

PROPOSITION IC-2023-01 – PASSED VIA ONLINE VOTING ON 16-MAY-2023

Proposition IC-2023-01

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Board

World Youth Table Tennis Championships Expansion

(On the recommendation of the ITTF Youth Commissioner, Heike AHLERT, the ITTF Technical Commissioner, Graeme IRELAND, and the Competition Department)

(Simple majority is required)

According to the ITTF regulations:

*The system of play and the system of qualification in the team and individual events shall be decided by the Council (old Board of Directors), **on the recommendation of the Junior Commissioner, Technical Commissioner, and the Competition Department** and shall be notified to all Associations not later than 6 calendar months before the start of the Championships.*

The ITTF EB proposes to amend the qualification system for ITTF World Youth Table Tennis Championships as follows:

Amendments proposed in **green highlight** are for the implementation of:

Proposition B-22 (Approved on 2022 ITTF BoD)

Proposed by the Member Association of JPN

To amend the entry system for ITTF World Youth Table Tennis Championships so that when a Member Association (MA) that has qualified as a team may alternate a different player in the singles than the player who have qualified under WR depending on the number of players who have qualified under WR.

Rationale:

When a MA participates in the World Youth Championships through the World Youth Qualifiers, if there is no WR holder among the members or if their WR is significantly low, we would like each NF to be able to use a member who has won at the National Qualifiers.

The reason is that in the non-professional youth generation, only those who have competed in international tournaments have WRs, which are often out of proportion to their actual ability. (i.e.)

Result of National Qualifiers

Winner: Player A, Runner-up: Player B, 3rd: Player C, 4th: Player D, 5th: Player E

WR order

1st: Player E, 2nd: Player D, 3rd: Player A, 4th: Player B, 5th: Player C

Participants at World Youth Championships

1st: Player A, 2nd: Player B, 3rd: Player C, 4th: Player D

Singles event participant

1st: Player A, 2nd: Player B

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Amendments in **yellow highlight** are proposed for the implementation of the following:

ITTF Executive Board Proposition

To amend the qualification system for ITTF World Youth Table Tennis Championships so the number of quotas in U15 events would be increased as follows:

- U15 Team 8 → 12 Teams (per gender)
- U15 Singles 24 → 32 Players (per gender)
- U15 Doubles 12 → 16 Pairs (per gender)
- U15 Mixed Doubles 24 → 32 Pairs

Rationale:

Providing opportunities for more Member Associations to be represented in the U15 events will give the chance for more young players to participate in a world title event.

Having more quotas available, more young players will have the qualification for the WYC as a realistic goal.

Equal number of quotas in U15 and U19 events provides a clearer and more solid qualification system.

Amendments in **grey font and highlight** are cosmetic changes or clarifications of current regulations.

In the next pages, you can find the full World Youth Championships events and qualification system, with the respective proposed changes marked in the respective colours.

Presented by the ITTF Executive Board, on the recommendation of:

Heike AHLERT
Youth Commissioner

Graeme IRELAND
Technical Commissioner

Tiago VIEGAS
Competition Department

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TEAM EVENTS

U19 Team Events

12 teams per gender will enter the Events with a maximum of 4 players per team.

- Quotas per gender

Continental

Africa: 1 Team
Asia: 1 Team
Europe: 1 Team
Pan Am: 1 Team
Oceania: 1 Team

Host: 1 Team

World Ranking*: 6 Teams (7 Teams in case the Host is qualified through the Continental Event)

**latest available ITTF Table Tennis Youth Teams Ranking of the respective age category, at the week the invitations are sent out.*

U15 Team Events

8 12 teams per gender will enter the Events with a maximum of 4 players per team.

- Quotas per gender

Continental

Africa: 1 Team
Asia: 1 Team
Europe: 1 Team
Pan Am: 1 Team
Oceania: 1 Team

Host: 1 Team

World Ranking*: **2** 6 Teams (**3** 7 Teams in case the Host is qualified through the Continental Event)

**latest available ITTF Table Tennis Youth Teams Ranking of the respective age category, at the week the invitations are sent out.*

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Important Information:

In case the respective Continental Event is not completed before 10th September 2023, the above continental quotas will be filled based on the latest available ITTF Table Tennis Youth Teams Ranking of the respective age category, at the week the invitations are sent out.

In case a winner of the Continental Event does not confirm their participation, the runner-up will be invited. In case the runner-up does not confirm their participation, the quota will be allocated through World Ranking (not restricted per Continent).

