

EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS FOR THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATIONS AND TEAM SELECTIONS

1. All information contained in this explanation document is according to existing Rules and Regulations related to the table tennis qualification and competition of the 2008 Olympic Games.
2. This document serves as a guide and as a clarification document and does NOT replace the rules as they appear in the **BOCOG Table Tennis Explanatory Book**, which is available through each NOC as well as on the ITTF's website in the Olympic section.
3. All the explanations and clarifications in this document are NOT in contradiction with the BOCOG Table Tennis Explanatory Book (BTTEB), however, the BTTEB is the official reference as well as any general rule in the Olympic Charter.
4. The Team SELECTION process will start only AFTER the Final World Olympic Qualification Tournament is concluded and the 64 qualified players are known.
5. According to the Olympic Rules, the Teams selected must be announced on 30 May 2008
6. The ITTF's Executive Director will confirm the list at the ITTF's EC meeting on 18-19 May and announce the team list ASAP after the meeting but not later than 30 May 2008
7. In order to select the Teams only the 64 qualified players will be taken into consideration to establish the Special Olympic Computer Team Ranking (SOCTR).
8. The ITTF will not announce any "partial" ranking or comparisons between two teams until the full list is completed.
9. The ITTF advises all players, coaches, Associations and NOCs to avoid speculating, calculating and making assumptions regarding the selection of the Teams or regarding the number of "extra" quota positions available at the Final World Qualification Tournament.
10. The exact number of extra quota positions available to be added to the Final Qualification will only be known AFTER the Team selection process is made. According to the Olympic Rules, the final list of qualified players must be announced on 30 May 2008.
11. The ITTF will not be responsible for any speculations or calculations made by anyone. The only official list of qualified players and of selected Teams will be the list issued by the ITTF's Executive Director according to the established timelines.
12. The reason that the ITTF will adhere strictly to the established timelines is due to the possibilities of withdrawal of a player or players, the non-confirmation of participation by some NOC's for the singles or the teams, the possible ineligibility of a player, sudden withdrawals, etc. This could considerably change the Team selection or the singles list.
13. The Final Qualification tournament is played according to a similar system as the Olympic Games (singles) with a progressive round by round system. ONLY 3 players are GUARANTEED to be qualified at the end of the tournament.
14. At the Final Qualification the top 16 seeded players will be set aside. All the other players will play in preliminary Groups and will be reduced to 8 players after the group play and a knockout round. These 8 players will then be drawn against the players seeded 9th to 16th. The winners of this round will be drawn against the top 8 seeded players. This is the round of 16. The event continues using the progressive knockout and rank the players from 1 to 24 at least. The TOP 3 players ONLY will be declared qualified for the Olympic Games.
15. We do not know exactly how many more will be qualified until after the Qualifying tournament is finished and we complete assigning and selecting the Teams.
16. There are 22 quota "spots" reserved to complete Teams. These quota spots will only be allocated AFTER the conclusion of the Final Qualification Tournament.

17. The process is done simultaneously (in parallel), so after we have the final list of 64 qualified players and, in order of finish, the results of the additional players at the end of the tournament; we start assigning (selecting) first the Continental Team Quota, and as we do that, at the same time we take from the 22 spots available if necessary.
18. Each time a quota spot is allocated to a Continental Team, the number of quota spots is reduced. The quota spots may be allocated to other teams to complete the list of 16 teams, and again the quota spots are reduced.
19. When this process is complete, the unused quota spots, according to the regulations, will be transferred to the benefit of the players at the Final Qualification in order of finish.
20. For example: at the end of the Qualification Tournament, we have exactly 3 players SURE to be qualified plus a possibility of an extra 22 that could qualify (maximum). But we start selecting the AFRICAN Team and assuming that the best African NOC only qualified 2 players. Now we need to give them one (1) spot from the 22 quota spots. So now we have 21 remaining spots. Assuming we do the same for Latin America, and we now have 20 spots remaining, etc., etc., until we have secured the selection of the 6 Continental Teams.
21. The same process is done for the rest of the teams in order to complete 16 teams in total. Only at that time we will know how many spots from the 22 quota spots remain unused. These unused spots will be added to the Final Qualification list and players will be allocated a qualification in order of finish.
22. We will NOT know exactly how many spots will remain and be added until AFTER we have assigned ALL the Teams.
23. Any speculation in advance will be wrong. We must wait until the final qualification is over, and all Teams are assigned, (plus all cancellations, etc.) before we know exactly how many spots will be available and how many will be transferred to the final qualification.
24. Therefore, it is in the interest of all players to try to finish as high as possible to avoid any unpleasant surprises based on an erroneous calculation or assumption. BE CAREFUL.

