

2023

***ITTF COUNCIL
MEETING
WORKING DOCUMENTS***



TABLE TENNIS.
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FOR LIFE.



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION

ITTF COUNCIL MEETING

The 2023 ITTF Council Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in a hybrid format, on Wednesday, 23rd August 2023, starting at 14h00 ICT (07h00 UTC).

AGENDA

1. President Welcome and Opening Address
2. Roll call, welcome and ratification of new members (if any)
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the BoD meeting held on 4th December 2022 in Amman
4. Annual reports from the Athletes Commission and the Commissioners
 - 4.1 Athletes' Commission
 - 4.2 Technical Commissioner
 - 4.3 Gender and Diversity Commissioner
 - 4.4 Youth Commissioner
5. Appointment of the Chairs of the Permanent Committees
6. Appointment of new Members to the Audit and Finance (if any)
7. Appointment of new Members to the Integrity Board
8. Appointment of Members of the Sustainability Committee
9. The Future of the World Cups
10. Propositions and resolutions
 - 10.1 General Propositions and Resolutions
 - 10.2 Busan 2024 Intercontinental Stage proposed replacement
 - 10.3 Busan 2024 WTTC Finals Format of Play
 - 10.4 Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Format of Play
11. Competition Updates
 - 11.1 World Title Events
 - 11.2 World Youth Events
 - 11.3 World Veteran Events
 - 11.4 Para Table Tennis
12. Election of the 2025 World Youth Championships host
13. Next ITTF Council Meeting
14. Any other business
15. Adjournment

1. Introduction and Election

We were elected in November 2022 and appointed together as the co-chairs of the Athletes Commission in December 2022 at the ITTF Summit in Amman, Jordan. We are grateful for the opportunity to represent and work for the athletes and with the ITTF to make the sport of table tennis better for all.

The Athletes Commission is currently made up of the following members:

- Co-Chairs: Sharath Kamal ACHANTA (IND) and LIU Shiwen (CHN)
- Deputy Chairs: Stefan FEGERL (AUT) and Elizabeta SAMARA (ROU)
- Athletes Members: Melissa TAPPER (AUS), Omar ASSAR (EGY), Daniely RIOS (PUR), and Jon PERSSON (SWE)
- Para-Athletes Members: Ingela LUNDBACK (SWE); and Kelly VAN ZON (NED)
- IOC AC Member: RYU Seungmin (KOR)

2. Areas of Responsibility

We look to fulfil all areas under our responsibility and hope to perform all of the duties expected of us. Since our election, and under our areas of responsibility, the most important points to us have been:

1. Establishing a means of seeking athletes' opinions on issues of major importance in Table Tennis through as wide a network of enquiry as possible;
2. Reporting to the EB on organisational issues that may arise in connection with athlete's participation at the different competitions organised under the ITTF Group umbrella;
3. Providing opinions on specific issues of athletes' interest that may be entrusted to it by the ITTF; and
4. Promoting and fostering the worldwide development of Table Tennis.

3. Activities of the Previous Athletes Commission in 2022

As we were only elected in November 2022, our predecessor, Mr Zoran PRIMORAC, reports that 2022 the Athletes Commission held two online meetings to discuss issues surrounding athlete feedback and suggestions for improvement.

4. Activities of the Current Athletes Commission

Since our election, we have been actively attending all ITTF EB meetings as well as CC meetings online and in person. Shiwen was also given the opportunity to travel to Switzerland at the invitation of the European Top 16 Cup at the beginning of 2023 and was given the chance to see the IOC headquarters, meet with IOC President Thomas BACH, and have fruitful discussions with members and management of the IOC Athletes Commission. We will be sure to adopt all the learnings and resources from the IOC towards the future endeavours of the Athletes Commission.

5. Concluding Remarks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the ITTF President, all EB members and the ITTF Group management team for their full cooperation and support. Our gratitude also to our fellow Athletes Commission members for their commitment and engagement for the benefit of table tennis as a sport, and most importantly, its players. We look forward to future cooperation with all ITTF stakeholders in order to ensure the progressive and sustainable future development of table tennis.

Sharath Kamal ACHANTA and LIU Shiwen

Athletes' Commission Co-Chairs

The mandate of the Technical Commissioner includes:

- Liaise with the Competition Department and advise the ITTF Council on the organisation of the Olympic Games, and World Title competitions, and make recommendations on the system of play;
- Assist the Competition Department and referee team with the World Championships draws;
- Advise on the playing schedule for the Olympic Games and World Title competitions, as necessary;
- Serve as a member of the World Ranking Working Group;
- Serve as a member of the other Working Groups as required;
- Provide advice on eligibility matters;
- Function as the Chair of the Jury at the World Championships;
- Provide technical assistance for Multi-Sport Games and Continental Championships;
- Work closely with the Competition Department to achieve the above objectives; and
- Provide technical expertise and guidance to the Rules, Umpires and Referees Committees, Para Table Tennis and professional staff.

These responsibilities are handled in close cooperation with the Competition Department.

In 2022 my key role was to assist the ITTF and the Competition Department with the playing format, schedules, and general inquiries relating to technical rules for major events. These included the Olympic Games, Olympic Games Qualification, Paralympic Games, World Championships, World Para Championships and World Youth Championships.

I am a member of the World Ranking Group looking at various items and have also provided expertise and assistance as required to other Working Groups and Committees, mainly to the URC, and the ITTF staff, whenever requested.

