

OLYMPIC COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Of the Olympic Commission Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation, held on 28th April 2006 (following the Board of Directors Meeting), in Bremen, Germany, at 14h45 hours.

1. President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed to the meeting Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis, Technical Delegate for Beijing 2008.

2. Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
George Segun	Deputy President
Claude Bergeret	Executive Vice-President
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President
Neil Harwood	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Koji Kimura	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Chérif Hajem	Continental Vice-President (Africa)
Choo Wee Kiang	Continental Vice-President (Asia)
Stefano Bosi	Continental Vice-President (Europe)
Melecio Rivera	Continental Vice-President (Latin America)
Bruce Burton	Continental Vice-President (North America)
Patrick Gillmann	Continental Vice-President (Oceania)
Yao Zhenxu	Representative of Beijing Organising Committee

Invited to attend

Georgios Seliniotakis Technical Delegate Beijing Games

In attendance

Jordi Serra Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa Project Manager

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Linz, Austria, 15 December 2005)

The Minutes were signed by the President with the clarification from Mr. Stefano Bosi who wished to have it highlighted that even though he voted against the Team system that was accepted for the Olympic Games, he had spoken officially as the President of the ETTU and had wished at the time to provide as much information as possible to the Olympic Commission.

5. Technical Delegates for Beijing

The Technical delegates for Beijing 2008 were confirmed:
Mr. Georgios **Seliniotakis** (GRE) and Ms Sachiko **Yokota-Heyerdahl** (JPN) who would replace Mr. Neil Harwood (elected VP of ITTF).

6. Team system for Beijing 2008

6.1 Qualification system

The IOC document (attached) regarding qualification was distributed. The final team selections will be done after all the qualification events have taken place. The ranking list to be used for qualifications will be the one published after 1st January 2008.

6.2 System of competition and schedule

It was reported that one more day had been added to the competition schedule in Beijing. The proposed schedule would be modified in order to ensure that men's and women's matches are played at the same time.

7. Equipment

It was reported that the ITTF was in the process of selecting the equipment sponsors for Beijing 2008. Agreements with Double Happiness for tables, Double Fish for balls and Gerflor for flooring should be signed soon.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Olympic Commission will be held in Hong Kong, December 2006, during the Pro Tour Finals. Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis, would be invited to attend the meeting.

9. Any other business

No other business.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 14h59.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)

EVENTS

Men
Singles
Teams

Women
Singles
Teams

ATHLETE / NOC QUOTA

Athlete quota: 86 men
 86 women
 Total of 172 athletes

Maximum per NOC: The maximum number of athletes per NOC shall be (three) 3 men
and (three) 3 women.

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

SINGLES

MAIN DRAW – 64 men and 64 women

Sixty-four (64) athletes for each of the men's singles and women's singles events will qualify for the main draw as follows:

20	ITTF World Ranking, with a maximum of two (2) players per NOC
40	Continental qualification system
1	Tripartite Commission Invitation place
1	Host nation direct entry
2	Final World Qualification Event
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64	Total - with a maximum of three (3) players from the same NOC

Preliminary rounds, in addition to the main draw of 64, may be necessary in Singles events to accommodate the total number of qualified athletes if the Final World Qualification Tournament qualifies more than two (2) players because the Team Quota (22 places) is not fully utilised.

1. ITTF World Ranking Qualification

The top twenty (20) players on the first ITTF World Ranking published following the 2007 ITTF Pro-tour Finals to be held in December 2007 (January 2008 World Ranking), will be qualified, with a maximum of two (2) players per NOC.

2. Continental Qualification

Players will be qualified through continental qualification events, held between August 2007 and 15 April 2008, according to the following distribution:

6	Africa
11	Asia
11	Europe
6	Latin America
3	North America
3	Oceania
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40	Total

Each Continental Federation is responsible for holding its own qualification events but they must provide the ITTF with the planning of the qualification events (dates, places and number of players to qualify in each tournament) before 31 December 2006, as well as the names of the qualified players after each qualifying event according to the above quota and according to the established timelines.

3. Host nation

The host nation shall directly qualify one (1) place in each Singles event if not already qualified by Ranking or by Continental Qualification.

