



Qualification and Playing System for the Women's & Men's World Cup

1. PARTICIPANTS

- 1.1 There shall be twenty (20) players qualified for the World Cup.
- 1.2 The current World Champion shall be automatically qualified.
- 1.3 Seventeen (17) additional players shall qualify through the Continental Cups or an equivalent type of tournament.
- 1.4 If no players qualify from the host association through items 1.2 or 1.3 above, then a host association player shall be nominated by his or her association.
- 1.5 If a host association player is already qualified through items 1.2 or 1.3 above, then an additional player shall be added from the Continental Cups.
- 1.6 The ITTF shall select a Wild Card direct entry to complete the field of twenty (20) players.
- 1.7 There shall not be more than 2 players from an Association.

2. CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

- 2.1 Each continent shall have a Continental Cup (or equivalent type of event) at least two (2) months prior to the World Cup date.
- 2.2 The winner of each Continental Cup, plus the second (2nd) and third (3rd) highest finishers from Asia and Europe, **and the highest finisher from the Continent other than the one of the winner from the Panam Cup** shall qualify, for a total of ten (10) players.
- 2.3 Seven (7) additional players shall be selected from the Continental Cups based on their order of finishing and their World Ranking.
- 2.4 The highest ranked player amongst players finishing second (2nd) in Africa, Latin America, North America, Oceania, and fourth (4th) in Asia and Europe, shall be selected.
- 2.5 The highest ranked next player from the remaining players in the topmost place on the qualifying positions from each Continental Cup, shall be selected, and so on, until the seven (7) players are selected, or eight (8) players if the host association player has already qualified.
- 2.6 The Continental Cups (or their equivalent) should play-off all positions in order if possible, or at least the top four (4) positions in Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania, as well as the top eight (8) positions in Asia and Europe. All players in Continental Cups are eligible to be selected according to their order of finish.
- 2.7 If all positions are not played off, or at least as indicated in item 2.6 above, then for equal positions, beyond the played-off positions, the highest ranked player shall be selected (example 5-8 positions, 9-10, 9-12, 13-16, 9-16, etc.) .
- 2.8 The latest available World Ranking on the date of publication of the initial invitations shall be used for selecting the qualified players.

3. WORLD CUP PLAYING SYSTEM

- 3.1 Seeding shall be done according to the latest available World Ranking.
- 3.2 The tournament shall consist of 2 stages.
- 3.3 In the preliminary stage the players **ranked** from 9 to 20 (12 players) shall be divided in 4 equal groups of 3 players, with all the members of a group playing each other.
- 3.4 Players **ranked** 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th shall head each group A, B, C and D respectively.

- 3.5 Players **ranked** 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th shall be drawn randomly into the second position of each preliminary group.
- 3.6 The remaining players **ranked** 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th shall be drawn randomly into the third and last position in each preliminary group.
- 3.7 If there are 2 players from the same Association, they will be drawn into separate groups.
- 3.8 The top 2 finishers of each preliminary group shall join the top 8 seeded players in the second stage of the competition.
- 3.9 The second stage of the competition shall consist of a knockout draw.
- 3.10 The draw for players seeded 1st – 8th will be done according to ITTF Regulations:
 - 3.10.1 Seed 1 placed in position 1
 - 3.10.2 Seed 2 placed in position 16
 - 3.10.3 Seeds 3 and 4 drawn between positions 8 and 9
 - 3.10.4 Seeds 5 – 8 drawn randomly into positions 4, 5, 12 and 13
- 3.11 Group winners from the preliminary stage will be drawn randomly into positions 3, 6, 11 and 14.
- 3.12 Group second place finishers from the preliminary stage will be drawn randomly into positions 2, 7, 10 and 15.
- 3.13 Group winners and second place finishers from the same group will be drawn into opposite halves of the draw.
- 3.14 There shall be no separation by Association.
- 3.15 Losers of the semi-finals shall play each other for third place.
- 3.16 All matches shall be the best of 7 games.
- 3.17 The tournament shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.

4. Substitutions

- 4.1 Substitutions before the entry closing date shall be as per entry regulations.
- 4.2 If the World Champion is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by the remaining highest ranked and highest finisher from the Continental Cups according to the system described in item 2.5 above.
- 4.3 If the host association player is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by another host association player nominated by the host association.
- 4.4 If the Wild Card player is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by another Wild Card player selected by the ITTF.
- 4.5 If any other player is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by the remaining highest ranked and highest finisher from the Continental Cups according to the system described in item 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 above.
- 4.6 Substitutions after the entry closing date shall be decided by the ITTF **with no requirement to participate at the Continental Cups.**

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