

2021 WTTC PATHWAY



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2021 INDIVIDUAL WTTC QUALIFICATION

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.

Considering that the USA was seriously affected by the Pandemic, the ITTF, along with the Organizers of the 2021 WTTC Finals, decided to postpone the event to November. The unquestionable goal of the parties was to mitigate the risk of the virus and ensure that the athletes can compete in a safe environment.

After consideration of the above-mentioned circumstances, and the fact that the 2020 Olympic Games was postponed to 2021, the Executive Committee of the ITTF decided that no Regional and Continental Stage events will be held before the WTTC Finals this year. Therefore, a Future Events Working Group meeting was held to develop a new pathway for the 2021 WTTC Finals.

As a result of the meeting, the Competition Department developed this document, that outlines the competition structure for the reformed Individual World Table Tennis Championships (WTTC) and explains the qualification pathway for the 2021 Individual WTTC Finals.

OVERVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL WTTC QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

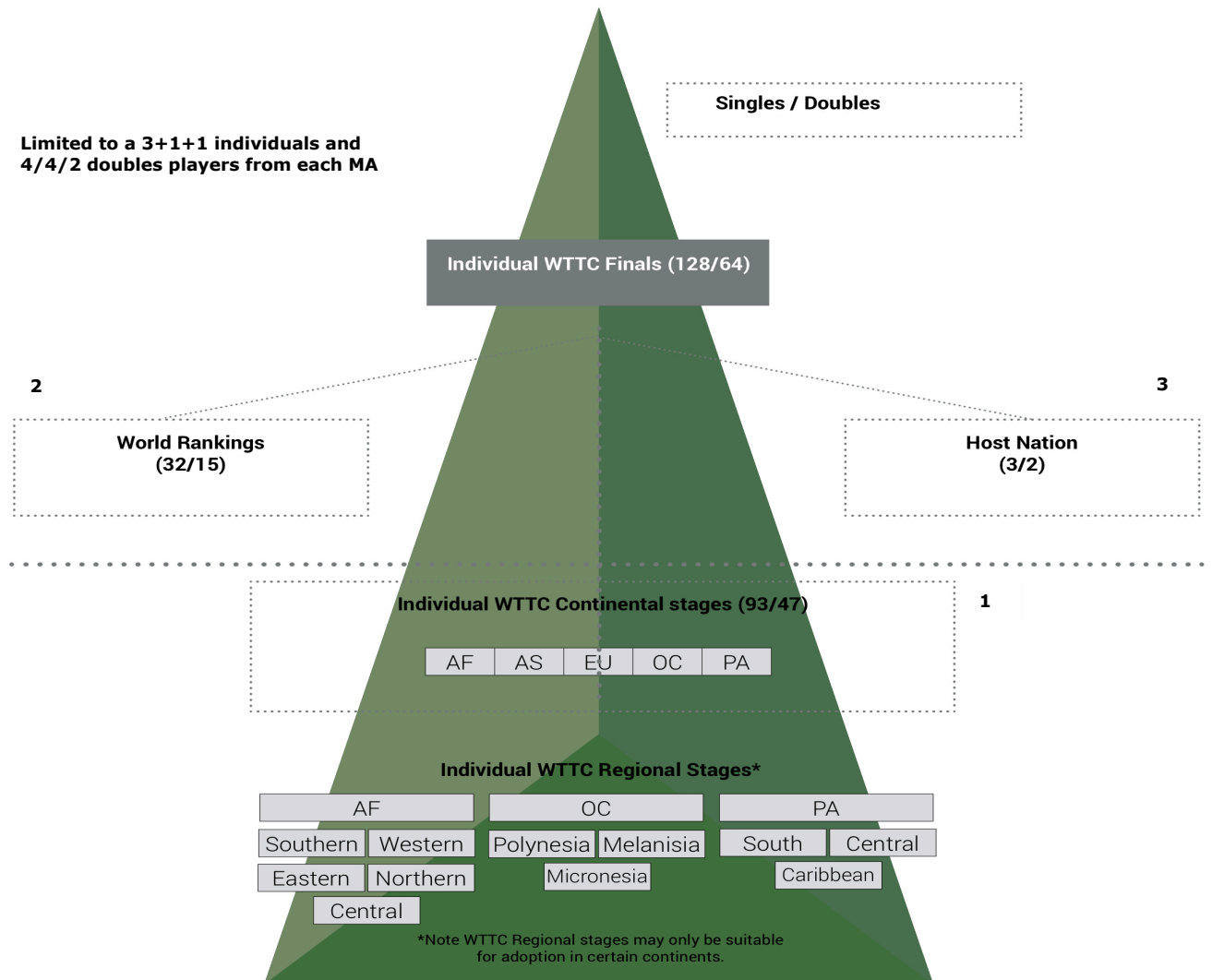
The below described procedure shows the order of priority of the qualification.

