

2022 REPORT



High Performance

Dear Members of the International Table Tennis Family,

In 2022 we finally saw High Performance activities return to all continents. As the effects of the pandemic slowly retreated from the table tennis halls, we welcomed back 123 players and 55 coaches from 38 Member Associations to the table as we were able to resume a more regular schedule of training opportunities and monitoring initiatives. It was also the year when we marked a historic first in high performance activities: for the first time we had more female players (67) than male players (56).

We began our global tour of activities in March in Doha (QAT) for a U15&U19 training activity, travelled to Europe in April to gather the Hopes Squad in Linz (AUT), visited the Americas in August for a U13/U15/U17 girls' training camp, and reached Oceania in September for another U13/U15/U17 training opportunity. All of these activities were planned and held in connection with the WTT Youth Series, offering participants the chance to train and compete with minimal additional travel involved.

Towards the end of 2022, we started on the "Road to Tunis", a training camp series aimed at preparing qualifiers for the ITTF World Youth Championships that were staged in Tunis (TUN) in December. Whilst we were able to carry out a good program of activities throughout the year, lingering effects of the pandemic meant that we were unable to travel to Korea for the first stop of the "Road to Tunis". Despite a somewhat shaky start, our journey to Tunis turned out to be a smooth one, as the remaining training hubs in Portugal and Tunisia were a resounding success. The final stop in Tunis was joined by the Chinese national youth team, and it was a pleasure to have them join the training activity for their final preparation before the big event.

In Portugal, we were joined by the Hopes Team for a five-day training camp alongside their more experienced colleagues. Our final activity of 2022 actually took place in 2023 - but we would be amiss not to mention it, considering the popularity of the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge. As we closed out 2022 in January 2023 in Hennebont (FRA), we witnessed a most impressive generation of talents that will certainly delight us in years to come.

We continued embracing digital innovations in our sport, conducting the first "I Research Table Tennis Training Camp" in cooperation with ESN Digital, which gave us unique insights on ball effects through their product. We welcomed Edge10 to the World Hopes Week, who enhanced physical testing with their tools.

In summary, we were overjoyed to be able to interact and train with so many of you once again in 2022, and we hope that 2023 will be even better.

Massimo Costantini
ITTF High Performance Elite Coach

E D U C A T I O N A N D H I G H P E R F O R M A N C E



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Education

Match Officials Education Activities

2022 turned out to be a very fruitful year for match official education globally. Activities held throughout the year supported the growth and development of Umpires and Referees and helped them to shape the next level of their careers.

Our close cooperation with the Umpires and Referees Committee (URC) members was one of the reasons for the success of running such activities after the pandemic, as it was very much needed in many regions in order to maintain a high level of events and ensure the quality and integral role in the delivery of most of the national, continental and international events.

E-learning widened our horizons of traditional learning and created the opportunity for all stakeholders in the learning process, providing the tools for globalization and accessibility in examinations and assessments for match officials. The second online edition of the International Umpire examination served as a proof of concept, as more than 1000 candidates from over 100 Member Associations participated in the examination. Despite at times adverse circumstances and barriers caused by the pandemic, the 2022 IU examination was accessible to everyone and proved a huge success.

The exam produced 379 new International Umpires from 72 Member Association, and such a number will eventually also raise the level of officiating at events of all levels and in all corners of the world. The overall success rate of the examination also underlined the importance of accurate preparation. We supported this by offering additional assistance to Member Associations in their educational pathways, which included an online preparatory course for all IU Candidates. This course was organized for the first time and was available in 7 languages, marking a record of online attendance of more than 800 participants.

In addition to the blue badge evaluation activities, the Advanced Umpire Training and Advanced Rule examination were back in full force in 2022. 11 URC evaluators conducted 12 different activities in the 5 continents, supporting umpires to reach level 3 (blue badge) and level 4 (golden badge) in their match officiating career. The evaluations supported many candidates to obtain/maintain their blue badge status after the very long break cause by the pandemic.

