

THE ITTF QUALITY
PROGRAMME FOR
**RACKET
COVERINGS**



MANUAL

OCTOBER 2024

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Most table tennis equipment is provided by club or competition organisers, and over the years it has remained fundamentally unchanged. Although the racket is the player's choice, it too remained unchanged during the ITTF's first decades. However, it then appeared that a modification to the characteristics of the racket could mean the difference between victory and defeat. The subsequent decades have accordingly seen continual development.

A system of ITTF authorisation of racket coverings has been introduced in order to ensure that any future changes are to the benefit and not the detriment of the sport. Hence important changes have been made to the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.

This manual sets out the current Laws and Regulations, defines some of the terms used and lists some additional criteria for ITTF authorisation of racket coverings and thereafter entering the List of Authorised Racket Coverings (LARC).

1.2 ITTF LOGO AND TRADEMARK

The ITTF authorised racket coverings are identified by their brand names, product names and by the ITTF logo, or other ITTF indications. They must wear the ITTF logo wherever they are sold or used.

The packaging of ITTF authorised racket coverings must concord with the disposals of the ITTF. No packaging or catalogue may suggest ITTF authorisation if it is not the case.

1.3 CONTACT

ITTF Equipment Office
Kaesenstrasse 17
50677 Cologne - GERMANY
Tel: +49 221 42343366
E-mail: equipment@ittf.com

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STANDARDS

2. STANDARDS TO ACHIEVE

The racket must comply with paragraphs 2.4 and 3.2.1.3 in *The Laws of Table Tennis* and the *Regulations for International Competitions*, respectively.

2.1 PRODUCT AND BRAND

Authorisation is given to the top sheet plus the top sheet / sponge combination. All top sheets with the same ITTF number and brand name must have the same geometry, properties, and branding area (wording and numbering).

PRODUCT NAME

The name of a product is always composed by the brand name and the product name. Both together define the product in a unique way so that confusions will be avoided and consumers are correctly informed. All names must be in Roman or Latin letters, and additionally they may be in another language. The name may contain numbers.

TRADEMARKS

The ITTF will make its best effort to ensure that the brand name does not infringe on the already existing brands. The ITTF is not responsible for any illegal use of registered trademarks. Verifying the correct and legal use of trademarks is not part of the ITTF authorisation procedure.

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.

BRANDS WHO PREVIOUSLY USED THE ITTF TRADEMARK ILLEGALLY

The ITTF can refuse the application from companies who previously used the ITTF trademark for non-approved equipment under the same or different brand name on the application. The ITTF can further refuse the application from a brand who may have obtained the rights from the previous brand, who illegally used the ITTF trademark for non-authorized equipment.

SAMPLES

The samples that are submitted to the ITTF for testing are taken to be representative of the normal production, and our decisions are based on that. The received samples will be stored for future reference.

2.2 PLAYERS, BRANDS AND MANUFACTURERS RESPONSIBILITY

MANUFACTURERS RESPONSIBILITY

Manufacturers should expose rackets or sandwich rubber combinations to air before packing them to remove volatile solvents which they utilise during their processes.

BRAND RESPONSIBILITY

Brands that produce, market, sell, or are otherwise associated with illegal substances and treatments may not apply for authorisation of any racket covering. Their equipment will not be permitted to appear on the LARC and may not use the ITTF logo.

It is the responsibility of the brands to keep their products on the LARC by paying the fees and maintaining the original properties of the racket covering as authorised, without alterations.

The brands should be aware that the practice of "re-gluing", i.e., removing the racket covering, adding adhesive and re-applying the racket covering immediately before a match, might cause rubber / sponge to expand. When the resulting thickness is measured by an umpire it may be found to be illegal.

New racket coverings should not be sold or distributed to any customers before all tests have been passed, the authorisation has been completed and the racket covering appears on the published LARC. If a racket covering is sold before it has passed all tests and appears on LARC, the authorisation will be void immediately. However, marketing activities such as promotion, advertisement etc. are allowed provided that the exact validity date is clearly indicated.

PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY

It is the player's responsibility to use racket coverings that comply with the rules. For example, a red racket covering may become too dark when affixed to a dark blade. A thick glue layer may cause the racket covering to exceed the maximum thickness specified in the T9 Racket Control. Players are advised to air a brand-new rubber before use, even though the manufacturer is expected to aerate the rubber before packaging. Use of post-factory treatments is not permitted and may cause the racket covering to exceed the permitted thickness, friction, pimple density, etc.

