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FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

THE NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM WILL BE RESTRUCTURED IN BID TO ATTRACT SINGAPORE'S BEST YOUTH TALENTS

The Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) has recently undergone a thorough review of our current programmes to enhance our youth development and services.

The STTA will be restructuring the National Youth Team (NYT) and will start a new training squad structure, to be known as the Youth Training Squad (YTS), with effect from 1 January 2016. This move will allow STTA to continuously attract Singapore's best youth talents between the ages of 13 to 18 years.

The YTS aims to attract the best local talents and create a strong pipeline of local talents for Singapore table tennis sport.

The STTA will invite athletes who have achieved Top 8 placing in the under-15 singles category and under-18 singles category in STTA co-organised tournaments, such as the SAFRA-STTA Table Tennis Championships, Dr. Ng Eng Hen – STTA Table Tennis Championships and Dr. Lee Bee Wah Cup – STTA Table Tennis Championships to the selection trials.

There will be annual selection trials in the first week of January to select the 10 boys and 10 girls into the YTS. The top 5 boys and 5 girls under 15 years old, and 5 boys and 5 girls under 18 years old will be invited to train at the YTS for a year.

The STTA believes that the new YTS model will attract the best local talent and the STTA is committed to developing these youth players so that they release their full potential with STTA's guidance further, the current STTA Youth Development Squad (YDS) will be renamed the "Junior Development Squad" (JDS). The STTA believes that the new name will better address the age profile of these junior players, aged 9 to 12 years, participating in our table tennis programme.

Finally, these exciting new changes are made to materialize our strong commitment to our mission of developing world class table tennis players for Singapore by identifying, nurturing and motivating aspiring Singapore table-tennis talents to become the best that they could be.

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