



2003 USATT NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS

Athlete and Officials Guide*

By: Richard McAfee, Competition Manager

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* Information found in this guide is subject to change.



GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these trials is to select those athletes who will represent the United States at the 2003 Pan American Games, San Domingo, Dominican Republic and the 2003 World Table Tennis Championships in Paris, France.

DATE AND LOCATION

The 2003 USATT National Team Trials will be held March 17 to 22, 2003 at the Sporting Club At Windy Hill, in Atlanta, GA.

COMPETITION VENUE

The site for the 2003 USATT National Team Trials – Table Tennis will be:

The Sporting Club At Windy Hill
135 Interstate North Parkway, NW
Atlanta, GA 30339
770-953-1100

Table tennis will take place in the Gymnasium, which will seat between 300-400 spectators.

Competition will be held on three tables, with three additional warm-up tables available within the hall. The dimensions per playing area are 16m x 8m. Court lighting is a minimum of 100-foot candles (1000 lux).

Facilities Offered at the Sporting Club at Windy Hill

Free Weights	4 Group Exercise Studios
Cybex Strength Training	2 Racket Ball Courts
Nautilus Strength Training	Cafe
Hammer Strength Training	Beautifully Appointed Locker Rooms
TechnoGym	Kids Club
Ezone	Sauna/Steam Room/Whirlpool
Over 90 Cardio Pieces	50' Rock Wall/Alpine Tower
9 Lighted Tennis Courts	Indoor Pool/Outdoor Pool
2 Basketball/Volleyball Courts	Table Tennis Teaching Court



EVENT STAFF

Competition Manager:	Richard McAfee
Telephone:	770-396-1813
E-mail:	mcafeer@mindspring.com
Referee:	Aly Salam
Operations Director:	TBD
Results Director:	Wendell Dillon
Implementation Director:	Keith Evans
Producer:	TBD
Press Director:	Mike Wetzel
USATT Magazine/ Online Coverage	Larry Hodges
Volunteer Coordinator:	Phillip Gustavson

FIELD OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

Tables, net sets, umpire tables:	Butterfly Centerfold
Balls:	Butterfly Yellow 3-Star
Flooring:	Teraflex Court Mats (Red) on wood flooring.

OFFICIAL HOTEL

The official hotel for the National Team Trials will be the Hawthorn Suites, located at 1500 Parkwood Circle, Atlanta, GA 770-952-9595.

This is a first class hotel offering many amenities. These include: a free (large) hot breakfast and a daily evening reception with food.

Three types of rooms are available.

- Standard Room is \$79 per night
- One Bedroom Suite (includes two queen beds and queen bed sofa + kitchen) \$89 per night
- Two Bedroom Suite (includes four queen beds and kitchen) \$149 per night

Van transportation will be available between the hotel and playing site. The Sporting Club is about a 10-minute walk away from the hotel. To make your reservations and get these special prices, ask for "Table Tennis."

ATHLETE AND OFFICIALS TRANSPORTATION

Athletes and Officials have several options for transportation from the airport to the hotel.

- Shuttle service is available from the airport to the hotel. A and M Limo offers a reduced rate of \$40 round trip if you make reservations on line at: www.AandMlimo.com.
- Athletes can take Marta (train) directly from the airport to the Sandy Springs Station, make sure you get on the train marked "North Springs." We can then pick you up and



transport you to the hotel. To take advantage of this service you must send your arrival schedule to mcafeer@mindspring.com. Once we receive your schedule, we will give you complete instructions for pickup. Marta cost is \$1.75.

Limited van transportation will be available to and from the “official” hotel and the competition venue.

