



# ICTTF News

*Classic Table Tennis around the world.*

*See these news and more*

## ICTTF CONTEST

**NATIONS can Earn one additional SPOT for the Ping Pong World Cup 2025! (Page 2)**

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## ICTTF's first World Cup with NATIONS is a SMASHING SUCCESS

The Mecano Sports Ping Pong World Cup in Mexico was a sporting and cultural triumph, bringing together athletes from around the world in a unique celebration. The intense games highlighted the mastery of Classic Ping Pong, elevating the competition to an international level.

Mexico, as host, not only provided high-quality facilities but also welcomed participants with warmth and hospitality. In addition to the competition, the festive atmosphere provided moments of fraternization and unity between athletes from different backgrounds.

With impeccable organization, the Ping Pong World Cup in Mexico was more than a sporting competition; it was an event that united nations through the shared love of Ping Pong. With exciting games and a party atmosphere, the tournament left a lasting mark as a global success.

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**ICTTF**  
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# CHIT CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

Steve Claflin



Welcome to Classic Table Tennis and our FIRST ICTTF Newsletter!

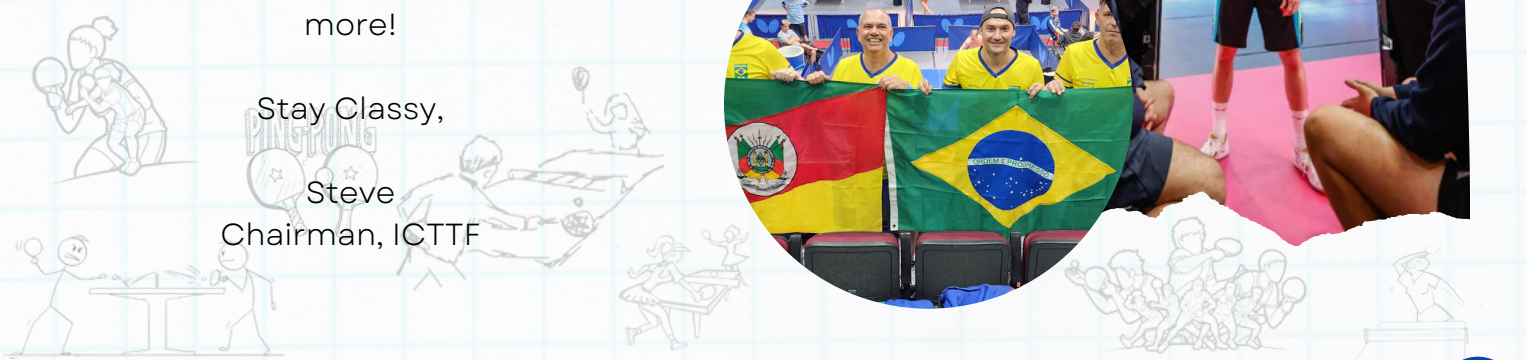
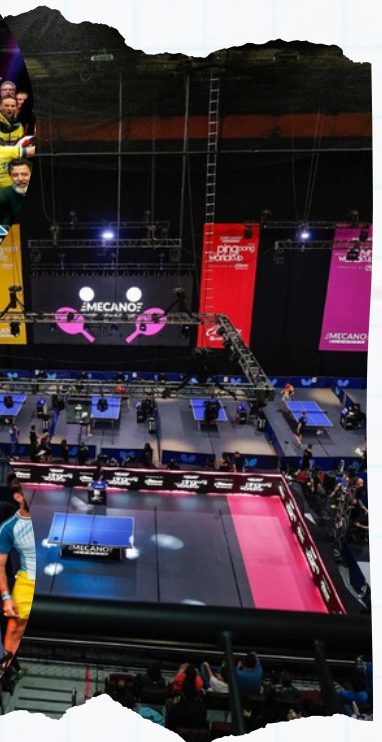
The ICTTF governs the GAME globally. Our game includes Classic Hardbat, Sandpaper, and Bare Wood.

I helped start the ICTTF because, like YOU, I enjoy a good game of Pong. Traveling, meeting new friends, and bringing my friends and family are benefits attending Classic Events. Our events attract not only the BEST players from around the world, but basement beginners as well. Our monthly Newsletter will share WHERE we plan to organize FUN events all over the world! We play in Prague (Czech Republic), Guerande (France), Herning (Denmark), Tres Coroas (Brazil), Boracay (Philippines), Miami (USA), Macao (China), Mexico, Malta, Scotland, Dubai, etc. We promise to keep it Fun and Affordable for All!

Please SUBSCRIBE to our Newsletter and JOIN our ICTTF community as a MEMBER.

Subscribers are sent our monthly Newsletter to stay informed. Members get a FREE worldwide ranking, DISCOUNTS for equipment, INVITATIONS to events, ACCESS to Event room blocks, EARLY notifications about World Cup tickets and more!

