

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, during the World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) in Budapest, the ITTF published the system of the new, enhanced World Championships. The structure consisted of 4 event levels: Regional, Continental, Intercontinental (only in Teams) and Finals.

At the beginning of 2020, the World was hit by the COVID-19 Pandemic, that forced ITTF to suspend table tennis activities. The 2020 WTTC in Busan, which was supposed to be the last WTTC organized in the previous format, was postponed multiple times and later cancelled. The 2021 and 2022 WTTC editions took place with the qualification pathways being adjusted as needed in order to overcome challenges created by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

For the 2023 WTTC, with the hope that the world is moving into a more regular and normal approach, the below is the qualifying pathway to the WTTC Finals based on discussions and propositions that have happened over the last years when the Future Events Working Group was working on defining the new WTTC.

This document has been approved by the Continental Council in December 2022.

OVERVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL WTTC QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The below described procedure shows the order of priority of the qualification.

Continental quotas: A dynamic method (details below) will be used to determine the number of quota places per Continent (both for singles and doubles). For the Dynamic Formula calculation and allocation of numbers per Continent Week 3/2023 of the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (ITTF TTWR) is used.

For the actual allocation of the Continental Quotas and only in case quotas are not allocated through finishing positions at a respective event, Week 12/2023 of the ITTF TTWR is used.

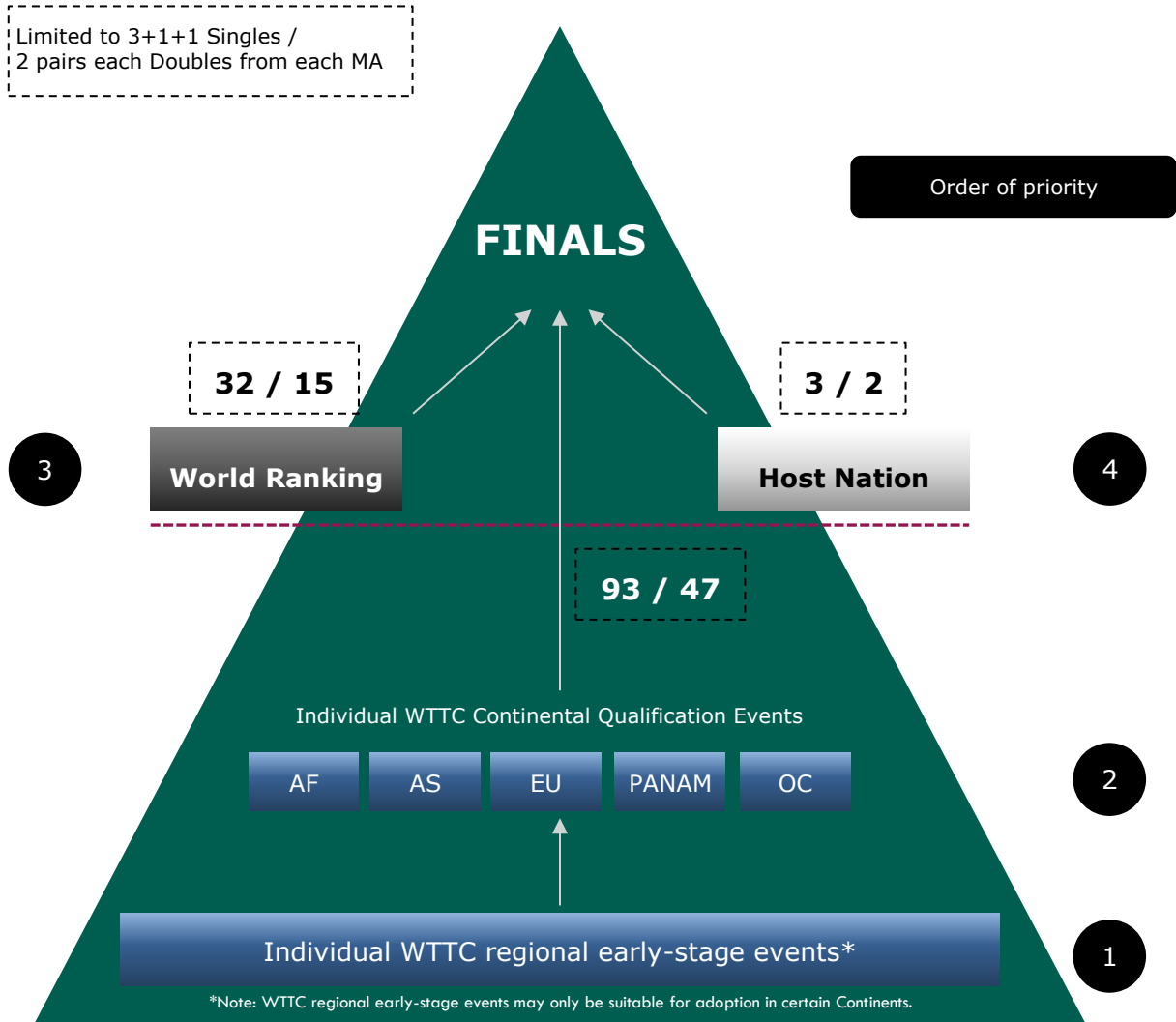
World Ranking: Thirty-two (32) singles and fifteen (15) doubles places will be allocated according to Week 12/2023 of the ITTF TTWR.

