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*ITTF COUNCIL  
MEETING  
WORKING DOCUMENTS*



## **INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION ITTF COUNCIL MEETING**

The 2024 ITTF Council Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation will be held in Busan, Korea Republic, in a hybrid format on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, starting at 14h00 KST (06h00 CET).

### **AGENDA**

1. President Welcome and Opening Address
2. Roll call, welcome and ratification of new members (if any)
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the ITTF Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 in Bangkok
4. Annual reports from the Athletes Commission and the Commissioners
  - 4.1 Athletes' Commission
  - 4.2 Technical Commissioner
  - 4.3 Gender and Diversity Commissioner
  - 4.4 Youth Commissioner
5. Appointment of new Members to the Audit and Finance (if any)
6. Size of Committees for 2025-2027
7. Propositions and resolutions
  - 7.1 General Propositions and Resolutions
8. Competition Updates
  - 8.1 World Title Events
  - 8.2 World Youth Events
  - 8.3 World Veteran Events
  - 8.4 Para Table Tennis
  - 8.5 World Cups
9. Election of the 2026 World Para Table Tennis Championships host
10. Election of the 2026 World Masters Table Tennis Championships host
11. Next ITTF Council Meeting
12. Any other business
13. Adjournment

## **1. Introduction**

We are grateful for the opportunity to represent and work for the athletes and with the ITTF to make the sport of table tennis better for all.

The Athletes Commission is currently made up of the following members:

- Co-Chairs – Sharath Kamal Achanta (IND); and Liu Shiwen (CHN)
- Athlete Members – Melissa Tapper (AUS); Stefan Fergel (AUT); Omar Asssar (EGY); Daniely Rios (PUR); Elizabeta Samara (ROU); and Jon Persson (SWE)
- Para-Athlete Members – Ingela Lundback (SWE); and Kelly Van Zon (NED)
- IOC AC member - Ryu Seungmin (KOR)

## **2. Activities of the Athletes Commission in 2023**

The Athletes Commission Vice President, Elizabeta Samara, has joined and started contributing to the ITTF World Ranking Working Group since September 2023.

Athletes Commission Co-Chairs attended the meeting of the EB at the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne in December 2023, during which Mr Thomas Bach, President of the IOC, praised the EB for having athlete representatives at the executive level. Achanta and Miss Feng Tianwei signed the Wall of Olympians and received certificates from President Bach.

The Athletes Commission had two online meetings to discuss various topics: world ranking, prize money, and tournament schedules. Issues discussed included World Ranking points being included in the Mixed Team World Cup in Chengdu and the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan; conflicting schedules for equally important tournaments (e.g. Pan Am Games conflicting with WTT Frankfurt Champions; 13th African Games and WTT Singapore Smash); and pathway to Paris Olympic Games 2024.

The Athletes Commission received feedback that athletes have been very satisfied with some of the top events conducted this year, such as the World Championships, WTT Frankfurt Champions, and Mixed Team World Cup.

## **3. Matters brought to the Executive's Board Attention**

### Requests / Concerns from Players:

Concerns have been raised about reduced prize money compared to the 2022 season, coupled with the expense increase to attend these tournaments. It was noted that the WTT Feeder series tournaments' prize money is not even enough to cover the expenses of even

the winner of the tournament, and playing WTT Series tournaments has become expensive as players now spend nearly USD1,200 for 3-day hospitality.

Continued concerns and requests to announce the calendar well in advance so that necessary preparations can be made. It is also requested that the tournaments do not change after the prospectus has been published. World Ranking points were added in the Mixed Team Cup just a few weeks before the tournament start date, which has been the same situation with the World Team Championships in Busan, too.

#### **4. Concluding Remarks**

The Athletes Commission Co-Chairs would like to take the opportunity to express appreciation to its fellow athletes for their trust and support in the Athletes Commission. The Co-Chairs would further like to express gratitude to ITTF President Ms Petra SÖRLING, Vice President of IOC Athletes Commission Mr RYU Seungmin, all ITTF EB members, and the ITTF Group management team for their patience and joint action in fighting for the furtherance of table tennis and player's interests.

**Sharath Kamal ACHANTA and LIU Shiwen**

Co-Chairs of the Athletes' Commission

The mandate of the Technical Commissioner includes:

- Consult with the Competition Department and advise the ITTF Council on the organisation of the Olympic Games, and World Title competitions, and make recommendations on the system of play;
- Assist the Competition Department and referee team with the World Championships draws;
- Advise on the playing schedule for the Olympic Games and World Title competitions, as necessary;
- Serve as a member of the World Ranking Working Group;
- Serve as a member of the other Working Groups as required;
- Provide advice on eligibility matters;
- Function as the Chair of the Jury at the World Championships;
- Provide technical assistance for Multi-Sport Games and Continental Championships;
- Work closely with the Competition Department to achieve the above objectives; and
- Provide technical expertise and guidance to the Rules, Umpires and Referees Committees, Para Table Tennis and professional staff.

These responsibilities are managed in close cooperation with the Competition Department.

In 2023 my key role was to assist the ITTF and the Competition Department with the playing format, schedules, and general inquiries relating to technical rules for major events. These included the Olympic Games, Olympic Games Qualification, Paralympic Games, Paralympic Games Qualification, World Championships, World Cup, Mixed Team World Cup, World Para Championships and World Youth Championships.

I am a member of the World Ranking Group looking at various items and have also provided expertise and assistance as required to other Working Groups and Committees, mainly to the URC, and the ITTF staff, whenever requested.

I am also available to consult with the continental representatives on technical issues related to continental events to align them more closely with the ITTF and WTT events.

