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Match Officials 2019 Invitation for World Tour and Platinum Events

Dear Friends,

The ITTF Umpires and Referees Committee (URC), in cooperation with the Organising Committees of the World Tour Events, cordially invite National Associations to nominate up to three (3) International Umpires (IU) for each of these prestigious events.

2019 World Tour Platinum

- Qatar Open, Doha: 28-31 March, *Qualification 26-27 March*
- China Open, Shenzhen: 30 May – 2 June, *Qualification 28-29 May*
- Japan Open, Sapporo: 14-16 June, *Qualification 12-13 June*
- Australian Open, Geelong: 11-14 July, *Qualification 9-10 July*
- German Open, Bremen: 11-13 October, *Qualification 8-10 October*
- Austrian Open, Linz: 14-17 November, *Qualification 12-13 November*

2019 World Tour

- Hungarian Open, Budapest: 17-20 January, *Qualification 15-16 January*
- Hong Kong Open, Hong Kong: 6-9 June, *Qualification 4-5 June*
- Korea Open, TBC: 4-7 July, *Qualification 2-3 July*
- Bulgaria Open, Panagyurishte: 15-18 August, *Qualification 13-14 August*
- Czech Open, Olomouc: 22-25 August, *Qualification 20-21 August*
- Swedish Open, Stockholm: 4-6 October, *Qualification 1-3 October*

For each nominated umpire the association may order the preferred tournaments for this umpire in ranking order 1-3.

ITTF URC will give priority to IUs who have achieved Blue Badge status, or, alternatively, have attended an ITTF Advanced Umpire Training (AUT) course and passed the Advanced Rules Exam (ARE). It is ITTF policy to encourage female participation whenever possible, so please encourage your female umpires to seriously consider applying for these prestigious assignments.

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Umpires need to arrive no later than one day before the qualification starts and attend the Referee Orientation planned for that evening.

The nominees, or their Associations, are responsible for all related travel and insurance costs. **Please note that by submitting a nomination, the Association confirms its responsibility to ensure the nominee has sufficient financial support for airfare for all selected events.** Flights shall only be booked after having received the final decision of ITTF URC about the working days (final days yes/no) for the specific event.

In case of a successful nomination for the final days, the organiser will refund the travel costs.

Since this is an open invitation, unfortunately many umpires nominated may not be selected.

The URC will confirm the selection by no later than

15. November 2018 for the World Tour event in Hungary,

31. December 2018 for the World Tour in Qatar and

31. January 2019 for all other World Tour events

An announcement will be made on the ITTF website.

Please submit your nominations indicating names, IU numbers and status (BB) of the nominated umpires

not later than 05.11.2018 for Hungarian Open

and for all other events till 20.12.2018

with events in ranking order.

Please use the attached nomination form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkmDMZ6cT91KzgW11TKmbxZoKTcroaN_rtggykfeYyw_6Tdg/viewform

Each Blue Badge umpire shall receive a daily allowance of 100 USD/working day in the main draw and 60 USD/working day in the qualification stage. All other umpires shall receive at least 30 USD per working day.

Thank you very much for your support,

Yours faithfully

ITTF URC

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1. Background information

Beginning on 01.01.2017 the format of play in World Tour Events has changed and ITTF URC started preparing a new approach for match officials to adapt to the new situation but also to fulfil following objectives:

- The work of match officials is part of the professional presentation of table tennis.
- It is expected that the status of the event correlates with the quality of umpiring. The best match officials should be selected for the main draw in World Title Events and World Tour Events.
- Match Officials, working in major ITTF events, should not spend their private money for officiating at the highest level.
- Match officials have to be present in the venue during the whole day in which they are nominated as an official.
- Hospitality for match officials will only be provided for the working days and one day before and one day after
- The daily allowance for match officials has to be adapted to the status of the event.
- Travel costs for match officials performing in the final days of major events have to be paid.
- A clear career pathway for match officials shall motivate them to work on their performance.

In close cooperation with the ITTF Competition Management Department and the organisers the new approach was used in specific events this year.

1.1. Selection:

In the qualification stages it is possible to also use National Umpires or White Badge Umpires.

- In the **qualification stage at least one**, preferably two umpires, per table is used.
 - The host Association also has the possibility to develop their National Umpires by giving them the opportunity to officiate in international matches, thus gaining valuable experience.

Match Officials selected for the main draw should preferably be Blue Badge umpires having performed in an excellent way in the past three years.

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Match Officials selected for the final days should be umpires selected for the main draw and having shown the best performance in the past three years of those umpires selected for the event.

In the main draw two international umpires per table are used.

1.1.1. Selection process for main draw and final days umpires

The selection of umpires for the main draw is done by ITTF URC in close cooperation with the organiser.

An open invitation for each event/each series (e.g. Platinum events) will be published by ITTF, late in the year for the following year, and **all** umpires can apply through their National Association. After the deadline for nomination the selection will be done using following criteria:

- Performance in the last three years
 - Number of meets
 - Ratio meets/near
- Participation in at least one event per year within the last three years

(NB: selection criteria: "Participation in e.g. 3 events per year" could lead to the result that umpires from some countries can never be Category A umpires as they don't have the money to attend too many events although they are excellent - therefore also the ratio is important.)

The home association of an event has the possibility to nominate up to 8 Blue Badge umpires for the main draw and up to two Blue Badge umpire for the final days.

If the home association of an event has less than 4 Blue Badge umpires, they can nominate additional White Badge Umpires to have at least four home umpires for the Main Draw.

In the selection process it is also necessary to take into account the mixture of associations, continents and gender to comply with all requirements during an event (e.g. avoid clash of associations – player/match official).

Selection and invitation of additional umpires for the qualification event will be done by the organiser.

1.1.2. Costs

- Blue Badge umpires shall receive a daily allowance of 100 USD or equivalent for each working day in the main draw and 60 USD or equivalent for each working day in the

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qualification stage. Other umpires nominated by the organisers shall receive a daily allowance of at least 30 USD or equivalent.

- The umpires of the final days will also receive their travel costs.
- Accommodation is paid for all umpires during their working days (arrival one day earlier and departure the day after their last working day).
- If umpires want to stay longer (e.g. until finals), organisers can offer them specific rates.

Number of Umpires

- 1.2. All events are divided into different stages:
- 1.3. Qualification, Main Draw and Final Days (last two days of an event)
- 1.4. Each stage requires a different number of umpires. The number of umpires depends on the tables in use for each stage.
- 1.5. Umpires are only present for the stage, for which they are selected.
- 1.6. World Tour Events:
- 1.7. Qualification: Number of tables x 2 +2 – at least one umpire per table is required
- 1.8. Main draw: Number of tables x 4
- 1.9. Final days (1 table): 6