A player can only enter one age category in Team Events but can enter in a different age category in Individual Events.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

U19 Singles Events

32 players may enter in each Singles Event per gender.

- Quotas per gender

Continental

Africa: 2 Players

Asia: 2 Players

Europe: 2 Players

Pan Am: 2 Players

Oceania: 2 Players

Host: 2 Players

World Ranking*: 20 Players. If a Host player is qualified through the Continental Event, any additional quotas will be allocated through WR.

** latest available ITTF Table Tennis Youth Singles Ranking of the respective age category, at the week the invitations are sent out.*

U15 Singles Events

24 32 players may enter in each Singles Event per gender.

- Quotas per gender

Continental

Africa: 2 Players

Asia: 2 Players

Europe: 2 Players

Pan Am: 2 Players

Oceania: 2 Players

Host: 2 Players

World Ranking*: **12 20** Players. If a Host player is qualified through the Continental Event, any additional quotas will be allocated through WR.

** latest available ITTF Table Tennis Youth Singles Ranking of the respective age category, at the week the invitations are sent out.*

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Important Information:

In case the respective Continental Event is not completed before 10th September 2023, the above continental quotas will be filled based on the latest available ITTF Table Tennis Youth Singles Ranking of the respective age category, at the week the invitations are sent out.

~~In case a winner and/or runner up of Continental Event~~ In case a Member Association doesn't accept the quota of a winner and/or runner-up of Continental Event doesn't confirm the participation, the 3rd place will be invited. In case there're two 3rd places, the best ranked player will be invited. In case no Semi-finalist confirm the participation, quotas will be allocated through World Ranking (not restricted per Continent).

In case a player is qualified to play in two age categories, the respective Member Association is limited to accepting only one of the quotas.

A player can only enter one age category in Individual Events and is entitled to play Doubles/Mixed Doubles only in the age category qualified in Singles.

Quota per MA: 2 players in each Singles Event.

U19 Doubles Events

16 pairs may enter in each Doubles Event per gender.

All the players qualified in U19 Singles are entitled to play U19 Doubles Event.

U15 Doubles Events

~~12~~ 16 pairs may enter in each Doubles Event per gender.

All the players qualified in U15 Singles are entitled to play U15 Doubles Event.

U19 Mixed Doubles Event

32 pairs may enter in each Doubles Event per gender.

All the players qualified in U19 Singles are entitled to play U19 Mixed Doubles Event.

U15 Mixed Doubles Event

~~24~~ 32 pairs may enter in each Doubles Event per gender.

All the players qualified in U15 Singles are entitled to play U15 Mixed Doubles Event.

Important Information:

~~No replacements are permitted in Doubles and Mixed Doubles Events.~~

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Replacements

Singles:

No replacements are permitted in Singles except for a Member Association (MA) that has qualified in the same age category as a team that may alternate a different player in the singles than the player who have qualified under WR depending on the number of players who have qualified under WR.

Players qualified in Continental events which participation is not confirmed are not anymore entitled to play the Singles event in the age category they were originally qualified.

In case a Semi-Finalist from a Continental event is invited, and respective participation is not confirmed by the Member Association, the player is not anymore entitled to play the Singles event in the respective age category for which the invitation hasn't been confirmed or was declined.

The deadline for replacements will be specified on the Event Prospectus (estimated to be not later than 2 weeks prior to the draws). Replacements past the replacement deadline are not permitted, unless for justified injury/sickness with a medical proof submitted at the time the request takes place.

In case a reserve team is confirmed due to the cancelation of a qualified team less than 2 weeks prior to the draws, the Member Association may **not** alternate a different player in the singles than the player who have qualified under WR.

Teams:

The deadline for changes in nominations will be specified on the Event Prospectus (estimated to be not later than 2 days prior to the draws).

Cancellations:

In case of a cancellation or not confirmed quotas, the next eligible team/ player will be invited to participate in the event.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-02 – PASSED VIA ONLINE VOTING ON 16-MAY-2023

Proposition IC-2023-02

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Continental Council

Paris 2024 Olympic Games Playing System

(On the recommendation of the ITTF Technical Commissioner, Graeme IRELAND, and the ITTF Group Sports Director, Mikael ANDERSSON, with the agreement of the two Executive Board Members in charge of Olympic Games, ITTF President, Petra SÖRLING, and IOC Member, RYU Seung-Min)

According to the ITTF regulations for Olympic Games:

The Team Match System in team events and the system of play in both team and individual events, including any qualifying competitions, shall be decided by the ITTF Council (old Board of Directors) on the recommendation of the ITTF Continental Council.

