



NATIONAL TEAM POLICY AND SELECTIONS

2017 - 2020

Table Tennis Canada's National Team Policy identifies the enlarged pool of the National Team Squad, describes the process how Canadian athletes qualify for the National Team, how the funding priority of the National Team Budget is aligned with Table Tennis Canada's goals in international competitions and the competition activity that is required to attain these goals.

The National Team Policy is based on Table Tennis Canada's Long Term Athlete Development model that prioritizes training over competition in the early development stages and plans for an increased competition activity in its later stages.

1. NATIONAL TEAM SQUAD

This list is produced twice a year (the month following the Canada Cup Finals and the month following the Canadian Championships) and identifies a squad of athletes eligible to compete at different international competitions. General selection principles are described in this document; for specific events Table Tennis Canada publishes National Team Selection memos. ITTF participation rules, i.e., international eligibility, supersede any selection procedure outlined in this document.

The National Team Squad list serves as a tool to identify young athletes and to evaluate their performances. Athletes on the list are monitored by the National Team Coach and the High Performance Committee.

Generally, only athletes on the National Team Squad will be entered in international competitions by Table Tennis Canada (the High Performance Committee may enter athletes not on the Squad under exceptional circumstances.)

In exceptional circumstances, an athlete may make an application to the High Performance Committee to be entered into an ITTF competition if the athlete is not on the National Team Squad due to injury, illness, etc. Such an application must be made at least sixty (60) days prior the entry deadline of the event. The High Performance Committee has sole jurisdiction over the application and will decide based on an athletes results and participation in Canadian competitions.

The National Team Squad is based on the ITTF age categories (Senior - Olympic Squad, World Championships Squad, Junior 18, Cadet 15) and Table Tennis Canada's Long Term Athlete Development Model (Shadow Squad L2W, Aspiring L2T).

The selection takes into account Team Canada's goal of top international results at the Olympic Games in the Men's and Women's Team competition.



To select athletes to the National Team Squad performance indicators are the ITTF World Ranking the Canadian Ranking and the international and domestic results.

The Olympic, World Championships and Shadow Squads are part of the National Athlete Pool; these Squads will be communicated to the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport; membership in these Squads is subject to signing an agreement concerning compliance with the Canadian Anti Doping Policy and undergoing anti doping education.

Eligibility Levels:

Olympic Eligible - requires Canadian citizenship

World Championship Eligible - requires Canadian citizenships plus eligibility as described in the ITTF Handbook (see ITTF website http://www.ittf.com/ittf_handbook/ittf_hb.html)

Permanent Resident /Canadian citizen - ITTF registered – an athlete under the age of 21 who is registered with the ITTF for Canada, holds Canadian Permanent Resident status/Canadian citizenship with the goal to become eligible to compete for Canada under ITTF eligibility rules.

Permanent Resident – an athlete who can no longer register with the ITTF due to the ITTF's age restriction for registration. Once such an athlete has obtained Canadian citizenship, s/he can compete for the Canadian team at Olympic Games, PANAM Games, Commonwealth Games and all other competitions that are not considered subject to ITTF registration.



1.2 The Squad is composed of the following athletes:

Team Squad	Composition
<p>Olympic Squad Men - Women Four athletes per gender</p>	<p>a. up to three athletes in order of the ITTF World Ranking (WR) ranked in the top 200); and, b. the remaining athlete(s) will be selected in order from the Canadian Ranking (CR) using the most recent rating at the time of publication.</p> <p>General eligibility requirement: "Olympic Eligible"</p>
<p>World Championships Squad Men-Women Four athletes per gender</p>	<p>a. up to three athletes in order of the ITTF World Ranking ranked in the top 250); and, b. the remaining athlete(s) will be selected in order from the Canadian Ranking using the most recent rating at the time of publication.</p> <p>General eligibility requirement: "ITTF World Championships Eligible."</p>
<p>Shadow Squad Men - Women Eight athletes per gender</p>	<p>The athletes will be selected from the "Learn To Win" stage (Under 25) of TTCAN's LTAD model based on the Canadian Ranking using the most recent rating at the time of publication.</p> <p>General eligibility requirement: "Olympic Eligible"</p>
<p>Junior 18 Men - Women Twelve athletes per gender</p>	<p>The athletes will be selected from the Canadian Ranking using the most recent ranking at the time of publication.</p> <p>General eligibility requirement: "Permanent Resident - ITTF registered" 50% of the squad must be "Olympic Eligible"</p>
<p>Cadet 15 Boys - Girls Twelve athletes per gender</p>	<p>The athletes will be selected from the Canadian Ranking using the most recent rating at the time of publication.</p> <p>General eligibility requirement: "Permanent Resident - ITTF registered" 50% of the squad must be "Olympic Eligible"</p>



