

The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Table Tennis Federation of India was held on Sunday, March 17, 2019, at the Best Western Skycity Hotel, Gurugram (Haryana). The minutes of the meeting are detailed below:

THE MINUTES

Roll Call: (See Annexure).

All members of TTFI state units, including institutions, were present.

Absent with regrets:

Mr. Dushyant Chautala (President)
Mr. Sanjay Singh, MLC (Senior vice-president)
Mr. Sharad Shukla (Vice President)
Mr. Milind Torwane, IAS (Vice-president)

Secretary General M.P. Singh requests Dr Prem Verma, Working President, to chair the meeting in the absence of TTFI president, Mr Dushyant Chautala, MP, and address the members and delegates.

Working President's welcome address and opening remarks:

Dr Prem Verma, while welcoming the members and delegates, briefly recalled the two-minute silence observed during the Executive Committee meeting held earlier for the two departed souls—P. Karunakaran, V.P., TTFI and A.M. Lele, Referee—and their services in promotion of Table Tennis.

Dr Verma began his address with the observation that table tennis had become a household name in the country as he reminisced the 'golden year' (2018) of Indian table tennis, recording the achievements of our paddlers who bagged eight medals (including three gold) for the first time at the CWG, Gold Coast, and two bronze medals (men team and mixed doubles) at the Asian Games in Jakarta.

He also recalled the performances of our women team, led by Manika Batra, which won gold at Gold Coast and Manika who claimed the singles gold, apart from the men team that accounted for the third gold medal at the Games.

Dr Verma said 2018 had turned out to be a special year for table tennis as A. Sharath Kamal became the first paddler to receive the Padma Shri, G. Sathiyam and Manika Batra, the Arjuna, and Mr A. Srinivasara Rao, the Dronacharya, awards from the President of India.

The Working President then summed up the culmination of 2018, briefly recalling ITTF recognizing Manika Batra by presenting her the 'Breakthrough Star' and foreign expert Massimo Costantini, the 'Star Coach' awards, yet another first for Indian table tennis.

Adding to the list of Indian table tennis' firsts, Dr Verma put on record how TTFI, too, recognized the players' extraordinary achievements with cash awards worth Rs. 35 lakh to them at a glittering function in New Delhi in presence of Ministry, SAI and IOA officials.

He also briefly touched on the two young paddlers—Manav Thakkar and Archana Girish Kamath—who represented India for the first time at the Youth Olympics at Buenos Aires, recalling how Archana narrowly missed a bronze medal at the Games. He also mentioned that Manav had reached the top of world ranking and was the No. 1 as a junior paddler.

As a result, Dr Verma informed, that five players—Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyam, Manika Batra, Manav and Archana—will receive funding from TOPS to prepare for the Tokyo Olympics.

As Vice-President, Mr Manjinder Singh Sirsa, also the president of Delhi State Table Tennis Association, joined the proceedings, Dr Verma welcomed him along with the members on the dais. The Working President requested the house to join him in congratulating Mr Sirsa on his election as president of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Prabandak Committee. The members rose in unison to applaud his election.

Dr Verma, at the conclusion of his welcome address, requested the Secretary General, Mr M.P. Singh, to take up the points on the agenda.

Secretary General thanked the Working President and proceeded with the agenda points:

To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting & Executive Board meetings held during the year:

Since the 81st AGM minutes along with other EC/EB minutes held during the previous year (2018) were circulated to all concerned, the members and delegates unanimously confirmed them all.

To receive and adopt the Annual Report (2018-19) and the Audited Statement of Accounts as presented by the Committee for the year 2017-18:

Members unanimously adopted and passed them all.

~~To consider any recommendation of the Executive Committee and/or any motion and notice thereof given by an Association with full membership with the federation:~~

Secretary General informed the house that no resolution was received during the notice period but requested the house to ratify the decisions of the EC meeting on new affiliations and other decisions taken in the EB/ECs.

He informed the house that Table Tennis Association of Kerala (TTAK) was granted affiliation as the new state body to function after the disaffiliation of Kerala Table Tennis Association. Similarly, he also informed the members that Daman & Diu TTA was granted provisional affiliation during the EC meeting at Guwahati and both needed the house's ratification.

