



A word of greeting

Greetings to all the billiard sports persons who have already joined the world-wide PAT community. Most of you know what PAT is and what it signifies. Those who are not yet quite acquainted with it are those whom we wish to bring a little closer.

PAT stands for "Playing Ability Test".

PAT is much more than just a method to test the playing abilities of billiard players. It is, in fact, a system to assess the skills that one needs to play good pool on the basis of exercises evaluated. Those skills are defined in ten sectors - ten aspects of the game.

Additionally, this system may always be applied as a fundament to plan short to long term training programs.

You could have yourself assessed by taking a test. According to the number of points reached in one of the three PATs you will be awarded a corresponding emblem of performance by the world association (similar to the belt system in martial sports)! Perhaps you may ask yourself why you should actually participate - or even more precisely "*where is my advantage for the opponent to know how good I am?*" Such and other similar questions are best dealt with counter questions: Why shouldn't you do it? So that your opponent won't know how good you are? Nonsense! All the participants in a 100 metre sprint know how fast their rivals are, as in many (all) sport disciplines. Either you want pool billiards to be more of a sport or you would rather play poker ...

The fine differences between game and sport can be referred to in prevalent reference books: for a gamester there is no specific reason besides amusement; for a sports person, it is a challenge for himself and against his opponents. The aim is to reach a personal acknowledgement in a contest. This is especially true in sport disciplines in which a verification and, above all, a measurability (of performances and records) can easily be conducted. Well, what's your decision? Sports person or gamester?

The reason for a sportsman to take the tests is quite obvious: he wants "feedback" - to receive reports on his technical strengths and weaknesses and to assess his own performance capabilities in a larger (global) context (not only in his immediate neighborhood).

It is, naturally, quite unavoidable to "mess up" at such tests sometimes. The sports person pays attention to the technique concerned and will soon find out during training whether it was a "blooper" or, perhaps, an until then unnoticed weakness on which the athlete should devote some time.

It should be mentioned here that, on the whole, the strengths and weaknesses of the sports person located through the PATs have been confirmed later in training. Here lies the high significance of the tests. Further training plans can evidently be deducted from the PAT results - or, to put it more directly: "You know what you should practice".

Trainers in clubs and associations can use PAT as guidelines for their own training programs, since short to long term aims are provided with PAT. It is practiced, at least, at the European Pocket Billiard Federation level and is being promoted actively by the American CueSports Alliance in North America!



If the results had not been satisfactory, the PATs may and, naturally, should be repeated (PAT 1 after 3 months, PAT 2 & 3 both after 6 months). In the pat-billiard.com administered rankings, every registered participant is presented with his best results, i.e. even if he has passed his performance zenith, it documents how "good" he once was. There would be no need to always mention it and surely it remains more trustworthy.

It is needless to say that the PAT system is essentially aimed at the youth. Anyone who has once been involved in a competition sport discipline knows how motivating it is for the youngsters to be able to work their way up the performance ladder step by step.

Regional and national teams in Europe are, therefore, already working with PAT. In the meantime, there has been a demand even from non-members of such mentioned teams. They just simply want to train and seek comparison with other billiard sports persons.

The appearance of new and different performance-evaluating-systems everywhere - which would make comparison impossible - must be prevented. It was, therefore, necessary to have such a system sanctioned and even protected by the highest possible association in pool billiard. This has been achieved with the official (and exclusive) approval of the PAT by the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA), the world governing body for the pool sport in the organization structure under the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

This system may naturally be readapted for snooker and billiards - on which leading specialists are already working.

We will use all our forces to find a general acceptance for this - our system, not only in Germany, Europe and North America, but also as wide spread as is possible in the world - above all, in the interests of our youth (and consequently, for the future of this unique sport).

With "we" the "PAT-Pack" is meant, which consists till now of renowned international active trainers and other specialists. All of them have contributed their knowledge and skills towards the success of the PAT project and will continue permanently to further develop and refine it in future.

There were definitely many others besides the **PAT-Pack** whose knowledge was incorporated, be it personal mentors or a large number of trainer colleagues. As an example, we would like to mention here Bernard Kaserer, the tyrolean youth supervisor and Michael Wahl, the German trainer.