<p>Aspiring Boys - Girls Sixteen athletes per gender</p>	<p>The semi-finalists of the Cadet 12 event at the Canadian Hopes Championship – east and west (If not already in a higher team).</p> <p>The remaining athletes will be selected from the Cadet 12 Canadian Ranking using the most recent rating at the time of publication.</p> <p>General eligibility requirement: “Permanent Resident - ITTF registered”</p>
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- A. To be selected to the Team Squad and to be eligible for other selections, athletes must be members of a Provincial Association in good standing, a Canadian Citizen or an ITTF registered Permanent Resident and be active (minimum of 15 matches in the 6 months preceding the publication of the National Team Squad; for the category ‘aspiring,’ players must have 10 matches in the 6 months preceding the publication of the National Team Squad; matches can be in TTCAN, ITTF, USATT rating systems combined).
In addition, an athlete must have competed in the most recent Canadian Championships.
In rare circumstances, the High Performance Committee may consider an exemption for A for reasons such as injury, illness, pregnancy, international competitions, Games preparations, etc.
- B. To be included in the National Team Squad, each athlete pays a membership fee to TTCAN. The membership fee will be set annually. Each athlete pays this membership only once a year regardless of how many times the athlete appears on the quarterly National Team Squad lists. (The National Team budget will cover this National Team Squad fee for players listed on the Olympic and the World Championships Squad.
- C. A participation fee will be charged to the selected athletes for each selection.
- D. TTCAN will support athletes to compete in other international events (ITTF World Tour events, World Junior Championships, ITTF Junior Circuit events, ITTF Cadet Challenge, etc.) provided TTCAN resources allow for it. Athlete contributions to such events will depend on TTCAN finances and development priorities in any given season.
- E. Funding **priority** will be determined in accordance with the Sport Canada and COC/Podium funding policies and TTCAN’s own Funding Policy. See section 6 for details.
- F. Activity, athlete status and the level of the athlete as per section 7 will determine the athlete’s financial contribution. *See section 7 for details.*
- G. Athletes at the National Training Center may negotiate an annual competition and training plan at a fixed athlete contribution.
- H. If athletes plan to enter ITTF competitions at their own cost, the TTCAN office must receive the entry



form with full payment of fees no later than **30 days** prior to the official entry deadline of the competition to the TTCAN office – an Administration fee of \$50 per registrant (player/coach) must accompany such an entry.

- I. The same athletes may be on the **Olympic** and **World Championships** squad depending on their ITTF eligibility; junior athletes may be on any of the Senior squads – Olympic, World Championships, Shadow – but they will still be listed on the Junior squad.
- J. On the Junior, Cadet and Aspiring squads an athlete will be listed only once, e.g., if a Cadet athlete qualifies for the Junior Squad, the next highest Cadet will claim her/his spot on the Cadet squad list.
- K. ITTF Senior competitions: TTCAN will only enter athletes who are on the Olympic, World Championships, Shadow or Junior Squad and have been in the National Athlete Pool registered with CCES, signed the CCES Canadian Anti Doping Athlete Agreement and have completed the CCES online Anti Doping Education.
- L. ITTF Junior competitions: Except for competitions hosted in North America, TTCAN will only enter athletes who are on the Junior 18 and Cadet 15 squads.
- M. All entries, doubles combinations, team composition will be done by TTCAN (National Team coach and/or HP Committee) with the objective to place as high as possible in such competitions.



2. CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS

Based on the Sport Canada funding policies, the Sport Canada “Sport Funding and Accountability Framework” (SFAF) and the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC)/ Podium funding policies, TTCAN focuses its funding and performance attention on those competitions which are taken into consideration by the funding partners.

