

SELECTION POLICY

ONTARIO TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ontario Table Tennis Association's (OTTA) Selection Policy is to:

1. **Support the OTTA High-Performance Program and Recognize Member Contributions:** This entails establishing a framework for selecting and developing athletes, coaches, and officials who contribute to the High-Performance Program, including the selection process for hosting regional, provincial, national, and international events. This framework acknowledges and values the diverse contributions members make to the sport, such as developing facilities, nurturing high-performance talent, officiating matches, and hosting sanctioned events.
2. **Guide Development:** Foster the growth of athletes, coaches, and officials at all levels within Ontario.
3. **Facilitate Representation:** Enable qualified individuals to represent Ontario at national and international sanctioned competitions.
4. **Structure Competition:** Establish a clear and transparent system for:
 - **Selecting athletes and officials:** Define criteria for participation in various levels of competition.
 - **Maintaining the Ontario Ranking List:** Outline the methodology for ranking athletes based on their performance.
 - **Establishing competition conditions:** Set standards for tournament organization, ensuring fair play and consistent conditions across events.



2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This Selection Policy is grounded in the values enshrined in the OTTA Strategic Plan: Teamwork, Excellence, Recognition, Fair Play, Inclusivity and Community. These values guide all aspects of the Selection Policy and contribute to a fair, transparent, and inclusive environment for the development of table tennis in Ontario.

Commitment to OTTA Events

The OTTA expects a strong commitment from athletes, coaches, officials, and any other OTTA member who may be subject to selection. This commitment includes prioritizing participation in OTTA tournaments and events and refraining from participating in competing events that clash with the published OTTA Calendar.

Consequences of Unsanctioned Event Participation

Participating in unsanctioned events or events that are not part of the OTTA calendar may result in non-selection, regardless of any other published criteria. This measure is in place to ensure fairness, prioritize OTTA events, and maintain the integrity of the selection process.

The OTTA Selection Authority retains the right to exclude any individual from selection as a direct consequence of their participation in events that clash with the OTTA Calendar. This decision will be made at the Selection Authority's sole discretion.

Seeking Clarification:

All athletes, coaches, and officials are advised to seek clarification before participating in tournaments or activities that are not part of the OTTA Calendar. Please send an email to otta@ontariotabletennis.com to determine if participation in those activities will affect your future selections.

3. SELECTION AUTHORITY

The OTTA utilizes a tiered selection process with varying levels of authority to ensure both expertise and accountability. Selection decisions may be initiated at different levels within the organization, with the following entities holding final decision-making authority, listed in descending order of priority:

1. **Board of Directors:** The highest authority for selection decisions, responsible for final approval of all selections.
2. **Officers of the OTTA (President, Secretary, Treasurer):** May make selection decisions on behalf of the Board between Board meetings, with the Board retaining the right to review and amend these decisions.
3. **Manager of Programs and Operations:** May make initial selection recommendations or decisions within defined parameters, subject to review and approval by higher authorities.
4. **Committee or Working Group Chair:**
 - **High-Performance Chair:** Responsible for selections related to athletes and coaches for High-

- Performance programs and events.
- **Officials Chair:** Responsible for selections related to umpires and referees for sanctioned events.
- **Tournament Organizers Chair:** Responsible for selections related to the hosting of regional, provincial, national, and international events.

Note:

While selection decisions may be initiated at lower priority levels (e.g., by the Committee Chair or Manager of Programs and Operations), higher authorities (e.g., Officers, or the Board) retain the right to review, modify, or overturn these decisions. This ensures that all selections align with the OTTA's strategic goals and adhere to established policies and procedures.

Whenever possible, selections will be based on objective and transparent criteria, such as:

- **Athletes:** Ontario Ranking List, performance history, and adherence to selection policies.
- **Officials:** Certification level, experience, and activity record.
- **Hosts:** Venue suitability, available facilities, and experience in hosting events.

This objective approach promotes fairness and ensures that selections are based on merit and established standards.

4. SELECTING ATHLETES AND COACHES

Eligibility

Only High-Performance members (athletes and coaches) are eligible for selection to represent Ontario at national events. Table Tennis Canada (TTCAN) will be informed of the status of coaches' and athletes' memberships when considering them for international events.

Athletes

Number of Selected Athletes:

The OTTA will announce the number of athletes to be selected for each tournament, activity, or program. This number can be fixed or conditional to certain criteria.

Selection

The primary selection criteria for athletes are:

- **Ontario Ranking List (ORL) Position:** Athletes will be selected based on their standing on the ORL (last one published at the time of selection).
- **Minimum Event Participation:** Athletes must have participated in a minimum number of events within the 12 months preceding selection. The required number of events will be announced by the OTTA for each specific event.

Additional Selection Requirements

- **Uniforms:** Selected athletes may be required to wear and purchase designated uniforms.



- **Mandatory Camps/Events:** Selected athletes may be required to attend camps, competitions or other activities after announced selection.
- **Compliance:** Already selected athletes who fail to meet these additional requirements may be subject to replacement.

