

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)
June – July 2015
Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair
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During June – July 2015, the HPC did not hold any formal meetings or conference calls. However, the following summary of its actions and discussions is offered to inform USATT members about the HPC's activities conducted by email, and through participation in the other USATT activities.

1. The HPC received reports from the national team coaches on the preparation of adult team members for the U.S Open and Pan American Games.
2. The HPC deliberated at considerable length on the appropriate team trials and playing formats for the 2016 adult national and Olympic teams. Key decisions included designating the 2015 Nationals as part of the team trial, so that the winners of the Men's and Women's Singles events will qualify for either or both teams to the extent they are eligible. As well, it was decided that two separate trials will take place for the national team and Olympic team, for several reasons – to focus on the two trials as separate events to be promoted (particularly for the Olympic trial), because of timing of the World Championship that requires a relatively early selection of the national teams, and to limit participation in each trial to only players specifically eligible for it. The last point about eligible versus ineligible players is a recurring question for qualifications for national teams, and some other points of view also have been expressed – including that team members who hope to succeed in stronger international competition should be able to compete successfully against players of mixed eligibility, and that success in international competition should be considered as a credential for team membership (particularly since such success is the goal for our teams). The HPC's selection criteria for national teams continue to balance these considerations. In this instance, each trial will be separate and continue only players specifically eligible for it, while the Nationals championship singles events may include a mix.
3. The playing format for the separate national and Olympic trial events was discussed, and the multiple draw format was chosen again. Some continuing advantages of this format include its clarity (winners of daily draws make the team); its lack of incentives or opportunities for manipulation to aid a player's friends or relatives (generally speaking, the format only rewards the winning of matches); and its resolution of issues regarding defaults for injury, illness or a lack of continuing interest from players in late-round round robin matches when they have already failed to make a team (match losers are just out of the draw). The format was modified in one particular respect: In prior years, placement matches below the daily draw winners were based only on the final day's draw and results. This time, results from all of the days' draws will be given equal weight and opportunity, e.g. a runner-up from the first day will have the same

opportunity as the runner-up from the last day in placement matches (and so on with regard to all the placement matches). This modification to the format was thought to more fairly and accurately represent the results of the overall trial, rather than overweighting the final day.