



ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee Official Meeting - Stuttgart 19.09.2009

Participants: Paul SCHILTZ, Gerhard SCHNABEL, Mick STRODE, Andreas GEORGIU, Petr BOHUMSKI (Federico LINEROS unfortunately was not directed to the right room)

Executive Board meeting of 18.09.2009

The chairman reports about the meeting. The ETTU-URC had submitted three documents: About referees in Europe; Travel costs, Accommodation and Allowance; ITTF Policies and ETTU. The EB accepted many proposals, but in some important matters they will only decide during the next EB meeting (Financial support for ITTF Referee Courses, Blue badge program, Assessment of match officials, Increase of some allowances etc)

European Championships in Stuttgart

The URC appreciates the successful efforts produced by the DTTB in order to have a great presentation also of umpiring and prepare the umpires for the event. The URC welcomes the new electronic score boards immediately transmitting the results to the world via a special server and without cables. Unfortunately the red lights are not visible in a larger hall; they should be yellow-green-light orange.

List of contacts of national associations and their URC. Organization of URC in Europe

Since January Paul Schiltz tries to get information about email addresses and the structuring bodies for the umpires and referees inside the national associations. Unfortunately many associations do not answer. Two mail distribution lists will be set up, and information from ETTU - URC will be jointly addressed to associations and national URC. The list of email addresses will be published on ETTU - URC home page. This list will only be updated every 4 or 6 months, what will be indicated.

Appointments of referees and umpires (lists of active IU and IR, lists of selections during the last years, internal selection rules, events 2009/2010 and deadlines, etc)

Pedrag Colovic has contacted the associations in order to get the data needed of the active International Umpires from Europe. Gerhard Schnabel has nearly finished the list of the data of the active European International Referees.

Mick Strode will collect the data about the appointments of European referees at ITTF and ETTU events during the last years. Once these lists finished, the ETTU-URC will establish selection rules for active European referees. Gerhard Schnabel already prepared a working document: most of the ideas will be applied immediately.

Paul Schiltz submits a list of ETTU and ITTF events where ETTU referees need to be appointed and proposes deadlines. The ETTU - URC thinks that once they sent a proposal for the EB, the EB shall decide in-between a fortnight. Therefore the chairman will work out a form and address the proposal including arguments in favour directly to ll EB members. It is not possible to wait until the next EB meeting. The ETTU - URC also insists, that - once transparent selection rules will exist - the responsibility for the selections will return entirely to the ETTU-URC.

The list of events and deadlines will be updated and continued by Andreas Georgiu, who will take care that all call for appointments and the URC propositions will be submitted on time. Paul Schiltz also submits three forms how to initiate the selection procedure for referees and umpires at ETTU events; the URC accepts the procedure.

The Committee targets the following deadlines even if the regulations foresee different dates. The referee for a European Championship should be known 1 year in advance. The referee for the other events and the deputy referees for the European Championships should be known 6 months before the event. The deputy referee and the umpires for all events should be finalized latest 4 months before the event. These deadlines should allow all match officials to prepare the event and especially to book their holidays and cheaper flights.

The ETTU-URC will of course take the advice of the organizer for all relevant appointments or procedures of selection, but reminds that the Committee will finally decide. The organizer will decide if he launches an open invitation or invites some countries only; he also will decide if blue badge evaluations will be proposed.

The ETTU-URC has developed a system how the referee team should be composed; the document will be published. It has been submitted to the EB that agreed.

For “lighter” events, i.e. events with few tables or sessions in one small hall, the ETTU-URC agrees not to appoint a referee + a full time deputy referee, but requires that one of the IU officiating at the event must be IR: he/she will act as a “stand-by” deputy-referee and only will take over as a referee if the referee is absent or if a player of his own association is involved. The reimbursement of travel costs for such an IU shall be partial. Appointment of umpires/referee teams at European League matches (system, URC and ETTU staff, review of instructions and rules of competitions, allowances, last rounds etc.)

In close cooperation with the ETTU general secretary the URC will reflect about the most fair, efficient and inexpensive ways of selecting the umpire teams for these events. The procedure will be published and will include the explanations needed. Gerhard Schnabel offers to take over this charge. At the last stages, the teams always shall include a blue badge umpire/candidate and/or an IR.



The question of allowances has to be delayed for the next congress, but the URC insists that the allowance for one league match including a 24 hour trip for the umpires must be much higher.

European Coaching Conference in Zagreb 20-22.11.2009

In order to improve the understanding and the relationship between European coaches and match officials, the EB agreed that the URC chairman takes part at the pre-named Coaching Seminar. A questionnaire will be set up trying to find out the coaches' expectations, but also critics.

Regulations of the ETTU competitions

The EB agreed that the ETTU - URC will, also in close cooperation with the ETTU staff, examine the actual regulations of the competitions in order to make them more consistent. All members of the URC will help the chairman to improve the situation, which several times already created problems because of opposite or incomplete instructions. Petr Bohumski asks to include the size of the playing courts at European Youth Championships (they should be 12x6m) and the uniform clothing of women and men, girls and boys of the same association in a mixed double. The actual trend provides different clothing for girls and boys: uniform clothing as required by the rules is no more possible. The URC supports his views.

