

NATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION



# National Collegiate Table Tennis Association

2019 Annual Report

## CONTENTS

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Executive Board .....	2
Major Sponsors .....	3
Affiliates.....	3
League .....	4
Championships.....	5
Membership .....	6
Media.....	7
Scholarship Program .....	7
Management and Staff .....	8
Sponsors .....	9
Conferences-External Affairs .....	10
Grassroots and Growth.....	10
Partnerships.....	11
Programs .....	12
Financial Status .....	13
National team athletes .....	14





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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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NCTTA is the governing body of collegiate table tennis in the US and Canada. It is a US government-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established with the mission to develop and promote table tennis as a collegiate sport.

NCTTA is a National Organization Member of USA Table Tennis, the National Governing Body of Table Tennis as designated by the US Olympic Committee and the International Table Tennis Federation.

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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President - **Willy Leparulo**

Vice President External Affairs - **Joseph Wells**

Treasurer - **Randy Kendle**

Athlete Representative - **Tae Kim**

League Director Representative - **Jay Lu**

Vice President Internal Affairs - **Chris Wang**

Human Resources Coordinator - **Brandon Lawrence**

USA Table Tennis Liaison - **Deepak Somarapu** (Non-voting member)

MAJOR SPONSORS

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# iSET



AFFILIATES

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## LEAGUE

The NCTTA league is the organization's main activity. The league consists of intercollegiate varsity team competition among Coed/Men's teams and among Women's teams. Varsity teams consist of at least 4 players; up to 8 players may be on a roster at any given time. Junior varsity teams and alumni teams are also invited to compete in scrimmage competition, and separate singles competitions are also held.

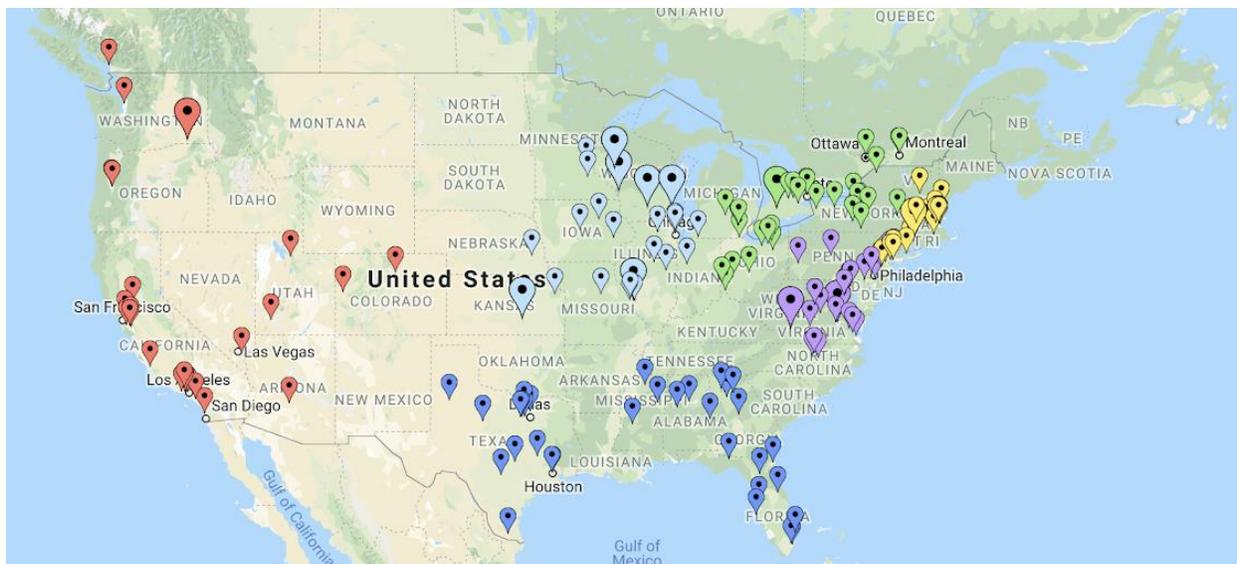
In the 2018-2019 season, regular season competition took place both in the fall and the spring, in six regions subdivided into 29 divisions. Over 1500 athletes participated, forming 157 Varsity Coed and 59 Varsity Women's teams. NCTTA also organizes singles play in Division, Regional and Championship play and saw over 500 players register for Division singles play alone a 20% increase from the year before

Immediately following the regular season, the strongest teams and singles players were invited to 6 regional championships which also served as qualification events for the National Championships.

