

AUSTRIAN  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
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## **2016 World Tour AUSTRIAN OPEN**

**Linz • November 09- 13, 2016**



**Umpire report by**

**Mahta Sourì**

# Prospectus

**Organizer:** Austrian Table Tennis Association

**World tour director:** Rudolf Sporrer

**ITTF competition manager:** Dimosthenis Messinis

**Date:** 09-13 Nov. 2016

**Referees:** Werner Thury

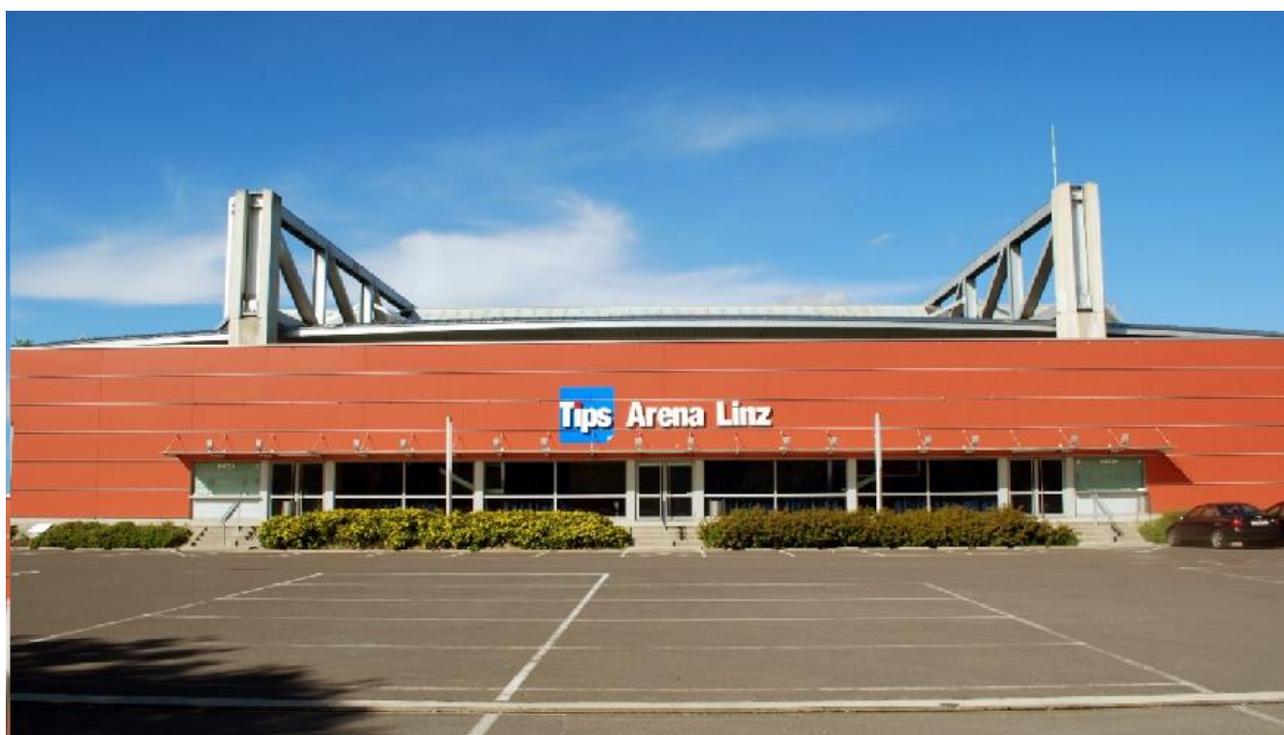
Deputy Referees: Cyril Sen, Michel De Vries, Michael Zwipp, Maximilian Nitz

**Evaluators:** Hans-Peter Worner, Bertus Schotmeijer, Wolfgang Wulz

**Events:** MS and WS (best of 7)

MD, WD, U21 MS, U21 WS (best of 5)

**Venue:** Tips Arena Linz



**Panorama View of the Venue:**

[http://www.livasport.at/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=77&Itemid=93](http://www.livasport.at/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=77&Itemid=93)

## Travelling

08.11.2016 Gardermoen (Oslo) - Frankfurt- Blue Danube (Linz)

13.11.2016 Blue Danube (Linz) - Frankfurt- Gardermoen (Oslo)

I arrived 14:20 at the airport by six other umpires. It was arranged that the umpires and players would be picked up from the airport. Everything was fine; however, our driver drove us to a wrong hotel. Therefore, we had to wait there for about an hour to be picked up by another shuttle to the venue. We had to be there at 16:00 for the briefing and it was a little bit stressful, but we made it with a little delay.

