

2018 ITTF TEAM WORLD CUP PLAYING SYSTEM AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

1. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND INVITATIONS:

Number of teams:
12 per category

Invitations:

- 6 continental teams (winner at the last Continental Team Championships)
- 5 teams not selected as the continental team, which finished in the highest position at the 2016 World Team Table Tennis Championships (WTTTC).
- In the event that teams finish equal at the 2016 WTTTC the selection will be decided based on the higher position on the Team World Ranking based on the TWR October 2017.
- 1 host team

2. NUMBER OF DAYS:

- 4 competition days

3. PLAYING SYSTEM:

- There will be a total 38 matches (19 men + 19 women)
- In the 1st stage the teams will be divided into 4 equal groups, with all the members of a group playing each other, and in the 2nd stage the group winners and runners-up will compete in a knockout.
- For the 1st stage, the highest-ranked team will be placed in Group A, the 2nd highest in Group B, the 3rd highest in Group C and the 4th highest in Group D; the remaining teams will be drawn into the groups 2 at a time in ranking order.
- For the 2nd stage, the winners of Groups A and B will be placed in positions 1 and 8 respectively and the winners of groups C and D will be drawn between positions 4 and 5; the runners-up will be drawn into the remaining places, in opposite halves from the winners of the same groups.
- In the semi-finals, the winner of the 1st quarterfinal will play the winner of the 2nd and the winner of the 3rd will play the winner of the 4th; the winners of the semi-finals will play each other in the final.
- The tournament will be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.
- All team matches shall be played on the new **Olympic Test Playing System** with a maximum of 4 singles and 1 doubles. Order of matches: BC vs YZ; A vs X; C vs Z; A vs Y; B vs X
- All individual matches of a team match shall be the best of 5 games.
- A special team ranking list, taking into consideration only the top three nominated athletes from each team, will be produced in order to establish the seeding's for the team events.

2018 ITTF TEAM WORLD CUP PLAYING SYSTEM AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

4. **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

- Substitutions before the entry closing date shall be as per entry regulations
- If the Continental Champion is not available or withdraws, the runner-up team of the Continental Championships shall be invited
- If the host team is not available or withdraws, they shall be replaced by the next highest ranked team of the 2016 WTTTC
- If any other team is not available or withdraws, they shall be replaced by the next highest ranked team of the 2016 WTTTC
- Substitutions after the entry closing date shall be decided by the ITTF

Karl Jindrak
ITTF Director of Competitions

Graeme Ireland
ITTF Technical Commissioner