



PROSPECTUS FOR THE
2008 WORLD TEAM TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
24th February to 2nd March 2008
Guangzhou, China



LIEBHERR



1 AUTHORITY

The 2008 World Team Table Tennis Championships will be hosted by the Chinese Table Tennis Association and the Guangzhou City and organized by the Administration of Sport of Guangzhou Municipality and Guangzhou City Table Tennis Association under the auspices and authority of the International Table Tennis Federation.

2 DATE AND PLACE

The Championships will be held from 24 February to 2 March 2008 at the Guangzhou Gymnasium in Guangzhou, China.

3 EVENTS

The following Championship events will be played:

Event 1: Men’s Team, for the Swaythling Cup (*Holder: China*)

Event 2: Women’s Team, for the Marcel Corbillon Cup (*Holder: China*)

4 SCHEDULE

The Halls will be open for practice from 22nd February at 10:00 a.m.

24 February	Opening Ceremony (Approx. 19:30)
24 - 26 February	Group matches Women and Men’s Team
27 February	Group matches Women and Men’s Team Challenge matches Women’s Team
28 February	Group matches Men’s Team Quarter-Finals Women’s Team Challenge matches Men’s Team
29 February	Women’s Team Semi-finals Men’s Team Quarter-Finals
1 March	Position Matches Women’s Team Men’s Team Semi-finals Women’s Team Finals
2 March	Position Matches Men’s Team Men’s Team Finals

5 RULES

The Championships will be conducted in accordance with the current Laws of Table Tennis, the Regulations for International Competitions and the Special Regulations for World Championships.

6 EQUIPMENT

The following equipment from Double Happiness and Double Fish will be used:

Table, Net and Post: Double Fish (Blue) Model: Volant

Ball: Double Happiness (White)

Sports Floor: Gerflor

All racket coverings must be of a type currently authorized by the ITTF.

7 ELIGIBILITY

The Championships will be open to Associations whose membership subscriptions have been paid up to and including those for 2007 (see Regulation 4.1.3).

Associations who still have not settled their accounts in relation to the Liebherr 2007 World Championships in Zagreb will not be permitted to enter.

8 FEES

The entry fees will be as follows:

Men's Team event US\$ 100

Women's Team event US\$ 100

9 SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

All entry forms must be filled and submitted to the ITTF before the deadline dates.

ITTF

Chemin de la Roche,11

1020 Renens/Lausanne

Switzerland

Tel: + 41 21 340 7090

Fax:+ 41 21 340 7099

e-mail: bhabiba@ittf.com

Preliminary entries

The intention to enter teams will be notified to the Organizing Committee and the ITTF in the preliminary notification form. The closing date for the receipt of this form is **24 October 2007**.

Final Entries

Entries must be submitted on the prescribed entry forms.

The size of each official delegation will be limited to a maximum of: 2 coaches, 1 doctor, 2 physiotherapists, 1 chief of delegation, the President of the Association, 2 AGM delegates plus the number of players selected by the Association and eligible for the competition.

All the other persons of the Delegation must be listed separately and dealt with separately by the Organizing Committee especially concerning the visa request.

One copy of the Summary of Entries, List of Official Party, Nomination of Delegates and Entries for Events 1 - 2 must be sent not later than **24 December 2007** ONLY to the ITTF Head Office.

Modifications to accepted entries (entries received by the deadline) must be made according to item 4.1.6 of the ITTF Handbook using the appropriate form for that purpose (Modifications to Entry Form).

On-line entry forms on ITTF web-site

Entries could also be done on-line instead of the regular process. Starting 15 September 2007 until 24 December 2007 all the Associations can submit their entries on-line, on the ITTF web-site, through the following URL address:

www.ittf.com/entries

Travel details can be added on-line till **7 February 2008**.

Each Association will receive an Association code and password to access the on-line entry system.

Entry fees must be transferred not later than **24 December 2007**.

An acknowledgment of the receipt of entry forms will be sent by e-mail or airmail. If this confirmation has not been received within 21 days after the submission of entry forms, the ITTF Head Office should be notified by phone, fax or e-mail.

An Association may nominate up to 5 players and a non-playing captain for each team event; if a non-playing captain is not appointed, one of the team players shall be designated as captain.

10 COPY OF PASSPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Copy of passport and two photographs, 4cm x 3cm (vertical and horizontal), of each person named on the "List of Official Party" must be sent to the Organizing Committee to facilitate the issue of Accreditation Cards on arrival in Guangzhou. The relevant person's name should be written on the back of each photograph.

