Dear Table Tennis Family,

We hope that you had a safe and enjoyable holiday period. The WTT Board and Council will be in contact in the coming days to officially welcome you to World Table Tennis, however due to time constraints, we are distributing critical event information documents for World Table Tennis first.

Thank you for your patience while we have worked to put in place the various elements of the World Table Tennis structure. We would have preferred to provide you with this information earlier but we took the prudent action of remaining flexible and adaptable to the ever-changing covid-19 situation which resulted in us taking the decision to delay sharing information with you until we were confident we were in a position to present to you how World Table Tennis will operate in 2021 and that we could commence delivering events.

We strongly believe we have struck the right balance in ensuring that we launch WTT in a way that commences the process of unlocking the potential of the sport to take it forward while balancing the needs of all stakeholders during an Olympic year, which as we all know was postponed from 2020, and a myriad of complications that has brought.

Most importantly the structural changes that have been implemented through the WTT structure will ensure that more players are competing in the main draw of events on the world stage providing our athletes with the opportunity to earn more rankings points and prize money while allowing us to sell the story of World Table Tennis and lift the sport up as a whole.

As part of this correspondence, a number of documents are being shared which serves to provide you with important technical information outlining the structure of World Table Tennis events and the associated procedures and processes. As always, with the Covid-19 pandemic continuing around the world, WTT will continue to monitor the situation and will retain a common-sense approach to structural elements of the WTT Series changes may be necessary due to the ever-evolving situation but we will do our best to minimise these.

In just two months, the first WTT events will be held and we are excited to share with you important documents and changes for the upcoming Middle East Hub in Doha Qatar including the applicable entry procedures for the two events.
**WTT SERIES UPDATE**

As has previously been announced, WTT will launch with a WTT Contender and WTT Star Contender in March in Doha, before moving to China for a full suite of WTT events before the hosting of WTT events in Europe prior to the Tokyo Olympics.

2021 will be an important year as we provide opportunities for our athletes to compete while at the same time introducing the WTT product to the global market to help us lay the platform for WTT to be fully rolled out in 2022 as promised to the Table Tennis family.

Throughout the year players will be able to compete in all levels of the WTT Series and we remain committed to bringing WTT to all of the TT continents where possible to do so.

During the recent WTT Macao event we trialled many innovations and while the feedback coming out of that event has been overwhelmingly positive, we will start to look more closely at these post Olympics and after further consultation with the table tennis family.

**PRIZE MONEY**

The launch of WTT will now mean that WTT will pay all prize money at WTT events in 2021, and we remain committed to ensuring that our players are earning more prize money than ever before.

As has been tradition for many years in our sport WTT will continue to pay equal prize money for Men and Women which Table Tennis can continue to be proud of.

Furthermore, WTT will pay prize money across the main and qualifying draws of an event and for all doubles and mixed doubles competitions to ensure more players can earn money from WTT events.

The full prize money breakdowns for WTT events can be found via the accompanying link, while breakdowns for the Middle East Hub are attached.

The WTT Board reserves the right to alter prize money levels at any event, while an Event Organiser is permitted to offer additional prize money subject to WTT Board approval, so we are looking forward to even higher prize money than on the documents.

**IT**

Over the past 12 months, the ITTF/WTT teams have been developing a new Online Entry System (OES) and undertaking a complete rebuild of the Online Venue Results (OVR) and rankings database systems to create an automated 360-degree event entry, officiating and operations system.

The OES will become the one-stop shop for all entry, accommodation, transportation and accreditation applications for events and will come online prior to the China Hub. Therefore a temporary entry procedure has been initiated for the Middle East Hub events.
The OVR has been completely rebuilt to adapt to the needs of ITTF and WTT and will become a more user-friendly cloud-based system that can be used at any TT family event and across all areas of an event. More information about how this can benefit you and more members will be shared shortly.

The new rankings database system has been activated in line with the launch of the latest world rankings regulations, while the new OVR will be operational for the Middle East Hub.

More information on the world ranking will be provided by the ITTF in the coming days.

**EVENT STRUCTURE AND FORMAT CHANGES**
The launch of WTT will bring significant changes to the way you have previously experienced events. The attached WTT EVENT FORMAT documents the changes being implemented as well as outlining the reasons why we believe these changes will help unlock the potential of table tennis. Accompanying this is the WTT GENERAL PROCEDURES file which explains in greater detail the technical and executional elements of the WTT Formats.

A brief overview of important elements is documented below:

**Game Length**
The following WTT match types will be played as Best of 5 Game matches:

- Main Draw Singles - RD64, RD32, RD16 and QF rounds
- Main Draw Doubles - All Rounds
- Main Draw Mixed Doubles - All Rounds
- Qualifying Singles - All Rounds
- Qualifying Doubles - All Rounds

The following WTT match types will be played as Best of 7 Game matches:

- Main Draw Singles – Semifinals and Finals

**Scoring**
There is no change to the scoring of events with all games played to 11 points and/or by 2-point advantage.

**Draw Sizes**
Every WTT event will have pre-determined main draw and qualifying draw sizes.

**Event Entry**
The key structural change for all WTT events is that more players will now automatically play in the main draw of an event leading to greater possibilities to earn rankings points and prize money for players.

For Example:
A WTT Grand Smash event will feature a 64-player main draw and a 64-player qualifying draw. This will result in 50 players automatically entered into an event and who no longer are required to play qualifying. From the qualifying draw 8 players will advance to the main draw and the qualifying draw will be completed at least one day before the main draw starts.

**WTT Key Terms**
With the changes introduced in 2021, we have prepared an explainer document which provides definitions of all the key terms used in WTT events.

**MIDDLE EAST HUB - ***IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****
The first WTT events of 2021 will be held during the Middle East Hub in Doha, Qatar and will consist of a WTT Contender and WTT Star Contender Event played over consecutive weeks.

The information sheet attached highlights key event details, as well as important changes approved by the WTT Board for the two events.

Please review all the documents relating to the Middle East Hub closely as they contain important information relating to entries, visa and Covid-19 arrangements.

**Entry Deadline & Process**
Entries for the WTT Middle East Hub are now open and will be based on World Ranking and in accordance with WTT entry regulations.

Players are encouraged to enter both WTT events for, however the option to enter one or both events is available to all players.

The entry deadline is **14 January 2021 – 8pm Singapore Time**.

Please complete the entry form and send to mehubentry@worldtabletennis.com before the entry deadline.

**Event Prospectus**
We are pleased to provide the WTT Event Prospectus for the Middle East Hub.

Please complete the relevant forms and return to wttqatar2021@tabletennis.qa by the required deadlines specified in the event prospectus.

**Covid-19 Procedures for Entry / Exit for the Middle East Hub**
1. Please complete the Attached VISA APPLICATION FORM and return to the QTTA no later than 22 January, 2021
2. Please check with your arrival airline regarding required pre-flight PCR test requirements
3. All arrivals will undertake a PCR test at Hamad International Airport or the Official Hotel
4. All arrivals will undertake a minimum 48-hour express quarantine period
5. All credential holders must remain at the hotel or the venue at all times
6. Please check with your departure airline regarding departure PCR requirements

Any credential holder who tests positive to Covid-19 during the ME Hub will be required, along with any person sharing a room with the credential holder, to undergo a mandatory 7-day hotel quarantine at their own expense.

If you have any questions regarding WTT or the upcoming Middle East Hub please email events@worldtabletennis.com and we will be happy to help you out.

Warm regards,

WTT Events