Stay Classy,  
Steve  
Chairman, ICTTF





# ICTTF

# CONTEST



<https://icttf.co/newsletter/>



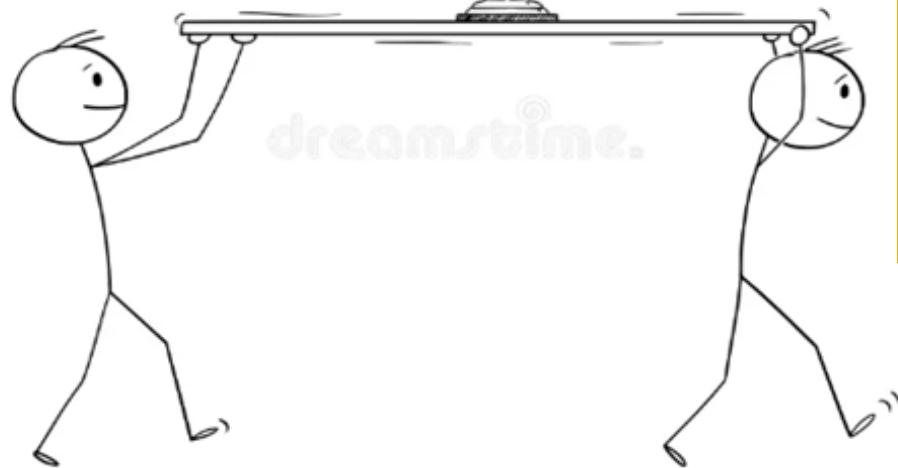
NATIONS can Earn one additional SPOT for the Ping Pong World Cup 2025!

The ICTTF is announcing a CONTEST for ALL Nations to COMPETE and earn a SPOT for either Sandpaper Open Singles, Hardbat Open Singles, or Wood Open Singles.



The NATION who registers the most SUBSCRIBERS to our new ICTTF Newsletter will win ONE additional SPOT to PPWC25.

# 1



## HOW

Click on the NEWSLETTER QR Code and complete registration.



April: ICTTF's first monthly newsletter. Another in the first week of May. The third in the first week of June.

## DEADLINE:

The Contest will end June 30, 2024 at Midnight Eastern Standard Time.



## HOW does a NATION win?

READ the Newsletter. SHARE the Newsletter. REGISTER at <https://icttf.co/newsletter/>

# ICTTF AND THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF PING PONG

By Larry Hodges



**Steve Clafin**  
ICTTF Chair of Board

The International Classic Table Tennis Federation is the worldwide body for those three forms of classic table tennis – hardbat, sandpaper, and plain wood. It was established in 2021 by Steve Clafin, and is a non-profit corporation, with the intention of governing, developing, and promoting Classic Table Tennis internationally. There are rigorous requirements for a country to be a member, as covered in the ICTTF bylaws – it’s not just a matter of volunteering and being selected. Scotland became the first member nation, on July 12, 2023, through the efforts of Juliet Johnston, who became their ICTTF representative. USA joined on Sept. 21, 2023, with Mike Babuin (former chair of the USATT board of directors) their rep. It has now grown to thirteen member nations: Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Switzerland, and USA.

The historic first meeting of ICTTF’s Inaugural General Meeting took place at 7PM on Tuesday, Jan. 3, the night before the World Cup began, in the dining hall of the PPWC24 hotel, the fancy Casa Blanca Hotel.

Nineteen people attended, including representatives from eleven countries: Brazil, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Poland, Scotland, and USA. Chair Steve Clafin started off the meeting talk on the status of ICTTF and went over various issues. He explained how ping pong was not table tennis (different surfaces, more focus on recreational players, making it fun and affordable) and how we need to control our own destiny rather than rely on current table tennis organizations with different agendas.



**Rock star Micky Huidobro (Molotov Band) is one of the organizers of PPWC**

One big issue that Steve and others spoke about was standardization of rules, equipment, ratings, and other issues. As he said, “We don’t want every country going their own way.” By standardizing, they can have joint tournaments without having to negotiate all of these issues over and over.

A key issue that kept coming up was, “Grow our Game.” The idea here is that it’s a lot easier growing a game with inexpensive equipment that appeals to the hundreds of millions of recreational players around the world. At the end of the meeting, famed Mexican rock star Micky Huidobro (who is playing in the sandpaper event and is one of the tournament organizers) gave a motivational speech about growing the game. He also spoke of how they hope to make the tournament better and better each year, with the Ping Pong World Cup committed to Mexico City for the next three years, 2024-2026.







