



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

NEWSLETTER
October 2020

**DURBAN TO HOST HISTORIC
2023 ITTF WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS**

The 2023 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals will be staged in Durban, after Member Associations cast their votes in favour of the South African city during the 2020 ITTF AGM held on Monday 28 September.

Durban secured 90 votes to see off competition from the other candidate city in the bidding race, Düsseldorf, Germany, with 39 votes. The outcome vindicates the new format for the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships, coming into place in 2021, which sees continental qualification precede the Finals event, thus making it more feasible for more countries to host.

The ITTF passes on its congratulations to Durban on a successful bid. [READ MORE](#)



2020 ITTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) EMBRACES NEW VIRTUAL FORM

For the first time ever, the ITTF Annual General Meeting was held virtually to enable the safest possible solution amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Officials from the ITTF Executive Committee led proceedings from Doha, Qatar, discussing a range of key topics.

A six-part video conference series was aired in the weeks leading up to the AGM, with presentations focusing on ITTF Foundation, High Performance and Development, Good Governance, Finance, World Table Tennis and the 2023 World Championships Finals bidding process. [WATCH HERE.](#)



The first ITTF Virtual AGM proved a major success

The AGM featured a special report on the impact of COVID-19 on global table tennis, as the sport prepares for a return to action via the #RESTART series in November 2020. Other key decisions taken during the AGM included two major governance reforms to align with the recommendations of the IOC and ASOIF, scheduling plans for an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in 2021, in addition to next year's ITTF AGM, and the appointment of Yao Zhenxu as an honorary member of the ITTF for his services to table tennis.

DETAILS CONFIRMED FOR 2020 ITTF AMERICAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2020 ITTF Americas General Assembly is just around the corner with proceedings to be held online at 13:00 (local time) on Thursday 26 November 2020.

Key decisions will be taken at the General Assembly with elections for the positions of President and Secretary General Treasurer of ITTF Americas on the agenda. Up to 33 ITTF Member Associations are "founding members" of ITTF Americas with another 12 being eligible for membership.

This is another step for table tennis in aligning with Panam Sports Organisation and the IPC, as the two entities in charge of the Pan American Games and the Para Pan American Games.



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS RETURNS WITH #RESTART!

After months away from the table, it's time for table tennis' star players to make their highly anticipated comeback with #RESTART marking the return of international action this November.

#RESTART will feature three of the most prestigious ITTF events: 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup (8 – 10 November), 2020 ITTF Men's World Cup (13 – 15 November) and 2020 ITTF Finals (19 – 22 November), all of which will be held in China with support from the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA).



World's finest ready to light up #RESTART events

The table tennis titans of the world are ready to put on a show for the #RESTART series, battling it out for three of the sport's most coveted titles in China. [READ MORE](#)

#RESTART - EVENT LOCATIONS REVEALED

Weihai, Shandong province, and Zhengzhou, Henan province, will be the host cities for the upcoming #RESTART series.

Both the 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup and 2020 ITTF Men's World Cup will be held in Weihai, at the Weihai Nanhai Olympic Center. The newly opened venue also played host to the 2020 China National Table Tennis Championships.

Zhengzhou, will host the final ITTF event of the year once again with the 2020 ITTF Finals returning to the Zhengzhou Olympic Sports Center. The venue staged the highly successful Agricultural Bank of China 2019 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals. For the second year in a row, it will be the setting for the crowning moments of the ITTF calendar.

[READ MORE](#)

COUNTDOWN TO #RESTART!

To get everyone in the perfect mood, fans are being treated every day to classic matches and magic moments featuring the sport's greatest stars over the last 25 years!

In preparation for what is set up to be an incredible end to the year, the ITTF is digging into the archives to showcase several of the biggest battles and jaw-dropping moments from 1996 up until 2020.

Every week, you can enjoy two full matches on the ITTF's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels, as well as two epic highlights per day on YouTube, while incredible rallies and unforgettable moments will be celebrated across the ITTF's [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages! [READ MORE](#)



2021 EVENT "HUBS" ANNOUNCED TO KICK OFF WTT ERA!

In light of the persisting COVID-19 pandemic, World Table Tennis is organising its inaugural event calendar in the best possible way, overcoming the challenges that continue to face the sports industry, and the world at large.

The first half of the 2021 WTT calendar will adopt the pragmatic approach of grouping events in three separate "Hubs", to be staged in the Middle East, China and Europe. The Hubs will showcase the new WTT event structure, and the China Hub will feature the very first Grand Smash, the top tier in professional table tennis.