Host nation quotas: The host nation is guaranteed three (3) singles and four (4) doubles places.

If the host nation qualifies fewer than three (3) singles players and two (2) doubles pairs from the Continental or World Ranking quotas, they will be allocated the difference.

In case the host nation qualifies players/pairs at the Continental Stage, the equivalent number of quota places (with a maximum of three (3) singles / two (2) doubles) will be added to the same Continent's quota places. The host nation is not guaranteed any host quota for the +1+1 players for singles, only if eligible based on the relevant regulation and qualification process. For the allocation of the Host nation quotas, Week 12/2023 of the ITTF TTWR is used.

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ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION RULES

The qualification process will be governed, in addition to the ITTF Handbook where applicable, by the following rules:

MA singles quota (3+1+1 rule): each Member Association (MA) should be limited to a maximum of three (3) players qualifying for the WTTC Finals, with the exception of those with a player in the top 100 ITTF TTWR (who will be allocated one (1) extra place) and a player in the top 20 ITTF TTWR (who will be allocated one (1) further extra place). This is known as the 3+1+1 rule. For calculation purposes only World Title eligible players are considered and Week 3/2023 of the ITTF TTWR is used for this edition.

MA doubles quota (4/4/2 rule) - each Member Association (MA) can have a maximum of four (4) players for Men's Doubles, four (4) players for Women's Doubles and four (4) players for Mixed Doubles (two (2) men and two (2) women) with a maximum of two combined pairs (per event) with another MA per doubles event.

An Association's players are eligible to participate in each stage, provided that their Association has entered players and teams in the earlier stages. The only non-mandatory event is that of the Regional Stage and according to each continent.

DYNAMIC FORMULA

A dynamic formula is used to determine the number of places allocated to each Continent for qualification via the Continental Quotas to the WTTC Finals. This means that the allocation per Continent can vary from year to year and thus rewards high performance and participation. The dynamic formula comprises three weighted metrics:

- **Universality:** each Continent receives at least one direct qualification to the WTTC Finals. This does not have a weighting, as instead of contributing to the outcome of the dynamic formula it acts as an insurance policy to ensure all Continents have at least one player or pair in each event.
- **Performance:** this is based on the top 256 individuals in the ITTF TTWR (individual doubles rankings are used for doubles) with the top five ranked players (top four players are used for doubles) per MA considered. This is to reflect the previously explained 3+1+1 singles and 4/4/2 doubles rules.
- **Active participation:** to reward Continents for participating in ITTF Group and other international events. An MA is considered as an "active nation" if it has one player in the ITTF TTWR. This can be achieved by participating in at least one WR event.

*The ITTF developed a software tool to help stakeholders of table tennis understand the above-mentioned dynamic formula. The tool is available for **illustration purposes**, and it's updated frequently. You can find it here: <https://wttc-quota.appspot.com/>*

QUALIFICATION METHOD FOR DOUBLES

Following the 4/4/2 rule, the qualification of doubles is based on the ITTF TTWR (Doubles Pairs rankings). The method of the qualification is to qualify the highest eligible pairs. In case a player is qualified in more than one pair, he or she is initially eligible to qualify only through the highest ranked pair.

REPLACEMENT POLICY

Replacement by entry deadlines:

- Replacements that will take place before the final entries' deadline (to be defined on the Event Prospectus) will be reallocated to the appropriate quota (Continental or World Ranking) equivalent to the original quota withdrawn.
- Replacements that will take place after the final entries' deadline (to be defined on the Event Prospectus) will be reallocated through the ITTF TTWR Week 12/2023 equivalent to the original quota withdrawn.
- 10 reserve singles players and 5 reserve pairs in each of the Doubles will be notified following the final entries' deadline so they can start the process of visa for travel to the host country and be ready to replace players/pairs who may withdraw.
- Replacements past the final entries deadlines and prior to the draws will take place as far as possible based on the above. ITTF reserves the right to fill last minute vacant places with the next eligible players/pairs onsite (foreign or local) or otherwise byes.
- Cancellations past the final entries deadlines will be subject to ranking penalties as per the ITTF TTWR Regulations valid at the time.

Replacement of Singles and Doubles by MA:

- **Singles:** according to the Proposition by ETTU* (approved by the 2020 BoD and amended by the 2021 BoD following a proposition by JTJA), MAs have the authority to nominate the players to the WTTC Finals, therefore replacement of the players is allowed until the given deadline published in the Event Prospectus. If an MA withdraws a participant without replacing him/her (at the same time as the cancellation takes place), the quota will be reallocated to the Continental quota or the World Ranking quota as appropriate at the time the cancellation takes place.
- **Doubles:** For the doubles quota allocated to the MA, the MA has the authority to change the quota pairing until the given deadline published in the Event Prospectus. If an MA withdraws a pair without replacing the pair (at the same time as the cancellation takes place), the quota will be reallocated to the Continental quota or the World Ranking quota as appropriate at the time the cancellation takes place.