## How the ICTTF engages fans!

Using Classic Table Tennis as a tool for development and peace connecting people all over the world, implementing or supporting events locally and empowering them to serve as models; making classic table tennis social, fun, popular, universal, and inclusive... with objectives to encourage, teach, train, and support the healthy, lifelong game of classic table tennis as a means of offering, promoting, and providing a healthy lifestyle activity for everyone including, but not limited to, men, women, children, adolescents, senior citizens, wounded, ill, injured, veterans, and persons with para classifications.

Some think of the various classic events as something they only do in the US. Wrong!!! There are large groups of hardbat and sandpaper players around the world. For example, France and other countries have large hardbat groups, Denmark and Poland (and others) have large sandpaper communities (including the Polish sandpaper leagues), and Brazil lots of bare wood players. The international players in World Cup Ping Pong usually started out as top sponge players, but gravitated toward classic table tennis for various reasons - something different and ironically "novel"; longer rallies; and, of course, money. As in \$36,000 in the PPWC, and past world events with even more.

What is the lure of classic table tennis? Longer rallies that aren't dominated by heavy topspin, as well as chopping as a standard stroke. In regular sponge play, few players chop much unless their style is centered around chopping. In classic play, most players chop when they get in trouble or to vary things to throw an opponent off. Sandpaper and plain wood make chopping easier, and it's far easier chopping against these surfaces than against a big inverted looper. So, chopping becomes more normal in classic ping pong, rather than just in emergencies.

Let's end this article with a big thank you to the current officers of ICTTF:

- ICTTF Chair of Board – Steve Claflin
- At-large Board Member – Jimmy Shen
- Brazil – Cesar Fonseca
- China – Ma Weixing
- Czech Republic – Marek Zaskodny
- Denmark – Benjamin Sorensen
- France – Bryan Aiglemont
- Ireland – Gervis Knox
- Malta - David Pace
- Mexico – Alexa Hoefler
- Northern Ireland – Gervis Knox
- Poland – Jan Olek
- Scotland – Juliet Johnston
- Switzerland - Andrew Williams
- USA – Mike Babuin

## PPWC is...

This is PONG  
 Fun  
 Party  
 Friendship  
 Affordable  
 Cash prizes  
 Great games





**By Larry Hodges**



There were 40 players competing in eight groups of five, with two tables for each group. The top two in each group advanced to the money brackets, the next three to consolation. First place is \$1,000, second \$500.

Matches were two out of three to 15 points, with the server changing every two points. You do not have to win by two points – 15-14 wins. There is one big variation – first person to score 30 points wins. If a player wins two straight, this doesn't matter. But suppose you win the first 15-14, and lose the second 10-15. Then the third game starts with you down 25-29, i.e., down match point! For example, in one round robin match, Bradley Robbins (USA) won the first 15-14 against Yohan Lecompte (FRA), lost the second 14-15, and so the third game started at 29-all – and so both had match point! Bradley won the point and so won the match, 30-29. While it seemed more natural to some to play it like it was a best of three to 15 but ending early when someone reaches 30, the effect was the same as if they'd simply played one game to 30.

In contrast to the sandpaper and hardbat round robins, the top seed finished first in only two of the eight groups, finishing second in five of them. So seven top seeds advanced. Ironically, the second seed advanced in nine of the ten groups, winning five of them.

## Semifinals

### A. Flemming (ALE) x C. Raynal (FRA)

The shocker here was that the very aggressive attacker Flash – with hardbat and sandpaper – became a chopper in the wood event. I asked him afterwards about this, and he said that his opponents in the semifinals and final had cork rackets, which gave their racket more bounce than his. And so he decided to just chop.

In the first, Flash wins easily, 15-8, mostly chopping, only occasionally attacking. The rallies are LONG – but Flash gets everything back. His mobility allows him to get to everything, and he has the mindset where he knows he can get everything back, and the confidence to keep getting balls back no matter how many shots the opponent makes.

But everything changes in game two, as Raynal's attack becomes stronger and more consistent, and he has leads of 7-1 and 12-4. Then, as so often happens in classic games, there's a momentum shift. Flash returns everything and Raynal seems to lose confidence, sometimes trying to end the point too soon. Five in a row for Flash, but he's still down 9-12. At 9-13, Flash scores four in a row, and ties it at 13-all with this 9-1 run. They have a really long rally, and Flash finally misses, and Raynal has game point, 14-13. But two long rallies and two Raynal forehands off the end, and Flash wins the match, 15-8, 15-14. However, since in reality they are playing to 30, the scores show Flash winning 30-22. If Raynal had won this match, he would have played his brother Xavier in the final.



By Larry Hodges



## Semifinals

**V. Kutsenko (RUS) vs. X. Raynal (FRA)**

To my great shame, I missed seeing this match, but the score tells the story – Xavier Raynal won, 30-29. What a match that must have been!

