping Rules and accepting *Consequences* consistent with Articles 5.9 and 5.10 as proposed by the *National Association*.
- 5.8.2.6 Decisions by *National Associations*, whether as the result of a hearing or the *Athlete* or other *Person's* acceptance of *Consequences*, may be appealed as provided in Article 5.13.
- 5.8.2.7 Hearing decisions by the *National Association* shall not be subject to further administrative review at the national level except as provided in Article 5.13 or required by applicable national law.
- 5.8.3 **Principles for a Fair Hearing** All hearings pursuant to either Article 5.8.1 or 5.8.2 shall respect the following principles:
- a timely hearing;
  - fair and impartial hearing body;
  - the right to be represented by counsel at the *Person's* own expense;
  - the right to be fairly and timely informed of the asserted anti-doping rule violation;
  - the right to respond to the asserted anti-doping rule violation and resulting *Consequences*;

- the right of each party to present evidence, including the right to call and question witnesses (subject to the hearing body's discretion to accept testimony by telephone or written submission);
- the *Person's* right to an interpreter at the hearing at his expense; and
- a timely, written, reasoned decision.

### 5.9 AUTOMATIC *DISQUALIFICATION* OF INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

A violation of these Anti-Doping Rules in connection with an *In-Competition* test automatically leads to *Disqualification* of the individual result obtained in that *Competition* with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

### 5.10 SANCTIONS ON INDIVIDUALS

#### 5.10.1 *Disqualification of Results in Event During which an Anti-Doping Rule Violation Occurs*

An *Anti-Doping Rule* violation occurring during or in connection with an *Event* may lead to *Disqualification* of all of the *Athlete's* individual results obtained in that *Event* with all consequences, including forfeiture of all medals, points and prizes, except as provided in Article 5.10.1.1.

- 5.10.1.1 If the *Athlete* establishes that he or she bears *No Fault or Negligence* for the violation, the *Athlete's* individual results in the other *Competition* shall not be *Disqualified* unless the *Athlete's* results in *Competition* other than the *Competition* in which the anti-doping rule violation occurred were likely to have been affected by the *Athlete's* anti-doping rule violation.

#### 5.10.2 Imposition of *Ineligibility* for *Prohibited Substances* and *Prohibited Methods*

Except for the specified substances identified in Article 5.10.3, the period of *Ineligibility* imposed for a violation of Article 5.2.1 (presence of *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers*), Article 5.2.2 (*Use* or *Attempted Use* of *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*) and Article 5.2.6 (*Possession* of *Prohibited Substances* and *Methods*) shall be:

First violation: Two (2) years' *Ineligibility*.

Second violation: Lifetime *Ineligibility*.

However, the *Athlete* or other *Person* shall have the opportunity in each case, before a period of *Ineligibility* is imposed, to establish the basis for eliminating or reducing this sanction as provided in Article 5.10.5.

#### 5.10.3. Specified Substances

The *Prohibited List* may identify specified substances which are particularly susceptible to unintentional anti-doping rules violations because of their general availability in medicinal products or which are less likely to be successfully abused as doping agents. Where an *Athlete* can establish that the *Use* of such a specified substance was not intended to enhance sport performance, the period of *Ineligibility* found in Article 5.10.2 shall be replaced with the following:

First violation: At a minimum, a warning and reprimand and no period of *Ineligibility* from future *Events*, and at a maximum, one (1) year's *Ineligibility*.

Second violation: Two (2) years' *Ineligibility*.

Third violation: Lifetime *Ineligibility*.

However, the *Athlete* or other *Person* shall have the opportunity in each case, before a period of *Ineligibility* is imposed, to establish the basis for eliminating or reducing (in the case of a second or third violation) this sanction as provided in Article 5.10.5.

#### 5.10.4 *Ineligibility for Other Anti-Doping Rule Violations*

The period of *Ineligibility* for other violations of these Anti-Doping Rules shall be:

5.10.4.1 For violations of Article 5.2.3 (refusing or failing to submit to *Sample* collection) or Article 5.2.5 (*Tampering with Doping Control*), the *Ineligibility* periods set forth in Article 5.10.2 shall apply.