**Division (League play)**

→ **Regional Championships** (6 around the USA/Canada)

→ **National Championships** (250 Athletes, 50 schools, annual competition)



## CHAMPIONSHIPS

The College Table Tennis Championships is NCTTA's premier event and the most professionally run table tennis event on the continent. Held over three days each spring, the 2019 Championships were held in Greensboro, North Carolina. A plethora of athletes (268 to be exact) from 51 colleges and universities from 29 countries competed for team, singles, and doubles championship titles. It was truly an international event. This year's champions were:



Women's Team - **Texas Wesleyan University**

Coed Team - **Texas Wesleyan University**

Women's Singles - **Qiao Jiao, Ohlone College**

Men's Singles - **Jishan Liang, Texas Wesleyan University**

Women's Doubles - **Angela Guan/Ying Wang, California Berkeley**

Men's Doubles - **Jinxin Wang/Jishan Liang; Texas Wesleyan University**



The 2020 Championships will be held in Round Rock, Texas.



## MEMBERSHIP

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NCTTA is a membership organization formed by college table tennis clubs in North America. Individual athletes who wish to participate join NCTTA by forming a club at their college and subsequently registering their college with NCTTA.

Member colleges vary widely in their size, level of activity, and degree of support from their college administration. They include clubs which are organized as:

- Small clubs of few members, self-funded by students, peripherally recognized by their college.
- Medium-sized clubs which receive partial funding by the college.
- Large clubs with both Coed, Women's teams, with most expenses paid by the college.
- Fully funded clubs with established and continuing college support, sometimes offering scholarship programs.



Pictured to the left is Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and on right is Michigan State University.

Of particular note, three member schools offer table tennis programs and some with athletic scholarships/assistance: Texas Wesleyan University (Fort Worth, TX), Mississippi College (Clinton, MS) and Fashion Institute of Technology (New York City, NY)

## MEDIA

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NCTTA publishes a monthly e-mail newsletter that includes all current topics related to college table tennis. The newsletter reaches 3100 e-mail addresses, thereby providing exposure for sponsors and affiliates throughout the year.

The College Table Tennis Championships is streamed live in high definition on YouTube, in TV quality complete with four camera angles, live commentary, and replay on the Official ITTF YouTube Channel. This past year and this upcoming year, the NCTTA will live stream all six regional championships and have live commentary on all six regional tournaments.



In addition, NCTTA has created through the work of Marketing Chair, Andy Nguyen, Top 10 videos, Trick shot compilations, player interviews (seen here) and behind the scene videos.

These are found in our dedicated [YouTube channel](#)



## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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NCTTA offers scholarships up to \$1000 to future NCTTA athletes (currently in high school) based on GPA, financial need, table tennis ability, and an essay. Scholarships to high school-only athletes is a recent change to the program in the hopes of promoting high school play and continued college play. This program has been in place since 2009. This year's, scholarships were awarded to:

- Emily Yang (University of Utah) (pictured below)
- Joseph Baptista (SUNY Buffalo)
- Peter Chen (University of Virginia)