## Final

**Alexander “Flash” Flemming (GER) vs. Xavier Raynal (FRA)**



A huge audience was on hand for the final – the bleachers were so full I had to find a spot near the back to watch. They screamed for every point. Both players like to engage the crowd. Flash does it after winning a spectacular point, often raising his arms up and down at the crowd to get them going. As in the semifinals, Flash played almost all chopping. Early on, it was about 90% chopping, but when his attacks with wood kept missing, he went to nearly 100% chopping.

In the first game, Xavier went up 6-4. He turned to the crowd and laughed and joked with them about something. Then he promptly served off the end, then smacked an awkward forehand into the net, 6-6. Those two point could have come back later to haunt him – remember, they are really playing one game to 30, even though they play each game to 15. The two play long rallies, and it stays close for a time – 7-7, 8-8, 9-9, 10-10. Then Xavier pulls away and wins 15-12. A lot of the points Xavier won this game came when, after long rallies chopping, Flash would try to attack one, but his attack with wood simply wasn't as consistent or effective as it was with hardbat or sandpaper.

In the second, Flash, now chopping almost exclusively after those missed attacks in game one, goes up 10-3, wins 15-7. Or in reality, leads 27-22. Remember those two careless points in the first game at 6-4 by Xavier after joking with the crowd? We'll never know if he lost his focus because of that, but if he'd won those two points, he'd only be down 25-24. The third is over quickly; Xavier hits Flash's first serve off, then misses a forehand, and then Flash gets an edge, and Flash has won Bare Wood Singles here at the Ping Pong World Cup, 30-22 - \$1,000 for Flash, \$500 for Xavier. Amazingly, Flash won Choice Singles (and almost won the Hardbat Singles) by attacking, then won wood singles by chopping! Equally amazing was that this was Flash's first wood tournament. Talk about versatility!



# SANDPAPER SINGLES AT THE PING PONG WORLD CUP 2024

Page 1 of 2

By Larry Hodges

Sandpaper Singles had the most entries among the ten events at the Ping Pong World Cup. As I learned here, there are pockets of sandpaper aficionados all over the world, probably more than hardbat, which I thought would have more.

A big thanks goes to the staff that ran the event - Steve Claflin, Marek Zaskodny, Mike Babuin, Nora Louie, Jeff Milford, and Uriel Valdes. Also a big thanks to Event Directors Micky “Miky” Huidobro and Alexandra Hoefler. A HUGE thanks goes to the sponsors, including Mecano Sports, Caliente.mx, and of course Butterfly, who ran all of the articles on this event.

We’ll continue here with the semifinals. There’s a lot of money at stake - \$5,000 for first, \$2,500 for second, \$1,500 for 3-4, and \$500 for 5-9.

## Semifinals

### **PAUL MCCREERY (BEL) X ADAM VITASEK (CZE)**

In game one, McCreery played super steady, never overplaying, making lots of consistent counters from a few feet back.

Vitasek was erratic, and the result was a 15-4 win for McCreery.

But in game two, Vitasek suddenly was the steady one.

He has a nice backhand counter that rarely misses, and also mixed in chopping. Vitasek led 9-4 and held that lead all the way to 14-10 game point. And then . . . disaster for him as the once-again consistent McCreery, with a forehand that rarely misses, won five in a row to win the match and advance to the final, 4,14.



### **WANG SHIBO (CHN) VS. JUNGANG HUANG (CHN)**

Both players were extremely consistent and rarely overplayed a shot. Early on it was close, with Huang up 10-8. But his shakehand backhand was just too strong and consistent, and he scored the last five in a row to win game one, 15-10.

In game two, it was more of the same as Huang’s backhand dominated, though it often took perhaps ten shots to get through Wang’s backhand blocking. Huang goes up 11-3, and Wang calls for the 2-point ball – and wins! Now it’s 11-5 . . . and then 11-9, and Wang is back in it. But Huang kept coming at him, winning the next three in a row to 9-14, and again wins 15-10 to go into the final.



# Final

By Larry Hodges

## Huang Jungang (CHN) vs. Paul McCreery (BEL)

In the first game, McCreery went up 5-2, then it was 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 8-8, 9-9, 10-10, 11-11. Then the very forehand aggressive McCreery pulled away, 14-11, 15-12. The last point was crazy – McCreery was playing aggressive, off-balance, leaning backwards off-table forehands from his wide backhand corner, over and over, as Huang hit forehands and backhands at him. McCreery ended it with a sudden down-the-line smash that hit the edge.

There's not much to say about game two. Huang pulverized two forehands to go up 2-0, then it was 5-0, and eventually 15-3.

