



## **SINGAPORE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

### **JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT SQUAD (JDS)**

#### **SELECTION POLICY 2021**

#### **1 OBJECTIVE**

To select elite players below the age of 12 into STTA Junior Development Squad (JDS) for further grooming into champions of tomorrow.

#### **2 ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Athlete must be a Singapore Citizen,
- b. No previous suspension record with STTA,
- c. No outstanding dues with STTA

#### **3 DEFINITION**

Hereafter, the following definitions shall apply throughout the document.

For 2021,

- 8 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2013, start and end dates inclusive,
  - 9 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2012, start and end dates inclusive,
  - 10 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2011, start and end dates inclusive, and
  - 11 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2010, start and end dates inclusive.
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- JDS PUP refers to JDS Player under probation.
  - ZTC refers to STTA Zone Training Centre and its Table Tennis training program.

## 4 PROGRESSION INTO JDS VIA ZTC

### 4.1 Selection of 9 years old ZTC players for Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS.

**Objective:** To select the top 13 players of each gender from the 9 years old group for progression into JDS.

4.1.1 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, ZTC players must also adhere to the following criteria to be eligible to take part in the Inter ZTC Selection Trial:

- i) ZTC Player must be enrolled in the same STTA ZTC **on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**.
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration (1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021) before the selection trial. Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, the player must turn up for at least 63 trainings. The player can only be absent due to valid reason for a maximum of 15 trainings.*

4.1.2 Valid reasons for absence include medical leave, illness, injuries, school exams and overseas holiday. All other reasons will to be evaluated on a case by case basis. Relevant documents have to be submitted to coaches within 30 days from the day of return from absence. STTA's decision on the validity of the reason for absence shall be final.

4.1.3 The timeline for the Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS for 9 years old is as follows:

| Month                 | Details   | Format of Play   | Remarks   |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| August                | <b>Round 1</b><br><br>All eligible 9 years old players from the STTA ZTCs will be invited to participate in the selection trial within their ZTC. | The selection trial will be played in round-robin format, and all games will be played to the best of 5. | Results and scores will be tabulated and will be taken into consideration for the final score |
| September/<br>October | <b>Round 2</b><br><br>All eligible 9 years old players from the STTA ZTCs will be invited to participate in the                                   | The selection trial will be played in round-robin format, and all games will be played to the best of 5  | Results and scores from Round 1 and Round 2 will be tabulated.<br><br>The top 16 boys and     |

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|                       | selection trials across different ZTCs.  |   | 16 girls will be invited to the final round.   |
| November/<br>December | <p><b>Final round</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Top 16 ZTC players (must still maintain 80% training attendance in the months leading up to the final round of trials),</li> <li>- JDS PUP of 9 years old and younger age group, and</li> <li>- The non-ZTC player, if any, who qualified for the final round via para 5.2.3 will compete in the final round</li> </ul> | The selection trial will be played in round-robin format, and all games will be played to the best of 5 | <p>The top 13 male and 13 female players will be invited to JDS as full-fledged player.</p> <p>JDS PUP who fails to reach top 13 in <u>this</u> Final Round has to leave the JDS squad by the end of the month. The player may choose to re-join his/her respective ZTC.</p> |

## 4.2 Selection Criteria for 10 years old ZTC players for Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS

**Objective:** To select the top 2 from each gender of the 10 years old ZTC players for progression into JDS.

4.2.1 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, the ZTC players must also adhere to the following criteria:

- i) ZTC Player, except JDS PUP players who re-join ZTC after failing to qualify as JDS full-fledged player in the immediate previous year, must be enrolled in the same STTA ZTC **on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration (1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021) before the selection trial. Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings from 1st November 2020 to 30th April 2021, the player must turn up for at least 63 trainings. The player can only be absent due to valid reason for a maximum of 15 trainings.*

4.2.2 Valid reasons for absence include medical leave, illness, injuries, school exams and overseas holiday. All other reasons will to be evaluated on a case by case basis. Relevant documents have to be submitted to coaches within 30 days from the day of return from absence. STTA's decision on the validity of the reason for absence shall be final.

4.2.3 The timeline for the Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS for 10 years old is as follows:

| Month          | Details   | Format of Play  | Remarks  |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| May to June    | <p><b>Round 1</b></p> <p>Eligible 10 years old players will be invited via SMS or/and email to the internal selection trial within their ZTC.</p> | The selection trial will be played in round-robin format, and all games will be played to the best of 5 | Players who achieved Top 2 from each ZTC will qualify for the final round. |
| July to August | <p><b>Final Round</b></p> <p>- The Top 2 from each ZTCs (must still</p>   | The selection trial will be played in the round-robin format, and all games will be                     | Only the final top 2 will be selected into the JDS as full-fledged player. |

|  |   |                                 |   |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
|  | <p>maintain 80% training attendance in the months leading up to the final round of trials),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- JDS PUP from the 10 years old age group, and</li><li>- The non-ZTC player, if any, who qualified for the final round via para 5.2.3 will compete in the final round</li></ul> | <p>played to the best of 5.</p> | <p>JDS PUP who fails to reach top 2 in <u>this</u> Final Round has to leave the JDS squad by the end of the month. The player may choose to re-join his/her respective ZTC.</p> |
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4.2.4 If there are drop-outs from JDS, then prior to the start of the selection trial, STTA reserves the right to increase the selection beyond the Top 2 of each gender of 10 years old ZTC players for progression into JDS.