I am also available to consult with the continental representatives on technical issues related to continental events to align them more closely with the ITTF and WTT events.

Graeme IRELAND

ITTF Technical Commissioner

2022 was the year to adjust from 24 months of living in a bubble to open spaces and normality; the only survival tool was to behave normally in an abnormal space. We are back on track, by adopting the get-up-and-go approach and believing that everything is going to be okay in the NEW NORMAL

Firstly, I want to thank the President, Ms Petra Sörling and the ITTF Executive Board for my re-appointment as the ITTF Gender Commissioner.

My report will cover the activities for the period of January to December 2022.

1. ITTF Gender Strategic and Implementation Plan 2022-2026

The draft ITTF Gender Commission Strategic and Implementation Plan was forwarded to the President for her perusal and comments, I further suggested that if the ITTF was committed to achieving Gender Equality, it was important to drive the implementation plan from the office of the President as Gender Equality and redress cuts across all the activities of the ITTF. Ms Anita Ullmann, Coordinator in the President’s office, is administratively assisting with completing the draft Plan.

ITTF Summit Amman Jordan 4-8 December 2022

At the 1st ITTF Summit, a slot was awarded to discuss **Diversity and Inclusion**. The objective of this session was to talk about safeguarding, gender mainstreaming in sport leadership, LGBTQ+ integration in and through sport.

ITTF President Petra Sörling opened the session, the panellist were Dr Payoshni Mitra, CEO of the Global Observatory for Gender Equality & Sport, Catherine Carty, UNESCO Chair Manager, and me. The participation and interaction with the audience were positive, though more time is needed to fully engage in understanding Gender Equality vs patriarchy. A suggestion that was common in conversations during the Summit for breakaway groups, and report back to the Plenary for a resolution/action.

2. Participation Statistics

For all Continents as of 31-12-2022 (Stats supplied by the Head of the ITTF Dev. Department).

	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Women	45% (3117)	45% (4,244)	42% (471)	39 (1,294)	32% (392)	38% (1,492)
Men	55% (3811)	55% (5,123)	58% (641)	61%	68% (931)	62% (2,452)

*High interest in „My Gender. My Strength.” Program resulted in an increased % of female participation in general.

2022 Participation Statistics - Continental Overview:

	AFRICA	AMERICAS	ASIA*	EUROPE	OCEANIA
Women	42%	36%	68%	34%	43%
Men	58%	64%	32%	66%	57%

*High female participation in “My Gender. My Strength.” Program had a major influence on overall 2022 Participation Statistics in Asia.

2022 Participation Statistics - High Performance & Education:

	High Performance	Education
Women	57%	33%
Men	43%	67%

2022 "My Gender. My Strength.", a Member Association Assistance Program for Women's Development in Table Tennis

In total, 33 Member Associations applied to be part of the program, with the highest number of applications received from the Americas, as 14 MAs endeavoured to showcase their national projects. In the end, Cuba, Argentina, Honduras, and Mexico were supported in implementing the relevant national projects.

With this edition being the second time MGMS was made available to African MAs, interest in this program was still very high, with a total of 13 MAs applying to be part of it. Nigeria, Kenya, Eswatini, Burkina Faso, Tunisia and Congo Brazzaville were ultimately successful with their projects.

Within Asia, the selected associations were Sri Lanka, Maldives, Lebanon, and Iran, and within Oceania it was Tonga.

ITTF Participation Program Online Service – “Achieving Gender Balance in Table Tennis”

This Online Service aims to provide answers on what's the best way to achieve gender balance at all levels and in all areas in a sport organization, also by highlighting the main gender balance concepts, trends, and good practices. Member Associations learn about IOC, ASOIF and ITTF practices, the respective objectives and recommendations and the important milestones achieved so far. The guidelines and directions for achieving gender balance in table tennis, supported by examples of good practices, feature some successful Member Association cases. This program was requested and delivered to 6 Member Associations in 2022.

ITTF Participation Program

Africa – 3 Women’s Projects

Americas – 2 Women’s Activities & 5 Women’s Projects

ITTF Mentorship

The ITTF Mentorship Program serves to support promising and ambitious coaches and match officials by enhancing their knowledge and skills, and thus significantly contributing to their professional development.

Out of 14 experienced and renowned experts acting as mentors, 5 were women, i.e., 37%, and out of the 37 selected mentees, 10 were women, which represents 27%.

ITTF Para Table Tennis Grants

The aim of the incentive is to assist Member Associations by providing dedicated support to promising and talented Para Table Tennis players, and this way, enrich their training process and/or boost their participation at international PTT-sanctioned events, having in mind also the

qualification period for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Out of 9 players supported by PTT grants, 3 were female, which represents 33%.

2022 Asia Hopes Week and Challenge

- For the first time in history, girls from Saudi Arabia participated in the Hopes Program.

2022 International Women's Day

- ITTF High Performance & Development Department organised a Webinar on the 8th of March to celebrate International Women's Day, "#BreakTheBias in Table Tennis."

The election of Ms Liu Shiwen, Athletes Commission Chair, to the ITTF Executive Board is a positive, increasing Women representation on the ITTF Executive Board to two (2).

The draft ITTF Gender Strategic and Implementation Plan 2022-2026 has been reviewed and is now referred to as the Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI) Plan. It was tabled and approved by the ITTF Executive Board. I am looking forward to working with the leadership of the Member Associations in fulfilling the outcomes of the GEDI Plan.