In the third, at 3-3, Huang scores three in a row to lead 6-3, and McCreery calls a timeout. He loses the next point, but then gets three in a row, 6-7, then 8-9. But that's the last time it's close as Huang scores two in a row to lead 8-11, and then, despite having the lead, calls for a 2-point ball. He serve and smashes, and that makes it 8-13, and he wins the match at -12,3,9, and is the 2024 Ping Pong World Cup Sandpaper Champion. That's \$5,000 for Huang Jungang, \$2,500 for Paul McCreery, \$1,500 for the semifinalists, and \$500 to the 5-9 finishers.

I spoke with Huang afterwards through an interpreter. Like many, he used to be a sponge player, but he's been only sandpaper for a while – as noted above, he finished second at the 2018 World Ping Pong Championships in London (sandpaper). He and Hardbat Champion Wang Shibo both live in the Xuzhou in the Jiangsu Province of China, and sometimes practice together. He works full-time for the government. After the match, he was pretty happy, and spent seemingly forever signing autographs and taking pictures with fans. To talk to him and take a picture I had to wait in line!



# Semifinals

## Andrew Baggaley (ENG) x A. Flemming (ALE)

In the first game, Baggaley jumps to a 5-1 lead, and stays in the lead to 17-14. The rallies are vicious, almost all attack and counter-attack, with both players occasionally chopping when forced off the table. This happens at 17-15, with Flash out of position and off the table. He chops – and gets an edge, 17-16. The next three rallies all end with Baggaley missing a forehand – two of them seemingly easy ones, one a more difficult counter-attack – and Flash has scored five in a row to go up 19-17. (Both players tend to hit forehands off the end more than normal – the thin air?) Two nice rallies later, however, and Baggaley has tied it, 19-19. But Baggaley misses another forehand, and then Flash pulls off a spectacular forehand smash, and he's won game one, 21-19.

In game two, it's Flash's turn to jump to a lead. Down 5-9, Baggaley wins four in a row to reach 9-all. They battle back and forth – lots of great rallies – 12-all, 13-all, 14-all, 15-all, 16-all. The Flash makes his move, goes up 19-16. Then it's 19-18, 20-18 match point for Flash. Then, as so often happens when it's close, they have an incredible rally, which ends with Flash putting a backhand into the net, 20-19. But then Flash serves and follows with an incredible backhand kill! And so Flash wins and is into the final, 21-19, 21-19.



The two have played each other a number of times. Andrew won the World Ping Pong Championships three times in a row, each time over the Flash – but then the Flash won the next one in 2021 over Baggaley. This was going to be an epic battle. Style wise, they play somewhat similarly, but with some differences.

Flash is a relentless attacker and counter-attacker, taking nearly everything at the top of the bounce, sometimes a little later. In fast rallies, this often means he backs up some, but it also means he can get to and counter-attack against almost anything. Baggaley tends to stay closer to the table, especially with his quicker backhand. This means he is able to rush opponents more, but also means he's sometimes jammed at the table blocking. Flash's relentless attacks and counter-attacks put pressure on Baggaley's forehand, since he was often close to the table and so had little time to react.

Flash mostly serves forehand, with backhand serves as a variation. Baggaley serves a lot of backhand from the middle of the table. Flash is a highly animated player. He's a ball of energy. He also has a collection of exclamations after points: "Yeah!" "Yo!" "C'mon!" and everyone's favorite, "Chule!" (Pronounced "Chu-lay.") In contrast, Baggaley is mostly silent.



## Semifinals



### Wang Shibo (CHN) vs. AJ Carney (USA)

I've seen AJ play hardbat many times, and he's the reigning US Hardbat Champion. But all I can say is . . . he did not play well here. He simply didn't adjust to the 7,400 altitude as well as others. Over and over he either played tentative shots or just outright missed, mostly off the end, especially on the forehand side. And yet, he had his chances here, and in fact if he'd played just a little better this would have been a dead-even match. (Of course, if AJ played better, that might have forced Wang to play at a higher level – it works both ways.)

**W**ang is a penholder, with a conventional backhand (so he only uses one side of his racket). He controls play and changes pace with his backhand blocks while looking for chances to attack with his strong forehand. As the match went on, his backhand got more aggressive and he kept finding chances to smack in forehands. Lefty AJ likes to favor the forehand, especially when serving. While this was often effective, it also cost him when he sometimes got tentative with the forehand.

In the first game, Wang went up 5-1 and 7-2. AJ battled back to 8-9, then Wang got an edge, 8-10. Wang jumped to a 14-11 lead, but AJ, playing aggressive (no tentativeness for now), ties it at 15-all. And then . . . AJ puts a tentative backhand off the end. Misses an off-balance forehand. Puts another forehand into the net. Looking tentative on the forehand, against a ball he should have easily attacked, AJ chops a forehand off the end. Then he hits a forehand off his racket edge – and he's down 15-19, then 16-19. Wang plays a controlling point, then smashes a forehand, 16-20. Then AJ hits a backhand off, and it's 21-16 for Wang.