The members unanimously approved the decisions and welcomed both affiliated units to the TTFI fold with thunderous clapping.

The house also ratified the nomination of Dr Prem Verma as Working President. The nomination of Mr Sukhmeet Grewal, as Vice-President in place of Mr Karunakaran, who passed away, was ratified.

The EB decision to have 32 wild card entries for TTFI for Zonal and National Championships was also ratified by the AGM.

For participation in ITTF Junior Circuit events, only players who are among top 32 in India rankings and the top 16 in state rankings would be considered for participation in WJC events at NO COST TO SAI/TTFI. This is applicable where Team India is not participating and in cases where Team India is participating, extra entries will be considered only after taking into consideration the available vacancy. This decision of the Selection Committee was also ratified by the AGM.

~~To discuss the future development plan for the promotion of Table Tennis:~~

Secretary General informed the house that TTFI had several plans for the future development of the sport in the country, especially after having had wonderful results in 2018. He requested Mr Dhanraj Choudhary, Adviser, to elaborate on the plans that TTFI has chalked out for the future. Mr. Choudhary informed that we should do better our best results so far and do not depend on laurels received, keeping in mind the 2020 Olympics. He informed the house about the development plan as under:-

- a) SAI have approved the appointment of two Coaches ie Mr.Bratt Clarke to train our Junior Players who is likely to join from 1st July and Mr.Yin Wei for SAI-Coal India Academy who is likely to join in May,2019.
- b) SAI has approved the appointment of Mr.Dejan Papic, for our Senior players as replacement of Mr.Massimo Constantani. He is likely to join from end April.

- c) Secretary General informed that India has very good chance for qualifying for Olympic in Men's team and mixed doubles, accordingly a detailed ACTC leading up to 2020 Olympics has been prepared and submitted to SAI for approval.
- d) He briefed that table tennis was included under the Khelo India programme of the Government of India for the first time which will benefit our Junior player. As a result, he said, over 150 Junior paddlers were reaping the benefit of monthly scholarships worth Rs. 10,000. He said more players could be part of the beneficiaries from next year.
- e) He also informed the house that three academies have been approved by SAI for training. These players and more academies are being considered by SAI. The approved academics would receive up to Rs. 5 lakh per player annually for their training, schooling, kitting, exposures, etc., under the Khelo India scheme.
- f) TTFI, was trying to bring in nine North Korean coaches and sparring partner who will go around the country to train young paddlers as per demands from various state affiliates.
- g) He informed that TTFI had been regularly conducting Coaches, Referees and Umpires clinics to raise the demanding international standards. These courses have proved to be a boon for the technical team members, especially when there is a shortage of good referees in our pool. All these were possible because of the Technical Committee team members of TTFI. This, he said, had helped our referees, Blue Badge and international umpires represent the country as officials in CWG, Asian Games and Para Games and other international events.
- h) Secretary General informed the house that though we have largely overcome the age-fraud issues but still there were a few states that were suspected to encourage it. He requested the members to clean up before it was too late.
- j) He also informed the members how it was mandatory for all state units to conduct district and state championships as per the Sports Ministry directives to TTFI. He insisted that SAI now wanted all state affiliates to have their selection panels in place and even an iota suspicion on transparency and conduct of election by state bodies will be construed as non-compliance of the Sports Ministry orders, affecting the overall funding. He also insisted that all state associations must send their AGM reports and audited accounts within a month of its conclusion and without fail to TTFI every year. Any failure on this front, he warned, could force TTFI take the sternest action possible against the erring states.

To elect Auditor(s) for the year and to fix remuneration:

The house unanimously approved to retain the present auditors on same remuneration and terms and conditions.

To fix dates & venues of the next Institutional, Zonal and National Championships.

