

TTTeam USA

New USATT National Team Program and Selection Procedures

Effective January 1, 2018

USA Table Tennis is adopting a new national team (NT) program for 2018 and beyond to accelerate our improvement in international competition with an eye towards adult success. TTTeam USA will be a unified squad, including both adult and youth players, with an emphasis on an overall team concept for competitive excellence. TTTeam USA members will then represent the U.S. in events appropriate to their skills, ages, and developmental progress as international competitors.

Players will qualify for TTTeam USA through two paths – performance in designated qualifying competitions throughout the year, and by ongoing professional evaluations of their competitive performance, training, commitment, and potential by the USATT High Performance Director and National Team Coaches. In addition to adults, a minimum of four male and female players will qualify by competition and selection in each of the three youth age categories – junior, cadet, and mini-cadet – and others may also be added to the squad by the HPD and NT coaches.

Here are the specific procedures to be followed:

1. TTTeam USA will have a minimum, but not a maximum number of players and the group will be put together and announced at the beginning of the calendar year. As indicated above, this will include at least four male and female players in three age categories of junior, cadet, and mini-cadet. Changes to the membership of TTTeam USA can be made by the HPD at the mid-year point, following the Nationals. The HPD can further maintain a developmental group of national-level team candidates at his discretion, with any number of players.
2. A year-round program of training, competition and developmental activities will be set up by the HPD, including important training camps.
3. For each of the four categories of players (adult, junior, cadet and mini-cadet), the HPD will publish a list of qualifying competitions, including designated USATT Tournaments and the US Nationals, and a system of points that players will earn through their participation and results. Participation in a certain number of tournaments will be required to have a chance for a guaranteed place on TTTeam USA, while players may have a choice among other competitions (such as, for example, needing any two from a list of three). Two guaranteed places on TTTeam USA will be awarded to the top two finishers of each of the four age categories in the first qualifying competition of the calendar year, effective at the conclusion of that competition based on its final results. Additionally, players finishing in the top two places in each age category in the final annual ranking of all qualifying competitions based on the points system will earn places on TTTeam USA from the beginning of the following year. Note that the qualifying competitions during the year do not need to be the same tournaments for every age category.
4. All other places on TTTeam USA will be chosen by the HPD with advice from the national team coaches. Factors to be considered -- although without a specific numerical formula -- will include performance and regular participation in national and international competitions, commitment

to and participation at the NT program, potential for long-term development, adequate training conditions and environment aligned to international requirements and standards in terms of amount, intensity, consistency and quality, and professional judgments of player potential by the HPD and NT coaches. The current NT coaches are Stefan Feth and Gao Jun, and the roster of NT coaches may be updated at any time by the HPD through an announcement or the publication of an updated list.

5. As a transition matter for 2018 only, any players who are guaranteed national team places on junior, cadet, and mini-cadet national teams during the first half of 2018 by prior selection procedures will automatically become members of TTTeam USA for the first half of 2018. This transition selection will take the place of the first qualifying competition's mandatory selection for two players in each age category (under paragraph 3 above) for this period.
6. Notwithstanding the basis on which they qualified for TTTeam USA (e.g. through an age-related mandatory place due to national qualifying competitions), players can be nominated for camps and competitions in different age categories and will be placed in those camps and competitions by the HPD. Nominations can be performance-based, but also development-oriented. Among other things, this means that the HPD will select players from TTTeam USA to represent the U.S. at international competitions for all age categories, including the World Championships. Membership on TTTeam USA does not confer a right to be selected for any particular event.
7. Membership on TTTeam USA is also contingent on good conduct by team members, including signing and upholding the applicable USATT Code of Conduct, continued USATT membership, and continued communication with the HPD and NT coaches about players' competition, training, and other activities relevant to further development and high performance as a representative of the national team.