TTFI

COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATORS
TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA

CHETAN MITTAL SENIOR ADVOCATE MEMBER	JUSTICE GITA MITTAL (RETD.) CHAIRPERSON	S.D. MUDGIL SPORTSPERSON MEMBER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED ON 12.05.2022 AT 05:30 P.M. ON VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present:

Justice Gita Mittal (Retd.)	...Chairperson, CoA
Mr. S. D. Mudgil	...Member, CoA
Mr. Chetan Mittal	... Member, CoA

1. All objections and suggestions received with regard to ranking and selection criterion have been discussed and dealt with and proceedings recorded separately thereon are placed alongside.

2. The Committee hereby also approves the '**Ranking and Selection Criterion**' for all Indian teams which shall be effected from 1st October 2022 or immediately after the first ranking event is conducted hereafter, whichever is earlier. Let the above be posted on the website of the TTFI for the information of all.

[Chetan Mittal] Member	[Gita Mittal] Chairperson	[S. D. Mudgil] Member

COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATORS
TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA

CHETAN MITTAL	JUSTICE GITA MITTAL (RETD.)	S.D. MUDGIL
SENIOR ADVOCATE	CHAIRPERSON	SPORTSPERSON
MEMBER		MEMBER

Review and Recommendation of Ranking Criterion and Selection Guidelines

Background Facts

1. Amongst the several roles performed by the Table Tennis Federation of India ('**TTFI**' or the '**Federation**' hereafter), so far as the sport of table tennis is concerned, it is singularly responsible for effecting the merit ranking of players and selection of the National teams for all age groups. A solemn responsibility and duty is, thus, cast upon the TTFI to ensure that these functions are discharged in an honest and *bonafide* manner, by a criterion and process that is completely fair, transparent and accountable.

2. The matters relating to the working of the TTFI came up for scrutiny before the High Court of Delhi and after getting an enquiry conducted into the allegations by the Petitioner, strong observations have been made by the High Court of Delhi in the Judgment dated 11.02.2022 in Writ Petition No. 10590 of 2021 titled *Manika Batra v. TTFI & Ors.*

3. By the same order, the High Court of Delhi has appointed the Committee of Administrators ('**CoA**' hereafter) to discharge the functions of the Executive Committee of the TTFI, amongst other responsibilities.

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4. The primary mandate, thus, of the CoA is to ensure that the ranking of table tennis players is strictly merit based and selection of the National teams to represent India in tournaments abroad is effected with the object of ensuring fairness to players and maximising the prospect of the Indian team securing medals.

5. The existing selection criteria and processes are manifestly inadequate in implementing the vision and the administrative goals of TTFI or in ensuring that the Indian table tennis players have the assurance of a transparent and consistent selection framework.

6. This has been manifested from not only the proceedings and orders of the High Court of Delhi in the above case, but also from several instances from the past that lead to this conclusion, some of which are extracted hereafter as an illustration:

i. Selection Inconsistencies: 2018 Commonwealth Games Selections: (CWC, Gold Coast)

The men's team members chosen and their India ranking:

a) Antony Amalraj (No. 1)
b) G. Sathiyan (No. 3)
c) A. Sharath Kamal (No. 4)
d) Harmeet Desai (No. 7)
e) Sanil Shetty (No. 8)

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It is to be noted that Soumyajit Ghosh (No. 16) was originally a part of the team announced, but had to be dropped because of a court case. (Soumyajit represented Haryana then). Sanil Shetty eventually replaced him in the team.

In the process, a grave injustice was done to Manav Thakkar (a perennial sufferer), who was then India No. 2, and Arjun Ghosh (No. 5).

ii. Selection Inconsistencies: 2018 Czech Junior and Cadet Open

Junior Girls player, Ms. Swastika Ghosh, despite being ranked India No. 4 at the time, was not amongst the four players picked to represent the country at the event. This is manifested from the declaration of rankings by the TTFI and the International Table Tennis Federation ('ITTF' hereafter) extracted below:

International Table Tennis Federation

2018 ITTF Premium Junior Circuit

Czech Junior & Cadet Open

14 FEBRUARY - 18 FEBRUARY 2018, Hodonin (CZE)

JUNIOR GIRLS TEAMS SEEDING LIST

TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA

FINAL RANKING : 24th January 2017

S.N.	TTFI ID	NAME	STATE/INST	D.O.B.	Indore Central Zone 19 - 24 June. 2017	Dharwad South Zone 06 - 12 Sept. 2017	Siliguri East Zone 23 - 28 Oct. 2017	Greater Noida North Zone 6 - 11 Nov 2017	Thane West Zone 13 - 19 Nov. 2017	Durgapur Jr and Youth Nationals 18- 23 Jan, 2018	Ranking POINT	Ranking POSITION
1	200441	KAMATH Archana Girish	PSPB	17-Jun-00	30	30	90	90		180	420	1
2	200736	SIVASHANKAR yashini	TN	26-Mar-00	90	30	15	30	60	60	285	2
3	200881	SEN Prapti	WB	30-Jul-01	60	30	30	45	90	20	275	3
4	200805	GHOSH Swastika	MHR	7-Jun-03		90	45	30	30	60	255	4
5	200895	PATWARI Surbhi	WB	4-Dec-00	15	30	15	15	45	120	240	5
6	200110	SELENADEEPTHI	AAI / TN	5-Jan-00	15	60	60	15	15	60	225	6
7	200674	JAISWAL Varuni	TELG	15-Nov-00	30	10	15	30	30	90	205	7
8	200985	HALEANGADI Srushti	MHR	20-Nov-00	30	45	30	60	15	20	200	8

iii. Selection Inconsistencies: 2021 Asian Championships

In the Seniors age groups, players picked for the Indian contingent included the 8th and 17th ranked (Men) and the 8th ranked (Women). The 3rd and 4thranked Men were not selected for the team. The following table illustrates this significant unfairness:

TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA

FINAL RANKING: FEB 24, 2021

		MEN		Senepat	Trivandrum	Howrah	Thane	Bhavnagar	Ajmer	Panchkula		
				North Zone	South Zone	East Zone	West Zone	Central Zone	49th Inter Institutional	82nd Senior National	RANKING	
S.N	TTFI ID	NAME	STATE/INST	23 - 30, June, 2019	14 - 21, Aug, 2019	18 - 25, Oct, 2019	29 Oct - 03 Nov, 2019	07 - 14, Nov, 2019	24 - 30, Nov, 2019	14 - 23, Feb 2021	POINTS	POSITION
1	200652	MANAV Vikash Thakkar	PSPB	60		90	90		60	90	390	1
2	200333	SHETTY Sanil Shankar	PSPB	45	45	30	60	30	120	60	390	1
3	200526	GHOSH Sourayajit	HRN	30	45	45	30	90	20	30	290	3
4	200112	SRIRAM Sreekrit	AAI	10	60	45	10	45	40	60	270	4
5	200469	DESAI Harmeet Rajul	PSPB	30	90	60			40	30	250	5
6	200530	ANTHONY Amalraj	PSPB	90		15			40	60	205	6
7	202471	BHANJA Rohit	BNG A	15	10	15	10	30	60	60	200	7
8	200475	GNANASEKARAN Sathiyan	PSPB							180	180	8
9	202236	GHOSH Arpit	BNG A	15	10	30	15		80	30	180	8
10	200209	JEET Chandra	HRN	30	30		45	60			165	10
11	200764	FIDEL RAFEEQUE Sheikh suravajjula	TELG	10	10	10	10	10	15	90	155	11
12	200447	GROVER Sudhanshu	PSPB / DLI	45	30	10	10	15	15	30	155	11
13	201324	SHAH Manush	GUJ	15	15	30	45	10		30	145	13
14	200424	JOBIN KUMAR	HRN	30	15	15	30	10	20	20	140	14
15	200502	YADAV Abishek	UP	15	15	15	15	10	40	20	130	15
16	200501	SAHA Sourav	PSPB / HRN	15	10	15	30	15	20	20	125	16
17	200001	ACHANTA Sharath Kamal	PSPB							120	120	17
18	200511	BORO Baldev	PSPB		10	10	15	45	15	20	115	18
19	200883	SARKAR Sougata	LIC		15	10	15	15	15	30	100	19
20	200204	ANIRBAN Ghosh	RSPB		30	10	15	10	15	20	100	19

TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION OF INDIA

FINAL RANKING: FEB 24, 2021

		WOMEN		Senepat	Trivandrum	Howrah	Thane	Bhavnagar	Ajmer	Panchkula		
				North Zone	South Zone	East Zone	West Zone	Central Zone	49th Inter Institutional	82nd Senior National	RANKING	
S.N	TTFI ID	NAME	STATE/INST	23 - 30, June, 2019	14 - 21, Aug, 2019	18 - 25, Oct, 2019	29 Oct - 03 Nov, 2019	07 - 14, Nov, 2019	24 - 30, Nov, 2019	14 - 23, Feb 2021	POINTS	POSITION
1	200503	AKULA Sreeja	RBI	90	10	30	90	30	40	90	380	1
2	203203	MUKHERJEE Sutirtha	PSPB / HRN	60	30	60	30	90	40	30	340	2
3	200425	BATRA Manika	PSPB						120	180	300	3
4	200467	RISHYA Reeth	PSPB		10		30	30	80	120	270	4
5	200220	AYHIKA Mukherjee	RBI	10	90	45	15	45	20	20	245	5
6	200881	SEN Prapti	BNG A	30	15	45	15	60		60	225	6
7	200345	KRITTWIKA Sinha roy	PSPB	10	10	90	10		60	30	210	7
8	200645	KAMATH Archana girish	PSPB / KNT	45		15	10	15	60	60	205	8
9	200571	SARKAR Takeme	RSPB		15	10	60	10	15	90	200	9
10	201110	KUTUMBALE Anusha	MP / PSPB	45	30		30	45	15	30	195	10
11	202317	NATH Kaushani	RSPB	10	10		45	15	40	60	180	11
12	202459	MUKHERJEE Sagarika	RSPB	30	10	10	15	30	20	30	145	12
13	200813	CHITALE Diya parag	MHR B / MHR A	30	30	10	45			30	145	12
14	200110	SELENADEEPTHI Selvakumar	TTTA	10	60	10	15	10	20	20	145	12
15	200507	PATKAR Madhurika	PSPB	30	15	15	10	30	20	20	140	15
16	200438	PAUL Mousumi	PSPB	10	30	15	10	10	40	20	135	16
17	200337	POOJA Sahasrabudhe	PSPB / MHR B	10	10	10	10	15	15	60	130	17
18	200837	AMRUTE Shruti Vijay	RSPB	15	45	15	10		15	30	130	17
19	200442	D'SOUZA Senhora cezinha	BBSCB / MHR B	10	45	10	10		20	20	115	19
20	200202	DUTTA Moumita	RSPB	15	10	15	10	15	20	20	105	20

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iv. Selection Inconsistencies: 2021 World Championships

a) Ms. Archana Kamath, a gifted player, was an integral part of the Indian Team at the Asian Championship 2021, which secured a historic 5th place. She was illegally not for recommended the Sports Authority of India ('SAI' hereafter) Team, initially for the very next international competition i.e., the World Table Tennis, Slovenia. She made a lot of representations, only after which, she was included in the Indian team. Ms. Archana Kamath and Ms. Manika Batra went on to win the Women's Doubles Title, the first ever for India.

b) Despite this commendable achievement, Ms. Archana was arbitrarily also not included in the World Table Tennis Championship, 2021, USA. She was the third highest Indian at that time by rank. It is pertinent to note herein that two players below her in the world ranking were selected. Ms. Archana was not permitted to participate in the single's event and could only participate in the Women's doubles event despite her merit. It is noteworthy that in view of her merit, she has been included by the authorities i.e. the TOPS CORE Group for the Paris Olympics, 2024 w.e.f. January 2022. She was also supported by TOPS for the WTT Muscat.

c) Despite her merit, she was not placed by the TTFI in the India team selected for the WTT Contender, Muscat or the WTT Star Contender, Doha. It is significant that Ms. Archana Kamath was invited by the WTT to participate in the first ever WTT Grand Smash (a Tier 1 event) in Singapore in both the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles events.

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d) Ms. Archana Kamath played with Ms. Manika Batra in Women's Doubles and with Manav Thakkar in Mixed Doubles in both Muscat and Doha. Though both her partners were part of the officially selected team, Ms. Archana Kamath was not included.

e) Given the pandemic-induced lull in sporting events, the ITTF provided national federations an indicative extract of the 4 top ranked players in each country from the last rankings it published, and asked national federations to judge for themselves whether subsequent performances required the list to change.

The TTFI instead wrongfully decided to treat this indicative list as a mandate to select those 4 players for the Indian team, despite at least 4 other players across Men and Women category ranking higher domestically than the players on the ITTF indicative list.

7. The above are a few instances of arbitrariness and non-transparency in the selection process followed thus far, thereby clearly supporting the conclusion that the extant criterion enables arbitrariness and support for favouritism in its implementation. Such selections obviously adversely impact the results of the competitions so far as the position of Indian teams is concerned.

8. Across the board, the CoA has received allegations of rampant dishonesty in the selection process and persons associated in making the selection and decision making in the TTFI having vested interests in the selections.

9. No attention is also being paid to conflict of interests issues. Coaches and even relatives (instances of even a parent selecting her own child for National

representation) have been brought to light. Amongst others, the following such instances have been revealed:

a) A Delhi based Coach running a private academy was made a selector for a junior team between 2017 and 2021. This very Coach was sent as a National Coach by TTFI to International tournaments of various age groups during the same period

b) Despite running a private table tennis academy in Delhi, this Delhi based Coach was made a national selector, and appointed the Coach for the senior team participating in the WTT Championship in Houston, USA.

c) Similarly, a person running a private table tennis academy in Uttar Pradesh was made coach of the Junior National Table Tennis team as well as a national selector for cadet-sub junior- junior age groups National teams.

d) After a junior player in Haryana started participating in International Tournaments, her mother, who works in the sports department in Haryana, was appointed as the National Coach for her daughter's age group. Allegations have been received that one of the advisors of the TTFI who plays a dominating role in the Federation, belongs to the same state.

e) There are allegations that the Legal Advisor of TTFI, who is running a private academy in Delhi, was sent as a Coach for the World Cadets Challenge Tournament. Impression has been that with *malafide* intention, it was decided that TTFI would run its national coaching camps at his academy.

The impression is rife that many of those persons involved in above acts & omissions have been/are officer bearers of the TTFI/State

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Associations or deeply involved in their affairs as Advisors etc. Therefore, they are able to influence selections.

10. Several instances of rampant manipulation, conflict of interest and arbitrariness in the conduct of Selectors and the officials of the TTFI have been complained against. Such actions violate the National Sports Code, 2011; as well as the ITTF Handbook and its Codes of Conduct. Per force players are compelled to maintain silence for fear of retaliation at the hands of the officials.