Conclusion

My appreciation and thanks to the ITTF Leadership, Continental Presidents, and the Leadership of the Member Associations for your commitment as an enabler in promoting the implementation of Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in all programs you are responsible for.

A special thanks to the ITTF Chief Executive Officer, Mr Steve Dainton, CFO, the Directors, and the ITTF staff for their support.

Hajera KAJEE (Ms)

ITTF Gender and Diversity Commissioner

Dear ITTF Council Members,

I am looking forward to meeting you all in Bangkok at the ITTF Summit, which includes the ITTF Council meeting as part of it. There, we can discuss the relevant topics, and exchange our thoughts and opinions about the WTT Youth Series and World Youth Championships.

WTT Youth Series

becomes more and more popular. As I mentioned already in my last report the bidding process for the Youth Series 2022 showed a very big interest of associations to host events though COVID-19 still had an impact in some continents:

- This enabled WTT to have 6 Star Contender and 27 Contender events in the Youth Series Calendar 2022 across all continents.

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Panamerica
Youth Contender	3	4	16	1	3
Youth Star Contender	1	1	4		

- The star contender event in North Macedonia was the first event of the youth series where mixed doubles were played – this was well appreciated by the associations.

The interest for the WTT Youth Series 2023 was even bigger, and the WTT Youth Calendar 2023 could be distributed with 44 events already in Sept. 2022. Thank you to Tiago Viegas as Senior WTT Youth Series manager with his staff for the incredible work to put the puzzle of dates for the events together and for the very good work towards the host associations to get the events done.

ITTF World Youth Championships (WYC)

The WYC 2022 in Tunis/Tunisia went very well, and a big thank you goes to Tunisia for hosting this successful event. It was the last edition where we had 8 teams and 24 single players, boys and girls, for the U 15 WYC and 12 teams, 32 single players, boys and girls, for the U 19 WYC. Teams and players were qualified to the WYC through the respective Continental Youth Championships and through the ITTF Table Tennis Youth Ranking of 13 September 2022.

In December 2022 in the Board (now ITTF Council) meeting, the proposition of Japan regarding the WYC passed with a big majority. To fulfil the intention of this proposal, it was necessary to work on the concrete wording for the qualification document, which is meanwhile done. Now all Member Associations are aware that starting in the WYC 2023, no replacements in Singles are permitted except for a Member Association that has qualified in the same age category as a team that may alternate a different player in the singles than the player who has qualified under WR depending on the number of players who have qualified under WR.

The Board allocated in the meeting in December 2022

- the 2023 WYC to the Slovenian Table Tennis Association, to be held in the city of Nova Gorica from 26th November to 3rd December 2023 and
- the 2024 WYC to the Swedish Table Tennis Association, to be held in the city of Helsingborg from 1st to 8th December 2024.

Having mentioned in the Board in Amman that there will be a proposition coming by postal ballot regarding the U15 WYC I would like to thank the ITTF Council for approving the proposition to amend the qualification system for ITTF WYC to equal the number of quotas in U15 and U19 events in future (starting in 2023), which provides a clearer and more solid qualification not only in the U19 event but also in the U 15 event.

Finally, I thank everyone involved and engaged in the WTT Youth Event Series program and WYC – a special thank you goes to Tiago Viegas as the Senior WTT Youth Series Manager for his great work.

Thank you to all involved in the work for youth table tennis for your cooperation and good work.

It was a pleasure to work together with you all.

Heike AHLERT

Youth Commissioner

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-03

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Board

To amend 3.2.2.10:

3.2. EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

..//..

- 3.2.2.10 Players competing in a World, Olympic or Paralympic title competition shall wear shirts and shorts or skirts of types authorised by their Association. **Players competing in these competitions shall have the player's name on the back of the shirt.**

Rationale:

The player's name on the back of the shirt is already a mandatory requirement for Olympic and Paralympic competitions. It has been further implemented in World Title Events, especially when back numbers were not applicable, i.e., World Youth Championships, World Championships, and World Para Championships. It should be a standard requirement for better and clearer identification of players. Most players already have their names printed on the back of the shirts for other International Events.

Proposition IC-2023-04

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee

To update article 4.1.8 (Jury of the World Championships Finals):

- 4.1.8.1 The Jury shall consist of the Technical Commissioner, Chairs of the ~~Technical~~, Rules and the Umpires and Referees Committees, a representative of the Competition Department, a representative of the organising committee and the referee; the referee shall have the right to speak but not to vote.
- 4.1.8.2 If any of the nominated Chairs is unable to attend a meeting of the Jury, ~~he or she~~ **they** may nominate to attend in ~~his or her~~ **their** place another member of ~~his or her~~ **their** Committee, who shall have the right to speak and to vote; **if the Technical Commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of the Jury, he may nominate a qualified** substitute, who shall have the right to speak and to vote.

Rationale:

This is to update regulations regarding the WTTC Finals' Jury. In particular, there is no more Technical Committee; furthermore, a replacement of the Technical Commissioner, if necessary, should be applied.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-05

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Sports Science and Medical Committee

To update 4.1.2.2.4 and 4.1.2.2.5:

4.1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

..//..

4.1.2 Responsibilities of Organisers

..//..

4.1.2.2 Organisers shall provide accommodation and meals from lunch on the day before the Championships begin until breakfast on the day after the Championships end for:

..//..

4.1.2.2.4 up to 3 Doping Control Supervisors appointed by the ~~Sports Science and Medical Committee~~ International Testing Agency (ITA);

4.2 WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

..//..

