

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)
February – March 2014

Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair
April 13, 2014

During February – March 2014, 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 reviewed and discussed reports of our teams' participation in the Para Pan American Championships held in Costa Rica in December. A few notable questions and issues were raised, including the best approach to managing a sizeable U.S. delegation, the number of allocated positions for U.S. athletes in the next Para Pan Ams in light of our number of ranked and classified athletes, and whether another country had deliberately defaulted a team match for tactical reasons (thereby denying some of our athletes the opportunity to gain needed experience and ranking points). USATT staff and HPC members worked together to follow up on some of these issues. The increasingly high level of the competition also was noted, and poses challenges for our ongoing performance even given the significant number of promising athletes now engaged in the Para program.
2. Mitch Seidenfeld reluctantly offered his resignation from the HPC in light of ongoing demands he faces in his professional efforts (including the promotion of table tennis), and those related to family health and wellness. HPC members thanked Mr. Seidenfeld for his service and continuing contributions to the sport. Athlete Advisory Council co-chair Han Xiao recommended Tahl Leibovitz to replace Mr. Seidenfeld, a selection that was endorsed by HPC Chair Carl Danner and approved by vote of the USATT Board.
3. The criteria for the allocation of available places in the draw for ITTF events were finalized and published on the USATT website.
4. Junior Para National Team members were confirmed and posted on the USATT website.
5. The adult national team trials were conducted successfully at Texas Wesleyan University. The coach's picks for the World Championships are Kanak Jha and Angela Guan. Mr. Jha was recommended by Stefan Feth, the men's NT coach, but Mr. Feth also noted a conflict of interest (in that he is a private coach for Mr. Jha) and asked the HPC to make the selection instead. The HPC independently considered this selection, and decided that Mr. Jha was the appropriate choice. Doru Gheorghe, women's NT coach, solicited the input of the HPC about the coach's pick and ultimately chose Ms. Guan.

6. Mr. Gheorghe asked the HPC to consider whether teams should be funded to the Pan American Olympic Festival, a relatively late addition to the competitive calendar to be held in Mexico City. In light of the logistics involved, the altitude and the infeasibility of organizing a suitable training camp in Colorado Springs on very short notice, the HPC decided not to send a team on this occasion.
7. Criteria for selecting a team leader / coach for the Youth Olympic Games were given final review and posted on the USATT website.