



**TABLE TENNIS.  
FOR ALL.  
FOR LIFE.**

# NEWSLETTER

## August 2020

Five months on from the final ball being hit at the ITTF Challenge Plus Oman Open in March 2020, the international table tennis calendar continues to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with lockdown restrictions eased in many parts of the world, table tennis is slowly but surely heading in the right direction.

The ITTF continues to work around the clock to find solutions and map out a much-anticipated return to international action for the stars of our sport.

Table Tennis. For All. For Life.

### IN HOUR OF NEED, ITTF SUPPORTS LEBANON

Following the devastating explosion in Beirut on Tuesday 4 August, Lebanon is now experiencing a deepening economic crisis amidst a rapidly rising cost of living, leaving thousands of inhabitants poverty-stricken. In support, the ITTF Foundation's Governing Board called for an extraordinary meeting to decide possible ways to help the Lebanese Table Tennis Federation in these difficult times.

Having evaluated the situation, paying close attention to Lebanon's table tennis community, a sum of USD 30,000 has been donated towards projects designed to re-activate table tennis in the nation, using the sport for positive social outcomes. The funding derives from the donations received for the #TableTennisUnited donation campaign, after the grant panel approved this as an exceptional use with incoming donations significantly higher than the applications received. [READ MORE](#)



*The ITTF stands with the people of Lebanon through this difficult time.*

### LIEBHERR 2020 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTPONED

The LIEBHERR 2020 European Championships, scheduled to be held between 15 - 20 September in Warsaw, Poland, have been postponed due to a spike in COVID-19 cases across Europe.

The decision to postpone the event was agreed by unanimous decision of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) Executive Board, putting the safety of players, coaches and officials top of the list of priorities. The ETTU advised that a future date for the European Championships will be confirmed at a later stage.



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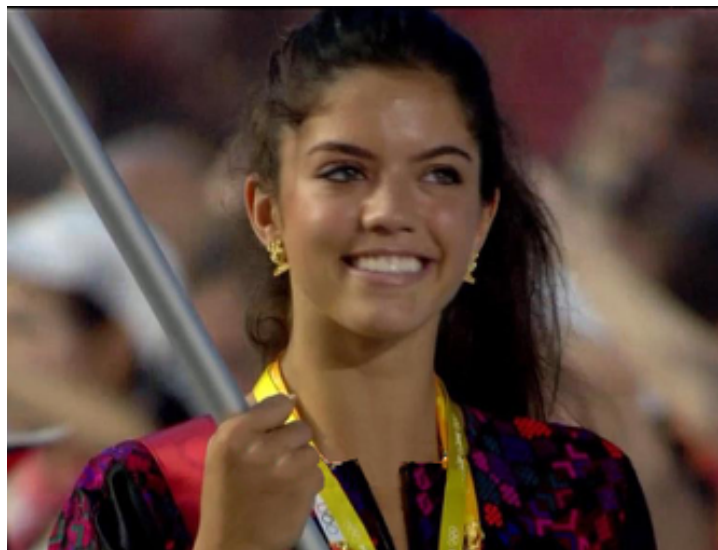
## PRINCESS ZEINA RASHID OF JORDAN JOINS AS ITTF FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

The ITTF is delighted that Her Royal Highness Princess Zeina Rashid of Jordan has joined as a board member of the ITTF Foundation.

The former table tennis player, who competed at the Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Princess Zeina Rashid has continued to be heavily involved in sport and currently sits on the Jordan Olympic Committee as a member of the Board of Directors.

**“Table tennis was my gateway into competitive sport, my career, my passion. I am excited to have the opportunity to give back to the sport that has set my life on its current trajectory. Sport is a great unifying and equalising force and it is a privilege to join the ITTF Foundation, which works every day to further this message by supporting and bringing communities together through table tennis.” – Princess Zeina Rashid, ITTF Foundation Board Member**

A distinguished personality with a highly impressive reputation in the sports industry, the ITTF is looking forward to working with Princess Zeina Rashid, her fresh input set to be of great benefit for table tennis globally. [READ MORE](#)



*Princess Zeina Rashid bearing the flag of Jordan at the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.*

## 2020 ITTF-OCEANIA AGM GOES ONLINE!



*ITTF-Oceania will hold its AGM on Saturday 22 August.*

New territory for continental Annual General Meetings (AGM), ITTF-Oceania will break new ground on Saturday 22 August, hosting the first AGM by a continental federation in a new digital form with online voting procedures.

