

Dear Athletes, Officials, Coaches, Staff and Volunteers,
 U.S. PARALYMPICS  On behalf of USA Table Tennis and its Disabled Athletes Committee, U.S. Paralympics, a division of the USOC, the American Wheelchair Table Tennis Association and our many volunteers, we are delighted to welcome you to Las Vegas, Nevada for the 2006 U.S. Paralympic Table Tennis Championships. We have worked extremely hard to put this event together and are thrilled that you have chosen to participate. We expect a very enjoyable and positive experience for athletes, coaches and everyone else involved. While you are here in Las Vegas, we hope that you will find some time to experience this great city and visit some of its incredible sights.

Sincerely,



Jennifer E. Johnson
 Organizing Chair
 & Manager



David Del Vecchio
 Tournament Director



Sharon Frant Brooks
 Tournament Director

Our tournament is sanctioned by the International Paralympics Table Tennis Committee (IPTTC) and all athletes who win events or matches will receive world ranking points. These ranking points are very important as they are used as qualification for the Paralympics and World Championships.

We are very pleased that over 100 athletes and coaches from over 20 countries including the United States responded to our invitation. Many of the world's best wheelchair and standing disabled athletes will be in action, so we expect a very high level of play and some great matches during the four days of competition.

We wish you all the best of luck throughout the competition and hope that you thoroughly enjoy your time here in Las Vegas.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and contribution of the following organizations and individuals:

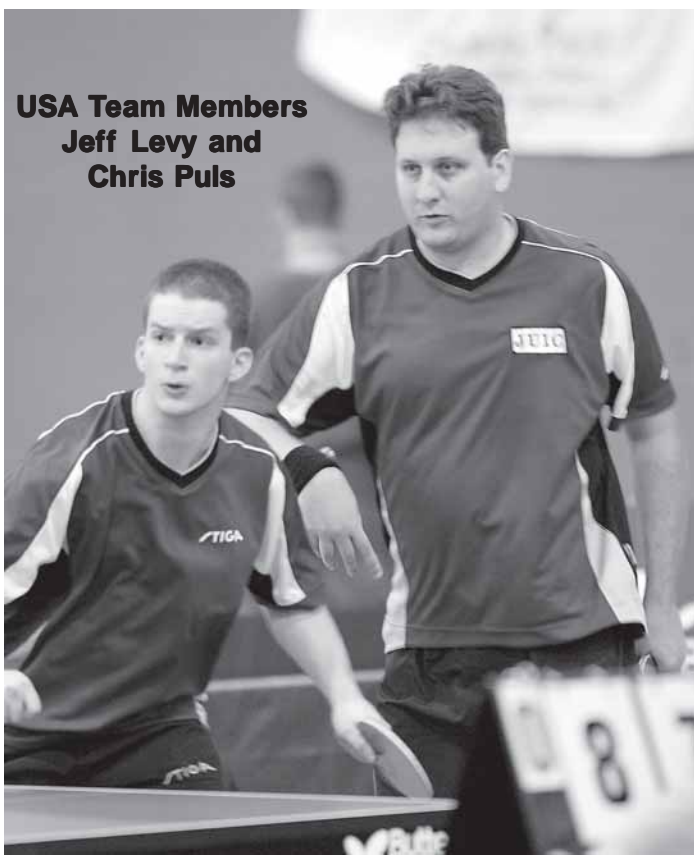
- American Wheelchair Table Tennis Association, NJ
- Bob Murray and Staff, City of Las Vegas Adaptive Recreation Division
- Jon Redman's Private Foundation
- Joseph M. Dowling, CPA, Stamford, Connecticut
- Killerspin
- Martin Kilpatrick
- National Collegiate Table Tennis Association
- Newgy
- Paddle Palace
- Sean O'Neill, U.S. Paralympics Table Tennis Head Coach
- STIGA
- The Table Tennis Pioneers
- U.S. Paralympics, a division of the USOC

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED YOUR TIME, ADVICE OR CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY TO OUR SUCCESS.

Office Hours By Appointment Phone: (203) 622-8266

DR. JOSEPH R. BARTKO, P.C.
 Chiropractor

209 Bruce Park Ave. • Greenwich, CT 06830



USA Team Members
Jeff Levy and
Chris Puls

Photo by JPA Surtido © 2005

Differences in the Rules for Able Bodied and Athletes with Disabilities

By Karol Ziduliak, Referee

Providing that the receiver is in wheelchair due a physical disability a let shall be called if in service the ball:

- In singles leaves the table by either of the receiver's sidelines (on one or more bounces);
- Comes to rest on the receiver's half of the playing surface;
- After touching the receiver's half of the playing surface returns in the direction of the net.

However, if the receiver strikes the ball before it crosses a sideline or takes a second bounce on his/her side of the playing surface, the service shall be considered good and no let shall be called.

When two players who are in wheelchairs due a physical disability are a pair playing doubles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return but thereafter either player of the disabled pair may make returns.

