Unit 1 Table Tennis



Part One

Knowledge Preparation

Table tennis or ping-pong, originated in Britain in 1890s, is an indoor sport in which two or four opponents use a small racket to hit a lightweight ball back and forth across a table divided by a net. Players must allow a ball played toward them to bounce one time on their side of the table, and must return it so that it bounces on the opposite side at least once. A point is scored when a player fails to return the ball within the rules. A game shall be won by the player first scoring 11 points unless both players score 10 points, when the game shall be won by the first player subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.

Players demand quick reactions to hit the ball by driving, looping, pushing, blocking, chopping, etc. Matches are typically best of five or seven games. The event categories involve teams, singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Table tennis is governed by the worldwide organization—International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). It is now dubbed the National Ball Game in China.

乒乓球起源于 19 世纪 90 年代英国的一项室内运动,两名或四名对手在球网隔开的球 桌上来回击球。球员须让来球在己方场地弹起一次才能还击过网,以落在对方台面上为有 效,使对方不能接到来球或把球打回从而得分。一局比赛先得 11 分的球员获胜,若双方打 成 10 平后,领先两分的球员获胜。

球员对来球需要迅速做出反应,击法主要有抽、拉、搓、挡、削等。比赛中一般采用 五局三胜制或七局四胜制。比赛分团体、单打、双打、混双等数种。

乒乓球国际管理机构为国际乒乓球联合会(国际乒联)。乒乓球在中国被誉为"国球"。



Part Two Reading

Text 🙆

Exploring ITTF¹

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is the governing body for all international table tennis associations. The role of the ITTF includes overseeing rules and regulations and seeking technological improvement for the sport of table tennis. The ITTF is responsible for the organization of numerous international competitions, including the World Table Tennis Championships.

The ITTF was founded in 1926, the founding members being Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Sweden and Wales. The first international tournament was held in January 1926 in Berlin while the first World Table Tennis Championships was held in December 1926 in London.

The headquarters of the ITTF is in Lausanne, Switzerland. The previous president of the ITTF was Adham Sharara from Canada; the current president since 2014 is Thomas Weikert from Germany.

The ITTF recognizes six continental federations containing 226 members. Each continental federation has a president as its top official and owns its constitution. The following are recognized federations: ATTF (African Table Tennis Federation), ATTU (Asian Table Tennis Union), ETTU (European Table Tennis Union), ULTM (Latin American Table Tennis Union), NATTU (Northern American Table Tennis Union) and OTTF (Oceania Table Tennis Federation).

All member associations of the ITTF attend Annual General Meeting (AGM). Agendas on changes of the constitution, laws of table tennis, applications for membership, etc. are discussed and finalized through votes. Also, the president of ITTF, eight executive vice-presidents, and 32 or less continental representatives are elected at an AGM, serving for a four-year term. The president, executive vice-presidents, and the chairman of the athletes' commission compose the executive committee. The executive committee, continental representatives and presidents of the six continental federations or their appointees compose the board of directors (Board). The Board manages the work of the ITTF between AGMs. Several committees and commissions, working groups or panels work under the constitution of ITTF or under the Board.

1 This text is adapted from Wikipedia and ITTF.com.



Unlike the organizations for more popular sports, the ITTF tends to recognize teams from generally unrecognized governing bodies for disputed territory. For example, it currently recognizes the Table Tennis Federation of Kosovo even though Kosovo is excluded from most other sports. It recognized the People's Republic of China in 1953 and allowed some basic diplomacy which led to an opening for U.S. President Richard Nixon, called "Ping-pong Diplomacy", in the early 1970s.

Toward the end of 2000, the ITTF instituted several rules changes aimed at making table tennis more viable as a televised spectator sport. The older 38 mm balls were officially replaced by 40 mm balls. This increased the ball's air resistance and effectively slowed down the game.

The table tennis point system was reduced from a 21 to an 11-point scoring system in 2001. This was intended to make games more fast-paced and exciting. The ITTF also changed the rules on service to prevent a player from hiding the ball during service, in order to increase the average length of rallies and to reduce the server's advantage. Today, the game changes from time to time mainly to improve on the excitement for television viewers.

In 2007, ITTF's board of directors in Zagreb decided to implement the VOC-free glue rule at junior events, as a transitional period before the full implementation of the VOC ban on 1 September 2008. As of 1 January 2009, all speed glue was banned.

On 29 February 2008, the ITTF announced several rules changes after an ITTF Executive Meeting in Guangdong, China with regards to a player's eligibility to play for a new association. The new ruling is to encourage associations to develop their own players.

The ITTF is developing a "Table Tennis for ALL" program with the aim to make the sport popular, universal and inclusive. The term "ALL" means more people, but not only that, also different kinds of people in terms of age, gender, social status, culture and physical ability.