11. So far as the conduct of coaches running private academy and becoming part of the Selector panel is concerned, reference may be made to Article 6.2.5 *"Integrity of Conduct"* of the ITTF Handbook, which reads as follows:

> *"Article 6.2.5 Integrity of Conduct*
>
> *The Table Tennis parties must refrain from placing themselves in any conflict of interest, and must respect the Rules Concerning Conflict of Interest Affecting the Behaviour of Table Tennis parties.* Namely: *"A situation of a potential conflict of interest arises when the opinion or decision of a person, acting alone or within an organisation, in the framework of activities of the physical or legal persons defined in article 1 above, may be reasonably considered as liable to be influenced by relations that the aforementioned person has, has had or is on the point of having with another person or organisation that would be affected by the person's opinion or decision.*

12. The Committee consisting of Justice Vikramajit Sen, Justice Arjan K. Sikri, Former Judges of the Supreme Court and Mr. Gurbachan Singh Randhawa, a

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distinguished sportsperson and Arjuna Awardee appointed by the Delhi High Court, referred to the judgment of the Supreme Court reported in ***(2016) 8 SCC 535, Board of Control for Cricket v. Cricket Association of Bihar,*** and noted the acceptance therein of the Report of the Supreme Court Committee on Reforms on Cricket dated 18.12.2015, consisting of three Judges of the Supreme Court which is referred to as the '*Lodha Committee*'. The Committee has extracted the following portion of Chapter Six of the Lodha Committee Report dealing with the aspect of "*Conflict of Interest*":

"Chapter Six: Conflict of Interest"

The events that have led up to this Report revolve around one oft quoted and little understood concept: Conflict of Interest. The fact that individuals in positions of trust, adjudication and governance must conduct themselves in a manner not remotely suggestive of compromise has been an underpinning of all governance in the civilized world. In the courts, an oft-quoted precept is "justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done". However, the last few years of governance at the BCCI has revealed that there is, at best, an extremely casual understanding of the concept of Conflict of Interest.

In our interactions with various stakeholders, it became apparent that the understanding of the concept of Conflict of Interest by a Player or Official is very different from that of a legal professional who is attuned to conflict mechanisms and their avoidance on a daily basis. Several cricketers of impeccable repute were surprised when queried about what were obviously potential conflict situations, needing to be convinced that no wrongdoing was necessary for a conflict to exist. The Committee had to point out to them that the very holding of a position which

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could be abused to undermine the integrity of the game renders the occupant vulnerable to such a charge.

During the course of the last few months, the Committee has come to learn of several instances of obvious conflict where contracts have been entered into by the BCCI, where the contractor or vendor includes family members of an Office Bearer. The fact that there was no voluntary disclosure makes matters worse, raising a presumption of wrongdoing and subterfuge against the individuals in question.

Understandably, much of this is left to the subjective assessment of the person concerned. In consonance with the practice internationally, either undertakings or declarations are furnished as some form of indemnity, or in more obvious situations, sanctions are imposed. Before the IPL, it could well have been argued that the BCCI felt no cause to take steps in this regard, but with its advent, the conduct of the BCCI has been to accommodate the conflict rather than to prevent it. Unfortunately, matters needed to reach the highest court of the land before the BCCI decided to take tentative steps towards setting its house in order.

The seriousness of conflict of interest affecting sport cannot be underestimated. While it may seem surprising to the individual administrator or player that their position could be capable of such an interpretation, it is out of abundant caution in the interests of the game, that its regulation is mandated. In most, if not all cases, there is no question being raised about the integrity of the individual, but it is out of concern that the occupation of a particular post should not allow reasonable

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presumptions or inferences to be drawn about the compromise which could ensue, that would in turn lower the dignity of the game.

A glance at the various international sports bodies such as FIFA, ICC, FIH and AFC that are considered in the appendix to this Report would show that ***conflict of interest issues are central to the regulation of ethical conduct in sport.*** *This is why the administration of these principles is coupled with the appointment of a responsible and independent individual who assists the organization in the administration of the policy.*

(Emphasis supplied)

13. Reliance was also placed on Chapter Eight "*Transparency and Oversight*" wherein the *Lodha Committee* had recommended as follows:

"Chapter Eight: Transparency and Oversight

(1) A Conflict of Interest may take any of the following forms as far as any individual associated with the BCCI is concerned:

(i) Direct or Indirect Interest: When the BCCI, a Member, the IPL or a Franchisee enter into contractual arrangements with entities in which the individual concerned or his/ her relative, partner or close associate has an interest. This is to include cases where family members, partners or close associates are in positions that may, or may be seen to compromise an individual's participation, performance and discharge of roles.

Illustration 1: A is an Office Bearer of the BCCI when it enters into a broadcast contract with a company where A's son B is employed. A is hit by Direct Conflict of Interest.

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Illustration 2: C is a Member of the IPL Governing Council. The IPL enters into a contract with a new franchisee, the Managing Director of which is C's partner in an independent commercial venture. C is hit by Indirect Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 3: D is the Office Bearer of a State Association. D's wife E has shares in an IPL Franchisee which enters into a stadium contract with the State Association. D is hit by Indirect Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 4: F is President of the BCCI. His son-in-law is a Team Official of a Franchisee. F is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 5: G is an employee of the BCCI. His wife runs a catering agency that is engaged by the BCCI. G is hit by Conflict of Interest.

(ii) Roles compromised: When the individual holds two separate or distinct posts or positions under the BCCI, a Member, the IPL or the Franchisee, the functions of which would require the one to be beholden to the other, or in opposition thereof.

Illustration 1: A is the Coach of a team. He is also Coach of an IPL Franchisee. A is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 2: B is Secretary of the BCCI. He is also President of a State Association. B is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 3: C is the Vice President of the BCCI. He is also President of a State Association and member of a Standing Committee. C is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 4: D is a Selector. He is also coach of an IPL franchisee. D is hit by Conflict of Interest.

(iii) Commercial conflicts: When the individual enters into endorsement contracts or other professional engagements with third parties, the discharge of which would

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compromise the individual's primary obligation to the game or allow for a perception that the purity of the game stands compromised.

Illustration 1: A runs a cricket academy. He is appointed as a selector. A is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 2: B is a BCCI commentator. He also runs a sports management company which contracts members of the team. B is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 3: C is a selector. He is contracted to write a column on a tour that the national team is on. C is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 4: D is a team captain. He is also co-owner of a sports management agency which is contracted to manage other team members. D is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 5: E is a member of the IPL Governing Council. He is engaged by a cricket broadcaster to act as an IPL commentator. E is hit by Conflict of Interest.

(iv) Prior relationship: When the individual has a direct or indirect independent commercial engagement with a vendor or service provider in the past, which is now to be engaged by or on behalf of the BCCI, its Member, the IPL or the Franchisee.

Illustration 1: A is President of the BCCI. Prior to his taking office, he has been engaged professionally for his services by a firm B. After A becomes President, B is appointed as the official consultants of the BCCI. A is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 2: B is the Secretary of a State Association. Prior to his election, he ran a firm C, specializing in electronic boundary hoardings. Upon becoming Secretary, the contract for the Association's stadium hoardings is granted to C. B is hit by Conflict of Interest.

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Illustration 3: D is the Commissioner of the IPL. Before he came into this office, he used to engage E as his auditor for his business. After becoming Commissioner, E is appointed as auditor to the IPL. D is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 4: F is the Captain of an IPL team, and G is the team's manager. When F is made Captain of the national team, G is appointed as the national team's manager. F is hit by Conflict of Interest.

(v) Position of influence: When the individual occupies a post that calls for decisions of governance, management or selection to be made, and where a friend, relative or close affiliate is in the zone of consideration or subject to such decision-making, control or management. Also, when the individual holds any stake, voting rights or power to influence the decisions of a franchisee / club / team that participates in the commercial league(s) under BCCI;

Illustration 1: A is a selector. His son is in the zone of consideration for selection. A is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 2: B is the Secretary of a State Association. He also runs a cricket academy in the State. B is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 3: C is an umpire. His daughter D is a member of a team which is playing a match in which C officiates. C is hit by Conflict of Interest.