### 4.3 Selection Criteria for 11 years old players for progression into JDS

**Objective:** To select the top 2 from each gender of the 11 years old ZTC players for progression into JDS.

#### 4.3.1 Selection Criteria and Process for 11 years old ZTC players

- i) ZTC Player, except for JDS PUP players who re-join ZTC after failing to qualify as JDS full-fledged player in the immediate previous year, must be enrolled in the same STTA ZTC **on or before 31 December 2019**.
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration (1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020) before the selection trial. Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings from 1st July 2020 to 31st December 2020, the player must turn up for at least 63 trainings. The player can only be absent due to valid reason for a maximum of 15 trainings.*

4.3.2 Valid reasons for absence include medical leave, illness, injuries, school exams and overseas holiday. All other reasons will to be evaluated on a case by case basis. Relevant documents have to be submitted to coaches within 30 days from the day of return from absence. STTA's decision on the validity of the reason for absence shall be final.

4.3.3 The timeline for the Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS for 11 years old is as follows:

| Month      | Details  | Format of Play   | Remarks   |
|------------|--|--|---|
| Jan to Feb | Eligible 11 years old players from ZTC will be invited via SMS or/and email. | The selection trial will be played in round-robin format, and all games will be played to the best of 5. | The top 2 will be selected into the JDS as full-fledged player. |

4.3.3 If there are drop-outs from JDS, then prior to the start of the selection trial, STTA reserves the right to increase the selection beyond the Top 2 of each gender of 11 years old ZTC players for progression into JDS.

## **5 PROGRESSION INTO JDS VIA TOURNAMENTS**

### **5.1 PROGRESSION INTO JDS VIA STTA CO-ORGANISED TOURNAMENTS**

5.1.1 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, 10 and 11 years old players who achieved Top 4 in the Under-12 Singles category in any of the following STTA co-organised tournaments, will be invited to the JDS as full-fledged player in the same year:

- i) SAFRA-STTA Table Tennis Championships
- i) Dr. Ng Eng Hen – STTA Table Tennis Championships
- ii) Dr. Lee Bee Wah Cup – STTA Table Tennis Championship

5.1.2 Should any of the above mentioned tournaments not take place, STTA has the rights to decide whether there will be another tournament to take over the said purpose stated in para 5.1.1.

### **5.2 PROGRESSION INTO JDS VIA CHAR YONG NATIONAL YOUTH TOP 10 TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2021**

5.2.1 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, the Champion of the Char Yong National Youth Top 10 Table Tennis Tournament 2021 (9 and Under category) will be invited to the JDS team as a full-fledged player with effect from-January 2022.

5.2.2 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, a ZTC player who emerges second in the Char Yong National Youth Top 10 Table Tennis Tournament 2021 (9 and Under category) will be invited to the JDS team with effect from January 2022 as a JDS player under probation (JDS PUP).

5.2.3 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, a non-ZTC player who emerges second in the Char Yong National Youth Top 10 Table Tennis Tournament 2021 (9 and Under category) will only be eligible to be invited to the final round of their respective age group Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS in the year 2022.

5.2.4 Should Char Yong National Youth Top 10 Table Tennis Tournament not take place in 2021, STTA has the rights to decide whether there will be another tournament to take over the said purpose stated in para 5.2.

## **6 JDS PLAYER UNDER PROBATION (JDS PUP) PROGRESSION TO FULL-FLEDGED PLAYER**

**Objective: To set down the criteria for JDS PUP for progression into JDS as full-fledged player**

- 6.1 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 2, all JDS PUPs need to fulfil a minimum of required sessions of training a week when they are selected into the squad. They are required to maintain their attendance before the selection trials unless with valid reasons, as stated in the paragraph 2.3 of the Terms & Conditions for Junior Development Squad (JDS).
- 6.2 The procedure for all JDS PUP aged 9 or younger to progress into JDS is stated in paragraph 4.1.3 above.
- 6.3 The procedure for all JDS PUP aged 10 to progress into JDS is stated in paragraph 4.2.3 above.
- 6.4 JDS PUP who fails to be selected into the JDS as full-fledged player by the end of the selection trial has to leave the squad by the end of the month. The player may choose to re-join his/her respective ZTC.

## **7 SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE INTER ZTC SELECTION TRIAL FOR PROGRESSION INTO JDS**

- 7.1 Players who are late for more than 15 minutes from the stipulated time for the selection trials will not be allowed to play the selection trials.
- 7.2 Any player who deliberately loses in any game so that another player can qualify will be immediately disqualified from the selection trials. All players involved will also be referred to the STTA Disciplinary Committee (DC) for investigation and face further action, including expulsion if warranted.
- 7.3 Players who exhibit unsporting behavior (e.g. using vulgar/abusive language during matches, verbal abuse of tournament officials or opponents) will be instantly disqualified from competing in the selection trials.
- 7.4 Players must comply with the rules and regulations of the selection trials, or be disqualified from the selection trials.
- 7.5 Absenteeism for any match in the selection trials shall be deemed as a walk-over. There will be no re-match for any reasons, including but not limited to medical leave, examinations, etc. The results of the selection trials will be final.
- 7.6 The STTA has the absolute right and sole discretion to make any revisions of the terms and conditions at any time, without prior notice.
- 7.7 All information will be considered to have been communicated to all relevant parties when STTA posts the information on the STTA website and/or sends the information via email. STTA will not be responsible for any consequences if the information is not received or acknowledged by the relevant party.

## **8. OTHER CONDITIONS**

8.1 By taking part in the STTA JDS Selection, the parent(s) and legal guardian(s) for and on behalf of the athlete, irrevocably agree to:

- Grant STTA permission to use their child's images for promotional or publicities purposes,
- Grant STTA permission to publish their child's name and results on STTA website and other form of media,
- Indemnify STTA against all loss of property or personal injury or death,
- Accept that STTA has the absolute right and sole discretion to make any revision to the Selection Policy without prior notice,
- Accept that all decisions of STTA are final, and
- Accept and will abide by the terms and conditions of the JDS programme