Minimum Event Participation by Athlete Level

Higher-level athletes (Levels: Elite, International, Continental, National, Provincial 1, Provincial 2, Club) may have lower event participation requirements or be exempt altogether. The OTTA will specify the required number of overall or specific events (e.g., ON1/ON2 events).

Exceptions

- **Extensive Training/International Competition:** Athletes pursuing extensive training or international competition may request an exception or a freeze of their ranking during their absence from Ontario.
- **Residency Outside Ontario:** Athletes residing outside Ontario may request an exception with supporting documentation of their competitive activity, training program, and principal coach.

Selection Tournaments

In exceptional circumstances, the OTTA may choose to replace the ORL with a Selection Tournament as the primary selection tool.

Coaches

Key elements for coach selection include:

- **Membership:** The coach must be a member of a recognized National or Provincial High-Performance Training Center.
- **Non-Parent Status:** The coach cannot be a parent of any athlete on the selected team.
- **Athlete Representation:** Priority will be given to coaches with the most athletes from their HP Center in the top three selected athletes.
- **Ranking:** If top athletes are from different HPCs, the coach with the highest-ranked athlete on the ORL will be selected.
- **OTTA Values:** The OTTA Selection authority reserves the right to make alternative selections if coaches selected under the above criteria do not align with OTTA values.



5. SELECTING HOSTS FOR OTTA-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Eligibility

Only affiliated clubs that do not organize events conflicting with the OTTA's official calendar of competitions will be considered to host OTTA sanctioned events. The OTTA selection authority has the discretion to determine if a specific event is in direct competition with OTTA sanctioned events.

Tournament Classification

The OTTA competition calendar classifies sanctioned events into:

- International
- National
- Provincial (ON1 and ON2)
- Regional (ON3)
- Club level (ON4)

National and International Events

When bidding to host national and international events, the OTTA must meet the criteria set by TTCAN and international authorities. The selection procedure is as follows:

1. **Consider Affiliated Club Venues:** Priority is given to venues owned or rented by OTTA affiliated clubs that meet the bidding criteria.
2. **Third-Party Venues:** If no suitable affiliated club venue is available, the OTTA selection authority may pursue third-party venues if it is deemed more beneficial for the table tennis community and increases the chances of securing the event.
3. **Co-organizers:** Any affiliated club can become a co-organizer of national and international events, with specific agreements established in such cases.
4. **Notification:** The OTTA will inform all clubs registered as tournament organizers about opportunity to co-host national or international tournaments at least 6 months in advance.

Provincial (ON1 and ON2) Events

- **Venue Requirements:** Provincial events will be organized only in affiliated clubs with the required number of arenas (minimum 14 in the Greater Toronto Area and 6 in other Ontario regions).
- **Exceptions:** Exceptions may be made for invitational tournaments with formats that allow for satisfactory organization of ON1 and ON2 events despite not meeting the number of venue requirements (number of arenas).
- **Notification:** The OTTA will inform all clubs registered as tournament organizers about opportunity to host ON1 and ON2 tournaments at least 6 months in advance.
- **Selection Criteria** will be based on combination of following criteria:
 - a) **Venue:** Lighting, number of arenas, quality of equipment, space for spectators, athletes, coaches, and officials' rest areas, and venue availability.
 - b) **Previous Experience:** Experience in hosting similar events.
 - c) **Rotational Basis:** In the case of similar conditions among potential hosts, the OTTA will allocate events on a rotational basis to interested clubs.



Regional Events (ON3)

- **Venue Requirements:** All affiliated clubs can organize ON3 events with a minimum venue of 3 tables.
- **Event Frequency:** An affiliated club may organize only one event per age category per month.
- **Conflicting Events:** If clubs from the same region wish to organize ON3 events on the same weekend, the OTTA must pre-approve the events to ensure they differ in at least two classes or age categories.
- **Authority:** The Selection Authority, Competition Manager, or Referee will be the most senior authority during competitions.
- **Notification and Approval:** Clubs must inform the OTTA at least one month prior to a proposed ON3 tournament. The OTTA Selection Authority has the sole right to approve the dates and events, with the aim of:
 - Avoiding scheduling conflicts: Preventing clashes between tournaments hosted by clubs in the same region.
 - Ensuring equitable opportunities: Providing all interested clubs with a fair chance to host events.

6. SELECTING OFFICIALS FOR NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL EVENTS

Eligibility

Only certified OTTA officials who are members in good standing with the OTTA are eligible for selection.

Selection Criteria

National and Provincial tournaments (ON1 and ON2)

- **Official's Certification:** The level of certification held by the official (e.g., National, Provincial, Regional).
- **Activity in the Last 12 Months:** The number of events officiated by the official in the preceding 12 months.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Whether the official needs to fulfill specific evaluation criteria to progress to a higher certification level.

Additional Considerations:

- **Rotational Principle:** In cases where officials have similar qualifications based on the above criteria, a rotational principle will be applied, prioritizing officials who have not been selected for recent events.
- **Regional Representation:** The Selection Authority may reserve spots for officials from different regions of Ontario to promote development and increase tournament organization capacity across the province.



