

# Table Tennis England Invitation Policy

## Senior National Championships 2016/2017 Season

Version: 1.2

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

### 1. Overview

The 2016/17 Senior National Championships are taking place on the following dates and at the venue listed below:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Venue TBC)

Table Tennis England will invite up to 32 Men and 32 Women (including 2 wildcard players) eligible for each of the Singles categories plus 28 Men and 28 Women for each of the Under 21 categories. BTTAD will nominate to Table Tennis England up to 4 eligible players for each of the Para categories.

Event categories will be as follows:

Men's Singles	Women's Singles	
Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles	Mixed Doubles
U21 Men's Singles (born in 1996 or later)	U21 Women's Singles (born in 1996 or later)	
Para Men's 3-5	Para Women's 3-5	
Para Men's 6-8		
Para Men's 9-10		

The format of the Singles categories will be group stages (comprising of 8 groups of 3 players, with 1 player qualifying) played to the best of 5 games, followed by knock-out matches played to the best of 7 games, 11 up. The top 8 seeds will get a bye to the Last 16 stage in the Singles categories and in the U21 categories the top 4 seeds will get a bye to the quarter final stages.

Doubles matches will be played on a knockout basis, played to the best of 5 games, 11 up and will involve 16 pairs for each category.

The Para categories will play in a round robin format for each classification, played to the best of 5 games, 11 up.

Any variation of this policy will be published on the Table Tennis England website before 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

These events carry a Table Tennis England ranking weighting of x2.25.

### 2. Eligibility

Table Tennis England will only invite athletes for the above event 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 valid proof of British Citizenship.
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 this Invitation Policy) showing that they wish to be considered for this event by the deadline published below. Athletes are required to notify [amanda.robinson@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:amanda.robinson@tabletennisengland.co.uk) in writing or by email that they wish to be considered for invitation by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Athletes need to confirm which age group(s) that they are wishing to be considered for. Athletes should note that they are responsible for being able to prove that they returned the signed form before the deadline and should keep this until their returned agreement has been acknowledged by Table Tennis England.

### 3. Criteria

The panel (comprising Table Tennis England's Head of Talent & Performance, Head Coach, National Coach and National Youth Coach) may invite up to 32 Men and 32 Women in each of the Singles categories and 28 Men and 28 Women in each of the Under 21's categories. Invitations will be granted either automatically or at the discretion of the panel, as follows:

#### Automatic Invitation

Athletes will gain an automatic invitation, subject to compliance with the rest of this policy, if they meet the following criteria:

- Table Tennis England ranking from 1 to 30 (for Men) and 1 to 30 (for Women) on the Table Tennis England 16/6 January 2017 ranking list. For the U21 events, the top 26 Men and 26 Women will gain an invitation. Athletes need to achieve this in each age group that they are seeking an invitation for. (It is the players' responsibility to ensure they do not drop off the ranking list due to inactivity, which happens after 5 inactive periods). Should an athlete decline their invitation, the next eligible player listed on the 16/6 January 2017 ranking list will be invited.

#### Discretionary Invitation

Following the automatic invitations, it will be for the panel to determine which, if any, additional athletes shall be invited to the event. The panel may invite between zero and two additional players but they are not required to invite any if they feel that players are not of sufficient standard to perform successfully at this competition.

The panel, as experts, are required to use their judgement to invite athletes to compete in this event. Their reasoning must be rational, reasonable, free of bias and generally in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

For the avoidance of doubt the panel is not required to invite any players at all if it does not consider that sufficient athletes of a suitable quality are capable of performing in line with the objectives of this policy.

#### Doubles:

Entry in to the Doubles events will be restricted to 16 pairs for Men, 16 pairs for Women and 16 pairs for Mixed Doubles. Only players who have been invited to play in any of the Singles events (Men's, Women's or U21's) and have returned a signed policy, are eligible to enter the Doubles events. Eligible singles players will be invited to submit their partners' names on the entry form.

Entries will only be accepted provided a correctly completed entry form is received from both partners with payment by the closing date. If any of the Doubles events are oversubscribed, pairs will be excluded on the basis of last entry in, first out however:

In the Men's doubles - pairings which include a player in the top 8 of the Senior 16/6 ranking list will be given priority.

In the Women's doubles – pairings which include a player in the top 8 of the Senior 16/6 ranking list will be given priority.

In the Mixed Doubles – pairings which include either a male in the top 4 of the Senior 16/6 ranking list or a female in the top 4 of the Senior 16/6 ranking list will be given priority.

### 4. Timing

The panel will meet after publication of the 16/6 January 2017 Ranking List and will endeavour to complete invitations in a timely manner to allow athletes to enter the event, subject to them completing the relevant forms and payment, having been invited to the event. Should an athlete wish to appeal about not receiving an invitation, then a fast track decision review process will apply.

### 5. Withdrawal of invitation

Table Tennis England retains the right to withdraw an invitation from an athlete under any of the following circumstances:

- The athlete is no longer eligible for this event.



- Any exceptional circumstances, which in the reasonable opinion of Table Tennis England, justifies the withdrawal of the athlete concerned.

Any athlete who is withdrawn will immediately be notified of the decision and the reason and will have a right of review in accordance with the Right of review process.

## 6. Review

- Eligible athletes are entitled to request a review of the decision by the panel not to invite them for each event in which they have completed all the relevant entry requirements and by deadlines specified in this policy and in accordance with the procedure set out here. The review process is intended to be quick, fair and as objective as possible.
- The request will be reviewed under Table Tennis England's Review Policy found on the Table Tennis England website (a copy of which is available upon request).

## 7. Acknowledgement

Along with showing you would like to be considered for invitation, each athlete shall acknowledge that they have read, understood and accepted these Criteria and Guidelines by signing the enclosed copy and returning it to Amanda Robinson in writing or by email by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to [amanda.robinson@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:amanda.robinson@tabletennisengland.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 a copy for their own records. Return of a signed policy does not constitute an invitation.

Policy:

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Which categories are you seeking an invitation for? (please delete as appropriate):

Men / Women

Singles / U21

Acknowledged by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Athlete)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian if U18)

ENDS