



## SINGAPORE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION (STTA)

### SELECTION POLICY FOR 2024 SOUTH EAST ASIAN (SEA) YOUTH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS & ASIAN YOUTH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### 1 BACKGROUND

The South East Asian (SEA) Youth Table Tennis Championships is a yearly event. It is one of the most important youth competitions in our calendar of events.

The top 2 Youth Boys' Teams and Youth Girls' Teams from the South East Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships (SEAYTTC) will qualify for the Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships (AYTTC) in the same year.

The following events would be contested:

Category	Boys	No. of athletes	Girls	No. of athletes
U-15	Team	4	Team	4
	Singles	4	Singles	4
	Doubles	2 pairs	Doubles	2 pairs

Category	Boys	No. of athletes	Girls	No. of athletes
U-19	Team	4	Team	4
	Singles	4	Singles	4
	Doubles	2 pairs	Doubles	2 pairs
	Mixed Doubles Up to 4 pairs			

#### 2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this selection policy is to select the best/ high potential youth athletes to represent Singapore in the SEAYTTC.

#### 3 ELIGIBILITY

- a. Singapore Citizen

- b. No outstanding dues to STTA
- c. Fulfill the eligibility under the regulations from the South East Asia Table Tennis Association (SEATTA)

#### **4 AGE**

U-15 events are for athletes who are 15 years old and below.

U-19 events are for athletes who are 19 years old and below.

Athletes who are 15 years old and below are allowed to compete in the U-19 events.

#### **5 NUMBER OF ATHLETES**

The STTA has the right to determine, and make amendments anytime, the number of athletes and reserves to represent Singapore in the SEAYTTC, so long it adheres to the condition stated in Paragraph 1.

#### **6 SELECTION PROCESS FOR ATHLETES TO REPRESENT SINGAPORE IN THE SEAYTTC**

##### **6.1 Auto-qualifiers**

- 6.1.1 Athletes from National Team automatically qualifies to participate in the SEAYTTC.
- 6.1.2 Athletes who are gold medalists in the singles event for SEAYTTC or medalist in the in the singles event for AYTTC in the preceding year, provided they are playing in the same age category.

##### **6.2 Selection Criteria**

The following athletes will be invited to a selection trial:

- 6.2.1 Athletes from Intermediate Squad (IS)
- 6.2.2 Athletes from Youth Training Squad (YTS)
- 6.2.2 Athletes from “School within a School” (SWS) programme.
- 6.2.3 Up to 1 boy and 1 girl from the STTA Junior Development Squad (JDS), nominated by the respective Head Coaches of JDS, subject to approval by HPE Sub-committee.

##### **6.3 Selection Process**

- 6.3.1 All eligible athletes according to Clause 6.2 will be invited to the selection trial.
- 6.3.2 Athletes will be grouped into U-15 age category and U-19 age category for the selection trials.

- 6.3.3 The selection trial will be played on a round-robin system. All matches will be played best of five (5) games.
- 6.3.4 In the event that there are less than five athletes in U-19 category for the selection trial, U-19 and U-15 age categories will be combined for the selection trial. Eight highest ranked athletes from the selection trial will be selected to take part in SEA Youth Championships (if there is no auto qualifier). Athletes who are born between 1 January 2005 to 31 Dec 2008 must achieve Top 6 placing in the selection trial (if there is no auto qualifier). If there is one auto-qualifier, athletes who are born between 1 January 2005 to 31 Dec 2008 must achieve Top 5 placing in the selection trial.
- 6.3.5 All information regarding the selection trial will be communicated at least two weeks before the selection trials by the respective Head Coaches.

## **7 SINGLES, TEAM AND DOUBLES EVENTS**

- 7.1 After the athletes for the SEA Youth Championships have been determined, the SEA Youth coaching team will decide on the composition of the team for the U-15 and U-19 Teams. The coaching team will also decide on the pairing of the doubles / mixed doubles pairing from the pool of athletes. The selection of doubles pairing will be based on compatibility of playing styles, for instance, chopper with chopper, right-handed athlete with left-handed athlete. The STTA has the right to register the number of pairs of doubles / mixed doubles for the championships.
- 7.2 Should any of the selected athletes is unable to participate in the SEAYTTC, the next highest ranked athlete from the selection trial will take his or her place in the team. However, STTA has the right not to activate the reserve athlete if the minimum entries are met.
- 7.3 In the event that there is U-17 singles event, the next highest ranked athletes in the selection trial for U-19 age category will be selected.

## **8 ATTENDANCE FOR PRE-SEAYTTC CENTRALISED TRAINING**

- 8.1 Selected athletes from YTS and SWS will train with their respective teams leading up to the centralized training for SEAYTTC.
- 8.2 There will either be a local or overseas centralized training to prepare for the SEAYTTC. All athletes of SEAYTTC Squad have to achieve at least 90% attendance for local centralized training. Athletes who fail to do so, will be asked to leave the Squad and be replaced by the next highest placed reserve athlete.
- 8.3 If the centralized training is held overseas, all athletes of the SEAYTTC Squad are expected to attend. Athletes who are unable to attend the overseas training due to school will train with Youth Training Squad, they would also be required to achieve 90% attendance.
- 8.4 Athletes who are selected for SEAYTTC but refuse to represent the country without valid reasons will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. Only valid reasons such

as injury, medical illness, Ministry of Education related school examinations and death of immediate family with official supporting documents, etc will be accepted.

