



USATT National Team System: Statement of Core Beliefs

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Henry Ford

The National Team System will focus on a “52-week approach,” with an emphasis on *teamwork, collaboration, coordination, and commitment*. By better leveraging our collective system-wide resources, we will provide our athletes, coaches and key stakeholders with the necessary tools to develop and sustain competitive excellence.

Simply put, our staff, coaches, clubs, players and families must work as one with a collective goal of systematic international competitive excellence.

How We Will Achieve This

1. Professionalize the National Team System;
2. Clearly articulate the goals, procedures, priorities and expectations;
3. Create a “team first” culture among athletes, coaches, clubs, and parents;
4. Develop a system-wide approach to elite player and coaching development with a strong emphasis on coordination, integration and interaction;
5. Utilize technology to enable collaboration among key stakeholders;
6. Reduce the importance of team trials events in selecting national teams, particularly among younger players with a stronger emphasis on development;
7. Provide continuity and expand participation by increasing team sizes and qualification opportunities;
8. Hire a high quality national coaching system to work regularly with team members, parents, local/regional coaches, and clubs;
9. Produce programs and camps designed to build team spirit, monitor physical fitness, playing techniques, and mental strength;
10. Provide training tools and programs to supplement local training programs; and
11. Be more efficient and effective with funding by placing a greater emphasis on ability, potential, and commitment to excellence.



Team Selection Procedures

The 2016-17 USA Table Tennis (USATT) Junior National Team will be comprised of up to ten (10) athletes that will be selected based on the following criteria, which applies to all US athletes eligible to compete in an ITTF Junior event before December 31, 2016.

Players may qualify for the 2016-17 Junior National Team through three methods:

- Automatic Qualification
- Team Trials/Points Accumulation Qualification
- Committee Selection

Automatic Team Qualification

- Any eligible athlete that qualifies to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games; and
- Any eligible athlete that in the top 20 in the ITTF U-18 ranking list as of May 1, 2016

Team Trials/Points Accumulation Qualification

USATT shall conduct a Junior Team Trials event at the 2016 National Championships in Las Vegas, NV from July 4 – July 9, 2016.

A maximum of four (4) Junior Team spots will be allocated based on the points accumulated at the 2015 Junior Team Trials (December 2015), the 2016 Junior Team Trials (July 2016), and ITTF World Ranking points per the following chart:

NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POINTS SYSTEM			
Pos	2015 Trials (Dec)	2016 Trials (July)	ITTF WR List
1	100	100	The highest rating points from the ITTF Junior World Ranking List for the months April, May, June or July.
2	75	75	
3	55	55	
4	40	40	
5	28	28	
6	24	24	
7	20	20	
8	16	16	
9	14	14	
10	12	12	
11	10	10	
12	8	8	



Except for players who qualify directly by ITTF World Ranking, athletes must participate in the 2015 and 2016 Junior Team Trials (or obtained a medical waiver) in order to be qualified for the 2016-17 Junior National Team.

The tie breaker between two players with the same accumulated points will be determined by results at the 2016 Junior Team Trials (July).

2016 Junior Trials Playing System

The 2016 Junior National Team Trials will be a two-stage event. Six players will be directly qualified to Stage Two, consisting of all members of the First Half 2016 Junior National Team members not meeting the automatic qualification criteria, with any remaining direct qualifiers being filled by the top rated players based on the USATT ratings as of June 1, 2016.¹

- Stage One – Players who do not directly qualify for the Second Stage round robins will be snaked into six groups. Each group will play in a single elimination competition, with the winner of each group advancing to the Second Stage.¹
- Stage Two - Two Round Robins of up to 6 people each. The Round Robins shall be seeded using USATT ratings, as published on June 1, 2015 using the “snake” method as commonly used by tournament directors. Geographic separation shall not be taken into consideration in preparing the Second Stage draws.

The top two finishers from each RR shall cross-over and play for 1st-4th place. The third and fourth finishers of each RR shall cross over and play for 5th-8th place.

The Second Stage of the competitions may be composed of fewer than twelve athletes.

Please note the following:

- All matches will be played best of five.
- All matches must be played, including all Stage Three single elimination.
- In the event that a player is unable to play a given match (other than for approved medical reasons), they will be disqualified from the Trials and removed from the competition. All matches played will stand. Within seven (7) days from the close of the competition, the withdrawn player must submit a written notice from a certified medical doctor stating the nature of the illness or injury that prevented the player from completing the Trials. In the event that the withdrawal was without justified basis or the athlete fails to provide the High Performance Director with an acceptable doctor's note, that athlete shall, without further notice, become ineligible for placement in the 2016-17 Junior National Team.