International Referees are essential to ensuring that international events are concluded in a safe and complete manner. In order to help national referees to advance to the next level on the international stage, 2 International Referee schools were organized in 2022 resulting in 15 new International Referees from 12 Member Associations ready for the international spotlight.

We are looking forward to further cooperation with the Umpires & Referees committee in the upcoming year to continue developing and supporting our match officials to help present our sport at the highest level possible.

Omar Refaat Bassyouni
ITTF Development Projects Manager





High Performance



5 Continents



38 Member Associations

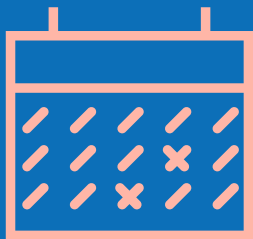


169 total participants



57%
Girls

43%
Boys



2022 High Performance Calendar

- U15-U19 Training Camp 1-8 March Doha (QAT)
- U15-U19 Research Training Camp 18-22 April Bad Königshofen (GER)
- Hopes Squad I Follow-Up Activity 25 April – 5 May Linz (AUT)
- U13-U15-U17 Girls Training Camp 13-17 August Cuenca (ECU)
- U13-U15-U17 Training Camp 21-25 September Darwin (AUS)
- U15-U19 Road To Tunis Stop 1 17-27 November Vila Nova De Gaia (POR)
- Hopes Team II Follow-Up Activity 23-27 November Vila Nova De Gaia (POR)
- U15-U19 Road To Tunis Stop 2 29 November - 2 December Tunis (TUN)
- 2022 World Hopes Week & Challenge - 16-23 January 2023 Hennebont (FRA)



High Performance

U15 & U19 Training Activities

The first High Performance training activity for the U15 & U19 age groups was held in March in Doha (QAT), linked with the 2022 WTT Qatar Youth Star Contender.

In August and September, Cuenca in Ecuador and Darwin in Australia hosted two training camps focused on age groups U13, U15, and U17 and connected with the WTT Youth Series. Ecuador's activity was targeted at girls specifically, while in Australia boys and girls trained together.

In the second half of 2022, the "Road to Tunis" was targeted at U15-U19 players. Initially, the training series was intended as a three-step preparation for the 2022 ITTF World Youth Championships held in Tunis (TUN) from 4-11 December 2022. Unfortunately, the first stop of the series in Korea could not go ahead, so Portugal and Tunisia remained as the training hubs for the qualified players on their pathway to the 2022 ITTF World Youth Championships.

Besides our well-established activities, we initiated a collaboration with Spinsight ESN Digital and conducted the "I Research Table Tennis Training Camp" for which 4 players per gender were invited. The innovative Germany-based company specializes in measuring table tennis facts like spin, speed, and placement of the ball amongst other factors.

In addition to on-the-ground training activities, the High Performance unit also worked in close cooperation with the Development and Participation units on creating a pool of experts for continental and regional activities. We also worked on strengthening our cooperation with Member Associations to facilitate consistent monitoring of players within our program, such as 2022's interaction with Australia in June.



Road to Tunis Training Camp, Portugal

World Hopes Activities

Following the successful 2021 ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge, selected players met as the Hopes Squad in Linz (AUT) in April. For this activity we also included some Hopes players who were unable to participate in the preceding World Hopes Week due to forced absence (mainly Covid-19).

Continuing on to the final stage of the Hopes pathway, 4 girls and 4 boys were invited as the Hopes Team to take part in a 5-day training camp in Vila Nova De Gaia in November. This activity coincided with the WTT Youth Star Contender so the new generation of future champions had the opportunity to enjoy and experience the event.



2022 ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge

Exceptionally held in January 2023, the 2022 ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge was held in France for the first time ever, where GV Hennebont TT hosted 40 boys and girls along with their coaches for a week of training, competition, and educational activities. 28 MAs participated in the prestigious seven-day activity, which was masterfully led by Head Coaches Eva Jeler (AUS) and Zoltán Bátorfi (HUN). The activity highlighted many talents with a good perspective for the future, underlining the work that is being done in the associations.