2.3 MATERIAL & TYPE

Rubber implies any material that can be stretched at room temperature to twice its original length, and that, after being held in the stretched state for one minute, retracts within one further minute to less than 1.5 times its original length.

TYPES

Racket coverings are categorised in four types:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---|
| ▪ IN | pimples-in | branding area on the smooth side |
| ▪ ANTI | pimples-in | this term may be applied on brand demand |
| ▪ OUT | pimples-out | branding area on the pimples side |
| ▪ LONG | pimples-out | when the aspect ratio – see below - is > 0.89 |

Ordinary pimples rubber and sandwich rubber can both be referred to as racket coverings. The rubber, with or without a sponge underneath, used to strike a ball. The sheet of pimples rubber when used over a sheet of sponge is referred to as a top sheet.

ORDINARY PIMPLED RUBBER

"Ordinary pimples rubber" may carry pimples on one side only; the other side must be smooth, although it may be bonded to a thin layer of fabric, which should not be visible on the playing side and should not add to the total thickness.

SANDWICH RUBBER

More than one layer of cellular rubber (sponge) is not permitted, even if the layers are of the same composition.

ADDITIONAL RACKET CRITERIA

Continuity (Law 2.4.5) implies that each layer shall be continuous; for instance, a blade consisting of one type of plywood in the centre and another type at the edge would not be considered to be continuous. It is accepted that the veneers of plywood are normally made by edge-gluing pieces together to make a continuous sheet; the resulting joints may appear in the blade, but joints in more than one direction are not permitted, and neither are joints that extend from one face through to the other.

Natural wood (Law 2.4.2) implies continuity throughout the blade; this permits plywood but not, for example, particle-board, flake-board and other composites.

Rigid (Law 2.4.1) is intended to apply to the blade and the handle taken as a whole. Flexibility is not permitted in a racket except in the racket covering.

Blade Lacquer describes that a very thin layer of lacquer is permitted on the blade, only for the purpose of anchoring wood fibres, thereby facilitating replacement of the racket covering. Anything more than this will be deemed to constitute a layer of plastic and will not be permitted. This layer may be no more than 0.1 mm thick and should not hide the wood from sight or touch. It is considered to be part of the blade, rather than part of the thickness of the racket covering. A thin layer of paint or plastic laminate is permitted on an uncovered non-striking side of the blade, for the purpose of having a proper red or black side.

Adhesive - The use of a thick layer of adhesive is NOT permitted either within the blade (Law 2.4.2), or between the blade and the racket covering.

PSA (Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive sheets) - Apart from adhesives, a PSA may be used for fixing the rubber to the blade. Some of these are water-based systems. PSA may not be more than 0.1 mm thick and may not be cellular. It may consist of two layers of adhesive supported on the two sides of a plastic film or a cellulosic paper or may be one solid layer of film. The packaging should carry the trade name and instructions for use.

2.4 APPEARANCE

The rubber surface of the racket coverings should be

- uniform
- without coating
- matt

The appearance of the racket covering on the blade must be uniform in colour; it is not permitted for markings on the sponge or the blade to show through.

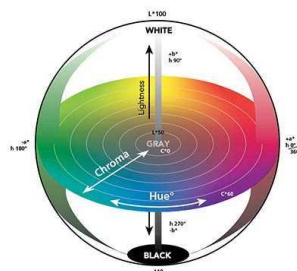
Matt implies that the rubber will be considered to be unacceptable if the gloss of "pimples-in" rubber or of either the base of "pimples-out" rubber or the tops of the pimples are so high as to permit the contours of a light-source to be distinguished in its reflection.

Except for the moulded branding area, the smooth side of pimples-in rubber shall appear smooth and flat to the naked eye.

COLOUR

The choice of the permitted bright colours shall be guided by the following 2 considerations:
A player shall be enabled to

- early and safely detect, which racket side will hit the ball. The colour of the second racket covering shall be easily distinguishable from black, also in a shaded position.
- safely see the exact moment of the impact of the ball on the racket covering; the colour of the racket covering shall permit this observation at any angle under strong light conditions.
-



Permitted bright colours are defined on the CIE-LCH system by 3 coordinates:

- L = Lightness from darkest (0) to lightest (100),
- C = Chroma/saturation from centre (0) to outside (up to 100),
- H = Hue/colour, expressed in degrees:
0° (red), 90° (yellow), 180° (green), 270° (blue) up to (360° red).

