

## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2007 ITSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

There are multiple ways in which U.S. players can qualify to compete in the 2007 ITSF World Championships Finals in **St. Vincent, Italy (October 26-28)**.

### I. ITSF POINTS RACE:

As in the previous years, those players whose accumulated ITSF rankings points for the 2007 season place them in the top 16 in Men's and top 8 in Women's worldwide (ending in the USA with the Bart O'Hearn tournament) will qualify to compete in Italy Men's Singles and Women's Singles, respectively, at the ITSF World Championships Finals.

These top finishers will receive airfare reimbursements from ITSF (courtesy of the host Italian Federation's sponsors) upon arrival at the tournament in Italy. For this year, USTSF is working on sponsorships for team uniforms for all USA players that qualify (whether they qualify by the points-race, or as National Champions, or automatically by winning the top places at an ITSF World Championships level tournament) but cannot guarantee being able to cover all the hotel rooms as we did last year.

### II. U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:

U.S. citizens can also qualify to compete in Italy 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 2007), Junior Doubles (aged 17 & under as of January 1st of 2007), Senior Singles (aged 50 & over as of January 1st of 2007), and Senior Doubles (aged 50 & over as of January 1st of 2007). 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 2007 schedule in the USA that is called the U.S. National Championships, there are various other tournaments that have been designated at which you can qualify for the National Champion "title" and opportunity to compete in Italy. They are:

Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Women's Singles: The first place teams (or top finishing teams that are U.S. Citizens) at the **IFP U.S. Open in Atlanta (April 19-22)** in Open Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Women's Singles are all qualified to compete in the corresponding events in Italy as U.S. National Champions. USTSF is actively working on obtaining full sponsorship for the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles winners at the IFP U.S. Open, but at this early stage those players and the Men's U.S. National Champion qualifiers must at a minimum plan on obtaining their own hotel, shuttles, etc. at their own expense or via their own sponsors in order to compete in Italy.

Junior Singles: The first place at the **IFP Kentucky State Championships (August 2-5)** in Junior Singles is qualified to compete in Italy. USTSF will obtain the sponsorship for this player (airfare and hotel) and one parent/chaperone. As a bonus feature of taking first place in this particular event, the winning Junior will also automatically qualify to be a member of the 2007 U.S. National Team in the ITSF National Teams competition at Tornado Worlds in September!!

Junior Doubles: The first place team at the **IFP Kentucky State Championships** in Junior Doubles (17 & Under) is also qualified to compete in the corresponding Junior event in Italy, but at this point those players and their parent/chaperone must obtain their own airfare, hotel, etc. USTSF is actively working on obtaining sponsorship for these players, but cannot guarantee being able to cover all airfares, hotel, etc.

Senior Singles, Senior Doubles: The first place finishers at the **2007 Tornado Worlds (Las Vegas, September 26-30)** in Senior Singles (50&Over) and in Senior Doubles (50&Over) are also qualified to compete as U.S. National Champions in the corresponding Seniors events in Italy, but at this point those players must obtain their own airfare, hotel, etc. For 2007, USTSF will not be able to support sponsorships in this category.

For more details on Junior and Seniors events at the ITSF World Championships Finals in Italy, please see:

<http://www.table-soccer.org/news/index.php5?news=85>

### III. 2007 TORNADO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Las Vegas, September 26-30):

The first three places in Open Singles as well as the winner of the Women's Singles, and the winner of the Junior Singles will be automatically qualified for the World Championships taking place in Saint-Vincent, Italy, October 25-28, 2007. Note: These qualifications are separate/over and above the National Champions qualifications. These winners will in fact receive airfare reimbursements (up to 700 Euros) directly from ITSF – courtesy of the host Italian Federation's sponsors – upon arrival at the tournament in Italy. Again, for this year, USTSF is working on sponsorships for team uniforms for all USA players that qualify but cannot guarantee being able to cover the hotel rooms as we did last year.

In summary, USTSF is actively striving to obtain sponsorships for the Junior and Women's National Champions first and in that order. Next comes partial sponsorship for the Men's National Doubles Champions and then the ITSF points-race qualifiers. In addition, USTSF is working team uniform issues for both the U.S. National Team at the National Teams competitions *and* for Italy.

For more details on the National Teams competition events at the ITSF World Championships Series tournaments, please see:

<http://www.table-soccer.org/news/index.php5?news=87>