5.10.4.2 For violations of Article 5.2.7 (*Trafficking*) or Article 5.2.8 (administration of *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*), the period of *Ineligibility* imposed shall be a minimum of four (4) years up to lifetime *Ineligibility*. An anti-doping rule violation involving a *Minor* shall be considered a particularly serious violation, and, if committed by *Athlete Support Personnel* for violations other than specified substances referenced in Article 5.10.3, shall result in lifetime *Ineligibility* for such *Athlete Support Personnel*. In addition, violations of such Articles which also violate non-sporting laws and regulations, may be reported to the competent administrative, professional or judicial authorities.

- 5.10.4.3 For violations of Article 5.2.4 (Whereabouts Violations or Missed *Tests*), the period of *Ineligibility* shall be:

First violation: Three (3) months to one (1) year *Ineligibility*.

Second and subsequent violations: Two (2) years' *Ineligibility*.

### 5.10.5 Elimination or Reduction of Period of *Ineligibility* Based on Exceptional Circumstances

- 5.10.5.1 If the *Athlete* establishes in an individual case involving an anti-doping rule violation under Article 5.2.1 (presence of *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers*) or *Use* of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* under Article 5.2.2 that he or she bears *No Fault or Negligence* for the violation, the otherwise applicable period of *Ineligibility* shall be eliminated. When a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Markers* or *Metabolites* is detected in an *Athlete's Specimen* in violation of Article 5.2.1 (presence of *Prohibited Substance*), the *Athlete* must also establish how the *Prohibited Substance* entered his or her system in order to have the period of *Ineligibility* eliminated. In the event this Article is applied and the period of *Ineligibility* otherwise applicable is eliminated, the anti-doping rule violation shall not be considered a violation for the limited purpose of determining the period of *Ineligibility* for multiple violations under Article 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.6.
- 5.10.5.2 This Article 5.10.5.2 applies only to anti-doping rule violations involving Article 5.2.1 (presence of *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers*), *Use* of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* under Article 5.2.2, failing to submit to *Sample* collection under Article 5.2.3, or administration of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* under Article 5.2.8. If an *Athlete* establishes in an individual case involving such violations that he or she bears *No Significant Fault or Negligence*, then the period of *Ineligibility* may be reduced, but the reduced period of *Ineligibility* may not be less than one-half of the minimum period of *Ineligibility* otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of *Ineligibility* is a lifetime, the reduced period under this section may be no less than 8 years. When a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Markers* or *Metabolites* is detected in an *Athlete's Specimen* in violation of Article 5.2.1 (presence of *Prohibited Substance*), the *Athlete* must also establish how the *Prohibited Substance* entered his or her system in order to have the period of *Ineligibility* reduced.
- 5.10.5.3 The ITTF Executive Committee may also reduce the period of *Ineligibility* in an individual case where the *Athlete* has provided substantial assistance to ITTF which results in ITTF discovering or establishing an anti-doping rule violation by another *Person* involving *Possession* under Article 5.2.6.2 (*Possession by Athlete Support Personnel*), Article 5.2.7 (*Trafficking*), or

Article 5.2.8 (administration to an *Athlete*). The reduced period of *Ineligibility* may not, however, be less than one-half of the minimum period of *Ineligibility* otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of *Ineligibility* is a lifetime, the reduced period under this Article may be no less than 8 years.

## **5.10.6 Rules for Certain Potential Multiple Violations**

**5.10.6.1** For purposes of imposing sanctions under Article 5.10.2, 5.10.3 and 5.10.4, a second anti-doping rule violation may be considered for purposes of imposing sanctions only if the ITTF (or its *National Association*) can establish that the *Athlete* or other *Person* committed the second anti-doping rule violation after the *Athlete* or other *Person* received notice, or after ITTF (or its *National Association*) made a reasonable attempt to give notice, of the first anti-doping rule violation; if the ITTF (or its *National Association*) cannot establish this, the violations shall be considered as one single first violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction.

**5.10.6.2** Where an *Athlete*, based on the same *Doping Control*, is found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation involving both a specified substance under Article 5.10.3 and another *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*, the *Athlete* shall be considered to have committed a single anti-doping rule violation, but the sanction imposed shall be based on the *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* that carries the most severe sanction.

