

2022 ITTF WORLD TEAM TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS CHENGDU PRESENTED BY CHINA TELECOM MEDIA NOTES FOR DAY 1

EVENT OVERVIEW

CITY:	Chengdu, CHINA
SITE:	Chengdu High-tech Sports Centre
DATE:	30 September–9 October 2022
TABLE BRAND:	DHS
BALL BRAND:	Double Fish
FLOOR BRAND:	Enlio
MEDIA CONTACT (1):	Tristan Lavier - ITTF Head of Communications: tlavier@ittf.com
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The 2022 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals Chengdu, Presented by China Telecom sees the globe's strongest teams face off to win two of the sport's most coveted prizes; the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups.

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KEY MATCHES OF DAY 1

Japan vs Iran (Men) – Group 3 | Table 2 | 16:00 (GMT+8)

The Japanese team is in the rebuilding phase. After so many years of success they are now sending in a new generation of athletes. Mizuki Oikawa and Shunsuke Togami are both recent Japanese national Men's Singles champions, so have well and truly proved their worth on the domestic scene. The job of steering the ship will be on the young shoulders of Tomokazu Harimoto. At just 19, it's a heavy task, but he has the resume to go along with the job. The recent WTT Champions European Summer Series winner is in form. Their opponents on Day 1 will be Iran. Leading Team Iran is Noshad Alamiyan. The World No.78 is dark horse that the Japanese team will be wary of. His career best win is over Wong Chun Ting who was World No.7 at the time. With incredible serves and a deft hand, Alamiyan could cause an opening round



headache for Japan. Backup will come from the experienced racket of Nima Alamian, who is no stranger to wins against Top 20 athletes.

Sweden vs Australia (Men) – Group 5 | Table 4 | 16:00 (GMT+8)

Sweden have won the Swaythling Cup five times in total and landed on the podium a total of 16 times. They are coming to Chengdu off the back of bronze medal at Halmstad 2018 that ended a 17 absence from the podium. A lot has changed in the four years since that medal, with the emergence of Truls Moregard. In Halmstad, Moregard played just one match. Then came then 2021 Houston ITTF World Championships where the Swedish sensation won the silver medal in the Men's Singles. In Chengdu, he now will be the key piece to the puzzle for Team Sweden returning to their glory days. Their first encounter will be Australia. The entire Aussie team will be making their senior World Team Championships debut in Chengdu. Trust will be put in Nicholas Lum who is the current World No.1 in the U17 Boys' Singles. The Australian team has in fact all come through the ITTF World Youth Championships and will be making their graduation in Chengdu to the senior stage.

Puerto Rico vs Malaysia (Women) – Group 1 | Table 6 | 19:00 (GMT+8)

Team Puerto Rico, the 2019 Pan American champions, will be passionate and energetic in their attempts in Chengdu to write an underdog fairy-tale. The lead character in the story will have to be Adriana Diaz. Diaz cracked the Top 10 in the World Ranking list this year for the first time so will be a threat against any line-up. The team is a sister act with Melanie Diaz also making a showing. Her career best singles wins are over athletes just inside the Top 70, so will be looking to better that benchmark in Chengdu to help Puerto Rico climb the ladder. Malaysia finished with a silver medal at the recently staged Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England. The momentum and enthusiasm will be rolling on in to the World Team Championships Finals.

KEY PLAYERS OF DAY 1

Alexis and Felix Lebrun (FRA), two brothers at their first World Championships

The world will be watching to see if the Lebrun Brothers can continue their incredible 2022 run as they make their ITTF World Championships debut in Chengdu. Alexis Lebrun has seen a rapid rise this year and is now the World Men's No.30. He has been notching-up huge wins in the WTT Series, defeating the likes Tomokazu Harimoto and Dimitrij Ovtcharov. His younger brother Felix has had a similarly remarkable season. He impressed with a sensational encounter against Ma Long at the WTT Star Contender European Summer Series 2022, but the match was all the more noteworthy for the manner in which it was done. Felix uses the pengrip style which has become increasingly uncommon, let alone for a player from France.

Both brothers have developed trademark style that can be best described as innovative and fearless. France has been drawn in to a group with the second seed Germany. But with some star players absent from the German lineup, the brothers along with rest of the French team, will be looking to capitalise in the group stage to steal the seeding and give themselves the best chance of a podium finish in Chengdu.

