



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

NEWSLETTER

November 2020

#RESTART SUCCESS STORY

After 238 days of no activity, table tennis was revived on the world stage on 8 November 2020 thanks to the #RESTART series. In doing so, it became one of the first international sports to return amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which had halted all ITTF events since 15 March. Here's a review of the three events which made #RESTART a resounding success:

CHEN MENG WINS FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TITLE

Chen Meng was crowned champion of the Dishang 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup on Sunday 10 November 2020 in Weihai, China. The Chinese star and top seed defeated compatriot and no.3 seed Sun Yingsha in the final (11-13, 11-6, 11-9, 11-6, 11-8) to claim the trophy at her first attempt. Chen, the world no. 1, showed her true champion quality by fighting back from behind in both the final and a gripping semi-final against Germany's Han Ying (4-11, 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 11-4).

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FAN ZHENDONG EQUALS RECORD WITH FOURTH MEN'S WORLD CUP TITLE

Fan Zhendong retained his crown at the Dishang 2020 ITTF Men's World Cup on Sunday 15 November in Weihai, China. The world no.1 and top seed overcame fellow Chinese great, Ma Long, the no.2 seed, in a thrilling seven-game final (3-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-6, 7-11, 7-11, 11-9) to clinch his third consecutive Men's World Cup title and fourth in total. In doing so, Fan drew level with the record set by compatriot Ma Lin.

Fan has reached the final in all five of his Men's World Cup appearances, the only loss being on debut in 2015 in Halmstad when beaten by Ma Long. On his next four outings, he has always won, taking gold in 2016 in Saarbrücken, 2018 in Paris and 2019 in Chengdu. No other player has ever won the Men's World Cup in three straight years.

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MA LONG AND CHEN MENG MAKE HISTORY AT BANK OF COMMUNICATIONS 2020 ITTF FINALS

Chinese star duo, Ma Long and Chen Meng set all-time new records as they were crowned the men's singles and women's singles champions respectively at the Bank of Communications 2020 ITTF Finals on Sunday 22 November in Zhengzhou, China.

Ma Long landed his sixth ITTF Finals title, extending the record he already held in the competition. The no.3 seed defeated Fan Zhendong, the defending champion and top seed, with a classy performance (13-11, 11-7, 12-10, 9-11, 11-8). Ma's six gold medals mean that he has now won the ITTF Finals twice as many times as his nearest challenger, Wang Liqin, who triumphed on three occasions in 1998, 2000 and 2004.

Chen Meng became the first player to win ITTF Finals gold in four consecutive years. The top seed overcame Wang Manyu, the no.4 seed (11-9, 11-13, 14-12, 11-8, 11-5) in what was a repeat of the final one year ago, also in Zhengzhou. Chen added to her victories in 2017 (in Astana), 2018 (Incheon) and 2019 (Zhengzhou). In doing so, she broke the record of three successive gold medals that she had shared with Liu Shiwen, who triumphed in 2011, 2012 and 2013. [READ MORE](#)

Note: World Table Tennis and WTT Macao will be featured in the December edition of the ITTF Newsletter.



Chen Meng crowned Dishang 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup champion.



Fan Zhendong crowned Dishang 2020 ITTF Men's World Cup champion.



Ma Long celebrates a record sixth men's singles title at the ITTF Finals.



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PLAYER SAFETY AT THE FOREFRONT OF #RESTART



The #RESTART series brought table tennis back to the international stage with zero COVID-19 cases recorded throughout the entire bubble. In order to make this possible, meticulous planning and many months of hard work were required behind the scenes.

Following in-depth consultations with experts, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) compiled a list of effective measures to ensure a COVID secure environment for all parties involved in bringing the action to life, leaving players feeling safe and secure throughout their stay in China.

Everything was conducted under strict guidelines from vast testing, to player transport, to keeping the playing venues safe with no expense spared. Hygiene standards were taken to the next level with the entire playing hall, all rooms and equipment being sprayed with disinfectant on a daily basis. A special robot emitting UV light over a 360-degree radius was also put into operation at venues and official hotels.



Players, coaches and officials, in addition to all staff present at the #RESTART series, were all required to follow a rigorous testing schedule with tests carried out before, during and between events. Two weeks of mandatory isolation was also required ahead of play, along with other safety measures including the escorting of players to the training hall by epidemic prevention experts, players grouping up to train in secure bubbles, and the wearing of face coverings.

Transportation to and from the three key locations, Shanghai, Weihai and Zhengzhou was tailored to promote COVID safety, allowing for full isolation from external parties throughout the journey.

Following the conclusion of play in Weihai, players travelled to Zhengzhou for the Bank of Communications 2020 ITTF Finals. The OC was able to secure high-level services for players, accompanying members, ITTF officials and staff as well as CTTA staff to travel altogether, a truly unique experience where the airlines called it a “Table Tennis All-Star flight.”

This is but a small glance into the strict guidelines followed to make #RESTART a reality, allowing the world’s greatest table tennis stars to compete for prestigious honours, whilst promoting safety at the heart of it.

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PRESTIGIOUS VIDEO AWARD FOR THE ITTF FOUNDATION

The ITTF Foundation's Headquarters Inauguration video was awarded the "Mention D'Honneur" at the "SPORT MOVIES & TV 2020 – 38th MILANO INTERNATIONAL FICTS FEST" in the "Fast Sports Stories" section.

