

## **1. PARTICIPANTS**

- 1.1. There shall be forty-eight (48) players qualified for the World Cup.
- 1.2. The current World Champion shall be automatically qualified.
- 1.3. The current U19 World Champion shall be automatically qualified.
- 1.4. Forty-four (44) additional players shall qualify through the Continental Cups or World Ranking.
- 1.5. If no players qualify from the host association through items 1.2, 1.3 or 1.4 above, then up to two host association players shall be nominated by his or her association.
- 1.6. If a host association player is already qualified through items 1.2, 1.3 or 1.4 above, then up to two additional players shall be added based on World Ranking.
- 1.7. There shall not be more than four (4) players from an association, except an association with players qualified from items 1.2 and 1.3 may compete with up to six (6) players.
- 1.8. Participants will be provided with free meals and accommodation from dinner on the evening before the start of the competition to breakfast on the morning after active participation ends.

## **2. CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM**

- 2.1. Each continent shall be afforded the opportunity to qualify players through a Continental Cup. If a continent does not have this tournament scheduled in 2024 prior to the World Cup, player selection will be based on the World Ranking.
- 2.2. The winner, finalist and semifinalists of Africa, Americas, Asia, Oceania and Europe Continental Cup or world ranking option, for a total of twenty (20) players.
- 2.3. Twenty-four (24) additional players shall be selected from the World Ranking.
- 2.4. If the host association is already qualified, additional player(s) shall be selected by World Ranking.
- 2.5. The latest available World Ranking on the date of publication of the initial invitations shall be used for selecting the qualified players (**Week 9 – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**)

## **3. WORLD CUP PLAYING SYSTEM**

- 3.1. Seeding shall be done according to the latest available World Ranking.
- 3.2. The tournament shall consist of 2 stages.
- 3.3. In Stage 1 the players will be divided into 16 groups of 3 players, with all members of a group playing each other (round robin).
- 3.4. For Stage 1, the highest-ranked player will be placed in Group 1, the 2nd highest in Group 2, the 3rd highest in Group 3 and the 4th highest in Group 4; the remaining players will be drawn into the other groups using a modified snake system 4 at a time in ranking order.
- 3.5. Players from the same Association will be drawn into separate groups.
- 3.6. The first-place finishers of each group shall qualify for the Stage 2 of the competition.
- 3.7. Stage 2 of the competition shall consist of a knockout draw.
- 3.8. The draw for players will be as follows:
  - 3.10.1 First-place finisher of Group 1 will be placed in position 1;
  - 3.10.2 First-place finisher of Group 2 will be placed in position 16;
  - 3.10.3 First-place finishers of Groups 3 and 4 will be drawn into positions 8 and 9.
  - 3.10.4 First-place finishers of Groups 5 to 16 will be drawn randomly into the remaining positions.
- 3.9. There shall be no separation by Association in Stage 2.
- 3.10. Matches of Stage 1 shall be 4 games (result 4-0, 3-1 or 2-2).
- 3.11. Final ranking will be determined in terms of Regulation 3.7.5, excluding match points, and based solely on the ratios of wins to losses first in games and then points, as far as is necessary to resolve the order.
- 3.12. Matches of Stage 2 shall be the best of seven games (7).
- 3.13. The tournament shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competition.

#### **4. SUBSTITUTIONS**

- 4.1. Substitutions before the entry closing date shall be as per entry regulations.
- 4.2. If the World and U19 Champions are not available or withdraw, he or she shall be replaced by the next highest ranked eligible player from the World Ranking.
- 4.3. If the host association player is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by another host association player nominated by the host association.
- 4.4. If a Continental qualifier is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by the highest ranked losing quarterfinalist from the Continental Cups according to the system described in item 2.1 and 2.2 above.
- 4.5. If any other player is not available or withdraws, he or she shall be replaced by the next highest ranked eligible player from the World Ranking according to the system described in item 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 above.
- 4.6. Substitutions after the entry closing date shall be decided by the ITTF.

#### **5. ELIGIBILITY**

Nominated players must be eligible to represent their Member Associations according to Regulation 4.3.6 in the ITTF Statutes.