

# Table Tennis Facts



USA Table Tennis, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Co 80909 , [www.usatt.org](http://www.usatt.org), 719.866.4583

## *Who is USA Table Tennis?*

USA Table Tennis is the National Governing Body for the sport of table tennis in the United States. The goal of the association is to promote table tennis, the world's most popular racket sport in America, and to provide all participants, recreational and professional, the best possible experience by advancing and administering the sport in a variety of ways.

USA Table Tennis is responsible for organizing and training teams for national and international events including the National and World Championships, Pan American Games and the Olympics. It also works closely with over 180 International Table Tennis Associations and approximately 300 table tennis clubs in the United States.

USA Table Tennis also supports the many national organizations that promote and develop the sport including the American Wheelchair Table Tennis Association, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), the National Senior Games, Special Olympics International, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Association of College Unions International (ACUI), YMCA's, and the National State Games.

Through its network of affiliated table tennis clubs, USA Table Tennis has nearly 350 sanctioned tournaments each year in addition to league play, coaching programs, exhibitions, and other promotional, recreational and educational activities. It also sanctions regional and national championships, conducts local and national player development clinics, approves equipment, and supports national team members.

## *History of USA Table Tennis*

USA Table Tennis was formed with the aid of table tennis associations from around the country. USATT was an outgrowth of the American Ping Pong Association (created in 1930), the U.S. Amateur Table Tennis Association, and the National Table Tennis Association, which was formed in 1932. The unifying of these three groups helped sidestep certain complications created by Parker Brothers' acquisition of the patented name Ping Pong®, the game they marketed nationally.

USA Table Tennis moved to Colorado Springs in 1979 when it became a Group A member of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). National headquarters for USA Table Tennis is part of the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO.

## **Facts and Figures**

### **Over 14 Million Americans Play Table Tennis!**

(2000 Superstudy, American Sports Data, Inc.)

- China, Sweden, Taiwan and Korea are currently the world powers in table tennis. In comparison, the 2001 U.S. Men's Team is currently ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the World and the U.S. Women's Team is ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in the World.
- On October 1, 2000, the size of the table tennis ball officially changed from 38mm to 40mm.
- Games are played to 11 points (instead of 21) and matches will be the best of any odd number games.
- Table Tennis balls are hollow inside and made of celluloid material. Although the ball only weighs 2.7 grams, a powerful player can smash it at speeds exceeding 100mph!
- "Ping-Pong" is a registered trademark of Escalade Sports.
- The racquet (also called a bat or blade) may be of any size, shape or weight.
- Table Tennis tables can be made of any material allowing a uniform bounce. Regulation size is 9ft. long by 5ft. wide, and 2ft. 6in. above the floor.

## **History Facts**

### **'Flimflam' and 'Gossima' are names of early versions of the modern sport of table tennis!**

- Early racquets were made of materials such as cork, vellum, cardboard and wood, and were covered with cloth, leather or sandpaper.
- In 1952, foam rubber racquets were introduced by Japan's Horoi Satoh, bringing more speed, spin and silence to the game.
- In 1926, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) was founded in Berlin. The U.S. became a member of the ITTF in 1933.
- In 1971, at a time when the U.S. had no diplomatic ties with China, the U.S. Table Tennis Delegation - visiting the People's Republic of China - created front page news around the world with the history making "Ping Pong Diplomacy".



# Table Tennis Media

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## Published Books

(Please check with your local library or USATT's affiliated equipment dealers for copies)

- *Sizzling Chops and Devilish Spins: Ping-Pong and the Art of Staying Alive* by Jerome Charyn, 2001
- *Table Tennis 2000: Technique with Vladimir Samsonov* by Radivoj Hudetz, 2000
- *History of U.S. Table Tennis, Volume 1: 1928-1939: "The Formative Years: "If Only the Public Can See...)"* by Tim Boggan, 2000
- *Table Tennis From A To Z* by Dimosthenis E. Messinis, 2000
- *Train To Win* by Michael Gadal, 1997
- *Winning Table Tennis Skills and Strategies* by Dan Seemiller and Mark A. Holowchak, 1996
- *Table Tennis - Steps To Success* by Larry Hodges, 1993
- *Table Tennis - The Sport* by Scott Preiss, 1992
- *Play the Game - Table Tennis* by Donald Parker and David Hewitt, 1989
- *Table Tennis: The Skills of the Game* by Gordon Steggall, 1986
- *Winning Table Tennis* by Tim Boggan, 1976
- *Table Tennis* by David Phillip, 1975
- *Advanced Table Tennis* by Jack Carr, 1969
- *The Game of Table Tennis* by Dick Miles, 1968
- *Table Tennis* by Margaret Varner and Rufford Harrison, 1967



## Video Tapes

(Competition and instructional videos are available for purchase through the following companies)

- \* **USA Table Tennis**, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, 719-866-4583  
[www.usatt.org](http://www.usatt.org)
- \* **Butterfly Table Tennis**, P.O. Box 157, Wilson, NC 27893, 800-334-8315  
[www.butterflyonline.com](http://www.butterflyonline.com)
- \* **Paddle Palace**, 8125 Glencoe Road, Portland, OR 97222, 800-547-5891  
[www.paddlepalace.com](http://www.paddlepalace.com)
- \* **Table Tennis Pioneers**, 2035 Nadeau, Laval Quebec, Canada, H7T 1W5  
[www.ping-pong.com](http://www.ping-pong.com)
- \* **Alpha Productions**, 400 El Nido Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107  
[www.alphatt.com](http://www.alphatt.com)



## Table Tennis on the Web

USA Table Tennis strives to provide all participants, recreational and professional, the best possible experience by advancing and administering the sport in a variety of ways. Please join us at [www.usatt.org](http://www.usatt.org) and discover a whole New World of table tennis!