

# TMS 2016 COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDIA GUIDE

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## TMS College Table Tennis Championships

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### THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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- Web site: [champs.nctta.org](http://champs.nctta.org)
- March 25-27, Round Rock Sports Center, Round Rock, Texas
- Athletes - The 300+ top college table tennis players in the US and Canada, representing 47 of the top college teams; qualifying through divisional and regional play
- An annual event since 1993
- This year's competition will include international players attending college in the US & Canada, who have represented their home countries; including Brazil, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, USA, and the Ukraine.
- Defending champions:
  - Men's/Coed Team: **Mississippi College**
  - Women's Team: **Princeton University**
  - Men's Singles: **Feng Zhe, Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Women's Singles: **Lily Zhang, University of California- Berkeley**
  - Men's Doubles: **Cheng Li & Tong Zhang, Mississippi College**
  - Women's Doubles: **Ariel Hsing & Erica Wu, Princeton University**

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### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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#### **Friday, March 25**

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles, qualifying rounds  
1:00 pm – Men's and Women's Doubles semifinals and finals  
4:00 pm – Opening Ceremonies  
4:30 pm – Men's and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds  
9:00 pm – End of competition day

#### **Saturday, March 26**

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds continued  
11:00 am – Men's and Women's Singles, early rounds  
2:00 pm – Men's and Women's Singles, quarterfinals, semifinals and finals  
6:00 pm – End of competition day

#### **Sunday, March 27**

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Teams, knockout rounds  
12:00 pm – Men's and Women's Teams, semifinals and finals  
4:00 pm – End of competition day

## THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

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- Started as an upper class parlor game in 19<sup>th</sup> century England
- Developed into a competitive sport in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; the first World Championships of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) was held in 1926
- An Olympic sport since 1988
- The second most played sport in the world after soccer
- Professional table tennis leagues exist in many countries; the most prominent are in China, Germany, Japan, Russia
- The top table tennis players in the world earn ~\$1 million including endorsements
- The table is 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, 2.5 feet high; the net is 6 inches high; the court space is 1000 square feet minimum
- The ball is 40mm in diameter and 2.7 grams in weight, traveling nearly 100mph and spinning at nearly 10,000rpm
- Matches consist of the best 4 out of 7 games (singles semifinals and finals) or best 3 out of 5 games (doubles events, early rounds of singles events, or team events). Games are first to 11 points, alternating serve every two points

## NCTTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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- The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is the governing body for college table tennis in the US and Canada
- A non-profit organization, run purely by volunteers
- The Championships is the culmination of the 2015-2016 NCTTA League
- 162 participating colleges, competing in 6 regions, subdivided into 30 divisions, played in fall and spring
- NCTTA offers college scholarships, and some colleges offer their own table tennis scholarships
- Many international student-athletes
- Primary competition format is teams: 4 singles plus 1 doubles
- Categories are Men's/Coed Teams and Women's Teams; women may play in both
- [www.nctta.org](http://www.nctta.org)
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Collegiate-Table-Tennis-Association/21419228959>