Table Tennis Canada’s national team development is focused on the team competition at the Olympic Games since it is in this arena that Table Tennis Canada has the highest potential to achieve the goals set out by Sport Canada’s SFAF and the COC/Podium funding policies - hence, team competitions have priority over individual competitions.

2.1 Major Events

Order	Event	Specifically in order of priority
1	Olympic Games	2020
2	Commonwealth Games	2018
3	Pan American Games	2019
4	World Team Championships	Bi-annual
5	PANAM Championships	Annual
6	World Junior Championships	Annual
7	PANAM Junior Championships	Annual
8	World Championships - Individual	Bi-annual

2.2 Developmental Events

Competitions as designated by the High Performance Committee.

2.2.2.1 ITTF Senior International Competitions

2.2.2.2 ITTF Junior International Competitions

3. EVENT FUNDING PRIORITY

3.1 Due to the limited amount of funds available, an event funding priority has been established. TTCAN will focus its event funding priority order within the events classified in the previous section (Major and Developmental), covering at least the first priority event within each category:

1. Preparation for the 2020 Olympic Games
2. Preparation for the 2024 Olympic Games
3. Preparation for the 2019 PANAM Games



4. Preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games
5. Participation in the 2018, 2020 World **Team** Championships
6. Participation in the 2017, 2019 World Championships - Individual events (team size to be determined by the High Performance Committee)
7. Participation in the annual PANAM Championships
8. Participation in the annual PANAM Cup
9. Participation in the annual PANAM Junior Championships
10. Participation in the annual World Junior Championships

4. SELECTIONS FOR EVENTS

4.1 2013 - 2020 Selections – Major Events

4.1.1 Senior Team

- a. The national team will be selected by a qualification/selection system taking into account Canadian and ITTF World ranking and designated competitions.
- b. The athletes who finish first and second in this qualification system will qualify for a team of at least three Canadians, only the athlete who finishes first will qualify for a team of fewer than three Canadians. The National Coaches/HP Committee may select additional athletes to complete a team.
- c. Selections made by the National Coaches will take into account international results, Canada Cup results and results from designated qualification events, as well as training and competition activity.
- d. Players selected to represent Canada at international competitions will be asked to contribute financially to the cost of travel and accommodation. The amount of contribution is determined by the player's order of priority in the Athlete Funding Priority table (see section 6.6 for details). The level of competitive activity within Canada is a determining factor for the amount of contribution.

4.1.2 Future Medals Fund

The High Performance Committee will administer a Future Medals Fund not exceeding 50% of the total annual National Team budget.

The Fund is intended to create the conditions for athletes with the future potential for a top 8 results as part of Team Canada in major international events

- who are prepared to invest their own funds to increase their international competition and the quality of their training in order to achieve the top 8 team goal;



- who follow the National Team training and competition program at the National Training Center, or, in case of Junior athletes at a 'carding eligible' Development Center.

4.2 Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, PANAM Games, World Championships

A specific selection memo will be published for these events.

Typically 50% of the team is selected by the National Team Coaches.

4.3 National Junior Team

The National Junior team program will be designed on an annual basis depending on the level of the athletes on the ITTF Junior OWR.

4.3.1 World Junior Championships / ITTF PANAM Championships

A separate selection policy will be published annually.

NOTE: All selected athletes for all National Team competitions must agree to take part in all preparations (training and competition) as planned by the National Team Coaches in preparation for the competitions, or they may lose their spot on the team and will be considered 'not available'.



5. Target Group Identification

The age of an athlete is determined by the ITTF's age category.

5.1 Olympic Target Group		5.2 International Group		5.3 National Group	
AGE	World Ranking	AGE	World Ranking	AGE	CANADIAN RANKING
25+	TOP 100	25+	TOP 150	30+	TOP 4
25	TOP 125	25	TOP 175	25-29	TOP 6
24	TOP 150	24	TOP 200	23-24	TOP 8
23	TOP 175	23	TOP 225	21-22	TOP 10
22	TOP 200	22	TOP 250	19-20	TOP 12
21	TOP 225	21	TOP 275	18	TOP 14
20	TOP 250	20	TOP 300	17	TOP 2 JR or TOP 16
19	TOP 300	19	TOP 325	16	TOP 4 JR
18	TOP 100 ITTF JR	18	TOP 125 ITTF JR	15	TOP 6 JR
17	TOP 125 ITTF JR	17	TOP 150 ITTF JR	14	TOP 2 CA
16	TOP 150 ITTF JR	16	TOP 175 ITTF JR		
15	TOP 50 ITTF CA	15	TOP 100 ITTF CA		
14	TOP100 ITTF CA	14	TOP150 ITTF CA		

6. National Team Athlete Funding Priority

6.1 The "Athlete Funding Priority" is a tool that outlines the rationale and procedure to determine the amount that each athlete will contribute towards their participation in a budgeted event for which they have qualified or have been selected.