Illustration 4: E is the President of a State Association and his company F owns 12 cricket clubs in the State from which probables are selected for the State team. E is hit by Conflict of Interest.

EXPLANATION: The Illustrations which refer to a President / Secretary/ Vice-President may be read as illustrations referring to any other Office

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Bearer, and also to the members of the Apex Council, the Governing Council and the Committees".

14. Even though cricket is a team sport, the concerns and recommendations pertaining to the issue of conflict of interest would squarely apply to all sports, including individual sports. Every sports body has to ensure that there is no scope of nepotism, arbitrariness or favouritism in making selections. The interest of the sport, most importantly National interest in selection of the Indian team, has to override any individual's or organisation's commercial or personal interest. This is the mandate as well as the aim and spirit of the National Sports Code, the rules and regulations contained in the ITTF Handbook and the jurisprudence on the subject.

15. Clearly, involvement in running of a private sports academy must be considered while making appointments to positions requiring independence and objectivity, say as National Selectors.

16. **From the above, we can conclude as follows:**

i. **The existing selection criteria do not enable a holistic evaluation of all relevant performances of players to arrive at fair selections for Indian teams.**

ii. **The selection process and criteria allow for arbitrary selections that do not align with the world or domestic rankings in the relevant period.**

iii. **The process and criteria have lacunae that permit merit-based selection to be circumvented by conflicts of interest.**

iv. **It is improper for coaches running Table Tennis academies having coaches who may be up for consideration in National teams, to be part of the selection panel or the selection process in any manner.**

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v. **Any officer bearer of the TTFI or State Associations having concern or relationship of any kind with a player should maintain a wide distance from the appointment of selector panels, selectors and selection process.**

Methodology adopted by the CoA

17. In this background, a wide discussion with several stakeholders was effected and a draft of a proposed selection and ranking criterion, for players to be selected for the Indian teams' to maintain a balance between International and Domestic rankings for team selections was prepared. This was posted on the website of the TTFI on the 6th April 2022, copy whereof is enclosed as **Annexure - I**. By the same public notice, comments were invited on or before 20th April 2022.

18. In response thereto responses were received from several associations, coaches, players as well as parents.
List of the Associations/persons from whom comments were received is enclosed as **Annexure - II** hereto.

19. In order to enable the Committee a wider consideration, an opportunity was given to make submissions, and time for hearing was fixed as per the schedule enclosed as **Annexure - III** hereto when they were so heard.

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20. The CoA, thus, undertook an elaborate exercise of hearing all stakeholders on the issue of the review of the selection criterion as per the above notified schedule.

21. The CoA has considered the representations received at length and applied its mind to all the apprehensions and grievances expressed. There can be no denial that the process appointed has involved a wider confabulation, has been inclusive and fair. Nor can it be denied that there is a critical need for the revamp of the ranking and selecting criterion. The CoA has been informed that such an inclusive open process and prolonged exercise is not only unique to TTFI, but is unprecedented.

22. In order to enable a better understanding of the reasoning which has prevailed with the CoA while making its recommendations, we propose to summarise the objections and record our reasons for the view the same in some detail hereafter.

Examination of the objections & our recommendations

The primary objections which were advanced by the representations can be summed up thus:

I. **The selection and ranking criterion can only be made in an Annual General Meeting of the TTFI and the CoA has no power to do so as of yet.**

II. **An objection that was taken in the proposed criterion, the weightage for domestic performances is being unfairly diluted to**

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the prejudice of meritorious players who do not have the financial capacity to participate in international tournaments. Thus, the weightage for the international performance favours affluent players.

III. The players have planned their participation in tournaments keeping in mind the existing criterion and that the proposed criterion will not take into consideration participation and performances of the past which would be unfair.

23. Let us examine the above objections in seriatum.

I. **The selection and ranking criterion can only be made in an Annual General Meeting of the TTFI and the CoA has no power to do so as of yet.**

24. The objections received from the State Associations rest primarily on a challenge to the jurisdiction of the CoA to introduce a new or change the existing ranking and selection criterion. It has been staunchly submitted that the same can only be done in the Annual General Meeting.

25. The members of the CoA have carefully heard the representatives of the objectors on this objection and also applied their mind to the available record and documents.

26. The CoA finds that the Memorandum of Association and the bye-laws of the TTFI do not contain any such stipulation as is being pressed in this regard. It is noticed that the bye-laws of the TTFI stipulate the powers of the Executive

Committee as well as that of the AGM. The powers of the AGM have been defined under Clauses 14(i) to (x). No such power has been vested in the AGM.

27. On the contrary, Clause 24 of the Executive Committee has a residual clause in Clause 24(C) and Sub-Clause (c) which vest the power "*to explain, define and / or interpret the Rules*". If it all, the power would vest in the Executive Committee.

28. In this regard, the CoA finds that even in the past, the selection criterion or the point system has been varied by even the concerned Selection Committee and the changes duly implemented on a large number of occasions. In this regard, reference may be made to the Minutes of the Meetings of the respective Selection Committees held on 02.02.2020; 17.03.2019; 10.01.2016, amongst others. In addition, even the Executive Committee of the TTFI has reviewed the selection criterion in its meeting held on 29.09.2018.

It is, therefore, obvious that the objection is being pressed merely to prevent appointment of a fair, transparent and accountable ranking and selection criterion.

29. Significantly, this objection fails to consider the import of *the order dated 11.02.2022, passed by the High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10590 of 2021*. The Court has shown serious concerns with regards to the judicial selection of players for participation in major international events based on the merit, and so also one of the rules which was subject matter of the case i.e., rules and regulations for National Camp dated 04.08.2021.

30. The Court has also noticed the anguish expressed by the committee headed by Justice Vikramjit Singh and Justice A.K. Sikri, both former Judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, besides Mr. Gurbachan Singh Randhawa a

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distinguished sportsperson and Arjuna Awardee, to the effect that the TTFI, which stands entrusted with the responsibility of promoting the sport of table tennis, has only taken interest in safeguarding its officials. The court has further noticed the role of the Federation, which is to carry out the duty under the National Sports Code to promote and achieve excellence in sports. In the order dated 11.02.2022, the Court has strongly commented upon the conduct of the TTFI (Respondent No.1 before it) and recorded its concerns in paragraph 12 as under:

> *"12. The conduct of the respondent no.1 federation has been undoubtedly questionable as it has been misusing its position to feed into the whims of some of its officials, including the respondent no.3, without any consideration of the mental agony they are putting their sportspersons through. The people of this country take great pride in the achievement of their sportspersons, who undergo rigorous training for years and show remarkable grit while representing their Country at international platforms, and bring laurels to the country with their remarkable dedication and sportsmanship. It pains this Court to see that, instead of celebrating, honouring and encouraging the meritorious sportspersons, the respondent no.1 federation has gone out of its way to undermine their efforts. This it appears is only with an aim to further the interests of a select few officials, who clearly have no regard for the welfare of the sportspersons. It is therefore, imperative that the conduct and functioning of the respondent no.1, which prima facie appears to be in breach of the Sports Code, 2011, should be inquired into."*

31. It is to be noted that the Respondent No.3 was a Coach against whom the Petitioner has made allegations and the Court has considered the aspect of

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conflict of interest in making selection to the National Team. As a result of its finding, the Court has suspended the Executive Committee, and has clearly defined the role of the CoA in its detailed order, the relevant portion whereof is reproduced below:

> *"15. In these circumstances, the only other option is to appoint an Administrator to discharge the functions of the respondent no.1 federation, till an inquiry, is conducted into the affairs of the federation. If this is not done, this Court will be remiss in discharging its duty not only towards the sportspersons of the country, but also towards the general public itself.*
>
> *20. The following directions are being issued to facilitate the smooth functioning of this Committee of Administrators:*
>
> *i.* ***The Executive Body of respondent no.1 will acquiesce their administrative duties to the Committee of Administrators,*** *while the staff engaged by the respondent no.1 federation will continue to work on the same terms and conditions as was applicable to them. Since, there are a number of tournaments coming up in the near future, it is expected that the Executive members of the Committee, who claim to be working in the interest of the sportspersons, will render all assistance to the Committee of Administrators, as and when required.*
>
> *ii.* ***Even though this Committee is being constituted only to ensure that the morale of sportspersons and pride of the country is safeguarded, [...]***
>
> *iii.* *Upon the Committee of Administrators as nominated above assuming charge, the existing office bearers of the respondent no.1 federation*

shall no longer be entitled to discharge any function of the federation but will, as already directed, render assistance to the Committee of Administrators, as and when requested by the said Committee.

iv. ***The Committee of Administrators will have the power to issue all appropriate directions, under the signatures of the Chairperson, as may be necessary for the functioning of the federation. The Committee of Administrators will be entitled to utilise the existing office of the respondent no.1, as also to avail the services of the staff already employed by respondent no.1."***

(Emphasis supplied)

32. It cannot be denied that the Ranking and Selection criterion, which enables selection of the most meritorious sports persons as members of the National Teams to represent India in International competitions, is of critical and utmost importance. Such criterion must be fair and enable selection through a transparent judicious and accountable. It is a matter which concerns not only every sportsperson, but every person committee to the sport of table tennis.

33. We have noted herein the several instances when the criterion has been arbitrarily overlooked to make dishonest selection ignoring the most meritorious and deserving players to represent India. It also appears that the criterion has been randomly tweaked to favour well connected players. Additionally, conflict of interest issues has been completely ignored in making the selection and applying criterion.

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34. Instances have been brought to our notice wherein the mother of a player has been a part of the Selection Committee, which has been instrumental in the selection of her daughter in the National Team. There are also instances wherein coaches who have been appointed in the Selection Committee, have influenced the overall selection process thereby ignoring the merit of players and ensuring appointment of their coaches in the National Teams.

Such selections are completely unethical, untenable and opposed to the norms set out by the International Table Tennis Federation as well.

35. We may note that across the board, players and their representatives have expressed deep anguish about the selection criterion and the manner in which the selections have been affected till date. It is also to be noted that players and genuine sports lovers have no platform wherein they can vent their anguish and concerns. Fear of being singled out and being penalized for speaking up makes them voiceless, despite them being the biggest stakeholders in the system. The CoA was told that it is for the first time in the history of table tennis in country that an opportunity has been afforded to every stakeholder to make a representation followed by a hearing.

36. It is the spirit, intendment and object of the appointment of this Committee to formulate and implement such criterion and policy, which is to the larger interest of the sport of table tennis, sport persons at every level and all other related issues, to ensure the promotion of the sport itself. It is the prime duty of the CoA to ensure selection by a fair, transparent and accountable method, enabling maximization of national interest. Every action of the CoA is guided by the interest of table tennis and its players, and is intended to maximise the

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national interest in the sport over and above the interest of any individual.

The CoA is specifically empowered to do so by virtue of the directions contained in Paragraph 20 (iv) of the order of the Delhi High Court dated 11.02.2022.

Therefore, the objection of the objectors with regard to the jurisdiction of the CoA is completely misplaced.

II. **Objection that in the proposed criterion, weightage for domestic performances is being unfairly diluted to the prejudice of meritorious players who do not have the financial capacity to participate in international tournaments. Thus, the weightage for the international performance favours affluent players.**

37. With the need for a new selection criterion and guidelines having been firmly established, the CoA has engaged in a comprehensive consultative process with a singled-minded focus to deliver a transparent, consistent and goal-oriented selection framework. The CoA has interacted with players and their parents at the recently concluded 83rd Senior National Table Tennis Championships in Shillong, in several video conferences, and has engaged with representatives of the State Table Tennis Associations while framing the criteria and guidelines.

38. The overarching philosophy has been to serve the vision of establishing India at the pinnacle of world table tennis. The best possible international performances can be delivered only if a framework establishes a true meritocracy in Indian team selection. Another objective is to ensure that the Table Tennis ecosystem (and crucially the players) is provided with a

transparent and consistently applied set of criteria, one that also permits players to plan their annual appearances (domestic and international) ahead of time while retaining the flexibility to adjust the plan to results and changes in external circumstances.

39. The Selection Criteria arrived at are best explained in context of the issues addressed.

Issue: Relative weightages in Selection Criteria

40. The Current System, at the Seniors level for example, is:

Indian Ranking	:	*50%*
International Ranking	:	*30%*
Selectors' Discretion	:	*20%*

41. **This system disproportionately favours performance at the domestic level and does not adequately recognize international performances.** It would be myopic to ignore the hard reality that the number of prestigious international tournaments has also increased leaps and bounds since the above criterion was framed. As the socio-economic characteristics of India improve, more and more Indian players are able to compete in tournaments abroad. Some have personal resources, others get third party sponsorships and assistance and many benefit from Government Schemes. Their international exposure should be encouraged as it directly contributes to the overarching goal of Table Tennis in India – enhancing the Indian team's international performances. Most importantly, the Team seedings at Commonwealth/Asian

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Games and the World TT Championships i.e., for international tournaments are arrived at based on the world rankings of the team's players.

42. This should not be construed as belittling domestic performances, however. The same are equally important, considering that domestic tournaments are where most Indian players across age groups will test their relative abilities against the competition. Domestic performances should be particularly prioritized in younger age groups, where players are still evolving and play most often in the domestic circuit.

43. A third consideration has to be at the Selectors' discretion, to account for any circumstances that may impair a player's domestic and/or international performances or a specific international event's rules. These circumstances could be:

- An established player returning from layoff or injury or not performing optimally in a tournament for any reason
- Optimizing team composition to align with an event's seeding rules
- Provide exposure to upcoming, exceptional talent

The circumstances under which selectors exercise their discretionary powers should be documented. The reasons for exercise of such discretion must also be documented and disclosed.

Recommendation: On the consideration of the entire material placed before the CoA, at the Junior levels, it is recommended that international appearances may be maintained to provide exposure to global competition, rather than for the juniors to seek ranking points. The weightages allocated should constitute a framework that

consciously promotes domestic competition initially, gradually allowing players to excel at the international level, at which point their international performances will begin influencing their selection.

44. The CoA, therefore, recommends the following selection criterion by the Age category:

CATEGORY	INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE	DOMESTIC PERFORMANCE	SELECTORS' DISCRETION
U11, U13, U15	0%	80%	20%
U17	20%	60%	20%
U19	30%	50%	20%
SENIORS	40%	40%	20%

45. To enable a level playing field for the players to play international tournaments, so far as the different age categories are concerned, the following Selection Criterion shall be followed:

- **U11/13/15: Players have to be ranked in the top 10 to play international tournaments**
- **U17/19: Players have to be ranked in the top 24 to play international tournaments**
- **Seniors: Players have to be ranked in the top 32 to play international tournaments**

46. Doubles categories are medal events in prestigious international events. Therefore, Men/Women/Mixed Doubles Events should be included in the Indian ranking events.

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47. Players often team up with different partners to play doubles domestically, due to various circumstances. Therefore, instead of ranking doubles teams as a unit, the ranking system should begin giving individual rankings in Doubles categories, as is the practice in the world rankings.