4.2.2 Responsibilities of Organisers

..//..

4.2.2.2 Organisers shall provide accommodation and meals from lunch on the day before the Championships begin until breakfast on the day after the Championships end for

4.2.2.2.5 up to 2 Doping Control Supervisors appointed by the ~~Sports Science and Medical Committee~~ International Testing Agency (ITA);

Rationale:

A new agreement between ITTF and ITA just signed gives full responsibility for A-D to ITA. Since most A-D activities are now under the ITA umbrella, SSMC proposes moving all A-D activities to ITA.

Proposition IC-2023-06

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Tribunal

To amend 7.1.1.1:

7. ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

..//..

Article 7.1.1.1: Harassment is a form of discrimination. Harassment is prohibited by human rights legislation and is considered unlawful in many States of the world. **It is also prohibited by this ITTF Anti-Harassment Policy.**

Rationale:

*The goal of this addition to this provision is to explicitly and specifically state that harassment is prohibited by the ITTF regulations. Accordingly, the ITTF Integrity Unit can receive complaints **resulting from the violation of this prohibition.***

It can also assist in the formal resolution of complaints and decide whether or not to initiate proceedings before the ITTF Tribunal (article 7.5.2). Violation of the harassment prohibition would also specifically give the ITTF Tribunal jurisdiction to hear and decide any alleged infringement of any ITTF rule, pursuant to article 8.15.1.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-07

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Tribunal

To amend 8.15.4.2 and 8.21.4:

8.15.4.2 unless otherwise specified in any provision of the ITTF Handbook, the Request for Proceedings of the appeal must be filed with the ITTF Tribunal no later than 21 days after the date that the appealing party receives the decision in question. **This 21-day deadline to appeal may not be extended.** The decision being appealed will remain in full force and effect pending determination of the appeal, unless the Hearing Panel (or the ITTF Tribunal Chair, if the Hearing Panel has yet to be formed) orders otherwise;

Rationale:

Like the CAS Code of Sports-related arbitration (article R32(2) of the CAS Code), the 21-day deadline to appeal a decision may not be extended. All other deadlines fixed by the ITTF Tribunal may be extended in accordance with article 8.21.4, provided however that the deadline for which the extension is requested has not yet expired.

8.21.4 Upon application on justified grounds and after consultation with the other party (or parties), the Hearing Panel Chair (or the ITTF Tribunal Chair, if the Hearing Panel has yet to be formed) may extend ~~the~~ any time limit provided in these ITTF Tribunal Regulations, **except the 21-day deadline to appeal provided at article 8.15.4.2, if the circumstances so warrant and provided that the time limit for which the extension is requested has not already expired.**

Rationale:

The added text is identical to the corresponding text in article R32(2) of the CAS Code. The purpose of this amendment is to ensure the legal certainty. Once a deadline has expired, it may no longer be extended.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-08

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Tribunal

To amend 8.18.1, 8.18.2, and 8.18.3:

- 8.18.1 Proceedings before the Hearing Panel shall be conducted in English, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties and subject to the approval by the Chair of the ITTF Tribunal (the “language of the procedure”).
- 8.18.2 Any party wishing to rely on documents written in a language other than the language of the procedure must provide certified English translations at their own cost.
- 8.18.3 Any party who wishes or whose witness wishes to give oral evidence in a language other than the language of the procedure must bring an independent and competent translator to translate that evidence into English, at their own cost.

Rationale:

The goal of this amendment is to avoid that the parties may agree to choose to proceed in a language, that none of the members of the ITTF Tribunal speaks well, or, worse, even if one the members of the ITTF Tribunal speaks such a language, there may not be two other members who would speak the same language to form a three-member panel. Therefore, the Chair of the ITTF Tribunal shall approve the parties choice of a language of procedure other than English and that choice cannot be imposed on the ITTF Tribunal.

Proposition IC-2023-09

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Tribunal

To amend 8.20.3:

- 8.20.3 Notices or other communications addressed to a party to a proceeding may be sent to their last-known residence, place of business or email address or by any other reliable communication means, unless that party notifies the Hearing Panel Chair (or the ITTF Tribunal Chair, if the Hearing Panel has yet to be formed) and all parties to that proceeding of a change to such address.

Rationale:

Should there be any issues with the delivery of notices or other communications to the parties, the Chair of the ITTF Tribunal or the panel shall be allowed to forward the communications sent by post or email, using other reliable means of communication, such as WhatsApp (or other chat applications, such as Signal, Telegram, WeChat, BlueJeans, etc.) in order to have as much evidence as possible to prove that the party has actually received the ITTF Tribunal's notices and communications.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-10

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Associations of (in alphabetical order of Association Code): ALG, ANT, AUT, BAN, COM, CYP, EGY, IND, IRI, IRQ, JOR, JPN, KAZ, KEN, KGZ, KSA, KUW, LBN, LCA, MDV, MRI, MTN, NEP, PLE, QAT, SRI, SUD, SYR, UAE & YEM.

As a result of the ITTF Board of Directors' decision in 2020 to have 40 teams compete at the World Team Table Tennis Championships in the final stage, we request the ITTF Council to increase the number of teams participating in the World Table Tennis Championships Finals from 40 to 64 starting in 2026.

