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Table Tennis- 1

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Welcome to the world of physical education. Friends, today in this episode we will be discussing about table tennis, history of table tennis, measurement of the field and other aspects related with the game.

Now first let us have a look on

What is Table Tennis.

Table tennis, also known as ping pong, is a sport in which two or four players hit a lightweight ball back and forth across a table using a small bat. The game takes place on a hard table divided by a net. Except for the initial serve, the rules are generally as follows: players must allow a ball played towards 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. Play is fast and demands quick reactions. Spinning the ball alters its trajectory and limits an opponent's options, giving the hitter a great advantage.

History of Table tennis

Like many other sports, Table Tennis began as a mild social diversion. It was probably played with improvised equipment in England, during the last quarter of the 19th century. Though Table Tennis evolved, along with Badminton and Lawn Tennis, from the ancient game of Tennis (also known as Jeu de Paume, Real tennis, Court Tennis or Royal Tennis), the game was developed after Lawn Tennis became popular in the 1880s.

Game manufacturers tried many experiments to market an indoor version of Lawn Tennis, including board and dice games, Tiddley Winks variations, card games, racket and balloon games and others.

Renowned researcher Alan Duke (ENG) recently discovered an English patent by Slazenger, No. 3156, dated 26 June 1883 (and likely applied for months before, for improved nets for games.

The patent describes net post mechanisms, with this important statement:

"This arrangement is adapted for ordinary lawn tennis, and for a modified game to be played indoors, say upon a billiard or dining table. In the latter case the poles are supported in brackets clamped to the table and the ends of the cord may be clamped by the cam arrangement, or fastened under the table, or weighted."

Duke correctly concludes that this "quite possibly is now the earliest known reference to a table version of tennis and,(importantly, accurately dated)." However, no evidence has been found that such a game was developed at that time.

Steve Grant (Ping Pong Fever, 2012, USA) found mention of one James Devonshire (ENG), who John Jaques claimed invented Table Tennis in a 1901 interview published in The Echo.

Subsequently, Alan Duke found in The Official Journal of the Patent Office that:

Devonshire applied for a Patent on October 9, 1885 for his "Table Tennis", the first known use of that name.

The Nov. 24, 1885 issue of the Journal shows Provisional Specifications were accepted .

In January 1887 the Application is listed as Abandoned. Furthermore, no evidence of Devonshire's game has been found; quite likely, it was never put into production.

One quite feasible scenario is that Jaques paid Devonshire for his idea, ultimately becoming the basis for Jaques' Gossima, released in 1891. However, the lengthy time factor is a concern, as mentioned by renowned Jaques authority Michael Thomson (SCO).

The 1887 catalog of George S. Parker (USA) includes an entry for "Table Tennis: (colon not required. Replace with full stop) This game is laid out like a Lawn Tennis court, played and counted just the same, all the rules being observed." However, this was a board and dice game by J.H. Singer (NY), whose name also appears on the catalog.

Rare board & dice game, "Table Tennis" by J.H.Singer 1887. ITTF Museum

The earliest surviving action game of Tennis on a table is a set made by David Foster, patented in England in 1890: Parlour Table Games, which included table versions of Lawn Tennis, Cricket and Football. This game featured strung rackets, a 30mm cloth covered rubber ball, a wooden fence set up around the perimeter of the table, and large side nets extending along both sides.

Early action game of tennis on a table: David Foster ENG) 1890. One of 2 known examples. ITTF Museum

One year later ,famous game makers Jaques of London released their GOSSIMA game. This game borrowed the drum style battledores from the Shuttlecock game, and used a 50mm webbed wrapped cork ball, with an amazing 30cm high net that was secured by a belt-like strap under the table. Very few examples have survived.

Jaques (ENG) GOSSIMA, 1891, with 50mm ball, 30cm high net, vellum drum rackets. ITTF Museum

Neither of these action games were successful, due to the ineffective ball: the rubber ball had too wild a bounce while the cork ball had too poor a bounce. Jaques continued to advertise Gossima throughout the 1890s, but it was not until c.1900, when the celluloid ball was introduced to the game that the concept of tennis on a table became successful. Steve Grant has traced the name Ping Pong to an 1884 song by Harry Dacre. The distinct sound of the celluloid ball bouncing off the drum rackets quickly led to the use of the same name. This can still be demonstrated today using the antique rackets! As the name Ping Pong caught on, Jaques changed the name of his game to "Gossima or Ping Pong" and soon afterward, to "Ping Pong or Gossima". Ultimately the name Gossima was dropped.

The game quickly caught on with the public, marketed under many different names:

Ping Pong or Gossima

Ping Pong

Table Tennis

Whiff Waff
Parlour Tennis
Indoor Tennis
Pom-Pom
Pim-Pam
Netto
Royal Game
Tennis de Salon
and others.