Re-live moments of a true Table Tennis for ALL event, bringing the sport to the streets of Leipzig, Germany:

[WATCH HERE](#)



PARKINSON'S WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2021

Due to the current uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the local organising committee, together with the ITTF Foundation and the German Table Tennis Association (DTTB) have decided to postpone the Parkinson's World Table Tennis Championships from April 2021 to a new September 2021 date. The decision was taken with responsibility to player welfare, putting safety as a top priority.

[Pre-registration for the event is now open.](#)



ITTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The ITTF Board of Directors (BoD) held an online meeting on Thursday 19 November. The key discussion was around the Busan 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships (WTTTC), postponed to 2021. The BoD members received the report of the Local Organising Committee and agreed to go ahead with organising the WTTTC in Busan, Korea Republic, on a reduced format, with a maximum of 32 men's and women's teams as per the request of the Korea Table Tennis Association (KTTA) and entrusting the ITTF Executive Committee to make the final decision on the size and format of play, in cooperation with the Technical Commissioner, involving the continental presidents in the final decision.

During the meeting, Mr Igor LEVITIN (RUS) and Mr Leonel GODOY (HON) were ratified as members, replacing Mr Ronald KRAMER (NED) and Mr Jorge HERRERA (GUA).

The reports of the Athletes Commission, Junior, Technical and Gender commissioners were received, and among the key decisions taken, the world title competition ages were adjusted to under 19 and under 15.

It was decided to increase the World Championships Finals to be held in Chengdu, China, in 2022, from 32 to 40 teams.

Green, blue, violet and purple/pink (with specific ranges) were approved as the four new colours for racket coverings (rubbers) to be used on one side of the racket, in addition to red; the other side remaining always black.

The 2021 and 2022 World Youth Table Tennis Championships were allocated to Portugal and Tunisia (pending on a subsequent necessary change in chapter 4 at the next BoD meeting).

2021 WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY PROMOTERS CAMPAIGN UPDATE



In the run-up to 2021 World Table Tennis Day, scheduled for 6th April 2021, the ITTF Foundation is looking for 100 Promoters from around the globe to promote World Table Tennis Day and engage in activities for gender equality and female empowerment.

The selected Promoters will receive support in the form of €250, a clothing kit, certification to scale up their work and help to cover some of the expenditure. The ITTF Foundation extends its congratulations to the first 16 Promoters that have met the eligibility criteria and have since been approved for selection.

[Applications for parties interested in the Promoters initiative are still being taken with further information available here.](#)

2021-2024 MASTER CONTINENTAL AGREEMENTS

With the conclusion of the 2017-2020 cycle, the ITTF started working on a new model that will regulate ITTF's cooperation with Continental Federations, Regions, and its Member Associations. The aim of the new format of the Agreements is to streamline all the contractual relations that ITTF will have with the affiliated Continental Federations.

The new model is the outcome of a comprehensive and critical analysis of the current systems, with the intention to keep and upgrade all the elements that proved effective and successful. In addition, the mixed team from several departments that is driving the process also collected and processed extensive feedback passed on by Member Associations, expressing their needs, expectations and realities.

The MCAs, planned to be put in place for the 2021-2024 period, will be based on three main pillars of cooperation: governance, events and development, all of which highlight commitment to further professionalisation of our sport, empowerment of the stakeholders at all levels and a higher degree of collaboration among them.

After some further fine tuning, the Agreements, along with the relevant technical documentation, will be presented to the Continental Federations in early 2021 with the hopes that the situation surrounding the worldwide pandemic will allow us to roll-out the new exciting and ambitious programmes in their entirety as soon as possible.

#TABLETENNISUNITED UPDATE

The #TableTennisUnited fundraising campaign is still ongoing! More than 70 applications have been received from members of the worldwide table tennis family to date - 41 of the successful applicants are already receiving support to transform their shared passion for table tennis into a solidary community.

Meanwhile, #TableTennisUnited has received a vast amount of feedback since its formation, with supported individuals and initiatives benefiting from the generous donations (financial support, disinfectants, food, necessities, equipment) lending their voices and opinions for the betterment of the cause.

Applications remain open during these unprecedented times with the grants panel reviewing and considering all incoming requests for assistance on a regular basis. [APPLY HERE.](#)



2020 ITTF AMERICAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2020 ITTF Americas General Assembly was held virtually on Thursday 26th November, marking the second meeting of the assembly following the Foundational General Assembly held last year in Cancun, Mexico.

A total of 59 delegates from 32 Member Associations were in attendance, while delegates from another four Associations were also present as observers.

The meeting was chaired by the two American ITTF Executive Vice-Presidents, Nestor Tenca and Bruce Burton as part of the transition ahead of the election of the ITTF Americas leadership.

The election process saw Mr Juan Vila, LATTU President and Vice-Minister of Sports of the Dominican Republic elected the first-ever ITTF Americas President with 83.3% of the vote, while Mr Paul Calle, President of the Ecuador Table Tennis Federation was elected to the office of ITTF Americas Secretary General – Treasurer after receiving a 68.8% share of the vote.

In addition, the minutes from the 2019 meeting were approved.

Moving forward in unity was a key message promoted throughout the course of the assembly, particularly during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic while further commitment to the development to future generations from the region was also highlighted.



Mr Juan Vila elected President at ITTF Americas General Assembly