Associations could send the photographs of each person on the "List of Official Party" also by e-mail to wttc2008@163.net

The Guangzhou Organizing Committee address is:

Guangzhou City Table Tennis Association
Tianhe Sport Center
299 Tianhe Road
Guangzhou 510620
P. R. China
Tel. 86-20-38797723, Fax 86-20-38797598, E-mail: wttc2008@163.net
Tel mobile (English-speaking liaison) 86-13922438876

11 OBLIGATIONS

The entry forms will contain a statement that the players nominated are willing to compete against any other participating player. This statement must be signed by a responsible official of the nominating Association and no entry form will be accepted unless such an undertaking has been given.

12 TELEVISION, MOTION PICTURE AND INTERNET COVERAGE CONDITIONS

By entering the Championships, participants agree to abide by all ITTF rules and by the rules and regulations of the Organizing Committee. All entered associations, teams and individual players agree to be under the auspices of the ITTF and its agents in all matters concerning television coverage, video, internet web casting, motion picture coverage, and photographic coverage of any kind. Participants release all rights, or rights held by their agents or sponsors, in all matters relating to television and web casting coverage, video and motion picture coverage, and photographic coverage of any kind; and hence accept such coverage during the World Championships. A participant's refusal of above listed coverage may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the competition. Any participant, when called upon, must appear promptly to press conferences or medal presentations and follow the procedures set by the ITTF and the Organizing Committee.

13 DRAW

The draw will be made, under the supervision of the ITTF Technical Committee, in Guangzhou at 16:00 on 24 January 2008 for the Championship Division and Division 2, 3 and at 11:00 on 22 February for other divisions.

Any Association wishing to send a representative to observe the draw is requested to notify the Organizing Committee not later than 1 January 2008.

14 JURY MEETING

The Jury will meet in Guangzhou at 19:00 on 23 February 2008 and on subsequent occasions during the Championships, if required. An Association directly affected by a matter under consideration at a Jury meeting is entitled to be represented at that meeting.

15 UMPIRES AND REFEREES

All matches will be controlled by qualified umpires and referees, in accordance with the Directives approved by the Board of Directors as shown on the 2007-2008 ITTF Handbook.

16 AWARDS

The winning Associations will be entitled to hold the appropriate trophies until 31 December 2009.

In addition to the Championship trophies the winning players and captain will receive a gold medal, the losing finalists will receive a silver medal and the losing semi-finalists will receive bronze medals.

Each division winning team and captain shall receive a medal or award as Division Champion.

All players taking part will receive a certificate of participation.

17 MEETINGS

A General Meeting of members will be held on Wednesday, 27 February 2008. Each Association, whose membership subscriptions have been paid up to and including those for 2008, is entitled to be represented by two delegates at the Meeting. The ITTF recommends that at least one delegate should be a woman.

The ITTF Board of Directors will meet on Friday, 29 February 2008.

Details in writing of business and propositions to be dealt with at the AGM and Board of Directors must reach the ITTF Head Office not later than 27 November 2007.

18 HOSPITALITY

Free accommodation and meals will be provided from lunch on 23 February to breakfast on 3 March 2008 for:

- not more than three (3) men and three (3) women players nominated by an Association;
- One (1) delegate to the General Meeting from each Association if he/she is not already included in the nominated players listed above;
- members of the ITTF Executive Council, the Board of Directors and the Olympics Commission and full members of Committees;
- Personal Honorary Members;
- President's Advisory Council;
- up to four (4) members of the Doping Control Panel appointed by the Sports Science Committee;
- Up to four (4) members for the Racket Control appointed by the ITTF Equipment Committee.
- up to three (3) members of the Calendar Working Group;
- up to eight (8) members of the Athletes' Commission;
- International Umpires, Referees and other ITTF Officials from other Associations invited in accordance with the directives for Match Officials issued by the ITTF.
- up to 3 members of the ITTF staff and the ITTF Museum Curator.

19 ACCOMPANYING VISITORS

Players and officials who are listed on the Associations' official entry forms but who are not entitled to free hospitality can be accommodated with the others and on the same basis, including meals, transport and admission, at a charge of US\$130 per person per day in a twin/double room or US\$150 per person per day in a single room.

20 PAYMENT

Associations are requested to pay their entry fees, extra hospitality costs and hospitality costs for those persons not entitled to free accommodation and meals, when submitting their entry forms.

Payment should be made by direct Bank Transfer before 24 December 2007 to:

*Guangzhou City Table Tennis Association
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Tianhe Sub-Branch
102 Tianhe Dong Road, Guangzhou, 510630, P.R. China
Account No. 3602013409002625188
Swift Code: ICBKCNBJGDG*

The Organizing Committee will make hotel reservations and pick-up bus arrangements only for Associations that have completed their payments.

