

## Table Tennis England Selection Policy

### ITTF World Tour Events 2014/15 Season

Version: 1.4

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014

#### Overview

This selection policy covers all events run under the ITTF World Tour name and other ITTF sanctioned events including:

World Tour: Grand Finals

World Tour- Super Series

World Tour- Major Series

World Tour- Challenger Series

Other ITTF Sanctioned Events

It is open to Table Tennis England to select individuals and teams to enter in each case, Table Tennis England may select up to the number of athletes and teams as limited by the ITTF and each event organiser who are able:

- a) To deliver credible performances;
- b) To achieve the highest possible finishing position; and
- c) To promote Table Tennis England with performances consistent with its performance objectives.

Variations of this selection policy may be published from time to time, inline with Table Tennis England's performance objectives. The latest version will always be available in the performance section of the Table Tennis England website.

#### Event Status

Unless otherwise notified in writing by Table Tennis England, any selection implicit in this process is not conveying an England Cap or otherwise deemed to be officially representing England or require official England kit. Athletes are therefore free to wear their own kit, compliant with relevant international rules.

All events however are eligible for Table Tennis England ranking points. Please supply an official copy of the results to the Table Tennis England Ranking Team upon completion.

#### 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) before receipt of their Table Tennis England event entry form.
6. Have notified Table Tennis England that they wish to be considered for this event by the deadline published below. Athletes are required to notify Sandra Pelizzoni ([performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk)) in writing or by email that they wish to be considered for selection by this date by completing the relevant Table Tennis England event entry form;
7. If selected, athletes may be required to sign a Team Members' Agreement to accept their place at each event. The Agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to adhere to observe Table Tennis England sponsorship guidelines and to wear, if required, appropriate apparel.
8. If athletes are selected any support staff approved to accompany them are required to sign and abide by a Support Staff Members' Agreement in order for the athlete to be eligible to take their place at the event. The agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to abide by the instructions of the Table Tennis England Performance Staff which may include a requirement to wear provided apparel.

## Qualification Period

For each event, the qualification period includes the twelve months preceding the Table Tennis England entry deadline 20 working days before the preliminary event entry.

## Entry procedures

Athletes will be required to submit their entry to Table Tennis England no later than twenty working days before the preliminary entry closing date for the event specified in the event prospectus or information. Table Tennis England will confirm athlete selection within three working days of Table Tennis England deadline for receipt of athlete nominations. Athletes will then be required to complete all payments and final paper work, including travel details and hospitality selection to Table Tennis England no later than ten working days before the preliminary entry deadline.

In the event of the event not specifying a preliminary entry deadline, then the deadlines above apply to the final entry deadline or 20 working days before the event which ever comes first.

Table Tennis England will complete all entry requirements as required by the event subject to athletes completing this process and being selected. Athletes who have not completed the payment process before the deadline will not be entered into the event. Individual athletes are liable for all their own costs unless otherwise agreed with Table Tennis England.

England receives 6 (in both male and female singles) entries per ITTF World Tour event and may enter additional athletes on to the waiting list. If the maximum number of entries is received, England will only receive the 6 places in each singles event, if however the event has capacity additional entries over the 6 fixed places will be received. Athletes will be placed on the waiting list in and accepted in to the event in order of ITTF current World Ranking, alternating one female and one male player until the maximum number of entries have been reached.

Event entries are limited by the number of tables as per ITTF regulations ([http://www.ittf.com/protour/2014/PDF/SSI\\_WT2014\\_FINAL\\_.pdf](http://www.ittf.com/protour/2014/PDF/SSI_WT2014_FINAL_.pdf)). The event organisers will then complete their entry process and invoice Table Tennis England accordingly. Table Tennis England will then make payment on behalf of the

athletes entering each event who have been confirmed by the event organisers. Athletes who have not been accepted will have their payment refunded by Table Tennis England.

In the event that an athlete withdraws from the event then Table Tennis England will complete the process on behalf of the athlete and return any monies that are refunded, noting that there are charges and fees depending on the timing of the withdrawal notice ([http://www.ittf.com/protour/2014/PDF/SSI\\_WT2014\\_FINAL\\_.pdf](http://www.ittf.com/protour/2014/PDF/SSI_WT2014_FINAL_.pdf)). Table Tennis England will complete the withdrawal within one working day of notification from the athlete but it is not liable in the event of any delay in withdrawal resulting in increased charges or other penalties.

## Payment

As noted above, players are responsible for all their own costs associated with entering, travelling and competing in the events covered by this policy unless otherwise agreed in writing with Table Tennis England. In the event that the player is under eighteen then the parent or guardian who signed the self funding form accepts full responsibility for this payment.

Players will not be entered into events unless all payments have been received in advance.