Email and Web site ETTU - URC

The URC insists that it should get an email address allowing automatic archiving of incoming and outgoing emails, the language used being English. This is important for several reasons: ETTU always should preserve the exchange of correspondence, more members of ETTU-URC could work on the correspondence and support each other, more would be informed, the private email addresses would not be overloaded etc. The Committee chairman maintains his doubts about the ability of the actual provider to deliver such simple system.

The ETTU URC is happy that a URC home-page will be included at the ETU Web site. All documents posted have to pass through the chairman.

Duties of referees in a referees' team

Paul Schiltz submitted a first draft for a document promoting cooperation and information. All members are invited to separate the recommendations (good practice) from the mandatory instructions.



Shared duties of referees, ETTU competition manager and organizing tournament director

The EB agreed that such a proposition should be elaborated in close cooperation with the ETTU staff and competition manager. The chairman of the ETTU URC will take the lead.

ITTF Blue badge evaluation

Unfortunately the EB is still not agreeing with having implemented this program at ETTU events. The ETTU - URC that knows about the benefits of the program all over the world goes on asking that this good program should also be recognized at ETTU level.

The conditions should be: The organizing association agrees or wishes so; if the organizer does not there will be no evaluation. No costs for ETTU. No evaluation next to the playing tables. Evaluators clothed normally. The umpire shall not know in advance that he/she will be evaluated. The evaluation result should not be linked to one match only but shall be an overall appraisal for the full event.

ETTU Racket control

The EB relies on ITTF Equipment controllers and organization of the racket control decided by the Board of Directors. The ETTU - URC will not be involved.

The members of the ETTU-URC however will elaborate and propose to the EB disciplinary standards to be observed at all European competitions if a racket fails (checked by referee or a racket controller). The actual situation is not consistent, so not satisfactory.

Improvement of the quality of refereeing and especially umpiring including performance assessment in Europe

The ETTU - URC is not happy about several bad or even very bad performances reported or a lack of consistency among the umpire teams or even inside teams. It is aware that a lot of work is needed to guarantee observation of the existing rules in a consistent and correct way. The gap between the good and the less good umpires is too high, with the result that the good umpires applying the rules (service, behaviour) finally are the bad guys. The URC fully understands the anger of coaches and other officials about this situation. It does however not accept or understand offences or attacks of very low level addressed to referees or umpires by some persons.

The very long discussion inside the ETTU-URC shows the following possible tracks:

Referees: A report must be submitted, similar to the ITTF one. Gerhard Schnabel will take over its implementation and control/feed back. A model will be transmitted to the referees. A log file for incidents must be added. The ETTU-URC discusses the following possibilities: The umpires and the competition manager could submit an assessment paper about the referee's performance. The members of ETTU-URC present at the event will also submit a report. These measures should allow



more consistency, but also make every one aware of his/her responsibilities. Umpires: The referee shall submit a brief evaluation of the umpire performances: a model report shall be worked out. Petr Bohumski will submit to ETTU-URC good practice examples how a referee can reach more consistent umpiring and presentation during a big event, where it is not possible to meet and observe umpires continuously. He also will propose how to proceed and report about umpire performance during such a tournament. Until now the referees anyway discussed the performance of the umpires before selecting the teams for the finals.

Umpire teams at European League matches: Asking reports from the team captains may be dangerous, but should be tried out through a tick list. If complaints are submitted, they could be accompanied with a short film of the match records. An incident report should be established during the match and a copy left to both team captains by the referee. The facilities and incident report of the referee will also be transmitted to URC. The ETTU-URC wishes to have a neutral observer for the semi-finals and final matches. The ETTU also should define the compulsory technical equipment of either the umpire teams or the organizer; the URC will submit a proposal.

ITTF Referee course in Europe

The EB did not yet agree to financially support such course; they will contact ITTF and make a decision later. The ETTU URC thinks that this is an ITTF program, giving an ITTF title and should be paid by ITTF. However, the ETTU may give a financial contribution, because ETTU also needs new referees in several countries: ITTF and ETTU have common interests. Such course should only be organized where facilities and equipment are free of charge. The place should have a “low fare airport” and the accommodation costs must be reasonable. The participation fee of the candidates should be higher. If ETTU contributes to the costs, the ETTU-URC should select the European participants among the European candidates, in order to avoid that we have 6 referees in one country and none or only one in another association.

Advertisement also for blue badge umpires

The ETTU - URC insists that discrete and nice advertising on BB uniforms should be allowed. A design should be defined. It is not understandable that those umpires having the highest costs cannot have an advertising supporter. The URC understands the position of national associations, which for internal political reasons cannot allow helping financially only one or two umpires “always the same”. In table tennis we still have to deal with this reality.

for the ETTU - URC
Paul Schiltz, chairman