2.5 SPECIFICATIONS

COLOUR

	Coordinates	Hue H	Chroma C	Lightness L
RED	R	18°-31°	> 37	32 - 72
GREEN	G	103°-185°	> 37	50 - 72
BLUE	B	218°-264°	> 32	50 - 72
VIOLET	V	300°-325°	> 32	50 - 72
PINK	P	350°-360° 0°-16°	> 32	45 - 72

GLOSS

	≤
Gloss-Unit	24

THICKNESS

	≤ mm
Rubber sheet dimension t	2.00
Complete racket covering	4.00

SOLVENTS VOC

	≤ ppm
ppm	3,0

All racket coverings must meet the latest VOC limits given by the ITTF Executive Board, at the time of authorisation, as well as during any subsequent inspection of retail samples.

PIMPLES

All pimples

- should be equal
- must have a circular symmetry, with its axis perpendicular to the plane of the base layer
- At any height above the base, it shall be no wider than at any point closer to the base. This permits cylinders, cones (but not inverted cones) and combinations thereof.
- Pimples must be evenly spaced along three sets of parallel lines at 60 degrees to each other.
- The surface of the pimple top must be parallel to the base of the sheet, but may be smooth or roughened, though not to an extent that would constitute hollowness in the pimple. Hollow pimples are not acceptable.

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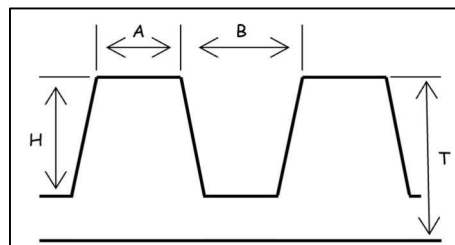
PIMPLES ASPECT RATIO

	\leq
i.e. pimple height (h) / pimple diameter (a)	1.10

PIMPLE FRICTION (OUT + LONG)

	$>$
The coefficient of kinetic friction between the rubber and a table tennis ball. (In the test laboratory, a normal force of 50mN is applied)	0.50

PIMPLE DIMENSIONS

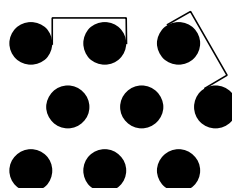


IN & ANTI	a-b-h	mm
Pimple diameter on top	a	≥ 1.0
Distance between pimple tops	b	≥ 0.5
Pimple height	h	≥ 0.5
OUT & LONG	a-b-h	mm
Pimple diameter on top	a	1.0 - 2.2
Distance between pimple tops	b	1.0 - 2.0
Pimple height	h	≥ 1.0

PIMPLE DENSITY

	cm^2
Minimum and maximum pimple density	10 - 30

This space is measured, and the value used to calculate density: Dimension "a" + "b"; calculating the resulting pimple density as: $[1 / (\text{spacing} * \text{spacing} * \cos 30)]$."



PIMPLE SMOOTHNESS / ROUGHNESS

	mm
Peak-to-valley roughness of individual pimples	$\leq 0,1$

"Roughness" refers to unevenness in the plane of a surface, occurring across the entire surface but measured at localized areas. "Smoothness" is the opposite of roughness, and both terms are used to describe the same property. Roughness is measured by peak-to-valley height in millimetres.



2.6 RUBBER IDENTIFICATION

The ITTF number or the combination of brand name / product name is the identification of the racket covering. Hence it must be unique and should not create confusion in relation with other racket coverings. It will be found in the rubber mould as well as in the LARC.

New racket coverings submitted for authorisation, and existing rubbers that undergo changes in text design, must be in accordance with the guidelines shown below:

- the ITTF logo
- an ITTF number
- a brand name
- a product name (in Roman/ Latin letters)

THE ITTF LOGO

LOGO 4 (Line Art Version: Black On White Background)



- have a minimum of 10 mm height
- be the same colour as the rubber
- not have text or shapes overlapping it, although the safety area is not mandatory for embossing on rubbers

THE ITTF NUMBER

- Consisting of 5 or 6 digits:
 - the 2 or 3 first digits are the brand number
 - followed by a Dash.
 - the next 3 digits are a product number, unique for each authorised product of racket covering from this brand, in preferably regular succession.
- be in font Arial Normal
- have a minimum of 5mm height
- be placed at least 0.2 mm above the rubber base
- be adjacent to the ITTF logo, (over, under, or on one side)
- not overlap the ITTF Logo.
- The ITTF logo and ITTF number shall be enclosed by a single frame of any shape, with nothing else inside.



