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Withdrawal of German men's team from the 2019 World Series Beach ParaVolley Pingtan Open

The President
NPC Germany
Friedhelm Julius Beucher

By email to info@dbs-npc.de and dahmen@dbs-npc.de and hartleb@dbs-npc.de

Dear Mr President,

As you are aware, a men's Beach ParaVolley team entered the World Series event in Pingtan 9 to 12 May 2019 under the leadership of Mr Athanasios Papageorgiou. The athletes were: Elmar Sommer, Torben Schiewe and Heiko Wiesenthal.

I regret to inform you that the team voluntarily withdrew from the competition on 11 May and refused to take any further part in the competition for that day and the next.

World ParaVolley attempted to offer the German team a compromise competition structure but in a meeting of the coaches, this was rejected by a majority present who preferred to abide by the original structure. At this meeting Mr Papageorgiou was able to put his case, including alternative competition structures that involved GER not meeting the USA team in the first play-off – this seemed to be at the heart of the problem for the GER team. The team decided to discontinue their participation in the event with 2 days of the competition remaining.



This severely affected the other teams who were unable to play against Germany. This was made more serious by the fact that all matches were being live streamed at the time and all spectators, officials and athletes were inconvenienced. It marred our first event on the road to participation in the LA 2028 Paralympic Games.



I will be establishing an independent Tribunal within the World ParaVolley Sport Department in the near future in order to evaluate and hear the case and Mr Papageorgiou will be given an opportunity to respond on behalf of GER and the players.





The Tribunal will have the power to issue sanctions on the German Beach ParaVolley team and coach, including bans and fines if appropriate according to the "Penalties for Team Withdrawals" document and I quote the relevant section:

- *Voluntary and purposeful forfeit of a team before or during a match entails its exclusion from the competition with the following consequences:*
 - a) from that moment the team must cover its own expenses as determined by the LOC*
 - b) fines and other sanctions may be applied by the WPV*
 - c) all matches previously played will be declared forfeited with zero sets and points to the forfeiting team and the maximum number of sets to win the match to the opposing team (either 3 sets for Sitting/Standing Volleyball or 2 sets for Beach ParaVolley).*

Further communication will follow in due course.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Couzner".

Barry Couzner OAM
President, World ParaVolley



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