



## England set for Japan rematch

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England have been handed a swift rematch with Japan in the draw for the World Team Championships.

The two nations clashed in England's opening match of the ITTF Team World Cup at the Copper Box Arena last week, with Japan registering a 3-1 victory – Liam Pitchford getting the England point with a three-set win over 14-year-old Tomokazu Harimoto.

They also met in the semi-finals of the last World Team Championships in Kuala Lumpur in 2016, when the score was also 3-1 to Japan – Sam Walker getting England's win on that occasion against Yuya Oshima.

England were drawn into Group C of the Championship Division for the World Team Championships, which will be held in Halmstad, Sweden, between April 29 and May 6.

Japan are top seeds in the group, which also features Chinese Taipei, Belgium, Belarus and Singapore.

England women will feature in the Second Division and are in Group H alongside Chile, Switzerland, Serbia, Dominican Republic and Canada.

## Men's draw

### Championship Division

Group A: Germany, Hong Kong, Sweden, Egypt, Romania, Slovenia

Group B: China, Portugal, Brazil, Russia, Czech Republic, North Korea

Group C: Japan, Chinese Taipei, **England**, Belgium, Belarus, Singapore

Group D: France, South Korea, Austria, India, Croatia, Poland

### Second Division

Group E: Chile, Denmark, Ukraine, Thailand, Netherlands, Canada

Group F: Slovakia, Argentina, Nigeria, Australia, Turkey, Bulgaria

Group G: Italy, Hungary, Greece, Paraguay, Ecuador, Serbia

Group H: Spain, Iran, Kazakhstan, USA, Luxembourg, Puerto Rico

#### **Third Division**

Group I: Mexico, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Congo Brazzaville, South Africa

Group J: Cuba, Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Peru, Tunisia

Group K: Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, Switzerland, Algeria, Jordan, Togo

Group L: Malaysia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Macao, Finland, Israel

## **Women's draw**

#### **Championship Division**

Group A: China, Singapore, Russia, India, Belarus, Sweden

Group B: Japan, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Egypt, USA

Group C: Chinese Taipei, Romania, Netherlands, Poland, North Korea, Czech Republic

Group D: Hong Kong, South Korea, Germany, Thailand, Brazil, Luxembourg

#### **Second Division**

Group E: France, Croatia, Colombia, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Mexico

Group F: Italy, Belgium, Argentina, Slovenia, Turkey, Greece

Group G: Spain, Puerto Rico, Australia, Iran, Lithuania, Cuba

Group H: Chile, Switzerland, England, **Serbia**, Dominican Republic, Canada

#### **Third Division**

Group I: Azerbaijan, Finland, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Morocco

Group J: Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Jordan, South Africa

Group K: Estonia, Algeria, Turkmenistan, Macao, Bulgaria, Portugal

Group L: Norway, **Wales**, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bosnia–Herzegovina

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