All letters, logos, ornaments, etc. must be placed in the branding area which may have a maximum height of 25mm.

When an ITTF number is withdrawn, it cannot be used again for 10 years.

It is possible to equip the covering with two branding areas, positioned at 90 degrees to each other, but when mounted on the blade, only the one close to the handle is accepted.

It is possible to have two pictures of the branding area at any time for one brand on ITTF.com.

The brand name / product name and the frame - with the ITTF logo and ITTF number (when applied) - must be visible on the racket covering when it is mounted on the blade.

2.7 PACKAGING

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

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN STATEMENT

The racket covering's retail packaging must state its country or countries of origin. The simple unqualified statement "Made in <Country>" is mandatory. The statement must be in English and visible from the outside of the packaging.

The country-of-origin statement for each authorised racket covering will be stored by the ITTF and may be displayed on ITTF.com. Substantive changes to a racket covering's country of origin are not permitted. For example, the country-of-origin statement may not change from "Made in Canada" to "Made in USA". However minor changes to wording are permitted, after the change has been recorded in the ITTF database. A change which only reflects a change in sponge is also permitted.

For racket coverings which are sold with multiple versions of sponge, a different country of origin statement may be used for each version, in order to specify sponges from different countries.

THE ITTF LOGO

The ITTF logo may be used on the packaging of authorised rubber. The ITTF Logo can be printed on the packaging, but should adhere to the guidelines stated in the "External Branding Guidelines" document.

LOGO 1 (3D Logo: Green On White Background)



ASSEMBLED RACKETS

The ITTF does not require assembled rackets to have country of origin statement, however the country of origin for the racket coverings on those rackets must still be provided to the ITTF as part of the authorisation process. Please note that many countries' trade rules require a country-of-origin statement.

This logo is the property of the ITTF. Hence, the brands may use the ITTF logo only on equipment that is properly authorised, i.e., here only the racket covering itself. It is considered illegal to use the main ITTF logo in connection with an assembled product like an assembled racket etc.

When an authorised racket covering is used on an assembled racket, the logo on the right may be used on the packaging.



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TESTING

3. TESTING - PROTOCOL

3.1 TEST PROCEDURES

PREPARATION

The ITTF equilibrates racket coverings at $>20^{\circ}$ for at least one day.

VOC

VOC is measured on a complete racket covering, directly after unpackaging the sample. The calibrated VOC-Device measured at first the room conditions (Value A), while afterwards the surface of the sample is measured for 20 seconds (Value B). The subtraction of both values (B-A) defines the result.

Test equipment:

SKZ lab	MiniRae – Lite by RAE System
ITTF TT lab	MiniRae – Lite by RAE System

COLOUR

Colours for top sheets are measured as complete racket coverings, i.e., with all colours of sponges the racket covering will be sold with. Top sheets alone will be measured on a white and black background only upon the brand's request; ref. Konica no.1864-721 (CM-A101W).

The colour is measured and calculated according to the CIE LCH system, giving three values L, C and H. "L" indicates the black/white value on a scale from 0 to 100; "C" indicates the chroma/saturation value from centre (0) to outside (up to 100) and "H" the hue value, expressed in degrees (0° up to 360°). The measurements are performed on 3 different points and the average is created out of them.

For further details of the device set-up, please ask the ITTF Equipment Department.

Test equipment:

SKZ lab	XRITE Colour Eye Spectro 7000 A
ITTF TT lab	XRITE BENCHTOP SPECTRO W/PKG 7500

GLOSS (SHININESS)

Gloss for top sheets is measured without sponge and only for pimple types IN and ANTI. Measurement of 60° specular gloss using ASTM procedure D523. After the standard calibration on a clean black-glass-tile is done, the first measurement is on a test sample with a stable result. In the background of the sample a black surface is placed. For the racket covering measurement the average value of 3 times on different positions (top, middle and low), holding the device horizontally to the top sheet, is used.

Test equipment:

SKZ lab	Dr. Lange Glossmeter
ITTF TT lab	ERICHSEN PICOGLOSS 560 MC-X

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DIMENSIONS

Dimensions (a, b, h and t) are measured on top sheets only in a 2D method. For sample preparation, a piece of minimum 3x7 pimples is cut or stamped out of the middle of the top sheet. This sample is placed on the microscope desk, that the front side of 5 to 6 pimples are visible on the screen. The result of 5 pimples is standard. For dimension "h" (Height of the pimple from the upper base level to the pimple top) an average line of all 5 pimples is created on top. A second line is set where the top of base of the pimples is. This distance defines the value "h". The "t" dimension is the distance between the lower level of the base (bottom) and the pimple top. In addition to the line already laid on the pimples, now add the third average line at the lowest edge of the sample.