Gradually the two most popular names prevailed: Ping Pong, and Table Tennis. However, these competing names caused some problems, as two associations were formed, and with different rules for the game some confusion resulted. Ping Pong was trademarked in 1900 by Hamley Brothers in England, and soon afterwards Hamleys became "jointly concerned" with Jaques. They rigorously enforced the Ping Pong trademark, requiring use of their Ping Pong equipment in tournaments and clubs. Parker Brothers, who acquired the American rights to the name Ping Pong, similarly enforced the trademark. Eventually it became clear that for the sport to move forward, the commercial ties had to be severed.

HISTORY OF TABLE TENNIS IN CHINA

The Chinese history of Table Tennis began as early as in 1904. It was Mr. Wang Dao Ping, the owner of stationary shop in Shanghai, who bought 10 sets of table tennis equipment in Japan and brought them to Shanghai. He decided to put a table in his shop, and he arranged demonstrations of this new sport, playing with penholder grip.

In 1916, the table were put in Shanghai YMCA and table tennis became popular among the students. So the sport spread to Beijing, Tianjin and Kiangchow.

In 1925, a Chinese team played its first matches abroad in Japan against Chinese living there. The first official international match followed two years later in August 1927 against Japan, when China sent a team to Pan Pacific Games.

In 1933, the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA) was established and ITTF approached already in this year to join the ITTF and to participate in the World Championship in 1935. But these 9th World championships were held in London and the CTTA could not afford to send a team to Europe at this time.

It was not until 1952 before the first national championships held in Beijing. A total number of players (men & women) fought for the first national titles. Furthermore, 1952 was the initial year of the Chinese table tennis legend; the Chinese Association joined the ITTF. One year later China sent a delegation to the 20th WTTC in Bucharest/ Romania. China's first participation in a world championship ended with place 10th in men's team event(category) and place 3rd in the category 2 women event.

2. History of Table Tennis in Japan

The first appearance of a Japanese team in Bombay at the WTTC of 1952. They had started to play with wood or core blades without rubber, but in 1952, they mainly played with pimple-out rubber without sponge or sponge only. In these championships, Japan took 3 titles. The men's singles was won by H. Sato playing with a sponge racket. He had an advantage from the climate in Bombay which had a very good effect on the sponge. Of course, everyone was playing with penholder grip; it is easy if you are used to use chop-sticks.

1952 to 1959 was the best time for Japanese table tennis. Mr. Ogimura won at world championships in London and Japan got many young strong players like Tanaka and Matzuzaki. When the WTTC were played in Tokyo in 1956, Japan took 4 titles. It was boom for table tennis places were everywhere and it was the most popular sport in school.

In the following year, Japan always represented on the top places at the WTTCs. Even after China returned to the worlds in 1971, Japan got 2 world champions, Kohno and Ono.

History of Table Tennis in Sweden

The break-through for table tennis in Sweden came in the winter 1924-1925. It was raining and the cold and snow never came. Instead of ice-skating people started to play table tennis.

At a very imposing ceremony October 25th, 1925 at the Sports Ministry in Stockholm, the Swedish Table Tennis Association (SBTP) was founded, the same year in which the international Table Tennis Federation was established.

Equipments and material of table tennis game:

Blade

The rule of table tennis state that the blade must be made of at least 85% natural wood.

But the rules also allow for small amount of other materials such as carbon fiber, glass fiber or compressed paper - but these must be less than 7.5% of the total thickness or 0.35mm, whichever is the smaller.

Carbon fiber is generally used to make the blade harder and therefore faster, as well as enabling the blade to have a larger “sweet spot”.

However, these blades are much more expensive than regular blades and they are not worth considering until you’ve progressed to an advanced level.

The majority of blades consists of 3, 5 or 7 layers of wood and the type of wood used in these layers will also be major contributor to how your blade reacts.

Shape of Handle

The choice of handle shape comes down to personal preference, with generally the choice of Anatomic, Flared or Straight.

I prefer the flared shape, but you should use whatever feels most comfortable to you.

If you haven’t been playing long enough to be able to make a choice, try asking other players if they’ve got any old table tennis rackets they could let you try out or buy. However, you don’t need to be too concerned about this as you preference will evolve over time.

Barriers (Arenas)

Barriers between your table tennis tables will be very useful to stop the ball from straying too far and minimize interruptions from other tables.

However, these table tennis barriers must be collapsible rather than solid, so that they won’t harm any player run into them if any player runs into them.

Ideally they should be about 1.5m (5 feet) long and 75cm (2 feet 6 inch) high and should completely enclose the playing area.

Floor

Whatever type of flooring you have, the most important criteria is that it's non-slippery, because players have to be able to move rapidly and reposition their feet without slipping. The floor must also be smooth and leveled and able to support the weight of the table tennis and the players. Wooden semi-sprung floors provide the best surface whereas solid concrete and carpeted floors are totally unsuitable.