Cancellation

Reimbursement of cancellation will be done upon request only if the cancellation has been announced before 24 January 2008.

For cancellation of accommodation for members of Delegations after the deadline of the Final Entries, the cancellation fee will be as follows:

Before 24 January no cancellation fee.

From 24 January to 8 February, a cancellation fee of US \$120 for each person who does not have free hospitality.

After 8 February a cancellation fee up to 60% of the total costs for each person who does not have free hospitality.

The Organizing Committee should not cancel the rooms of the persons taken in charge by them except if they receive official information from the associations concerned.

The Organizing Committee should not cancel the rooms of the persons not taken in charge by them if:

- they have received the full payment in advance or
- they have received the confirmation of the date and time of arrival or
- they have received an official confirmation of the flight tickets by the company or the travel agency.

If the Organizing Committee does not receive one of these 3 above confirmations on time they are free to cancel the rooms.

If there are still cancellations of rooms with cost to the Organizers then participants should reimburse at least the first 2 days of no shows, but not the whole period.

21 ARRIVAL TIMES

The deadline to provide travel details is 7 February 2008. Participating delegations **must** inform the Organizing Committee of any change on their arrival date and time at least 72 hours before the flight arrival and no later than 23:59 h. on 21 February Delegations not providing travel details before 23:59 h. (local time) on 21 February will not have their teams included in the draw.

2008 World Team Playing System

Number of Teams per Division

As decided at the 2005 Board of Directors meeting in Shanghai, there shall be 24 Teams in the top 3 Divisions at the 2008 World Team Table Tennis Championships to be played in Guangzhou (China).

1. STRUCTURE

- 1.1 "Division" System with 24 Teams in each of the top 3 Divisions and the rest of the teams to form the 4th Division.
- 1.2 The 1st Division is also the Championship Division.
- 1.3 In each of the top 3 Divisions there will be 4 Groups of 6 Teams.
- 1.4 The 4th Division will be comprised of all the rest of the teams divided in groups after the final entry is known, to maximize the number of matches played by each team

2. PLAYING SYSTEM

- 2.1 In each of the top 3 Divisions the playing system will be identical.
- 2.2 Each group of 6 teams shall play a complete round robin competition (5 matches per team).
- 2.3 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION: The order of play and the scheduling of the matches must be prepared in such a way as to avoid, whenever possible, the possibility of "pre-determining" results. All final round matches, as feasibly possible, must be significant for each competing team.
- 2.4 Following the complete round robin in each group, the winners of each group (4 teams) will move directly into the Quarter Finals round (they have a bye in the Round of 16 - See diagram in page 10) and seeded accordingly (Winner of Group "A" seeded 1st (position (1)) winner of Group "B" seeded 2nd (position (2)) winners of Groups "C" and "D" **drawn** in positions (3/4).
- 2.5 The teams placing 2nd in the groups will be **drawn randomly** in positions (5) into the Round of 16 first (see diagram in page 10).
- 2.6 The teams placing 3rd in the groups will be **drawn randomly** in positions (9) into the Round of 16 next (see diagram in page 10).
- 2.7 The teams placing 4th, 5th and 6th in the groups (12 teams) will play-off for positions 13 to 24 (draw of 12 teams, using the same system as the top 12 teams: Round of 16 with 4 "byes" to each of the teams placing 4th).
- 2.8 The play-off rounds (final draws) will be played according to the "progressive knock-out" system to determine all the final positions in order from 1 to 12 and from 13 to 24. (2nd Division: 25-36 and 37-48, 3rd Division: 49-60 and 61-72), except that there shall be no match for 3rd and 4th.

- 2.9 In the 4th Division, depending on the total number of entered teams, the teams shall be divided in groups (number of groups to be determined after the closing date for entry) in order to provide sufficient number of matches to each team. The teams would play first in groups and then a progressive knock-out system to determine all the positions. Every effort will be made to provide as many matches as possible per team.
- 2.10 The World Champion team could play a maximum of 9 matches and a minimum of 8 matches.
- 2.11 In 1st. Division all teams are guaranteed to play at least 7 matches, but most teams will play 8 or 9 matches. In the 2nd and 3rd Divisions most teams will play 9 matches, only teams with a "Bye" in round of 16 may have only 8 matches to play.
- 2.12 No. 1 overall (winner of 1st Division) shall be World Champion.
- 2.13 In 1st Division the winning team shall receive gold medals, the runner-up silver medals and the 2 losing semi-finalists bronze medals.
- 2.14 In 2nd and 3rd Divisions winning teams (Division Champions No. 25 and 49) shall be given medals or awards.
- 2.15 A special award shall be given to the winning team of 4th Division.