ENTRY LIST

Men's Team (Group Stage) – [Player List can be accessed here.](#)

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
CHINA	GERMANY	JAPAN
SLOVENIA	FRANCE	HONG KONG, CHINA
UNITED STATES	INDIA	ROMANIA
PUERTO RICO	KAZAKHSTAN	IRAN
THAILAND	UZBEKISTAN	HUNGARY

GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6
KOREA REPUBLIC	SWEDEN	BRAZIL
EGYPT	ENGLAND	PORTUGAL
CZECH REPUBLIC	AUSTRALIA	DENMARK
CANADA	POLAND	SLOVAK REPUBLIC
SAUDI ARABIA		

GROUP 7
CHINESE TAIPEI
CROATIA
BELGIUM
SINGAPORE

Women's Team (Group Stage) – [Player List can be accessed here.](#)

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
CHINA	JAPAN	HONG KONG, CHINA
UNITED STATES	HUNGARY	BRAZIL
PUERTO RICO	POLAND	FRANCE
CANADA	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	ITALY
MALAYSIA	UZBEKISTAN	SOUTH AFRICA

GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6
KOREA REPUBLIC	GERMANY	ROMANIA
SINGAPORE	EGYPT	CHINESE TAIPEI
THAILAND	INDIA	SWEDEN
LUXEMBOURG	CZECH REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL
IRAN		

EVENT FACTS



- The 2022 World Team Championships Finals marks the 56th edition of the event and the sixth World Championships event to be held in China.
- Chengdu plays host to a World Championships Finals for the first time with Beijing (1961 – combined championships), Tianjin (1995 - combined), Shanghai (2005 – individuals championships), Guangzhou (2008 – team championships) and Suzhou (2015 - individuals) the other Chinese cities to stage the event.
- For the first time since the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, China has welcomed athletes in elite competition. A closed-loop system has been employed for these championships, with athletes arriving on specially chartered flights from the ITTF.
- More than 250 athletes will be out in force in Chengdu, representing 60 teams across the 10 days of table tennis action.
- Uzbekistan’s Asel Erkebaeva is the youngest athlete present in Chengdu (aged 12) and celebrates her 13th birthday on the opening day of play in Chengdu, Friday 30th September. Meanwhile, Luxembourg’s Xia Lian Ni is the oldest player in attendance (aged 59) and competes in her 23rd World Championships overall.
- Play takes place in two stages, a group phase organised on the round robin principle followed by knockout phase contested by 16 teams.
- Each team match will be played in a best of 5 matches format, with each individual match following a best of 5 games format.
- The order of play for each team match will be: Player A vs Player X, Player B vs Player Y, Player C vs Player Z, Player A vs Player Y, and Player B vs Player Z
- At the completion of the knockout phase, the winning teams will receive gold medals as well as the commemorative cup, while the runner-up will be presented with silver medals and the two losing semifinalists will receive bronze medals.
- China is the defending Men’s Team and Women’s Team champions, lifting the Swaythling Cup and Marcel Corbillon Cup for a record extending 21st time at the 2018 World Team Championships Finals in Halmstad, Sweden.

EVENT DISCIPLINES

There are two disciplines being contested at the 2022 World Team Championships Finals:

- Men’s Team
- Women’s Team

KEY DATES/TIMES

Day 1 – Thursday, 30 September

Group Stage – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 10:00 (GMT+8)

Day 2 – Friday, 1 October

Group Stage – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 10:00 (GMT+8)

Day 3 – Saturday, 2 September

Group Stage – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 10:00 (GMT+8)



Day 4 – Sunday, 3 October

Group Stage – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 10:00 (GMT+8)

Day 5 – Monday, 4 October

Group Stage – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 10:00 (GMT+8)

Day 6 – Tuesday, 5 October

Round of 16/Quarterfinals – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 11:00 (GMT+8)

Day 7 – Wednesday, 6 October

Round of 16/Quarterfinals – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 11:00 (GMT+8)

Day 8 – Thursday, 7 September

Quarterfinals/Semifinals – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 11:00 (GMT+8)

Day 9 – Friday, 8 October

Semifinals – Men’s Team, Women’s Team – 11:00 (GMT+8)

Final – Women’s Team – 19:30 (GMT+8)

Day 10 – Saturday 9 October

Final – Men’s Team – 19:30 (GMT+8)

EVENT HISTORY FACTS

- Winners of the Men’s Team event receive the Swaythling Cup; the trophy dates back to the first ever World Championships in 1926. It was donated by Lady Baroness Swaythling, mother of the Honourable Ivor Montagu, the first President of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
- The Corbillon Cup was presented by Marcel Corbillon on the first occasion the Women’s Team event was held at a World Championships. The competition was introduced in the tournament’s eighth edition, in some publications recorded as the 1934 World Championships despite being held in December 1933 in Paris on the only occasion when the tournament has been staged twice in the same year.
- China is the most successful team in both the Men’s and Women’s Team events; they have won each title 21 times. The men first won in 1961 in Beijing, the women in 1965 in Ljubljana.
- Next in line in the list of Men’s Team champions is Hungary (12 titles), while Japan is the second-most successful team in the Women’s Team event (8 titles).
- The first World Championships when only team events were held was in 2000 in Kuala Lumpur.
- Now retired, Belgium’s Jean-Michel Saive holds the record for 25 World Championships appearances.