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**Adham SHARARA**  
**President**  
**International Table Tennis Federation**  
***President's Office***  
**18 Louisa Street**  
**Suite 180, Ottawa**  
**ON Canada K1R 6Y6**

*Dear Mr. President,*

Tank you very much for your interest in our case. We are ready to give you any additional information you might request and we will share our remarks and observations hoping it will contribute to the development of table tennis for the disabled.

Writing "ITTF Officials" we mean the members of the ITTF ParaTT Division. The way of making decisions concerning changes in table tennis for the disabled raises our deep concern and opposition..

An example of the officials' interference into national federations and coaches' work is the idea that it is ITTF ParaTT Division who decide that players HAVE TO take part in both individual and team events to win credit points needed to the qualification to the Paralympics Games. If a player does not play in a team tournament than he is treated as if he has not played in the tournament and will NOT get any points. But it should be the coach who decides and so far it has been sovereign decision. Now it is ITTF ParaTT Division who take the decision. An interesting case is that of a Serbian player Zlatko Kesler who played only in team event last year including the European Championships. He fulfilled all the requirements for this year's World Championships but, unfortunately, due to ITTFParaTT Division he is not allowed to represent Serbia in the team tournament because he does not want to play in the individual tournament. Is it not an activity aimed against the player and the national federation?



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Any changes in regulations should not be introduced while the season lasts, especially if they bring about financial consequences for national federations. And it is happening now when we were informed on March 7, 2014 that European players need to take part in at least three tournaments /100 points required/ although Polish TTF arranged participation in two ones due to financial aspects. The budgets are prepared in November and December and the final agreements are signed in January or the beginning of February so the changes forcing us to take part in three instead of two tournaments this year increase our costs significantly, at least 500 Euros per person, interfere with the PTTF financial activities training process. It is coaches who prepare training plans and decide about the participation programs but in this case it is ITTF ParaTT who force it. It is also worth noting that after our protest, that is on March 13, 2014, there appeared information on the ParaTT website about the changes in gathering points. Now it is maximum 100 points in 2014 and minimum 150 points in 2015. It gives trainers a little freedom but why, if we count points in 2 years, we cannot gain more points in 2014 for example 120 or 150? This is a coach who knows best who should play more matches so why does the ITTF ParaTT Division impose it on us?

Is it possible to make such changes in the Olympic Games qualification rules for able players during a running season? NO. Federations are informed about planned changes early enough and we are informed after starting lists and financial arrangements to two tournaments have been closed and were in the process of applying to the third one. All the decisions are taken by a few people probably by Alison Burchell, Nico Verspelt and Gorazd Vecko though there are other members of this department.

It seems clear that the function of an European Representative does not work because in the previous years European players have been discriminated in the qualification system to World Championships and Paralympics Games. We do not understand why European players have to gather 250 points to qualify to the Paralympics Games while Asians 40 points fewer and only ridiculous 190 points from Oceania. Why are we punished? Why do we have to spend much more money to qualify to the Paralympics Games?

It affects European countries which have a lot of good players because it is much easier to raise funds for 1 or 2 players than for 15 or 20. The Polish Table Tennis Federation has 14 players who have qualified to the World Championships and Natalia Partyka who may receive a wild card. Moreover, there are five players who won medals at the last European Championships that totals to 20 players who are taken care of by a few people of coaching staff. It is easy to calculate that only the entry fees will amount to /24x550/ 13.200 euros or even /24x600/ 14.400 euros plus transport costs.

Another problem we mentioned last year is how to bring together the sport career of Natalia Partyka both in Olympic and Paralympics Games. The present regulations may allow her to qualify into Olympic Games but at the same time not allow to qualify into Paralympics Games. It is possible that the best recognized female table tennis player, the ambassador of the ITTF Dream Building program will not be able to fulfill her dreams.



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We do hope that thanks to the above explanations it will be easier for you to understand our pique caused by the decisions of the ITTF ParaTT Division members who have never asked representatives of national federations, coaches about their opinions on the planned changes. They probably know better that is why they do not bother to ask but we cannot agree to accept it and to allow others to decide about us without us. There are misunderstandings in best families which are solved by heads of family and we do hope you will also help us solve this problem as the head of our table tennis family.

Yours Faithfully,

Marek PRZYBYŁOWICZ

*Office Director*

*Polish Table Tennis Federation*



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