The dimensions "a" and "b" show the horizontal distance of the pimple top corners. Therefore, the distance of the left and the right corner of the first pimple is measured to get the dimension "a". For "b" one point of the left corner of the 2nd pimple (the second pimple is on the right side of the first one) is added. The distance of this point and the right corner point of pimple 1 indicates the dimension "b". This procedure is done 5 times and for both dimensions and their 5 values, the average is used for the result.

Test equipment:

SKZ lab KEYENCE VHX Digital Microscope H/01/47200/1032
ITTF TT lab KEYENCE VHX 7000 Digital Microscope

Tolerances			
DIM	NEW	RE-TEST – after 10 Years	
	Measurement	-	+
A	± 0,05	0,1	0,1
B	± 0,05	0,1	0,1
H	± 0,05	0,1	0,1
T	± 0,05	0,1	0,1

TOTAL THICKNESS

The total thickness is measured on top sheet with sponge. The zero calibration is tested on a 4 mm gauged sample. Afterwards the average value of 3 positions on the topper half (left, middle, right) of the top sheet is used.

Test equipment:

SKZ lab KÄFER Thickness-Dev. J50; Measuring span: 10 mm; 0,8-1,6 ± 20% N
ITTF TT lab KÄFER Thickness-Dev. J200; Measuring span: 10 mm; Measuring attachment: C (Ø10mm); 2,0-3,2 ± 20% N

FRICTION

The coefficient of kinetic friction between the rubber and a table tennis ball must be at least 0.50. In the test laboratory, a normal force of 50mN is applied.

3.2 CALCULATIONS

SAMPLE SIZE

Colour tests are conducted on each top sheet – sponge combination; it is also compulsory to supply one black rubber with and without sponge and at least one other rubber colour with and without sponge.

AVERAGES / ROUNDING

For pimples-in racket coverings some deviation from an ideal shape is acceptable, like irregularities on the side of the pimple, or a “hat shape” on the pimple tops – when this is not a general trend, but is found on individual pimples. For pimples-out racket coverings, deviation from an ideal shape is not acceptable.

3.3 TESTING LAB



Friedrich-Bergius-Ring 22
97076 Würzburg
GERMANY



Kaesenstrasse 17
50667 Köln
GERMANY

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APPROVAL

(ANNEX)

4. AUTHORISATION – REQUIREMENTS (ANNEX)

The following document is a guide how to announce a table tennis racket covering for ITTF authorisation. This requires the racket covering to bear our standards.

The time the entire procedure may take is around 1-2 weeks after receiving the samples in our office. In general, the procedure runs smoothly, but the ITTF declines all responsibility if there are delays and other unforeseen complications.

A racket covering which is listed in the LARC is authorised for the period given in the header.

LARC - THE LIST OF AUTHORISED RACKET COVERINGS

LARC is published 4 times per year. The publication dates are on first of each quarter: January + 1. April + 1. July + 1. October.

The authorised racket coverings are those in the current version of the LARC. for the period specified in the header.

New racket coverings in LARC are marked with "Yes" in the column "New".

Racket coverings, which have been withdrawn, will stay authorised for a 6 months period and will be marked in the column "Expire on". (Except for the racket coverings which were added using "expedited procedure": these rubbers can be removed without any expiration time immediately if they were never marketed.)

The Internet version may be corrected for errors during the season.

4.1 GET AUTHORISED

Prospective new brands of racket coverings should first contact the ITTF at the address given under 1.3 CONTACT.

A new brand will be provided with an ITTF number and, if required, be given step by step procedures to follow to secure a racket covering authorisation and be included in the LARC.

The ITTF reserves its right not to accept a company as a brand for table tennis goods. The ITTF cannot be held responsible for wrong or misleading information, or for names illicitly used by the brand.

The brand should - in summary (more details below):

1. apply for registration by completing the authorisation form.
2. declare abiding the ITTF policy and standards for racket coverings with signing the *authorisation form*.
3. Submit RC authorisation form together with an image file of the branding area with dimensions.
4. Submit racket covering samples for testing.
5. Pay the appropriate testing fee to ITTF.

The results will be given to the brand as soon as the results from the laboratories are available, subject to the testing fees having been received.