3. SEEDING and RANKING

- 3.1 The top 18 Teams of the 1st Division in the previous World Team Championships shall be guaranteed a spot in 1st Division regardless of their position on the relevant ITTF Computer World Team Ranking (CWTR).
- 3.2 The teams having finished in the previous World Team Championships in one of the two top positions of each Division (25th-26th, 49th-50th, 73rd-74th) will be guaranteed a seeding of at least 23rd, 24th, 47th, 48th, 71st and 72nd respectively, unless the ranking of the team would seed them in a higher position.
- 3.3 The teams having finished amongst the next 16 positions of 2nd and 3rd Division (27th to 42nd included and 51st to 66th included) on the previous World Team Championships will be guaranteed a place in the same Division regardless of their position on the relevant CWTR, unless their position on this CWTR would place them in an even higher position.
- 3.4 All other teams shall be seeded according to the CWTR as determined by the Ranking Committee
- 3.5 Seeding in the 4 groups in each of the top 3 Divisions shall be done as follows:
 - 3.5.1 In 1st Division:
 - 3.5.1.1 Teams Ranked 1 to 4 shall be seeded as top of each group: 1st – A, 2nd – B, 3rd – C and 4th –D
 - 3.5.1.2 Teams ranked 5 and 6 shall be drawn in Groups D and C
 - 3.5.1.3 Teams ranked 7 and 8 shall be drawn in Groups B and A, etc, drawing teams two-by-two using the snake system until all groups are complete with 24 teams
 - 3.5.2 The same system shall be used for the 2nd and 3rd Divisions
 - 3.5.3 The system of seeding for 4th Division will be determined after the closing of the entry.

3.6 The CWTR which will be used for the composition of the Divisions and for the Draws shall be the CWTR to be published in January 2008, the last one before the draw of the Championship Division which will take place on January 24.

4. DEFINITIONS

Division: refers to a block of teams competing against each other. Divisions shall consist of 24 Teams (4th Division may consist of less or more teams). References to these blocks are: 1st Division (First Division), 2nd Division, 3rd Division and 4th Division. The 1st Division is the Championships Division.

Group: refers to teams drawn together within a Division. There will be 4 groups per Division and they are referred to in the alphabetical order. In the 1st Division: Groups A, B, C, and D, in the 2nd Division: groups E, F, G and H, and in 3rd. Division, groups I, J, K and L. (4th Division may consist of less or more groups)

Ranking: refers to the ITTF's Computer World Team Ranking (CWTR)

Seeding: refers to the placement of a Team at the Championships based on its final position at the previous Team Championships or on its position in the current championships based on its ranking relative to all other entered teams.

1st DIVISION - CHAMPIONSHIPS

GROUPS

A	1
	7/8
	9/10
	15/16
	17/18
	23/24

B	2
	7/8
	9/10
	15/16
	17/18
	23/24

C	3
	5/6
	11/12
	13/14
	19/20
	21/22

D	4
	5/6
	11/12
	13/14
	19/20
	21/22

(1)

(9)

(5)

(5)

(9)

(3/4)

(3/4)

(9)

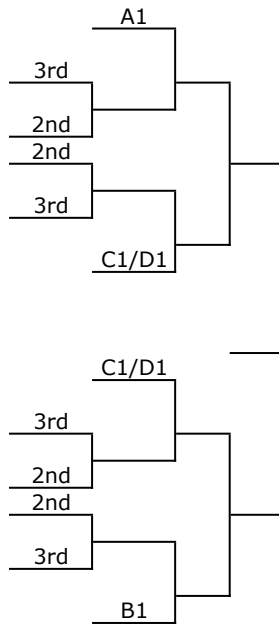
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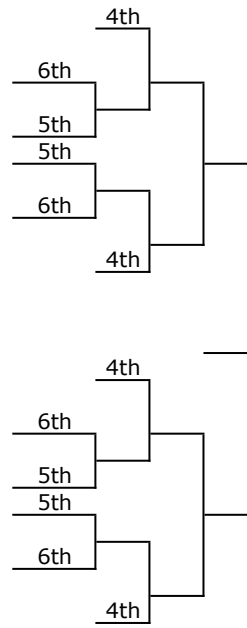
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(2)

Position 1-12



Position 13-24



2nd DIVISION

GROUPS E, F, G, H

Position 25-36

Position 37-48

3rd DIVISION

GROUPS I, J, K, L

Position 49-60

Position 61-72

4th DIVISION

GROUPS M, N, ...

Positions 72 +