**Graeme IRELAND**

ITTF Technical Commissioner

2023 was a year of implementation, and this was done successfully in the period January to December 2023

### **11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Durban, South Africa**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Gender and Diversity Task Team meeting was held in a hybrid format in Durban, attended by ITTF President Ms Petra Sörling, ITTF Executive Vice-President of Protocol and Governance, Mr Wahid Oshodi, ITTF Foundation staff, Ms Julia Tappendorff (virtually), and Ms Anita Ullmann, appointed to support with the GEDI Plan.

The meeting resolved that the draft GEDI Plan needed further work before tabling to the ITTF Executive Board in Singapore for approval.

Immediate action: Prepare drafts of two (2) surveys for the MA's and Continental Federations.

1. Diversity in Management and decision-making portfolios.
2. Participation of Athletes, Coaches, Technical officials, etc.

The response to both surveys was disappointing.

### **GEDI Action Plan**

1. The ITTF Executive Board approved the GEDI Action Plan on 17 March 2023 in Singapore.
2. The Executive Board approved the proposal for the composition and process to establish the GEDI Task Force on 28 May 2023 in Durban, South Africa.
3. The GEDI Plan is published on the ITTF website.

### **Appointment of Continental Representatives**

To ensure that the GEDI Plan reaches every corner of the World, the Task Team called for nominations. The following members were appointed.

- |                               |             |          |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. Mambo Annick Lydie Juliana | Ivory Coast | Africa   |
| 2. Marisol Espineira Jimenez  | Peru        | Americas |
| 3. Rachel Ramos               | Philippines | Asia     |
| 4. Chiara Colantoni           | Italy       | Europe   |
| 5. Anthony Moore              | Australia   | Oceania  |

Two meetings were convened with the Task Team Members. it was agreed to translate the GEDI Action Plan into French and Spanish.

## ITTF Summit Bangkok, Thailand 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

1. Ms Gabriela Mueller conducted two workshops on 22 August 2023 on the topic “**Diverse and Inclusive Future for Growth**”.
2. A GEDI information booth was available to make MAs and CFs aware of the plan and to ensure ITTFs support in their efforts to become more diverse and inclusive.
3. Keynote speech “Charting a Path to Sustainable Growth” from Ms Marie Sallois, Corporate and Sustainable Development Director, IOC
4. Plenary Session “Growing Women Players Participation” with Ms Maria Christoforaki, founder of the Girl Festival
5. Workshops takeaways with Ms Hajera Kajee and Ms Julia Tappendorf

### Women Lead Sport Programme

The ITTF selected the following candidates:

1. Ms Lubica Sadovska: CAN
2. Ms Sima Limoochi: IRI

### ASOIF Women Lead Sports (WLS) Programme

The ITTF selected the following candidate:

1. Ms Chiara Colantoni ITA

### 2023 Gender Participation in the ITTF Development Programs & Projects

Participation statistics for All Continents as of 31 December 2023:

	2023	2022*	2021*
<b>Women</b>	41% (3707)	45% (3117)	45% (4,244)
<b>Men</b>	59% (5478)	55% (3811)	55% (5,123)

*\*High interest in ITTF „My Gender. My Strength.” Program resulted in increased % of female participation in general.*

### 2023 Participation Statistics - Continental Overview:

	AFRICA	AMERICAS	ASIA*	EUROPE	OCEANIA
<b>Women</b>	43%	40%	38%	33%	44%
<b>Men</b>	57%	60%	62%	67%	56%

## **"My Gender. My Strength.", Program for Women's Development in Coaching continued in 2023.**

In total, 31 Member Associations applied with their candidates, of which 14 female coaches became beneficiaries of the 2023 MGMS project. Applications received from Member Association.

1. **Americas:** Argentina, Canada, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago.
2. **Africa:** Algeria, Botswana, Eritrea, Tunisia, Congo Democratic
3. **Asia:** Lebanon, India, Palestine, and Iran

## **ITTF Participation Program Online Service – “Achieving Gender Balance in Table Tennis”**

This Online Service is a powerful tool to achieve gender balance at all levels and areas in a sports organisation. Twelve 12 Member Associations participated in the 2023 programme.

Africa:	Nigeria, Mali, Zambia, Uganda, Lesotho	(10 hours completed).
Americas:	Grenada, Suriname, Bonaire, Peru, Bolivia	(10 hours completed).
Asia:	1 MAs and 2h completed by Lebanon	(2 hours completed).
Oceania:	1 MA and 2h completed by New Caledonia	(2 hours completed).
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12 MAs and</b>	<b>24 hours of online service</b>

## **ITTF Para Table Tennis Grants**

The incentive aims to assist Member Associations by providing dedicated support to promising and talented Para Table Tennis players and, this way, enrich their training process and/or boost their participation at international PTT-sanctioned events, taking into consideration the qualification for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Twelve players were supported by PTT Grants, 8 were female which represents 67%.

## **Conclusion**

My appreciation and thanks to the ITTF Leadership, the Continental Presidents, and GEDI Task Team members for their commitment to promoting Gender Equality.

A special thanks to the ITTF Chief Executive Officer, Mr Steve Dainton, the Directors, and the ITTF staff for their support.

**Hajera KAJEE**

ITTF Gender and Diversity Commissioner



Dear ITTF Council Members,

I am looking forward to meeting you all in Busan at the ITTF Council meeting. Here is my report:

### **WTT Youth Series**

The events of the WTT Youth Series have become more and more popular. This enabled WTT to have 6 Star contender and 38 contender events in the Youth Series Calendar in all continents in 2023:

	Africa	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Pan America
Youth Contender	2	11	18	1	6
Youth Star Contender	1	1	3		1

All events took place; no event was cancelled. The event with the most Participants was the Youth Contender Spa (383 players) in Belgium. Also, the possibility in the majority of the events (33) to be able to play mixed doubles was well accepted. The number of entries in the 4-day event (with mixed doubles on day 2 was, in general, much better than the 7-day event, where one extra night is needed to play mixed doubles.