Following the discussions held at the Continental Council, ITTF Technical Commissioner Graeme IRELAND and ITTF Group Sports Director Mikael ANDERSSON submit the following proposition.

Playing system – Paris 2024 Olympic Games

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

1. Team Event

Given the short lead-up time to the Paris Olympic Games, we are at this point recommending maintaining the current match system as defined in the ITTF Handbook 3.7.6.3. (the same as in Tokyo 2020).

3.7.6.3 Best of 5 matches (4 singles and 1 doubles).

3.7.6.3.1 A team shall consist of 3 players; each player shall compete in a maximum of 2 individual matches.

3.7.6.3.2 The order of play shall be

- 1) doubles B & C v Y & Z
- 2) A v X
- 3) C v Z
- 4) A v Y
- 5) B v X

The general view here is that any changes related to the Olympic Games Table Tennis Competitions should be based on in-depth studies and with sufficient lead-up time to organise top-level test events.

To remove the doubles from the team match system already for Paris 2024 is also considered negative, especially given the ongoing ITTF drive to include the doubles into the future Olympic Games programs. We are of the firm opinion that the ITTF should initiate a study on future innovative team match system with the ambition to introduce a unified system of play suited for all ITTF team competitions starting from the year 2024. Such a process could potentially lead the way for introducing a new match-system, together with additional doubles events, for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

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Furthermore, modifying the WTTC Finals Match system for Busan has been discussed due to the connected qualifying principles for Paris 2024. In this case, our strong opinion is to remain with the current WTTC system (New Swaythling Cup 5 singles) for the Busan 2024 WTTC Finals. Although not 100% ideal (to use a different format of play for the WTTC Finals, serving as a qualification event for the Olympic Games), we are considering that using different systems will have very little impact on the actual results. The best teams will remain the best regardless of the system to apply. Therefore, Busan 2024 is a fair trial for the Olympic Games. The same goes for other continental events using different match systems for the team competition. On top of that, clearly, the integrity of the WTTC Finals, as a stand-alone, extremely important ITTF event, must be prioritised.

Recommendations – Summary – Team Events

- **To play the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Team Competition with the same system as Tokyo 2020, 1 doubles' and 4 singles' match system, and each athlete competing in a maximum of two individual matches. (3.7.6.3., as described in this document)**

2. Singles Event

Background

Originally, in Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, and Atlanta 1996, the playing system for singles was groups followed by knockout, but this was changed in Sydney 2000 to have a “staggered” knockout system whereby seeds 1 – 16 did not enter until round 3 and seeds 17 – 32 did not enter until round 2. Whilst the intention was to provide matches between closely ranked athletes for all rounds, the downside was that the top seeds did not have any competition until the third round, and, as a result, there were a number of upsets.

Tokyo 2020

For example, in Tokyo 2020, we had an average of 23 % upsets in the initial three Men's singles rounds. However, the underdogs did much better in the Women's singles competitions, winning 43 % of their matches and with two athletes advancing from the preliminary round into the last 16 round.

Straight knock-out draw

We are now suggesting that the playing system **in Paris 2024 goes to a straight knockout system.** This would be based on a draw of 64, with any additional athletes ranked below 64 (maximum of 6 but will be several fewer depending on mixed doubles qualifiers) playing a preliminary round, drawn against athletes ranked 49-64, to determine final places.

The most significant upside with the straight knockout system is that **we can now expose top-seeded athletes from day one in the singles competition, which will be very attractive for spectators and media.** The proposed system, with different seeding groups, also provides reasonable protection for athletes holding seeding positions 17-32, which early on was considered to be a priority.

Seeding and Draw system

The draws for the singles events are carried out as follows:

The singles events follow a direct elimination format. In both the Men's and Women's singles events,

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there will be a maximum of 70 athletes, with no more than two athletes from the same gender from any NOC.

The top 16 seeded athletes are drawn directly into the round of 64. The athlete seeded 1 is placed into position 1, and the athlete seeded 2 is placed into position 64. The athletes seeded 3 and 4 are drawn into positions 32 and 33; the athletes seeded 5, 6, 7 and 8, are drawn into positions 16, 17, 48 and 49; the remaining eight athletes are drawn into positions 8, 9, 24, 25, 40, 41, 56, and 57.

