

Canadian Foosball Federation: 2028 ITSF World Championship Spot Selection

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February 15, 2026

1 ITSF Allocation Summary

Canadian players may qualify for the 2028 International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) World Championships (WC) through one or more of the following pathways:

1. ITSF World Rankings Performance
2. World Series Performance
3. Winning Designated Qualifying Tournaments (e.g. some ITSF 750 events)
4. Canadian Foosball Federation (CFF) Allocations

The players who are granted entry to an event at the 2028 ITSF World Championships will be referred to as having earned a **spot** in that event. Although a player may qualify through multiple pathways, each player may have at most one spot per discipline and may only enter one age category per discipline. If a Canadian player receives a spot directly from the ITSF, their spot does not count toward the limited number of spots allocated by the Canadian Foosball Federation (CFF). For more details, please see this pdf

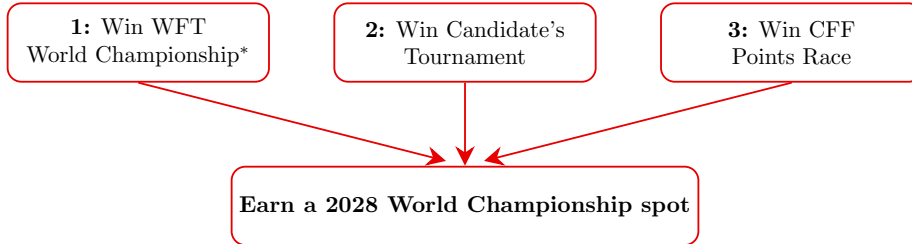
2 Overview

The CFF is entitled to send **at least two** players or teams to compete in each event held at the 2028 WC. This document details how the CFF will allocate spots for the events listed in table 1.

2.1 Allocation of CFF-Controlled Spots

The Canadian Foosball Federation (CFF) is entitled to allocate a minimum of two spots in each event at the 2028 ITSF World Championships. A **spot**

Figure 1: CFF Allocation Process



refers to the right for a Canadian player or team to enter a specific World Championship event.

Due to Canada’s performance as a top-ten nation in the men’s division in 2025, the CFF anticipates receiving the ability to allocate **three** spots in Men’s Singles, Men’s Doubles, and Men’s Classic Doubles.

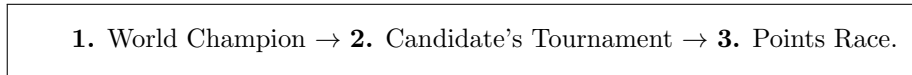
To ensure a transparent, fair, and performance-based selection process, we use a **multi-path** system based on a set of principles summarized in section 8. The multi-path system is summarized in the form of an infographic in fig. 1.

Table 1: Events Covered

Men	Women	Senior (O50)
Classic Doubles	Classic Doubles	Classic Doubles
Doubles	Doubles	Doubles
Singles	Singles	Singles
Open Mixed		

*the World Foosball Tour (WFT) world champion spot is only allocated to champions crowned up to **ten years prior** to the WC.

If multiple pathways award a spot in the same event, priority is given in the following order:



2.2 Clarifying Priority

For example, suppose the CFF is only able to send two teams to compete in Women’s Classic Doubles. Then, Linda Ly will take one of those spots by virtue of winning the 2025 WFT World Championships and can choose her

partner. If another woman wins women’s classic doubles at the WFT World Championships, then she will be granted a spot and the Candidate’s tournament will not be held unless this woman chooses to play with Linda. Otherwise, the remaining spot will be granted to the winner of the Candidate’s Tournament and the points race will be called off.

If the points race for a discipline is called off, then the leader of the points race of that discipline as of three months prior to the Candidate’s tournament will be invited to that event at the Candidate’s.

If CFF successfully develops and implements a nationwide multitable ranking system up to one year before the WC, we reserve the right to add a fourth pathway to achieve a WC spot, in which case it would be added at the end of the previously established priority list.

If a qualified player or team declines their spot, it is reallocated according to the priority listed above.

3 Candidate’s Tournament

The Candidate’s tournament is an **invitational** multitable tournament that we anticipate holding **at the end of 2027**. The events held at the Candidate’s will be those shown in table 1; events held in these formats, or in an open format, at Approved tournaments will be called *preliminary events*. The winners of these events will be granted a 2028 WC spot.

We are excited to announce three pathways to be invited to an event the candidate’s tournament:

- Be the highest-finishing candidate¹ in a preliminary event of the same discipline at a Canadian National Series tournament. Rules for what happens when a tie takes place can be found in section 5.1. For qualification purposes, Second and Third Place are considered tied if their only losses are against the winner.

