



## **SINGAPORE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

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

#### **SELECTION POLICY 2026**

#### **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 2026,

- 7 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019, start and end dates inclusive,
- 8 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2018, start and end dates inclusive,
- 9 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2017, start and end dates inclusive,
- 10 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016, start and end dates inclusive, and
- 11 years old refers to any child whose birth date falls between 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2015, start and end dates inclusive.
- 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 8 years old ZTC players for Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS.**

**Objective:** To select the top 3 players of each gender from the 8 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 2025**.
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration before the selection trial (exact period to be announced). Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings for the 6 months duration, 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 Details on the format of the selection trials will be announced at a later date, subject to number of entries.

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

**Objective:** To select the top 12 players of each gender from the 9 years old group for progression into JDS.

4.2.1 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 2025**.
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration before the selection trial (exact period to be announced). Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings for the 6 months duration, 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 Details on the format of the selection trials will be announced at a later date, subject to number of entries.

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

**Objective:** To select the top 6 from each gender of the 10 years old ZTC players for progression into JDS.

4.3.1 Two lowest ranked 10 years old players based on the JDS overall ranking as at 31 October from JDS 10 years old will go through the selection trials with the 10 years old ZTC players.

4.3.2 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025**.
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration before the selection trial (exact period to be announced). Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings for the 6 months duration, 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 Details on the format of the selection trials will be announced at a later date, subject to number of entries.

- 4.3.4 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 6 of each gender of 10 years old ZTC players for progression into JDS.

#### **4.4 Selection Criteria for 11 years old players for progression into JDS (Selection for 11 years old players will cease in 2027)**

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

##### **4.4.1 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 2024**.
- ii) ZTC Players are expected to train 3 times a week in the 6 months duration before the selection trial (exact period to be announced). Only valid reasons for absence are accepted but a minimum attendance of 80% must still be met. *Example: If there are 78 trainings for the 6 months duration, 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.*

- 4.4.2 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.

- 4.4.3 Details on the format of the selection trials will be announced at a later date, subject to number of entries.

- 4.4.4 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 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, 7, 8 ,9 and 10 years old players who is a winner in the Crocodile Cup and will be invited to the JDS as a full-fledged player to begin training in the following month. He or she need not be part of STTA Zone Training Centre (ZTC).

- 5.1.2 Winners of the Under-9 Singles category in the STTA co-organised tournaments with national ranking points, will be invited to the JDS as a full-fledged player to begin training in the following month. The final number of players to be selected for the selection trial will be based on the number of Age Group Winners of STTA co-organised tournaments with national ranking points.
- 5.1.3 In addition to meeting the criteria as stated in paragraph 3, 10 and 11 years old players who achieved Top 4 in the Under-12 Singles category in the STTA co-organised tournaments with national ranking points, will be invited to the JDS as a full-fledged player to begin training in the following month.
- 5.2 **PROGRESSION INTO JDS VIA CHAR YONG NATIONAL YOUTH TOP 10 TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**
- 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 2025 (9 and Under category) will be invited to the JDS team as a full-fledged player with effect from January 2026.
- 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 2025 (9 and Under category) will be invited to the JDS team with effect from January 2026 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 2025 (9 and Under category) will only be eligible to be invited to the Inter ZTC Selection Trial of their respective age group for progression into JDS in the year 2026.
- 5.2.4 Should Char Yong National Youth Top 10 Table Tennis Tournament not take place in 2025, 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 above.
- 6.3 The procedure for all JDS PUP aged 10 to progress into JDS is stated in paragraph 4.2 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 UNIQUE PLAYING STYLES**

- 7.1 Unique playing styles refer to players who use pimped rubbers and anti-spin rubbers.
- 7.2 For Inter ZTC Selection Trial for progression into JDS, there will be a cap of **four players with unique playing styles** per gender, per birth year for progression into JDS.

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

- 8.1 Players who are late for their scheduled matches for the selection trials will not be allowed to play the selection trials.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 Players must comply with the rules and regulations of the selection trials or be disqualified from the selection trials.

- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 The STTA has the absolute right and sole discretion to make any revisions of the terms and conditions at any time, without prior notice.
- 8.7 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.

## **9. OTHER CONDITIONS**

- 9.1 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

Reference	Date approved	Date last amended	Date of next review	Status
	12 November 2024			Approved by: Management Committee
		11 March 2025		Approved by: Management Committee