On the official web page (www.pat-billiard.com) there are further texts on PAT, with which we have preliminarily tried to answer all essential questions (to avoid a flood of e-mails with questions in detail). We will do all we possibly can to answer further questions. This will not always be easy, since we are immensely busy and are correspondingly often on-the-road. Prompt handling cannot be assured. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

Regards

Pat-Pack
September 2005

A Game Matures as a Sport!

The world governing body for the sport – the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) - offers for your sport programme the following concept beginning Sept. 1, 2005:

A playing ability test, contrived by recognised instructors¹, which distinguishes 8 grades in 3 levels! A test (called **PAT**, short for “Playing Ability Test“), that not only reflects the technical playing ability of the individual player, but also awards the player with a colour emblem (as in martial arts).

These emblems may (and should be worn) at official (WPA) sport events.

In North America, the American CueSports Alliance (ACS) now offers PAT training, PAT testing and the distribution of the PAT Manuals 1-3 in English. **For North American inquiries regarding the PAT, contact the ACS at tel. 920-662-1705 or email: jlewis@americancuesports.org.** ACS Level 4 Instructor/Coach Joseph Mejia is the first individual in North America to be recognized internationally as a PAT Examiner.

Preliminary situation:

In competition, billiards has always been a comparison in the performance. Methods had always been found to describe these performances better (14/1 continuous forms, game reports, Accu-Stats System, etc.). There were repeatedly isolated suggestions, to be introduced for grading billiard sport performances, that were supposedly based on some or other training games or exercises. A legitimate question would be “why this particular exercise or game?”. According to the abilities certain exercises or games demand, such “specialists“ could be more successful as others whose technical strengths may be in other areas.

The search / the reason:

Should a system be found to determine and evaluate the individual player’s technical abilities (those needed to play good pool), unforeseen possibilities present themselves. It will then be finally possible that, as is also the case in other sports:

- A framework for a training syllabus can be developed,
 - Performance graphs of each ability of individual players can be plotted,
 - Performance comparison of entire groups (ladies, men, youth, etc.) between nations is made possible,
 - Performance development in regions, states, nations or even of entire continental associations can be measurable and verified,
 - Statistical evaluations needed for the national or international Olympic Committees to facilitate presenting billiards as a real sport (a way towards achieving valuable subventions!),
 - Training units for instructors designed to reach certain goals,
 - Basic technical abilities or “handicap“ can be convey to the beginner,
 - Technical strengths and weaknesses can be relayed to the individual player,
 - Short, medium or long-term goals can be mapped for the individual sportsman,
 - Performance comparisons with prominent sportsmen are possible,
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- Performance goals can be formulated, etc., etc..

The Result:

Recognised instructors have now succeeded to crystallise and to evaluate individually all of the various technical skills that are required to “play good pool“!

This is possible with the aid of various proposed tasks of different degrees of difficulty, condensed in an extensive three-step testing system.

There are **3 PATs** (Playing Ability Tests):

PAT 1 is for the beginner to slightly advanced sportsman,

PAT 2 is for the advanced to quite experienced sportsman,

PAT 3 is for very good sportsman, for top players to those in the world elite.

Each **PAT** consists of 10 mini tests, each of which is made up of one or more exercises:

PATs 1 & 2 comprise of (besides others):

1. Stroke speed
2. Stroke straightness
3. Stroke efficiency – follow shots
4. Stroke efficiency – draw shots
5. Position play in small area
6. Position play in large area
7. Ball frozen to rail
8. Continuous exercises
9. Standard and standard position shots
10. Table clearing situations in 9-Ball

In **PAT 3** some of the exercises are replaced with more sophisticated ones. Newly added are: confidence in long and angle shots, banking, as well as much more difficult variations of those in the preceding **PAT** sections.

EMBLEM – SYSTEM

As mentioned, a performance-badge-system can be established. These performance badges are available in 8 coloured emblems. In North America, you can order the emblems by calling the WPA at the offices of the ACS – 920-662-1705.

