

## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2008 ITSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

There are multiple ways in which U.S. players can qualify to compete in the 2008 ITSF World Championships Finals in **St. Vincent, Italy (October 30–November 2)**.

### I. ITSF POINTS RACE:

As in the previous years, those players whose accumulated ITSF rankings points for the 2008 season place them in the top 16 in Men's and top 8 in Women's worldwide (ending in the USA with the Tornado World Championship Series tournament) will qualify to compete in Italy Men's Singles and Women's Singles, respectively, at the ITSF World Championships Finals.

These specific 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 ITSF World Championships Series or first in Open Singles at International Series level tournaments) but cannot guarantee being able to partially or fully cover any portion of all the hotel rooms or other expenses as we did in previous years.

### 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 2008), Junior Doubles (aged 17 & under as of January 1st of 2008), Senior Singles (aged 50 & over as of January 1st of 2008), and Senior Doubles (aged 50 & over as of January 1st of 2008). 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 2008 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 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 17-20)** 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 airfare sponsorship for the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles winners at the IFP U.S. Open, but at this early stage those players 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. This year, Men's Doubles qualifiers will be co-sponsored for airfares by USTSF and IFP. Note: As in all previous years, if one player of a doubles team cannot go to Italy, there is no substitution for the one player – the qualification falls to the next highest placing *team* composed of U.S. Citizens.

Junior Singles: The first place finisher at the **IFP Kentucky State Championships (July 31-August 3)** 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 2008 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 **2008 Tornado Worlds (Las Vegas, September 24-28)** 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 2008, USTSF will not be able to support sponsorships in this category.

Please note again: As in all previous years, if one player of a doubles team cannot go to Italy, there is no substitution for the one player – the qualification falls to the next highest placing *team* composed of U.S. Citizens.

### III. 2008 TORNADO INTERNATIONAL SERIES "Hall of Fame Classic" (Las Vegas, March 26-29):

First place (in Open Singles only) automatically qualifies for the ITSF World Championships in Saint-Vincent, Italy, October 30-November 2, 2008. Winner receives airfare reimbursement (up to 700 Euros) directly from ITSF – courtesy of the host Italian Federation's sponsors – upon arrival at the tournament in Italy.

### IV. 2008 TORNADO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES (Las Vegas, September 24-28):

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 automatically qualify for the ITSF World Championships taking place in Saint-Vincent, Italy, October 30-November 2, 2008. 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 fully or partially cover all the hotel rooms as we did in previous years.

### V. "WILD CARD" DOUBLES TEAMS:

Wild Card doubles teams representing the USA in Men's and Women's Doubles at the ITSF World Championships in Italy are exclusively determined by ITSF points rankings. That is, of those USA players qualified to compete at Italy via one of the above methods, the Wild Card team is composed of the two top ITSF-ranked players present that are not already competing as National Champions in those doubles events. There is no sponsorship provided to Wild Card teams.

In summary, USTSF is actively striving to obtain sponsorships for the Junior and Women's National Champions first and in that order. Next comes airfare sponsorship for the Men's National Doubles Champions, which will be worked in cooperation with IFP. ITSF points-race qualifiers and ITSF automatic winners earn 700 Euro travel reimbursements from ITSF, but must pay their own hotel and misc. expenses. USTSF Senior National Champions are qualifiers only, and therefore must obtain their own sponsors and/or pay their own expenses for travel, hotel & misc.

Last, USTSF will ensure team uniforms are provided for both the U.S. National Team and all qualifiers for the ITSF World Championships (Team USA). 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 ITSF World Championships in Italy are required to compete in those competitions in the national uniforms.

Good luck to all !!

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