In total, 1429 female and 1932 male players from 107 associations participated in the 2023 Youth Series events. 2023 saw a significant increase in the number of U11 players (563) who participated in the Youth Series.

The application process for the 2024 WTT Youth Series in Summer 2023 showed great interest again. The Youth Series Calendar for 2024 was published in Summer 2023 in due time with 57 events in all continents which is a big increasement compared to 2023. It sounds good to have such a high number of youth events, but we have to evaluate in 2024 whether it is good for the youth series to have more and more events or whether there should not be too many.

Thank you to Tiago Viegas, WTT Youth Series Senior Manager, with his staff for the incredible work to put the puzzle of dates for the events together and for the very good work towards the host associations to get the events done.

### **ITTF World Youth Championships (WYC)**

The 2023 WYC was very well organised by the Slovenian Table Tennis Association in the city of Nova Gorica from 26th November to 3rd December 2023 with the new quotas for the U 15 Events (12 teams, 32 players per gender, 16 double pairs per gender and 32 Mixed double pairs). This new structure, with equal numbers of quotas for the U 15 and the U 19 events, was very much appreciated by the associations, and we could see a good performance level throughout the matches. To avoid as much as possible adding a day 9 so as not to increase the already high costs (to the LOC and Member associations), the Schedule was more packed but still manageable. 229 players from 36 Member Associations participated. 13 Member Associations were awarded with medals. The most successful Member Association was China, with nine (9) gold medals, followed by Japan (4) and Chinese Taipei (1).

We know that the burden of organising such a high-level youth event is very challenging for the organiser, especially through the increased Match Officials costs and the high inflation rate, which has a great impact – especially on the hospitality and venue costs. The impact of the Match Officials' costs in the WYC budget is much more significant than at the WTTTC because the same rates are applied for the WYC and for the WTTTC.

Following the wish to care more about sustainability, the WYC 2023 was the first ever World Title Event where participants consumed only tap water – the LOC provided a glass bottle at the start of the event to

all participants, and the majority of the participants have been accommodated in hotels within walking distance.

In cooperation with the International Testing Agency (ITA), a clean sport presentation was delivered by Jernej Damjan which registered a high level of interest from the participants.

So I want to thank the Slovenian association for putting so much effort into having this good event. I think we in ITTF have to think about how to decrease the burden for the organiser.

The 2024 WYC will be held in the city of Helsingborg from 1st to 8th December 2024 (organised by the Swedish Table Tennis Association).

During the Summit in August 2023, the ITTF Council decided about the next two editions of WYC. They will be organised by the associations of

- Romania in 2025 (City of Cluj Napoca) and
- Bahrain in 2026 (City of Manama)

Thanks to both associations for their really good bids.

Finally, I thank everyone involved and engaged in the WTT Youth Event Series program and WYC – a special thank you goes to Tiago Viegas as the WTT Youth Series Manager for his great work. Thank you to all involved in the work for youth table tennis for your cooperation and good work.

**Heike AHLERT**

ITTF Youth Commissioner

# Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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## Proposition IC-01

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Association of BRA

To amend 3.2.2.10:

### 3.2. EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

..//..

3.2.2.10 Players competing in **Open International Events, including but not limited to a** World, Olympic or Paralympic title competitions shall wear shirts and shorts or skirts of types authorised by their Association. Players competing in these competitions shall have the player's name on the back of the shirt **and also the player's Association's name or Association's code.**

#### *Rationale:*

*The player's name on the back of the shirt is already a mandatory requirement for Olympic and Paralympic competitions. It has been further implemented in World Title Events, especially when back numbers were not applicable, i.e., World Youth Championships, World Championships, and World Para Championships. It should be a standard requirement for better and clearer identification of players to have their name and their Association name or Association code in all International Events.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-02

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee

To amend 3.2.3.1 and 3.2.3.3 and to relocate 3.2.5.3.2 to 3.2.3.3.1:

3.2.3.1 The playing space shall be of any shape, as long as the minimum size is defined by a ~~rectangle~~ cuboid not less than 14m long, 7m wide and 5m high, ~~but the 4 corners may be covered by surrounds~~; for wheelchair events, the playing space may be reduced, but shall not be less than 8m long and 6m wide; for Masters events, the playing space may be reduced, but shall not be less than 10m long and 5m wide.

..//..

3.2.3.3 The playing area shall be enclosed by LED (light-emitting diode) or similarly operated surrounds or other permanent surrounds of about 75cm high, all of the same dark background colour, ~~separating it from adjacent playing areas and from spectators~~; but corners may be left open for special reasons.

3.2.3.3.1 LEDs and similar devices on surrounds shall not be so bright as to disturb players during the match and shall not change when the ball is in play.

~~3.2.5.3.2 LEDs and similar devices on surrounds shall not be so bright as to disturb players during the match and shall not change when the ball is in play.~~

*Rationale:*

*It is intended to update Regulations for International Competitions regarding the "playing space" according to new technical conditions.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-03

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Association of CHN

To amend 3.2.3.3:

3.2.3.3 The playing area shall be enclosed by surrounds about 75cm high, **except when use LED surrounds, the height could be about 50cm or 100cm**. All **of which should be** of ~~the~~ same dark ~~background~~ colour, separating it from adjacent playing areas and from spectators.