If the host nation direct entry place is already filled through Ranking or by Continental Qualification, then one (1) additional place will be added to the Final World Qualification event.

4. Final World Qualification Tournament

The top two (2) players at the World Qualification Tournament will qualify for the Singles event.

Entries to the World Qualification Tournament will be limited to players who have otherwise not qualified by the ITTF World Ranking or by continental qualification. NOCs may only enter the same number of athletes as qualification places remaining, within the maximum number of three (3) per NOC.

The number of qualification places for the Singles events from this competition may be increased if the continental qualification allocation of 40 players is not reached, if the host nation direct entry place is not used and/or if the Team Quota (22 places) is not fully utilised.

5. Tripartite Commission (IOC-ANOC-ITTF) Invitation places

One place in men's singles and one place in women's singles shall be used by the IOC-ANOC-ITTF Tripartite Commission to allocate Invitation places, in accordance with the general process of the Tripartite Commission Invitations.

Eligible NOCs must apply for these invitation places prior to the deadline of 15 November 2007. The Tripartite Commission will, by 31 January 2008, establish which invitation requests meet the identified general criteria of NOC delegation size and technical standard, and provisionally allocate places to one male and one female player. The final allocation of Invitation places will be done from April – July 2008.

To be eligible to compete in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, the players filling invitation places must have played in a Continental Championship or a World event. Should these places not be allocated due to the technical level of the players, they will be added to the places allocated through the Final World Qualification Tournament.

TEAM EVENTS – 16 Men's and 16 Women's Teams

Sixteen (16) Teams for each of the Men's Team and Women's Team events will qualify as follows:

- 6 Top team from each Continent
- 1 Host nation direct entry
- 9 Remaining selected teams

An additional quota of 22 places for men and 22 places for women are made available to complement (if necessary) the quota for teams that did not qualify three (3) players in the singles events through World Ranking Qualification, Continental Qualification, host nation direct entry or Tripartite Commission Invitation places.

Players who have been added to a team from the quota of 22 additional places may only play in the Team Event and shall not be entered in the singles event.

General remarks

- Each player in a Team must be from the same NOC.
- It is acceptable that a player in a Team not be entered in the singles event.
- A maximum of one (1) men's team and one (1) women's team per NOC may be entered.
- The Team selection will start after the Final World Qualification Tournament, once all the places for men's singles and women's singles events have been allocated.

Team selection

Following the Final World Qualification Tournament, the Team selection process will begin as follows:

1. Continental quota

Six (6) teams:

- 1 for Africa
- 1 for Asia
- 1 for Europe
- 1 for Latin America
- 1 for North America
- 1 for Oceania.

One (1) team from each continent (six (6) teams) will be selected as follows:

- a) For each continent, the highest ranked team with three (3) players from an NOC qualified for the singles events will form a team and will be designated the Continental Quota for that continent.
- b) For continents where no NOC has three (3) players qualified in singles, the NOC with the highest ranked two (2) qualified players will be supplemented with a player from the Teams player quota (22) to form a Team of three (3) players.
- c) For continents where no NOC has at least two (2) players qualified in singles, the NOC with the highest ranked qualified player will be supplemented with two (2) players from the Teams player quota (22) to form a Team of three (3) players.
- d) The ITTF Computer Team Ranking method will be used to determine the order of Ranking of the Teams, taking into consideration the NOCs concerned only and the qualified players from those NOCs.

2. Host nation direct entry: 1 team

In each Team event, the host nation is guaranteed one (1) direct entry. If the host nation entry has not been selected as the continental quota, the necessary number of places from the Team events player quota will be allocated to complete the team if necessary.

3. Remaining teams: 9 (10 if the host nation is qualified by continental quota)

The remaining teams will qualify based on the following principles:

- a) NOCs with three (3) players qualified for singles and NOCs with two (2) players qualified for singles will be part of the first selection. These NOCs will be ranked according to the January 2008 Team ranking list.
- b) If more than 9 (or 10) teams can be formed in this manner, then the top 9 (or 10) teams according to the ITTF's World Team ranking method will qualify. NOCs with two (2) players qualified in singles will be supplemented with one player from the Team players quota (22) to form Teams of three (3) players.
- c) If less than 9 (or 10) teams can be formed in this manner, then NOCs with one (1) player qualified in singles will be supplemented with two (2) players from the Team players quota (22) to form Teams of three (3) players, in order of ranking, until the quota of 9 (or 10) Teams is completed.
- d) The ITTF Computer Team Ranking method will be used to determine the order of Ranking of the Teams, taking into consideration the NOCs concerned only and the qualified players from those NOCs.