Number of Officials:

- **National Events:** The OTTA will adhere to TTCAN's requests for the number and qualifications of officials from Ontario.

Official roles at Provincial Events (ON1, ON2, ON3):

- **Referee and Deputy Referee:** A Referee and Deputy Referee will be selected for all ON1, ON2, and ON3 tournaments. If the event has six or fewer tables, only a Referee will be selected.
- **Umpires:** For ON1 and ON2 tournaments, several umpires will be selected based on the number of tables, tournament format, and the number of entries.
- **Club Events (ON4/House Leagues):** The OTTA will need to approve one Referee from the organizing club for House League and Club-level events.

7. SELECTING ATHLETES, COACHES, OFFICIALS, AND VOLUNTEERS FOR HALL OF FAME AND ANNUAL AWARDS

Hall of Fame

Annual Limit: A maximum of two individuals will be inducted annually, with a preference for inducting only one person per year.

Guiding Principles for Hall of Fame Selection:

- **Residency and Representation:** Nominees must have resided in Ontario for at least four years and represented Ontario during that same period to be eligible for selection.
- **Priority for Athletes and Coaches:** Athletes and coaches will be given priority consideration for induction.
- **Significant Achievements:** Achievements at major international events (Olympic Games, Pan American Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Continental Championships) while representing Ontario or Canada will be a key factor in the selection process.
- **Overall Contribution:** The nominee's overall contribution to the table tennis community, including their involvement in coaching, volunteering, and promoting the sport, will be taken into consideration.
- **Positive Impact:** The nominee's positive influence on the image of table tennis and the Ontario table tennis community will also be considered.
- **Consideration for Officials and Volunteers:** Officials and volunteers may also be considered for induction. However, their contributions to the Ontario table tennis community must demonstrate a significant and lasting impact on the development of the Ontario Table Tennis Association. This could include contributions to officiating development, organizational growth, or the implementation of impactful programs



and initiatives.

Annual Awards

The OTTA will present the following annual awards:

- **Female Athlete of the Year**
- **Male Athlete of the Year**
- **Most Improved Female Athlete**
- **Most Improved Male Athlete**
- **Coach of the Year**
- **Official of the Year**

Volunteer Recognition:

The OTTA may also present awards to recognize volunteers and long-term contributions to the organization. These awards are not necessarily presented annually.

Selection Criteria

- **Female and Male Athlete of the Year:** The No. 1 ranked female and male athlete on the December ORL of the previous year will be nominated for selection.
- **Coach of the Year:** Coaches of the top-ranked athlete on the December ORL of the previous year. The Board may conduct a vote to determine the recipient if multiple athletes share the top ranking.
- **Most Improved Female and Male Athlete of the Year:** The female and male athlete who has improved their ranking the most on the ORL between December of the previous year and December of the year before that will be nominated for selection.
- **Official of the Year:** The official who has made the most significant contribution to the development of OTTA competitions. The Board may conduct a vote to determine the recipient.
- **Volunteer Recognition:** Board members, staff, and committee members may nominate volunteers for recognition.
- **Long-Term Contribution Recognition:** Only OTTA members who have contributed to the organization for eight years or more will be considered for this recognition.

8. OTHER SELECTIONS

In the event that the OTTA needs to conduct a selection process for any other activity, program, provincial representation, or grant, the following will apply:

- **Designated Selection Authority:** The appropriate Selection Authority, as outlined in Section 3 of this policy, will be responsible for overseeing the selection process.
- **Guiding Principles:** The selection process will adhere to the guiding principles outlined in this policy (Section 2), including those related to transparency, fairness, and the prioritization of OTTA values.
- **Specific Criteria:** The OTTA will develop and announce specific selection criteria relevant to the particular activity, program, representation, or grant opportunity.

This ensures that all selection processes, regardless of their specific nature, are conducted in a consistent and equitable manner.



9. INJURY, ILLNESS OR OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Should an athlete, coach, official, or any other person representing the OTTA experience an injury, illness, or other extenuating circumstance, a request for exception may be submitted to otta@ontariotabletennis.com. The request must include a detailed explanation of the circumstance and any relevant supporting documentation. The OTTA will review the submitted information and make a determination at its sole discretion.

The OTTA is not obligated to grant any request for exception.

10. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

If there is a tie in the Ranking Scores between two (2) athletes, the Selection Committee will give advantage to:

- an athlete who has competed in more ON1 and ON2 events
- if there is still a tie, an athlete who has competed in more ON3 events;
- if there is still a tie, head-to-head results at all ON1, ON2 and ON3 events
- if there is still a tie, last result a head-to-head competition will be the final tiebreaker.

11. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Situations may arise where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond the OTTA's control do not allow selection to take place in a fair manner. In the event of such unforeseen circumstances as determined by the OTTA Selection Authority, in its sole discretion, will determine if the circumstances justify selection to take place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the alternative selection will be posted on the OTTA website one (1) week after the competition in question.

12. APPEAL PROCESS

Any OTTA member who believes they have been adversely affected by an OTTA selection decision may initiate an appeal by following the procedures outlined in the OTTA Appeal Policy.