## PARTICIPATING TEAMS

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- A total of 24 Men's/Coed teams & 16 Women's teams qualified through regional events
- Men's/Coed teams:
  - **Mississippi College** (Clinton, MS) – Defending National Champion
  - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Forth Worth, TX) – 11 time winners; South Region Champion
  - **Baruch College** (New York, NY)- Northeast Region Champion
  - **Columbia University** (New York, NY)
  - **Duke University** (Durham, NC)
  - **Lindenwood University** (St. Charles, MO) – Midwest Region Champion
  - **McGill University** (Montreal, QC)
  - **McMaster University** (Hamilton, ON)
  - **New York University** (New York, NY)
  - **Northwestern University** (Chicago, IL)
  - **Ohlone College** (Fremont, CA)- West Region Champion, 1st time in NCTTA
  - **Texas A&M University** (College Station, TX)
  - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA)
  - **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor, MI)- Great Lakes Region Champion
  - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
  - **University of North Texas** (Denton, TX)
  - **University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)
  - **University of Texas at Dallas** (Richardson, TX)
  - **University of Toronto** (Toronto, ON)
  - **University of Wisconsin – Madison** (Madison, WI)
  - **Virginia Tech** (Blacksburg, VA)
  - **Western University** (London, ON)
- Women's teams:
  - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Forth Worth, TX) – South Region Champion
  - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2015 National Runner-Up; West Region Champion
  - **Columbia University** (New York, NY)
  - **Fashion Institute of Technology** (New York, NY) 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA Championships
  - **Harvard University** (Cambridge, MA)
  - **New York University** (New York, NY) Northeast Region Champion
  - **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **University of Iowa** (Iowa City, IA) 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA Championships
  - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
  - **University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)
  - **University of Texas at Dallas** (Dallas, TX)
  - **University of Toronto** (Toronto, ON)
  - **University of Wisconsin - Madison** (Madison, WI) – Midwest Region Champion
  - **Virginia Tech** (Blacksburg, VA)
  - **Western University** (London, ON) – Great Lakes Region Champion

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## TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF NOTE

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### MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE (CLINTON, MS)

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- 2015 Defending Men's/Coed Team Champion; ended Texas Wesleyan's 11 year run at the title
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2012, 2013, and 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- **Tong Zhang** (sophomore) – 2015 Men's Doubles Champion with Cheng Li
- **Cheng Li** (senior) – Defending NCTTA Men's Doubles Champion with Tong Zhang



- **Yichi Zhang** (junior) – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's Singles, 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- <http://www.mc.edu/student-life/table-tennis/>

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## TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (FORTH WORTH, TX)

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- 11-time Men's/Coed Team Champion
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Women's Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2016 South Region Champion – Men's/Coed Team and Women's Team
- Coached by Jasna Rather – Olympic bronze medalist (Yugoslavia)
- Offers table tennis scholarships
- **Emil Santos** (senior)
  - 2013 NCTTA Men's Singles Champion
  - Member of Dominican Republic national team
- **Zhe Feng** (graduate student)
  - 2015 NCTTA Men's Singles Champion
  - Former member of Chinese national team



- Silver medalist at 1999 World Table Tennis Championships in Mixed Doubles
- **Anastasiia Rybka** (graduate student) – 2016 South Region Women's Singles Champion
- <http://ramsports.net/index.aspx?tab=tabletennis&path=tt>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=020zIoGTKsU>

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## BARUCH COLLEGE (NEW YORK, NY)

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- 2016 Northeast Region Champions
- **Mishel Levinski** (junior) –2016 Northeast Region Men’s Singles Champion

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BERKELEY, CA)

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Women’s Teams at the 2014, 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 5<sup>th</sup> place in Men’s/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2016 West Region Women’s Team Champion; Men’s/Coed Team Runner-up

- **Peter Li** (senior)
  - 2011 US National Champion, Men's Singles
  - Member of 2013 US National Team
  - Men's Singles Semifinalist, 2013 and 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
  - <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Peter-Li>
- <https://www.facebook.com/calttc>




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## LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY (ST. CHARLES, MO)

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- 4<sup>th</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2016 Midwest Region Champion, Men's/Coed Team
- Offers financial assistance for Table Tennis in the form of grants
- **Alex Legaria** (sophomore)
  - Member of Mexican National Team
  - Junior National champion 2013; 4 gold medals in Central American Championships
- **Chelsea Edghill** (freshman)
  - Member of Guyanese National Team
  - 2016 Midwest Region Women's Singles Champion
- **Santiago Sevilla** (sophomore) – 2016 Midwest Region Men's Singles Champion

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## OHLONE COLLEGE (FREMONT, CA)

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- 2016 West Region Champion; 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA
- **Ying Wang** (Graduate student) – Number one seed in Women's singles; 2016 West Region Women's Singles Champion

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## WESTERN UNIVERSITY (LONDON, ON)