ATHLETE SERVICES

The Sporting Club at Windy Hill features large locker rooms, showers, sauna, steam-room, and hot tubs. Massage therapy is also available for a fee. There will be a VIP/Athlete Lounge, which will have light snacks, bottled water, and various sport drinks. In addition, a supply of liquids will be available at courtside and in the warm-up area. *Players are encouraged to bring their own locks to secure their lockers.*

TOURNAMENT PARTY

There will be a tournament party beginning immediately after the final matches on March 22nd. The party will be held in the venue café. More information regarding the party will be available on site. We encourage full attendance at the party. Those who qualified for the team will be required to make an appearance at the party to meet the press and tournament sponsors.

FOOD SERVICE

All athletes and officials are responsible for making their own arrangements regarding food service. There is a cafe within the playing venue. Many restaurants are located within a 5-minute walk of the venue.

SECURITY

All athletes, staff, press, and officials will go through the accreditation process upon arrival and be issued badges. The field of play, along with all athlete service areas, can be accessed only by showing an accreditation badge.

BROADCAST

This event is being broadcast live on the Internet by Omega Sports. More information on this will be forthcoming.

DRUG TESTING

All athletes are subject to being drug tested at this event. Complete details will be given out upon arrival.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

ATHLETE AND TEAM LEADERS MEETING

All athletes who qualify for the Main Trials, coaches, and officials *must* attend a meeting on March 18th at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Hawthorn Suites. Draws will be distributed at this time, as well as other pertinent technical information

TRAINING SCHEDULE

The Venue will be open for training on Sunday, March 16, from 2pm – 8pm. In addition, the hall will also be available for training on Tuesday March 18, 3pm – 9pm.

BALLS FOR TRAINING

Each Athlete will be given 3 balls to use for training.

VENUE GLUING POLICY

Gluing of rackets must be done *only* within the designated area outside the venue.

VIDEOTAPING POLICY

No videotaping will be allowed within the playing venue without the prior approval of the USATT.



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Pre-Trial Schedule

March 17 th . Men's Round Robin Play will begin at 10:00.	
March 18 th . Men's Quarterfinals --	10:00
Men's Semifinals --	12:00
Finals and Third Place Playoff --	14:00

Main Trial

USATT TEAM TRIALS			
COMPETITION SCHEDULE			
DAY 1			
Women's R1 A + B + C	19-Mar	10:00	10:40
Women's R1 D + E + F	19-Mar	10:45	11:25
Men's R1 A + B + C	19-Mar	11:30	12:10
Men's R1 D + E + F	19-Mar	12:15	12:55
Women's R2 A + B + C	19-Mar	14:00	14:40
Women's R2 D + E + F	19-Mar	14:45	15:25
Men's R2 A + B + C	19-Mar	15:30	16:10
Men's R2 D + E + F	19-Mar	16:15	16:55
Women's R 3 A + B + C	19-Mar	18:00	18:40
Women's R3 D + E + F	19-Mar	18:45	19:25
Men's R3 A + B + C	19-Mar	19:30	20:10
Men's R3 D + E + F	19-Mar	20:15	20:55
DAY 2			
Women's R4 A + B + C	20-Mar	10:00	10:40
Women's R4 D + E + F	20-Mar	10:45	11:25
Men's R4 A + B + C	20-Mar	11:30	12:10
Men's R4 D + E + F	20-Mar	12:15	12:55
Women's R5 A + B + C	20-Mar	14:00	14:40
Women's R5 D + E + F	20-Mar	14:45	15:25
Men's R5 A + B + C	20-Mar	15:30	16:10
Men's R5 D + E + F	20-Mar	16:15	16:55



