

ITHF statement on dispute in Ukraine

This statement was compiled without the participation of ITHF EC member Mykhaylo Shalomayev, who was involved in the dispute.

The ITHF Executive Committee has been asked to review the Ukraine Table Hockey Federation (UTHF) decision regarding Mykhaylo Spivakovskyy, Dmytro Litvinyuk, Anton Umanskyy and Viktoriya Noselivska.

After careful consideration of extensive information received from various parties on both sides of the related dispute, we have come to the following conclusion:

The decision of the UTHF General Assembly held on 8/11/2016 was made democratically by a group that was sufficiently large and diverse for the outcome to be considered a reflection of the opinion of the majority of the Ukraine table hockey community. The result of this General Assembly should therefore be upheld.

However, the ITHF EC has the following comments:

1) The timing, on the eve of an important tournament, was very poor. The alleged offences dated back several months and should have been dealt with earlier.

2) The ITHF EC has seen evidence of match-fixing on the part of Mykhaylo Spivakovskyy, but absolutely no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Viktoriya Noselivska and only circumstantial evidence against Dmytro Litvinyuk and Anton Umanskyy. However, as the latter 3 players were only given suspended bans, we see no reason to intervene.

3) As there is obviously intense rivalry within the Ukraine, it is likely that such disputes arise again. It is therefore imperative that the UTHF sort out its structural and constitutional problems without delay. This includes:

- Finalising and implementing the UTHF constitution in full.
- Electing a complete Executive Committee in accordance with the UTHF constitution (preferably including players from both sides of this dispute).
- Maintaining a transparent process, by which players can obtain the right to vote at General Assemblies. The rules on how to obtain voting rights should be clear and should not unfairly exclude anyone. A complete and publicly accessible list of all players entitled to vote should also be maintained.

We on the ITHF EC hope that we have been of some assistance in bringing this matter to a conclusion that is as satisfactory as possible, given the difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

ITHF Executive Committee
12/11/2016