ITTF HOPES PROGRAM

Directives for Continental Federations and National Associations
Dear Friends and Supporters of the ITTF Hopes Program

The Education & Training and Development Programs are proudly releasing the ITTF Hopes Program Directives!

National Associations interested in having U11 and U12 Players participating in the various Hopes activities at Regional, Continental and World level, should implement National Hopes activities as an integral part of their National Talent Identification Programs and actively take part in the activities designated by their respective Continental Federation, which will enable them to qualify for the prestigious yearly ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge that will feature a limited number of Players and Coaches, while the top four girls and boys based on global reach and universality will be selected for the Hopes Team at the yearly ITTF World Cadet Challenge.

Every year since the launch of the Hopes Program in 2009 talented Players and their Coaches are gathering all around the World, united through the symbol of the Hopes. We invite you to read carefully the hereafter presented Directives and join us in the exciting Program!

Glenn Tepper
ITTF Deputy CEO

Polona Cehovin
ITTF Education & Training Director
The Hopes Program is one of many ITTF development initiatives targeting Global Reach and Overall Growth of Table Tennis. The number one goal is to encourage National Associations to run Talent Identification Programs and also to promote and work with young talented Players for future success and growth. The role of the ITTF Education & Training is to provide expert guidance, incentives and opportunities while following up with the education of Coaches.

The latest modification and improvements to the Hopes model should considerably strengthen the role of the National Associations as well as of the Continental Federations and secure involvement, engagement and ownership of the young talented Players and promising Coaches, all following the new ITTF DNA “Developing National Associations” philosophy.

The Hopes activities at all levels will be monitored from a quality standpoint and shall at all times reinforce educational elements focusing on coaching, innovations and support.
The program is open for U11 and U12 Players.

Following the pyramidal structure
National Association → (Region) Continent → World pathway
Continental Talent Identification activities/actions targeting Hopes Players are run by the Continental Federations, based on the specific needs of each Continent and are integrated in the existing Development Programs. The activities also serve as qualifications for the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge.

Successful attendance at these activities will open the doors for participants to be eligible to attend the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge.

The World Hopes activity will feature a limited number of participants, 16 girls and 16 boys Players with a maximum of 32 Coaches, whereby the following quota will be applied per gender: 3 places for Asia and Europe, 2 places for Africa and Latin America, 1 place for North America and Oceania, 1 place for the Host, while the 3 remaining places will be awarded to National Associations based on a call for Wild Cards applications meeting the criteria.

The ITTF Education & Training Program will cover full hospitality for all the participants, 32 Players and up to 32 Coaches (with a maximum of one per National Association)*, who will qualify and enter for the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge.

The ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge will be organized as a seven day event featuring an official training camp and an internal tournament. Participation in the official training camp (World Hopes Week) and the World Hopes Challenge is mandatory for players seeking eligibility and selection to the Hopes Team.

Following the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge the ITTF will select a Hopes Team composed of 4 girls and 4 boys that together with their Coaches will be offered a follow-up activity, which will include the participation at the ITTF World Cadet Challenge.

* 2 coaches from one NA will only be covered in case both genders are represented. Please note that this condition applies throughout the document where the * mark appears.

NEW – Former Hopes Become Rough Diamonds!
In 2016 we are introducing a new incentive for former Hopes players – the “Rough Diamonds” Project that will feature a training camp in one of the ITTF recognized Academies or High Performance International Training Centers that are members of the ITTF International Training Center Network.

The participation will be limited to 10 girls and 10 boys with accompanying Coaches, whereby priority will be given to former Hopes Team members, who are currently in the cadet age category (U13-U15 age group) considering also the universality and global reach aspects.