**5.10.6.3** Where an *Athlete* is found to have committed two separate anti-doping rule violations, one involving a specified substance governed by the sanctions set forth in Article 5.10.3 (specified substances) and the other involving a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* governed by the sanctions set forth in Article 5.10.2 or a violation governed by the sanctions in Article 5.10.4.1, the period of *Ineligibility* imposed for the second offense shall be at a minimum two years' *Ineligibility* and at a maximum three years' *Ineligibility*. Any *Athlete* found to have committed a third anti-doping rule violation involving any combination of specified substances under Article 5.10.3 and any other anti-doping rule violation under Article 5.10.2 or 5.10.4.1 shall receive a sanction of lifetime *Ineligibility*.

## **5.10.7 *Disqualification* of Results in Competitions Subsequent to Sample Collection**

In addition to the automatic *Disqualification* of the results in the *Competition* which produced the positive *Sample* under Article 5.9 (Automatic *Disqualification* of Individual Results), all other competitive results obtained



from the date a positive *Sample* was collected (whether *In-Competition* or *Out-of-Competition*), or other doping violation occurred, through the commencement of any *Provisional Suspension* or *Ineligibility* period, shall, unless fairness requires otherwise, be *Disqualified* with all of the resulting consequences including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

### 5.10.8 Commencement of *Ineligibility* Period

The period of *Ineligibility* shall start on the date of the hearing decision providing for *Ineligibility* or, if the hearing is waived, on the date *Ineligibility* is accepted or otherwise imposed. Any period of *Provisional Suspension* (whether imposed or voluntarily accepted) shall be credited against the total period of *Ineligibility* to be served. Where required by fairness, such as delays in the hearing process or other aspects of *Doping Control* not attributable to the *Athlete*, the ITTF or *Anti-Doping Organization* imposing the sanction may start the period of *Ineligibility* at an earlier date commencing as early as the date of *Sample* collection.

### 5.10.9 Status During *Ineligibility*

No *Person* who has been declared *Ineligible* may, during the period of *Ineligibility*, participate in any capacity in an *Event* or activity (other than authorized anti-doping education or rehabilitation programs) authorized or organized by ITTF or any *National Association*. In addition, for any anti-doping rule violation not involving specified substances described in Article 5.10.3, some or all sport-related financial support or other sport-related benefits received by such *Person* will be withheld by ITTF and its *National Associations*. A *Person* subject to a period of *Ineligibility* longer than four years may, after completing four years of the period of *Ineligibility*, participate in local sport events in a sport other than sports subject to the jurisdictions of ITTF and its *National Associations*, but only so long as the local sport event is not at a level that could otherwise qualify such *Person* directly or indirectly to compete in (or accumulate points toward) a national championship or *International Event*.

### 5.10.10. Reinstatement *Testing*

As a condition to regaining eligibility at the end of a specified period of *Ineligibility*, an *Athlete* must, during any period of *Provisional Suspension* or *Ineligibility*, make him or herself available for *Out-of-Competition Testing* by ITTF, the applicable *National Association*, and any other *Anti-Doping Organization* having *Testing* jurisdiction, and must provide current and

accurate whereabouts information as provided in Article 5.5.4.2 If an *Athlete* subject to a period of *Ineligibility* retires from sport and is removed from *Out-of-Competition Testing* pools and later seeks reinstatement, the *Athlete* shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the *Athlete* has notified ITTF and the applicable *National Association* and has been subject to *Out-of-Competition Testing* for a period of time equal to the longer of the period set forth in Article 5.5.6 or the period of *Ineligibility* remaining as of the date the *Athlete* had retired. Once the period of an *Athlete's* suspension has expired, and the *Athlete* has fulfilled the conditions of reinstatement, then the *Athlete* will become automatically re-eligible and no application by the *Athlete* or by the *Athlete's National Association* will then be necessary.

## **5.11 CONSEQUENCES TO TEAMS**

- 5.11.1. If a member of a doubles pair or a team is found to have committed a violation of these Anti-Doping Rules during an *Event*, the doubles pair or the team shall be *Disqualified* from the *Event*, and any title, medal, points and prize shall will be withdrawn.