Word Ban		
seek	[siːk]	v. 寻求; 寻找
numerous	['nuːmərəs]	adj. 许多的,很多的
found	[faʊnd]	v. 创立,建立,创办
previous	['priːviəs]	adj. 以前的,早先的
continental	[ˌkaːntɪˈnentl]	adj. 大陆的;大洲的
constitution	[ˌkaːnstəˈtuː∫n]	n.章程;宪法;体制
union	[ˈjuːniən]	n. 联盟;协会
agenda	[əˈdʒendə]	n. 议程;日常工作事项;日程表
application	[,æplɪ'keɪ∫n]	n. 申请; 应用
finalize	[ˈfaɪnəlaɪz]	v. 最后定下, 使(计划、交易等)确定
commission	[kəˈmɪ∫n]	n.委员会;佣金
appointee	[əˌpɔɪnˈtiː]	n. 被任命者



panel disputed territory	['pænl] [dɪ'spjuːtid] ['terətɔːri]	n. 领土; 领域; 范围
opening		
diplomacy		
institute	['ɪnstɪtuːt]	v.开始(调查);制定;创立
viable	['vaɪəbl]	adj. 可行的
spectator	['spekteɪtər]	n. 观众; 旁观者
resistance	[rɪˈzɪstəns]	n. 阻力;抵抗,反抗;抵抗力
service	['sɜːrvɪs]	n. 发球
rally	[ˈræli]	n. (网球、乒乓球等)连续对打; 集会 v. 团结; 集合
server	[ˈsɜːrvər]	n. 发球员
glue	[gluː]	n. 胶, 胶水
transitional	[træn'zı∫ənl]	adj. 过渡的
ban	[bæn]	v. 禁止
eligibility	[ˌelɪdʒəˈbɪləti]	n. 适任; 合格;选举或参赛资格
universal	[ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːrsl]	adj. 普遍的,通用的; 宇宙的,全世界的
inclusive	[ɪnˈkluːsɪv]	adj. 包容的

Phrases 🛞

be excluded from	从被排除
lead to	导致
be aimed at	目的是,旨在,针对
slow down	减速,放慢速度,使慢下来
be intended to do something	意在做,打算做
as of	自起
with regards to	关于
in terms of	依据,就而言

Proper Names 🔗

International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)	国际乒乓球联合会(国际乒联)
World Table Tennis Championships	世界乒乓球锦标赛
Czechoslovakia	(前)捷克斯洛伐克
Adham Sharara	阿德汉・沙拉拉(前任国际乒联主席)
Thomas Weikert	托马斯・维克特(现任国际乒联主席)
Table Tennis Federation of Kosovo	科索沃乒乓球协会



Richard Nixon

Zagreb

理查德・尼克松(美国前总统) 萨格勒布(克罗地亚首都)

Task 1 Text Organization

Read the text and fill in the blanks.

Paragraphs	Key Words	Supporting Details	
Para. 1	The	 an international governing body for international	
Paras. 2–10	Further introduction	 birth: (1) founded in (2) headquartered in membership: (1) members in 1926 (2) continental confederations containing members now organizational structure: (1) AGM (2) the committee (3) the of directors events and changes of rules: (1) It recognized the People's Republic of China in (2) It changed the ball from 38 mm to in 2000. (3) It reduced the point system from 21 to point scoring system and changed the rules on service: serving without the ball in 2001. (4) It implemented in 2008. (5) It announced the rule changes about players' to play for a new association in February 2008. 	



		• aim:
	"Table Tennis for All" program	(1) to make the sport popular, and
Para. 11		(2) to bring the sport to more people and also different kinds
		of people in terms of age, gender,,
		culture and

Task 2 Reading Comprehension

Exercise 1

Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is the most important organization for all international table tennis associations.
- 2. _____ The six continental confederations are: Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, South America and North America.
- **3.** _____ The first World Table Tennis Championships commenced in December 1926, in Berlin.
- 4. The older 38 mm balls were replaced by 40 mm balls to increase the speed of ball.
- 5. _____ The ITTF allowed some basic diplomacy contributing to the U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to China in the early 1970s, called "Ping-pong Diplomacy".

Exercise 2

Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1. What does the ITTF stand for? What kind of organization is it?
- 2. What agendas are discussed and finalized at an AGM?
- **3.** Who are elected at an AGM?
- 4. What is the executive committee composed of? What is the board of directors made up of?
- **5.** Why did the ITTF reduce the point system from a 21 to an 11-point scoring system and change the rules on service?



Exercise 1

Match the underlined words in the left column with their corresponding meanings in the right column.