The training camp conducted by the renowned Coaches from the hosting Center will be held in the second half of the year.
The HOPES ROAD from DEVELOPMENT toward EXCELLENCE

Hopes TEAM
Composed by 4 girls and 4 boys with Coaches. Participation at the ITTF World Cadet Challenge

WORLD Hopes
• ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge
• 16 girls, 16 boys and up to 32 Coaches (maximum of 1 per country)*

CONTINENTAL Hopes
• Serving as Continental qualifications, ideally following the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge model
• Quotas: ASI and EUR 3, AFR and LAT 2, NAM and OCE 1, Host 1, Wild Cards 3

NATIONAL Hopes
• National Talent Identification Programs running all year round and aiming at selecting a Regional and/or National Hopes Team
• The best players attend the Continental Hopes activity

Adriana Diaz (PUR), 2011 & 2012 Hopes Team member
## The ITTF Hopes Program Timelines **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month(s)</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November-December</td>
<td><strong>Preliminary information to the Continental Federations</strong> about the ITTF Hopes Program and announcement of activities to National Associations for the coming year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td><strong>Phase 1 – National phase and nominations, managed by National Associations:</strong> Running all year round, while respecting the entry deadlines set by the Continental Federations for the Regional/Continental Hopes/Talent Identification activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominations for Continental activities based on respective deadlines</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td><strong>Continental Federations nominate</strong> Continental Hopes Coordinators/Managers, who will be in charge of the Program at Continental level</td>
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<tr>
<td>February-March</td>
<td><strong>Release of the Wild Cards Call for Applications following specific criteria</strong></td>
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<td>March-April</td>
<td><strong>Release of the ITTF World Hopes Week &amp; Challenge Prospectus</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January-March</td>
<td><strong>Phase 2 – Continental phase and nominations, managed by Continental Federations:</strong> Respecting the deadlines when publishing documents related to Continental activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominations for the World Hopes by 1 May or earlier</td>
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<tr>
<td>April-May</td>
<td><strong>Wild Cards allocation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April-May (or 2 months prior to the ITTF World Hopes Week &amp; Challenge)</td>
<td><strong>Phase 3 – ITTF World Hopes Week &amp; Challenge entries, managed by ITTF:</strong> Based on the communication received from the Continental Federations and on the Wild Cards allocation, National Associations submit the entries</td>
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<tr>
<td>One month prior to the ITTF World Hopes Week &amp; Challenge</td>
<td><strong>Phase 3 – online preparatory Coach Education:</strong> Coaches, entered for the ITTF World Hopes Week &amp; Challenge complete the designated online course</td>
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<tr>
<td>July and later</td>
<td><strong>Phase 4 – Hopes Team:</strong> National Associations fulfil the requested entry procedures based on the deadlines related to the ITTF World Cadet Challenge</td>
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**The exact dates of each activity and the deadlines are published in the Hopes Infographics issued on yearly basis.**
4 Step by Step Guide

Phase 1 - National Hopes Week (as part of National Talent Identification activities):
National Associations interested in becoming an active partner with the Education & Training and Development Programs in the ITTF Hopes Program shall opt to initiate or continue running National Hopes activities that cater in the best possible way for their vision, objectives, needs and finally realities in relation to Talent Identification Programs. Ideally a National Hopes Week with a strong educational component for the participating Players and Coaches is integrated in the program, aiming to identify a group of young, talented Players that together with their Coaches aim to represent the backbone of the National Team in the future, envisioning the participation at the Continental Hopes Week as the first step. Participating National Associations can use promotional material as well as all the related logos to form/design and market the program and its activities within their own jurisdiction.

Tip: National Hopes Week organization guidelines and some examples of best practises are available on the online educational platform at www.ittfeducation.com. We recommend that the National Hopes Coordinators as well as the Coaches active in the Program register and check out the available resources.

Phase 2 – Continental Phase – limited to Continental Federations:
The Continental Federations are requested to define an activity targeting the Hopes age cut, a number of activities or to set and publish the criteria that will be used to fulfil the continental quota of participants eligible to enter for the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge.
The quota per gender is distributed as follows:
– 3 places for Asia and Europe,
– 2 places for Africa and Latin America,
– 1 place for North America and Oceania,
– 1 place for the Host,
– 3 Wild Cards.
It is recommended that the Continental Hopes activities take place in the period January-March in order to assure that nominations for the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge can be communicated by the 1st of April. Ideally the Continental Hopes Week follows the model and the concept of the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge, i.e. 4-5 days of training camp followed by a tournament and with the implementation of daily educational sessions for Coaches.
The ITTF Education & Training and Development Programs staff will be in contact with the nominated persons in charge of the Continental Hopes activities (to be communicated to ITTF before the 15th of January) in order to facilitate and if requested to assist in all the operational steps of the Continental phase’s implementation.