Exceptional circumstances: If a Canadian National Series tournament does not hold a classic doubles event, then the players who are invited to enter doubles due to their performance at this tournament will also be invited to enter classic doubles at the Candidate’s tournament. If the highest-finishing candidate participated in a doubles event with a partner who was not a candidate, then they are still invited and the next highest-finishing team comprised of two candidates is also invited.

- Place in the top 3 at a preliminary event in the same discipline at a **S** grade tournament that had at least 32 players or teams participate.
- Win a preliminary event in the same discipline at a **A** grade tournament that had at least 32 players or teams participate.

¹A **candidate** is a player or a player on a team with Canadian ITSF affiliation who has not already been awarded a spot by the ITSF or by winning a WFT World Championship title.

Table 2: Canadian National Series Tournaments

Tournament	Table	Date	Location
North American Leonhart	Leonhart	Jan 23–26, 2026	Montréal
North American Multitable	Multitable	Mar 26–29, 2026	Trois-Rivières
Canadian Hall of Fame	Tornado	May 1–3, 2026	Ottawa
Canadian Bonzini Nationals	Bonzini	September 2026	TBD

The CFF seeks to host at least one National Series tournament per Calendar year in a Western province and at least one in Toronto, these tournaments will be added to the table above as they are announced. Details regarding the format of the Candidate’s tournament will be announced at least three months before it takes place.

If an odd number of players accept invitation to a doubles, classic, or mixed event held at the Candidate’s tournament, then the following process will be used to invite an additional player:

1. The player with the highest total number of first, second, and third place finishes at Approved Tournament events of the same category.
2. If the previous player is tied, then we use their number of second place finishes at Canadian National Series events of the same discipline as a tie-breaker.

Suppose the number of men and women invited to the candidate’s is different. Then, an additional number of players from the lesser-represented sex will be invited to enter mixed at the candidate’s; these players will be the highest-placing players in the points race from among the participants at any other event at the candidate’s.

3.1 Special Rules for Women and Seniors

If a Qualifying Series tournament does not offer a women’s or senior event in a given discipline (singles, doubles, or classic doubles), invitation rights are determined using the corresponding open event, subject to the rules below.

- The highest-finishing eligible woman or senior in the corresponding open event is invited to the Candidate’s Tournament.
- For doubles or classic events, both players on the team must belong to the same sex or age category (women or seniors). If no such team enters the open doubles event, the highest-finishing individual woman or senior player is invited.
- For doubles and classic events, tie-break procedures apply only if more than two eligible women or seniors are competing for the same invitation.

- Women who would otherwise be invited to an open singles, doubles, or classic doubles event at the Candidate's Tournament are instead invited to compete in the corresponding women's event.
- If a senior qualifies for a singles, doubles, or classic doubles event that is open to all ages at the candidate's, they may choose to compete either in their age category or in the category corresponding to their sex.

4 Points Race

Each event category (classic, singles, doubles, mixed) has a separate point race separated by sex and age (open, senior, women).

Points can be accrued at events held at approved tournaments in any of the following categories:

- Singles, Doubles, Classic, or Mixed held in a seeded format where players of any skill may enter and compete equally with a partner of their choice. This includes open events, master's doubles at British tournaments, and pro doubles at Spanish tournaments. Handicapped events, pro/am's, moneyball doubles, and draw-your-partners do not count.
- Pro singles or doubles at WFT tournaments.
- Expert singles or doubles at the WFT World Championships and ITSF Tornado World Series tournament.

The points race concludes 4 months before the WC. You get to add points from **up to 9** events to your point total, subject to the following limitations. These limitations are intended to reward a player's versatility across locations and tables, reflecting the conditions of the WC.

Limitations:

- One finish per tournament per event category.²
- You can add at most 4 finishes per calendar year, starting in 2026.
- At most 2 finishes per calendar year may be from the same city.
- At most 6 of your finishes may be on the same table. You add half the number of multitable finishes, rounded down, to this number.
- At most 6 of your finishes may be from Canadian tournaments.

For women and seniors who enter open events: Any event that contributes to a player's open point total also applies to their senior or women's point total;

²Example: If you go to the 2026 WFT TKO and enter open doubles, pro singles, and open singles, you get to add your open doubles points to your doubles score and you may add the higher point total between pro singles and open singles to your singles score.

however, in the case this event is a doubles event, the player’s partner must be of the same sex / age category.

Each tournament is assigned a letter grade. The potential to earn more points increases with each letter grade. If multiple letter grades can be assigned to a tournament, then the highest one counts. We have a prototype for the points formula that is currently being balanced. Stay tuned for a breakdown of how points are earned. The CFF reserves the right to finalize and publish the points formula at any time prior to six months before the points race concludes, after which no retroactive changes will be made to the points formula.

The O63 player with the highest point total in each senior category is also granted a spot in that O63 category.