The specific proposal is:

1. As there are 64 teams participating in the WTTTC Finals, the top 32 teams will play in Division 1 and the other 32 teams will play in Division 2.
2. Top 32 teams will be determined by the results of the previous World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals or by the ITTF Team Ranking. In addition to the top 32 teams, the remaining 32 would be selected by qualification tournaments with regional, continental, and intercontinental participation, based on existing mechanisms, with continental distribution as well as the host if not already included.
3. Four (4) teams will be promoted from Division 2 of the WTTTC to Division 1 of the subsequent WTTTC, while four (4) teams will be relegated from Division 1 to Division 2 of the subsequent WTTTC.
4. The 32 teams in Division 1 will be divided into 8 groups of four teams to play in a round-robin system, with the top two (2) teams advancing to Stage 2, where they will play in a knockout system to determine the top 16. In each group, the third and fourth place finishers would progress to Stage 2, where they would compete in a knockout system to determine the positions from 17 to 32. In the upcoming WTTTC, the winners of the first knock-out match (for positions 17-32) will be guaranteed a place in the first division and will not need to play any further matches. The losers of the first knockout match (for positions 17-32), play another match to determine the last four teams that will be relegated to Division 2 in the subsequent WTTTC.
5. For Division 2, 32 teams will be divided into eight groups of four teams to play in a round-robin format, with the top two (2) teams progressing to Stage 2, where they will play in a knockout format. The top four (4) teams from Stage 2 will be promoted to Division 1 of the subsequent WTTTC.

Rationale:

1. *The vast majority of ITTF Member Associations place a great deal of importance on team events. A wider representation of teams from all continents would be possible at the World Team Table Tennis Championship Finals by adding 24 teams.*
2. *The addition of 40 teams to 64 will also provide more motivation for weaker/growing teams on each continent to promote table tennis.*
3. *With 64 teams participating, more countries would be able to participate in the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals, promoting the growth of table tennis worldwide.*

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

4. *A divisional structure for the future WTTTC would enhance competitiveness, ensuring that teams are matched against opponents of similar skill levels, resulting in more competitive matches.*
5. *Division 2 will allow emerging teams to gain experience and exposure at the international level, fostering global development for the promotion of table tennis.*
6. *Having a promotion and relegation mechanism allows teams to earn their place in the top division based on performance, ensuring a fair and dynamic advancement pathway.*
7. *The proposed revised format for the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals, which accommodates 64 teams in two divisions, offers a balanced and inclusive approach to the tournament. As a result of adopting this revised format, the ITTF would be able to increase participation, promote global representation, and create an event for the entire table tennis community, including players and fans, that is more captivating and competitive.*

To ensure the continued growth and development of table tennis in the world, we urge the esteemed members of the ITTF to consider and adopt this proposal.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-11

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Association of BRN

Following the decision of the ITTF Board of Directors in 2020 regarding the future World Team Table Tennis Championships to have 40 teams in the final stage of WTTC, we would request the ITTF Council the possibility to increase the number of teams participating in future World Table Tennis Championships Finals to be 64 instead of 40.

Rationale:

- 1. Increasing the number of participating countries in the tournament from 40 to 64 would provide a more equitable opportunity for many participating countries. (having in consideration the fair and equitable mechanism for selecting the added number for each continent).*
 - 2. It would provide a significant incentive for all nations to prepare, participate and promote a spirit of competition on a larger scale.*
 - 3. This proposal emphasizes the importance of updating and advancing every country, regardless of their current levels. The objective is to enhance progress in all countries, irrespective of their technical capabilities.*
 - 4. The sports authorities in the member countries will increase their support for their national Association, as the possibility of participation and achieving advanced results has become possible through increased participation.*
 - 5. Undoubtedly, this proposal presents an opportunity and a grant for many countries to exert more effort in achieving the best achievements.*
 - 6. Countries will work on improving their ranking classification from one to another, which will serve as a benchmark for participating countries' performance.*
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Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-12

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

TECHNICAL LEAFLET TO MANUAL - CHANGE

a) DESIGN AND STRUCTURE UPDATE

The Technical Leaflets have been modernised and are now structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Standards
3. Testing
4. Approval
5. Explore
6. Annex

b) TITLE CHANGES

All Technical Leaflets

- T1: Table
- T2: Net Assembly
- T3: Ball
- T4: Racket Covering
- T6: Flooring

will be changed to the following Manuals:

- M1: Table
- M2: Net Assembly
- M3: Ball
- M4: Racket Covering
- M6: Flooring

c) TEXT CHANGES for M1, M2, M3, M4 and M6

All descriptions with “Technical Leaflet” or “Leaflet” will be replaced by “Manual”.

Rationale:

- a) *The contents of the approved Technical Leaflets have been transferred and re-structured into the new manual (for example: long text paragraphs with dimensions or values inside were structured to a diagram). Additionally, to the transferred content, text has been added with an administrative purpose, to describe the brand and manufacturers responsibility during the approval or authorisation procedure. Policy changes in the added part are written in an additional proposition.*
 - b) *The document title description “Technical Leaflet” no longer reflects the content of the document. The document contains all facets that are of administrative and technical importance for the respective equipment. Therefore, the name MANUAL was chosen instead of Technical Leaflet, because the former name only refers to the technical parts. Inside the MANUAL all information for the Brands, Manufacturers and Athletes are included.*
 - c) *Based on the proposition, that the documents will no longer be called “Technical Leaflet”, all sentences and wordings in the new Manuals should be changed to the new document name.*
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Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-13

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

POLICY CHANGES in the new Manuals

a)

1.2 ITTF LOGO AND TRADEMARK (M1, M2, M3, M4, M6)

All names must be in Roman or Latin letters, and additionally they may be in another language. The name may contain numbers.

b)

2.1 PRODUCT & BRAND (M4)

An ITTF authorised racket covering may lose its authorisation if the company markets another non-ITTF-authorised racket covering with the same or similar appearance as the ITTF authorised one, with which it could be confused.

c)

2.7 PACKAGING (M2, M3, M4)

The wording used on the packing may not contain false sponsorship's claims.