PAT 1-3 ; Points code	Emblem Grade;	/Performance Status / Title
PAT 1 from 600 to 700 Points	1 st Light Green	Sport Player
PAT 1 from 800 to 999 Points	2 nd Dark Green	Sportsman
PAT 1 from 1000 Points upwards	Diploma supplement	
PAT 2 from 600 to 799 Points	3 rd Light Blue	Competition Player
PAT 2 from 800 to 999 Points or more	4 th Dark Blue	Professional
PAT 2 from 1000 Points upwards	Diploma supplement	
PAT 3 from 550 to 699 Points	5 th Black	Touring Pro
PAT 3 from 700 to 849 Points	6 th Red	Master
PAT 3 from 850 to 999 Points	7 th Gold	Grand Master
PAT 3 from 1000 Points upwards	8 th Pink	World Master

PAT 1 may be absolved only once every quarter of a year. **PAT 2** and **3** may be absolved only once half-yearly. Details on precisely how a **PAT** is built up, according to which rules and conditions, where it takes place, and how the Colour Emblems look like are to be found in the below noted web pages* or in the attachment.

For this purpose, official “**PAT-Emblem-Qualification**“ tests will be held world wide. A “**PAT-Emblem-Qualification**“ does not consist of just a test, but has a seminar character. At these meets, not only strengths and weaknesses of the sportsmen will be noted, but also solution methods and training syllabi are to be set (didactically organised seminar with final test).

For this purpose, continually more “**PAT-Instructors**“ will be schooled! Here we differentiate Instructors qualified to deliver the **PAT** levels 1 & 2, those additionally qualified to deliver the **PAT** level 3 and those who are qualified and should school and test further “**PAT-Instructors**“ for the levels 1 – 2.

Every official **PAT-Qualification** will be announced on the official **PAT-web page** (naturally with links to the WPA web page). Here every interested sportsman can apply for the **PAT** in his neighbourhood!

Through the online presence, all **PAT-Rankings** will be presented that are meaningful and possible (**PAT** – rankings of world, continental, national, ladies only, men only, youth only, etc.).

The **PAT** test forms are enclosed in the corresponding training notebooks (**PAT 1** in notebook 1, **PAT 2** in the notebook 2 and **PAT 3** in notebook 3). These notebooks are available without restriction and may be ordered mainly over the official web page.

At every test or training leading to a **PAT**, participants have the option to be listed on the above-mentioned web page anonymously (without mention of emblem and emblem) or preferably officially (with emblem and data circulation in the mentioned framework).

The recognised instructors who were engaged in the development abide by that these tests have been repeatedly tested and applied. These tests ensure a meaningful feedback over the strengths and weaknesses of every sportsman! Highest praise and always a positive echo were received by the above trainers for the tests held in the past!

Players taking these tests become sportsman officially!

With this system, Pool Billiard becomes Sport irrevocably!

Within the framework of the completed test series, data particulars from the following countries have already been secured: Germany, Austria, Morocco, Thailand, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Switzerland and others. Sportsmen with WPA emblems can be encountered there.

The WPA recommends all affiliated continental and national associations to accept and introduce the **PAT**. The WPA has recognised the **PAT** in particular and exclusively world wide since it would, in no case, make sense to have different systems of this kind used everywhere (no comparison, non uniform, etc.)! In many countries further suitable **PAT-Instructors** are being sought! Especially continental wise (Asia, Africa, South-America), instructors are being sought – those not only qualified to hold the **PAT** in all three levels, but also those who can and are willing to school **PAT-Instructors** in the levels 1 and 2.

Such can be offered till March 31, 2006 with favourable conditions, after which standard fees will be valid. Every nation is now being offered this unique opportunity to act for our sport and should not to let it go wasted!

Beginning September 1st, 2005, the mentioned Internet presence will go online with the first available official data and evaluations. Till then, the following involved persons will be at disposal for further details:

www.wpa-pool.com

www.americancuesports.org

www.pat-billiard.com

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¹ Trainer: Ralph Eckert (EPBF & DBU), Mannheim-Germany; Jorgen Sandman (EPBF & WCBS), Malmö-Sweden; Andres Huber (EPBF & DBU), Dachau-Germany.



PAT-Procedure

General Conditions

To be recommended for two players to a table. Duration is then approx. 3 - 4 hours. With just one player to a table: plan 2 - 3 hours. With 3 players to a table: 6 hours should be planned. Should the players possess PAT experience, the time may be shortened, and vice versa.

A PAT trainer can well handle up to 6 players on three tables. A single trainer can even conduct the tests with 20 players on 10 tables - lots of experience will then be required! As a rule, an assistant for every 3 tables should be appointed.