WTT to utilise Hub approach in first half of 2021

The proposed Hub format will create the best possible environment for WTT events to be held, ensure better logistics for meeting COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. [READ MORE](#)

WTT YOUTH SERIES LAUNCHING IN 2021



WTT promises to take table tennis in an exciting, dynamic new direction, and is also set to shake up the sport in the junior structure. Showcasing the stars of tomorrow, the new WTT Youth Series will hand the next generation of table tennis talents the perfect stage to develop and bring you closer to the future of table tennis!

The new structure will be broken down into two tiers: WTT Youth Contenders and WTT Youth Star Contenders and aligns the WTT Youth Series with the WTT Series to create a more complete sporting pathway. April 2021 is the targeted launch time in order to allow a smooth transition to the new system, whilst continuing to prioritise safety during these times of global uncertainty. [READ MORE](#)

2020 ITTF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS CANCELLED DUE TO PANDEMIC

The 2020 ITTF World Junior Championships will not be taking place, in order to best protect athletes amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Guimarães, Portugal had been set to stage this year's ITTF World Junior Championships between 29 November – 6 December 2020.

Following the announcement, the ITTF Executive Committee (EC) will recommend to the Board of Directors (BoD), at the meeting to be held on 19th November, that Portugal become the first host of the newly-branded ITTF World Youth Championships, which is being proposed for launch in 2021. The EC also proposes to the BoD to allocate the 2022 ITTF World Youth Championships to Tunisia, which had originally been the designated host country for the 2021 WJTTC edition.

[READ MORE](#)

WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY 2021: FOR ONE, FOR ALL

Less than six months remain in the countdown to next year's World Table Tennis Day celebrations, which are scheduled for 6 April 2021! Following the phenomenal geographical distribution of active participants from 171 Member Associations in 2020, we ask you to once again join in and celebrate one of the sport's most special occasions.

World Table Tennis Day 2021 will also embrace and promote #GenderEquality and #FEMpowerment. Aiming to improve the participation rate of women and girls in table tennis, WTTD is focused on shedding light on the need for equal human rights, as well as the tough situations which girls and women experience in life. [READ MORE](#)



SUSTAINABILITY IN TABLE TENNIS. JOIN OUR CONVERSATION!

Tackling the key issue of sustainability in table tennis, a year on from its formation the ITTF Sustainability Working Group is broadening its horizons and is keen to invite those with expertise and knowledge in the field to express their interest in collaboration.

The Working Group has so far deliberated a range of topics including the importance of the “3 P’s”: planet, profit and people, and structural fine tuning according to framework guidance already put in place by the International Olympic Committee and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [READ MORE](#)

ALEXANDER ZAMORA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ITTF Board of Directors member, former Costa Rican TTA President and 20+ times national table tennis champion Alexander Zamora Gómez will assume the role of President of the Costa Rican Olympic Committee for the 2021-2024 period.

The election was held on 30 September 2020 at the National Olympic Committee headquarters in Vázquez de Coronado, where the representatives of the sporting Federations and Associations voted unanimously in favour of Zamora’s appointment.

[READ MORE](#)



Congratulations to Alexander Zamora following his election to the office of President of the Costa Rican Olympic Committee.

2021 ITTF DEVELOPMENT PLAN UNVEILED DURING HPD AGM VIDEO CONFERENCE

The ITTF High Performance and Development team (HPD) has published the 2021 ITTF Development Plan, showcasing the next steps in the evolution of the sport.

Unveiled during HPD’s online video presentation held on 4 September 2020, the Development Plan focuses on key areas such as Participation, Continents, High Performance and a Quick Pathway with direct Member Association (MA) guidance and monitoring. The new ITTF ACADEMY education model was also highlighted, completely modernising the structure of education with a large extension of profiles available, and a move to online and blended learning, expanding audience reach. [READ MORE](#)

HPD 360 DEGREES

The “Table Tennis at your fingertips” webinar series continues to cover topics related to all aspects of our sport, whether you are a coach, player, match official, administrator or a parent. Join our special guests and panellists for upcoming webinars, including: Women’s Development in Member Associations, Reflections on Excellence with Michel Gadat, and upcoming changes to the WADA Anti-Doping Code. [WATCH HERE](#)



More exciting webinars on the way from the ITTF High Performance and Development team.