¹ In case of an exact tie by rating for the last direct qualifying position, reference will be made to the June 1, 2016 USATT ratings list and the higher-rated player will qualify. If the players are still tied, reference would be made to the May 1, 2016 USATT ratings list and so on until the tie is broken.



Committee Selection

In the event that, after Automatic and Team Trials/Points Accumulation Qualification, there are less than ten (10) qualified team members, additional team members may be appointed to the Junior National Team. Appointments shall be made by a committee comprised of the High Performance Director, the Chairman of the High Performance Committee, and the Chairman of the Athletes Advisory Council. In order to be considered for appointment, candidates must, at a minimum, have competed in the Junior Team Trials at the 2016 National Championships (or obtained a medical waiver).

The committee will consider recommendations from National Team coaches, National Centers of Excellence and other USATT affiliated clubs, which must be submitted to the High Performance Director no later than July 1, 2016. The following criteria will be considered in appointing additional Junior National Team members:

- Order of finish at Junior National Trials including improvement in results from 2015 to 2016 Trials;
- Qualification for the Junior National Team at the 2015 National Championship Junior Team Trials;
- Commitment to competing at the highest domestic and international levels;
- Demonstrated work ethic on and off the table;
- Willingness to contribute to team success with a positive, productive attitude; and
- Team-first attitude.

Eligibility

Athletes must:

- Be US citizens and eligible to represent the United States in International (ITTF) competition
- Be USATT members in good standing during their participation in the Junior National Team.
- Meet the age criteria for participation in ITTF Junior events until December 31, 2016.
- Participate in all mandatory Junior National Team events, including (but not limited to) camps and clinics.

Team Selection for International Competition

The High Performance Director, in consultation with National Team Coaches, shall be responsible for selecting Junior National Team members for domestic and international competitions. Qualification for the Junior National Team does not guarantee entry into International competition.

Funding for participation in international competition shall be based on the methodology as proscribed in the "National Team Funding" Section herein. Fully funded players must participate in all required National Team events. Additional funding may be available at the sole discretion of the High Performance Director.



Team Selection Procedures

The 2016-17 USA Table Tennis (USATT) Cadet National Team will be comprised of up to ten (10) athletes that will be selected based on the following criteria, which applies to all US athletes eligible to compete in an ITTF Cadet event before December 31, 2016.

Players may qualify for the 2016-17 Cadet National Team through three methods:

- Automatic Qualification
- Team Trials/Points Accumulation Qualification
- Committee Selection

Automatic Team Qualification

- Any eligible athlete that qualifies to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games; and
- Any eligible athlete that in the top 20 in the ITTF U-15 ranking list as of May 1, 2016

Team Trials/Points Accumulation Qualification

USATT shall conduct a Cadet Team Trials event at the 2016 National Championships in Las Vegas, NV from July 4 – July 9, 2016.

A maximum of four (4) Cadet Team spots will be allocated based on the points accumulated at the 2015 Cadet Team Trials (December 2015), the 2016 Cadet Team Trials (July 2016), and ITTF World Ranking points per the following chart:

NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POINTS SYSTEM			
Pos	2015 Trials (Dec)	2016 Trials (July)	ITTF WR List
1	100	100	The highest rating points from the ITTF Junior World Ranking List for the months April, May, June or July.
2	75	75	
3	55	55	
4	40	40	
5	28	28	
6	24	24	
7	20	20	
8	16	16	
9	14	14	
10	12	12	
11	10	10	
12	8	8	



Except for players who qualify directly by ITTF World Ranking, athletes must participate in the 2015 and 2016 Junior Team Trials (or obtain a medical waiver) in order to be qualified for the 2016-17 Cadet National Team.

The tie breaker between two players with the same accumulated points will be determined by results at the 2016 Cadet Team Trials (July).