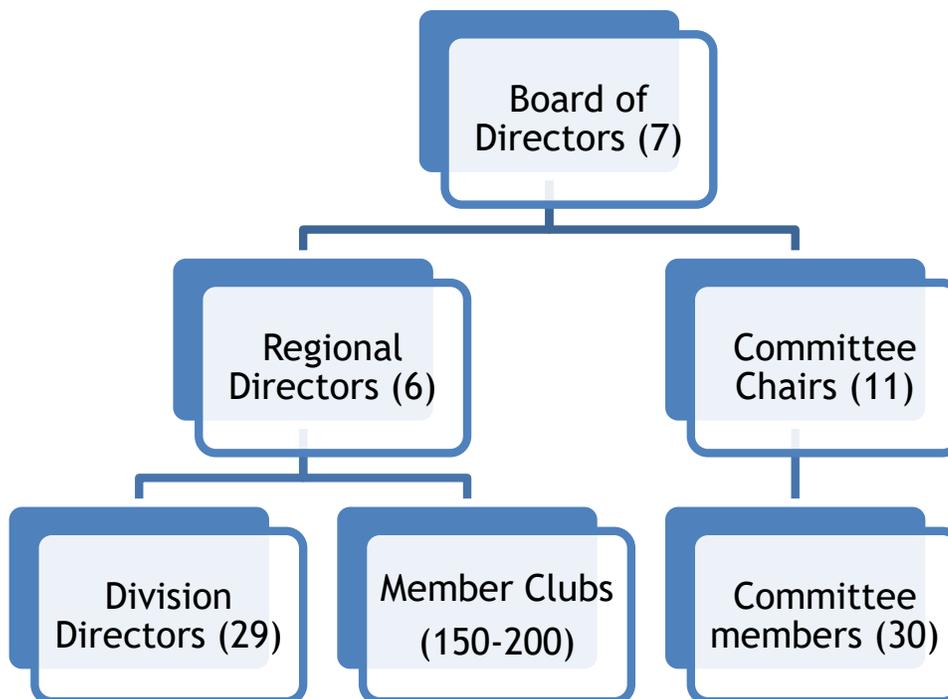
## MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The NCTTA Executive Board governs and manages the organization. The board (seen left) consists of 7 volunteer directors, each with specific duties doubling as almost a front office staff. *Picture credit: Dennis Yanga*



The six NCTTA regions are managed by Regional Directors, and the NCTTA divisions are managed by Division Directors. The number of divisions varies each year; there were 29 divisions in 2018-2019.

Committees oversee various specific areas. Current committees include: Alumni, Ethics/Grievance, Championships, Coaches, Grassroots (high school) Enrollment, Marketing, Ratings, Recruiting, Technology, and Women. <http://www.nctta.org/officers/>



It is important to note that this organization is a completely volunteer organization. No one from Board level to Division Directors to Committee members are given a salary of any sort.

## SPONSORS

NCTTA signed a 4 year sponsorship agreement with iSET which was formally known as (TMS International). iSET then acquired Double Fish and Double Happiness as equipment sponsors.



Double Fish will continue to sponsor the balls for NCTTA events (Division, Regional and Championships)



Double Happiness Table Tennis Tables are used at the National Championships



## CONFERENCES-EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NCTTA is committed to attracting the best locations for its National Championship events. NCTTA attended two conferences with special regard at attracting competitive cities and facilities for our Championship event.



NCTTA attended the CONNECT sports Conference in Louisville, KY and the TEAMS Sport Conference in Anaheim, California. Alex Figueroa, NCTTA's Southern California Director that attended the Teams conference, says, *"By attending the conference it became clear to me that our sport and schools are bound to grow and has gained notoriety in the sporting events arena of the country."*

## GRASSROOTS AND GROWTH

NCTTA conducts six regional tournaments around the USA and Canada and this year streaming was introduced. Each region now has commentators and our next approach is getting dedicated graphics for each regional stream.

NCTTA looks to expand and improve its programming every year and this past Regionals showed a consistent women's numbers year to year.

2018 Regionals	2019 Regionals
Men's Singles = 134	Men's Singles = 119
<u>Women's Singles = 61</u>	<u>Women's Singles = 58</u>
Total Singles = 195	Total Singles = 177
Coed Teams = 65	Coed Teams = 43
<u>Women's Teams = 32</u>	<u>Women's Teams = 31</u>
Total Teams = 97	Total Teams = 74

This year, at the conclusion of the 2019 TMS College Table Tennis Championships, NCTTA sold and gave away all equipment to College Table Tennis member schools in need. Division Directors from Upstate NY (pictured below) took a myriad of NCTTA tables, barriers and umpire tables to help area schools run tournaments through USA Table Tennis.



NCTTA's sponsorship with iSET has allowed NCTTA to be able to spread the wealth of equipment to needy clubs and players.

## PARTNERSHIPS

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NCTTA sought out much support from the Table Tennis community and was able to partner with USA Table Tennis, Project Table Tennis and AYTTO to further its goals in coaching, high school table tennis and membership retention.



NCTTA with the [American Youth Table Tennis Organization](#) (AYTTO) has garnered support to recruit assistant coaches for their high school league in New York City with the Department of Education. The hope is that players in NCTTA member schools can assist the high school players and league and provide a better stepping stone for future collegiate athletes. NCTTA players benefit as well to serve their community.