Following is the method used to assign the teams:

25. If a Continent has only one NOC with 3 players qualified in singles, then automatically this team will be designated the Continental Quota.
26. If the Continent has more than one NOC with 3 players qualified in singles, then we will take the Team with the highest Ranking from that Continent from the SPECIAL OLYMPIC TEAM RANKING LIST (SOCTR) as the designated Continental Quota.
27. If the Continent does NOT have any NOC with three players qualified in singles, but has only one NOC with 2 players qualified in singles, then automatically this team will be designated the Continental Quota (1 spot will be provided from the quota of 22 spots).
28. If the Continent has more than one NOC with 2 players qualified in singles, then we will take the Team with the highest Ranking from that Continent from the SPECIAL OLYMPIC TEAM RANKING LIST as the designated Continental Quota (1 spot will be provided from the quota of 22 spots).
29. If the Continent does not have any NOC with at least 2 players qualified in singles, then we will take the NOC with highest ranked player as the designated Continental Quota (2 spots will be provided from the quota of 22 spots) – *This is not the case now as all Continents have at least one NOC with 2 qualified players.*
30. The same procedures will apply to complete the field of 16 Teams, taking into consideration the NOCs with 3 and 2 players qualified in singles, this procedure is to produce the remaining 10 teams.
31. The ranking (SOCTR) to be used for the Olympic Games SELECTION of Teams

- will only take into consideration the 64 players qualified, this means that NOCs with 3 players, NOCs with 2 players, as well as NOCs with 1 player will be taken into consideration and will appear on the Ranking list (SOCTR). Of course NOCs with one player will be ranked lower.
32. The SOCTR will be calculated in the same way as we calculate the current ITTF Computer Team Ranking now. (See on ITTF website)
 33. The differences are that:
 34. Only the 64 players qualified will be considered to establish the SOCTR for the purpose of selecting the Teams.
 35. The normal calculation will be adjusted to take into consideration the Olympic system of play (instead of the WTTC system)
 36. A team of 2 players will be considered as a team of 2 players to establish the ranking used for selection (teams of 3 of course have an advantage)
 37. The Rating points of the players are used (not the position) in a head-to-head win-loss calculation by the computer
 38. The Computer establishes the ranking of the teams by making a complete Round Robin of all teams against each other (each team is matched against each other team), the results establishes the Ranking (as is done now for the ITTF'S Team Ranking)
 39. The computer calculates a team-match using all the players from each team and as if all matches within the team-match are played (all players from one team play against all players from the other team).
 40. Teams with 2 players will be considered as having just 2 players, will not take a third player from the Ranking because we only consider the 64 qualified players. So the computer will treat as a team with 2 players (less chance against 3 players), but equal chance against another team with 2 players
 41. The Ranking points of each player count for the calculation of a win or a loss
 42. This is impossible to calculate manually and can only be calculated by the computer as it takes ALL matches into consideration.

Allocation of additional quota from the 22 spots available for the Team events:

43. Some teams will be allocated an additional "spot" or "spots" to complete the team.
44. The NOC/NA will select the player it wishes to complete the team. This player will play in the Team event only (according to the rules).
45. If the quota of 22 spots is not fully used, the rules indicate that these unused quota spots will be transferred to the Final World Qualification results and added to the guaranteed 3 qualified players. In this case, if a player that was added to the Team as a third player fits in the list of additionally qualified players (additional quota), then of course this player can also play in the singles.
- 46. According to the Rules the maximum number of players any NOC can have is 3 men and 3 women.**
47. The SEEDING list for the seeding of the Teams and forming the Groups (draw) will be produced in the same way as the SOCTR list but taking into consideration ALL the players; that means 3 players for each team. By then we will have the names of the "filling quota" players (including the added player).
48. The ITTF highly recommends that all concerned read carefully the **BOCOG Table Tennis Explanatory Book (BTTEB), which contains all the information**, needed for the Olympic Games table tennis event. The ITTF must respect the established timelines and the established procedures. If you read this explanatory document and you have carefully read the BTTEB, then all your questions should be answered.
49. Ranking list dates:
 - May 2008 Ranking list to be used to establish the Olympic Team Ranking list
 - July 2008 Ranking list to be used to seed the players in singles and to establish

the Olympic Team Ranking to seed the Teams for the draw.

50. Remaining timelines:

- May 8-11, 2008 Final World Olympic Qualification Tournament (Budapest (HUN)).
- May 30, 2008 ITTF to confirm to NFs/NOCs the names of all qualified singles players, Teams and players only qualified for Teams events
- June 15, 2008 NOCs to confirm to ITTF the entry of participating players and Teams.
- June 30, 2008 ITTF to confirm the final allocation of all quota places.
- July 23, 2008 Deadline for Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee to receive Entry Forms submitted by NOCs

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