



Table Tennis Key Dates – Timeline history of the sport

1880s	Adaptation of lawn tennis to the dining table with improvised equipment
1885	James Devonshire (ENG) granted provisional patent for his "Table Tennis"
1890	Several patents registered in England and the USA. Earliest surviving action game of table tennis: David Foster's Parlour Table Games, England 1890. Sets produced under trade names such as Gossima, and Indoor Tennis, with Lawn Tennis style rules.
1900	Introduction of celluloid balls to replace rubber and cork ones. The celluloid ball had the perfect bounce, and the game became a huge success
1901	The <u>game is introduced in China</u> via western settlements
1926	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) initiated in Berlin and became formalized in London
1926	First World Championships held in London, England. ITTF Constitution adopted, along with first set of standardized Laws

1920s – 50s Classic Hard Bat Era (European Dominance)

1926 – 31	Maria Mednyanszky (HUN) wins the world championships five times consecutively. Mednyansky wins 18 gold medals overall
1930 – 35	Victor Barna (HUN) becomes five times world champion and is runner-up 1931 losing the final against his compatriot Miklos Szabados . Barna wins a record 22 gold medals at world championships during his career, 40 medals overall
1950 – 55	Angelica Rozeanu-Adelstein (ROU) wins the World Championships six times in a row and is the <u>last non Asian to win the female singles title until today</u>

1950s – 80s Age of Sponge Bat and Technology (Beginning of Asian Dominance)

1952	Hiroji Satoh (JPN) became the first player to win a world championship when using a racket covered with thick sponge and is the first non-European winner
1953	<u>China entered the World Championships for the first time</u>
1954	Ichiro Ogimura (JPN) is the epitome of Japanese dominance with technological development and physical training
1957	World Championship changes to a two-year cycle
1959	Rong Guotuan (CHN) is the first Chinese world champion in any sport
1967	Ivor Montagu retired as President of the ITTF after forty years in office
1971	<u>Ping Pong Diplomacy</u> : table tennis played an important role in international diplomacy when several teams were invited to China for a series of friendship matches after the 1971 World Championships in Nagoya. Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai : "Your visit to China has opened the door for people-to-people exchanges between China and the USA."
1971	Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) wins the men's singles title and heralds the start of <u>three decades of Swedish influence</u> , with top players such as Kjell Johansson , Mikael Appelgren , Erik Lindh , Jan-

Ove Waldner, Jörgen Persson, and Peter Karlsson

- 1977 ITTF received formal declaration of its recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- 1981 World Championships held in Nova Sad, Yugoslavia. Total triumph for China, whose athletes win all of the seven gold medals.
- 1981 Table tennis admitted to the Olympic programme (84th session IOC in Baden-Baden)

Modern Olympics Era (Chinese Reign with few exceptions)

- 1988 For the very first time, table tennis was featured in the Olympic Games that were held in Seoul, South Korea
- 1996 Beginning of the ITTF Pro Tour, with events taking place all around the world
- 2000 After the Olympics in Sydney, the ball size is increased to 40mm for improved television viewing
- 2001 Game score changed from 21 to 11 points
- 2002 Implementation of the ITTF World Junior Circuit (U18) and World Cadet Challenge (U15 continental team competition)
- 2003 First ITTF World Junior Championships in Santiago, Chile
- 2007 World Championships held in Zagreb, Croatia. Total triumph number five for China, winning all of the five gold medals
First appearance of table tennis as a compulsory sport at the Universiade in Bangkok, Thailand
- 2007 World Championships held in Zagreb, Croatia. Total triumph number five for China, winning all of the five gold medals
China sweeps all medals at the Beijing Olympic Games. An estimated 330 million television viewers in China watch the Women's Team final between China and Singapore; Hu Jintao, President of People's Republic of China and Jacques Rogge, IOC President are present to watch the match.
- 2008 Total ban of speed gluing of the rackets (use of VOC) starts in September after the Olympic Games
- 2009 The Executive Committee expands to 9 members, all six continents are represented
- 2010 Table tennis is part of the first Youth Olympic Games
- 2011 ITTF and Total Sport Asia start a 6-year agreement providing extensive TV-coverage of ITTF events around the world
- 2012 All participation records broken at the LIEBHERR World Team Championships in Dortmund, Germany.
- 2012 The number of ITTF member national associations had risen to 217, ITTF is the second largest International Federation behind the International Volleyball Federation.