NCTTA also partnered up with [Project Table Tennis](#) which is a team oriented company utilizing Table Tennis as a vehicle to create meaningful relationships.



According to USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame Inductee and former Collegiate star, Tahl Liebovitz, “Project Table Tennis addresses Alzheimer’s, Dementia, Veterans with Disabilities, Drug & Alcohol Abuse as well as Obesity by serving seniors, youth and children.” Liebovitz and NCTTA are partnering to recruit local NYC Collegiates as coaches and mentors.



NCTTA and [USA Table Tennis](#) partnered up once again to provide NCTTA member schools and their members with free USA Table Tennis memberships.

NCTTA member clubs needed to be a part of NCTTA and turn in an eligibility form to prove organizational veracity. Afterwards however NCTTA member school athletes were able to procure a normal adult membership for 1 year for free. The goal is to provide NCTTA member schools and their members with more opportunities to play. The cost of USA Table Tennis membership was frequently named as an obstacle to participation and now more can participate in such events.

## PROGRAMS

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College Table Tennis Coaching has continued with various Coaching Certification trainings. We are grateful for NCTTA sponsor iSET for sponsoring this initiative through early 2020.

Special thanks goes to USA Table Tennis and Richard McAfee for their continued guidance, generosity and support. We were given special permission from ITTF's (Glen Tepper) for the ability to create a course from already existing curricula in coaching and being able to use the Level 1 ITTF Coaching Manual.

The most recent trainings were conducted at Florida State University and Texas Wesleyan University in July and August of 2019. Florida State University home to two of the coaching conductors (Willy Leparulo and Logan Zimmerman) hosted the training in July that featured six coaches certified.



Texas Wesleyan University, with the assistance of Jasna Rather, was the host of the most recent August Coaching Certification training. The program at Texas Wesleyan yielded eight new certified coaches. The coaching certification training was opened up to Club leaders and Coaches alike.

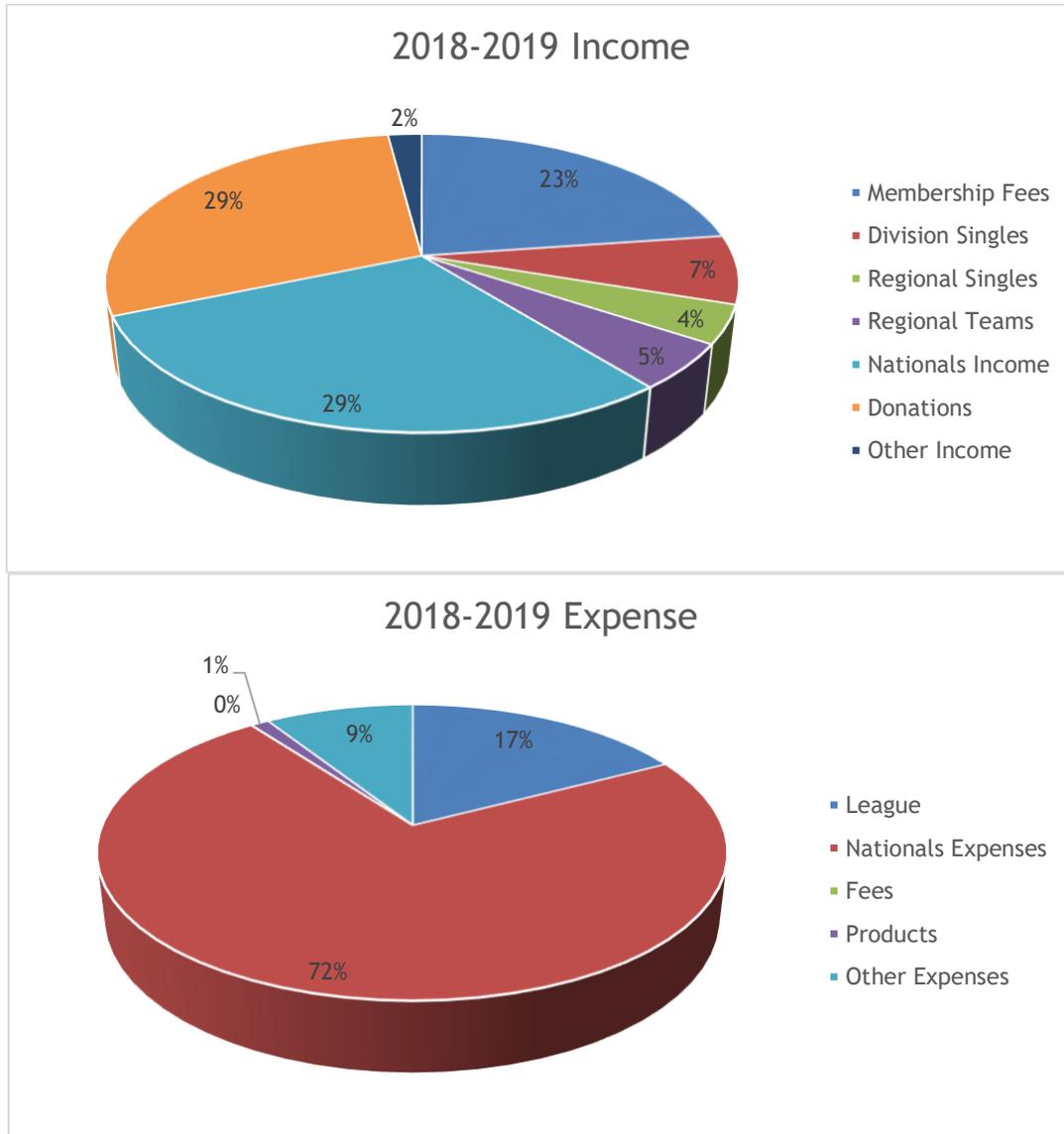
NCTTA has certified 39 Coaches in total across North America. The goal is to develop a Level 2 training for College Coaches and eventually fill the need for coaches in Scholarship Schools in the future. There will be another coaching training certification in 2020, date and location to be determined.