## **5.12 SANCTIONS AND COSTS ASSESSED AGAINST NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- 5.12.1 The ITTF Executive Committee has the authority to withhold some or all funding or other non financial support to *National Associations* that are not in compliance with these Anti-Doping Rules.
- 5.12.2 ITTF may elect to take additional disciplinary action against National Associations with respect to recognition, the eligibility of its officials and athletes to participate in International Events, and fines.

## **5.13 APPEALS**

### **5.13.1 Decisions Subject to Appeal**

Decisions made under these Anti-Doping Rules may be appealed as set forth below in Article 5.13.2 through 5.13.4. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the appellate body orders otherwise. Before an appeal is commenced, any post-decision review authorized in Article 5.8.2.7 must be exhausted.

### 5.13.2 Appeals from Decisions Regarding *Anti-Doping* Rule Violations, Consequences, and *Provisional Suspensions*

A decision that an anti-doping rule violation was committed, a decision imposing *Consequences* for an anti-doping rule violation, a decision that no anti-doping rule violation was committed, a decision that the ITTF or its *National Association* lacks jurisdiction to rule on an alleged anti-doping rule violation or its *Consequences* may be appealed exclusively as provided in this Article 5.13.2.

5.13.2.1 In cases arising from competition in an *International Event* or in cases involving *International-Level Athletes*, the decision may be appealed exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") in accordance with the provisions applicable before such court.

5.13.2.2 In cases involving *Athletes* that do not have a right to appeal under Article 5.13.2.1, each *National Association* shall have in place an appeal procedure that respects the following principles: a timely hearing, a fair and impartial hearing body; the right to be represented by a counsel at the person's expense; and a timely, written, reasoned decision. ITTF's rights of appeal with respect to these cases are set forth in Article 5.13.2.3 below.

5.13.2.3 In cases under Article 5.13.2.1, the following parties shall have the right to appeal to CAS: (a) the *Athlete* or other *Person* who is the subject of the decision being appealed; (b) the other party to the case in which the decision was rendered; (c) ITTF and any other *Anti-Doping Organization* under whose rules a sanction could have been imposed; (d) the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, as applicable, where the decision may have an effect in relation to the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games, including decisions affecting eligibility for the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games; and (e) *WADA*. In cases under Article 5.13.2.2, the parties having the right to appeal to the national-level reviewing body shall be as provided in the *National Association's* rules but, at a minimum, shall include: (a) the *Athlete* or other *Person* who is the subject of the decision being appealed; (b) the other party to the case in which the decision was rendered; (c) ITTF; and (d) *WADA*. For cases under Article 5.13.2.2, *WADA* and ITTF shall also have the right to appeal to CAS with respect to the decision of the national-level reviewing body.

### 5.13.3 Appeals from Decisions Granting or Denying a Therapeutic Use Exemption

Decisions by *WADA* reversing the grant or denial of an exemption for therapeutic use may be appealed exclusively to CAS by the *Athlete*, ITTF, or

*National Anti-Doping Organization* or other body designated by a *National Association* which granted or denied the exemption. Decisions to deny therapeutic use exemptions, and which are not reversed by *WADA*, may be appealed by *International-Level Athletes* to CAS and by other *Athletes* to the national level reviewing body described in Article 5.13.2.2. If the national level reviewing body reverses the decision to deny a therapeutic use exemption, that decision may be appealed to CAS by *WADA*.

#### 5.13.4 Appeal from Decisions Pursuant to Article 5.12

Decisions by ITTF pursuant to Article 5.12 may be appealed exclusively to CAS by the *National Association*.

#### 5.13.5 Time for Filing Appeals

The time to file an appeal to CAS shall be twenty-one (21) days from the date of receipt of the decision by the appealing party. The above notwithstanding, the following shall apply in connection with appeals filed by a party entitled to appeal but which was not a party to the proceedings having lead to the decision subject to appeal:

- a) Within ten (10) days from notice of the decision, such party/ies shall have the right to request from the body having issued the decision a copy of the file on which such body relied;
- b) If such a request is made within the ten-day period, then the party making such request shall have twenty-one (21) days from receipt of the file to file an appeal to CAS.

