

# 2015 USATT Direct Athlete Support Program

## Summary

In order to assist our top athletes to remain committed to the sport of table tennis and to assist them with everyday living and training expenses, USATT has created a program for direct athlete support that includes but may not be limited to the following expenses:

- Living expenses, such as room and board
- Medical reimbursement for preventive care expenses incurred, including massage therapy, chiropractic services, and medical expenses not covered by other health insurance
- Training expenses, such as expenses for coaching time
- Competition expenses for high level domestic or international competition not covered by the national team budget, such as for ITTF Pro Tour events

The criteria for investing resources in the athletes will be based mainly on the following criteria:

- Olympic medal potential
- Current commitment to table tennis

Other criteria may be taken into consideration by USATT, including financial need.

## Applying for Direct Athlete Support

All US Olympic eligible athletes are qualified to receive direct athlete support through this program and may apply. Athletes applying for direct athlete support should submit a personal high performance plan by January 31, 2015 addressing at least the following:

- Personal goals in table tennis, including short term, intermediate, and long term goals
- Detailed description of current training and competition schedule
- Summary of notable competition results in 2014
- Detailed plan to reach personal goals described previously
- Contact information for current coaches that the awarding committee may contact for information

Applications should be emailed to the USATT High Performance Director, Doru Gheorghe ([doru@usatt.org](mailto:doru@usatt.org)) by January 31, 2015.

## Awarding Direct Athlete Support

USATT will announce and contact awardees for 2015 support after reviewing applications and making selections based on Olympic medal potential, commitment to the sport of table tennis, and other relevant factors. Each awardee will be told the maximum amount of direct support that particular athlete can receive for 2015.

Upon being selected, athletes will need to:

- Sign an athlete support agreement with USATT for the funding year.
- Review and complete the Athlete Code of Conduct.
- Provide receipts to USATT for allowable expenses to be reimbursed up to the total level of support authorized for 2015. The USATT office will advise you which expenses qualify, and how to provide receipts.
- To the extent that receipts do not cover the entire support amount, a portion of your support may be considered taxable income. USATT will not withhold any taxes on your funding; therefore you will receive a 1099 from USATT at the end of the year reflecting any taxable income.

USATT may revoke an athlete's direct support based on a breach of the Code of Conduct or for a misrepresentation of table tennis activities in the application. This will be reinforced in the athlete support agreement.

### Point of Contact

For more information about the direct athlete support program or for any questions, please contact the USATT High Performance Director, Doru Gheorghe. Doru can be reached by email at [doru@usatt.org](mailto:doru@usatt.org) or by phone at 719-866-4583, ext. 6.