However, if any part of a player's wheelchair shall protrude beyond the imaginary extension of the centre line of the table, the umpire shall award the point to the opposing pair.

A concrete floor is, in principle, acceptable for wheelchairs.

Note: All the above rules have become part of ITTF Rules as of September 1, 2005.

So if you find yourself playing against a player in wheelchair you have to play by these rules.

There are no exceptions to the ITTF Laws of table tennis for standing players with a disability.

A Guide to Understanding the Paralympic Table Tennis Classification System



What is a "Classification System?"

"Classification" is the system which divides the players into groups of comparable handicapping conditions.

How is Classification determined?

A Team of "Classifiers" determines a players Class by assessing how their disability impacts upon such factors as balance, coordination, strength, range of motion, and volume of action (that is – the area a player can reach in all directions). Classifiers are certified by the International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee's Classification Committee. They can be medical, para-medical or technical classifiers, depending on their professional training.

What are the classes in Paralympic Table Tennis?

The classes are divided into ten divisions. Five of these are for players who compete in wheelchairs and five are for players who competes standing. The classes and a brief description of each are as follows:

Class 1: Plays in a wheelchair, has no sitting balance, has limited arm and hand function. Most are unable to hold onto the racket, and strap it to their playing hand. They have no triceps muscle function.

Class 2: Plays in a wheelchair, has no sitting balance, has triceps and better wrist function than a Class 1. Some players in Class 2 also strap the racket to their hand.

Class 3: Plays in a wheelchair, has no or poor sitting balance, but has full arm function.

Class 4: Plays in a wheelchair, has fair sitting balance and can lean more to each side and forward over the table.

Class 5: Plays in a wheelchair, but has good balance, some leg function but not enough to play standing on his/her feet. This player has good reach in all directions.

Class 6: This player plays standing up, but has very poor balance and does not move very much on his feet in any direction and has both leg and playing arm limitations as well. They are unable to run at all.

Class 7: Plays standing, and has poor balance, especially moving to either side. This player will also have arm deficits, and may need to play with a cane or crutch. Both leg and arm limitations are seen here as well, but less than with class 6.

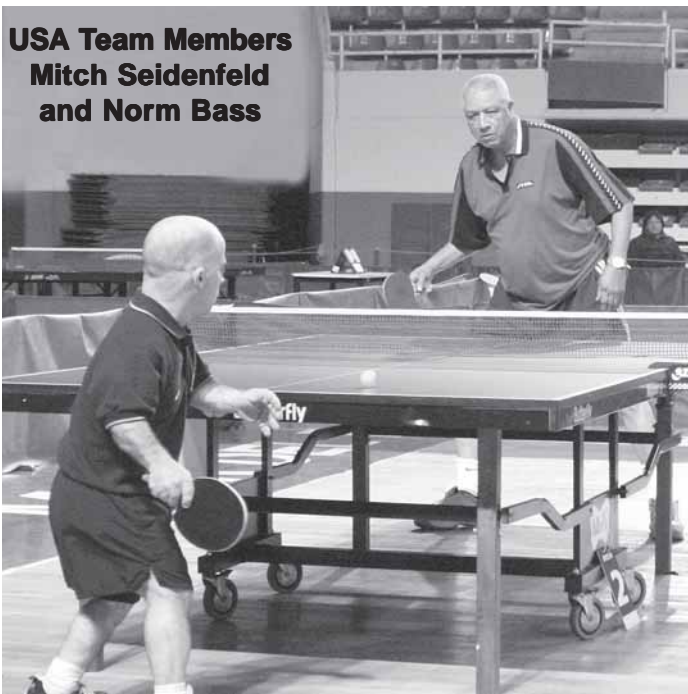
Class 8: This player usually has just leg involvement, but usually both legs are involved, or one leg very severely involved, such as an above knee amputation. They can not run very well, or move very well from side to side.

Class 9: Plays standing, but has less involvement in one or both legs than a class 8. They can run fairly well, but not quickly or normally, such as a below knee amputation.

Class 10: This player has the minimal disability allowed in either the non-playing arm or the leg, such as a cross foot or non-playing arm amputation.

Photo by Michael Armstrong ©2006

**USA Team Members
Mitch Seidenfeld
and Norm Bass**



2006 U.S. Paralympics Table Tennis Championships Tournament Staff

Referee	Karol Ziduliak (CAN), IR
Deputy Referee	Chris Williams (USA), NR
Officials Coordinator	Wendell Dillon (USA)
IP TTC Technical Delegate	Leandro Olvech (ARG)
IP TTC International Medical Classifier	Norma Angelica Patino Marquez (MEX)
IP TTC International Classifier	Nadia Vaccaro (ARG)
Organizing Chair/Event Manager/Registration	Jennifer Johnson (USA)
Tournament Director/Competition Manager	David Del Vecchio (USA)
Tournament Director/Classification/Volunteer	Sharon Frant Brooks (USA)
Hospitality	Carolynne Bethka (USA) & Lena LoRusso (USA)
Transportation	Jim Beckford (USA)