



FACT SHEET: FOOSBALL IN THE USA AND AROUND THE WORLD

UNITED STATES EVENTS:

The United States Table Soccer Federation (USTSF) is the sport's national governing body and liaison between the players, promoters, manufacturers, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF). The USTSF is supported in tournament and league promotions by the United States Table Soccer Association (USTSA), the Valley International Foosball Association (VIFA), Bonzini™ USA, and Independent Foosball Promotions (IFP). Their combined programs have involved tens of thousands of players nationwide, and engaged multiple table manufacturers in responding to the huge demand for foosball. The burgeoning home market for foosball tables has paralleled the growth of the home video game market, with over 150,000 units sold each year through outlets such as Sears, Sportmart, Sam's Club, Oshman's, Costco and many others. 15 ITSF World Tour events and countless regional, state and local tournaments are held annually in the USA, with payouts as large as \$100,000 or more.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

The recent 2007-2008 ITSF World Tour featured 55 sanctioned tournaments across five continents, drawing players of all ages and skill levels from ITSF's 53 member federations worldwide. The culmination of this year's tour will be the combined ITSF World Championships and World Cup of Table Soccer, to be held January 8-12th in Nantes, France. In a true test of player skills and adaptability, both events are held on all five "ITSF Official tables" (each of which had been featured in one of the five "World Series Class" tournaments held during the year). And, being a combined championship for the first time, the tournament is expected to be spectacular and the competition intense.

Worldwide and in the USA, table soccer has attracted more media exposure in the last three years than in its first 35 years of organized competition, with coverage everywhere from ESPN to the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Table soccer is a sport than can be played by anyone. The age range of ITSF Pro Tour players varies from 12 to 82 and includes categories for men, women, juniors, seniors and disabled. The game is hugely popular in countries as ethnically diverse as Costa Rica, China, UAE, Lithuania and Cameroon. The ITSF estimates that approximately 70,000 players participate in organized competition annually and as many as five million play recreationally. Here in the United States there are 1,500 active Pro Tour players and about ten times that in league and weeknight tournament players across the country. At the grass roots level there are two primary age demographics largely centered around playing venues: youth and young adult. For ages 12 to 17 the game is most popular at community recreation centers and video arcades, while for ages 18 to 30 it is most popular in student unions, sports bars and corporate breakrooms (with tech giants like Yahoo having 15 tables at its Santa Clara facility alone!). Promoters and route operators sometimes run up to 100 tables in their metropolitan areas, reaching thousands of competitive and recreational players every day. Exceptional hot spots include Denver, Dallas-Ft.Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Tampa.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Table soccer skills and tactics are now taught as a course of study in the athletic curriculums of numerous schools in China and India, and it is officially recognized as a sport by the governments of Argentina, China, Italy and France. Italy has a 24/7, 365-day a year dedicated table soccer training hall, while China has a training facility in the Guangzhou Olympic Center that was featured as one of the most popular side activities for many of the Olympic athletes in the 2008 Summer Games. Germany, Belgium, Italy, France and Luxembourg have each had as many as 10,000 players in their National Leagues, and for over 30 years the USA has organized pro tours of up to \$1 million in prizes.

For additional details about the event and the sport of table soccer, please see the following websites:

www.ustsf.org

www.table-soccer.org

www.foosball.com

- USTSF official web site/U.S. National Team sponsorship opportunities
- ITSF official web site/international rankings/news
- General information about the sport of table soccer

...or contact:

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