2016 Cadet Trials Playing System

The 2016 Cadet National Team Trials will be a two-stage event. Six players will be directly qualified to Stage Two, consisting of all members of the First Half 2016 Cadet National Team members not meeting the automatic qualification criteria, with any remaining direct qualifiers being filled by the top rated players based on the USATT ratings as of June 1, 2016.²

- Stage One – Players who do not directly qualify for the Second Stage round robins will be snaked into six groups. Each group will play in a single elimination competition, with the winner of each group advancing to the Second Stage.²
- Stage Two - Two Round Robins of up to 6 people each. The Round Robins shall be seeded using USATT ratings, as published on June 1, 2015 using the “snake” method as commonly used by tournament directors. Geographic separation shall not be taken into consideration in preparing the Second Stage draws.

The top two finishers from each RR shall cross-over and play for 1st-4th place. The third and fourth finishers of each RR shall cross over and play for 5th-8th place.

The Second Stage of the competitions may be composed of fewer than twelve athletes.

Please note the following:

- All matches will be played best of five.
- All matches must be played, including all Stage Three single elimination.
- In the event that a player is unable to play a given match (other than for approved medical reasons), they will be disqualified from the Trials and removed from the competition. All matches played will stand. Within seven (7) days from the close of the competition, the withdrawn player must submit a written notice from a certified medical doctor stating the nature of the illness or injury that prevented the player from completing the Trials. In the event that the withdrawal was without justified basis or the athlete fails to provide the High Performance Director with an acceptable doctor's note, that athlete shall, without further notice, become ineligible for placement in the 2016-17 Junior National Team.

² In case of an exact tie by rating for the last direct qualifying position, reference will be made to the June 1, 2016 USATT ratings list and the higher-rated player will qualify. If the players are still tied, reference would be made to the May 1, 2016 USATT ratings list and so on until the tie is broken.



Committee Selection

In the event that, after Automatic and Team Trials/Points Accumulation Qualification, there are less than ten (10) qualified team members, additional team members may be appointed to the Cadet National Team. Appointments shall be made by a committee comprised of the High Performance Director, the Chairman of the High Performance Committee, and the Chairman of the Athletes Advisory Council. In order to be considered for appointment, candidates must, at a minimum, have competed in the Cadet Team Trials at the 2016 National Championships (or obtained a medical waiver).

The committee will consider recommendations from National Team coaches, National Centers of Excellence and other USATT affiliated clubs, which must be submitted to the High Performance Director no later than July 1, 2016. The following criteria will be considered in appointing additional Cadet National Team members:

- Order of finish at Cadet National Trials including improvement in results from 2015 to 2016 Trials;
- Qualification for the Cadet National Team at the 2015 National Championship Cadet Team Trials;
- Commitment to competing at the highest domestic and international levels;
- Demonstrated work ethic on and off the table;
- Willingness to contribute to team success with a positive, productive attitude; and
- Team-first attitude.

Eligibility

Athletes must:

- Be US citizens and eligible to represent the United States in International (ITTF) competition
- Be USATT members in good standing during their participation in the Cadet National Team.
- Meet the age criteria for participation in ITTF Junior events until June 30, 2017.
- Participate in all mandatory Cadet National Team events, including (but not limited to) camps and clinics.

Team Selection for International Competition

The High Performance Director, in consultation with National Team Coaches, shall be responsible for selecting Cadet National Team members for domestic and international competitions. Qualification for the Cadet National Team does not guarantee entry into International competition.

Funding for participation in international competition shall be based on the methodology as proscribed in the "National Team Funding" Section herein. Fully funded players must participate in all required National Team events. Additional funding may be available at the sole discretion of the High Performance Director.



Team Selection Procedures

The 2016-17 USA Table Tennis (USATT) Mini Cadet National Team will be comprised of up to ten (10) athletes that will be selected based on the following criteria, which applies to all US athletes eligible to compete in a Mini Cadet event before December 31, 2016.

Players may qualify for the 2016-17 Mini Cadet National Team through two methods:

- Team Trials Qualification
- Committee Selection

Team Trials Qualification

USATT shall conduct a Mini Cadet Team Trials event at the 2016 National Championships in Las Vegas, NV from July 4 – July 9, 2016. A maximum of four (4) team spots will be allocated based on results from the Mini Cadet Team Trials.

2016 Mini Cadet Trials Playing System

The 2016 Mini Cadet National Team Trials will be a two-stage event. Six players will be directly qualified to Stage Two, consisting of all members of the First Half 2016 Mini Cadet National Team members, with any remaining direct qualifiers being filled by the top rated players based on the USATT ratings as of June 1, 2016.³

- Stage One – Players who do not directly qualify for the Second Stage round robins will be snaked into six groups. Each group will play in a single elimination competition, with the winner of each group advancing to the Second Stage.³
- Stage Two - Two Round Robins of up to 6 people each. The Round Robins shall be seeded using USATT ratings, as published on June 1, 2015 using the "snake" method as commonly used by tournament directors. Geographic separation shall not be taken into consideration in preparing the Second Stage draws.

