



12th European Deaf Table Tennis Championship

Czestochowa, Poland – 01-07 May 2011-05-09

R E P O R T

Day0 – April 30th 2011

The day went through negotiations with the Chief of the Organising Committee. Henceforward communication found annoyingly fumbling as interpreter(s) for international sign language were not available.

The Polish organizers reported headache due to the occasion that some participating Teams booked their accommodation on their own outside of the officially recommended Hotel, causing significant loss for OC's returns. Regretfully such individual settlements often happen on International Deaf Championships so the organizers can not do else but to bow to that. Finally we created tolerable solutions for all issues on the table and meeting got closed for mutual satisfaction.

Day1 – May 1st 2011

Together with Juha-Matti Aaltonen we effected athletes' and accompanying persons' control, collected participation fees as well as EDSO Annual Membership fee from those who missed yet to pay.

Administrative and financial settlements for those who do not participate on Team events will be effected upon their arrival on or before Day4.

The draw for team event took place at 3PM. The process suffered for tangle as there were intentions to have the draw concluded according to a system that did not harmonize with the Technical Regulations. As it turned out, the Jury did not even see the Technical Regulations, the organizers failed to pass this for them during the preparations. Chief of the OC tried to blame this on me but certainly I refused and made clear that I alerted several times in writing (always copied to Juha-Matti Aaltonen as well as PFSN) to keep on the official regulations. After some arguments the draw was well done.

We in the evening met President of PFSN who declared his disaffection about the way how Wieslaw Pieta did, the Organising Committee was said to be a one-man-show, there were no sign of co-operation. I have to note, that Mr Pieta has a quite aggressive personality, we, Juha-Matti Aaltonen and myself frequently had to be moderate enough to avoid tight corners.



Day2 - May 2nd 2011

We walked in the morning in attendance upon brass-band and a cheerup group to the Office of Mayor of Czestochowa, after the welcome briefing at 9AM Juha-Matti Aaltonen was given a symbolic, large key to represent greenlight for the Championships. We then left on coaches for the sportshall, where the Opening Ceremony took place. On behalf of EDSO Juha-Matti Aaltonen declared the Games open. There were altogether 125 participants from 17 Countries (80 athletes and 45 officials) and team competitions started as planned.

In the afternoon the Team Leader of Bulgaria excepted against a Lithuanian stating that they have doubts about his deafness. Together with Juha-Matti Aaltonen we for some length prevailed on him to desist from the claim as Juchna Gintautas ID 24883 found fully eligible to play. Finally Bulgaria decided to accept our standpoint and quit their intention to claim.

Day3 - May 3rd 2011

Today team competitions finished. There were frequent discussions about the Audiogram Regulations. As per opinions raised, the time came to revise this as appears to be easy to circumvent. I recommend EDSO Board to put this case on the table as it seems that even hearing athletes may participate.

It caused displeasure that a 36 years old Lithuanian who was said to be hearing, without any previous record, without sign language knowledge was allowed to compete. Regretfully the actual regulations do not authorize EC technical official to order extraordinary hearing loss examination during the event therefore we had to deny the claim against this.

Finally, after taking up the humps, the announcement of results went well, medals were distributed by Juha-Matti Aaltonen, certificates were handed over by me. The lack of international sign language interpreters caused constant difficulties, I think it is a must to avoid such inconvenience in the future. I therefore recommend to include into the Technical Regulations that in case if the host Country has no interpreters available, the OC must find a cost effective solution and cover expenses to invite professional interpreters from abroad.

Day4 (free day) - May4th 2011

We visited in the morning the Church of Jasna Góra, where deaf athletes were honoured with clerical celebration. We had an appointment with Mayor of Czestochowa at 11:00AM where we were given souvenirs and catering.

As per schedule at 03:00PM we started the draw for doubles and singles, it was a fairly long lasting, almost 4 hours' process. This timeframe might be significantly reduced in future with purchasing of a software at a rate of around € 500 - in case if EDSO budget allows, I recommend to consider this tool. Further information is available at www.ttcoordinator.com



Day5 - May5th 2011

Doubles' competition went through knockout system without any problem, at the end of the day medal ceremonies of women's / men's and mixed doubles were well effected.

Day6 - May6th 2011

Next to last competition day covered singles' matches up to the quarter & semi finals, no obstacle noted. Technical Meeting chaired by Juha-Matti Aaltonen started at 09:00PM. The „one-man-show” Organizing Committee highlighted his difficulties during the preparations, I added and emphasized the lack of proper communication, erratic and slow e-mail correspondences as well as the lack of interpreters, OC performance was below the line.

Followed by the bid for 13th EC, President of the Austrian NDSF reported their readiness to host the event in 2015 – EDSO Board will decide.

Next we discussed the role of EDSO TO for the period 2011-2015. Candidate was Hors-Peter Scheffel from Germany. Juha-Matti Aaltonen raised the question if I'd continue. I made it transparent that after much thought I decided to vacate the role since the new Hungarian Deaf Sport Federation got to be founded in March 2011 and myself, as it's President, have now to focus on getting recognition across to local Hungarian Sport Administration as well as with ICSD and EDSO for full membership status. Our newly born NGO is keen to represent the interest of the entire Hungarian deafsport community in perfect harmony with the good deaf traditions and replace the actual organization running with hearing boardpersons and operating contrary to ICSD Constitution.

We were having then some words about the Audiogram Regulations and Juha-Matti Aaltonen closed the meeting.

Day7 - May7th2011

The last competition day went with finals in singles. After medal ceremonies Juha-Matti Aaltonen expressed our thanks for hospitality of City of Czeszochowa and during the Closing Ceremony, EDSO Secretary General returned the giant key to the Mayor of the Town. 12th Deaf Table Tennis European Championships closed.

At 07:00PM we begun our intimate farewell party that lasted until 11:00PM.



Summary

The European Championships 2011 in Czestochowa, Poland was successfully settled. The occurred trivial difficulties got satisfactorily solved.

Though in general the event went perfect, we must not neglect the issues of the lack of communication between the OC and EDSO and the necessity of the Audiogram Regulations' reform.

As EDSO Technical Official I do thank you all for the 8 years, I do appreciate the honorific faith and opportunity to work for my beloved discipline.

This is to express my acknowledgement to Isabelle Malaurie and Juha-Matti Aaltonen for their support and wish all the best and further success for the next TO in this role for mutual benefit.

Budapest, May 08th 2011.

Zsolt Nyiro