

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)
August – September 2014

Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair
November, 2014

During August – September 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 was asked by USATT Board Chairman Mike Babuin for its views on the selection of ball types for the 2014 Nationals, in particular whether poly balls should be used only for certain championship events, or for all events at the tournament. After extensive discussion the HPC unanimously recommended the use of poly balls for all events. Some reasons for this recommendation included the need for our national team members to compete using the same equipment as is used in ITTF events, the benefit to players of having to adjust only once to the Nationals conditions at the start of the week (versus going back and forth between events, or individual matches), positive experiences reported by some high-level players and coaches with the new balls, and opinions stated by USATT members and coaches who had communicated with HPC members.
2. The HPC Chair participated in the annual meeting with representatives of the United States Olympic Committee to discuss USATT's High Performance Plan. As a follow-up, HPC members discussed some possibilities related to the USOC's desire to identify sports where the U.S. has not traditionally won medals, but might have future potential to do so.
3. The HPC continued its discussion of an improved format for national team trials for 2015, including the specifics of how world rankings should count, and how the U.S. Open should be used as the second trial. The HPC also decided to discontinue the creation of "B teams" in favor of designating one national team in each category.
4. Further discussion concerned the availability and commitment of youth team members for important international events, versus the demands of their school schedules. This is an ongoing challenge for the High Performance program, and one for which there is no single satisfactory answer at this time. HPC members strongly desire as much commitment as possible from all our national team members, while acknowledging that there continue to be some practical limits to school obligations for our younger players. The final language in the selection procedure represents the HPC's view for 2015, and is intended to reflect an increased level of commitment from prior practice.
5. The final member selection criteria for our cadet and junior teams were approved for posting.