For Doubles events, the following Selection Criterion shall be followed:

- **U17/19: Players have to be ranked in the top 8 to play international tournaments**
- **Seniors: Players have to be ranked in the top 12 to play international tournaments**

48. So far as the contention that the weightage for domestic performance is diluted is concerned, the new system heavily favours the domestic circuit in the age categories crucial to discovering and promoting talent. In virtually every sport, and across countries, domestic events are the source of new talent and a platform for emerging talent to prove themselves. They also serve as springboards for players to rebound from being dropped from Indian teams, which is why domestic performances still get a significant weightage at even senior levels in the proposed system. Finally, the proposed points system for Domestic Ranking in the selection criteria is almost equivalent to the points system for World Ranking in the criteria.

49. So far as the objection that the weightage for international performance favours affluent players is concerned, the new criteria have been carefully crafted to promote meritocracy in Indian Table Tennis rankings and selections. The guidelines establish a rankings cut-off for players eligible to play internationally across different age groups. Players from affluent backgrounds

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will not earn the privilege of playing internationally without having performed well in domestic events.

50. Assessment of the Current position also suggests that economic affluence has not guided merit in the ranking.

51. So far as deserving players without financial capacity is concerned, the Government of India and State Governments have floated several schemes, which require to be publicised, so as to enable such players to draw benefits therefrom.

The matter of building financial capacity to facilitate deserving players requires an administrative scrutiny, which can be undertaken separately.

52. **What is the appropriate weightage to be assigned to International Performances?**

In view of the above discussion, it is, therefore, recommended that:

While incorporating International Performances into the selection calculations, players' absolute world rankings should matter and not the relative ranking between the players under consideration.

To illustrate, if the top 3 Indian players in the World Rankings are at No. 3, No. 50 and No. 150 respectively, the current system gives the top player 30 points, the 2nd player 27 points and 3rd player 24 points. This does not reflect the true gaps between the three players in world rankings. A gradation of points which would proportionately reward performance has to be evolved.

53. **The CoA, therefore, recommends the following Points System for balancing domestic/International Performance shall therefore be followed:**

Sl No	World Ranking Category	Points Awarded
1	1-30	40
2	31-50	35
3	51-70	30
4	71-80	27.5
5	81-90	25
6	91-100	20
7	101-110	17.5
8	111-120	15
9	121-130	10
10	131-140	7.5
11	141-150	5

54. This approach ensures that a player must be adopted proportionately for the performances they delivered at the international level. This would incentivize a player to strive for better world rankings.

55. Players with World Rankings beyond 150 will not be awarded any points for the International Performance criterion.

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56. Singles Players with World Rankings of 32 or below in Senior Category shall be eligible for Direct Selection to the National Team.

57. Doubles Players (both partners) with World Rankings of 8 or below in Senior Category shall be eligible for Direct Selection to the National Team.

58. If two players receive the same number of points by virtue of being in the same bracket, the domestic performance selection criterion should be able to separate them.

Balancing Domestic and International Participation

59. Given the large number of domestic and international events, it is essential to give importance to participation in both domestic and international events. While players are required to aggressively participate in international tournaments to secure international ranking, there is much substance in the need for their participation in domestic events. This is necessary to enable the emergence of new talent and also to provide exposure, competition and encouragement to young domestic players who have not been exposed to international tournaments.

60. The World Rankings use the 8 best performances in a year to arrive at a player's ranking. Given the stiff competition world-wide, players generally have to play many more events to optimize the performances that will be considered for the rankings. This helps them maximize their chances to be automatically selected for the top tier world events like the WTT Grand Smash and the WTT Champions.

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61. This international work-load makes playing additional events at the domestic level difficult to cope with. Reducing international appearances is not ideal, because it not only does it affect the players' rankings, it also influences the Indian Team's seeding in events. The selection criteria should, therefore, provide a framework through which any Indian player can formulate a dynamic strategy across international and domestic events for a calendar year. The recommendation which has been made provides the optimal balance. This system for domestic performances, relative to the points awarded for World Rankings, achieves the best balance between international and domestic performances.

62. The following distribution shall be used to calculate the selection points based on domestic rankings:

Sl No	Current Domestic Ranking	Points Awarded
1	1	40
2	2	36
3	3	32
4	4	28
5	5	24
6	6	20
7	7	16
8	8	12
9	9	8
10	10	4

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Ensuring participation in domestic and maintenance of Balance with International events

63. An important aspect to be addressed is balancing domestic and international participation. There are 7 domestic events that count toward players' rankings in India: the national championship, the inter-institutional championship (for Seniors), and 5 zonal events.

64. The current system uniformly counts the 5 best performances across these events as the domestic selection criterion. This requires a relook keeping in view the significant increase in international events.

65. To achieve a balance across domestic and international participation, the following considerations shall be applied:

   i. ***For Men and Women: National Championship + 2 best performances (National Championship participation mandatory)***

   ii. ***For Other Age Groups: National Championship + 4 best performances including performance in the Khelo India Games***

   iii. ***When a team is being selected, the rankings to be used should always be the latest Indian and World Rankings.***

Evaluation of Points in domestic selection criterion

66. The final aspect is to provide a formula that delivers the points to be used as the domestic selection criterion. It is best to use a simple average.

67. The following formula shall be used to evaluate the player's overall domestic points:

Player's Overall Domestic Points =

Points accumulated from the required best performances / No. of mandatory events player was required to participate in

68. In case 2 players are in the same world ranking bracket and also the same Indian ranking, then the player with the higher world rank shall be selected. Thus, all concerns raised before the Committee have been duly addressed as above.

III. Objection that the players have planned their participation in tournaments in view of the existing criterion and that the proposed criterion will use participation and performances of the past which would be unfair.

69. We are all aware of the disastrous impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on every facade of life. In fact, the pandemic does not seem to have come to an end. Asian Games, 2022 were scheduled to be held from 10th –

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25th September, 2022 in the Chinese city of Hangzhou. As per the news agency AFP, these games have been postponed indefinitely because of resurgence of COVID-19 infections in different parts of China. There continues to be uncertainty with regard to the resurgence and progression of this pandemic and the conduct of these very important games.

70. As a result of the lockdowns and restrictions in movement, which began to be eased only after February/March, 2022, the TTFI has also had a lot of difficulty in holding the national events. The Senior Nationals have been recently concluded on the 25th March 2022 in Shillong and had to be arranged at a very short notice. Therefore, the submission that there has been planning which would be impacted on account of any change in the criterion may not strictly be correct, especially for the current year.

71. It was also pointed out to us by the Representationists that even the International Table Tennis Federation regularly revisits and reviews the ranking criterion. It was stated that it has done so even in the very recent past. So far as international performances are concerned, the world rankings are entirely dynamic being updated weekly.

72. The Senior Nationals have concluded after the proposal for change in criterion and was brought to everybody's notice. Zonal events are yet to take place.

73. However, keeping in view the apprehensions expressed, it is directed that the new criterion will come into force on 1st October 2022 ,or immediately after the first ranking event is conducted, whichever is earlier.

General Recommendations

i. Since domestic performances play a significant role in the selection criteria, the India rankings shall be updated after every ranking event in the calendar year.

ii. The format of team composition varies across the World, Commonwealth, Asian and Olympics Games. Selection Criteria shall be suitably modified to ensure an optimum team is chosen for each event.

iii. The panel of chief coaches appointed to the national team is a vital source of knowledge about player potential, conditioning and performance. The chief coaches should, hence, be special invitees to all Selection Committee meetings.

iv. The panel of chief coaches appointed to the national team is a vital source of knowledge about player potential, conditioning and performance. The chief coaches should, hence, be special invitees to all Selection Committee meetings.