The next 16 athletes (seeded 17 to 32) are then drawn into positions 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, 28, 29, 36, 37, 44, 45, 52, 53, 60, and 61.

The remainder of the draw depends on the number of athletes in the event:

- If there are 64 or fewer athletes, the remaining athletes (athletes seeded 33 up) will be drawn into any remaining position, subject to byes being allocated first.
- If there are more than 64 athletes in the event, the remainder of the draw is carried out as follows:
 - The next 16 athletes (seeded 33 to 48) are drawn directly into any remaining position.
 - The athletes seeded 49 to 64 are drawn into the preliminary round (16 matches) into the top place of each match. The remaining n athletes are then drawn into the preliminary round (making n matches) into the bottom place of each match. Any athletes, who do not have opponents, and the n winners of the n preliminary round matches will advance to the round of 64.

In all draws, **athletes from the same NOC must always be drawn into opposite halves of the draw**. During the draw, the referee will ensure the draw actions are presented in such a way that allows OC Technology (OVR) to capture the actions as they occur.

Recommendations – Summary – Singles Events

- **To apply** the straight knock-out system for Paris 2024 Olympic Games - Main Draw of 64 athletes
- **To use seeding protection** for the groups 1-16 and 17-32.
- **To use separation by NOCs** – two athletes of the same NOC must be drawn into opposite halves.

Presented by the ITTF Council, on the recommendation of:

Graeme Ireland
ITTF Technical Commissioner

Mikael Andersson
ITTF Group Sports Director

PROPOSITION IC-2023-03 – PASSED

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

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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 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-05 – PASSED AS AMMENDED

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); ITTF;

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); ITTF;

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 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-06

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Tribunal

To amend 7.1.1.1:

7. ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

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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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-07 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-08 – PASSED

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 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-10 – PASSED

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.*

PROPOSITION IC-2023-10 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-11 – NOT VOTED AS PROPOSITION IC-2023-10 PASSED

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.*

PROPOSITION IC-2023-12 – PASSED

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.*

PROPOSITION IC-2023-13 – PASSED

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-authorized 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.*

PROPOSITION IC-2023-14 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-15 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-16 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-17 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-18 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-19 – PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-20 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-20

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Continental Council

At the meeting of the ITTF Continental Council held in Durban, South Africa, on 27th May 2023, it was agreed unanimously to propose to the ITTF Council to replace the Intercontinental Stage of the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals Busan 2024 as follows:

- One quota for each of the Continental Federations (5)
- The sixth quota will be allocated to the highest ranked not-yet qualified team from the ITTF Table Tennis Teams World Ranking of October 2023, the month after completing the five Continental Championships.

Rationale:

The limited calendar dates available and other key reasons were the base for the proposal to skip the Intercontinental Stage.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-21 – OPTION B PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-21

(simple majority required)

Proposed by ITTF Continental Council

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-21 – OPTION B PASSED

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.

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

PROPOSITION IC-2023-21 – OPTION B PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-21 – OPTION B PASSED

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.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-22 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-22

(simple majority required)

Proposed by ITTF Continental Council

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).

PROPOSITION IC-2023-22 – PASSED

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.

Propositions to the 2023 ITTF Council – RESULTS

PROPOSITION IC-2023-23 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-23

(simple majority required)

Proposed by ITTF Executive Board

Following the withdraw of the bid of the Bahrain Table Tennis Association for hosting the World Youth Table Tennis Championships 2025, the ITTF EB proposed to allocate the 2025 World Youth Championships to the Romanian Table Tennis Federation for the event to be held in the city of Cluj, Romania.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-24 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-24

(simple majority required)

Proposed by ITTF-Oceania (Motion from the floor)

Following the withdrawal of the bid of the Bahrain Table Tennis Association for hosting the World Youth Table Tennis Championships 2025, the ITTF-Oceania President proposed that the ITTF Council put forward a proposition to the 2023 ITTF AGM to allocate the 2026 World Youth Championships to the Bahrain Table Tennis Association for the event to be held in the city of Manama, Bahrain.

PROPOSITION IC-2023-25 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-25

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee

Do you agree to recommend Mr Zdenko KRIZ (SVK) for appointment as Personal Honorary Member for his lifetime by the AGM?

PROPOSITION IC-2023-26 – PASSED

Proposition IC-2023-26

(simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Committee

Do you agree to recommend Mr Cherif HAJEM (TUN) for appointment as Personal Honorary Member for his lifetime by the AGM?