Table Tennis England reserve the right to offer its limited funding to players for a range of the events covered by this policy at its full and sole discretion. There is no right of appeal in the event that an athlete is not offered any funding support for various events. Table Tennis England will only offer funding to players who have already earned selection for the respective event and the funding may cover all or part of the costs associated with entering the event. Even if Table Tennis England have made an offer in writing to cover all or part of the costs associated with an event entry, Table Tennis England require that the player and their parents if relevant must still sign and return the relevant form by the appropriate deadline in order to be considered for selection for the event.

## Criteria

As stated above, the selection panel may select any number of athletes or teams to each event, with 6 singles entries per gender fixed and additional spaces subject to the event capacity and an athletes' current ITTF World Ranking.

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;

Event Type	Automatic Selection
Super Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved Top 100 ITTF ranking in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Reached the last 16 of an ITTF Major series in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Invited to compete in this event by Table Tennis England National Coaching staff (Nick Jarvis, Alan Cooke or Matthew Stanforth)</li> </ul>
Major Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved Top 200 ITTF ranking in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Reached the last 16 of an ITTF Challenger series in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Reached the singles semi finals of the Table Tennis England National Championships in 2014</li> <li>Invited to compete in this event by Table Tennis England National Coaching staff (Nick Jarvis, Alan Cooke or Matthew Stanforth)</li> </ul>
Challenger Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved Top 450 ITTF ranking in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Achieved Top 20 Table Tennis England ranking in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Reached the singles quarter finals of the Table Tennis England National Championships in</li> </ul>

	<p>2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invited to compete in this event by Table Tennis England National Coaching staff (Nick Jarvis, Alan Cooke or Matthew Stanforth)</li> </ul>
Other ITTF Sanctioned events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved Top 450 ITTF ranking in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Achieved Top 20 Table Tennis England ranking in 12 months to event entry deadline</li> <li>Reached the singles quarter finals of the Table Tennis England National Championships in 2014</li> <li>Invited to compete in this event by Table Tennis England National Coaching staff (Nick Jarvis, Alan Cooke or Matthew Stanforth)</li> </ul>

### 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 each event.

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:

- Performances in the following events:
  - 2014/15 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships
  - 2014/15 ITTF World Tour Events (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet)
  - 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games
  - 2013 & 14 European Championships (Individual or Team)
  - 2014 & 2015 National Championships (in category event entry is sought)
  - Other 2013/14 ITTF Sanctioned events when representing England (for applicable age category)
  - For athletes who have not yet competed in an ITTF sanctioned event within the twelve months to the event entry deadline, the selection panel may, at its sole discretion consider athlete performances in additional domestic events, including but not limited to:
    - Table Tennis England Grand Prix
    - 4\* events
    - Table Tennis England Masters events (for applicable age category)
- ITTF World Ranking (in category event entry is sought) within the qualification period, any movement in that ranking and the reasons for it.
- For athletes who do not have an ITTF World Ranking (in category in which event entry is sought) within the twelve months to the event entry deadline, the selection panel may, at its sole discretion consider an athletes' Table Tennis England Ranking
- Each athlete's best two matches in the events listed above
- Commitment to improve and compete at the highest possible level
- Fulfilment of the commitment to training and competition as laid down by Table Tennis England Performance Staff
- Potential to perform at a high level in future events for England or GB teams
- 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 available who are capable of performing at a credible level in the entered event. Likewise, and save in respect of automatic selections, it will be at the selection panel's discretion whether, it selects any athletes.

## Event type

This selection policy will select singles entries first (for relevant category in which entry is sought). If Table Tennis England are sending any official staff members, Table Tennis England will select at its full and sole discretion the members of any additional categories i.e. Team, doubles and mixed doubles. There is no right of appeal in the event that an athlete is not selected for any of the further categories at the respective event.

If Table Tennis England are not sending any official staff members and the event has additional competitions in team, doubles or mixed doubles, athletes may select partner(s) or the 'partner wanted' option with which to enter these events, provided one of the following have been met by the athlete(s) the selected player is seeking to partner with:

- The athlete(s) being proposed have also met the Table Tennis England entry requirements and been selected for the singles competition at the same event; or
- The athlete(s) have been entered by another nation; Table Tennis England accepts no responsibility for the entry process or fee payment of any athlete(s) from other countries.
- Team, doubles or mixed double entries and payment must be received by Table Tennis England no later than five working days before the Team, doubles or mixed doubles entry deadline specified on the event prospectus.

Table Tennis England reserve the right to select partners for athletes that are already selected and entered for the singles event and refuse entry to the Team, doubles or mixed doubles if it believes that the partner an athlete has selected has not fulfilled either of the above requirements or will not perform in a manner consistent with the objectives of this policy.