Guidelines in terms of the above are being summarised and placed along with for convenience of application.

Dated the 12th day of May 2022

[Chetan Mittal]
Member

[Gita Mittal]
Chairperson

[S. D. Mudgil]
Member

Annexure 1

NOTICE

FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

06.04.2022

I am pleased to inform that Committee of Administrators (CoA) has drafted the following new selection and ranking criteria for all Indian Teams to maintain a balance between International and Domestic rankings for team selections.

NEW PROPOSED TABLE FOR WORLD RANKING POINTS SELECTION:

S. No.	World ranking bracket	Points allocation
1	1-30	50
2	31-50	45
3	51-70	40
4	71-80	35
5	81-90	32.5
6	91-100	30
7	101-110	25
8	111-120	22.5
9	121-130	20
10	131-140	17.5
11	141-150	15
12	151-160	12.5
13	161-170	10
14	171-180	7.5
15	181-190	5
16	191-200	2.5

**Any player with world ranking outside 200 will not get any points for his world ranking.

**In case if two players fall in same world ranking bracket, their Indian ranking can be taken into consideration for selection.

NEW PROPOSED TABLE FOR INDIAN RANKING POINTS SELECTION:

S. No.	Indian ranking	Points allocation
1	1	40
2	2	36
3	3	32
4	4	28
5	5	24
6	6	20
7	7	16
8	8	12
9	9	8
10	10	4

Further, the following shall be considered while allocating points in regard to the Indian ranking keeping in view of their world ranking.

NEW PROPOSAL:

S. No	World ranking bracket	Domestic tournaments
1	50 and below	Considered for direct selection to Indian team- optional to play domestic events
2	51-60	Best 1 (Any zone or Nationals)
3	61-75	Best 2 (1 zone + Nationals)
4	76-100	Best 3 (2 zones + nationals)
5	101-125	Best 4 (3 zones + nationals)
6	126-150	Best 5 (4 zones + nationals)
7	151 & above	Best 6 (5 zones + nationals)

** Zones mentioned here will also include the Inter-institutional championships.

** The cut-off date for world ranking consideration to play the minimum number of required domestic events will be based on the latest world ranking published just before the start of first domestic

event of the season.
**** Whereas latest Indian ranking & world ranking to be taken into account for points allocation in the overall process of team selection.**

****Formula to equate between players and arrive at the domestic points as every player will have variable mandatory domestic events:**
Player domestic points = Total Points accumulated by a player from his or her required best performances / Number of mandatory tournaments required for the player

1. The above measure will keep in check that players play the minimum number of domestic events as well maintain their Indian ranking according to their world ranking, and at the same time encourage players with high world ranking to participate in more international events and improve their world ranking and in turn help for the ranking of Indian teams overall to improve.

   It will also balance the workload between domestic events and international events which is a practice in many other top table tennis playing nations and also in other sports.

2. **Tie Situations:**
   1) In case, two players fall in same world ranking bracket and also are having same Indian ranking, then the person with higher world ranking can be selected.

   2) In case, in a rare scenario, two players are having exactly same singles world ranking & Indian ranking, then a person with high doubles ranking (in view with importance for team) can be considered.

3. **<u>Important Note:</u> The world ranking cut off deadline for the selection of team for Commonwealth Games 2022 will be April 30th, 2022.**

Your comments on the above selection and ranking criteria are invited on or before 20th April 2022. Please send your comments at: manager@ttfi.org

S.K. Tandon
Manager
Committee of Administrators
Table Tennis Federation of India

Annexure 2

LIST OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

1. STATES

• Mr V. Bhaskar Ram (Andhra Pradesh)	April 20, 2022 (6.52 p.m.)
• Mr Vinay Baswade (Chhattisgarh)	April 18 2022 (12.28 p.m.)
• Mr Manjit Dua (Delhi)	April 18, 2022 (4.42 p.m.)
• Mr Kushal Sangtani (Gujarat)	April 19, 2022 (3.18 p.m.)
• Mr Yashpal Rana (Himachal)	April 16, 2022 (6.38 p.m.)
• Mr M.P. Singh (Haryana)	April 18, 2022 (6.46 p.m.)
• Mr Ranjan Sharma (J&K)	April 18, 2022 (3.17 p.m.)
• Mr Gurumadhwa Ambedkar (Karnataka)	April 18, 2022 (7.16 p.m.)
• Mr Michael Mathai (Kerala)	April 20, 2022 (10.12 p.m.)
• Mr Yatin Tipnis (Maharashtra)	April 18, 2022 (5.19 p.m.)
• Mr Sailoliala Sailo (Mizroam)	April 15, 2022 (8.27 p.m.)
• Mr Chiranjib Choudhary (Meghalaya)	April 20, 2022 (9.22 p.m.)
• Mr Jayesh Acharya (MP)	April 15, 2022 (7.20 p.m.)
• Mr Jayanta Singh (Manipur)	April 21, 2022 (12.58 a.m.)
• Nagaland TTA (Person not identified)	April 20, 2022 (10.08 p.m.)
• Mr Rabindra K. Parida (Odisha)	April 16, 2022 (01.09 a.m.)
• Mr Pankaj Sharma (Punjab)	April 19, 2022 (7.11 p.m.)
• Mr Anil Dubey (Rajasthan)	April 18, 2022 (1.17 p.m.)
• Mr Kuber Bhandari (Sikkim)	April 20, 2022 (6.53 p.m.)
• Dr Rupak Deboroy (Tripura)	April 18, 2022 (7.21 p.m.)
• Mr J. Selvakumar (TTTA)	April 20, 2022 (8.21 p.m.)
• Mr Arun K. Banerjee (UP)	April 19, 2022 (1.27 p.m.)
• Ms. Sharmi Sengputa/Mantu Ghosh (WB)	April 19, 2022 (1.13 p.m.)

2. COACHES

• Mr Anshul Garg	April 16, 2022 (9.04 p.m.)
• Mr Sandeep Gupta	April 19, 2022 (9.26 a.m.)
• Mr Sandip Ghosh (also parent)	April 11, 2022 (10.21 a.m.)
• Ms Bhvana Saini (also parent)	April 20, 2022 (4.07 p.m.)
• Mr Parag Aggarwal	April 20, 2022, (11.47 p.m)
• Ms Arul Selvi (also parent)	April 15, 2022 (5.36 p.m.)

3. PARENTS

• Mr Gaurav Jain	April 15, 2022 (10.50 p.m.)
• Dr Girish Kamath	April 19, 2022 (9.37 a.m.)
• Mr Jinendra Jain	April 12, 2022 (02.06 a.m.)
• Mr Parag Chitale	April 17, 2022 (8.59 p.m.)

4. PLAYERS

• Ms Reeth Risha	April 16, 2022 (2.55 p.m.)
• Mr Sanil Shetty	April 18, 2022 (9.33 p.m.)
• Mr Sudhanshu Grover	April 20, 2022 (5.48 p.m.)
• MrRohit Mahajan	April 20, 2022 (8.44 p.m.)