Standard printed PAT forms to be entered by hand are sufficient with up to 6 participants. With 7 or more participants, it is recommended to use the PC supported Excel tables. In which case, the assistants are to enter the printed PAT forms by hand.

9' tables (playing field: 100 in. x 50 in.) corresponding to WPA specifications are prescribed! WPA Equipment Specs are detailed online at www.wpapool.com.

While conducting an official PAT, the PAT trainer will strive to present himself (personal style in clothing and language) and the tests in a consistently professional manner..

As according to the PAT trainer's proposal, there may be either:

- the PAT only (followed by basic commentaries), or
- the PAT with subsequent individual training (which may be set for the following day)

The PAT trainer may offer the latter above as an option.

The participant can decide on applying for the test whether he wishes

- to remain anonymous (just for personal training), or
- to participate officially (with emblem award and entry of personal results in the rankings).

The best achieved results on each level of a participant will always remain listed in the rankings.



Doing the test

Maximum of 30 minutes warm-up time is to be granted.

Table shortcomings discovered by the participants during warm-up (straightness, levelness, speed, rails, etc.) are to be reported to the PAT trainer during this time. Later complaints cannot be taken into consideration.

Make sure that the participants registration is complete (either done through Internet or before the PAT event by having the participants fill out the printed forms). Every participant determines then if he/she wishes to be enlisted officially or as an anonymous player. Necessary information for an official entry consists of first name, family name, e-mail address, town/city of residence and birth date.

After the to-be-performed exercise is explained, balls for the corresponding exercise shall be set up on every table! Only then shall the trainer allow the exercise to begin on all tables - simultaneously!

Every participant is to complete his (3) innings "at one go" - independent on the number of participants at each table.

On completing his inning, the participant discloses the achieved result to the assistant or to the PAT trainer. It would be ideal if the PAT trainer could concentrate on random checks and look out for mistakes concerning the tests.

In this manner exercise after exercise are absolved - breaks may be granted at his discretion.

After evaluating the PAT, the PAT trainer discloses the achieved results officially and presents the emblems and certificates where applicable. Finally, the fundamental explanations to each section of the test will be delivered.

At a PAT followed by individual training, it is recommended to form groups made up of participants with the same or similar weaknesses in technique. The PAT trainer can then offer to help eliminate the deficiencies and to advise on future training plans to each group.



PAT-Principle

As a rule each exercise is to be performed in 3 innings (exceptions: categories straightness and standard balls).

The results of these 3 innings are added together and then divided by 3. This gives the test average for the corresponding category.

In some of the categories 2 attempts of 3 innings each are to be made (categories 5, 6 and 7). The sum of the results from the 6 innings are accordingly divided by 6.

This achieved average is then multiplied by the given factor. This results in the points and percentage value of this category respectively. The results are to be rounded off: more than 0.50 to 1.00 and less than 0.49 to 0.00!

Equation: Achieved Average x Factor = Points (Percentage Value)

A target value is set for each category! This target value multiplied by the given corresponding factor always equals 100 (equivalent to 100%).

Should the achieved average be greater than the given target value, more than 100 (%) can be scored (the so-called academic overhang)!

Under "Summary", the single results are added to the last subtotal - leading to the final score in PAT.

All exercises are designed so that 100% correspond to the target value. 80% is considered as "passed".

The whole test will not be considered "passed" and must be repeated if the total score does not reach 800 points. With 800 or more points (corresponds to 80% of the whole test) achieved, the next test may be taken in next higher level (i.e. PAT 2).



Emblems

Emblem	Points	Status
	PAT 1 600 - 799 points	Sportplayer
	PAT 1 800 points onwards	Sportsman
	PAT 2 600 - 799 points	Competitive Player
	PAT 2 800 points onwards	Professional



Emblem



Points
PAT 3
550 - 699
points

Status
Touring Pro



PAT 3
700 - 849
points

Master



PAT 3
850 - 999
points

Grand Master



PAT 3
800 points
onwards

World Master



PAT Basics

The Playing Ability Tests (PAT) may, as a matter of course, be used in club events or just for oneself. It is only official when the PAT is conducted by an official PAT trainer. This is the only possibility to have the achieved results entered in the official PAT rankings and to receive an original WPA performance emblem.