Women's R6 A + B + C	20-Mar	18:00	18:40
Women's R6 D + E + F	20-Mar	18:45	19:25
Men's R6 A + B + C	20-Mar	19:30	20:10
Men's R6 D + E + F	20-Mar	20:15	20:55
DAY 3			
Women's R7 A + B + C	21-Mar	10:00	10:40
Women's R7 D + E + F	21-Mar	10:45	11:25
Men's R7 A + B + C	21-Mar	11:30	12:10
Men's R7 D + E + F	21-Mar	12:15	12:55
Women's R8 A + B + C	21-Mar	14:00	14:40
Women's R8 D + E + F	21-Mar	14:45	15:25
Men's R8 A + B + C	21-Mar	15:30	16:10
Men's R8 D + E + F	21-Mar	16:15	16:55
Women's R9 A + B + C	21-Mar	18:00	18:40
Women's R9 D + E + F	21-Mar	18:45	19:25
Men's R9 A + B + C	21-Mar	19:30	20:10
Men's R9 D + E + F	21-Mar	20:15	20:55
DAY 4			
Women's R10 A + B + C	22-Mar	10:00	10:40
Women's R10 D + E + F	22-Mar	10:45	11:25
Men's R10 A + B + C	22-Mar	11:30	12:10
Men's R10 D + E + F	22-Mar	12:15	12:55
Women's R11 A + B + C	22-Mar	14:00	14:40
Women's R11 D + E + F	22-Mar	14:45	15:25
Men's R11 A + B + C	22-Mar	15:30	16:10
Men's R11 D + E + F	22-Mar	16:15	16:55
AWARDS	22-Mar	17:00	17:15



ATHLETE STAGING

Warm-up

Athletes who are preparing for the next scheduled match have preference on the warm-up tables. Warm-up on the competition tables is limited to two minutes.

Report Times

Athletes are required to report to the ball selection table (located near the warm-up area) 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time to check in. At this time, the athlete will meet with an umpire for ball and shirt selection.

In order to organize the procession onto the field of play, competition management requests that the athletes respond to the first call by the athlete escorts. Escorts will be assigned to a competition table and will notify the athletes competing on a particular table when they are to report to the athlete staging area. Each escort will have two signs bearing the names of the athletes.

Ball and Shirt Selection

Ball and shirt selection will take place 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time (see above). Opposing players must wear shirts of clearly different colors. If shirts are not sufficiently different, the athletes will agree which of them should change. If they cannot agree, the umpire will decide by lot. If a player is late reporting for ball and shirt selection, that player will be required to change his/her shirt (if necessary).

Path of the Athlete

After the athlete escorts have summoned the athletes to assemble, they will report with their coaches to the staging area near the warm-up area. They will then be instructed to line up by table, beginning with Table 4 and ending with Table 1.

Processional

When all participants are queued, the producer will cue the processional onto the field of play. The athletes and coaches will follow the athlete escorts and enter the field of play directly in front of their respective tables. All athletes, coaches, and competition officials will be escorted onto the field of play. ***Security will not allow any unescorted individual onto the field of play, regardless of their need to be there.***



Athletes are encouraged to begin warm-up immediately after the processional onto the field of play. Competition Management will introduce each athlete by table during the warm-up period. Each athlete is requested to acknowledge the introduction when announced over the public address system by the announcer.

During the main rounds, athletes will be introduced during the processional prior to entering the field of play. Again, each athlete is requested to acknowledge the introduction when announced over the public address system by the announcer.

Recessional

After the match is over, the athletes and coaches will exit the field of play opposite the side they entered. They will then be directed to exit through the mixed zone to hold interviews with the press.

Mixed Zone

This is the area where athletes will exit. The press will have an opportunity for brief interviews and photos. The athletes can decide whether or not to grant an interview or answer questions at this time. Once passing through the mixed zone, the athletes will be directed to the athlete lounge or locker rooms.

Victory Ceremonies

Victory ceremonies will be held immediately following the final round matches. First, second, and third place qualifiers will be recognized with medals. Staging for the Victory Ceremonies will be held in the Athlete Staging Area. Victory Ceremonies escorts will gather the winner of the bronze medal match and the finalists. They will be escorted to the victory ceremonies podium.

Access to the Competition Areas

Only those designated to compete in the current round of play will have access to the field of play. All athletes and coaches must have escorts to enter the field of play. They will also be escorted off the field of play and through the mixed zone by the field of play marshals.