High Performance

Training Camp Overview

Doha (QAT) 1-8 March
 Girls/Boys U15-U19
 linked to WTT Doha Youth
 Star Contender
18 players, 9 coaches, 7 MAs
 Stupa crew for training
 analysis



Regular

Cuenca (ECU) 13-17 August
 Girls U13-U15-U17
 linked to WTT Cuenca Youth
 Contender
12 players, 5 coaches, 5 MAs



Darwin (AUS) 21-25 September
 Girls/Boys U13-U15-U17
 linked to WTT Darwin Youth
 Contender
12 players, 2 coaches 3 MAs



Research

Bad Königshofen (GER)
 18-22 April
 in collaboration with Spinsight
 ESN Digital
8 players, 3 coaches, 3 MAs





High Performance

Training Camp Overview

Hopes



Linz (AUT) 25 April-5 May
Follow-Up Hopes Squad Activity
25 players, 23 coaches, 17 MAs

Vila Nova De Gaia (POR) 23-27 November
Hopes Team Follow-Up Activity
8 Players, 6 coaches, 8 MAs



Hennebont (FRA)
World Hopes Week & Challenge
16-23 January 2023
40 players, 35 coaches, 28 MAs



High Performance

Training Camp Overview

Road to Tunis

WYTC Prep Series
 Stop 1
 Vila Nova De Gaia (POR)
 16 players 4 coaches, 7 MAs
 Stupa crew for training
 analysis



WYTC Prep Series
 Stop 2
 Tunis (TUN)
 39 players, 9 coaches, 7 MAs
 (China also participated)





High Performance

With The Future In Mind Scholarship Program

Under the WFIM scholarship program, ITTF directly supported 22 players, with an additional 13 benefitting from Olympic Solidarity's funding.

	NAME	MA
Paris 2024	Nina Mittelham	GER
	Linda Bergstrom	SWE
	Bruna Takahashi	BRA
	Lily Zhang	USA
	Yangzi Liu	AUS
	Truls Moregardh	SWE
	Samuel Kulczycki	POL
	Ibrahima Diaw	SEN
Next Generation	Darko Jorgic	SLO
	Prithika Pavade	FRA
	Hana Goda	EGY
	Elena Zaharia	ROU
	Yashaswini Ghorpade	IND
	Annett Kaufmann	GER
	Suhana Saini	IND
	Felix Lebrun	FRA
	Mati Taiwo	NGR
	Iulian Chirita	ROU
	Nicholas Lum	AUS
	Navid Shams	IRI
	Alan Kurmangaliyev	KAZ
	Petr Hodina	AUT
Youth Athlete Development	Ser Lin Qian	SGP
	Zaza Hend	SYR
	Brianna Burgos	PUR
	Kulapassr Vijitviriyagul	THA
	Karolayn Maldonado	ECU
	Quek Yong Izaac	SGP
	Ángel Naranjo	PUR
	Carlos Fernandez	PER
	Ebrahim Gubran	YEM
	Sultan Al Kuwari	QAT
	Ian Morales	GUA
Phatsaraphon Wonglakhon	THA	
Kheith Rhyne Cruz	PHI	



Hana Goda (EGY) and Alan Kurmangaliyev (KAZ)

Besides some impressive results, such as Lily Zhang's silver medal in the Women's Singles and Bruna Takahashi's gold medal in the Women's Team and Mixed Doubles at the Pan Am Championships, we could see some impressive World Ranking improvements from the senior scholarship holders in 2022.

Among the young scholarship holders, Hana Goda from Egypt underlining her positive streak of results not only with her top position in the U15 and U19 world rankings, but also with an impressive jump in the senior world ranking, from position 342 in the first week of 2022 to position 40 in the last. She also successfully partnered with another Youth Scholarship holder Alan Kurmangalyiev (KAZ) to win the U15 World Title in the Mixed Doubles at the ITTF 2022 World Youth Championships.

Ser Lin Qian from Singapore was recently awarded the Sportsgirl of the Year award, a great recognition of this fine player.



