

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)
June – July, 2013

Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair
September 18, 2013

During June and July, 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 USATT Board's June conference call meeting.

1. HPC Chair Carl Danner continued to assist in the hiring process for USATT Para National Team coaches. As a result of the process, USATT CEO Mike Cavanaugh engaged Keith Evans to be the Para National Team Coach, Stellan Bengtsson to be the Executive Coach – Para National Team, and Angie Bengtsson to be the Consulting Coach – Para National Team. The CEO and Para NT coaches also will make continuing efforts to encourage and develop some additional coaches who have shown interest in this program.
2. Entries for the U.S. Open ITTF America's Challenge events were processed by USATT High Performance Director Doru Gheorghe, and it turned out that all of the eligible entries could be accommodated given the positions in the draw available to USATT.
3. During the first day of the U.S. Open, a trial was conducted for players interested in trying to qualify for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games; Mr. Gheorghe and Mr. Danner worked with the tournament staff to help determine the format. For the remainder of 2013, the results of this trial determine the priority for entry into the "Road to Nanjing" ITTF international junior tournaments, with the highest-priority boy and girl for each event receiving travel funding paid by USATT.
4. Mr. Danner and Mr. Gheorghe participated in a committee that reviewed the application by Yang Shigang for approval of the Yang's Table Tennis Academy in Atlanta, Georgia as an ITTF Hot Spot advanced training center. Following its review and an interview, USATT forwarded the committee's recommendation to the ITTF – which approved the Hot Spot designation. The HPC wishes to congratulate Mr. Yang and his center's staff, and hopes that many more strong developing players will be produced by the Academy in the years to come.
5. The HPC was asked for its review and input into the USATT High Performance Plan, for presentation to USOC staff in August. HPC members responded to a tight deadline and provided a number of edits and suggestions for the presentation. One emphasis was the desirability of a more integrated approach for developing world class adult players, where we have faced dual challenges of young players who stop serious training as they approach college, and a general shortage of resources to

support all high-performance efforts. These circumstances have required some difficult choices in recent years, with the current high-performance focus being largely on cadet and junior players. The product of these discussions was a presentation edited by Mr. Gheorghe for a meeting with USOC staff during August.