**G**ame two for a time looked like what I've called an "immaculate" game.

The scores were 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4, 5-5, and 6-6. Down 6-7, AJ puts an easy backhand off, and so no 7-7. Then it's 8-8, 8-10, 10-10, 11-11, 12-12 (12-14 when AJ puts a backhand into the net), 14-14. (So only missing 7-7, 9-9, and 13-13.) But from here on, AJ keeps missing forehands while Wang is consistent and makes his smashes. AJ calls a timeout at 14-17, to no avail. At 14-18 I wrote in my notes, "Can AJ pull another Houdini comeback?" He'd pulled off three already in two matches. But not this time. Match to Wang, 21-16, 21-16.



By Larry Hodges

# Final



## Alexander "Flash" Flemming (GER) vs. Wang Shibo

This was a classic matchup – East vs. West, penhold vs. shakehand, backhand blocking vs. backhand drives. Wang, who plays very much like former Chinese star and then six-time US Men's Singles Champion David Zhuang, controls play with his backhand, with both changes of pace and more aggressive jab-blocks that are basically backhand kills.

**H**e played his backhand more aggressively in this match than he did in the semifinals against AJ. Both players like to step around and attack with their forehands. When Wang steps around, he usually creams a winner. Flash will often smash as well, but more often plays strong forehand which often wins the point or sets him up for the next shot. But when Flash does step around, Wang's backhand block or forehand counter-hit to his wide forehand is dangerous.

Much of the match became backhand-to-backhand rallies as both tried to keep the ball away from the other's forehand. Wang would often block over and over to Flash's wide, wide backhand, while Flash, while often going to the wide backhand to avoid Wang's forehand, also looked for chances to attack Wang's middle or wide forehand. But Wang's blocking – he just doesn't miss much.

1

In the first, it's 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 5-3 and 7-5 for Flash, 7-7, 8-8, 11-8 for Flash, 11-11, 12-12, 13-13, 14-14, 16-14 and 17-15 for Flash, 17-17, 18-18. But Wang has a relentless blocking rally until Flash misses, then he steps around and smashes, and Flash hits a backhand off, and game one to Wang, 21-18.

2

In the second, Flash seems to run away with it, leading 5-1 and 9-5. But Wang just won't miss, and he wins six in a row to lead 11-9. Then we're back to battling – 11-11, 12-12, 13-13, 14-14, 15-15. But from there on it's all Flash, 21-16.

3

In the third, they trade points again – 1-1, 2-2, 4-4, 6-6, 8-8, 10-10, 11-11, 13-13, 14-14, 16-16. Wang goes up 18-16 and 19-17. But Flash serve and backhand kills, 19-18. Then steps around and creams a forehand "winner" – but Flash, miraculously, blocks a clean winner to the forehand! So, after all this, we're at 19-19. But not for long – Wang steps around and smashes, and Flash doesn't block this one, and Wang is up 20-19 match point. They have another backhand-backhand rally, Wang blocks off, and it's 20-20.

And two points later, it's over. Wang steps around and pulverizes a forehand down the line – and it hits the edge, giving him match point #2. Flash misses a forehand in the next rally, and it's match, title, and \$5,000 to Wang Shibo, 18,-16,20. Flash gets \$2,500, Baggaley and AJ get \$1,500, and the four other quarterfinalists get \$500, along with ninth place finisher Vladi Kutsenko (RUS). And there went my planned headline if Flash had won: "The Flash Smash Bags Cash." But I'm sure I'll use it in the future.



Photo by Larry Hodges

So, who is Wang Shibo? He's the 2018 World Ping Pong Champion (sandpaper), and also made the semifinals of the Sandpaper Open here. He used to play with sponge, but now mostly plays sandpaper. This was actually his first hardbat tournament – and he's won it on his first try. He's from Xuzhou in the Jiangsu Province of China, where he teaches physical education – including table tennis. He doesn't have time to practice as much as he used to, but when he does, he's mostly sandpaper. The irony is that the two hardbat finalists here are really sandpaper specialists!

# Qualifier Spots for PPWC 2025

By Juliet Johnston - ICTTF



## How Do I Qualify for PPWC 2025?

Enter an official Qualifying Tournament, and earn a Qualifier Spot.

## How many Qualifier Spots will be given out at a Tournament?

Qualifier Spots for PPWC 2025 are based on participation – the more entries to a Qualifying Tournament, the more Spots on offer. Whether there are as few as 1 player (1 Spot), or more than 65 players (8 Spots), each event contributes towards the total Spots available. The Tournament Director will decide who they will give the Spots to, and for which events, and will present Award Certificates.