Rationale:

- a) *This policy has been used for the past years when a brand applied for a new product in all equipment areas. It was written only in the Racket Covering Leaflet; therefore, this requirement is adopted for all Manuals.*
 - b) *This policy has been used for the past years when a brand applied for a new product in racket coverings.*
 - c) *There is a need to protect the customer from misleading information of the market.*
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Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-14

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

- Text: **M1 TABLE**

All descriptions of “Supplier” will be replaced by “Brand” or “Brand owner”.

- Text: **M2 NET ASSEMBLY**

All descriptions of “Supplier” will be replaced by “Brand” or “Brand owner”.

- Text: **M3 BALL**

All descriptions of “Supplier” will be replaced by “Brand” or “Brand owner”.

- Text: **M6 FLOORING**

All descriptions of “Supplier” will be replaced by “Brand” or “Brand owner”.

Rationale:

We are working and officially contacting the Brands; this is why we need to define the text more precisely.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-15

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

M1 TABLE – STANDARDS & ANNEX

2.5.4. COLOUR/GLOSS, FINISH AND LINES OF TABLETOP

In addition to the principal finish, the playing surface must be marked with **white** side-lines, end lines and centre-lines (b6, b7, l7 and l8). The difference in level of all lines should not be detectable by the fingers, and in no case shall it be measurable. **The lines must be clearly distinguishable from the colour of the playing surface, meeting the following request:**

Side-lines / centre-lines	
Contrast Ration between lines and playing surface	Specific clarification will be researched and be provided at the next ITTF Council

Provisionally, manufacturers are directed to use these contrast colours for table lines. The testing laboratories will survey the colours that are produced.

Brands that apply for another coloured line than white need to apply for a net assembly with a net tape in the same colour.

Rationale:

Lines on tables should have specific contrasting colours to the tabletop.

A new table side line colour requires a suitable net assembly with the same net tape colour, based on the new ITTF Statutes regulation 3.2.1.6, if it will be used in international competitions.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-16

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

M2 NET ASSEMBLY – STANDARDS

2.4. NET/NET POST SPECIFICATIONS

COLOUR

Any colour, but not glossy, luminescent or fluorescent, is permitted. They are based on CIE-Lab system.

Upright Post	< 60 % Lightness
Net (mesh)	< 50 % Lightness
Net attaching to the post (binding)	Same than net colour
Net tape – Contrast Ratio of net tape and the net (mesh)	White or of any additional colour but clearly different from the colour of the net (mesh) Specific clarification will be researched and be provided at the next ITTF Council

Provisionally, manufacturers are directed to use these contrast colours for table lines. The testing laboratories will survey the colours that are produced.

Brands that apply for another coloured line than white need to apply for a net assembly with a net tape in the same colour.

Rationale:

Net tapes of the net assemblies have specific contrasting colours to the net (mesh).

A new net tape colour requires a suitable table with same side line colour, based on the new ITTF Statutes regulation 3.2.1.6, if it will be used in international competitions.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-17

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

M3 BALL – STANDARDS 2.6 – Stamp/ Second stamp

SECOND STAMP

For designated events, the ITTF may allow a second stamp to be applied on balls which are already ITTF approved and will be used only in that event. In this case, the second stamp shall be antipodal to the first one. The permission to print a second stamp and the design of the second stamp and the packaging shall be individually authorized by the ITTF.

Based on the sponsorship agreement, the wording used on each packing unit shall contain clearly which competition or series it applies to. The wording used on the packing may not contain false claims.

1. Olympic and Paralympic Games

Permission of the sale of the balls with a second stamp, and the permission of the relative marketing advertisements on the packaging are subject to the decision of the International Olympic Committee.

2. WTTC, WTT Series, WTT Feeder Events, Youth Series

The sales of balls with a second stamp are allowed until one year after the event or until the end of the sponsorship contract, whichever is the later date.

The sponsorship may be mentioned on the packaging of the balls beyond this date, but only by stating the year in which event took place.

3. Continental Championships

The sales of balls with a second stamp are allowed until one year after the event.

The sponsorship may be mentioned on the packaging of the balls beyond this date, but only by stating the year in which event took place.

Rationale:

The M3 has already provided the opportunity for the Brands to apply a second stamp on balls which are already ITTF approved and will be used only in designated events. In order to ensure equal treatment, it became necessary to define which competitions this rule applies to and what are the opportunities for selling these balls with two stamps.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-18

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

M4 RACKET COVERING

2.5 SPECIFICATIONS

COLOUR

PURPLE / PINK

Rationale:

From 2021, in addition to the 2 basic colours (red and black), we accept 4 more colours as follows:

- *Green*
- *Blue*
- *Purple/Pink*
- *Violet*
-

We would like to remove “Purple” and name this category only “Pink”. Without changing the standards (values), only the name would be changed. Several users have indicated that this name is confusing, as purple and violet colours are very close in range of the colours. In contrast, pink and purple are farther apart, so it would be better to leave only the “Pink” one.