The goal is to impact retention and professionalism in College Table Tennis.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

A look at NCTTA's income shows a large percentage of membership fees from member schools with the remainder coming from its other events.



NCTTA's expenses are largely from the National Championships with related expenses coming from the League, which includes division and regional play.

## NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES

Representation of former US and Canadian Junior/National athletes in College/University table tennis in NCTTA is on the rise.

A big thanks to those that paved the road of success to allow for those coming out of the junior ranks in the United States and Canada to still play competitive table tennis while being in college or university. Trail Blazers like Tom Feng of NYU (featured below) and Lily Zhang of UC Berkeley gave the current youth a path to success.

USA Table Tennis team features a myriad of collegiate athletes. On the women's side: Prachi Jha, Angela Guan of UC Berkeley and Lucy Ma (University of Pennsylvania).

On the men's side, Adar Alguetti (NYU), Sharon and Gal Alguetti (Indiana University), Kunal Chodri (UC Davis), Jack Wang (Washington University of St. Louis), Victor Liu (UC Riverside), Eric Pattison (University of Washington), Krishna Avvari (UC Irvine) and more are continuing their table tennis success while enrolled in college or university and playing in the NCTTA.



Several Canadian Universities participate in NCTTA and have their share of National Team Athletes: Filip Ilijevski (University of Ottawa) and Julian Gaboriaud (pictured below) and Vida Sive (Universite du Montreal), Wenbin Zhang (McGill University).



Lily Zhang, graduated last year with a degree in Psychology from UC Berkeley and while in University led the way for proving that higher education and competitive Table Tennis play is still possible. Zhang is now in the Top 30 of all professional women's table tennis players. An incredible accomplishment.



Zhang staying dominant in women's table tennis in the United States while attending college full time has lent forward the possibility for others to follow. Zhang is quoted *"This shows to juniors and kids that they don't have to give up their passion, they can do both"*.

This is a testament to our sport and how it has changed from the previous narrative of juniors quitting the sport to pursue College/University education.

<https://www.californiagoldenblogs.com/2017/7/10/15946244/lily-zhang-uc-berkeley-california-golden-bears-table-tennis-top-spin>

These aforementioned standouts from USA and Canada have managed to balance co-ed life to follow the bouncing ball. NCTTA celebrates them for their feats on and off the court!

We are very excited for all of these athletes for putting in the extra work to represent themselves, their college/university and their country.