6.2 Rationale

6.2.1 A membership fee will be paid by selected athletes for an annual program or an individual project (training, competition) to which they are selected.

6.2.2 The amount of the membership fee is determined by the athlete's performance level in relation to the stage the athlete has reached in his/her development at the moment of the selection and by the athlete's competition activity level.

6.3 This policy is implemented with the aim to:

6.3.1 obtain top international results in team competitions and/or singles;

6.3.2 make possible an adequate annual plan for National Team athletes who want to pursue their Olympic podium potential;

6.3.3 ensure that athletes who have qualified to compete for Canada have adequate competitive preparation within Canada;

6.3.4 encourage more frequent competitive interaction among Canadian players;

6.3.5 provide an incentive for athletes of all ages to remain active.

6.4 For non-budgeted events, a financial contribution from the players of up to 100% of the costs may be required.



6.5 Financial Contributions Per Selection

6.5.1 Senior National Team Budgeted Events:

GROUP	Activity level	PLAYER CONTRIBUTION		
		North America *	Europe	Asia, Oceania, Africa, South America
Olympic	Super-Active**	\$ 250 + meals	\$ 350	\$ 500
	Active**	\$ 400 + meals	\$ 500	\$ 600
	Sub-Active**	100%	100%	100%
International	Super-Active	\$ 400 + meals	\$ 700	\$ 800
	Active	\$ 500 + meals	\$ 900	\$ 1,000
	Sub-Active	100%	100%	100%
National	Super-Active	\$ 600 + meals	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200
	Active	\$ 800 + meals	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,600
	Sub-Active	100%	100%	100%
Sub-National		100%	100%	100%

* The athlete is responsible for all entry fees other than for the main singles, main doubles and the team event.

** See Section 7



6.5.2 Athletes Committing To An International Competition And Training Plan.

Based on Sport Canada Funding and the success in TTCAN’s fundraising, TTCAN will develop International Competition and Training Plans for athletes who demonstrate clear aspirations to reach the highest level in international table tennis. Such planning will encompass all international training and competition expenses for an athlete depending on an athlete’s performance at the National Training Center or a Center of Excellence

7. ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 In order to be considered **Super-Active**, players who have qualified for a budgeted/planned event must
- 7.1.1 be a full-time participant of the National Training Center or a TTCAN approved Training Center.
 - 7.1.2 have participated in the most recent Canadian Junior or Senior Championships – or be excused for training purposes or due to injury with the agreement of the High Performance Committee.
 - 7.1.3 have played a minimum number of matches within a window of 12 months immediately preceding participation in a selected or qualified event according to the table below.
- 7.2 In order to be considered **Active**, players who have qualified for a budgeted/planned event must
- 7.2.1 have participated in the most recent Canadian Junior or Senior Championships – or be excused for training or due to injury with the agreement of the High Performance Committee.
 - 7.2.2 have played a minimum number of matches within a window of 12 months immediately preceding the selection to an international event according to the table below; the matches may be in the Canadian Ranking System, the ITTF Ranking System, the USATT Ranking System (only 4* and 5* events) - or in a league/tournament system outside of Canada (High Performance Committee approval required)

	Minimum number of matches required In the 12 months preceding the selection
Athletes with fewer than 2500 rating points	Active: 50 Super-Active: 70 (+ 7.1.1)
CARDED athletes (2500 rating points or higher)	Active: 30 Super-Active: 50 (+ 7.1.1)
NON-CARDED athletes (2500 rating points or higher)	Active: 40 Super-Active: 60 (+ 7.1.1)



7.3 Athletes residing outside Canada

7.3.1 National Team athletes residing outside Canada, for personal or athletic reasons, may receive the authorization and support of TTCAN to pursue their table tennis activities outside Canada to enhance their competitive and training opportunities. Each athlete will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the High Performance Committee and the National Team Coaches will establish minimum training and competition requirements.

