



**INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION**  
**Headquarters, Operations, Olympic and Paralympic Games**

## **OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020 | TABLE TENNIS REVISED QUALIFICATION SYSTEM EXPLAINED**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This document is produced **only for reference** and to serve as a helping tool outlining a summary of the **key amendments** made to the table tennis qualification system, following its interruption and the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 until 2021, and further explain how the ITTF is assessing a number of potential concerns.

The ITTF has taken a thorough process in looking at the disrupted qualification system and this was work done in close cooperation with the Athletes Commission, including a survey addressed to athletes. All details including, but not limited to, the disruption of the qualification system, the postponement of events, the subsequent complications and the fact that a new events structure comes into place in 2021 have been considered, with the objective to reach the best possible solution.

The ITTF is addressing below a number of open matters, which are being assessed in an ongoing manner but specific decisions cannot be confirmed yet, due to the current uncertainty caused by the period of inactivity, the uncertainty on when and how activities can resume which finally affect the planning for the remaining of 2020 and 2021.

The ITTF will keep working closely with the Athletes Commission for any open matters as explained in the document below and updated information will be published and communicated to National Associations as it comes to hand.

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

The [Revised Qualification System](#) document is the only official reference and detailed source of all amendments. This additional document outlines a summary of the key amendments and is provided to explain and assist in understanding the core changes.



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### **SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS & FURTHER EXPLANATIONS BASED ON FREQUENT ENQUIRIES**

#### **CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATION EVENTS**

Continental Singles and Mixed Doubles Qualification Events originally scheduled to take place not later than 30 April 2020, now have to take place not later than 30 April 2021.

Notes:

- The following Continental Singles and Mixed Doubles qualification events were postponed and will be rescheduled accordingly: Asia, Europe, Latin America and Oceania.
- Given the current uncertainty in the 2020 and 2021 calendar planning the exact dates of these events will be coordinated with each Continent, after other major events are scheduled or rescheduled in 2021.

#### **WORLD SINGLES QUALIFICATION EVENT**

World Singles Qualification Event originally scheduled to take place not later than 31 May 2020, now has to take place not later than 31 May 2021.

Notes:

- Given the current uncertainty in the 2020 and 2021 calendar planning the exact dates of this event will be allocated after other major events are scheduled or rescheduled in 2021.
- The ITTF will reschedule this event in due time after the pending Continental Qualification Events.



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### **MIXED DOUBLES 1 QUOTA FROM THE 2020 WORLD TOUR**

1 Mixed Doubles quota originally allocated to the 2020 World Tour Platinum Japan Open, which has been cancelled, now to be allocated to an equivalent event in 2020 or otherwise a WTT 2021 event.

Notes:

- With the current inactivity and uncertainty, it would be premature to name a specific event. The ITTF will choose an event at a time when travel and other restrictions will not be of significant concern so it is an event well accessible. The event name will be communicated to all National Associations as soon as possible and no later than the time the prospectus of the event will be released, and the entries opened.

### **MIXED DOUBLES REALLOCATION QUOTAS FROM THE 2019 WTGF AND 2020 WORLD TOUR**

Reallocation of Mixed Doubles unused quotas from the 2019 WTGF and 2020 World Tour events originally provisioned to be allocated by the Mixed Doubles Rankings May 2020, will now be reallocated by the Olympic Qualification Ranking list published the month after the last qualification tournament takes place.

Notes:

- Despite the Mixed Doubles qualification system didn't originally have ranking quotas, only a provision for reallocation of unused quotas, the ITTF understands that the current relatively significant number of unused quotas is of high importance for many athletes.
- Given the fact that this part of qualification was nearly completed it was decided to reallocate the unused quotas, as per the original principles of the system, after the conclusion of the 2019 WTGF and 2020 World Tour events, and therefore the quotas will be reallocated to the Olympic



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Qualification Ranking list published the month after the conclusion of the last qualification event.

- In regards to concerns around the restricted number of mixed doubles entries for the 2021 WTT events and potential for limited opportunities for all pairs to be defending or improving their ranking position the ITTF and WTT will accommodate sufficient participation opportunities for mixed doubles pairs, as deemed necessary, on 2021 WTT events leading up to the conclusion of the qualification process.

### **SINGLES**

#### **MINIMUM 1 RANKING QUOTA**

Minimum of 1 quota from the Ranking June 2020, now to be allocated by the Olympic Qualification Ranking June 2021.

Notes:

- As per the original principles of the system the World Ranking quotas will be allocated, as the final step of allocation of quotas, by the Ranking June 2021.

#### **REALLOCATION OF HOST QUOTAS**

Reallocation of the host quotas (teams, singles and mixed doubles) originally allocated to the Rankings of June 2020, will now to be reallocated to the Olympic Qualification Ranking June 2021.

Notes:

- As per the original principles of the system the reallocation of unused Host Quotas will be allocated, as the final step of reallocation of quotas, by the Ranking June 2021.



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### **EXPLANATION OF TERMS OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION RANKING**

- Given the fact that the ITTF Rankings are currently frozen, and the principles of the unfreezing not yet determined, until information on when and how events will be resuming becomes more certain, further decisions on the Olympic Rankings are also on hold.
- The ITTF understands that a number of athletes have invested resources and efforts into improving their ranking in the 12-month period leading to the relevant Olympic qualification rankings prior to Tokyo 2020 postponement. This factor is well taken into account in the ITTF's ongoing and overall Olympic rankings assessment.
- The ITTF is evaluating the impact of all relevant factors and, among other solutions, the option of extending the validity of points is being considered.
- The potential need to assess the Olympic Rankings (counting towards the qualification) differently to the ITTF Rankings, has led to the need to specify Olympic Qualification Rankings, which will be the rankings relevant for the qualification only. The details of each of the rankings will be released in due time, when the situation becomes more certain.