After due deliberations, following calendar was finalised

Calendar for 2019-2020

Dates		Championship	State
8-Jun	14-Jun	West Zone Championships	Goa
18-Jun	24-Jun	North Zone Championships	Haryana
17-Jul	22-Jul	Commonwealth Championships	Odisha
25-Jul	11-Aug	UTT League	
14-Aug	21-Aug	South Zone Championships	Kerala
02-Sep	07-Sep	Asian Junior Championships	Mangolia
15-Sep	22-Sep	Asian Championships	Indonesia
24-Sep	29-Sep	All India inter Institutional Championships	PSPB
18-Oct	24-Oct	East Zone Championships(Junior First)	Bengal
01-Nov	07-Nov	Central Zone Championships	Gujarat
01-Dec	08-Dec	Junior Nationals	Jammu
22-Dec	28-Dec	Sub Junior Nationals	Himachal
2 nd Week Jan 2020		Senior Nationals	Telangana
2 nd Week Feb2020		Veteran Nationals	Haryana
		Para Nationals	M P
22-29 March 2020		World Championships	Busan

All Zonal Championships & National Championships

7 days

Zonal Team Championships one day prior to the start of zonals

All Zonal Championships start with senior except otherwise mentioned

Mr Choudhary asked Mr N. Ganeshan, vice-chairman of the Technical Committee, to present a PPT on the dates and calendar draw by him. Mr Ganeshan, briefly explained how TTFI had to squeeze in the dates according to the available slots in between the busy international calendar. At the end, Mr Choudhary requested all the prospective hosts of events in 2019 to strictly adhere to the dates as no other dates were available because of ACTC's scheduled calendar of events proposed to SAI.

Hosting of Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship in Odisha:

Secretary General informed the house that India would be hosting the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in July and OSTTA has kindly agreed to be the hosts. He profusely thanked OSTTA and the Government of Odisha for readily agreeing to organize this prestigious event. He requested Mr. Bagchi, former chief secretary, Government of Odisha and Life President of OSTTA, to address the house.

Mr. Bagchi, while thanking the Secretary General and TTFI for allotting CTTC, assured the house that the event will be organized as well as they can. "We will do our best to make the CTTC as memorable as possible."

Mr Rabindra Parida, Secretary of OSTTA, also thanked TTFI for reposing the faith in the state association and, on his behalf, said it would be one of the best events organized by the association.

To apprise the house regarding dispute and legal cases in Tamil Nadu, Kerala & unification of North and West Bengal Table Tennis Associations:

Secretary General took the unification of West Bengal and North Bengal TT Associations first. He informed the house that the representatives of both associations (Mr Swapan Banerjee, Mrs Sharmi Sengupta and Mr Subroto Roy) had a discussion before the meeting. Secretary General informed the house to expect some good news soon.

The members welcomed the decision and applauded both associations and TTFI for effecting the unification.

Secretary General requested Mr Jinedra Jain, TTFI legal Advisor to brief members on the legal cases relating to Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Mr Jain informed the house that the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala has disposed of the case filed by Kerala Table Tennis Association (KTTA) against its disaffiliation while asking KTTA to represent its case before TTFI on their grievances, if any.

Accordingly, he informed the members that TTFI had formed a panel setting the date for hearing of both parties of Kerala—KTTA and TTAK, which was granted affiliation. But unfortunately, KTTA did not appear. With TTAK representatives appearing and presenting its case, the panel heard them and validated the affiliation granted to it. The panel also informed the Secretary General to intimate its decision to KTTA.

Subsequent to the decision as conveyed by TTFI, KTTA's president had sent a legal notice to TTFI that KTTA would like to appoint an Arbitrator. To this notice, TTFI replied that as per Clause 48 of the TTFI constitution/bylaws, only TTFI can appoint the sole arbitrator. Accordingly, TTFI invoked the Clause of Arbitration and appointed Mr Shekhar Raj Sharma as the sole arbitrator to hear him. The sole arbitrator has already sent a notice to KTTA president for appearance before him.

On Tamil Nadu, Mr Jain said the Hon'ble High Court of Madras has heard the petition filed by TNTTA and TTFI's response and the orders are reserved. He also informed the members that TNTTA has also filed a contempt petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras against the Secretary General and TTFI has filed its reply. He said both orders were expected soon.

To discuss about UTT 3rd Edition:

Secretary General informed the members that all measures were underway to successfully host the third edition of the UTT. He said that 11Sports were already working on their plans in close coordination with TTFI.

