

Format of Play -- USATT National Hopes Week and Challenge Tournament, Sacramento 2019

The format will be identical for both genders. All matches will be played as the best of 5 games.

1. Stage 1 (Group Stage)

Stage 1 will consist of sixteen (16) players in each gender who are snake seeded into four (4) round robin groups of four (4) players each. There will be three (3) rounds in this stage. For seeding purposes, the USATT rating as of Friday, April 19th at 5:00 PM PDT will be used. There will be no geographical separation of players based on state or club.

All players will advance to the second stage.

2. Stage 2 (First Playoff Stage)

Stage 2 will be a single-elimination main draw of 16 players. The results of Stage 1 will be the basis for the seeding in this stage. In the first two rounds of Stage 2, it will not be possible for a player to play against someone they have already played against in their round robin group in Stage 1.

The winner of Stage 2 is qualified for the 2019 ITTF North American Hopes Week and Challenge which will take place at the end of May/beginning of June in Florida. The remaining fifteen (15) players in each gender will go to Stage 3.

3. Stage 3 (Second Playoff Stage)

This stage, consisting of fifteen (15) players in each gender, will be a new single-elimination main draw of 16 places. The runner-up from Stage 2 will receive a bye in the first round of Stage 3. Seeding in Stage 3 will be determined by the players' performance in previous rounds, with first priority given to the order of placement in Stage 2, followed by the order of placement in Stage 1, and finally by their USATT rating at the beginning of the tournament. Priority will be given to prevent players from playing against opponents whom they have already competed against, however this will not be possible in all cases.

The winner of Stage 3 is also qualified for the 2019 ITTF North American Hopes Week and Challenge. The remaining fourteen (14) players will go to Stage 4.

4. Stage 4 (Third Playoff Stage)

This stage, consisting of fourteen (14) players in each gender, will be a new single-elimination main draw of 16 places. The player who finished second in Stage 3 will receive a bye in the first round of Stage 4. Another player will receive a bye in the first round of Stage 4; this will be determined by the players' performance in previous rounds, with first priority given to the order

of placement in Stage 3, followed by the order of placement in Stage 2, followed by the order of placement in Stage 1, and finally by their USATT rating at the beginning of the tournament.

The winner of Stage 4 will also qualify for the 2019 ITTF North American Hopes Week and Challenge.

Additional places, a minimum of 5 spots per gender, for the 2019 ITTF North American Hopes Week and Challenge in Florida will be selected by USATT National Team Coach Pieke Franssen in consultation with the USATT High Performance Director and other participating coaches at all Hopes camps. Factors to be considered in this selection include camp and tournament performance, potential for long-term development, adequate training conditions and environment, consistency and quality.