High Performance

With The Future In Mind - Notable Achievements

European Championships, Munich (GER), 13-21 August:

Darko Jorgic (SLO) and Nina Mittelham (GER) each won the silver medal in their Singles competitions

African Championships, Algier (ALG), 3-9 September:

Mati Tiawo (NGR) achieved a historical result by reaching the semi-finals in the Men's Singles. Hana Goda (EGY) achieved the same in the women's competition

Senior and Youth Oceania Championships, Melbourne (AUS), 5-10 September:

Yangzi Liu (AUS) and Nicholas Lum (AUS) won their first continental Singles titles. Nicholas also became the U17 world number one.

U21 European Championships, Cluj Napoca (ROU), 14-18 September:

Elena Zaharia (ROU), who also remained the U19 world number one for most of 2022, and Samuel Kulczicky (POL) claimed the U19 Singles titles

World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals, Chengdu (CHN), 30 September – 9 October:

7 out of 9 senior and 6 out of 12 youth scholarship holders represented their respective MAs at the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals and represented a strong WFIM cohort "squad".



Felix Lebrun (FRA) at the 2022 ITTF World Team Championships Finals in Chengdu (CHN)



Coaches

The second High Level Coaching Course took place in Bosön (SWE) from 31 July to 5 August.

10 international Coaches, selected through an application process, joined 13 Swedish coaches for five days of lectures and practical sessions in the training hall within the training complex of the Swedish Sports Confederation.



International Testing Agency - Educational Session

Florence Schelling, former Olympic medallist from Switzerland and now at the International Testing Agency (ITA), conducted two educational sessions on Anti-Doping during the Road to Tunis training camp series.

Over 50 participants, players and coaches, attended the sessions with very good feedback. The first day focused on theory, conveying all implications of the Doping threat. On the second day, the session included also practical elements, challenging participants on correct procedures when collecting doping samples, which was received enthusiastically by coaches and players.



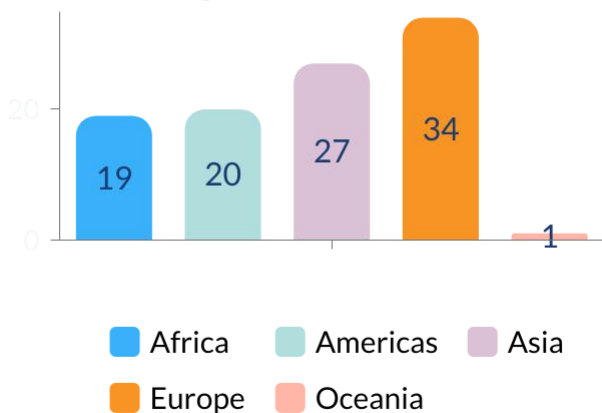


International Umpire Examination

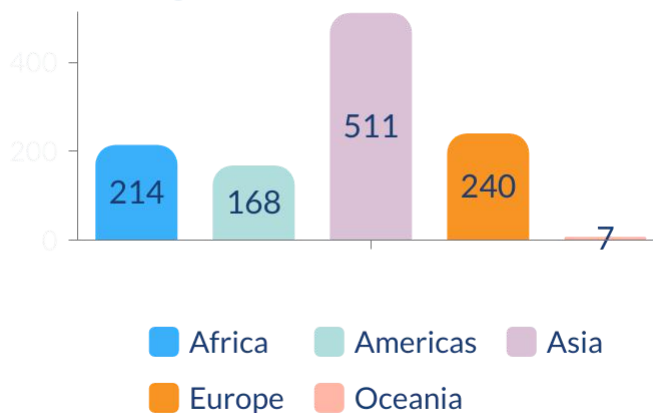
The **International Umpire exam** aims at providing additional assistance to Member Associations in their educational pathways focused on producing a higher number of certified International Umpires. The 2022 exam was offered online for the second time and acted as a further catalyst in the development of match officials. It was run via the ITTF educational platform and was available in 9 languages (English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian).

The Examination was held between 15 September and 3 October, during which 1140 from 101 Member Associations completed their registration and 991 sat the exam. A total of 379 candidates successfully passed and received their IU Certificates.