This would also make the situation easier for our customers.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council

Proposition IC-2023-19

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

M6 FLOORING

2.1 PRODUCT & BRAND

Each floor must have a specific name that distinguishes its surface from others. ~~Each floor name may be approved for a maximum of 2 colours, each of 3 thicknesses or under layers.~~

[...]

~~For floors with an identical surface but with different layers below may keep the same name if its different structure does not confer to the floor properties that are significantly different;~~ The brand is allowed to apply for additional surface colours for one flooring product under the same name, the ITTF may decide case by case and may therefore initiate testing.

Rationale:

There are no arguments to allow only 2 colours for one flooring product under the same name. A colour change should not change the playing properties. The ITTF Equipment department has the capacity to test the colour changes and to ensure the quality, that the playing properties will not change.

Thickness change of flooring layers lead to a property change and requires always a separated approval with a new product name.

BUSAN 2024 WORLD TEAM TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS PLAYING SYSTEM

OBJECTIVE

This document presents two options for the Busan 2024 World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals Playing System (WTTTC Finals).

INTRODUCTION

ITTF Technical Commissioner, Graeme Ireland, and ITTF Group Sports Director, Mikael Andersson, have considered that with the WTTTC Finals Busan 2024 being determinant to up to 50% of the quotas for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in teams, this factor should be weighed into the decision of the Busan 2024 WTTTC Finals.

Following the review by the Continental Council, this report presents the basic structure of the event, including the bulk of the two proposed scheduling options, noting that both will remain acceptable, regardless of the chosen playing system.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the ITTF Council to decide the system of play for the WTTTC Finals Busan 2024 on the recommendation of the Continental Council.

In the following pages, you will see the two options proposed, named Option A, and Option B.

PROPOSED FORMAT OF PLAY

Option A – 40 teams / Eight groups of five: Two teams advance to the main draw 1/16. The winners of the groups are drawn vs runners up in the knockout stage.

Facts to consider:

- Evaluated¹ by ITTF Group's marketing team as the preferred option with slightly better commercial opportunities by expanding the TV options for the round of 16 matches.
- Favourable scheduling scenarios with one match per day/team, as the basic principle.
- Initial ranking and seeding become more important.
- Twenty-four out of forty teams are eliminated in the group stage.

Option B – 40 teams / Eight groups of five: Three teams advance to the main draw. Teams placed 2 and 3 in each group will play in the first round of the knockout stage, and the winners will progress to the round of 1/8, where they will face the group winners of the groups.

Facts to consider:

- Evaluated as most fair (sports/technical) system to be used, especially given the Olympic Qualifier scenario and certain immaturities connected to the new ITTF World Team Ranking – (WTTTC Finals 2024 used as Olympic Qualifier).
- More teams advance, adding eight competitive and important team matches to the main draw (4 MT+ 4WT round of 1/24). Added commercial value for data right sales.
- Should stimulate the competitiveness in the group stage. Winners of the group now with a bye in the first round of the knock-out stage.
- Sixteen out of forty teams eliminated in the group stage.

In the following pages, you will see the detailed format for each of the two proposed Systems of Play.

Prepared by

Graeme IRELAND
ITTF Technical Commissioner

Mikael ANDERSSON
ITTF Group Sports Director

¹ Special note: Host broadcasting set up and TV production overall yet to be finalized

2024 WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – OPTION A

TWO (2) TEAMS PROGRESSING FROM THE GROUPS TO THE KO

1. STRUCTURE

1.1 There is a single Division of 40 teams, with 8 Groups of 5 teams, for each gender.

2. PLAYING SYSTEM

2.1 The playing system will be as follows:

2.1.1 Each group of 5 teams shall play a complete round robin competition (4 matches per team).

2.1.2 The order of play and the scheduling of the matches will be prepared in such a way as to avoid, whenever possible, the possibility of “predetermining” results. All final round matches must be significant for each competing team.

2.1.3 Following the completion of the round robin in each group, a single knockout will be played with the top 2 teams in each group progressing to the knockout phase (16 teams).

2.1.4 The winners of each group (8 teams) will be drawn into seeded positions - winner of Group 1 seeded 1st (position 1), winner of Group 2 seeded 2nd (position 16), winners of Groups 3 and 4 drawn into positions 8 and 9, winners of groups 5, 6, 7 and 8 drawn into position 4, 5, 12, 13.

2.1.5 The teams placing 2nd in the group shall be drawn into the opposite half of the respective group winners.

2.1.6 The winning team shall receive gold medals, the runner-up silver medals and the two losing semi-finalists bronze medals.

3. SEEDING AND RANKING

3.1 Seeding shall be done as follows:

3.1.1 Teams ranked 1 to 8 shall be seeded as top of each group in number order.

3.1.2 Teams ranked 9 – 12 shall be drawn in Groups 5 – 8.

3.1.3 Teams ranked 13 - 16 shall be drawn in Groups 1 - 4, etc.

3.1.4 Teams ranked 17 – 40 shall be drawn similarly four-by-four using the modified snake system until all groups are complete.

3.2 The WTR which will be used for the for the draws shall be the last WTR before the draw.

4. DEFINITIONS

Group: refers to teams drawn together. There will be 8 groups and they are referred to in number order 1 through 8.

Ranking: refers to the ITTF’s World Team Ranking (WTR).

Seeding: refers to the placement of a team at the Event based on its ranking relative to all other entered teams.

