

# Fax



From: Adham Sharara, President & CEO

To: ITTF Olympic Commission (EC, EB + Athens Rep.) Date: 17 December 2000

c.c. Chairmen of Technical, Rules and Ranking Committees  
Chairwoman of Athletes Commission  
ITTF Staff

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Dear friends,

Following the Olympic Games in Sydney I submitted an official request to the IOC to include the Mixed Doubles event for table tennis as of the next Olympic Games in Athens (according to the Resolution adopted in Kuala Lumpur).

To follow-up the official request, I met with the IOC Director of Sports on 7 December 2000. Jordi Serra also attended this meeting. Based on the discussions that ensued during the meeting, I prepared a supplement to our request that was submitted to the IOC on 9 December 2000.

The IOC Programme Commission met on 12 December 2000 to prepare its recommendations to the IOC Executive Board. On 15 December 2000 the IOC Executive Board confirmed the following:

- no new **sports** will be added to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games
- "provisional" sports (softball, taekwondo and triathlon) and "provisional" disciplines (beach volleyball and trampoline) should be confirmed for the 2004 Games

Our request has not been rejected and will move to the next stage to be analysed by a "working group sub-committee" of the Programme Commission.

One of the mandates of the IOC Programme Commission is to reduce the number of participants at Olympic Games to the number recommended by the Olympic Charter which is 10,000 athletes (there were 10,980 athletes in Sydney). In addition, the element of "Universality" is very important to the IOC not only for participation purposes but also for "medals" potential and distribution.

It is clear that all sports will be considered for a reduction in participation numbers (especially Swimming and Athletics). As you may know, table tennis was already reduced in Sydney to 172 athletes from the previous quota of 196 (Atlanta and Barcelona). The acceptance of the addition of the Mixed Doubles may help maintain our quota to the current 172. However, we must demonstrate that "new" NOCs may be able to win a medal (Universality principle).

One of the negative aspects of our competition at the Sydney Olympics was the domination by one NOC of all the events (lack of universality in table tennis). However, table tennis had participants from 45 NOCs take part.

Attached you will find the first draft proposal regarding the Qualification and Playing System for the 2004 games.

The new proposal is based on the following changes:

- Addition of the Mixed Doubles
- A maximum of **one (1)** Doubles pairs per NOC may be entered
- Knockout competition system throughout

This is a basic first step proposal for your feedback. Please read it carefully and submit your comments directly to the ITTF Executive Director, Jordi Serra, to reach him by 2 January 2001 (ITTF Head Office in Lausanne). The ITTF EB in Yokohama will discuss this matter. The final document will be presented to the IOC before the end of January 2001.

# International Table Tennis Federation

## QUALIFICATION SYSTEM for the Table Tennis event at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games

There will be a total of **172** table tennis athletes (86 men and 86 women)

<b>SINGLES</b> - Men (64 athletes) and Women (64 athletes)
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Sixty-four (64) athletes for each of the men's singles and women's singles events will qualify as follows:

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 20    | Top 20 players from the ITTF Ranking, with a maximum of two (2) players from the same NOC |
| 40    | from Continental Qualification system (i)   |
| 1     | Host NOC direct entry   |
| 3     | Top 3 players from the World Qualification (ii)   |
| <hr/> |   |
| 64    | Total - with a maximum of three (3) players from the same NOC                             |

### (i) Continental Qualification

Players will be selected by each of the ITTF's Continental Federations according to the following distribution:

- |       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| 6     | Africa        |
| 11    | Asia          |
| 11    | Europe        |
| 6     | Latin America |
| 3     | North America |
| 3     | Oceania       |
| <hr/> |               |
| 40    | Total         |

### (ii) World Qualification

- All players who have otherwise not qualified by Ranking or by Continental Qualification, and whose NOC has not reached the maximum allocation of three (3) players per NOC, may enter the final World Qualification as the last method to qualify for the Olympic Games. The top three (3) players at the end of the competition will qualify for the Olympic Games.
- The number of qualifiers from this competition may be increased, in the case that, for any reason, the Continental Qualification allocation of forty (40) players is not reached.

## DOUBLES - Men Doubles, Women Doubles and Mixed Doubles

In **addition** to the players qualified for singles, 22 men and 22 women will qualify for the Doubles event.

The 22 additional players will be selected by each of the ITTF's Continental Federations according to the following distribution:

3	Africa
6	Asia
6	Europe
3	Latin America
2	North America
2	Oceania

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22 Total players

- Each Continental Federation has the responsibility to select and form the maximum number of Doubles *pairs* using the total number of players who have qualified through singles **plus** the above allocation.
- Players in each Doubles pair must be from the same NOC.
- It is acceptable that both players in a Doubles pair not be entered in the Singles event.
- A maximum of **one (1)** Doubles pairs per ~~NOC~~ <sup>event per NOC</sup> may be entered.
- One entry in each doubles event is reserved for the host NOC

ITTF/12.2000

# International Table Tennis Federation

## COMPETITION SYSTEM

for the Table Tennis event at the  
2000 Sydney Olympic Games

### Men and Women **Singles**

- There will be 64 entries with a maximum of 3 players from the same NOC
- All matches in singles will be decided by the best of five games (3 out of 5)
- There will be 16 seeded players
- Seeding will be made in accordance with the ITTF regulations, by Ranking, as per the latest current World Ranking list available at the date of the draw, and separating players from the same NOC as per the ITTF regulation for that purpose
- There will be two (2) qualification rounds. Players classified from 33rd to 64th will compete in the first knockout qualification round. The winners will advance to the second qualification round against players classified 17<sup>th</sup> to 32<sup>nd</sup>. The winners will join the 16 seeded players in the final knockout draw (round of 32).

### Men Doubles, Women Doubles and **Mixed Doubles**

- An NOC may not enter more than **one pair**
- All matches in doubles will be decided by the best of five games (3 out of 5)
- There will be 8 seeded pairs
- Seeding will be made in accordance with the ITTF regulations, by Ranking, based on the list produced for that purpose by the ITTF Ranking Committee.
- The first stage of qualification will comprise of knockout matches to reduce the field to 16 pairs if necessary.
- The final knock-out stage will start from the round of 16