

Table Tennis England Selection Policy

World Individual Championships 2015

Version: 1.3

25th October 2014, update 16th December 2014

Overview

The World Individual Championships 2015 are taking place from 26th April to 3rd May 2015 in Suzhou, China .

It is open to Table Tennis England to select between zero and five male and between zero and three females* to compete in this event.

Table Tennis England aims to select individuals who are able:

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

For the avoidance of doubt a credible performance in this event is deemed to be achieving a Final 64 position or better.

Any variation to this Selection Policy will be published before the conclusion of the qualification period (as defined below).

*ITTF to confirm exact number of spaces available to Table Tennis England from January 2015 World Ranking list.

Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising three voting members and one non voting Chair:

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

Additional experts may be asked to provide advice or information to the selection panel 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 1st February 2015.

6. Have notified Table Tennis England that they wish to be considered for this event by 1st February 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. If selected, 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 is from 1st July 2015 to Sunday 1st March 2015 inclusive. Table Tennis England will nominate a full quota of athletes to the ITTF and event organisers by Thursday 26th February as required by the event prospectus and will update the names to reflect the selected athletes after the selection process is complete but by the 12th March as required by the ITTF.

Criteria

As stated above, the selection panel may select up to the number of athletes of each gender allowed by the ITTF.

Selection can be achieved either automatically or at the discretion of the Selection Panel, as follows:

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 Senior World Ranking on the most recent ITTF ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period;
- Top 5 ITTF U21 World Ranking on the most recent ITTF ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period; or
- 2014 Commonwealth Games singles medallist.

Discretionary Selection

In the event that there are still places available after Automatic Selections have been accommodated, 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 reasoning must be rationale, reasonable, free of bias and generally 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 in the order below:
 - 2014/15 ITTF World Tour Events (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet)
 - 2014 European Team Championships
 - 2015 National Senior Championships*
 - Other 2014/15 ITTF Sanctioned events when representing England (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet)
 - 2014 Home Six Nations
2. ITTF World Senior Ranking within the qualification period, any movement in that ranking and the reasons for it
3. Each athlete's best two matches in the events listed above
4. Commitment to improve and compete at the highest possible level
5. Fulfilment of the commitment to training and competition as laid down by Table Tennis England Performance Staff

6. Potential to perform at a high level in future events for England or GB teams
7. Proven ability to behave 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 players at all if it does not consider that sufficient athletes of a suitable quality are capable of performing at a credible level. Likewise, and save in respect of automatic selections, it will be at the selection panel's discretion whether, if it selects any athletes whether it will select, one, two, three, four, five or six.

Timing

The selection panel will meet at the conclusion of the qualification period and except in exceptional circumstances, athletes will be notified by email of their selection or non-selection by 4th March 2015. The tight timescales required by the ITTF mean that athletes will be entered for the event before they have been selected and notified and before any appeal process is completed. Table Tennis England has the right to change athlete details for a period of time after the submission of the entries and will use this if required. Table Tennis England may make changes until 12th March 2015.

Athletes will need to be available for a pre championships training camp from 20th April until 25th April 2015 and to attend the Championships on April 26th until May 3rd 2015. All athletes will be required to stay in the team accommodation during these times. Travel dates are to be confirmed.

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 Selection Panel 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 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

1. Eligible athletes are entitled to appeal a decision by the Selection Panel not to select them for this event, in accordance with the procedure set out here. The appeal process is intended to be quick, fair and independent.

2. If a athlete wishes to appeal, he or she must notify the Chief Executive of Table Tennis England that they wish to appeal as soon as possible, and in any event no later than by 4pm on the working day after they have been notified of their non-selection. Such a notification must be given in writing (e-mail is acceptable).
3. The athlete must, by 4pm on the working day following such notification, provide to the Chief Executive of Table Tennis England a written document setting out the grounds for the appeal (the "Grounds of Appeal"). The Grounds of Appeal must include the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for the athlete's appeal, together with any evidence (such as performance data or results) that they rely on. Athletes should note that the only available grounds of appeal are either that this Selection Policy was not followed, or that the decision in question was unreasonable and/or not reached in a manner consistent with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.
4. If, in the reasonable view of the Chief Executive of Table Tennis England, the appeal may affect other athletes ("Affected Athletes"), then they must provide the Grounds of Appeal to any such persons as soon as possible.
5. The selection appeal will then as soon as possible be referred to Sport Resolutions (UK) for determination by way of binding, confidential, arbitration. A athlete seeking to appeal will, accordingly, be required to pay to Table Tennis England a deposit of £250 towards the cost of using Sport Resolutions' services, which should be paid at the same time as the Grounds of Appeal are provided. This sum will be reimbursed to the athlete in the event that the appeal is upheld (i.e. succeeds) but will otherwise be forfeited.
6. Table Tennis England must, as soon as possible and by no later than by 4pm two working days after receipt of the Grounds of Appeal, serve on the appealing athlete and on any Affected Athlete a written response to the appeal, including the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for that response together with any evidence that Table Tennis England wishes to rely on.
7. Any Affected Athlete may also, as soon as possible and by no later than by 4pm two working days after receipt of the Grounds of Appeal, serve on Table Tennis England a written response to the appeal, including the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for that response together with an evidence that they wish to rely on. Table Tennis England must provide this written response to the appealing athlete as soon as possible.
8. The appeal will then proceed, on the earliest possible date, by way of oral hearing in front a single legally qualified arbitrator appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK). The appealing athlete, Table Tennis England and any Affected Athlete are entitled to attend such a hearing, with representatives if they so wish. Alternatively, if the athlete, Table Tennis England and any Affected Athlete agree, the appeal will be determined on the papers by such an arbitrator. The arbitrator may set any directions in connection with such a hearing or written determination as they consider fair and appropriate, and may likewise determine how any such hearing is to be conducted in order for that hearing to be fair, always bearing in mind the need for the matter to be concluded quickly.
9. The arbitrator will endeavour to render a decision in respect of the appeal as soon as possible. In the interests of expediency, the arbitrator may initially render a brief summary of the decision with full reasons to follow. Sport Resolutions (UK) will be responsible for notifying all participants of the decision.
10. The arbitrator may either dismiss the appeal, or uphold the appeal in which case he must remit the selection decision back to the Table Tennis England Selection Panel, with any guidance which the arbitrator may consider appropriate. The arbitrator will not have jurisdiction to nominate, select or de-select any athlete.
11. The arbitrator's decision will be final: if a athlete's appeal is dismissed, he or she will have no further right of appeal. If the appeal is upheld, then this appeal process may be invoked in respect of the fresh selection decision, time allowing.
12. Save as may otherwise be agreed between them, all participants to the appeal process are required to keep the fact and contents of the appeal process confidential.

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 1st February

Table Tennis England Limited
Norfolk House, 88 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
MK9 2DL
T: 0844 417 0900 F: 01908 675397
E: help@tabletennisengland.co.uk | W: www.tabletennisengland.co.uk



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)

October 25th 2014- updated 16th December 2014

ENDS