However, last year the ICTTF had to turn people away from the Open Events, because we can only fit so many Tables into the PPWC venue. So, for PPWC 2025, we will have “Major” and “Minor” Spots. Major Spots are guaranteed places in the Main Draw for an Event; players holding Minor Spots may have to compete in a preliminary Play-In round – planned for the day before PPWC 2025. Each Member Nation will receive a limited number of Major Spots for each Open Event – HOS, SOS and WOS. The Member will then share these between its Tournaments.

## How are the Limits calculated?

The Limits will be calculated by the ICTTF, based on how many players the Member sent to each Open Event at PPWC 2024. The Limits for Nations who didn't send competitors to PPWC 2024 will be 1 Major Spot for HOS, 1 for SOS and 1 for WOS.

## What if there is more than one Qualifying Tournament in my Country?

Each Member Nation must distribute their Limits between Tournaments in their Country. For example, say USA had 12 players in the Hardbat Open Singles at PPWC 2024, but have 6 Qualifying Tournaments planned for this year. USA could give 2 Major HOS Spots to each Tournament, or could give all 12 Major HOS Spots to one Tournament, or any other combination. The Member decides.



## How do Minor Spots work?

The Tournament Director will select which players are awarded Certificates, and for which events. In Open events – HOS, SOS and WOS - the Director may award up to their limit of Major Spots for that event (as advised by the Member Nation); then the rest of the Spots for that Open Event will be Minor Spots. So the recipient may have to play in a preliminary Play-In round to reach the Main Draw.

Also, Mexico is a long way to travel for many players. So, like last year, once you have been awarded a Spot in ANY event, you can enter as many events as you are eligible for – but these will be Minor entries. So if we have too many entries for the Main Draw of an event at PPWC 2025, you may have to compete in the preliminary Play-In round. If you want a guaranteed place in the Main Draw, you'll have to enter another Tournament and qualify there.

If this all seems over-complicated, we are sorry. But in trying to make qualification fair for everyone, this is what we came up with. Now we'll have to wait and see how well it works!"







Associação Brasileira de  
Pingue-pongue Clássico



# BRAZIL QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES FOR PPWC25

By Cesar Fonseca

The ABPC – Brazilian Classical Ping Pong Association, represented by its President, Mr. Cesar Fonseca, is the only and exclusive institution in Brazil sanctioned by the ICTTF – International Classic Table Tennis Federation authorized to hold official and qualifier competitions that guarantee a spot in Ping Pong World Cup 2025 (PPWC 2025) to be held in January 2025 in Mexico.

Any competition that is not previously sanctioned and authorized by the ABPC will not be recognized as official by the ICTTF and will not generate spots for the PPWC 2025.

At the moment, The Qualifiers will be held in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Três Coroas city and in Brasília, Federal District, with athletes from all over Brazil and also from abroad being able to register, as long as they are duly registered with ABPC / ICTTF and with your annuity for the year 2024 paid. Spots in the Qualifiers Competitions are limited and are awarded in sequential order of registration.

Clubs and entities from other States can apply to receive Qualifiers, which may or may not be granted according to the ABPC's feasibility assessment.

All official Classic Ping Pong competitions, comprising the Sandpaper, Hardbat and Wood modalities, must strictly follow the international criteria established by the ICTTF. Competitions using table tennis rackets are prohibited. If rules infractions are found by the organizing entities, the respective competition will not be approved by the ABPC and the games will be disregarded.

Preferably, the Qualifiers should include all modalities (Sandpaper, Hardbat and Wood), but specific competitions may be held by modality, as long as this is previously authorized by ABPC.

## CRITERIA: SPOTS FOR ATHLETES

Brazil, through ABPC, has spots for all the modalities that will be contested (Lixa, Hardbat and Madeira). The spots distribution may occur in three ways:

**1** Athlete ranking: the athlete will obtain points for his classification in each Qualifier and also for participation (the spots will not be for each Qualifier, but for the accumulated number of competitions held during the year). There will be ranking by State and also consolidated Brazil. The ranking that will generate places will be the Brazilian Consolidated (weighted by the number of athletes participating in each State), that is, the more Qualifiers the athlete participates, the greater his chances of obtaining a place for the PPWC 2025.

**2** Invitation from ABPC: ABPC may reserve specific spots for athletes, regardless of ranking, if it understands that the participation of a specific player is relevant or strategic.

**3** VIP Invitation from ICTTF and Host Country: High-performance athletes with great technical ability, normally internationally recognized, may eventually be invited by the PPWC organization. The granting of the respective spot, if it occurs, will not be through ABPC but rather through the organizers of the World Cup.



## PPWC25 - FRANCE QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

By Bryan Aiglemont

After a first successful ICTTF directed PPWC in Mexico City, it's already time to prepare the second edition! It will also take place in Mexico (sponsorship signed for 3 years) but in another city in January 2025. Stay Tuned! Palm Trees and Cocktails on the menu!!