Phase 3 – The ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge:
The Education & Training Program will organize the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge in cooperation with the hosting National Association and its partners on yearly basis. The number of entries will be limited to 16 girls and 16 boys applying a continental quota as presented in Phase 2, with the maximum of 1 girl and 1 boy per National Association. The Players must be
accompanied by their Coaches.

Conditions of participation:

– The final entry from each Continent will be defined by the Continental Federations, however, National Associations commit to enter the player(s) and prepare for full participation including coaching and management for the World Hopes activity.

– All the qualified and duly entered participants of the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge, i.e. Players and Coaches*, will have their hospitality costs covered as follows: accommodation on full board basis and based on double room occupancy, transfers from/to the Airport and training fees.

– All participating Coaches shall be registered at www.ittfeducation.com and take part in in the mandatory online course held in the month prior to the activity. The course will consist of reference material, quizzes and assignments.

– Please, note that National Associations are responsible for the supervision and wellbeing of their participants, which includes all travel and the full period of the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge. Furthermore, regulations deriving from the ITTF Policy for Underage Players will strictly be observed during the entry procedure and throughout the duration of the activity.

Wild Cards Allocation:
The following criteria will be used for the allocation of the 3 Wild Cards*** available per gender:

1. Successful organization of a National (or Regional) Hopes Week
2. Participation at (previous) Regional Continental, if applicable, and World Hopes Weeks
3. Head Coach/Expert’s report (evaluation based on results and Talent Identification outcome)
4. Geographical representation

*** The same criteria will apply in case a Continent fails to organize a Continental Hopes activity or set Continental qualification criteria for filing the continental quota.

During the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge a number of specific coach and management educational sessions will be offered in order to boost the knowledge about Talent Identification, technical skills and many other aspects of Table Tennis and sport theory in general. Several experts will conduct coaching seminars and workshops both in classrooms and in the gym.

Detailed information, such as entry deadlines, visa procedures, rates for accompanying persons, implemented security and safety measures etc. will be announced in a separate Prospectus made available at least 2 months prior the start of the activity.

Phase 4 – The Hopes Team Selection
Following the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge the ITTF will select, based on specific criteria a showcase team of 4 girls and 4 boys to take part in a training camp immediately prior to and compete at the ITTF World Cadet Challenge and will also support the recognized and registered Coaches working with the Players.

Any Player selected for the Hopes Team shall be accompanied by a National Association recognized Coach and accept to participate in all related activities.

* Coaches Xiao Zhan (CHN), Dejan Papic (CAN) and Zoran Primorac (CRO) at the 2014 ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge, Slovenia
National Associations wishing to be proactive in the field of Talent Identification, hence in the Hopes Program, should consider the following aspects:

- Building a functional National Talent Identification model is the key to success! A National Coordinator should be nominated as responsible for the Program, acting as the key person for all communication with the Continental Federation and the ITTF.
- The ITTF encourages National Associations to make full use of all the promotional material and to display the logos in designated marketing material. We will constantly publish updates and news from various countries on our website.
- The Education & Training Program will offer online courses and other educational material targeting National Associations, nominated National Coordinators and identified Coaches on the ITTF e-learning platform at [www.ittfeducation.com](http://www.ittfeducation.com).
  Register today!
- The Development Program will offer funding for Continental Hopes and a limited number of National Hopes activities through the Development Program.

The ITTF Education & Training Program is strongly recommending National Associations and Continental Federations to utilize the ITTF International Center Network (ITCN) for hosting their events. We will consider basic financial support towards selected Hopes events held at ITCs in the form of a contribution toward organizational costs. The financial support will be granted on a case by case basis following a successful application by the concerned Hot Spot and/or Elite International Training Center and will also be closely coordinated with the Agreements of Understanding signed with the International Training Centers, members of the ITC Network.

Moreover, the Rough Diamonds follow-up activity will be held in one of the Academies or High Performance International Training Centers, members of the Network in the second half of the year. More details will follow in a separate Invitation sent directly to the concerned National Associations with selected and invited Players and Coaches.

Abayomi Animasahun (NGR), 2015 Hopes Team member
Think globally, act locally!

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