4.1 Approved Tournaments

S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WFT World Championships ● ITSF World Series
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WFT Majors ● ITSF Majors*
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WFT State Series Events ● ITSF Master and International Series ● Canadian Nationals
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Canadian Regionals ● ITSF Pro Tour Events ● Moneyball ● Washington State ● Costa Rica Summer Tournament ● South Carolina State ● California State

Table 3: *Here, an ITSF major refers to a master or international series tournament that satisfies two conditions: It is held a country that is in the top 4 of the ITSF nations’ general rankings, and the tournament is either held in a multitable format or on the table that country choose as their home table in the 2025 World Cup. The CFF may add other events to added to this table.

A list of Canadian Regionals is included below:

Additional tournaments may be added to the approved list with at least 30 days’ notice.

Table 4: Canadian Regional Series Tournaments

Tournament	Table	Date	Location
Battle at 6ix! TFC Winter 2026	Tornado	Jan 16–18, 2026	Toronto
Québec Bonzini Open 2026	Bonzini	May 29-31, 2026	Québec City
Ottawa Fall Open 2026	Tornado	October 23–25, 2026	Ottawa

5 Tie-Breaks

5.1 Candidate’s Qualification

These tie breakers come into effect if and only if the winner of a preliminary event at a Canadian National Series tournament is or becomes ineligible to enter the Candidate’s tournament.

1. A team not comprised of two candidates automatically loses tie-breaks against teams comprised of two candidates.
2. Suppose an event’s elimination bracket is single elimination, both the second-place and third-place finisher’s losses were against the winner, and the winner is ineligible to be invited to the Candidate’s tournament. These players are considered tied and only the winner of a tie-breaker match will be invited to the Candidate’s tournament.
3. If the above circumstance doesn’t happen and there is a unique highest finishing player or team from among the eligible players or teams, then that player or team is invited to the Candidate’s.
4. If there are multiple eligible players or teams who are tied for the highest finishing spot, then they play a series of tie-break matches whose format is dictated by the number of tied players or teams:
 - 2 players or teams: 1 match.
 - 3 players or teams: The players play a 3-person single round robin tournament. In the case this results in a tie, the first tie breaker is the set differential and the second tie breaker is the point differential.
 - 4 players or teams: The players enter a seeded single elimination bracket, the winner of which is invited.
 - 5 or more players of teams: None will be invited.³

³This extremely unlikely scenario implies that none of the players involved finished in the top 8, which we deem to be a necessary cutoff to reach in order to be considered for a WC spot. Additionally, running tie-breaker matches with 5 or more players may be logistically unreasonable.

The format of tie breaker matches will be the same format as the preliminary event. If possible, we encourage these matches to be held in a best of five format, with win-by-two overtime with no cap. If more than one tie breaker match is required to play out and are initiated after 9pm on the last day of the tournament, the tournament director may choose to run them as two out of threes.

In the case where a tie-breaker match can not be held at the same venue and weekend as the Canadian National Series tournament, it can be held at any subsequent Canadian National or Regional Series tournament where all involved players and tables are present. The players may also agree to hold tie breaker matches elsewhere if their match is streamed for the head of team selection. If the requisite matches to resolve a tie break do not commence before the candidate’s tournament, then they will take place at the candidate’s tournament. Players are encouraged to seek out referees for tie-breaker matches.

5.2 Points Race

These tie breakers come into effect if the points race for an event category results in a tie:

1. Number of events won in that category.
2. Number of podiums (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in that event category.
3. Number of events entered in that category.

6 Qualified Players

Player	Spot	Source
Mario Ariganello	Men’s Doubles	2025 Open Doubles World Champion
Jake Barnett	Men’s Singles*	Top 16 in ITSF Rankings
Jake Barnett	Men’s Doubles*	Top 16 in ITSF Rankings
Jake Barnett	Men’s Classic*	Top 16 in ITSF Rankings
Linda Ly	Women’s Classic	2025 Women’s Classic World Champion

Table 5: Spots marked with a * are granted directly by the ITSF and do not count towards the number of spots allocated by the CFF.

7 Players Invited to the Candidate’s

8 Principles

- The selection procedure encourages players to challenge themselves by regularly competing in tournaments across multiple tables both inside

Player	Events
Mathieu Savaria	Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Men's Classic
Francois Veilleux	Men's Doubles, Men's Classic
Erika Essertaize	Women's Singles
Jesse Haw	Open Mixed
Mary Whiting	Open Mixed
Stephanie Briere	Women's Doubles, Women's Classic
Barbara Decelle	Women's Doubles, Women's Classic

Canada and internationally.

- Methods are objective and based on impartial metrics. Subjective opinions and hand-picking are not used to determine who receives a WC spot.
- Methods are based on aggregate data. A player must perform well in more than one weekend to be allocated a spot.
- Everyone has a fair chance to qualify.
- The same methods are used to determine spots for men, women, and seniors.