The use of another table tennis brand name as part of a brand name requires a written statement from the brand in question to be submitted to ITTF when applying for authorisation.

SAMPLES

The brand should submit the following to the address given under 1.3 CONTACT.

For pimples in/anti

- 1 pcs top sheet sample of black and one additional colour (without sponge).
- Complete racket covering sample of:
 - each colour (except black colour) with each available sponge, with the thickest available sponge
 - black colour with one sponge colour only, with the thickest available sponge

For pimples out/long

- 1 pcs top sheet sample of black and each additional colour (without sponge)
- Complete racket covering sample of:
 - each colour (except black colour) with each available sponge, with the thickest available sponge
 - black colour with one sponge colour only, with the thickest available sponge
- 1 pcs additional top sheet sample (without sponge) in any colour, black colour is not preferred (for friction testing)

Pimples-out racket coverings are subject to a friction test which may take additional time. This extra sample is intended to save time. If a special version will be sold without sponge and equipped with a textile or other reinforcement, a sample of this should also be submitted.

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Please ensure that all charges are paid before shipment. Ship the samples, free of any charge and declared as "sample for inspection, no commercial value". If any additional costs must be paid, which is rare, the brand will be charged.

After the samples have been received, unless agreed otherwise, they will be tested in the ITTF T LAB within one week. The brand will be informed and given a reference number.

A testing fee invoice carrying the reference number will be sent from the ITTF to the brand. Each new required test will generate a new fee invoice.

The brand will be informed about the result when the test results are available, provided the test fee has been paid.

After the racket covering has passed all tests and the testing fees are paid, the racket covering will be included in the next issue of the LARC. A fee per year will be invoiced from the ITTF.

NORMAL PROCEDURE

The normal authorisation procedure shown in the scheme below should be used for most of the products.

Note that each step must be completed before the next one can be started.

When submitting racket coverings for repeated tests or the ten year re-test, the sections 0 and 1 above are not required.






EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

The expedited procedure may help when time is short. However, it can only be used with prior approval from the ITTF. Brands which have been on the LARC for less than three years must use the normal procedure above.

An authorisation is provisional; it is void if the brand has not submitted the sample to ITTF in between 1 year after the date of authorisation.






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AUTHORISATION SCHEME - **NORMAL** PROCEDURE

STEP 0	Applicants	A new brand (or an existing brand using a new brand name) should submit the RC Authorisation Form
	ITTF	A new brand will be provided with an ITTF number and, if required, be given step by step procedures to follow to secure a racket covering authorisation and be included in the LARC.
 Documents	Applicants	Provide the following documents by email to our contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the entire RC Authorisation Form • an image with dimensions (in JPG format) of the branding area of the new racket covering • an image (in JPG format) of the branding area of the new racket covering
	ITTF	After the above mentioned documents are received, ITTF will send you an email confirming all documents are correct or something is still missing or needs to be modified.
 Racket Coverings Test	Applicants	Please send the samples to our office as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for IN/ANTI: 1 pcs top sheet sample of black and one additional colour (without sponge) • for OUT/LONG: 1 pcs top sheet sample of black and each additional colour (without sponge) • for ALL: Complete racket covering sample of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - each colour (except black colour) with each available sponge, with the thickest available sponge - black colour with one sponge colour only, with the thickest available sponge For OUT/LONG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pcs additional top sheet sample (without sponge) in any colour (for friction testing) Pimples out racket coverings are subject to a friction test which may take additional time and will be invoiced automatically.
	ITTF	ITTF will send you an email informing you about the test order and include an invoice for the racket covering test.
 License Agreement	Applicants	Please transfer the requested amount according to the received invoice.
	ITTF	Once the testing fee has been paid, we will inform you about the test results. If the racket covering has passed all official tests, the racket covering will be included in the next issue of the LARC with immediate effect . A fee per year will be invoiced from the ITTF.
 Payment	Applicants	When the racket covering is published in the LARC, a fee per year will be invoiced from the ITTF. Please transfer the requested amount according to the received invoice.
	ITTF	We will confirm receipt of the invoice amount.
 Authorisation	Applicants	The racket covering which is listed in the LARC is authorised for the period given in the header of the website.
	ITTF	Your product is now ITTF approved and online on our list of approved racket coverings.