### 5.14 NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION OF ITTF RULES, REPORTING AND RECOGNITION

#### 5.14.1 Incorporation of ITTF Anti-Doping Rules

All *National Associations* shall comply with these Anti-Doping Rules. These Anti-Doping Rules shall also be incorporated either directly or by reference into each *National Associations* Rules. All *National Associations* shall include in their regulations the procedural rules necessary to effectively implement these Anti-Doping Rules. The Rules of each *National Association* shall specifically provide that all *Athletes*, *Athlete Support Personnel* and other *Persons* under the jurisdiction of the *National Association* shall be bound by these Anti-Doping Rules.

#### 5.14.2 Statistical Reporting

*National Associations* shall report to ITTF at the end of every playing season (August 31) results of all *Doping Controls* within their jurisdiction sorted by

*Athlete* and identifying each date on which the *Athlete* was tested, the entity conducting the test, and whether the test was *In-Competition* or *Out-of-Competition*. ITTF may periodically publish *Testing* data received from *National Associations* as well as comparable data from *Testing* under ITTF's jurisdiction.

### 5.14.3 Public Disclosure

Neither ITTF nor its *National Association* shall publicly identify *Athletes* whose *Samples* have resulted in *Adverse Analytical Findings*, or who were alleged to have violated other Articles of these Anti-Doping Rules until it has been determined in a hearing in accordance with Article 8 that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred, or such hearing has been waived, or the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation has not been timely challenged. Once a violation of these Anti-Doping Rules has been established, it shall be publicly reported within 20 days.

### 5.14.4 Recognition of Decisions by ITTF and *National Associations*

Any decision of ITTF or a *National Association* regarding a violation of these Anti-Doping Rules shall be recognized by all *National Associations*, which shall take all necessary action to render such results effective.

## 5.15 RECOGNITION OF DECISIONS BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Subject to the right to appeal provided in Article 5.13, the *Testing*, therapeutic use exemptions and hearing results or other final adjudications of any *Signatory* to the *Code* which are consistent with the *Code* and are within the *Signatory's* authority, shall be recognised and respected by ITTF and its *National Associations*. ITTF and its *National Associations* may recognize the same actions of other bodies which have not accepted the *Code* if the rules of those bodies are otherwise consistent with the *Code*.

## 5.16 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

No action may be commenced under these Anti-Doping Rules against an *Athlete* or other *Person* for a violation of an anti-doping rule contained in these Anti-Doping Rules unless such action is commenced within eight years from the date the violation occurred.

## 5.17 ITTF COMPLIANCE REPORTS TO WADA

The ITTF will report to WADA on the ITTF's compliance with the *Code* every second year and shall explain reasons for any non-compliance.

**5.18 AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF ANTI-DOPING RULES**

- 5.18.1 These Anti-Doping Rules may be amended from time to time by the ITTF Board of Directors.
- 5.18.2 Except as provided in Article 5.18.5, these Anti-Doping Rules shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to existing law or statutes.
- 5.18.3 The headings used for the various Parts and Articles of these Anti-Doping Rules are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of these Anti-Doping Rules or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 5.18.4 The INTRODUCTION and the APPENDIX I DEFINITIONS shall be considered integral parts of these Anti-Doping Rules.
- 5.18.5 These Anti-Doping Rules have been adopted pursuant to the applicable provisions of the *Code* and shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with applicable provisions of the *Code*. The comments annotating various provisions of the *Code* may, where applicable, assist in the understanding and interpretation of these Anti-Doping Rules.
- 5.18.6 Notice to an *Athlete* or other *Person* who is a member of a *National Association* may be accomplished by delivery of the notice to the *National Association*.
- 5.18.7 These Anti-Doping Rules shall not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the date these Anti-Doping Rules came into effect.

## APPENDIX 1 - DEFINITIONS

*Adverse Analytical Finding.* A report from a laboratory or other approved *Testing* entity that identifies in a *Specimen* the presence of a *Prohibited Substance* or its *Metabolites* or *Markers* (including elevated quantities of endogenous substances) or evidence of the *Use of a Prohibited Method*.