The flooring must also provide a good contrast between the table top surface and the surrounding areas, both for the benefit of the players and the spectators, so it should be non-reflective.

All the top international table tennis tournaments now use specialist sports flooring such as Taraflex made by French company Gerflor.

The reddish colour of this flooring, together with blue tables, provides a fantastic setting for table tennis.

Measurement and Preparation of Table Tennis Field

First of all, to prepare Table Tennis hall, we need to know the number of players, through which we can make a blue print of the field. For example, for more players, more space is required, in which four or five tables can be placed under one roof.

Here are some minimum size dimensions we need for the playing required for one table –tennis table, based on the standard of comfort.

In International events like world championships or Olympic Games, we need 14m X 7m (46ft X 23ft.) whereas on the other side, in national tournaments 12m X 6m (40ft X 20ft) space is required. But when it comes to a proper Table-Tennis hall, which should have 4 tables to 5 tables (depends upon the nature of competition) specification should be of 24m X 12m.

Multi table venue

If you're using a table tennis room size that can accommodate multiple tables, they should be arranged side by side rather than long ways.

For example, within a badminton court you can get four tables side by side. This provides enough room for recreational play or coaching.

Ideally, you should also have a gangway so that you can easily access each court without the need to disturb the other courts.

3. Equipment

Ball

Assortment of 40 mm table tennis balls

The international rules specify that the game is played with a sphere having a mass of 2.7 grams (0.095 oz) and a diameter of 40 millimeters (1.57 in). The rules say that the ball shall bounce up 24–26 cm (9.4–10.2 in) when dropped from a height of 30.5 cm (12.0 in) onto a standard steel block thereby having a coefficient of restitution of 0.89 to 0.92. The ball is made of celluloid plastic as of 2015, colored white or orange, with a matte finish. The choice of ball color is made according to the table color and its surroundings. For example, a white ball is easier to see on a green or blue table than it is on a grey table. Manufacturers often indicate the quality of the ball with a star rating system, usually from one to three, three being the highest grade. As this system

is not standard across manufacturers, the only way a ball may be used in official competition is upon ITTF approval (Open round bracket) the ITTF approval can be seen printed on the ball). The 40 mm ball was introduced after the 2000 Summer Olympics. However, this created some controversy at the time as the Chinese National Team argued that this was merely to give non-Chinese players a better chance of winning since the new type of ball has a slower speed (a 40 mm table tennis ball is slower and spins less than the original 38 mm one, and at that time, most Chinese players were playing with fast attack and smashes). China won all four Olympic gold medals and three silvers in 2000, and have continued to dominate.

Table

Diagram of a table tennis table showing the official dimensions :

The table is 2.74 m (9.0 ft) long, 1.525 m (5.0 ft) wide, and 76 cm (2.5 ft) high with any continuous material so long as the table yields a uniform bounce of about 23 cm (9.1 in) when a standard ball is dropped onto it from a height of 30 cm (11.8 in), or about 77%. The table or playing surface is uniformly dark coloured and matte, divided into two halves by a net at 15.25 cm (6.0 in) in height. The ITTF approves only wooden tables or their derivatives. Concrete tables with a steel net or a solid concrete partition are sometimes available in outside public spaces, such as parks.

4. Paddle/Racket

Table tennis racket

Players are equipped with a laminated wooden racket covered with rubber on one or two sides depending on the grip of the player. The ITTF uses the term "racket though "bat" is common in Britain, and "paddle" in the U.S. and Canada.

The wooden portion of the racket, often referred to as the "blade", commonly features anywhere between one and seven plies of wood, though cork, glass fiber, carbon fiber, aluminum fiber, and Kevlar are sometimes used. According to the ITTF regulations, at least 85% of the blade by thickness shall be of natural wood. Common wood types include balsa, limbo, and cypress or "hinoki", which is popular in Japan. The average size of the blade is about 17 centimeters (6.7 in) long and 15 centimeters (5.9 in) wide. Although the official restrictions only focus on the flatness and rigidity of the blade itself, these dimensions are optimal for most play styles.

Table tennis regulations allow different surfaces on each side of the racket

Various types of surfaces provide various levels of spin or speed, and in some cases they nullify spin. For example, a player may have a rubber that provides much spin on one side of their racket, and one that provides no spin on the other. By flipping the racket in play, different types of returns are possible. To help a player distinguish between the rubbers used by his opposing player, international rules specify that one side must be red while the other side must be black.

The player has the right to inspect his opponent's racket before a match to see the type of rubber used and what colour it is. Despite high speed play and rapid exchanges, a player can see clearly what side of the racket was used to hit the ball. Current rules state that, unless damaged in play, the racket cannot be exchanged for another racket at any time during a match

5. Conclusion

This table game was at first more of a past-time or a fashionable fad, than a serious from of athletics and by the turn of century, it had pretty well gone out of fashion. This is a game which is played in every age group.

Thank you

Have a nice day