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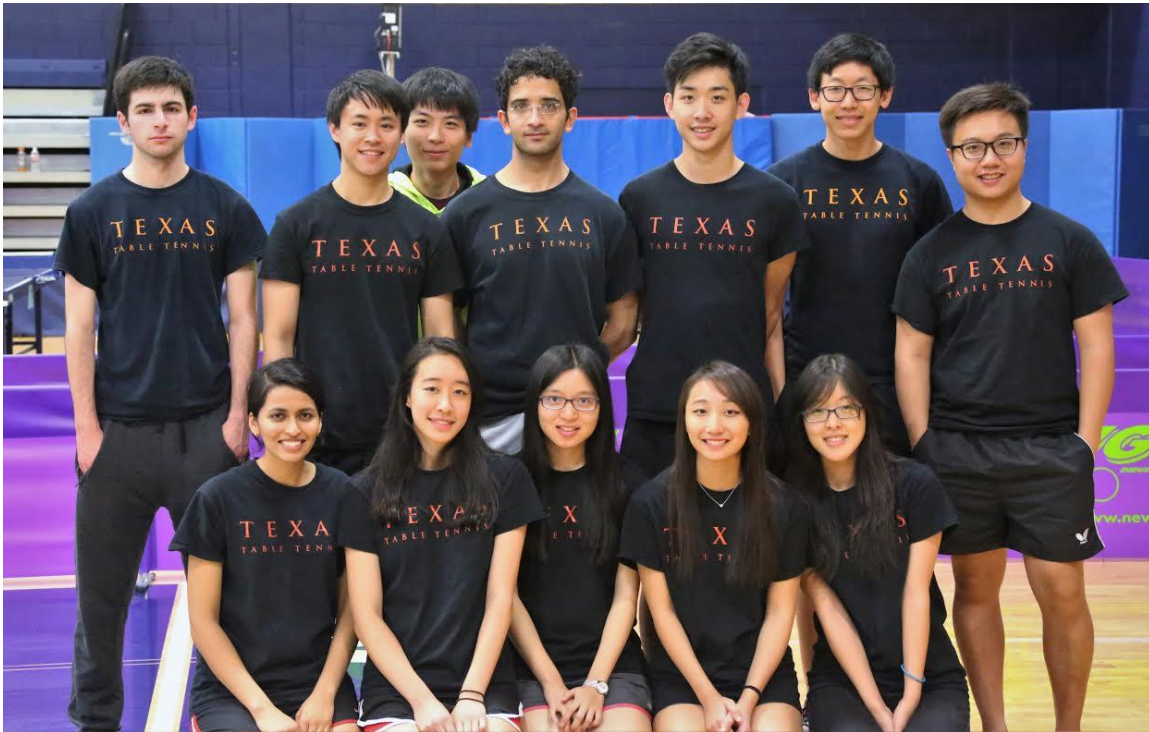


- 2016 Great Lakes Women's Team Champion
- 2016 Greater Toronto Division Women's Team Champion
- #2 Seed in NCTTA Women's Team event
- The only varsity table tennis team in Canada
- **Rongge Zhang** (Senior) – 2016 Great Lakes Region Women's Singles Champion
- [http://www.westernmustangs.ca/index.aspx?path=table tennis](http://www.westernmustangs.ca/index.aspx?path=table%20tennis)

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## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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- #13 seed in Women's Team event
- #11 seed in Men's/Coed Team event

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## SPONSORS

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	<p>NCTTA – Organizer  <a href="http://www.nctta.org">www.nctta.org</a></p>
	<p>TMS International – Title Sponsor  <a href="http://www.tmsin.com">www.tmsin.com</a></p>
	<p>Joola – Table Sponsor  <a href="http://www.joolausa.com">www.joolausa.com</a></p>
	<p>Double Fish – Ball Sponsor  <a href="http://www.doublefish.com">www.doublefish.com</a></p>
	<p>Round Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau–  Host Organizer  <a href="http://www.sportscapitaloftexas.com/">www.sportscapitaloftexas.com/</a></p>
	<p>USA Table Tennis – National Governing Body  <a href="http://www.usatt.org">www.usatt.org</a></p>

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## CONTACT

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