The Qualification guidelines for this PPWC25 have now been announced and can be found on our official website [ICTTF.co](http://ICTTF.co)

To host a PPWC25 Qualifier Tournament, there are 2 requirements it has to be organised by, or approved by, the relevant Member Nation, and this tournament will have to meet the ICTTF Sanctioning Rules.

In total, 16 events including 3 Opens Events in Sandpaper, Hardbat and Wood and 13 Restricted Events will be played within 3 days of intense competition! Hmmmm wait a minute, actually not only 3!

This year will see the introduction of a Preliminary Play In Stage for the 3 Open Events, sort of Last Chance or Last Round played the day before the competition starts. That's, only if we have more qualified players than there are spots available in the Main Draw of any of these events.

This brought us into creating a second type of qualifiers "title" called Minor Spots, which guarantee a place in to this last round". In opposition, Major Spots are the one giving access directly to the Main Draw of the relevant event.

From this year, Nations are free to decide how they would like to award their own qualifier spots. It is totally possible and even suggested for Nations to keep 1 Spot or more if they want to as a Wild Card to give the spot to whoever hasn't qualified but maybe has deserved it, or couldn't participate in the qualifier, or any other reasons.

Let's have a look now at how these spots will be awarded by the ICTTF to the Nations:

All Defending Champions are invited, provided that they play in at least one qualifier event held by a Member Nation.

### For all 13 Restricted Events:

The more players you get to enter your qualifiers, the more spots you get. From 1 Spot with less than 16 players, up to 8 Spots if you have more than 65 players. NB: Repeat player count only for one!

### For all 3 Open Events:

Member Nations who have already participated at the PPWC24 are awarded the same number of Major Spots for the PPWC25.

Any new Member Nation will be awarded 1 Major Spot (Main Draw) as well as 1 Minor Spot (Preliminary Play In Stage). ICTTF have reserved a certain number of Major Spots per events for these new Member Nations\*. If not all the spots are allocated, they will then be redistributed among the existing Member Nations.

In addition, 2 Major Spots per events will be saved for the Preliminary Play in Stage.

\*The deadline for new Nations to become Member of ICTTF is 1st of June. After that, any remaining Major Spots will be redistributed.

Unlike last year, if a player qualifies (Major Spot) for one specific Open Event (let's take Sandpaper as an example), it doesn't mean that this player will also be entering directly the Main Draw of any other Open Events. The player will also have to qualify (Major Spot) for these other events that she/he would like to play (Hardbat and Wood). If this player hasn't, she/he will be awarded Minor Spots for these other Open Events and will get to play the Preliminary Play in Stage in order to take the last 2 Major Spots remaining to enter the Main Draw.

Reminder: For these qualifiers, and as for all tournaments sanctioned by ICTTF, organisers will have to pay \$3 fees per players for which \$1 goes to the ICTTF, \$1 for the rankings, and also \$1 to help subsidise players. This last one particularly, is a big help for all the players from Nations who will benefit from it.

To finish, do not forget to send us your qualifying tournament(s) date(s) so we can also promote them via our own channels. This way, everyone will have clear visibility on all qualifiers held all over the world.



# PING PONG WORLD CUP 2025 - QUALIFIER SCHEDULE (AS OF MAR 31, 2024)

## Calendar Year 2024

February, 17	USA	Plains, Ohio - Hardbat   Sandpaper   Wood - David Fullen
March, 23-24	BRAZIL	Três Coroas, RS - Hardbat   Sandpaper   Wood - Cesar Fonseca
April, 06	BRAZIL	Brasília, DF - Hardbat   Sandpaper   Wood - Cesar Fonseca
May, 18	FRANCE	Bernaville - Hardbat - Sonia Pillon
May, 19	USA	Houston, TX - Steve Claflin
May, 27	ENGLAND	Brighton - Hardbat   Sandpaper - Tim Holtham
May, 31	USA	Laguna Woods, CA - Craig Krum
June, 21	DENMARK	7400 Herning - Sandpaper   Wood - Benjamin Sorensen
Jun, 29-30	BRAZIL	Três Coroas, RS - Hardbat   Sandpaper   Wood - Cesar Fonseca
June, 29	USA	Morrisville, NC - Mike Babuin
June	FRANCE	Guerande - Hardbat - Jean-Michel Carquin
June	GERMANY	Berlin - Sandpaper - Jurgen Leu
July	CZECH REPUBLIC	Prague - Hardbat   Sandpaper   Wood - Marek Zaskodny
July	SWEDEN	Karlskrona - Anton Andersson
August, 2	USA	Sugar Land, TX - Steve Claflin
August, 31 September, 1	BRAZIL	Três Coroas, RS - Hardbat   Sandpaper   Wood - Cesar Fonseca
September, 20	USA	Rochester, NY - Alec Carney