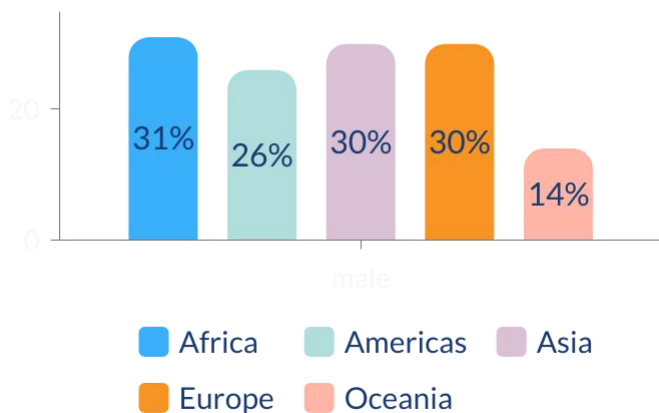
Registered MAs



Registered candidates



Female participation



The overall female participation rate was approximately 30% of the total number of registered candidates. Africa had the best rate of female participation at 31% of the total registered candidates in the continent, while Asia had the greatest number of female participants at 155 participants in the continent.

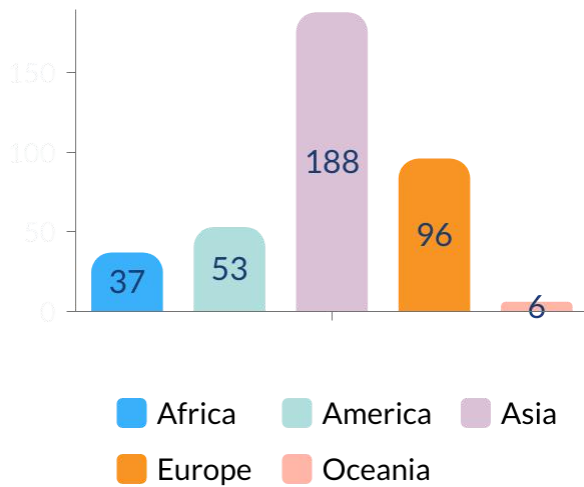


International Umpire Examination

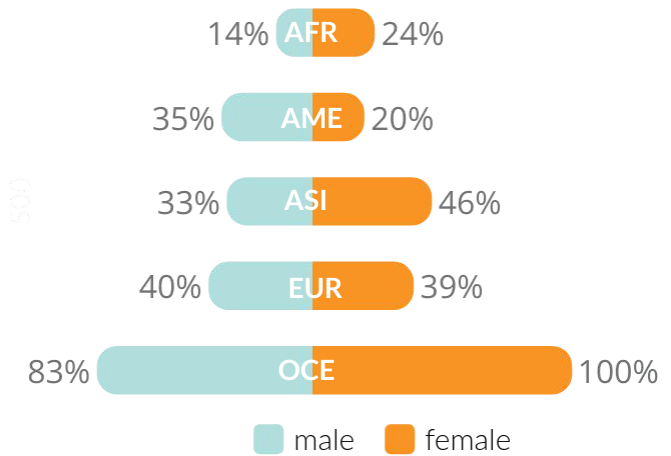
The **overall passing rate** for the exam was **38%**.

While only 7 participants sat the exam in **Oceania**, 6 passed the exam, bringing their success rate to **86%**. Those candidates sitting the exam in **Asia**, 188 passed, which meant a success rate of **46%**. **Europe** saw **44%** pass the exam, while in the **Americas** **36%** were successful. **Africa** unfortunately had the lowest success rate with **20%**.