1. Charges and costs

Every PAT is naturally subject to charges (as are in belt qualifications in martial sports!). The charges are to be paid in advance.

PAT 1 about \$35 USD for each participant plus PAT emblem costs (\$5)

PAT 2 about \$45 USD for each participant plus PAT emblem costs (\$5)

PAT 3 about \$65 USD for each participant plus PAT emblem costs (\$5)

PAT performance emblems/patches approved by the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) are available in North America by contacting the American CueSports Alliance (ACS) at tel. 920-662-1705.

2. Test frequency

A player may not enter an official PAT as often as he pleases - this would destroy the “non repetition character” of the PAT procedure.

Beyond that, the contents of the tests are not meant to be trained through PAT participation one after the other, but to first train the identified weaknesses in one or two training cycles and then be confirmed at a fresh participation.

The following regulations apply:

PAT 1 taken not more often than every 3 months officially.

PAT 2 taken not more often than every 6 months officially.

PAT 3 taken not more often than every 6 months officially.

Players passing the PAT (results with over 800 points) may take the next higher PAT at the next opportunity - no time limit is set!

3. Rankings

The PAT rankings always list only the best achieved results of the participants. Past results in lower PAT levels naturally remain valid and the performance emblems may be retained - to document their own progress or simply for “memories’ sake”.

4. PAT sequence

In the first stages, not every participant must start with the PAT 1 - though this could be interesting enough even for the “superior” cue athlete.

Caution: Don't risk attempting a too high level - you may go empty handed!



If you are aiming for an emblem, you shouldn't reach out too high - on not reaching the emblem marks (for example at PAT 3: black emblem with 550 points and more) you will go empty handed and will not even be awarded a lower level emblem!

As a reminder:

PAT 1 is meant for the novice thru intermediate.

PAT 2 is for the advanced.

PAT 3 is for the second league thru world class cue athlete!



How Can I Be A PAT Examiner?

First of all, the PAT Examiner in the PAT system is classified in five ranks:

1. **PAT Trainer 1st Rank:** authorised to conduct PAT Start and PAT 1
2. **PAT Trainer 2nd Rank:** authorised to conduct PAT Start to and PAT 2
3. **PAT Trainer 3rd Rank:** authorised to conduct PAT Start to PAT 2 and to school PAT Examiners rank 1 to 2!
4. **PAT Trainer 4th Rank:** authorised to conduct all PAT levels and to school PAT Examiner Rank 1 to 2!
5. **PAT Trainer 5th Rank:** authorised to conduct all PAT levels and to school all PAT Examiner Ranks!

The PAT Examiner 5th Rank receives authorization to school further examiners for a specified country only and, in some exceptions, also for several countries. This authorization is generally only to school those up to PAT 4th Rank. Time and place is always to be coordinated with the PAT system.

To ensure the effectiveness of the PAT system and to secure its long term high standard, the PAT examiner, above all, must be in possession of the following **qualities**:

Integrity, team spirit, sovereignty, ability to assert oneself (courage), loyalty, honesty, ability to address an audience, incorruptibility, intelligence, composure and tolerance.

In addition, the following **qualifications** are necessary:

- Experience as a instructor/coach, i.e. a valid instructor/coaching permit, should such a instructor/coach system exist in his country, otherwise.
- A briefing on the PAT system.
- A sport oriented qualification comparable to the PAT Emblem grading! As well as experience in competition situations of an athlete or sportsman

Qualities

The above mentioned qualities are naturally not written in the faces of the applicants. During the further schooling (at least three-day period of) or, briefing, as the case may be, the PAT trainer in charge will be able to judge each of the applicants. Should there be any doubts, he may invite those concerned to a "tête-à-tête". The PAT trainer will then try to examine the applicant more closely to extract the above mentioned attributes.

- If all doubts are cleared, the PAT authorisation will be issued.
- Should doubts remain, the conducting PAT trainer may decline to issue the PAT authorization without giving any reasons!



- Should only light doubts remain after the talk, it is up to the conducting PAT examiner to deny the authorization or to issue it “on trial”. That means, the applicant receives the authorization but will be under stricter surveillance as other PAT applicants for a period of time. If he performs well, he may continue without any reservations. Should the doubts held against him be confirmed, his entry into the PAT system (Internet portal) will simply be blocked again, making it impossible for him to conduct official PATs .any further.