#### *Rationale:*

*It's common to use LED surrounds for table tennis events, the height of which is normally 50cm or 100cm. In order to allow usage of the LED already available, and not to generate extra costs to make LED surrounds of 75cm in height, these common heights should be included in the regulations.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-04

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Association of CHN

To amend 3.2.3.4:

3.2.3.4 In World, Olympic and Paralympic titles ~~competitions~~ events as well as other events, the light intensity should be at least ~~1500 lux~~ 1800Lux EV and 2000Lux EH uniformly over the ~~whole of the~~ playing surface and playing area, ~~and at least 1000 Lux elsewhere in the playing area,~~ and at least 1000Lux over table in warm-up and hall in practice hall. ~~;-in other competitions the intensity shall be at least 1000 lux uniformly over the playing surface and at least 600 lux elsewhere in the playing area.~~

#### *Rationale:*

*The requirements for sport presentation as well as TV broadcast has been increased enormously in recent years especially with the introduction of WTT events, broadcasters usually have much higher requirements on lighting in order to ensure high quality broadcasting, HD and 4K production on TV. Certain amount of lighting is also crucial in the warm-up hall and practice hall to make sure similar conditions for players, and also to meet the needs of live stream etc.*

*Thus, it is required to increase the requirements for competitions, and to regulate the requirements for warm-up and training halls.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-05

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee

To amend 3.4.4.2.2:

3.4.4.2.2 If a player or pair and an adviser or a team captain disagree whether a time-out is to be taken, the final decision shall be made by the player or pair in an individual event and by the team captain in a team event.

*Rationale:*

*By this editorial change terms should be harmonised throughout the Regulations for International Competitions.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-06

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee

To amend 3.7.8.1:

3.7.8.1 As soon as possible after the end of a competition ~~and not later than 7 days thereafter~~ the organising Association shall ~~send to the ITTF Secretariat and to the Secretary of the appropriate Continental Federation~~ **publish** details of the results **via electronic means**, ~~including points scores, of international matches, of all rounds of Continental and Open International Championships and of the closing rounds of national championships.~~

#### *Rationale:*

*This change would just update the conditions of publishing ITTF approved competition's results.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-07

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Rules Committee

To amend 3.8.7:

- 3.8.7 Pursuant to Article 1.61.1.13, the Executive Board may authorise any Athlete to compete in events organised, authorised, or recognised by the ITTF, WTT and the ITTF Foundation, Olympic and Paralympic Games, and other Multi-Sport Events, as agreed with the respective organisations under the ITTF name, flag, and/or any other neutral identifier for special reasons, such as refugee status of the Athlete, the suspension of the related Association, subject to such conditions and in such manner as the Executive Board deems fit. ~~To avoid doubt, this provision applies to events organised, authorised, or recognised by the ITTF, WTT and the ITTF Foundation, Olympic and Paralympic Games, and other Multi Sport Events, as agreed with the respective organisations.~~

#### *Rationale:*

*By this editorial change, subjective hints ("To avoid doubt") within the rules text should be eliminated. There would be no modification of the article's content.*

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# Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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**Proposition IC-08**

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Board

To amend 4.4:

4.4 WORLD MIXED TEAM CUP

4.4.1 Composition

4.4.1.1 A World Mixed Team Cup shall be staged on an annual basis or every 2 years in odd numbered years and the Continental Team Champions shall be invited to take part. The qualification and playing systems will be an integral part of the ITTF's Competition Program.

*Rationale:*

*To update the ITTF Statutes following the successful introduction of the World Mixed Team Cup in December 2023.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-09

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Association of USA

To amend Article 4.1.3.2:

4.1.3.2 In addition to provisions of 3.8, players who have acquired a new nationality and wish to represent the Association corresponding to the new nationality shall register with ITTF through this new Association. A player is considered as registered either:

4.1.3.2.1 from the date of ITTF player registration confirmation or  
4.1.3.2.2 from the date the player is granted his or her new nationality or  
4.1.3.2.3 from the date the player is granted permanent residence in the country in which that Association has jurisdiction, whichever is earlier.

#### *Rationale:*

*Since 2008 and up until 2018, a player older than 21 years was deemed not eligible to compete in World Title events when changing Association.*

*The ITTF aligned World and Olympic eligibility rules, which was excellent for Media understanding purposes, but the transitory period to regularise athletes was too short (one month).*

*Several players who were permanent residents and were already competing in the new Association events could not regularise on time, and this is penalising them excessively.*

*The addition of 4.1.3.2.3 is aimed at protecting the individual athletes who are not responsible for the administration/management of their documentation towards the ITTF registration process.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-10

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Executive Board

To amend chapters 9 and 10:

The proposed text to be added to the ITTF Tribunal Regulations and the ITTF Integrity Regulations are highlighted in **green** in the Appendix 1.

#### *Rationale:*

*Mediation has increasingly been more widely adopted as a less costly and more efficient mode of dispute resolution.*

*This proposition serves to introduce mediation for Table Tennis Parties to resolve potential disputes.*

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# Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

## Proposition IC-11

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

Text: M1 – TABLE MANUAL

Small content changes + Implementation of friction measurements with the testing device Ball Bounce on Table (BBOT)

a)

### 2. STANDARDS TO ACHIEVE

A brand may have ITTF approved tables differing in:

- colour i.e., blue, and green or additional colours
- table type i.e., non rollaway or rollaway
- table commercialization i.e., standard or showcourt
- product name which ~~must~~ may be different when specifications are table type is different
- tabletop friction range i.e., friction range I, II or III

### 2.5. SPECIFICATIONS

4. Colour/Gloss, Finish and Lines and Friction of tabletop

#### 2.5.4. COLOUR/GLOSS, FINISH AND LINES AND FRICTION OF TABLETOP

##### FRICTION

The tables with different coloured tabletops are grouped into 3 categories of friction (in terms of using the same spin-stroke).

FRICTION RANGE	COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION (CoF)	
	min	max
I	0.150	0.210
II	0.211	0.270
III	0.271	0.350

i.e., it may happen, that a brand's tabletop colour "blue" could be grouped to another friction range, different from their tabletop colour "green" or "another colour".