## **9 ASIAN YOUTH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 9.1 The gold and silver medalist in the SEAYTTC team event will qualify for the junior team event in the AYTTC in the same year. The athletes of the team for AYTTC shall be made up of the same athletes from the SEAYTTC team. In the event that there are insufficient athletes for team event in AYTTC, the next highest placed reserve based on the selection trial for SEAYTTC will be selected. The STTA has the right not to activate the reserve athlete if the minimum entries for the team event have been met.
- 9.2 Training will continue for teams that qualify for the AYTTC. Selected athletes from YTS and SWS will train with their respective teams.
- 9.3 There is no qualification system for the AYTTC U-15 events. STTA reserves the right to send the athletes for the U-15 events. The U-15 team for AYTTC shall remain the same as SEAYTTC if STTA decides to send the U-15 team for AYTTC. In the event that only 3 athletes are required for the U-15 team event, the 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> (combined age group) placed athlete at the selection trial will not be selected for AYTTC.
- 9.4 Selected athletes who qualify for the AYTTC but refuse to represent the country without valid reasons will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. Only valid reasons such Ministry of Education related school examinations, injury, medical illness and death of immediate family with official supporting documents, etc will be accepted.

## **10 DISBANDMENT**

- 10.1 The SEAYTTC U-19 Squad will disband immediately if they fail to qualify for the AYTTC. If the SEAYTTC U-19 Squad qualifies for AYTTC, the squad will disband after AYTTC. The SEAYTTC U-15 squad will disband after AYTTC if STTA decides to send U-15 squad to take part in AYTTC.

## **11 CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 11.1 Athletes who are late for more than 15 minutes for the selection trials will not be allowed to play in the selection trials.
- 11.2 For cases in which an athlete deliberately loses in a match (manipulation of competition), both athletes will be disqualified from the selection trials. The case will be escalated to STTA Disciplinary committee (DC) for further action.
- 11.3 Athletes who exhibit unsporting behaviour (e.g using of vulgar language during matches, verbal abuse of tournament officials) will be disqualified from competing in the selection trials.
- 11.4 If athletes exhibit behaviour during the SEAYTTC and AYTTC that maybe considered damaging to the image of Singapore team. STTA DC will decide on the punishment. The athlete will have to take responsibility for the total cost of the event (travel,

hospitality and entry fees). There may be further action such as suspension from future local and overseas competitions based on the severity of the incident.

- 11.5 Athletes must comply with the rules and regulations of the selection trials or be disqualified from the selection trials.
- 11.6 Absenteeism for any match in the selection trials shall be deemed as a walkover. There will be no re-match for any reasons, including but not limited to medical leave, examinations, etc. The results of the selection trials will be final.

## **12 CODE ON PREVENTION OF MANIPULATION OF COMPETITIONS**

12.1 All athletes taking part in the selection trial shall comply with the Code of Conduct on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Sport Competitions:

- Never bet on your sport.
- **Never manipulate a competition and always do your best.**
- Never share inside information. Non-public information about your sport stays private.

12.2 The breaches of the Code include 6 main actions/omissions:

- Betting on one's sport
- Sharing of inside information
- Corrupt conduct / manipulation
- Failure to cooperate
- Failure to report

Breaches of the code will be reported to the STTA Disciplinary Committee. Athletes who breach the code will be disqualified from the selection trial, results will be null and void.

## **13 ATHLETE'S AGREEMENT**

- 13.1 All SEAYTTC athletes and their parents, if they are not under any of the STTA training programme, are required to sign an Athlete's Agreement on behalf of the athlete for this purpose. The agreement shall be binding on both the athlete and the parent.
- 13.2 The Athlete's Agreement will be issued to the athletes and it must be returned to STTA duly signed by the athlete's parent for and on behalf of the athlete before the commencement of the first training session.

## **14 APPEAL PROCESS**

- 14.1 Appeal against the non-selection must be made in writing to the Chairman (High Performance Committee), Singapore Table Tennis Association at OCBC Arena, 5 Stadium, #03-40, Singapore 397631, within 48 hours of the announcement of the athletes selected for SEAYTTC.
- 14.2 The sole ground for any appeal is that the selection process was not properly followed.

- 14.3 An appeal must be made in writing with supporting documentation and must be accompanied by a deposit of S\$100.00, payable to the Singapore Table Tennis Association. If the appeal is successful, the deposit will be refunded in full.
- 14.4 There will be an Appeal Committee (comprising of members not involved in the actual selection process) to investigate the issues of the appeal with all involved parties.
- 14.5 STTA will, in writing, inform all parties about the Appeal Committee's decision to either uphold or reject the appeal. The decision of the Appeal Committee will be final and no further correspondence will be entertained.

*High Performance Committee*

*Singapore Table Tennis Association*

*Approved by the STTA Management Committee on 16 February 2024*