The AGM had been originally scheduled to take place on 18 April in Brisbane, Australia, but was pushed back to 24 June in order to coincide with the Hana Bank 2020 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan, Korea Republic, but when this event too needed to be postponed, the ITTF-Oceania AGM was rescheduled to Saturday 22 August at 10:00 AEST, this time via online video conference.

Key items on the agenda will be conducted online with business, propositions and the ITTF-Oceania Management Committee elections, including the ITTF-Oceania presidential election between two candidates, Anthony Ho from Fiji and Scott Houston from Australia, all conducted by online vote.



## ITTF DIGITAL CHANNELS CELEBRATE "OLYMPIC MONTH"

Over the last month, table tennis fans across the globe would have been flocking to the Japanese capital of Tokyo to witness the Olympic Games, postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a bid to recapture some of the magic of the Games, the ITTF has been bringing back the Olympic spirit with a series of special features on ITTF.com and a range of content distributed across the ITTF's social media channels.

Discussing the most iconic Olympic moments over the years, the intense rivalries that have captivated audiences, as well as the greatest ever finals, ITTF.com has been the place to be for fans of the Games, while keeping a close eye on next year's event. Who are the key contenders and so-called dark horses in the race for glory? [READ MORE](#)



*Will Tomokazu Harimoto be celebrating on home soil next year?*

A promotional graphic for the ITTF series "Ask A Pro Anything At Home". It features two side-by-side portraits of African table tennis players: Ibrahima Diaw on the left and Quadri Aruna on the right. The background is a mix of orange and grey geometric shapes. The ITTF logo and "ITTF.com" are in the top right corner. The text "ASK A PRO ANYTHING AT HOME:" is in large white letters, followed by "PRESENTED BY" and the "andro" logo. At the bottom, the names "IBRAHIMA DIAW &amp; QUADRI ARUNA" are displayed in large white letters. A small "RASHID" logo is visible on the bottom left of the Diaw portrait.

*Click to watch Ibrahima Diaw and Quadri Aruna on Ask A Pro Anything at Home.*

### AFRICANS STAR ON 'ASK A PRO ANYTHING AT HOME'

Two of Africa's biggest names featured in the latest episode of the ITTF's hit-interview series "Ask A Pro Anything at Home" with Senegal's Ibrahima Diaw and Nigeria's Quadri Aruna making guest appearances.

Another action-packed and insightful episode, the two stars discuss what they have been getting up to over the past few months, answer questions from the fans and go head-to-head in a competitive quiz! If you want to get to know better two of the sport's most exciting players and have plenty of fun at the same time, then this is a must-watch for you!

## ITTF PUBLISHES COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS

The ITTF is developing official guidelines, which must be implemented by all organisers of future ITTF events in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic is constantly evolving across the world, with some nations easing and also tightening restrictions as required, the ITTF is gradually seeing an opening of society where infection numbers have been declining. In the table tennis community, there has been a return to action in many parts of the world, whilst in others, ITTF members may be training at home or focusing on their mental and physical strength.

Fully determined to organise international events going forwards, the ITTF has set out to develop official guidelines, which must be implemented by all event organisers, and the ITTF will continue to refine this document and its procedures with input from health authorities and public health and infectious disease specialists. [READ MORE](#)

## WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY FULL REPORT

Physically distanced but socially united, World Table Tennis Day 2020 was a very different celebration to previous years. Nonetheless, on Monday 6 April, thousands of people from 171 countries across the world showed their love and passion for our sport!

A fantastic occasion for table tennis enthusiasts of all descriptions, the ITTF Foundation has now published the full event report surrounding the special day, summarising the original plans and the transformation process to the digital celebration. Notably, 31 countries new to the World Table Tennis Day family joined in the fun while no less than 3,882 passionate players worldwide participated in the longest, craziest table tennis rally the world has ever witnessed.



*Click to read the full report of World Table Tennis Day 2020.*

## "4 CLASSES" WITH MASSIMO COSTANTINI NOW LIVE

Unveiled in July's ITTF Newsletter, "4 Classes" is designed to help players of all standards as ITTF High Performance Elite Coach Massimo Costantini shares his knowledge of the game. Four classes spread out across four weeks, you can watch and revisit all of the videos through ITTF Education. [WATCH HERE](#)



*Take your game to the next level with "4 Classes" by Massimo Costantini.*