COMPETITION RULES

Technical Organization

- The Sporting Club shall be responsible for the technical organization and staging of the 2003 USATT National Team Trials – Table Tennis.
- The Tournament Jury will consist of the: Competition Manager, Referee, and USATT Elite Athlete Committee Chair.
- All USATT and ITTF Rules will be followed.

Competition

- Matches will be the best of seven; eleven point games.

Playing System

- *Pre-Trial Preliminary Stage* - Men will be divided into 4 round robin groups. The winner and runner-up of each group will advance into the main round. For details, refer to the “Classification of Competitors and Procedures” section. Due to the number of entries, there will be no pre-trial needed for the Women’s Trial.
- *Pre-Trial Elimination Stage* - The eight qualifiers will be placed into a single elimination bracket. The two finalists will qualify for the Main Trial. For details, refer to the “Classification of Competitors and Procedures” section.
- *Main Trial* - Will consist of a round twelve person round robin for both Men and Women.

Participants

- *Number of Competitors* - The 2003 USATT Pan Am and National Team Trials – Table Tennis will consist of 12 men and 12 women competitors.
- *Eligibility* - Each competitor must meet International Olympic Committee and ITTF requirements for eligibility. The top ten rated Men and Women’s Competitors who enter are automatically qualified for the Trials. All other qualified entries must qualify through the Pre-Trial Competition.

Classification of Competitors and Procedures

1. Ratings used for the Pre-Trial preliminary (RR) stage draw will be the same as the ones used for the selection of the top 10. The players will be placed in 4 round robin groups using the “snake” method based on their ratings starting with the highest seed in Group 1. When 2 players have the exact same ratings, their positions will be determined by lot. No subjective alteration of the draw, including geographical and club affiliation considerations, will be made.
2. Seeding in the Pre-Trial elimination stage will follow these guidelines:



- The first place finishers in each Round Robin group will be seeded #1 through #4 in order of Group 1 through Group 4.
 - The #1 and #2 seeds will be placed in different halves of the draw. The #3 and #4 seeds will be drawn into the halves of the draw corresponding to the #1 and #2 seeds.
 - Each of the 2 players advancing from the same round robin group will be seeded into a different half of the elimination draw.
3. The two finalists from the Pre-Trial elimination stage need not play the final match of the Pre-Trial. They will be seeded into the 11th and 12th spots of the final 12 players in the Trials based on their ratings. The remaining semifinalists will play off for 3rd and 4th place and the other quarter finalists will play off for 5th through 8th place as determined to be necessary by the tournament jury at the conclusion of the Pre-Trial preliminary (RR) stage.
 4. Any top 10 players dropping out of the trials after they have been invited to the trials will be replaced by the next finisher in the Pre-Trial, with every player ranked behind the player who drops out advancing one spot in the ranking. The number of additional players will be determined and announced by the tournament jury on the morning of Wednesday, 3/19/03. After the determination is made, no replacement of a top-10 player will be considered.
 5. For round robins, if any player defaults a match, including withdrawal due to injury, none of his/her matches will count.
 6. The top four Male and Female finishers will qualify to represent USATT at the 2003 Pan Am Games in Santo Domingo. The USOC stipend allocations for the Pan Am Team members are as follows:
 - 1st place finisher: \$2,750 + insurance
 - 2nd place finisher: \$2,500 + insurance
 - 3rd place finisher: \$2,250 + insurance
 - 4th place finisher: \$1,500 + insurance
 7. Due to differences in qualification requirements, it may be possible that a player could be eligible to represent USATT at the Pan Am Games but not the World Championships. If this situation occurs, the results of that player will not be included in the determination of the top four finishers who qualify for the World Team.
 8. The 5th place male and female finishers in determining the World Team will be invited to participate in the 2003 World Championships provided that they fund their own way. If the 5th place finisher declines the invitation and time permitting, the next finisher in line will be offered the opportunity.