The top two finishers from each RR shall cross-over and play for 1st-4th place. The third and fourth finishers of each RR shall cross over and play for 5th-8th place.

The Second Stage of the competitions may be composed of fewer than twelve athletes.

Please note the following:

- All matches will be played best of five.
- All matches must be played, including all Stage Three single elimination.
- In the event that a player is unable to play a given match (other than for approved medical reasons), they will be disqualified from the Trials and removed from the competition. All matches played will stand. Within seven (7) days from the close of the competition, the withdrawn player

³ In case of an exact tie by rating for the last direct qualifying position, reference will be made to the June 1, 2016 USATT ratings list and the higher-rated player will qualify. If the players are still tied, reference would be made to the May 1, 2015 USATT ratings list and so on until the tie is broken.



must submit a written notice from a certified medical doctor stating the nature of the illness or injury that prevented the player from completing the Trials. In the event that the withdrawal was without justified basis or the athlete fails to provide the High Performance Director with an acceptable doctor's note, that athlete shall, without further notice, become ineligible for placement in the 2016-17 Mini Cadet National Team.

Committee Selection

After four (4) team members are qualified through Team Trials, additional team members may be appointed to the Mini Cadet National Team. Appointments shall be made by a committee comprised of the High Performance Director, the Chairman of the High Performance Committee, and the Chairman of the Athletes Advisory Council. In order to be considered for appointment, candidates must, at a minimum, have competed in the Mini Cadet Team Trials at the 2016 National Championships (or obtained a medical waiver).

The committee will consider recommendations from National Team coaches, National Centers of Excellence and other USATT affiliated clubs, which must be submitted to the High Performance Director no later than July 1, 2016. The following criteria will be considered in appointing additional Mini Cadet National Team members:

- Order of finish at Mini Cadet National Trials including improvement in results from 2015 to 2016 Trials;
- Qualification for the Mini Cadet National Team at the 2015 National Championship Mini Cadet Team Trials;
- Commitment to competing at the highest domestic and international levels;
- Demonstrated work ethic on and off the table;
- Willingness to contribute to team success with a positive, productive attitude; and
- Team-first attitude.

Eligibility

Athletes must:

- Be US citizens and eligible to represent the United States in International (ITTF) competition
- Be USATT members in good standing during their participation in the Junior National Team.
- Meet the age criteria for participation in ITTF Mini Cadet events until June 30, 2017.
- Participate in all mandatory Mini Cadet National Team events, including (but not limited to) camps and clinics.

Team Selection for International Competition

The High Performance Director, in consultation with National Team Coaches, shall be responsible for selecting Mini Cadet National Team members for domestic and international competitions. Qualification for the Mini Cadet National Team does not guarantee entry into International competition.

Funding for participation in international competition shall be based on the methodology as proscribed in the "National Team Funding" Section herein. Fully funded players must participate in all required National Team events. Additional funding may be available at the sole discretion of the High Performance Director.



National Team Funding Methodology

Mandatory National Team Events

Effective May 1, 2016, funding for mandatory National Team events (tournaments, camps, clinics, etc.) will be based on the following criteria.

Category A: 100% funding for mandatory events

- Top 50 in the World based on age classification; or
- National Champion based on age classification; or
- North American Champion based on age classification; or
- Olympic Qualified.

Category B: 75% funding for mandatory events

- Top 150 in the World based on age classification; or
- National Runner-Up based on age classification; or
- North American Championships Runner-Up based on age classification.

Category C: 50% funding for mandatory events

- Top 250 in the World based on age classification; or
- National Semi-Finalist based on age classification; or
- North American Championships Semi-Finalist based on age classification.

Category D: 25% funding for mandatory events

- Top 350 in the World based on age classification; or
- National Quarter Finalist based on age classification; or
- North American Championships Quarter Finalist based on age classification

Category E: 0% funding for any international event

- Must be a USATT Member in Good Standing.

Additional Funding Opportunities

The High Performance Director may, at his discretion, elect to provide additional funding to National Team athletes for mandatory or optional events.