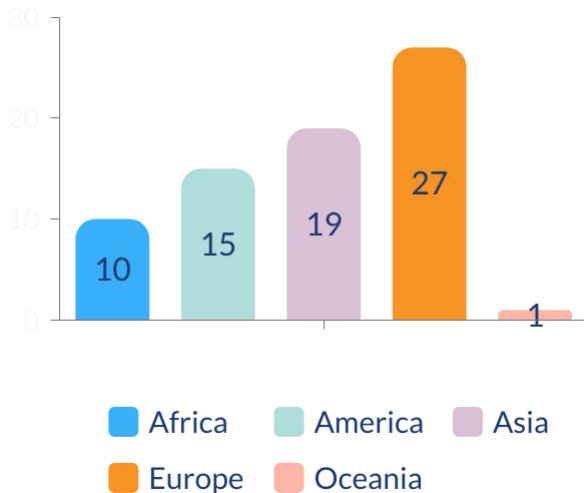
Successful candidates



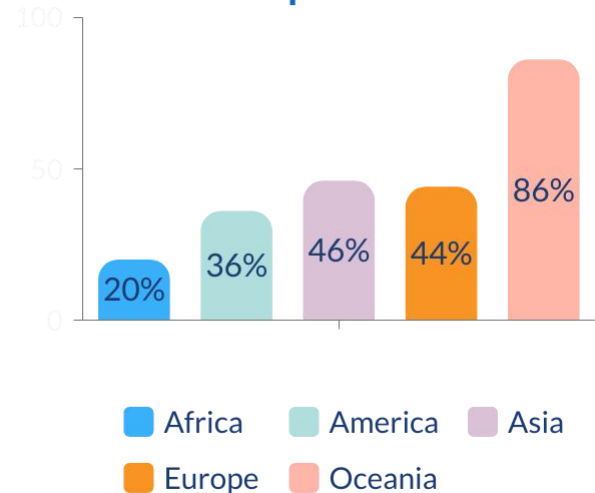
Male female success



MAs with successful candidates



Success rate per continent





International Umpire Examination Preparatory Course

The four-hour course was held **online** between 10 and 12 September and was available in **7 languages** (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian). The 8 separate sessions were conducted by 6 URC experts, and more than 800 candidates attended the course online, which was recorded and shared with all candidates before the IU exam.

Topics	Duration
Introduction	5 min.
Revision of Laws and Regulations	1 hr. 45 min.
Break	10 min.
Application of Laws and Regulations	1 hr. 15 min.
Break	10 min.
Review of Example Questions	30 min.
Wrap Up	5 min.

International Umpire Exam Preparatory Course

Advanced Umpire Training, Advanced Rule Examination, Blue Badge

Umpires seeking qualification as **Blue Badge (BB)** umpires are required to undergo **Advanced Umpire Training (AUT)** and pass the **Advanced Rules Examination (ARE)**. At least three different trainers then evaluate their practical performance during two separate competitions. Existing Blue Badge umpires are required to undergo evaluation periodically to retain their status.

12 activities for AUT/ARE + BB Evaluation were organized in the 5 continents, with **170 candidates from 48 Member Associations** participating in the ARE and/or AUT overall. 10 of the 12 activities included both ARE and AUT + Evaluations, while 2 activities included only ARE + BB evaluations. Overall, 11 URC Experts coordinated the AUT/ARE activities throughout the year.



AUT/ARE at WTT Youth Contender Darwin (AUS)



AUT/ARE at Asian Junior & Cadet Open



ARE + BB Evaluation at WTT Youth Contender Berlin (GER)



AUT/ARE at WTT Youth Contender Cairo (EGY)



AUT/ARE at Africa Cup Lagos (NGR)



International Referee School

The **International Referee School** is a four-day seminar including a broad range of subjects to illustrate the tasks and responsibilities of an International Referee. In addition to various lectures by the instructors, candidates have to manage group work, perform role play and deliver supplementary assignments throughout the seminar. The activity concludes with an end-of-course written examination in English. Alongside the written examination, qualification depends on an interview and refereeing experience at the international level.

Two IR Schools were organized in 2022. The first was held in Finland from 13 to 16 October and was led by URC Experts Michael Zwipp (GER) and Petr Bohumsky (CZE). The second was held in Singapore from 18 to 21 October, and was led by Michael Zwipp (GER) and Ronald Wee (SGP). A total of **22 participants from 18 Member Associations** participated in the 2 activities. Overall 15 participants from 12 MAs successfully passed the written examination.



International Referee School Helsinki (FIN)

THANK YOU



EDUCATION AND HIGH PERFORMANCE



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