



**INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR  
ORGANIZERS  
AND  
PARTICIPATING NATIONS**

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## **1. General information**

ICO Nations Cup is an annual crossminton competition between national teams. ICO Nations Cup tournament mode is based on group stage and elimination system – first group stage is played and then the winners of these groups battle it out for the title of ICO Nations Cup. The tournament is organized as independent event, not related to World Series tournaments or World/European Championships, as this is the only way to give the appropriate attention to ICO Nations Cup competition.

### **1.1. Time-frame**

Each year, Nations Cup should take place on one of the weekends between **June and October** of the respective year. The tournament will be played over the whole weekend (Friday to Sunday).

The Nations Cup cannot take place on the same weekend and venue as any ICO tournament.

### **1.2. Venue**

A venue is to be chosen by organizer and confirmed by ICO. Matches can be played indoors or outdoors, weather permitting. Spectacular venues with the possibility of many spectators (town squares, beaches etc) are to be encouraged. Eight courts are required, but the number of courts mostly depends of the number of participating nations at the tournament.

### **1.3. Referees and head umpire**

Referees must be provided by the organizer for all matches, if possible. If elimination system is used (4 national teams), referees must be used in semifinals and final. Scoreboards must be provided and used in all matches.

A head umpire is in charge of overseeing the tournament, solving disputes and signing the final results sheet. The name of the head umpire must be sent by the organizer by email to ICO not later than 48 hours before the start of the tournament. A member of a participating national team (player or national team captain) cannot be head umpire.

### **1.4. Speeders**

Speeders must be provided by the organizer.

### **1.5. Flags and banners**

Flags of the participating nations must be provided by the organizer. If asked for help by organizer, a participating nation must provide the organizer with its flag not later than at the national team captains meeting.

ICO banners, ICO Nations Cup banners and banners of ICO sponsors can be provided by ICO and – if provided – must be used by the organizers and must be clearly seen on the photo materials, provided for the press. Organizer has the right to use banners of his own sponsors, but must get the approval to use them by ICO before the start of the tournament.

### **1.6. Trophies/cups**

A trophy/cup for the ICO Nations Cup Champion is provided by ICO. Medals for all members of the winning, runner-up and third-placed team are provided by ICO. Organizer is not allowed to provide his own trophies or medals.

### **1.7. ICO ranking points**

ICO ranking points are awarded for each won match. Each won singles match at a tournament is worth **150 points**. Same points are awarded for won doubles matches to both players. No points are awarded for lost matches.

### **1.8. Participation fee**

Each participating nation is to pay 100 EUR participation fee directly to the organizer prior to the ICO Nations Cup tournament, not later than at the national team captain's meeting, which takes place **one Day (not later than 8 pm)** before the start of the tournament. Participation fee covers participation at the tournament, all other costs (transport, accommodation) must be covered by participating nations themselves.

### **1.9. Cancellations**

A team that cancels its participation after submitting the Players list or does not show up at the event itself, receives a financial punishment of max. 1.000 EUR and a ban on competing at all ICO Nations cup competitions for max. 3 years, as decided by ICO Board.

### **1.10. Media plan**

A "Media plan" with a detailed promotional strategy must be a part of every application to host a Final tournament. This document must be submitted together with the application itself well before the tournament and must describe the ways the organizer plans to promote the Final tournament (e.g. media sponsor, video film with interviews, billboards, ...). "Media report", which must be submitted to ICO after all ICO Nations Cup tournament, is covered in point 6.2.

### **1.11. Live coverage**

Live-stream of the Final tournament must be provided on the internet.

## **2. Announcement of national team captains and participating players**

### **2.1. National team captain**

Each participating national team must have a national team captain, which is named by his/her national federation. His/her name, mobile phone number and e-mail address must be submitted to ICO and the organizer by email not later than 1 week before the start of the ICO Nations Cup tournament. National team captain is responsible for all the communication with ICO and the organizer and must be present at the ICO Nations Cup tournament. One of the participating players can also be named as national team captain. A national team captain

must attend the national team captains meeting with the organizer one day (not later the 8 pm) before the start of a tournament.

## **2.2. Players list**

A national team consists of 2 male and 1 female player, with the possibility of 1 additional male and 1 additional female player as reserves. It is up to each national team to decide whether to have reserve players or not.