It is the brands and manufacturer's responsibility to keep the CoF of an approved tabletop within the same friction range.

b)

### 3. TESTING-PROTOCOL

#### 3.1.3. FRICTION

~~Test material: spirit level, triangular raft with three balls~~

~~The changes of both spin and trajectory when a table tennis ball bounces are governed by the coefficient of friction (CoF) between the ball and the table; the part contributed by the table to the CoF is almost exclusively a property of the surface finish.~~

## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

~~It should be noted that not all balls have the same frictional properties; The CoF should be measured according to a standardized procedure including balls used and prior cleaning of balls and tables.~~

~~We formerly specified the CoF of the playing surface, but have subsequently learned that there are unidentified variables that reduce the reproducibility of the method. The following is therefore advisory, not mandatory:~~

~~The dynamic CoF between the playing surface and that of any ITTF approved ball should not be greater than 0.66 and not be less than ... (this limit will be set during 2016, and submitted to BoD in 2017). The CoF should be essentially the same regardless of the direction in which it is measured.~~

### FRICION WITH SLED

~~A simple practical method of determining coefficient of friction uses a triangular raft or sled supported on three balls, about 2 cm apart, glued to a piece of wood or other substance that gives a total weight of about 100g. The maximum angle between the playing surface and the horizontal when the sled will not continue to slip is measured. The tangent of this angle is the CoF.~~

~~Alternatively, the 100g sled described above may be pulled over the horizontal table at a speed of 300 mm/min, and the pulling force is measured. The dynamic CoF is pulling force divided by the weight of the sled, both in Newtons. The average of five measurements should be taken. Care should be taken that any device used for determining the pulling force should be as free from friction as possible.~~

**Test Material: Ball Bounce on Table device by Wassing, tabletop sample from the applied table (size approx. 40 cm x 60 cm), DHS DJ40+\*\*\* balls**

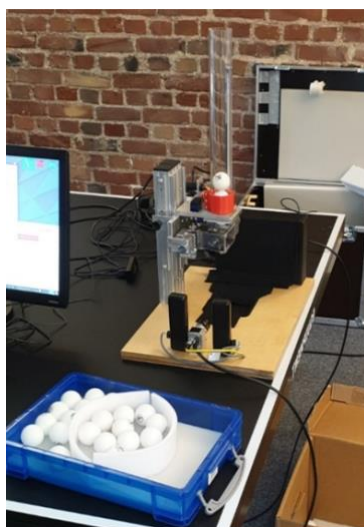


Figure 20

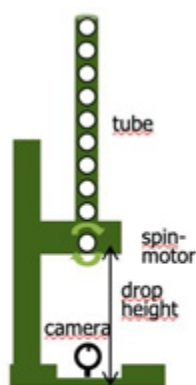


Figure 21



Figure 22

**20 balls will be tested on the sample board of the tabletop (of the same colour) with the BBoT testing device (see figure 20), which will measure with cameras the restitution and friction of a ball-table-combination (see figure 21). The device is first set at a height of 180 mm, rotating the ball with 67 hz (topspin), before let the ball fall through the tube and spin motor on the table surface.**

## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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The higher the friction value is, the more the ball will bounce forward (see figure 22). All 20 ball measurements on the tabletop sample will be calculated to an average result.

This average result of the coefficient of friction (CoF) must be between 0.150 and 0.350 and will be called as the reference value for any future testing/re-testing of this tabletop.

Once the result detected is within the limit, the tabletop will be categorized into one of the friction range groups and published on the equipment website.

### *Rationale:*

- a) *i. Colours for tabletop can be in many different colours, not only blue or green.*
- ii. A new table name is required when a specification on the current model has been made, that has an impact on the playing properties (for example, changing the table type construction and its dimensions or changing the bounce or friction properties)*
- iii. Players strive for more transparency of the playing material they face with in the upcoming events. The BBoT device has been invented to detect the ball-table combination in terms of their restitution and friction with a rotating ball. Analysis shows that the friction value between different tabletops with one ball vary more than different balls on one tabletop. A playing test in Germany, Japan and China confirmed the thesis that a big variation of table-playing-specifications is currently in the market and a categorization into three groups is practical to keep all approved tables, and keep variety in table tennis, but also to create transparency of which friction specification a table has. Grouping the different tabletops of different friction range can help most MA (especially the under-developed MAs) to have better options to choose economically for training.*
- b) *The old friction measurement with a sled is not practical to represent a table tennis play (with spin and speed). Therefore, it will be replaced by the new BBoT procedure.*

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Appendix 2 contains the Manual M1 with the changes proposed in proposition IC-11.

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# Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

## Proposition IC-12

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

Text: M6 – FLOORING MANUAL

a)

### 3. TESTING PROTOCOL

#### 3.1. TEST PROCEDURE

##### ~~SAMPLE – PPREPARATION FOR ITTF EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER~~

~~The brand or manufacturer must send the following sample size to the responsible Equipment Committee member (addresses will be provided):~~

~~– 1 m x 1 m sample of flooring with underside information about brand name, model name, manufacturer name and year of manufacturing~~

~~– 16 cm x 16 cm sample of flooring with underside information about brand name, model name, manufacturer name and year of manufacturing~~

b)

### 2. STANDARDS TO ACHIEVE

#### 2.6. SPECIFICATIONS

##### COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION

Many of the available synthetic floors seem to have frictional properties that are generally acceptable to most players, but floors nevertheless differ from each other so that the playing conditions are not the same all over the world. The skidding features of a dry and clean sports floor can be determined by the British Pendulum Tester (according to **the EN Norm 16837 AFNOR 90-106; nearly identical to ASTM E 30**).

Coefficient of Friction	
Standard rubber slider	<del>88 – 98</del> 80 – 110
Urethane TT-shole sole	80 – 110
Rubber TT-shoe sole	80 – 110
Scuff marks of the soles used on the slider	some; light

##### SPORTING QUALITIES – SHOCK ABSORPTION

The magnitude of the shock absorption i.e. the reduction of the impact force by the mat expresses its safety and comfort at the impact of a body falling onto its surface.

The measured reduction of the force at the impact is given as the percentage of a reference impact force of 6760 N which is the calculated maximum impact force on a non-shock-absorbing surface, like concrete.