In the event that there are more demand for Team, doubles or mixed doubles entries, Table Tennis England will consider each entry inline with the discretionary criteria detailed above including relevant Team, doubles or mixed doubles performances in the qualification period. Table Tennis England will select up to the ITTF limit of 1 Team and 3 pairs (in each gender) or other limit specified in the event prospectus.

Table Tennis England accepts no responsibility for any loss of fees or entry status should a Team, doubles or mixed doubles partner(s) withdraw from an event either before or after any relevant deadlines. Table Tennis England will endeavour to refund to the athlete any fees returned by the event organiser and will process any athlete withdrawals inline with the entry procedures detailed above.

## Official Event Support

Unless otherwise notified Table Tennis England will not send or fund any official or unofficial support for athletes to attend an event that they are selected and entered for. Should an athlete wish to bring and pay for an official support staff member(s) they must request this on their initial entry form and if selected complete all payments necessary for their nominated official staff member(s). Table Tennis England will consider each request and decide whether it is appropriate for the individual to be nominated as an official supporter of the athlete(s) attending the event. In doing so Table Tennis England will have cause to consider if:

- Table Tennis England are sending a Table Tennis England Official or Delegate
- The level and status of the event
- The performance standard of the athlete(s)
- The number of other athletes from England attending the event
- The age of the athlete(s) attending the event
- there allowing an athlete(s) official support staff member may give cause to a child protection issue with that athlete or any other England athlete attending the event

- The experience, qualifications and suitability at the sole discretion of Table Tennis England of the nominated person(s)
- Other information as Table Tennis England may deem relevant

When Table Tennis England do send an official staff member and two players entered by Table Tennis England compete against each other, Table Tennis England require that the athletes agree that no 'Captaining' for either player will take place and Table Tennis England will not allow any representative to fulfil this role. Where Table Tennis England does not send any official staff member and two players entered by Table Tennis England compete against each other the role of the 'Captain' is at the individual players discretion.

In the event that Table Tennis England decline to select the athletes' nominated official staff member the athlete accepts that they have no right of appeal no matter whether the decision may impact on their ability to attend or perform at the event in question. In doing so, Table Tennis England accept that they have no jurisdiction to prevent the person(s) travelling to or attending the event, merely that Table Tennis England may chose not to nominate them as an official accredited member or convey any other status on them.

Should Table Tennis England decide to send a Table Tennis England staff member, they will be officially accredited to the event they are attending. This staff member will have specific responsibilities that may or may not preclude them from supporting individual athletes at each event and that Table Tennis England will confirm their role to all attending the event as soon as practical.

## Timing

Preliminary entry forms are posted on the ITTF website at least two months before the event. The event prospectus with detailed event entry timings is usually released on the ITTF website at the same time. Table Tennis England will endeavour to send the prospectus to the athletes when it arrives from the ITTF or event organiser, however athletes are responsible for getting this information themselves.

Athletes must submit the Table Tennis England event entry form (<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Table-Tennis-England-Self-Funded-Entry-Application-Form.xls>) to Table Tennis England ([performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk)) no later than 20 working days before the preliminary entry deadline specified on the event prospectus or as detailed above, 20 working days before the final entry deadline or event date in the event that there is no specified preliminary entry deadline which ever arrives first..

Table Tennis England will complete selections to each event no later than 3 working days after the Table Tennis England closing date for entries.

In the event that the prospectus is delayed resulting in its publication being inside 20 working days before the preliminary entry deadline, Table Tennis England will endeavour to complete selections in a timely manner to allow athletes to enter the event, subject to them completing the relevant forms and payment and being selected for the event, but accepts no responsibility for the late publication or delays in entry processing and selection resulting in an athletes' entry not being accepted by the event organisers or the ITTF.

## 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
- The athlete fails to comply with the entry processes and payment schedule detailed within this policy
- The athlete does not pay all relevant fees or any payment is returned.

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.

## Selection Review

- Eligible athletes are entitled to request a review of the decision by the Selection Panel not to select them for each singles event in which they have completed all the relevant entry requirements and paid all the appropriate fees by the Table Tennis England deadlines specified in this policy and in accordance with the procedure set out here. The selection review process is intended to be quick, fair and as objective as possible.
- If a athlete wishes to request a singles selection decision be reviewed, 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) to [appeals@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:appeals@tabletennisengland.co.uk) and be accompanied by a fee of £150.
- The appeal will be reviewed under Table Tennis England's Selection Review Policy found the Table Tennis England website.
- In most cases the normal review request timeline will prevail unless exceptional circumstances require the 'fast track' timeline be followed. Table Tennis England will notify athletes if the 'fast track' review process is required when they are notified of their non selection.

## 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 Sandra Pelizzoni in writing or by email before submitting their first entry under this policy for the 2014-15 season to [performance@etta.co.uk](mailto:performance@etta.co.uk) or 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)

September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

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