*Anti-Doping Organization.* A *Signatory* that is responsible for adopting rules for initiating, implementing or enforcing any part of the *Doping Control* process. This includes, for example, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, other *Major Event Organizations* that conduct *Testing* at their *Events*, WADA, International Federations, and *National Anti-Doping Organizations*.

*Athlete.* For purposes of *Doping Control*, any *Person* who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Association) or national level (as defined by each *National Anti-Doping Organization*) and any additional *Person* who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the *Person's National Anti-Doping Organization*. For purposes of anti-doping information and education, any *Person* who participates in sport under the authority of any *Signatory*, government, or other sports organization accepting the *Code*.

*Athlete Support Personnel.* Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating *Athletes* participating in or preparing for sports competition.

*Attempt.* Purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the commission of an anti-doping rule violation. Provided, however, there shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on an *Attempt* to commit a violation if the *Person* renounces the attempt prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the *Attempt*.

*Code.* The World Anti-Doping *Code*.

*Competition.* A single race, match, game or singular athletic contest. For example, the finals of the Olympic 100-meter dash. For stage races and other athletic contests where prizes are awarded on a daily or other interim basis the distinction between a *Competition* and an *Event* will be as provided in the rules of the applicable International Federation.

*Consequences of Anti-Doping Rules Violations.* An *Athlete's* or other *Person's* violation of an anti-doping rule may result in one or more of the following: (a) *Disqualification* means the *Athlete's* results in a particular *Competition* or *Event* are invalidated, with all

resulting consequences including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes; (b) Ineligibility means the *Athlete* or other *Person* is barred for a specified period of time from participating in any *Competition* or other activity or funding as provided in Article 10.9; and (c) Provisional Suspension means the *Athlete* or other *Person* is barred temporarily from participating in any *Competition* prior to the final decision at a hearing conducted under Article 8 (Right to a Fair Hearing).

Disqualification. See *Consequences of Anti-Doping Rules Violations* above.

Doping Control. The process including test distribution planning, *Sample* collection and handling, laboratory analysis, results management, hearings and appeals.

Event. A series of individual *Competitions* conducted together under one ruling body (e.g. the Olympic Games, FINA World Championships, or Pan American Games).

In-Competition. For purposes of differentiating between *In-Competition* and *Out-of-Competition* Testing, unless provided otherwise in the rules of an International Federation or other relevant *Anti-Doping Organization*, an *In-Competition* test is a test where an *Athlete* is selected for testing in connection with a specific *Competition*.

Independent Observer Program. A team of observers, under the supervision of WADA, who observe the *Doping Control* process at certain *Events* and report on observations. If WADA is testing *In-Competition* at an *Event*, the observers shall be supervised by an independent organization.

Ineligibility. See *Consequences of Anti-Doping Rules Violations* above.

International Event. An *Event* where the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, an International Federation, a *Major Event Organization*, or another international sport organization is the ruling body for the *Event* or appoints the technical officials for the *Event*.

International-Level Athlete. *Athletes* designated by one or more International Federations as being within the *Registered Testing Pool* for an International Federation.

International Standard. A standard adopted by WADA in support of the *Code*. Compliance with an *International Standard* (as opposed to another alternative standard, practice or procedure) shall be sufficient to conclude that the procedures addressed by the *International Standard* were performed properly.

Major Event Organizations. This term refers to the continental associations of *National Olympic Committees* and other international multi-sport organizations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other *International Event*.



Marker. A compound, group of compounds or biological parameters that indicates the Use of a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*.

Metabolite. Any substance produced by a biotransformation process.

Minor. A natural *Person* who has not reached the age of majority as established by the applicable laws of his or her country of residence.

National Anti-Doping Organization. The entity(ies) designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of *Samples*, the management of test results, and the conduct of hearings, all at the national level. If this designation has not been made by the competent public authority(ies), the entity shall be the country's *National Olympic Committee* or its designee.

National Event. A sport *Event* involving international or national-level Athletes that is not an *International Event*.

National Association. A national or regional entity which is a member of or is recognized by ITTF as the entity governing the ITTF's sport in that nation or region.

