

Table Tennis England Selection Policy

European Youth Championships 2015

Version: 1.1

30th January 2015

Overview

Table Tennis England will select players to teams who are able:

- a) To deliver a credible performance and;
- b) The highest possible finishing position;

At the 2015 European Youth Championships in Bratislava in July 2015. Any variation to the selection/de-selection policy or criteria will only be published before the conclusion of the qualification period.

For the avoidance of doubt a credible performance in:

- The Team event is deemed to be achieving promotion to the top division of the competition and or finishing in the top 18 Teams in each event and or;
- The singles or doubles event is deemed to be reaching the last 16 or better.

Table Tennis England may select up to 3 male and 3 female athletes for the Cadet Teams and may select up to 4 male and 4 female athletes for the Junior Teams. Athletes may only be selected into one age group team.

Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising:

- Table Tennis England Head of Coaching and Performance (Chair),
- Table Tennis England Head Coach,
- Table Tennis England National Coach,
- Table Tennis England National Talent Coach

In the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote.

Additional experts may be asked to provide advice to the selection committee at the request of the Chair

In the event of any conflict of interest for any member, the Table Tennis England conflict of interest policy should be adhered to. Any member with a conflict of interest shall not be entitled to vote on that issue.

Eligibility

Table Tennis England will only select athletes to represent England who:

1. Are affiliated to Table Tennis England, holding a valid Table Tennis England Player Licence and in good standing
2. Are eligible to represent England in ITTF and ETTU approved competitions and have a valid British Passport
3. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU.
4. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules.
5. Have provided Table Tennis England with a signed Acknowledgement (as set out at the end of the Selection Policy) by 31st March 2015.
6. Have notified Table Tennis England that they wish to be considered for this event by 31st March 2015. Athletes are required to notify Melanie Allen (performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk) in writing or by email that they wish to be considered for selection by this date;

7. Athletes will be required to sign a Team Members' Agreement to accept their place on each team. The Agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to adhere to specified travel dates, to observe Table Tennis England sponsorship guidelines and to wear appropriate Team apparel.

Qualification Period

The qualification period for this event began on 1st July 2014 and ends on Sunday 30th April 2015*.

*Subject to confirmation of the final entry deadline by event organisers.

Criteria

Following the overriding objectives of the selection committee which are subject to the above, the selection committee will select athletes to the team events first according to the following criteria. After the selection of the team events, the selection committee will select athletes for the individual events.

Automatic Selection

Athletes will gain automatic selection, subject to compliance with the rest of this policy, if they meet one or more of the following criteria;

- Top 50 ITTF U15/U18* Ranking on the most recent ITTF ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period;
- Top 25 ETTU U15/U18* ETTU Ranking on the most recent ETTU ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period;

*Athletes need only achieve one of these in the age group they are seeking selection in.

Discretionary Selection

In the event that there are still places available after, or in the event that there are more automatic selections than places available, it will be for the selection panel to determine who shall be selected for the team.

That selection process is discretionary and the selection panel, as experts, are required to use their judgement to select the best team(s) possible. Their reasons must be rationale, reasonable, free of bias and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

The selection panel will consider all relevant criteria including the following:

1. Performances in the following events:
 - 2014 ETTU European Team Table Tennis Championships
 - 2014/15 ITTF World Tour Events (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet)
 - 2014 World Junior Championships
 - 2014 ETTU Youth Top 10
 - 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games
 - 2014 European Youth Championships
 - 2014 National Cadet & Junior Championships
 - 2015 National Senior Championships
 - Other 2014/15 ITTF Sanctioned events when representing England (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet)
2. ITTF World U15/U18 Ranking within the selection period, any movement in that ranking and the reasons for it
3. ETTU U15/U18 Ranking within the selection period, any movement in that ranking and the reasons for it
4. Each athletes best two matches in the events listed above
5. Commitment to improve and compete at the highest possible level
6. Fulfilment of the commitment to training and competition as laid down by Table Tennis England Performance Staff.
7. Proven ability to behave in a manner that supports each English athlete and allows him or her to achieve his or her best performance.
8. Potential to perform at a high level in future events for England or GB teams
9. Proven ability to perform in a positive manner and function well as part of a team

For the avoidance of doubt the selection panel is not required to select any athletes to the team, singles or doubles events in either or both genders at all if it does not consider that athletes capable of performing at a credible level are available.



Timing

The selection panel will meet at the conclusion of the qualification period and except in exceptional circumstances, athletes will be notified by 15th May 2015. Should an athlete wish to appeal their non selection, then the normal decision review process will apply.

Athletes will need to travel to be available for the entire competition and any preparation camps as specified by the Head Coach, date to be published by 31st March 2015. All athletes will be required to stay in the team accommodation during these times.

Medical

At the time of their selection, any selected athlete may have their medical and/or musculoskeletal status confirmed by a nominated Table Tennis England Medical adviser. Any selected athlete may, at any other time, be required by the Head of Coaching & Performance (and/or his delegate) to undergo fitness or medical assessments to ensure that they have maintained an adequate level of fitness to perform to the best of their ability. The Head of Coaching & Performance (and/or his delegate) will specify the process by which a selected athlete is to confirm his or her continued health and fitness, which might include participating in certain events or undergoing fitness tests;

Media & Communication

All selected athletes are required to adhere to the Social Media guidance which can be found on the Table Tennis England website at the following address: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ETTA-Social-Media-Guidelines-2012.pdf>

All athletes, whether selected or not are required to keep the notification of their selection or non-selection confidential until such time as directed by the Table Tennis England.

De-Selection

Table Tennis England retains the right to deselect an athlete under any of the following circumstances:

- The athlete is no longer eligible for selection for this event,
- The athlete does not adhere to the code of conduct or team members agreement.
- The athlete in the sole opinion of the Head of Coaching and Performance is no longer physically or mentally able to perform at the level consistent with that which earned their initial selection
- The athlete fails to comply with any reasonable training or competition programme set out by Table Tennis England performance staff
- Any exceptional circumstances exist which in the reasonable opinion of the Selection Panel justify the non-selection or de-selection of the athlete concerned.

Any athlete who is de-selected will immediately be notified of the decision and the reason and will have a right of appeal in accordance with the appeals process.

Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal selection decisions through Table Tennis England's Selection Review Process- the normal review process applies. A copy of the policy outlining this process is available on the Table Tennis England website.

Acknowledgement

Each athlete shall acknowledge that they have read, understood and accepted these Selection Criteria and Guidelines by signing the enclosed copy and returning it to Melanie Allen (performance@etta.co.uk) writing or by email by 31st March 2015 to Norfolk House, 88 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 2DL. For any Under 18 athletes, a parent or guardian will also be required to sign the returned copy. Athletes should retain the second copy for their own records.

Acknowledged by:

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____ (Athlete)

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____ (Parent/Guardian)

January 30th 2015

ENDS