

COMPETITION DETAILS

1. STRUCTURE

- 1.1 "Division" System with 24 teams in each Division.
- 1.2 The 1st Division is also the Championship Division.
- 1.3 In each of the Divisions there will be 4 Groups of 6 teams.

2. PLAYING SYSTEM

- 2.1 The playing system for the **Division 1 (Championship Division)** will be as follows:
 - 2.1.1 Each group of 6 teams shall play a complete round robin competition (5 matches per team).
 - 2.1.2 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 "predetermining" results. All final round matches, as feasibly possible, must be significant for each competing team.
 - 2.1.3 Following the completion of the round robin in each group, the winners of each group (4 teams) will move directly into the quarter final round (they have a bye in the round of 16 - see attachment) and be 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 into positions (3)).
 - 2.1.4 The teams placing 2nd in the groups will then be drawn randomly in positions (5) into the Round of 16 (see attachment).
 - 2.1.5 The teams placing 3rd in the groups will then be drawn randomly in positions (9) into the Round of 16 (see attachment), with the exception that teams having played against each other in the group stage shall not meet again in the first round of the knock-out competition.
 - 2.1.6 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 byes to each of the teams placing 4th).
 - 2.1.7 The play-off rounds (final draws) will be played according to a single knock-out system, with the exception that the final match for positions 13 and 14 need not be played.
- 2.2 The playing system for **Division 2** will be identical.
- 2.3 The playing system for **Division 3** will be identical with the exception that teams having played against each other in the group stage shall not meet again in the first or second round of the knock-out competition, and first round losers will play one additional positional match.
- 2.4 The World Champion team could play a maximum of 9 matches and a minimum of 8 matches.
- 2.5 All teams could play a maximum of 9 matches and are guaranteed to play at least 6 matches.
- 2.6 The winner of 1st Division shall be the World Champion.
- 2.7 In 1st Division the winning team shall receive gold medals, the runner-up silver medals and the 2 losing semi-finalists bronze medals.
- 2.8 In Divisions 2 and 3 winning teams (Division Champions No. 25 and 49) shall be given medals or awards.

1st DIVISION - CHAMPIONSHIP

| GROUPS | | Positions 1 - 12 | | Positions 13 - 24 | |
|----------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------------|-----|
| A | 1 | (1) | A1 | | 4th |
| | 7/8 | | | | |
| | 9/10 | | | | |
| | 15/16 | (9) | 3rd | | 6th |
| | 17/18 | (5) | 2nd | | 5th |
| | 23/24 | | | | |
| B | 2 | (5) | 2nd | | 5th |
| | 7/8 | | | | |
| | 9/10 | (9) | 3rd | | 6th |
| | 15/16 | | | | |
| | 17/18 | | | | |
| | 23/24 | (3) | C1/D1 | | 4th |
| C | 3 | (3) | C1/D1 | | 4th |
| | 5/6 | | | | |
| | 11/12 | | | | |
| | 13/14 | (9) | 3rd | | 6th |
| | 19/20 | (5) | 2nd | | 5th |
| | 21/22 | | | | |
| D | 4 | (5) | 2nd | | 5th |
| | 5/6 | | | | |
| | 11/12 | (9) | 3rd | | 6th |
| | 13/14 | | | | |
| | 19/20 | | | | |
| | 21/22 | (2) | B1 | | 4th |

2nd DIVISION

GROUPE,F,G,H

Positions 25 - 36

Positions 37 - 48

3rd DIVISION

GROUP I,J,K,L

Positions 49 - 60

Positions 61 - 72

NOTES: In Division 3 an additional match will be played by the first round losers

Final Positions will be determined as follows:

Divisions 1 and 2 - 1st, 2nd, =3, =5, =9, =13, =15, =17, =21

Division 3 - 1st, 2nd, =3, =5, =9, =11, =13, =15, =17, =21, =23

3. SEEDING AND RANKING

- 3.1 The top 14 teams of the 1st Division in the 2018 World Team Championships shall be guaranteed a place in 1st Division regardless of their position on the relevant ITTF World Team Ranking (WTR).
- 3.2 The teams having finished in the 2018 World Team Championships in one of the two top positions of 2nd and 3rd Divisions (25th-26th, 49th-50th) will be guaranteed a seeding of at least 23rd, 24th, 47th and 48th respectively, unless the ranking of the team would seed them in a higher position.
- 3.3 The teams having finished amongst the next 12 positions of 2nd and 3rd Division (27th to 38th inclusive and 51st to 62nd inclusive) in the 2018 World Team Championships will be guaranteed a place in the same Division regardless of their position on the relevant WTR, unless their position on this WTR would place them in an even higher position.
- 3.4 All other teams shall be seeded according to the WTR except the host team which shall have the option to play in the Championship Division regardless of its position on the relevant WTR.
- 3.5 Seeding in the 4 groups in each Division 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 other Divisions.
- 3.6 The WTR which will be used for the composition of the Divisions and for the draws shall be the last WTR before the draw of the Championship Division.

4. TEAM MATCH DETAILS

- 4.1 A team match is best of 5 matches.
- 4.2 Each individual match is best of 5 games.
- 4.3 Order of play is:

| |
|--------|
| A vs X |
| B vs Y |
| C vs Z |
| A vs Y |
| B vs X |

Should a team captain not attend the toss on time, the opposing team will have the right to choose ABC or XYZ. For the team not at the toss, the referee on duty will put players in order of WR as follows:

| | |
|--------|---|
| A or Y | 1 st ranked player of the team |
| B or X | 2 nd ranked player of the team |
| C or Z | 3 rd ranked player of the team |

Details on the times and call area procedures will be published in due time.

5. DEFINITIONS

Division: refers to a block of teams competing against each other. Divisions shall consist of 24 Teams. References to these blocks are: 1st Division, 2nd Division and 3rd Division. The 1st Division is the Championship Division.

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

Ranking: refers to the ITTF's World Team Ranking (WTR).

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.