The names of the participating players must be submitted in the form of a players list to ICO and the organizer by email not later than 1 week before the start of the ICO Nations Cup tournament. Players must be positioned on the players list as

*Player 1 male: xxx xxx - name surname*

*Player 2 male: xxx xxx - name surname*

*Player 1 female: xxx xxx - name surname*

*Reserve player male: xxx xxx - name surname (will play doubles instead of Player 1/2 male) – if relevant! – check point 2.4.*

*Reserve player female: xxx xxx - name surname (will play doubles instead of Player 1 female) – if relevant! – check point 2.4.*

## **2.3. (Ir)relevance of ICO rankings**

While all participating players of one national team must be named in positions (for example Player 1 male, Player 2 male, Reserve player male), their current ICO rankings are irrelevant in this regard. Players must be named in positions by their national federation or national team captain according to the rules/decisions accepted by their national federations, which may or may not decide according to the ICO rankings.

The same rule applies to the naming of national teams. It is completely up to each national federation and its rules to decide which players will be part of its national team.

## **2.4. Reserve players as nominated doubles players**

Reserve players are allowed to play doubles instead of one of the named players (Player 1 male, Player 2 male, Player 1 female). In this case when a name of a reserve player is written down and submitted to ICO and the organizer, it must also be noted that this reserve player will play doubles: for example »Reserve player male: xxx xxx (will play doubles instead of Player 1 male)«. Male reserve player can only substitute one of the two male players (Player 1 male OR Player 2 male) for doubles. Both reserve players (male and female) can be named and play as doubles players at one tournament.

If Reserve player male is named as doubles player instead of for example Player 1 male, but needs to substitute Player 2 male during the tournament due to an injury/illness etc, the Reserve player male assumes the position of Player 2 male in singles and doubles matches. This way, Player 1 male must play his singles and doubles matches, even though he originally was not named to play doubles matches.

## **2.5. Calling a new player before the start of the tournament**

In case of injury or illness of one of the nominated players, a national team captain can substitute a nominated player (Player or Reserve player) with a new player by email, mobile phone or in person to ICO and the organizer not later than 24 hours before the start of the tournament.

In this case, medical evidence in support of the need to substitute the player must be provided to ICO by email or mail not later than 1 week after the start of the tournament. If not, no ICO ranking points are awarded to the players of this national team and the team is disqualified from the competition. All the medals and trophies that this national team had won at this competition are to be returned to ICO immediately after the ICO decision to disqualify the team has been received by the national federation of the disqualified team.

## **3. Tournament draw with time-schedule**

### **3.1. Draw communication**

The tournament draw with a time-schedule and player names included must be made by the organizer and sent to ICO for confirmation by email not later than 48 hours before the start of the tournament. After receiving back the ICO confirmation, final version of the draw with player names included must be sent by email to national team captains of participating nations, ICO and related press contacts at least 16 hours before the start of the tournament.

### **3.2. Making a draw**

The draw consists of simply drawing each participating country a number, thus giving it a starting spot to complete the draw with the names of nations. The last year champion is given spot number 1, the last year runner-up is given spot number 2, the last year third place is given spot number 3 and the last year fourth place is given spot number 4. All other participating nations have their spot numbers drawn fortuitously. According to the drawn numbers and the playing system, final version of the draw is made with all the clashes and matches written down with names of players according to the submitted players list. All clashes have to be played according to the ICO tournament mode.

### **3.3. 30-minute rule for time-schedule**

Time-schedule is then made according to the number of participating nations with 30 minutes used as an average length of one match.

### **3.4. Time-schedule**

The time schedule have to be as followed:

Friday:	Press conference/Media support
	Opening ceremony
	Captains' meeting (not later than 8 pm)
Saturday:	Group stage (start at 9 am)
Sunday:	Semifinal (start at 9 am)
	Final and 3rd place match (start 1 pm)
	Medals ceremony

## 4. Tournament mode

### 4.1. Tournament

Every nation has the opportunity to participate in the Nations Cup. There are no requirements to fulfill or qualifications needed. The seeding list are created as described in 3.2. First of all there will be played a Group stage on Saturday with a maximum number of 4 groups. The winner of each group qualifies for the Semifinals on Sunday. The winner of each Semifinal will play against each other in the final. The loser of Semifinals will play a third place match.

### 4.2. Number of players and matches

A national team consists of at least three players – 2 male players (open category, but not as a rule) and 1 female player (women's category, but not as a rule) – and not more than five players (3 players + 2 reserves that can step in for either singles or doubles matches).

A clash between two national teams consists of 6 matches – 3 singles and 3 doubles matches. Matches (2-winning sets) are played in the following playing order:

Match Nr	Category	Team 1		Team 2
1	singles	Player 1 male	vs.	Player 1 male
2	singles	Player 1 female	vs.	Player 1 female
3	singles	Player 2 male	vs.	Player 2 male
4	doubles	Player 2 male Player 1 female	vs.	Player 2 male Player 1 female
5	doubles	Player 1 male Player 1 female	vs.	Player 1 male Player 1 female
6	doubles	Player 1 male Player 2 male	vs.	Player 1 male Player 2 male

The playing order can be adapted, if necessary due to the constraints in time schedule. The change must be confirmed by ICO.

