

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2011 ITSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

(As of 1 July, 2010)

There are multiple ways in which U.S. players can qualify to compete in the 2011 ITSF World Championships Finals in **Nantes, France (January 6-9)**:

I. ITSF POINTS RACE and AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS

As in the previous years, those players whose accumulated ITSF rankings points for the current season place them in the top 16 in Men's Singles and top 8 in Women's Singles worldwide (ending in the USA with the Ohio State Championships tournament on October 22-24) will qualify to compete in Men's Singles and Women's Singles, respectively, at the ITSF World Championships Finals. In addition, players can automatically qualify for the World Finals by finishing: a) in the top three in Open Singles at any ITSF World Championship Series tournament, b) finishing first in Open Singles at any ITSF International Series tournament, or for women c) finishing first in Women's Singles at any ITSF World Series tournament. All these specific top finishers will receive travel reimbursements from ITSF (courtesy of the host Federation's sponsors) upon arrival at the tournament in France.

II. U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

U.S. citizens can also qualify to compete in France by being designated the U.S. National Champion in Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Women's Singles, Junior Singles (aged 17 & under as of January 1st of 2010), Junior Doubles (aged 17 & under as of January 1st of 2010), Senior Singles (aged 50 & over as of January 1st of 2010), and Senior Doubles (aged 50 & over as of January 1st of 2010). Note: Pro and Master players meeting the age requirements are eligible to compete in Junior and Senior categories. Since there is no tournament on the 2010 schedule in the USA that is specifically called the U.S. National Championships, there are various other tournaments that have been designated at which athletes can qualify for the National Champion "title" and opportunity to compete in France. They are:

- The **IFP North American Cup/Tornado National Championships in St. Louis, Missouri (July 1-4)**: the first place teams (or top finishing teams that are U.S. Citizens) Open Doubles, Open Singles, Women's Doubles, *and* Women's Singles are all **qualified** to compete in the corresponding events in France as U.S. National Champions. This year, qualifiers at this event ***may*** be sponsored for airfares by IFP and/or its sponsors – if so, details will be disseminated by IFP prior to or at St. Louis.
- The **IFP Kentucky State Championships (July 31-August 3)**: The first place finishers in Junior Doubles and Junior Singles will be **qualified** to compete in France as U.S. National Champions. USTSF will provide partial sponsorship for these players (up to U.S. \$1,000 per player, courtesy of IFP). Chaperones are not included in this partial sponsorship.

- The **2010 Tornado Worlds (Grapevine, Texas, September 1 - 6)**: The first place finishers in Senior Singles (50&Over) and in Senior Doubles (50&Over) will be *qualified* to compete as U.S. National Champions in the corresponding Seniors events in France.

III. USTSF "WILD CARD" TEAMS

Each year, thanks to USTSF's status as an ITSF full ("Regular") member, the USTSF is eligible to qualify (or select) "Wild Card" teams to compete in each ITSF World Championship category. This year, Wild Card teams representing the USA in Men's Doubles & Singles, Women's Doubles & Singles, Junior Doubles & Singles, and in Senior Doubles and Singles at the ITSF World Championships in France will all be awarded at the **2010 Tornado Worlds**. These qualifications will be awarded to the highest placing teams composed of U.S. Citizens in each of these categories, with the exception being the Wild Cards for Senior Doubles and Singles, who will be the next highest placing all-U.S. team after the Senior National Champions. Note: neither ITSF nor USTSF provide travel reimbursement/sponsorship to Wild Card teams.

In summary:

- USTSF provides 24 National Champion and Wild Card qualification opportunities for USA players, and further hand-selects the Men's, Women's, Seniors and Juniors U.S. National World Cup Teams for as many as 24 additional players (if not the same as those already qualified for the ITSF World Championships). Thus, in theory the USA could send as many as 48 players in total. U.S. National Champions and Wild Cards are qualifiers only, and therefore must obtain their own sponsors and/or pay their own expenses for travel, hotel & misc. The exception to this, as noted above, is for U.S. Junior Doubles and Singles National Champions, who will each receive up to a U.S. \$1,000 travel reimbursement upon arrival in France.
- ITSF provides 40 qualification opportunities worldwide via point-race and automatic qualifications. ITSF points-race qualifiers and ITSF automatic winners earn 700 Euro travel reimbursements from ITSF, but must pay their own hotel and misc. expenses. Note: last year's defending ITSF World Champs are automatically re-qualified for this year, but do not receive any ITSF reimbursements.
- Per ITSF regulations, all U.S. National Team members competing in National Teams competitions (held at World Series Class tournaments) and all U.S. qualifiers for the combined ITSF World Championships/World Cup in France are required to compete in those events in their national uniforms. For this year, USTSF is working on full or partial uniform sponsorships for any new Junior players that qualify (those who do not already have uniforms, *including* Wild Cards). However, with the exception of Juniors and as already noted, USTSF cannot provide any other partial or full travel or uniform expenses.
- Last, as in all previous years, if one player of a doubles team cannot go to France, there is no substitution for the one player – the qualification falls to the next highest placing *team* composed of U.S. Citizens.

Good luck to all !!