National Olympic Committee. The organization recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The term *National Olympic Committee* shall also include the National Sport Confederation in those countries where the National Sport Confederation assumes typical *National Olympic Committee* responsibilities in the anti-doping area.

No Advance Notice. A *Doping Control* which takes place with no advance warning to the *Athlete* and where the *Athlete* is continuously chaperoned from the moment of notification through *Sample* provision.

No Fault or Negligence. The *Athlete's* establishing that he or she did not know or suspect, and could not reasonably have known or suspected even with the exercise of utmost caution, that he or she had *Used* or been administered the *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*.

No Significant Fault or Negligence. The *Athlete's* establishing that his or her fault or negligence, when viewed in the totality of the circumstances and taking into account the criteria for *No Fault or Negligence*, was not significant in relationship to the anti-doping rule violation.

Out-of-Competition. Any *Doping Control* which is not *In-Competition*.

Participant. Any *Athlete* or *Athlete Support Personnel*.

Person. A natural *Person* or an organization or other entity.

Possession. The actual, physical possession, or the constructive possession (which shall be found only if the person has exclusive control over the *Prohibited Substance/Method* or the premises in which a *Prohibited Substance/Method* exists); provided, however, that if the person does not have exclusive control over the *Prohibited Substance/Method* or the premises in which a *Prohibited Substance/Method* exists, constructive possession shall only be found if the person knew about the presence of the *Prohibited Substance/Method* and intended to exercise control over it. Provided, however, there shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on possession if, prior to receiving notification of any kind that the *Person* has committed an anti-doping rule violation, the *Person* has taken concrete action demonstrating that the *Person* no longer intends to have *Possession* and has renounced the *Person's* previous *Possession*.

Prohibited List. The List identifying the *Prohibited Substances* and *Prohibited Methods*.

Prohibited Method. Any method so described on the *Prohibited List*.

Prohibited Substance. Any substance so described on the *Prohibited List*.

Provisional Hearing. For purposes of Article 5.7.4, an expedited abbreviated hearing occurring prior to a hearing under Article 5.8 (Right to a Fair Hearing) that provides the *Athlete* with notice and an opportunity to be heard in either written or oral form.

Provisional Suspension. See *Consequences* above.

Publicly Disclose or Publicly Report. To disseminate or distribute information to the general public or persons beyond those persons entitled to earlier notification in accordance with Article 5.14.

Registered Testing Pool. The pool of top level *Athletes* established separately by each International Federation and *National Anti-Doping Organization* who are subject to both *In-Competition* and *Out-of-Competition Testing* as part of that International Federation's or Organization's test distribution plan.

Sample/Specimen. Any biological material collected for the purposes of *Doping Control*.

Signatories. Those entities signing the *Code* and agreeing to comply with the *Code*, including the International Olympic Committee, International Federations, International Paralympic Committee, *National Olympic Committees*, National Paralympic Committees, *Major Event Organizations*, *National Anti-Doping Organizations*, and WADA.

*Tampering.* Altering for an improper purpose or in an improper way; bringing improper influence to bear; interfering improperly to alter results or prevent normal procedures from occurring.

*Target Testing.* Selection of *Athletes* for *Testing* where specific *Athletes* or groups of *Athletes* are selected on a non-random basis for *Testing* at a specified time.

*Testing.* The parts of the *Doping Control* process involving test distribution planning, *Sample* collection, *Sample* handling, and *Sample* transport to the laboratory.

*Trafficking.* To sell, give, administer, transport, send, deliver or distribute a *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method* to an *Athlete* either directly or through one or more third parties, but excluding the sale or distribution (by medical personnel or by *Persons* other than an *Athlete's Support Personnel*) of a *Prohibited Substance* for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes.

*Use.* The application, ingestion, injection or consumption by any means whatsoever of any *Prohibited Substance* or *Prohibited Method*.

*WADA.* The World Anti-Doping Agency.