7.3.2 Athletes residing outside Canada who are selected for an event by TTCAN may be charged a smaller amount than the established amounts if their participation cost is less, due to the proximity of their residence to the event's location.

7.4 Injury

7.4.1 If a player has not played the minimum number of matches within a window of 12 months because of an injury, the National Coaches will consider the period of the injury and each athlete will be treated on a case by case basis.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

TRAINING

- Members of the National Team are expected to give their best effort in each training session.
- While there may be the odd time that a team member cannot attend a session, in general all team members attend each scheduled session.
- Players and coaches enter the gym 15 minutes before the warm-up for a training session starts!
- Players and coaches do not leave the gym until the cool-down/stretching is completely finished.
- During a training session – as well as in match play – we do not tolerate negative emotional outbursts by any player nor by any of the coaches: no swearing, no shouting, no kicking the table, no throwing the racket, no kicking the barriers, etc.

COMPETITION

- It is important that the National Team present a positive image when playing in Canada and outside.
- When he/she plays in a tournament, each member of the team behaves professionally; the team arrives at least 75 minutes before the first match; the team warms up professionally.
- The team acts as a team at competitions at home or abroad.
- When the team plays in an international competition, the focus is on the competition – as player and as coach. While there may be players or coaches from other countries the team members know, each team member understands that the time to socialize is after the competition, not while any of our team members is still in the competition!
- Team members use international competitions to learn and to support the Canadian team
- At all times, team members refrain from excessive use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs; the team members are bound by the World Anti Doping Code.



TEAM PREPARATION

All athletes selected or qualified for an international competition must fully participate in all preparations for international competitions (training and competition) as planned by the National Team Coaches. Players who do not fully participate in all team preparation activities, may – at the discretion of the team coach – forfeit their spot on the team.

Team Canada commitment:

24/7 COMMITMENT - HIGH PERFORMANCE IS A WAY OF LIFE • ALWAYS GIVE 100%! • DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME! • NO EXCUSES!

For team members found in violation of the Code, sanctions will be imposed upon a team member who exhibits behavior that may be considered damaging to the image of the Canadian Team (e.g., consumption of alcohol for Juniors; excessive consumption of alcohol for Senior athletes; use of illegal substances, abuse of tournament officials, etc.)

The High Performance Committee will decide on the sanction. It can be expected that a typical sanction involves the athlete reimburse TTCAN for the total cost of the event (travel, hotel, entry fees, admin fees) and there may be further repercussions, e.g., removal from future selection, removal from the National Team Squad for a limited time/permanently, etc. based on the severity of the incident(s).

9. Medical Condition

All medical conditions, injuries or illness preventing an athlete from fulfilling a selection or activity obligation, must be substantiated by a medical certificate (original and authentic) provided by the athlete's physician or a physician assigned by TTCAN.

10. National Team Uniform

- 10.1 All members of the team will wear the National Team uniform at all international competitions to which TTCAN supports a team without exception.
- 10.2 Players will wear the National Team uniform if fully or partially funded to an international event. An athlete is considered partially funded if s/he takes advantage of any service offered by TTCAN coaching and/or administrative.
- 10.3 Players can wear the playing clothes of their choice when participating in an international event at their own expense when the event does not require entry by national association.
- 10.4 The playing shoes are not part of the National Team uniform, and players can wear the shoes of their liking.
- 10.5 Upon payment of the National Team Squad membership fee athletes will receive their National Team uniform package includes:
 - o 4 shirts (2 red, 2 black)
 - o 2 shorts
 - o 1 track suit



- 1 sports bag
- 1 jacket
- each shirt will have the player's initial last name printed on the back
- the bags will have the player's first name embroidered.

Upon their first selection to the Canadian team, players will confirm their participation and provide the TTCAN office with their size.

The National Team Uniform fee will be waived for players on the Olympic and the World Championships Squad).

Should players wish to get additional shirts, an additional fee of \$45/shirt will be charged.

10.6 Athletes on the National Team Squad list who participate in international competitions at their own cost may buy a National Team Uniform package.

Approval HPC: pending

Latest update: February 2017