



Invitation to 2009 World Individual Table Tennis Championships, Yokohama, Japan

17 December 2008

Dear Friends,

YOUR URGENT RESPONSE IS NEEDED

The ITTF Umpires and Referees Committee (URC) in cooperation with the Organizing Committee for the 2009 World Individual Table Tennis Championships (WTTC), cordially invites your Association to nominate one or two International Umpires for this important event, which will take place in Yokohama, Japan under the direction of the Japan Table Tennis Association (JTTA) from April 28, 2009 to May 5, 2009. JTTA hospitality starts from dinner on April 27 through breakfast on May 6, 2009. The nominees – or their Association – are responsible for all related travel costs.

Umpires need to arrive no later than April 27 and attend the referee orientation planned for that evening. Certified URC evaluators will conduct field of play evaluations on umpires working at the Championships.

You may nominate one International Umpire who has achieved Blue Badge status, or, alternatively, has attended a certified ITTF Advanced Umpire Training (AUT) course and passed the AUT exam. You may also nominate **one** International Umpire (White Badge) who has been an active International Umpire for at least two years, but has not yet had the opportunity to attend an AUT course, or taken the AUT exam in the past 12 months. Any nominee in this category should be considered one of your best newer umpires, capable of achieving Blue Badge status within two years. As it is ITTF policy to encourage female participation whenever possible, please encourage your female umpires to seriously consider applying for this prestigious assignment. As an incentive, **if one of the nominated umpires is female, you may also nominate one extra umpire in the Blue Badge or Blue Badge in progress category.**

An AUT course will be held immediately prior to the Championships on April 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. All White Badge umpires selected must attend this course. Participants (or their Association) will be responsible for the course fee of US\$40 and the cost of an additional night's accommodation and meals.

As this is an open invitation, unfortunately many umpires nominated may not be selected. The URC will confirm the exact selection of those nominated by each association no later than Thursday, 12th February, 2009. The selection will be based on geographic boundaries, with at least 2 from each Continent, and an approximately equal division between Blue Badge, Blue Badge in progress and White Badge.

Please forward your nomination, using the enclosed form, to the ITTF Office no later than **Friday – 23rd January, 2009**. The URC will **NOT** consider responses received after that date. **All responses MUST be endorsed and submitted by the candidates' National Association.**

Albert Rooijmans
Chairman
ITTF Umpires and Referees Committee