

FINAL WORLD QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT

Basic Principles

1. The FINAL WORLD QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT consists of a Men's Singles event and a Women's Singles event
2. Each NOC has the right to enter up to 3 players in each event, minus, for each event, the number of their players already qualified for the 2008 Olympic Games.
3. Players representing the same NOC will be separated in group play, and as far as possible in the final draw.
4. All participants will have at least two matches.
5. As far as necessary, a precise ranking order, including substitutes, will be obtained.
6. The final number of qualifiers will not be known until after the completion of the tournament.
7. All matches will be played as the best of 7 games.

Playing Format

1. If a minimum number of qualifiers is known, players who definitely fall within this range will not have to play further matches.
2. Prize money will be awarded to the winner, finalist, and semi-final losers.
3. The tournament will be played in four stages.
4. Players ranked 1 – 8 will receive direct entry into Stage 4.
5. Players ranked 9 – 16 will receive direct entry into Stage 3.
6. In **Stage 1** the remaining players will be drawn into 16 groups on the basis of their ranking position on the latest World Ranking prior to the event.
 - 6.1. The highest ranked player will be placed in the 1st group, the 2nd in the 2nd group, and so on until the 16th ranked player is placed in the 16th group.
 - 6.2. The remaining players will then be drawn into groups, 4 at a time, using a "snake" system, ensuring that players from the same Association are drawn into separate groups.
 - 6.3. Groups could consist of between 3 and 6 players.
 - 6.4. Players finishing second in their group will proceed to Stage 2.
 - 6.5. Players finishing first in their group will proceed to Stage 3.
 - 6.6. The remaining players will be eliminated.
7. **Stage 2** - 16 players comprising the players finishing second in their group from Stage 1. Stage 2 will consist of a single round knockout draw, with the winners (8) of those matches proceeding to Stage 3. 1.1. The losers will be eliminated.

8. **Stage 3**

- 8.1.1. 32 players comprising the winners of Stage 2 (8), the group winners from Stage 1 (16), and seeds 9 – 16 (8).
- 8.1.2. Stage 3 will consist of a knockout draw.
- 8.1.3. Seeded players (8) will be drawn first, ensuring separation by NOC.
- 8.1.4. Group winners (16) will then be drawn, ensuring separation by NOC.
- 8.1.5. Winners from Stage 2 (8) will finally be drawn, against seeded players, firstly into the opposite half of their group winner, and then ensuring separation by NOC as far as possible.
- 8.1.6. Stage 3 will comprise 2 rounds.
- 8.1.7. Losers (16) of the first round proceed to Stage 4B, round 1.
- 8.1.8. The winners (8) from the second round of Stage 3 will join seeds 1 – 8 in Stage 4A.
- 8.1.9. The losers (8) from the second round proceed to Stage 4B round 2.

9. **Stage 4**

- 9.1. **Stage 4A** comprises the winners (8) from the second round of Stage 3 plus seeds 1 – 8 (8) who will play for positions 1 – 16.
 - 9.1.1. Seeds 1 – 8 will be drawn first, ensuring separation by NOC.
 - 9.1.2. Remaining players will then be drawn, ensuring separation by NOC as far as possible.
 - 9.1.3. A progressive knockout draw system will apply.

9.2. **Stage 4B**

- 9.2.1. Players will be drawn at random, ensuring separation by NOC, and players who have previously met will also be separated as far as possible.
- 9.2.2. The first round losers (16) of Stage 3 will play a single round knockout. The losers will be eliminated.
- 9.2.3. The winners (8) of this round will join the losers (8) of the second round of stage 3.
- 9.2.4. A progressive knockout system will then be followed for positions 17 - 32 in order to determine a precise ranking order, with substitutes.

- 10. Earlier stages may be varied depending upon the number of entries received.