Magnitude of Shock Absorption (MSA) [%]	
On sports floor	<del>20 – 30</del> 20 - 45
On concrete	20 – 30



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## SPORTING QUALITIES – VERTICAL DEFORMATION

The (maximum) vertical deformation of the surface under an applied load expresses the suppleness of the mat which governs the ease and safety of walking and running. The vertical deformation will be measured:

- For a floor, covered or not by a movable floor mat, with a wider reaction (e.g., a wooden or synthetic gymnasium floor, a wooden undercarriage lying on joists and felts, or styropor covered by agglomerate or wood, etc.), and
- For a floor with a local reaction only (e.g., concrete directly covered with a movable mat or wood) whose force reduction is between 24 and 30%.

Vertical Deformation [mm]	
On sports floor	<del>1,6 – 2,5</del> 1,6 – 4,2
On concrete	1,6 – 2,5
Floors with local reaction whose MSA 20-30 %	1,5 – 2,5

## SPORTING QUALITIES – ENERGY RESTITUTION

The maximal speed of the impactor at the end of the impact is an expression of the capacity of the floor to return the absorbed energy.

Energy Restitution [%]	
On sports floor	<del>50 – 68</del> 42 - 68
On concrete	50 – 68
Floors with local reaction whose MSA 24-25 %	48 – 68

## 3. TESTING PROTOCOL

### 3.1. TEST PROCEDURE

#### FRICITION

The friction pendulum (1.5 kg) with a standard rubber slider contacts the floor over a specified distance; the greater the friction, the more swing is retarded. The skid coefficient of a table tennis floor ~~should~~ **shall** be between **80 to 110, according to the EN Norm 16837** ~~88 and 98, according to AFNOR 90-106 (nearly identical to ASTM E 30)~~. A higher number implies higher friction. This friction pendulum method has the disadvantage of not working well with profiled floor surfaces. Unfortunately, there is no reliable, internationally admitted standardized procedure for measuring the friction of those surfaces. Experiments trying to modify existing test procedures as EN12502-6 are still under way.

[...]

Test equipment: Pendulum Munro Stanley London following ~~EN 13036-4~~ or EN 16837 test methods – Slider 57 Shores

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c)

## 3. TESTING PROTOCOL

### 3.1. TEST PROCEDURE

#### THICKNESS

According to the EN 1969 Method A, the overall thickness of the flooring is measured with the below mentioned ~~thickness device~~ digital comparator. In addition to separate the thickness into several layers a digital microscope is used.

Test equipment: Electronic comparator Mitutoyo Model ID-C125XB 0.001 – 25.4mm and Dino-Lite Edge Digital Microscope Magnification 0 – x 250

d)

## 3. TESTING PROTOCOL

### 3.1. TEST PROCEDURE

#### RESISTANCE AND DURABILITY

The behaviour under a rolling and rotating load is determined by stressing a small part including the critical area, i.e., the joints of 2 floor bands, by the repeated traversing and revolving around a vertical axis of a loaded wheel. The norm EN 1569 is applied, adapted and completed as follows: steel wheel diameter 100 mm, wheel width in contact with floor 30 mm edges rounded by a radius = 1mm, load of the wheel 80 kg, 150 rolling to-and-fro movements at a speed of 1m/s at 10° to the direction of the joint and at 80° to this direction, always on the same small part. ~~50 rotating movements around a vertical axis at an adequate angular velocity.~~ For this test 2 samples (150cm long, 100cm wide) of the floor will be joined together according to the instructions of the floor supplier brand. The test institute may decide if a lateral stabilization or fixation is needed. The intended use of the floor will decide if it is tested above concrete or the under carriage as defined under Sporting Qualities. After the test, resulting damage is observed and quantified, if possible.

The gap (joints) between the flooring samples after rolling load will be measured, as well as the indentation of the flooring after the 150 cycles rolling load movements. The result of both measurements shall be less than 0.5mm.

The resistance to rolling will be determined and it may evaluate the floor's suitability for wheelchair table tennis play.

The resistance of the floor to indentation and residual indentation are determined by measuring the depth of penetration of an indenter and by measuring the recovery of the material after 5 minutes and after 24 hours, using the cylindrical steel indenter described in EN 1516 (500N during 5 hours, radius = 25 mm, rounded edges). This measurement will take place on a rigid structure like concrete at a temperature of 20 – 25°C. The ~~maximum initial indentation shall be less than (to be determined) mm, and the~~ residual indentation after 24 hours shall be less than 0.5mm.

Test equipment: Manual test method for rolling load with an equipment following the EN 1569 test method (homemade test equipment) and Equipment for indentation compliant to EN 1516 test method (homemade test equipment)

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### FLATNESS

All properties of the floor, including both visual and mechanical, ~~should~~ **shall** be uniform over the entire surface. Fastening systems (e.g., Velcro, Adhesive tapes, Glue bonding, Zip-fastener) are acceptable only if durable, if they keep the floor uniform, even and safe and if they are not visually distracting. The floor, once set up and correctly fixed (**due to transporting bulge of the end parts, cut the backside flooring part at both end and tape the outside lines of the full flooring (as it will be done at the event))**, ~~may~~ **must** stay without any undulation: its thickness and structure as well as the notice of use (rolling up and out, storage, use, cleaning etc.) shall guarantee the best possible result; ~~four~~ **24** hours after rolling out and setting up the flooring at a temperature of 21° to 25°C, it shall be completely flat. A test may be performed accordingly on a floor sample 3m x 1m; ~~24 hours after being rolled out it shall be flat.~~

~~Test equipment: Manual test method for rolling load with an equipment following the EN 1569 test method (homemade test equipment)~~

#### *Rationale:*

- a) *All products will be stored in the Equipment Department Archive. No need to send additional samples.*
- b) *i. AFNOR method is obsolete and all flooring products in other sports (basketball, volleyball, badminton) following the EN Norm 16873.  
ii. For the Triple A measurement on sports floor, the lab recommends based on their experience and on our data from all approved flooring to increase the range for shock absorption, vertical deformation and energy restitution. No current product will have any disadvantage from opening the range.*
- c) *Update of the procedure and device of how the thickness will be measured.*
- d) *i. During the rolling load testing the lab had already measured within their processes the gap between the flooring as well as the indentation. Now, it will be implemented into the testing procedure. The testing of 50 rotating movements is not practical based on the comment from our lab experts.  
ii. Test equipment description for rolling load testing was at the wrong position.  
iii. Description of how to set up the flooring for the 24 hours flatness test.*

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Appendix 3 contains the Manual M6 with the changes proposed in proposition IC-12.