***Proposition by ETTU in 2020 and amended by JTJA in 2021**

(Approved by the 2020 BoD and amended by the 2021 BoD following a proposition by JTJA)

Players/pairs qualifying for the Finals are not individually qualified but gain places for their Association which has the right to nominate according to the qualified number of places for the Finals.

If the Association is not able to comply, the vacant place will go to the highest ranked player/pair not yet qualified from another Association.

Replacement of combined pairs (pairs from different Member Associations):

- **Same continent:** in case a combined pair decides to withdraw from the competition, the quota will be reallocated to the next highest ranked pair from the same continent (eligible and not yet qualified) if the replacement happens before the entry deadline or otherwise through the World Ranking to the next highest ranked pair if the replacement takes place after the entry deadline.
- **Continental mixed pair** (mixed pairs consisting of different continents can only qualify via the World Ranking quota): for continental mixed pairs that qualify via the World Ranking quota and reject the quota, the quota will be reallocated to the next highest ranked pair from the ITTF TTWR (eligible and not yet qualified).

All event related deadlines will be published in the Event Prospectus in due time.

INDICATIVE BASIC TIMELINE

1. Regional & Continental Events* – 2022 to Jan 2023
2. Dynamic Formula for definition of Continental quota numbers – Week 3/2023 WR
3. Eligible maximum Singles players numbers per MA (3+1+1) – Week 3/2023 WR
4. Host Nation quotas – Confirmed or otherwise allocated Week 12/2023 WR
5. WR quotas – Allocated Week 12/2023
6. 2023 WTTC Finals – Final Entry Deadline 31 March or later (to be confirmed depending on a timeline that invitation letters and other event logistics can be secured and run smoothly)
7. 2023 WTTC Finals – 20 to 28 May 2023

Subsequent details on the WTTC Finals entry and replacement deadlines will be released in due time.

**Information about all regional and continental events, part of the 2023 WTTC pathway, are available through each Continental Federation.*

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ANNEX 1

Continental quota numbers (Week 3/2023 ITTF WR)

*The below are lists of potential maximum numbers do **not** form any guarantee of a quota allocation. Only indicated for information. Qualified players/pairs lists will be produced separately, and only eligible players/pairs will be considered following all qualification pathways clauses.

EVENT	AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	PANAM	OCEANIA
MS	10	25	40	13	5
WS	9	28	38	12	6
MD	5	13	19	7	3
WD	5	12	19	8	3
XD	5	12	19	8	3

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ANNEX 2

Eligible maximum Singles players numbers per MA (Week 3/2023 ITTF WR)

*The below are lists of potential maximum numbers do **not** form any guarantee of a quota allocation. Only indicated for information. Qualified players/pairs lists will be produced separately, and only eligible players/pairs will be considered following all qualification pathways clauses.

MA	Men's Singles	
BRA	5	
CHN		
GER		
JPN		
KOR		
NGR		
SWE		
TPE		
ALG		4
ARG		
AUS		
AUT		
BEL		
CAN		
CRO		
CZE		
DEN		
ECU		
EGY		
ENG		
ESP		
FIN		
FRA		
GRE		
HKG		
IND		
IRI		
KAZ		
PAR		
POL		
POR		
PUR		
ROU		
RUS*		
SEN		
SLO		
SVK		
UKR		
USA		
OTHERS	3	

MA	Women's Singles	
CHN	5	
FRA		
GER		
HKG		
JPN		
KOR		
POR		
AUS		4
AUT		
BLR*		
BRA		
CAN		
CZE		
EGY		
ESP		
HUN		
IND		
ITA		
LUX		
NED		
NGR		
POL		
PUR		
ROU		
RUS*		
SGP		
SVK		
SWE		
THA		
TPE		
TUR		
UKR		
USA		
OTHERS	3	

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** On 1 March 2022, the ITTF Executive Committee decided that no Russian or Belarusian players and officials are currently allowed in ITTF events, in line with the recommendations formulated by the IOC Executive Board. The ITTF created a Task Force to monitor the situation, coordinate efforts to allow Ukrainian players to continue participating in international events, and evaluate previous decisions and future developments. Should the ban perdure until after the start of the Event, respective players/pairs, if qualified, will be replaced by the next eligible players/pairs.*

DISCLAIMER

Users acknowledge and accept that, while the document represents the current position of ITTF on such matters, information may evolve as a result of policy, operational, regulatory, technological and other changes.

ITTF reserves the right to amend or supplement the document from time to time, as ITTF may consider to be in the best interests of the WTTC, and users agree to implement any such changes made and notified by ITTF in this regard.