## Hotel

The officials were at IBIS City and the players' housing was IBIS style and Parking Hotels. I shared my room with an umpire from Iran. The room was very small, but OK and the breakfast was satisfactory. It was a well arranged shuttle services between the 3 hotels and the venue; however, it was within a quarter by walk from our hotel.



## Meals

Breakfast served at the hotels, but lunch and dinner was at the venue with special tickets that had been given to us in the first day. They had considered most of the tastes, where at each meal it could be found chicken, fish, beef or veggies in addition to pasta, rice and salad buffet.

## Materials

Tables	Donic Delhi 25 (18 competition, 10 training)
Nets	Donic Stress Blue
Balls	DHS 40+*** (white)
Floor	Gerflor (Taraflex) Color: Blue

## Pre-tournament

On Tuesday (08.11) at 16:00, it was holding a briefing by Wolfgnag which was obligatory for all the white badges. However all the umpires attended to that and discussed some different situations. At the end of the day, we were given a list over the 28 teams (each consists of two umpires) and that list changed every day, in a way that we could get benefit of co-working with different umpires. Umpires were required to bring their own umpires equipment.

## Procedure at the tournament

The umpires' teams either had match or were on call in the Call area in the first two days due to the traffic of the matches.

Those umpires who had matches had to be at the Call area at least 30 min before the match to control the score sheets, rackets, and color of shirts. All players had to come to the Call area 20 minutes before their match for control.

## Call area

It was a part of the venue which was allocated to the Call area. There were 18 tables, each for every match. 30 minutes before each match, a score sheet was put on each table with two A4 envelopes for the rackets.

Usually racket control inspection performed by the umpires. If there was any doubt, one could call for one of the referees in the Call area for a VOC and they performed inspection with more advanced equipment at racket control center, situated at the Call area.

## Umpires

There were about 60 umpires from all over the world and Austrian umpires hold the majority. Apart from the host, the following countries sent their umpires to this event: Germany, France, Italy, England, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Russia, Czech, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Iran, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Algeria, USA, and the last but not the least was Norway! Most of them were Blue Badge umpires; however, some of them had not been active as BB for a while. There was an ARE exam on the first day for non-active BB umpires to renew their status and for new becoming BB umpires. Luckily all the six participants passed it.



The three first days, it was between each team to choose U and AU role, while in the last two days, it was chosen by the referee committee each role.

## Umpiring

The level of officiating was quiet high. I myself ask cordially to get feedback from the referees and evaluators constantly. Although it was not official since I was not a BB or BB candidate, they kindly gave me feedbacks which I am sure it helped a lot to my huge improvement in so short time. I believe it was my thirst for learning and effort to correct my shortages quickly, that convinced the referees committee to choose me for one of the finales, even though I was among a few white Badge umpires with the least experience in Int'l tournaments!

At the first day, I officiated with Kerstin Duchatz, an experienced BB from Germany, that we changed U and AU position for every match. My teammate for the second and third day was Roman Klecker, again BB from Czech that was the same. For the last day, I got Rafal Zlezarczyk (BB) from Poland that the Finale U21 W was given to us:

DOO, Hoi Kem (HKG) VS. MORI, Sakura (JPN)



## Miscellaneous

In the Call area, I came to see a handmade tool for checking the pimple racket. Some unfair players may spray over the blade or use another material to soften the surface. The tool was made of three balls, fastened together by glue.



They put it in the racket and lift up the handle slowly. If these three balls turn over and come down, it was OK. If it slides, the blade has been tampered and not OK. I recorded a short movie from it which can be watched from here:

<https://youtu.be/bZ54jVi4-UU>

## Last words

On Friday 11.Nov, the Austrian Table Tennis Association (ÖTTV) invited all umpires, evaluators and referees to the umpires' reception. Rudolf Sporrer (Tournament Director), and Kons. Johann Friedinger (President) thanked all for their performance during this event.

It was a very pleasant gathering, where we had time to come to know each other in a friendlier environment.

And hereby, I thank Norwegian umpires committee to make this great experience happened. Special thanks go to Karl Børre and Ghassan for their help, encouragement, and support.

Wish all our umpires luck in future tournaments!