

# USATT Coaching Newsletter



*From the USATT Coaching Advisory Committee*

THIRD EDITION

MAY 30, 2011

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Welcome to our third edition of the USATT Coaching Newsletter. Our efforts to bring the ITTF Coaching Education Program to the USATT have reached a new milestone with the beginning of regional ITTF-PPT Level 1 Courses. Read on for complete information on our progress. USATT Coaching Advisory Members: Richard McAfee, Larry Hodges, Ernesto Ebuén, Daniel Rutenberg, and Nan Li (Athlete Representative)

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## A CHANGING OF THE GUARD, NEW USATT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

After two years of service, several Coaching Advisory Members have stepped down to concentrate on their own coaching efforts. USATT Coaching wants to thank: Sean O'Neill, Wei Wang, and Brian Pace for all their contributions to the USATT Coaching Program. We also want to welcome our new USATT Coaching Advisory Members: Larry Hodges (MD), Ernesto Ebuén (NY), and Daniel Rutenberg (TX). Nan Li (CA) continues in her role as the Athlete Representative on the committee and Richard McAfee continues to serve as Chairman.

### **2011-2012 Coaching Advisory Committee**

Chairman: Richard McAfee – [rmcafee@comcast.net](mailto:rmcafee@comcast.net)

Larry Hodges – [larry@larrytt.com](mailto:larry@larrytt.com)

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## USATT TO OFFER THE FIRST EVER WOMEN'S COACHING COURSE

The USATT is proud to announce the first ever, Women's ITTF Course. The course will be conducted from September 11-17, 2011 at the United States Olympic Center in Colorado Springs and will feature a special guest course conductor, Polona Cehovin Sushin. Polona serves as the ITTF European Development Officer and is a leading exponent of Women's Education and Coaching within the ITTF. Polona will conduct both an ITTF-PTT Level 1 Course and also an ITTF Course Conductor Course. In addition, several experts will give presentations on "Women's Issues" in sports. The USATT is also inviting coaches from other English speaking Pan-Am Countries to take part.



The USATT Coaching Advisory Committee believes that the shortage of women athletes in the USATT is directly related to the shortage of certified Women Coaches. We need more women coaches, not only to teach but also to serve as positive "role models" for our juniors. Whether you are an experience coach looking to obtain ITTF Certification or a person wishing to become a coach, this is a unique opportunity to be a part of the first ITTF Women's Course in the USATT. Complete information can be found on the USATT website home page.

(Polona Cehovin Sushin)

## ITTF COURSE IN MD-FIRST EVER ITTF REGIONAL COURSE HELD

Another first for USATT took place in Maryland during April 2011, as ITTF Course Conductor, Larry Hodges, conducted the first ever regional ITTF Level 1 Course. Fourteen coaches attended April 16-17 and April 23-24, 2011, six hours per day, to begin the qualification process to become certified as coaches by the International Table Tennis Federation. In addition to attending the course, each coach has an additional 30 hours of coaching practice to finish after the course with 5 hours of that supervised and evaluation, to complete the ITTF Certification Requirements. Already several coaches have completed the requirements and become ITTF Level 1 Coaches. ITTF Coaches are listed on the ITTF Coaches Database and also on the USATT Coaches Database. For the complete story, see: [http://tabletennis.teamusa.org/news/2011/05/03/ittf-coaching-course-in-maryland/42136?ngb\\_id=11](http://tabletennis.teamusa.org/news/2011/05/03/ittf-coaching-course-in-maryland/42136?ngb_id=11)



## **MORE ITTF REGIONAL LEVEL 1 COURSES COMING IN 2011**

Now is the time for all Coaches, to jump on-board the USATT Coaches Education Program. The USATT will be offering a series of regional ITTF Level 1 Courses during the remainder of 2011. The goal is to create a large base of Certified Level 1 Coaches, so that ITTF Level 2 Course can begin in 2012. Currently we have the following courses scheduled:

***June 18, 2011 to July 10, 2011 - Brooklyn, New York, United States***

***August 01, 2011 to August 05, 2011 - Littleton, Colorado, United States***

***August 30, 2011 to September 03, 2011 - Dunellen, New Jersey, United States***

For complete information, click on the "coaching tab" at: <http://tabletennis.teamusa.org/>

A special "thank you" goes to Sean O'Neill for creating our new Coaching Page at "teamusa.org".

We expect to announce several new regional courses in the near future. Join a course, your athletes will respect your commitment to your own professional development. Good coaches are also good students of the game!

## **TOO MANY OPPONENTS – BY: RAY CAVICCHIO, IR, IU**

I've been involved with table tennis for most of my life. During this time, I have been coaching & officiating in the sport. I have officiated from local to international levels. I have noticed on numerous occasions a very skillful athlete starting to get into difficulties & then blame going to the umpire.

The real fault has been the coaches. I strongly believe the coach's job is not complete until they have covered the service rules with their players. Why give away points? With the game scoring system to 11 points, you are giving away almost 10% of the game points with one fault. Most athletes cannot afford this donation.

Teach your players to serve legally from the start. Once they develop a bad habit of not serving legally, it will be more difficult to correct. This bad habit can come out under the pressure of a close match. The players, can at times, lose their concentration to the extent they may lose a few points in a row, as a result of being faulted. This should not be happening, with a well trained individual, the only opponents are the ones on the other side of the net. The umpire should never be considered as an opponent. They are there to make the match fair according to the rules. They don't make the rules, they enforce them. Log on to USATT web site to see the updated rules. The ITTF revises the table tennis rules every year or two. By updating your knowledge of the changes, you won't be surprised when a change in the rules causes your player to be faulted.

In order for an athlete to be a more complete player, consider having a thorough understanding of the rules of table tennis. I have seen on several occasions where a world class player has lost a point due to poor knowledge of the rules. There were two cases where the ball was still in play & the player stopped because they had thought the rally was over. In both cases this resulted in their loss of a point.

Again, why penalize yourself.

In the recent Olympics, there was a long dispute over whose point it was after a rally. Only one of the players was correct. It was clear the point belongs to one player, but the opponent was disputing the facts. The incident wouldn't have occurred if both athletes had a good understanding of the rules. There's a misconception among some players that the umpire would give a warning before faulting. This isn't true. The umpire may give a warning on a marginal serve. Unlike most sports where the umpires are well paid, it usually costs the table tennis umpire money on travel to officiate tournaments. The umpires are considered volunteers. They are doing this work for the sport's benefit. As a player, show some courtesy to the volunteers. Also, if you are faulted in the process of a serve, ask politely why the fault. The umpire will explain why you were faulted. This will help reduce the possibility of the fault occurring again. That is, unless you do the same serve again. World class players learn from their mistakes. They don't repeat the illegal serve. Learn the rules & make sure the athletes under your tutelage serves legally. Good luck.

Ray Cavicchio, IR, IU

## FOR THE FUTURE

2011 Will go down as the year the USATT moved to make coaching education opportunities available to every coach in the country. The USATT Coaching Advisory Committee would like to urge every coach or person interested in becoming a coach to join an ITTF-PTT Level 1 Course in their region. In the future, higher level ITTF Courses will be made available in the USATT but you "MUST" be a Level 1 Course to take part.