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# Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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## Proposition IC-13

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

Text: T9-Racket Control

a)

### Wording change

“Color” to “colour”

b)

### 1. Regularity of Blade and Racket Coverings

- **Colour** – There must be one red coloured side and one black side.
- **Other Irregularities** – [...] Again, this is normally permitted, provided that it is matt and the color is properly black or bright red colour. [...]

#### 6.1. Colour

The colour of racket coverings is measured during the ITTF authorisation process; however due to variations in production, it is possible that particular batches of rubber will not meet the precise requirements of [Technique Leaflet T4 Manual M4](#).

- If the colour of the rubber is uneven, for example part of the hitting surface is faded – the racket shall be submitted to the referee.
- If a red coloured pimples-out rubber is used with no sponge, and dark wood shows through it causing the overall appearance to be dark, or lettering printed on the blade shows through it causing it to be uneven – the racket shall be submitted to the referee.
- In all other cases, if the red coloured rubber does not quite appear “red bright colour” but meets all other requirements – it is recommended that use of the racket be permitted, as long as the opponent can clearly and easily distinguish the red coloured side from the black side.

If a racket covering does not appear in bright red colour, and it is believed to be caused by a production fault from the rubber manufacturer, please send a message and photo to the ITTF Equipment Department for further investigation.

c)

### 2. Authorisation of Racket Coverings

The latest LARC is available on [equipment.ittf.com](http://equipment.ittf.com) in the **Racket Coverings** [ittf.com](http://ittf.com) in the **“Homepage → Equipment → Racket Coverings”** section. It is updated quarterly, on the first day of each calendar quarter, and all new rubbers are authorised with immediate effect while all rubbers that have been removed lose their authorisation with immediate effect. Note that National Associations may extend the period of validity for their national play. ~~When using the PDF version of the LARC, be aware that there is a last page which includes rubbers whose authorisation is due to expire. Check the expiration date on the last page; if the date has passed, the last page should be discarded. However, if the rubbers on the last page are valid, do not forget to check the last page when verifying a racket covering's authorisation.~~

As an exception, racket covering that were authorised on the first day of a tournament shall be valid for use until the last day of this tournament, even if a new LARC has been published in between.

## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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d)  
4.3. **Manual thickness device – Net gauge**

The 4mm and 2mm protrusions can be checked using the electronic thickness device. See the Laws of Table Tennis for the specified thickness limit.

e)  
**Appendix B: Principles of Racket Control**

**Thickness Test - principle and rationale**

~~The average of the thickness on sandwich rubbers must be less than 4.05 mm. This is often mistakenly referred to a 1% tolerance, when in fact it has nothing to do with tolerances. The rationale is a completely different one: Law 2.4.3 specifies a limit of 4.0 mm with one decimal place. To arrive at a figure with one decimal place, simple mathematical rounding takes place. Values less than 4.05 are truncated to 4.0, whereas 4.05 and above are rounded up to 4.1. For the same reason, the limit for coverings without sponge is “less than 2.05 mm”.~~

~~Recall in addition, that “< 4.05” is not the same as “<= 4.04”. There are three possible results in between, which will all be rounded down to 4.0 and thus are acceptable. For example, if the four measurements are 4.04 / 4.05 / 4.05 / 4.05 mm, this gives an average of 4.0475 mm, which is okay.~~

*Rationale:*

- a) As it is in all other approved manuals and forms from ITTF Equipment written as “colour”*
- b) Since 2021, red is not the only colour available for racket coverings.*
- c) The LARC has been updated to new links on the website. PDF version is no longer necessary due to the prompt updates on the web. Clarification that the racket coverings validity on the LARC crossed the timeline during the event can still be used and it is necessary not to interrupt the players using the same racket coverings in the whole event.*
- d) More precise explanation of how to interpret the measurement with the net gauge. The explanation of rounding the measurement results is not required anymore, due to the Proposition for the AGM about precisising the total thickness from “4.0mm” to “not more than 4.05mm”, and the fact that all devices in Racket Control working with two digits.*

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Appendix 4 contains the Technical Leaflet T9 with the changes proposed in propositions IC-13 and IC-14.

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# Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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Proposition IC-14

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the ITTF Equipment Committee

Text: **T9-Racket Control**

a)

## 4.1. Electronic thickness device

Test Procedure:

[...]

Calculate and record the average of the **four** readings.

[...]

~~For rubber with sponge, the average thickness must be < 4.05mm. For rubber without sponge, the average must be < 2.05mm.~~

The thickness limit is defined under the Laws of Table Tennis of the ITTF Statutes + a measurement tolerance of 0.05 mm, and the result of the electronic device is rounded to the number of digits specified in the Law.

For example, if the Law requires thickness to be less than 4.05mm with sponge and less than 2,05mm without sponge, then:

- For racket coverings with sponge, the limit would be <4.10 mm.
- For racket coverings without sponge, the limit would be <2.10 mm.

