

NATIONAL TEAMS COMPETITION at the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

TEAM COMPOSITION

- A regular national team is made up of 8 players (6 men and 2 women).
- Beside the 8 regular players, each team can have 2 (and only 2) reserve players (1 man and 1 woman) who will be able to rotate with regular team members. Note however that **there can not be more than 8 different players' names (6 men and 2 women) on each scoresheet.**
- The minimum number of players allowed in a team is 5.
If there is no woman in a team, then the Women's Singles and Doubles matches will be forfeited, and that team will automatically lose the points for those 2 matches.
- Each team needs a captain or coach. The captain/coach doesn't have to be a team player. He/she is in charge of making sure the team is well organized, abides by the schedule of matches and the dress code; they are also responsible for completing and signing the scoresheets.

COMPETITION FORMAT

- The competition is played with a system of direct elimination.
- When 2 teams meet, they play 8 matches against each other: 4 matches in Singles followed by 4 matches in Doubles.
- A match consists of 1 game of 7 points. The match must be won by 2 points up to a maximum of 10 points - in order to avoid delay in the competition.
- If a team wins 5 matches, the remaining matches are not played.
- **If, at the end of the encounter, both teams have won an equal number of matches (4 each), an extra match will be played in Doubles, to be played by 2 players of each team who have not yet taken part in Singles.**
- **2 matches take place at the same time***
 - Singles 1 (S1) and Women's Singles (S2)
 - Singles 3 (S3) and Singles 4 (S4)
 - Doubles 1 (D1) and Women's Doubles (D2)
 - Doubles 3 (D3) and Doubles 4 (D4)

*When one match finishes before the other, then the next possible match on the scoresheet must start.

Example: if the “Singles 3” match is finished before Singles 4, and if Doubles 1 can not be played right away because a player from Singles 4 also plays in Doubles 1, then the next possible match on the scoresheet must start, in this case the Women’s Doubles (see scoresheet).

- **Each time 2 teams play against each other, the team captains must complete a blank scoresheet** with the names of their team players for each match, including the extra match in Doubles - reminder: there can not be more than 8 different players’ names (6 men and 2 women) on each scoresheet.
- All team captains must complete their first scoresheet right after the draw has taken place, when they know who their first opponent is going to be. They must return their sheets to the person in charge of the competition, so that players’ names can be typed and new scoresheets issued to each team captain with the names of the players in both teams. Ideally, if this can be done the day before the start of the National Teams Competition, it makes it easier to prepare these first scoresheets. **Note that no changes of players will be allowed once the scoresheets have been returned** – except in case of emergency or for medical reasons.
- For all the subsequent matches with other teams, the scoresheets must be filled up by the team captains as soon as they know who their next opponent is.

DRAW

- 4 top ‘Seeds’: the host country and the 3 best ranked nations in the ITSF World Rankings of Nations will take part in the first draw ; if the host country is one of the 3 best ranked nations, then the next highest ranked nation will be seeded.
- The other national teams will take part in the second draw.

NATIONAL TEAMS PRESENTATION AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

- To ensure the ceremony flows in a nice way, we ask the coach of each team to have their team ready by the stage a few minutes before being presented; please look at the order of presentation and come down to the stage when there are still 2 nations ahead of you.
- All team players must abide by the dress code during the ceremony. Please bring your national flag on stage with you.