If the Team quota is filled using less than the 22 quota places for men and the 22 quota places for women, the remaining quota places will be added to the Final World Qualification Tournament and to the Olympic singles events in the qualification rounds before the main draw of 64.

QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

31 December 2006	Continental Federations will determine the Continental Qualification Tournaments for Singles and advise all their National Associations of dates and location of their qualifying events and the system of qualification.
January 2007	ITTF will announce the Continental Qualification tournaments
1 Aug 07-15 Apr 08	Period for holding the Singles continental qualification events
15 November 2007	Deadline for the submission of requests for Tripartite Commission Invitation places by all NOCs.
January 2008	ITTF World Ranking list published following the 2007 Pro-tour Finals World qualifying first 20 players from this list.
31 January 2008	The Tripartite Commission will decide the provisional allocation of the invitation places.
April – July 2008	The Tripartite Commission will allocate the invitation places and confirm, in writing, to the NOCs concerned.
30 April 2008	Notification of qualified players by Continental Federations to the ITTF Headquarters
1 - 18 May 2008	Final World Qualification Tournament for singles.
30 May 2008	ITTF to confirm to NFs/NOCs the names of all qualified singles players, Teams and players only qualified for Teams events
15 June 2008	NOCs to confirm to ITTF the entry of participating players and Teams.

30 June 2008	ITTF to confirm the final allocation of all quota places.
23 July 2008	Deadline for Beijing 2008 Organising Committee to receive entry forms submitted by NOCs

DATES / PROCESS OF CONFIRMATION OF PLACES

By 30 April 2008, Continental Federations will notify the ITTF of the names of qualified players for the respective continent, in order to determine eligibility for entry to the Final World Qualification.

Following the conclusion of the Final World Qualification event, and by 30 May 2008 at the latest, the ITTF will confirm in writing to NFs/NOCs the names of all qualified players and pairs. By 15 June 2008, NFs/NOCs must submit to the ITTF the names of all participating players and teams, and by 30 June 2008, the ITTF will confirm the final allocation of all quota places.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUOTA POSITIONS

SINGLES

1. ITTF World Ranking List

If a player qualified from the ITTF World Ranking list is not entered by the NOC, the unused quota places will be reallocated to the next highest ranked player from the ITTF World Ranking list.

2. Continental Qualification Tournaments/Final World Qualification Tournaments

Any vacant spot created between the Continental Qualification Tournaments and the Final World Qualification Tournament will be filled by the next eligible player from the Continental Qualification lists. If the continental quotas are not filled before the Final World Qualification Tournament, the vacant spots will be filled by increasing the number of qualifiers from the Final World Qualification Tournament.

3. Cancellations of entries between 15 June 2008 and the date prior to the draw

Any vacant spot created between 15 June 2008 and the date prior to the draw will be filled by the highest ranked player playing only in the Team event.

TEAMS

1. Continental quota

In the case of unused Continental quota, the place will be allocated to the next Continental quota team by order of ranking as established in the section "Team Selection".

2. Remaining Teams

Unused quota places for the remaining Teams will be allocated to the next eligible Team available from the Team Ranking list established according to Team qualification system indicated in this document under "Team Selection".

3. Cancellations of entries between 15 June 2008 and 23 July 2008 (date of final entries)

Any single vacant spot on a team will be replaced by a player from the same NOC who will play in the Team event only.

4. Cancellation of entries following 23 July 2008 (date of final entries)

If a vacant spot is created in a team due to an injury or other uncontrollable reasons during the Games period between 23 July 2008 (date of final entries) and the day prior to the draw may only be replaced by the highest ranked NOC with 3 players qualified but not participating in the Team event.