Recall that the limit is applied to the average of four readings which is rounded to two digits. As two examples, with the limits as above:

4.10 / 4.09 / 4.09 / 4.09, which is in average 4.0925 mm = 4,09 mm, passes the racket control. Opposite, 4.10 / 4.10 / 4.09 / 4.09, which is in average 4.0950 mm = 4,10 mm, fails the racket control.

b)

## 7. Dismantling

See appendix

c)

## 8. Sanctions

### Voluntary tests:

Please refer to the article 3.2.4.2.4 of the ITTF statutes.

### Pre-Match racket control test:

Please refer to the article 3.2.4.2.3 of the ITTF statutes.

### Post-match racket control:

If a player fails in any racket control test after the match has been completed:

- on the blade (in case no on the blade measurement in the before match control has been done), or
- in the off blade/dismantling control,

the player's name will be written down on the infraction list and the referee will decide, taking into consideration any recommendation by the racket tester, if any additional sanction will be handed against that player. Without limiting the penalties stated under the ITTF Statutes, one

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or more of the following sanctions may be handed to the player in addition to recording their name down in the infraction list:

- a censure, reprimand, or warning,
- a fine of up to CHF10,000,
- a disqualification of results and outcomes of results in the relevant ITTF Sanctioned Events, including a forfeiture of any related awards, titles, ranking points or prizes; and
- a suspension from competing in any ITTF Sanctioned Events for up to 12 months.

If a player fails the racket control test with the first racket in the pre-match control test and subsequently, fails the post-match racket control test with their 2<sup>nd</sup> racket in the off blade or on the blade measurement, the player will get two notices on the infraction list at the same event.

### d) Appendix A: Summary of Racket Tests

#	Test	Specification	Remark / Example	Perform this test at:		
				Match Table	Call Area	Racket Control
1	Regularity of Blade and Racket Coverings	Tolerance from referee	Extension of rubber, scratches, missing pimples, broken wood, etc.	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Authorisation of Racket Coverings	Must be on LARC	Supplier name, brand name, ITTF logo.	No	Yes	Yes
3	Flatness	Concave $\geq$ -0.50mm Convex $\leq$ +0.20mm	Worst of 2 perpendicular measurements. Do not average.	No	Yes	Yes
4	Racket Covering Thickness	With sponge: < 4.05mm Without sponge: < 2.05mm	Average of 4 measurements; 2 parallel, 2 across.	No	Yes	Yes
5	Volatile Organic Compounds	VOC level $\leq$ 3.3ppm	Differential reading after 20 seconds.	No	No	Yes
6	Pimple Spacing	Width of pimple + space < 3.5mm		No	No	Optional
7	Dismantling	Blade of even thickness	No overthick lacquer, no sanding	No	No	Yes
		Racket covering thickness	No overthick	No	No	Yes

#### Rationale:

- A tolerance for testing devices of 0.05 mm is needed from the industry and department side.
- The 2 rounds of Pilot Phase events showed that the dismantling procedure could detect the suspicious cheating of the over-thick racket coverings. Therefore, chapter 7 was added to the leaflet/manual. It includes the procedure and measurement of dismantled racket coverings (defined together with the racket covering industry) and blade constitution (defined together with the blade industry), when no racket covering is stuck anymore.
- The sanction part has been added to the document to write down the current procedure of testing attempts and failing in a racket control. The system of 2<sup>nd</sup> racket or infraction list is

## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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*already approved; for the dismantling part it is important to repeat that consequences will follow as well.*

*d) The dismantling and checking of blade and racket covering belong to the Racket Control.*

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Appendix 4 contains the Technical Leaflet T9 with the changes proposed in propositions IC-13 and IC-14.

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-15

(Simple majority required)

#### Proposed by the Continental Federation of ITTF Americas

To ensure that WTT does not attempt to organise events in countries without the consent of the ITTF Member Association in that country.

#### *Rationale:*

*Member Associations in America have expressed their disappointment for WTT attempting to organise events in their territories without involving them. ITTF should prevent this from happening as the owner of WTT.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Proposition IC-16

(Simple majority required)

#### Proposed by the Member Association of DEN

The Danish Table Tennis Federation suggests that ITTF WTTC and the Olympics is the most important tournaments and therefore should be rewarded with more ranking points than all other WTT tournaments.

#### *Rationale:*

*We have a great tradition in the WTTC as our major tournament. The world title is deep in people minds when it comes to table tennis. We do not believe that we can replace our great tradition with a series of other events (WTT grand smashes, etc.).*

*We believe that our tradition with having the Olympic Games and the WTTC as our major events is a tradition we should value.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Resolution IC-17

(Simple majority required)

Proposed by the Member Association of CHN

Resolution for ITTF World Youth Championships

1. To expand the number of quotas from 12 teams (per gender) to 16-20 teams in U19, U15 events.
2. For Singles event, to increase the number of quotas per MA from 2 players (per gender) to 4-5 players at the age category of U19, U15.

#### *Rationale:*

*To provide more opportunities for talented young players to the world title youth events and to encourage more rising stars of table tennis.*

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## Propositions to the 2024 ITTF Council

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### Resolution IC-18

(Simple majority required)

#### Proposed by the ITTF Executive Board

To review the qualification system and the competition format of the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals to be held from 2026 onwards, with 64 teams, to ensure:

- 1) Relevance of the Qualification Pathway
- 2) That, ideally, all teams participating at the World Championships Finals can opt to win the title

The Competition Program and Technical Commissioner to put forward a proposition to the Continental Council on the qualification pathway for consideration, and to the Executive Board on the format of play for consideration, and, once reviewed by the CC and EB, to be put forward to the ITTF Council for on-line voting in 2024, so the qualification pathway for London 2026, which has to start in 2025, is clearly defined before the end of the year.

#### *Rationale:*

*It is important to ensure consistency of the latest ITTF Council decisions about the size of the WTTC Finals with the already adopted structure of the qualification pathway of the WTTC Finals.*

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