- The role of the ITTF includes overseeing rules and regulations and <u>seeking</u> technological improvement for the sport of table tennis.
- 2. The <u>previous</u> president of the ITTF was Adham Sharara from Canada.
- **3.** Each continental federation has a president as its top official and owns its constitution.
- <u>Agendas</u> on changes of the constitution, laws of table tennis, applications for membership, etc. are discussed and finalized through votes.
- Several committees and commissions, working groups or <u>panels</u> work under the constitution of ITTF or under the Board.
- For example, it currently recognizes the Table Tennis Federation of Kosovo even though Kosovo is <u>excluded</u> from most other sports.
- It allowed some basic <u>diplomacy</u> which led to an opening for U.S. President Richard Nixon, called "Ping-pong Diplomacy", in the early 1970s.
- 8. Toward the end of 2000, the ITTF instituted several rules changes aimed at making table tennis more viable as a televised spectator sport.
- **9.** The ITTF also changed the rules on service to prevent a player from hiding the ball during service, in order to increase the average length of <u>rallies</u> and to reduce the server's advantage.

- A. a continuous series of shots that the players exchange without stopping as in playing table tennis, tennis, etc.
- B. the job or activity of managing the relationships between countries
- C. possible and likely to work well
- D. not allowed to take part in something or to enter a place, especially in a way that seemed wrong or unfair
- E. the qualification for being able to do something
- F. a group of people with skills or specialist knowledge who have been chosen to give advice or opinions on a particular subject
- G. a list of matters to be taken up (as at a meeting)
- H. trying to find or gain
- I. a set of basic laws and principles that a country or organization is governed by



J. having happened or existed before

10. On 29 February 2008, the ITTF announced several rules changes after an ITTF Executive Meeting in Guangdong, China with regards to a player's <u>eligibility</u> to play for a new association.

Exercise 2

Select one word or phrase for each blank from a list of choices given below and fill in the blank with its correct form.

aim at	spectator	slow down	official	govern
oversee	agenda	current	tend	lead to

The worldwide organization International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is the most important body that **1.**______ the various competitions of table tennis all over the world, including the World Table Tennis Championships. Its main role involves **2.**______ rules and regulations and seeking technological improvement for the sport of table tennis. Its member associations have developed from the original 9 to the **3.**______ 226. All member associations must attend annual general meeting whose **4.**______ are discussed and finalized through votes.

The ITTF **5**.______ to recognize teams from the disputed territory. In 1953, it recognized China. Its flexible policy **6**.______ the success of Chinese Ping-pong Diplomacy and U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to Beijing in the early 1970s.

In 2000, the ITTF made some rule changes which were **7**._____ making table tennis competitions more exciting for the television **8**._____. 40 mm balls **9**._____ took the place of the older 38 mm balls, which increased the ball's air resistance and effectively **10**._____ the game.

Exercise 3

Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1. 关于球员的参赛资格俱乐部做了一些规定。(with regards to)
- 2. 就其特点而言,乒乓球运动适合每个人。(in terms of)
- 3. 由于受伤,他没被列入参赛名单。(be excluded from)
- 4. 为了使球速放缓,小球被改成了大球。(slow down)
- 5. 乒乓球规则的改变旨在让电视观众更好地观看比赛。(be aimed at doing something)



Text B

Ping-pong Diplomacy¹

Ping-pong diplomacy refers to the exchange of table tennis players between the United States and People's Republic of China (PRC) in the early 1970s. This event marked a thaw in Sino-American relations that paved the way for a visit to Beijing by President Richard Nixon.

Background

In the 1950s, the United States viewed the People's Republic of China as an aggressor nation and enforced an economic containment policy including an embargo. After approximately twenty years of neither diplomatic nor economic relations, both countries finally saw an advantage in opening up to each other. The thirty-first World Table Tennis Championships, held in Nagoya, Japan, provided an opportunity for both China and the United States.

Process

The U.S. table tennis team was in Nagoya, Japan in 1971 for the 31st World Table Tennis Championships on April 6 when they received an invitation to visit China. From the early years of the People's Republic of China, sports had played an important role in diplomacy, often incorporating the slogan "Friendship First, Competition Second". During the isolated years, athletes were among the few PRC nationals who were allowed to travel overseas. This World Table Tennis Championships marked the return of China's participation after a six-year absence. On April 10, 1971, the team and accompanying journalists became the first American delegation to set foot in the Chinese capital since 1949.

According to the *History of U.S. Table Tennis* by Tim Boggan, who went to China along with the U.S. table tennis team, the greatest incident that may have triggered the invitation from China perhaps was the unexpected but dramatic meeting between the flamboyant American player Glenn Cowan and the Chinese player Zhuang Zedong, a three-time world champion and winner of many other table tennis events. Zhuang Zedong described the incident in a 2007 talk at the USC U.S.-China Institute.

The events leading up to the encounter began when Glenn Cowan missed his team bus one afternoon after his practice in Nagoya during the 31st World Table Tennis Championships. Cowan had been practicing for 15 minutes with the Chinese player, Liang Geliang, when a Japanese official came and wanted to close the training area. As Cowan looked in vain for his team bus, a Chinese player waved to him to get on his Chinese team bus. Moments after his casual talking through an interpreter to the Chinese players, Zhuang Zedong came up from his back seat to greet him and presented him with a silk-screen portrait of Huangshan Mountains, a famous product from

¹ This text is adapted from Wikipedia.