Continental Quotas - A dynamic method (please see below) will be used to determine the number of quota places per Continent (both for singles and doubles). For the Dynamic Formula calculation, the Week 23 of the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking has been used. For the allocation of the Continental Quotas the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (Week: 24) will be used.

World Ranking – thirty-two (32) singles and sixteen (16) doubles places will be allocated according to the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (Week: 24).

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 Places 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, if eligible based on the relevant regulation, unless naturally

qualified. For the allocation of the Host nation quotas, the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (Week:24) will be used.



ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION RULES

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

Member Association (MA) singles quota (3+1+1 rule) - each 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 World Ranking (who will be allocated one (1) extra place) and a player in the top 20 World Ranking (who will be allocated one (1) further extra place). This is known as the 3+1+1 rule. For the 32 players, qualifying from the World Rankings, ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (Week: 24) will be used. For calculation purposes only World Title eligible players are considered.

MA doubles quota (4/4/2 rule) - each 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.

DYNAMIC FORMULA

A dynamic formula has been 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 World Rankings (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 rule and 4/4/2 doubles rule. For the above calculation the 2021 ITTF Table Tennis World Rankings (Week 23) has been used.
- Active participation – to reward Continents for participating in ITTF and other international events. An MA is considered as an “active nation” if it has one player in the World Ranking. This can be achieved by participating in at least one WR event.

The Continental quota allocation for the 2021 WTTC Finals can be found below in ANNEX 1.

QUALIFICATION METHOD FOR DOUBLES

Following the 4/4/2 rule, the qualification of doubles is based on the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (Doubles Pairs rankings). The method of the qualification is to qualify the highest eligible pair. 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 of Singles and Doubles:

- Singles: according to the Proposition of the ETTU (which got accepted by the Board of Directors), MAs have the authority to nominate the players to the WTTC Finals, therefore replacement of the players is allowed until the deadline published in the 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.
- Doubles: For the doubles quota allocated to the MA, the MA has the authority to change the quota pairing until a fixed deadline (published in the 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.

Replacement of combined pairs (pairs from different 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).
- Continental mixed pair (mixed pairs consisting of different continents can only qualify via the World Ranking quota): for continental mixed pairs who qualify via the World Ranking quota and reject the quota, the quota will be reallocated to the next highest ranked pair from the ITTF Table Tennis World Ranking (eligible and not yet qualified).

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

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 or WTT 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.

ANNEX 1. DYNAMIC FORMULA (calculation is based on the ITTF Table Tennis World Rankings Week 23)

	EUROPE	ASIA	AFRICA	PANAM	OCEANIA
MS	45	26	8	12	2
WS	43	29	7	11	3
WD	21	15	4	6	1
MD	21	14	4	6	2
XD	20	13	4	8	2

ANNEX 2. ELIGIBLE PLAYER NUMBERS

MA	MS	MA	WS
CHN	5	CHN	5
JPN		JPN	
TPE		TPE	
GER		SGP	
BRA		KOR	
SWE		HKG	
KOR		PUR	
ENG		AUT	
FRA		GER	
HKG		ROU	
NGR		NED	
AUT		USA	
POR		UKR	
SLO	POL		
BLR	EGY		
USA	CAN		
DEN	THA		
IND	LUX		
CRO	MON		
GRE	RUS		
SVK	BRA		
EGY	SWE		
KAZ	CZE		
CZE	PRK		
RUS	HUN		
UKR	SVK		
ROU	POR		
HUN	IND		
PAR	ITA		
ESP	ESP		
POL	CHI		
BEL	FRA		
SEN	SUI		
IRI	ENG		
ARG	SRB		
MEX			
ECU			
PUR			
FIN			
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