The winner of the clash is the national team with more victories in first 6 matches (6:0, 5:1, 4:2) and receives two points, while the defeated team receives 0 points. In case of a tied clash (3:3) after 6 matches in a group clash, the clash is tied and both teams receive 1 point.

In case of a tied clash (3:3) after 6 matches in an elimination clash, the winner is decided by better sets ratio. In case of equal sets ratio, the winner is decided by better points ratio. In case of equal points ratio, the winner is decided by draw.

In case of a two or more teams with the same number of points on first place at the end of a group stage, the winner is decided by:

1. the result(s) in a clash between these teams;
2. the ratio between won and lost matches during the whole tournament;
3. the ratio between won and lost sets during the whole tournament;
4. the ratio between won and lost points during the whole tournament.

### **4.3. Number of courts**

The number of required courts depends of the number of participating national teams and available time. Standards require a number of eight courts (1.2.). With 8 courts and 4 groups of 4 national teams, we will play 1 clash on 1 court. Each clash will be played as described in 4.2. and will have a total time of 3 hours considering the 30-minute rule.

## **5. Playing a tournament**

### **5.1. National team captains' meeting**

A national team captains' meeting with the organizer takes place one day (not later than 8 pm) before the start of the tournament at the tournament venue. At the meeting, tournament mode and time schedule is explained and all related issues are discussed.

### **5.2. National team captain's choice substitution**

A national team captain is allowed to make a last-minute substitution, which must be announced to the head umpire not later than 45 minutes before the start of the tournament. National team captain's choice substitution can only be made for a doubles match.

In case of male players this means that the Reserve player male can substitute Player 1 male or Player 2 male for one of his doubles matches or all of his doubles matches. In the announcement it must be clearly specified in which matches the substitution will take place and only one of the players can be substituted in one tournament (Player 1 male or Player 2 male). Once the Reserve player male assumes the position of one player (the moment when the announcement is given to the organizer), for example Player 1 male, he can not substitute Player 2 male anymore during this tournament, even in case of his injury (or illness or any other similar justified reason). In this case, Player 2 male would have to surrender all his remaining matches by the score of 0:16, 0:16, while his national team would still be able to finish the tournament.

In case of female players, Reserve player female can substitute Player 1 female in one or both of her matches during one clash, in one or more clashes and even in all clashes. Again, in the announcement it must be clearly specified in which matches the substitution will take place. In case of injury (or illness or any other similar justified reason) of the substituted Reserve player female, Player 1 female can assume her position back in the next match after the injury of Reserve player female.

### **5.3. Warming-up**

Warming-up must be provided to all national teams at least 30 minutes before the start of the tournament at the tournament venue. All national teams must have equal warming-up space and the warming-up conditions must be the same for all national teams.



#### **5.4. Playing matches**

All matches must be played according to the tournament draw, time schedule and ICO standards for ICO World Series tournaments. All matches are played by the system of two winning sets.

Players must be officially announced to spectators and scoreboards must be used in order for spectators to be able to keep track of the score.

#### **5.5. Injury substitution**

In case of an injury (or illness or any other similar justified reason), national team captain must announce an injury substitution to the head umpire any time before or during the tournament.

In this case, Reserve player can substitute Player male or Player female for all of his singles and doubles matches for the rest of the whole tournament. Injury substitution can only take place if Reserve player had not been selected as National team captain's choice substitution to play one of the coming matches in place of the other Player male. For example, if Reserve player male had been named as National team captain's choice substitution to play doubles in place of Player 2 male in their last clash of the tournament, but Player 1 male then suffers an injury before the last clash, the injury substitution can not be made (because Reserve player male is already substituting Player 2 male for some of the coming matches) and Player 1 male loses all his remaining matches by the score of 0:16, 0:16.

Reserve player female is allowed to make an injury substitution anytime (not during a match), but must then also play all of her singles and doubles matches for the rest of the whole tournament.

### **6. After the tournament**

#### **6.1. Medals ceremony**

Medals ceremony must be announced immediately after the end of the tournament and carried out not later than 15 minutes after the end of the tournament. A national anthem must be played for the winning team.

A winner, runner-up and third-placed team have to be announced at the medals ceremony.

#### **6.2. Tournament and media report**

A tournament report with ALL scores (points included) of all matches must be sent to the ICO not later than 24 hours after the end of the tournament. All substitutions that took place must be clearly notified and explained.

A tournament report must be accompanied by a media report, consisting of a short text about the tournament and at least 5 photos. One of them must be a photo of the medals ceremony.