# DIRECTIVES FOR MATCH OFFICIALS AT WORLD TITLE COMPETITIONS

---

- 1 The referee and deputy referees shall be International Referees.
- 2 At least 1/3 of the referees shall be from Associations other than the organising Association and at World Championships there shall be at least 2 from another Continent.
- 3 All umpires shall be International Umpires (IU), except that at World Championships up to 1/4 of the total may be National Umpires of the organising Association.
- 4 At World Championships, at least 1/3 of the umpires shall be from Associations other than the organising Association, representing at least 5 Associations and including at least 3 from each Continent.
- 5 Umpires from the same Association shall be dressed alike.
- 6 All IUs shall wear the IU lapel badge and organisers are recommended to provide name badges for all match officials.
- 7 All visiting match officials shall be provided with free accommodation, meals and local transport on the same basis and to the same standard as visiting players, and with pocket money of \$US15 or the equivalent for each day of the competition.
- 8 The names and Associations of all match officials shall be included in the official programme and in staged matches the names of the umpires shall be announced.
- 9 No match official shall be on duty for more than 8 hours in a day and at World Championships each shall have 1 free day.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OPEN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

---

## **1 FACILITIES**

- 1.1 Hotels should be of at least 3-star standard and with easy access to the playing hall, which ideally should be within walking distance; there should be rooms for 1 or 2 persons, with bath or shower.
- 1.2 Where necessary, a frequent transport service should be provided between hotel and playing hall; its schedule should be flexible enough to cope with unplanned requirements, such as taking players back to the hotel after a late finish.
- 1.3 There should be a choice of meals, taking account of any special dietary requirements, and meal times should be flexible and co-ordinated with the times of playing sessions; refreshments, especially soft drinks, should be available in or near to the playing hall.
- 1.4 The playing hall should be large enough to accommodate at least 8 tables, in separate playing areas of at least 14m X 7m; there should be a practice hall, or a separate practice area in the main hall, with not fewer than half as many tables as in the main hall and with similar playing conditions.
- 1.5 Changing rooms should be of a good standard with enough showers and toilets for the numbers of players taking part, preferably with individual lockers for players' clothing; there should also be rest rooms for players and match officials.
- 1.6 The medical service in the playing hall should be capable of dealing with all likely minor illnesses and injuries and there should be provision for taking anyone needing more extensive treatment to a suitable medical centre or hospital.

## **2 EVENTS, DRAW AND SCHEDULE**

- 2.1 The events should include men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles and women's doubles; any associated team events should be completed before individual events begin.
- 2.2 There should be a knock-out of not more than 64 places in singles and not more than 32 places in doubles, with 25% of the places for seeds, 25% for other direct entries, 25% for byes and 25% for qualifiers; singles qualifying competitions should be run on the basis of round-robin groups of at least 4 players.

- 2.3 Direct entry should be based on ranking except that, where necessary, the organising Association may allocate up to 2 wild card entries in singles and 1 in doubles to ensure that 2 of its players in singles, and 1 of its pairs in doubles, are given direct entry.
- 2.4 In the knockout stage, matches should not be scheduled to start before 1000 or to end after 2200 and no player should be required to play more than 4 matches in a day.

### **3 MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 3.1 The referee and deputy referees should be International Referees or International Umpires; at least one of these officials should be from a foreign Association.
- 3.2 At least 30% of the umpires should be IUs from foreign Associations; all visiting umpires and referees should receive free hospitality and a daily allowance equivalent to US\$15.
- 3.3 There should be a qualified umpire and assistant umpire for each match and for any match the umpires should be from Associations other than those of the players taking part.
- 3.4 Before the tournament the referee should conduct a briefing meeting for umpires and provide them with a schedule of duties, which should not require them to officiate at more than 2 sessions of about 4 hours' duration in a day.

### **4 PRESENTATION**

- 4.1 The playing hall should be kept tidy and only necessary players and officials allowed in the playing area; around the playing area there should be no refreshment bars or vendors' stands, nor any obtrusive advertisements or bright lights which might disturb players.
- 4.2 Interesting matches should be scheduled at times and on tables that are convenient for spectators and the media; finals and semi-finals should be properly staged, on not more than 2 tables at once.
- 4.3 Media personnel should be provided with all necessary services, including access to telephone and fax facilities, and should be supplied promptly with all results and news items; there should be public displays of results, regularly updated.
- 4.4 Press photographers and TV camera operators should have good access to the playing area, taking account of the interests of spectators and players; there should be one or more rooms in which players can be interviewed by press and TV reporters.