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AUTHORISATION SCHEME — EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

<p>STEP 1</p>  <p>Documents</p>	<p>Applicants</p>	<p>Provide the following documents by email to our contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • submit the RC Authorisation Form • an image with dimensions (in JPG format) of the branding area of the new racket covering • an image (in JPG format) of the branding area of the new racket covering
	<p>ITTF</p>	<p>After the above mentioned documents are received, ITTF will send you an email confirming all documents are correct or something is still missing or needs to be modified.</p>
<p>STEP 2</p>  <p>Payment</p>	<p>Applicants</p>	<p>The racket covering will be included in the next issue of LARC, but it is not approved yet. The racket covering can only be advertised, but not marketed. When the racket covering is published in the LARC, a fee per year will be invoiced from the ITTF.</p> <p>Please transfer the requested amount according to the received invoice.</p>
	<p>ITTF</p>	<p>We will confirm receipt of the invoice amount.</p>
<p>STEP 3</p>  <p>Racket Coverings Test</p>	<p>Applicants</p>	<p>Please send the samples to our office as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for IN/ANTI: 1 pcs top sheet sample of black and one additional colour (without sponge) • for OUT/LONG: 1 pcs top sheet sample of black and each additional colour (without sponge) • for ALL: Complete racket covering sample of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – each colour (except black colour) with each available sponge, with the thickest available sponge – black colour with one sponge colour only, with the thickest available sponge <p>For OUT/LONG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pcs additional top sheet sample (without sponge) in any colour (for friction testing) <p>Pimples out racket coverings are subject to a friction test which may take additional time and will be invoiced automatically.</p>
	<p>ITTF</p>	<p>ITTF will send you an email informing you about the test order and include an invoice for the racket covering test.</p>
<p>STEP 4</p>  <p>License Agreement</p>	<p>Applicants</p>	<p>Please transfer the requested amount according to the received invoice.</p>
	<p>ITTF</p>	<p>Once the testing fee has been paid, we will inform you about the test results.</p>
<p>STEP 5</p>  <p>Authorisation</p>	<p>Applicants</p>	<p>Once the ITTF has provided notification that the racket covering has passed all tests, it will be officially authorized, and the brand will be notified that they may proceed with the sale and distribution of the racket covering.</p> <p>The racket covering which is listed in the LARC is authorised for the period given in the header of the website.</p>
	<p>ITTF</p>	<p>Your product is now ITTF approved and online on our list of approved racket coverings.</p>

4.2 STAY AUTHORISED

If we don't get any message that one of your products should be withdrawn, we will send you a mail to confirm that all products should stay authorised end of February the year. Afterward we will send the invoice about the authorisation fee for the coming year. After we received your payment all products will stay on our lists.

RE-TESTS

Racket coverings will be periodically re-tested, presently approximately every ten years after having been included on the LARC. The brands will be notified to submit samples and may be required to deliver additional information. ~~required. The test fee will be invoiced from the ITTF.~~

When comparing two rubbers of the same brand at different times – for instance when making a re-test - the rubbers must be recognizably similar: for example in translucency, thickness, and pimple shape, spacing and dimensions. Rubbers which do not match will not be authorised as the same model.

In addition, retail samples of racket coverings may be inspected or re-tested at any time to verify continued compliance with the specifications. A failure at such testing or inspection may result in the immediate cancellation of the authorisation of the racket covering and its deletion from LARC; the brands will be asked to submit comments before the pre-mentioned action may be taken.

4.3 CHANGES

The ITTF authorisation applies to a racket covering as originally submitted and tested; its subsequent alteration, by a brand, a player or anyone else, is not permitted.

Changes from the original design will normally not be permitted. However, changes to the branding area only may be allowed, and must be confirmed with samples and image files submitted.

The failure to announce changes to the ITTF will be penalized with a fine or can even lead to an end of the ITTF authorisation in cases of severe or repeated failures.

It is the brands responsibility to inform the ITTF, in case they have changes in contact details, such as e-mail addresses, contact persons, postal address etc.

BRAND OWNERSHIP

If a company takes over the brand name from another company, who owes money to the ITTF, the equipment will remain approved only if the new owner submits a letter of confirmation, signed by the old and new owner, ensuring that all the rights and debts towards ITTF of the brand were transferred to the new owner. The ITTF will inform the new owner about delinquent payments, if any, which should be settled. Otherwise, the equipment will be removed from the ITTF Lists.

4.4 WITHDRAW AUTHORISATION

It should be noted:

- that the Equipment Committee has been instructed to deny authorisation to any racket covering that it deems detrimental to the sport,
- that the Executive **Committee Board** can suspend the authorisation at any time and the authorisation may subsequently be withdrawn by the ITTF Council,
- that not paying the yearly fee or requested test fees will result in a deletion from the LARC and a notice on ITTF.com if required.