2024 WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – OPTION B

THREE (3) TEAMS PROGRESSING FROM THE GROUPS TO THE KO

1. STRUCTURE

1.1 There is a single Division of 40 teams, with 8 Groups of 5 teams, for each gender.

2. PLAYING SYSTEM

2.1 The playing system will be as follows:

2.1.1 Each group of 5 teams shall play a complete round robin competition (4 matches per team).

2.1.2 The order of play and the scheduling of the matches will be prepared in such a way as to avoid, whenever possible, the possibility of “predetermining” results. All final round matches must be significant for each competing team.

2.1.3 Following the completion of the round robin in each group, a single knockout will be played with the top 3 teams in each group progressing to the knockout phase (24 teams).

2.1.4 The winners of each group (8 teams) will be drawn into seeded positions - winner of Group 1 seeded 1st (position 1), winner of Group 2 seeded 2nd (position 32), winners of Groups 3 and 4 drawn into positions 16 and 17, winners of groups 5, 6, 7 and 8 drawn into position 8, 9, 24, 25. Each team will receive a bye.

2.1.5 The teams placing 2nd in the group shall be drawn into the opposite half of the respective group winners, and face a 3rd placed team in the round of 32 with the restriction that teams having played against each other in the group stage, shall not meet again in the first round of the knock-out competition.

2.1.6 The winning team shall receive gold medals, the runner-up silver medals and the two losing semi-finalists bronze medals.

3. SEEDING AND RANKING

3.1 Seeding shall be done as follows:

3.1.1 Teams ranked 1 to 8 shall be seeded as top of each group in number order.

3.1.2 Teams ranked 9 – 12 shall be drawn in Groups 5 – 8.

3.1.3 Teams ranked 13 - 16 shall be drawn in Groups 1 - 4, etc.

3.1.4 Teams ranked 17 – 40 shall be drawn similarly four-by-four using the modified snake system until all groups are complete.

3.2 The WTR which will be used for the for the draws shall be the last WTR before the draw.

4. DEFINITIONS

Group: refers to teams drawn together. There will be 8 groups and they are referred to in number order 1 through 8.

Ranking: refers to the ITTF’s World Team Ranking (WTR).

Seeding: refers to the placement of a team at the Event based on its ranking relative to all other entered teams.

PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES PLAYING SYSTEM

OBJECTIVE

This document presents the proposed Playing System for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

INTRODUCTION

The International Paralympic Committee did approve in March 2023 the 31 events to be included in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Programme. This includes a total of 21 Singles Events (11 Men's Singles, 10 Women's Singles) and 10 Doubles Events (4 Men's Doubles Events, 4 Women's Doubles Events, and 2 Mixed Doubles Events), being one of the first sports to have introduced Mixed Events at the Paralympic Games.

With 280 athletes and the above-mentioned 31 events, Para Table Tennis is the third sport with more athlete quotas and the fourth with more Medal Events in the Summer Paralympic Games Programme.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the ITTF Council to decide the system of play for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games on the recommendation of the Continental Council.

PROPOSED FORMAT OF PLAY

The following playing formats are recommended for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games:

Seeding and Draw system

The August 2024 World Rankings shall be used for seeding:

- Draws in single events will use the ITTF World Para Table Tennis Singles Ranking lists
- Draws in doubles events will use the ITTF World Para Table Tennis Doubles Ranking list (the ranking points of a pair will be the sum of the doubles ranking points of each individual player)
- Draws in mixed doubles events will use the ITTF World Para Table Tennis Mixed Doubles Ranking lists (the ranking points of a pair will be the sum of the mixed doubles ranking points of each individual player).

The draws for all events are conducted as follows:

- All singles and doubles events will follow a direct elimination format.
- In each event, there will be a maximum of two players/pairs from any one NPC.
- In all knock-out competitions with up to 16 players, the player/pair seeded one is placed into position 1, and the player/pair seeded two is placed into position 16. The players/pairs ranked 3 and 4 are drawn into positions 8 and 9; the players/pairs ranked 5, 6, 7 and 8 are drawn into positions 4, 5, 12 and 13.
- In the knock-out competitions of more than 16 players, the player/pair seeded one is placed into position 1, and the player/pair seeded two is placed into position 32. The players/pairs ranked 3 and 4 are drawn into positions 16 and 17; the players/pairs ranked 5, 6, 7 and 8 are drawn into positions 8, 9, 24 and 25; the players/pairs ranked 9 to 16 are drawn into positions 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, 28 and 29.
- In all cases, byes are distributed as evenly as possible throughout the first round, being placed first against seeded places, in seeding blocks order.
- If there are 9, 10, 11, or 12 players/pairs, the remaining players/pairs are drawn into positions 3, 6, 11 and 14
- If there are 13 players/pairs, the remaining 5-6 players/pairs are drawn into positions 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 or 14; with the bye going to either position seven or position ten
- If there are 14 players/pairs, the remaining six players/pairs are drawn into positions 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 or 14
- If there are more than 16 players/pairs in any event, the players/pairs ranked 17-24 will be drawn as evenly as possible throughout the first round against players/pairs ranked 9-16.
- In all draws, players/pairs from the same NPC must be drawn into opposite halves of the draw.
- During the draw, the referee will ensure the draw actions are presented to allow OC Technology (OVR) to capture the actions as they occur.

Recommendations – Summary – Singles and Doubles Events

- To apply the straight knock-out system for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games
- To use seeding protection
- To use separation by NPC – two athletes of the same NPC must be drawn into opposite halves.

Prepared by

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Presented by the Continental Council