To review and adopt the Para Committee report & activities:

Secretary General informed the house that the Annual Report presented to the members contained the para committee report as well as the activities during 2018. Yet, he requested Mr Choudhary to briefly explain on what the Indian para players had shaped up during the year.

Mr Choduahry informed the house that ever since TTFI was entrusted the job of overseeing the para activities by SAI, the para players have reposed their confidence on TTFI and for the past two years good results have come their way. He requested Mr. Soni to inform the house about Para Table Tennis.

Mr Om Soni, president of the Para Committee, has requested for some changes for better coordination among players in the future which TTFI has readily agreed. As per the changes sought, TTFI recommends that each state unit of the Federation should form a para committee, route all state entries to the Para Committee at Indore for both National and International events and coordinate zonal events in all five zones.

Mr Choudhary also informed the house that para TT, as per ITTF directions, was an integral part of NOC. He further informed the members that most states do not have para TT associations. And to get full grant from government for conducting any national camp or national event, 75 percent of existing states should mandatorily participate in them. Hence, it was imperative for the state associations to cooperate and form para committees/sub-committees as we have done in the case of veterans.

It was decided to appoint an office staff at Indore for PARA Table Tennis on a Rs. 7,500.00 per month salary (approx) to be paid by TTFI.

It was also decided to appoint legal advisor from Indore and PTTA members recommended name of High Court Advocate, Mr Vishal Verma, former national table tennis player, for the same. Similarly, appointment of a disciplinary committee was also recommended.

For participation in an international event, the eligibility criteria were set as players having registered with PTTA and competed in recent national championship. The name of the player for international championship will be given preference as per national ranking in the respective category.

Mr Choudhary informed that Mr Soni had also requested TTFI to make all Foreign Exchange remittances for international tournaments as and when approved by SAI after the Para Committee submits the proposals.

The members agreed to the suggestions and approved the same.

To review and adopt the Veteran Committee report & activities:

Secretary General informed the house that prior to the AGM, the Veteran Committee members met and requested Mr Rajeev P. Bodas, the chairman of Indian Veterans Table Tennis Committee (IVTTC), to inform the house on the deliberations that took place.

Mr Bodas, who praised the conduct of the Masters Nationals at Indore by MPTTA, informed the house that a better coordination was required in a tournament of this size with over 1400 participants. It was decided to co-opt, 2-3 more members for efficient working of Veteran Committee.

To review and adopt the Selection Committee and Technical Committee reports:

Secretary General informed the House that Selection Committee members met and taken some important decisions which are enclosed.

To transact any other business as may be brought before the meeting with the permission of the Chair:

The following points were discussed and decision taken as under:

- a) Secretary General also informed that our website needed a facelift and, accordingly, TTFI has asked the web people to redesign with more emphasis on presentation. He also informed the members that soon online entry system for para players will begin. With this, our website would have covered all activities of table tennis under.
- b) The house also authorized President, Secretary General and Treasurer to decide on various staff matters including their increment and other welfare measurers and take decisions on case-to-case basis.
- c) The house authorised President and Secretary General to take decisions on urgent matters.


- d) Secretary General informed that TTFI needed to recognize those state associations that did a wonderful job during 2018.

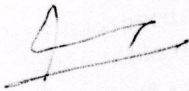
The following were chosen for the recognition and their representatives collected the plaques:

1. **Best Zonal:** Assam Table Tennis Association.
2. **Best Nationals:** Odisha State Table Tennis Association.
3. **Best Association:** Jointly by Madhya Pradesh Table Tennis Association and Gujarat State Table Tennis Association. (This was a joint award given for the first time).
4. **Consistent Performer:** Maharashtra State Table Tennis Association.
5. **Best Manufacturer:** Stag International
6. **Valued Partner:** 11Sports Pvt. Ltd.

Secretary General expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders and supporters—SAI, Sports Ministry, institutions, state units, sponsors, 11Sports, equipment manufacturers and his colleagues in TTFI. He ended the meeting with thanks to the chair and all members for their cooperation and patience.

(Dr Prem Verma)
Working President


04/05/19.


(M.P. Singh)
Secretary General