4.5 FEES

More information about the valid fee list is provided by the Equipment Department.

A **testing** fee must be paid before the results of any actual tests are communicated. The testing fees are subject to changes year by year. The ITTF **Equipment Coordinator** may be contacted for information about testing fees. This is also the case for any extra tests made for brands **and**, for the retesting **or retail** testing of racket coverings. The fees will be invoiced from the ITTF.

An **authorisation** fee is paid for being included in the LARC (on the paper version and on Internet, including the image files). Lack of payment will mean withdrawal from the next LARC. The authorisation fees are paid for all racket coverings included in LARC, which are published each quarter.

If a racket covering is removed from the LARC for technical or financial reasons, there will be no refund. If a brand desires to re-authorise a known racket covering that has been removed from the LARC for whatever reason, it will be treated as a new brand with new test and authorisation fees.

CANCELLATION PERIOD

The cancellation period for racket coverings is 6 months. No fees will be charged for this period.

CERTIFICATE

For all of your authorised racket coverings you will get a yearly valid certificate.

4.6 PENALTIES

The ITTF can fine, suspend or delete brands from its directory and suspend or delete their products from its lists in case of infringements or situations affecting negatively the table tennis game or the reputation of the ITTF or if they commercialize substances or products banned by the ITTF, after taking into account written explanations of the company about the problem.

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EXPLORE

5. EXPLORE - LIST

5.1 ITTF AUTHORISED RACKET COVERINGS

Under https://equipment.itf.com/#/equipment/racket_coverings you can find all currently approved RACKET COVERINGS in our data base. New products and withdrawn once are marked accordingly.

ANNEX

6. ANNEX

6.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Laws of Table Tennis relating to the racket coverings are as follows:

Sponge	The use of sponge (i.e. cellular rubber) is governed.
ITTF number	(Regulation 3.2.1.3) is the unique identification for new racket coverings.
ITTF logo	(Regulation 3.2.1.3) is to be used on all authorised racket coverings, and within a frame for new and changed racket coverings.
Brand	(Regulation 3.2.1.3) refers to the supplier name, (which is called brand in the manual), as they appear in the rubber mould and the LARC.
Cellular rubber	(Law 2.4.3.2) is also known as sponge.
List	(Regulation 3.2.1.3) is the List of Authorised Racket Coverings (LARC). It has a validity period specified in the header.
Matt	(Law 2.4.6) implies that the rubber will be considered to be unacceptable if the gloss of "pimples-in" rubber or of either the base of "pimples- out" rubber or the tops of the pimples are so high as to permit the contours of a light-source to be distinguished in its reflection.
Ordinary pimped	(Law 2.4.3.1)
Sandwich rubber	(Law 2.4.3.2) can both be referred to as " <i>Racket coverings</i> "; the rubber, with without a sponge underneath, used to strike a ball. The sheet of pimped rubber when used over a sheet of sponge is referred to as a " <i>Top sheet</i> ".

6.2 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

ITTF Council	ITTF Board of Directors (BoD); renamed to ITTF Council
EB	ITTF Executive Board
Eqc	ITTF Equipment Committee
LARC	Lists of ITTF authorised racket coverings
Manufacturers	Companies producing equipment
Companies	Official companies who have a registered brand
Brand	Registered brand
Product	Particular name used to describe a specific product of a brand
Testing	The series of tests and measurements required to verify quality, safety and compliance with ITTF requirements in order to get authorisation by the ITTF.

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Initial testing	The very first testing required for new non-authorized equipment, before authorisation may be granted.
Re-testing	Any repeated testing either because of a prior failed test, of a periodically scheduled quality inspection, or of a problem with a specific model.
Full testing	Full testing includes all tests and measurements defined in the manuals.
Partial testing	selects the tests and measurements needed for the purpose of the testing.
Quality	All regulations and measures targeting to provide customers and users with the assurance best- quality equipment, manufactured in full respect of ITTF technical and safety standards and marketed/labelled in a complete, non-misleading way.
Withdrawal	Authorisation discontinued, when requested by the brands.
Suspension	Authorisation provisionally or temporarily discontinued
Deletion	Authorisation permanently discontinued
Infringement	Any action of violation of the ITTF policies, laws and regulations.
Sanction	Warnings and penalties imposed by the ITTF to brands in case of infringements.

End of M4