This applies also to PAT examine who are not under special observation! Shortcomings of any kind may result in having their PAT admission blocked. At least till the shortcomings are cleared and that it is assured they will not happen again. Non-compliance faces a final PAT ban.

Required qualifications:

Here the PAT system gladly takes into consideration the individual situations in different countries.

In Germany, for example, it was quite easy since it had already possessed a functioning trainer and schooling system; just the following agreement was reached:

- From Sept. 1st 2005, all schooled B examiners may be named PAT examiner 3rd rank, since the PAT system will then be an integral part of the schooling in Germany .
- All B- examiners schooled before Sep 1st, 2005 may also be nominated as PAT examiner 3rd Rank after a short introduction in the PAT system.
- All A-examiners schooled as of Sept 1st, 2005 may be nominated as PAT examiner 3rd Rank.
- All A-examiners schooled before Sept 1st, 2005 may also be nominated as PAT trainer 3rd Rank after a short introduction in the PAT system.

In Austria a similar system exists. Its national examiner will surely have all the required information.

In the rest of Europe (where a nation wide recognised system does not yet exist), there is a system introduced by the EPBF, which enjoys a mutual recognition with Germany and Austria . The EPBF system has three levels (club, national and international), which may be reached through six independent courses. These, however, deal only with subjects on billiards itself. According to it:

- EPBF examiners of the first (club) level become PPAT examiners 1st Rank
- EPBF examiners of the second (national) level (corresponds to the German C-trainer) may become PAT examiners 2^{dn} Rank.
- EPBF examiners of the third (international) level (corresponds to the German B-trainer) may become PAT examiners 3rd Rank.

In North America the PAT examining is being directed by the American CueSports Alliance (ACS) and a showcase within their new instructor/coach program. **PAT Manuals in English may be purchased from the ACS by calling tel. 920-662-1705.**



On other continents where coaching systems are in practice, the PAT system can be integrated (as a result of the WPA recommendation!). In countries of those mentioned continents where no coaching system is practised, the PAT system can serve as a basis to develop such a system (WPA recommendation)! For example:

In Asia:

A PAT examiner 5th Rank, with authorisation to conduct further courses, is being appointed in 2005/2006 in each of the countries (Philippines, Taiwan, China, Korea , etc.). In fact, courses are being scheduled!

Arabia:

Saudi-Arabia, Emirates, Morocco, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordanian, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Algeria ,

Appropriate contacts are actually taken place (through WPA recommendation).

USA :

The ACS have been convinced and have integrated the PAT system as an integral and lasting part of its instructor/coaching system! One of its chief ACS instructor/coaches – Joseph Mejia - has been briefed and has become the first individual to be accredited as a PAT trainer 5th Rank in North America!

In Africa:

Consultations on appointing a qualified continental instructor/coach authorised to conduct the tests and courses on all levels have also been held with the president of the African Billiard Association! A schedule for the intended introduction will soon be attended to.

In South America:

Existing looser contacts will be intensified to proceed as according to the above mentioned model.

Proficiency in the sport:

Besides the above mentioned specialized qualifications a certain minimum grade of proficiency in the sport will be demanded. This can be satisfied by taking part in any of the introductions to PAT. This qualification could then be subsequently handed in at any of the official PAT being conducted.

PAT trainer 1st Rank requires the light blue WPA emblem

→ PAT 2 with at least 600 points!

PAT trainer 2nd Rank requires the light blue WPA emblem!

→ PAT 2 with at least 600 points!

PAT trainer 3rd Rank requires the light blue WPA emblem!



→ PAT 2 with at least 600 points!

PAT trainer 4th Rank requires the dark blue WPA emblem at least!

→ PAT 2 with at least 800 points!

PAT trainer 5th Rank requires the black WPA emblem at least!

→ PAT 3 with at least 500 points!

Or a **WPA lower emblem** but only with a special additional qualification that is recognised by the PAT Company (e.g. professor of any subject, PhD of a suitable and relevant subject, degrees in engineering, psychology, physical education, a functionary on a world level, etc.)!

An auxiliary qualification that would make the entire PAT system valuable if holders of such were part of it. An auxiliary qualification that could find a general approval among athletes and sports persons!