

New Director of Coaching & HP

Three years ago I was sitting in my apartment in Germany sending emails back and forth to my friends living in Australia. I met them in 2009 on my first trip to Australia when I was employed as the club coach for Table Tennis Cairns. At this time my interest for the development of table tennis in Queensland was ignited.

After several visits to Australia and an uncountable number of emails and phone calls with my Australian friends, I made the decision that I would move to Australia and become even more involved in table tennis. I took the opportunity in early 2015 and enrolled in a Master Programme at the University of Queensland and eventually moved to Australia in January this year.

Around this time the Australian Table Tennis Association (TTA), was looking for support to review and update the NCAS level 1 and level 2 coaching manuals – it was my first step into working for an Australian Table Tennis Organisation, apart from coaching players.

I have always had an interest in table tennis. From the age of 12, I represented the West German Junior Squad at both national and international



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tournaments and by the age of 23, I played semi-professional in the second German division (Bundesliga).

Once I completed my high-school education I then started working for the largest German state table tennis federation, developing and implementing training concepts, for high performance players and conducting coaching courses to accredit German level 1, 2 and 3 coaches. In conjunction with this, I further developed my studies with a Bachelor Degree in Health Management including Exercise Science and Health Promotion.

In my new position as the Director of Coaching and High Performance for Table Tennis Queensland I am excited to

work with the clubs, coaches and players who represent our state.

My goal is to deliver a positive table tennis experience for all involved in the program. Since we live in such a large state, (Queensland being five times bigger than Germany!) I am curious to find ways to bring all the clubs and coaches together and provide a cooperative environment for both the northern and southern Queensland clubs.

Since my girlfriend, job at TTA and full-time Master's Degree in International Public Health doesn't keep me busy enough; certainly my new role is sure to keep me on my toes.

I am looking forward to supporting TTQ by facilitating training opportunities for the players and education for coaches, while helping to build up structures to identify and develop young talents.

Patrick Wuertz
State Director of Coaching & High Performance