

USATT Coaching Committee Report

For Sept. 21-23, 2018 USATT Board Meeting

By Larry Hodges, Chair; Members: Sydney Christophe, Rajul Sheth, Han Xiao, Timothy Wang (player rep), and staff liaison Jörg Bitzigeio

Accomplishments

- **USOC Meeting on Coaching Education and Certification.** I flew to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs for a January 8, 2018 meeting with USATT and USOC people on setting up a USATT Education and Certification process. ([Here's my Jan. 10 blog](#) on it.) Jörg is now taking the lead in setting this up. Participants were:
 - Larry Hodges (Chair of USATT Coaching Committee and member of USATT Board)
 - Jörg Bitzigeio (USATT High Performance Director)
 - Mark Thompson (USATT Chief Operating Officer)
 - Denise Parker (USOC Vice President, National Governing Bodies Services and former CEO for USA Archery)
 - Chris Snyder (USOC Director of Coaching Education)
 - Avery Wilson (USOC Director of Strategic Planning)
- **USATT Coach of the Year.** In January, 2018, I was part of the Selection Committee for the [2017 Coach of the Year Awards](#), along with Jörg Bitzigeio, Carl Danner, and Tara Profitt. Jörg Bitzigeio, Pieke Franssen, Mitch Seidenfeld, and Samson Dubina were the respective choices in the various categories. (The call for 2018 nominations will go up by Nov. 7.)
- **Coach of the Year Selection Guidelines.** Astonishingly, there were no guidelines for making these choices, other than the rough descriptions of what the awards are for. So this year I created the [USATT Coach of the Year Guidelines](#), with great help from the coaching committee, which then approved them. They are linked from the [USATT Coach of the Year](#) page.
- **ITTF Coaching Courses.** Two have been held this year, and one more is scheduled for 2018.

○ Portland, OR	ITTF-PTT Level 1 Course	Christian Lillieroos	Jan. 8-12, 2018
○ Flushing, NY	ITTF-PTT Level 1 Course	Sydney Christophe	Aug. 27-31, 2018
○ Easthampton, MA	ITTF-PTT Level 1 Course	Christian Lillieroos	Oct. 22-26, 2018
- **Eastern Regional Hopes Camp and Tournament.** On April 27-28, 2018, I was one of the coaches for the USATT Regional Hopes Camp held at the Maryland Table Tennis Center. On April 29 I ran the Hopes tournament. A total of 43 players attended.
- **Coaching Seminar at USA Nationals.** I ran a free two-hour Serve and Receive Tactics Seminar at the 2018 U.S. Nationals I July, with about 35 attendees.
- **Grandfathering:** The coaching committee grandfathered two coaches to the Regional Coaching level this year, Kostas Nikopoulos and Mike Levene, and one to the National level, Tao Wenzhang. Several were turned down, alas.
- **Established new "Help Wanted" policy.** With CEO Gordon's okay, when USATT certified clubs have openings for coaches, they can put together a "Help Wanted" segment we can email to certified coaches, and as a news item and segment in USATT Insider.

Current Issues and Challenges

- **Coaching Education and Certification.** This is probably the main upcoming issue - see above (and link to blog about it). The next coaching chair will likely work closely with Jörg on this. The current standards are highly dated. Since we are planning to replace them with the new system, I decided updating them wasn't a priority.
- **Next Coaching Chair.** Alas, I've done my two years, as well as five years in my previous tenure as coaching chair. I do not plan to continue as coaching chair after my term ends on March 1 - just too busy. The Board will need to appoint a new chair by that time. I have mentioned to CEO Gordon that we need to put out a call for nominees as a news item. I'm willing to stay on the coaching committee (or other committees), just not as chair.