Annexure 3

NOTICE ON HEARING: **April 29, 2022**

HEARING ATTENDANCE:

TIME SLOTS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022

✓	Andhra Pradesh	(Mr Viswanath)	5.30 p.m.
✓	Chhattisgarh	(Mr Arvind Kumar)	5.35 p.m.
✓	Delhi	(Mr Manjit Dua)	5.40 p.m
✓	Gujarat	(Mr Kushal Sangtani)	5.45 p.m.
✓	Himachal Pradesh	(Mr Yashpal Rana)	5.50 p.m.
✓	Haryana	(Mr Vikas Saini)	5.55 p.m.
✓	Jammu and Kashmir	(Mr Vasudevan)	6.00 p.m.
✓	Karnataka	(Mr T.G. Upadhya)	6.05 p.m.
✓	Kerala	(Mr Michael Mathai)	6.10 p.m.
✓	Maharashtra	(Mr Yatin Tipins)	6.15 p.m.
✓	Mizoram	(Mr Sailo)	6.20 p.m.
✓	Meghalaya	(Mr Chiranjib Choudhary)	6.25 p.m.
✓	Madhya Pradesh	(Mr Jayesh Acharya)	6.30 p.m.
✓	Manipur	(Mr Jayanta Singh)	6.35 p.m.
➢	Nagaland	(No representation)	6.40 p.m.
✓	Odisha	(Mr Rabindra Parida)	6.45 p.m.
✓	Punjab	(Mr Pankaj Sharma)	6.50 p.m.
✓	Rajasthan	(Dr Atul Dubey)	6.55 p.m.
➢	Sikkim	(No representation)	7.00 p.m.
•	Tripura	(Dr Rupak Debory/connectivity issue)	7.05 p.m.
✓	TTTA	(Mr J. Selvakumar)	7.10 p.m.
✓	Uttar Pradesh	(Mr Arun Banerjee)	7.15 p.m.
✓	West Bengal	(Mr Subroto Roy)	7.20 p.m.

TIME SLOTS ON SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

✓	Arul Selvi	(Junior selector)	9.30 a.m.
✓	Gaurav Jain	(Parent)	9.35 a.m.
✓	Girish Kamath	(Parent)	9.40 a.m
✓	Jinendra Jain	(Parent)	9.45 a.m.
✓	Parag Chitale	(Parent)	9.50 a.m.
✓	Reeth Rishya	(Player)	9.55 p.m.
✓	Sanil Shetty	(Player)	10.05 a.m.
✓	Sandip Ghosh	(Parent)	10.00 a.m.
➢	Rohit Mahajan	(No representation)	10.10 a.m.
✓	Sudhanshu Grover	(Player)	10.15 a.m.
➢	Anushul Garg	(No representation/in Austria)	10.20 a.m.
✓	Sandeep Gupta	(Coach)	10.25 a.m.
✓	Bhavana Saini	(Coach/parent)	10.30 a.m.
✓	Parag Aggarwal	(Coach)	10.40 a.m.
✓	Uttarakhand	(Mr K.K. Sharma)	10.45 a.m.

Ranking Criterion and Selection Guidelines

1. The existing selection criteria and processes are manifestly inadequate in implementing the vision and the administrative goals of the Table Tennis Federation of India ('**TTFI**' or the '**Federation**' hereinafter) or in ensuring that Indian table tennis players have the assurance of a transparent and consistent selection framework.

   Thus, an important responsibility and duty is cast upon the TTFI to ensure that these functions are discharged in an honest and *bonafide* manner, by a criterion and process that is completely fair, transparent and accountable.

2. The Committee of Administrators ('**CoA**') has carefully considered Objections that were invited. The Committee's observations have been separately recorded in detail. The Committee of Administrators has reviewed the selection criterion and recommendations are made for improvement and ensuring a fair selection process that shall serve Indian Table Tennis for many years to come. Based thereon the Committee of Administrators has made recommended that:
   i. Selection criterion for age specific categories are customized to suit player developmental needs and include a dynamic approach to address the requirements for international performance, domestic performance & selector's discretion;
   ii. Including of Doubles events in various tournaments;
   iii. Appropriate weightage being given to international performance; and has
   iv. Suggested the new points system for the domestic and international performance.

3. The following Ranking Criterion and Selection Guidelines have been approved and shall be followed:

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I. Selection Criterion by Age category shall be adopted as follows:

CATEGORY	INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE	DOMESTIC PERFORMANCE	SELECTORS' DISCRETION
U11, U13, U15	0%	80%	20%
U17	20%	60%	20%
U19	30%	50%	20%
SENIORS	40%	40%	20%

II. Eligibility for participation in international tournaments shall be restricted to deserving players that achieve a minimum ranking in domestic competition. So far as the different age categories are concerned, the following **Criterion** shall be followed:

- **U11/13/15: Players have to be ranked in the top 10 to play international tournaments**
- **U17/19: Players have to be ranked in the top 24 to play international tournaments**
- **Seniors: Players have to be ranked in the top 32 to play international tournaments**

III. The following Points System for International Performance shall be followed:

Sl No	World Ranking Category	Points Awarded
1	1-30	40
2	31-50	35
3	51-70	30
4	71-80	27.5
5	81-90	25
6	91-100	20
7	101-110	17.5

Sl No	World Ranking Category	Points Awarded
8	111-120	15
9	121-130	10
10	131-140	7.5
11	141-150	5

IV. Players with World Rankings beyond 150 will not be awarded any points for the International Performance criterion. For abundant clarity, absolute world rankings shall be considered for awarding Points. Relative rankings shall not be considered.

i. Singles Players with World Rankings of 32 or below in Senior Category shall be eligible for Direct Selection to the National Team

ii. Doubles Players (both partners) with World Rankings of 8 or below in Senior Category shall be eligible for Direct Selection to the National Team.

V. <u>For domestic rankings, the following points shall be assigned:</u>

Sl No	Current Domestic Ranking	Points Awarded
1	1	40
2	2	36
3	3	32
4	4	28
5	5	24
6	6	20
7	7	16
8	8	12
9	9	8
10	10	4

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VI. The following formula shall be used to evaluate the player's overall domestic points:

Player's Overall Domestic Points =

Points accumulated from the required best performances / No. of mandatory events players are required to participate in

VII. To achieve a balance across domestic and international participation, the following criteria shall be applied:

i. ***For Men and Women: <u>National Championship</u> + 2 best performances (National Championship participation mandatory)***

ii. ***<u>For Other Age Groups:</u> National Championship + 4 best performances including performance in the Khelo India Games***

iii. ***When a team is being selected, the rankings to be used should always be the latest Indian and World Rankings.***

VIII. If two players receive the same overall ranking, by virtue of being in the same bracket, then the player with the higher world rank shall be selected.

IX. Doubles categories are medal events in prestigious international events. Therefore, Men/Women/Mixed Doubles Events shall be included in the Indian ranking events.

X. For Doubles events, the following Selection Criterion shall be followed:

- **U17/19: Players have to be ranked in the top 8 to play international tournaments**

- **Seniors: Players have to be ranked in the top 12 to play international tournaments**

XI. General Recommendations:

i. Since domestic performances play a significant role in the selection criteria, the India rankings shall be updated after every ranking event in the calendar year.

ii. The format of team composition varies across the World, Commonwealth, Asian and Olympics Games. Selection Criteria shall be suitably modified to ensure an optimum team is chosen for each event.

iii. The Selectors' would have the discretion, to account for any circumstances that may impair a player's domestic and/or international performances or a specific international event's rules. These circumstances could be:

- An established player returning from layoff or injury or not performing optimally in a tournament for any reason
- Optimizing team composition to align with an event's seeding rules
- Provide exposure to upcoming, exceptional talent

The circumstances under which selectors exercise their discretionary powers should be documented. The reasons for exercise of such discretion must also be documented.

iv. The panel of chief coaches appointed to the national team is a vital source of knowledge about player potential, conditioning and performance. The Chief Coaches should, hence, be special invitees to all Selection Committee meetings.

4. This criterion shall take effect on **1st October, 2022 or immediately after the first ranking event is conducted, whichever is earlier.**

[Chetan Mittal]
Member

[Gita Mittal]
Chairperson
12-5-22

[S. D. Mudgil]
Member