



# National Collegiate Table Tennis Association

2022 Annual Report

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## **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

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 as well as a certified club. NCTTA was recognized as a National Organization member by the US Olympic committee/USA Table Tennis since 2008.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President - Willy Leparulo

Vice President External Affairs - Joseph Wells

Treasurer - Randy Kendle

Athlete Representative - Jenna Kiyasu July 1, 2022

League Director Representative - Jay Lu

Vice President Internal Affairs - Tae Kim

Human Resources Coordinator - Stephanie Shih

USA Table Tennis Board Liaison - **Brandon Lawrence** \* (2020-2024, though took board seat in February 2021 after more than a year delay due to a mistaken interpretation by USATT's own lawyers, CEO and board members on their own bylaws)



### **MAJOR SPONSORS**

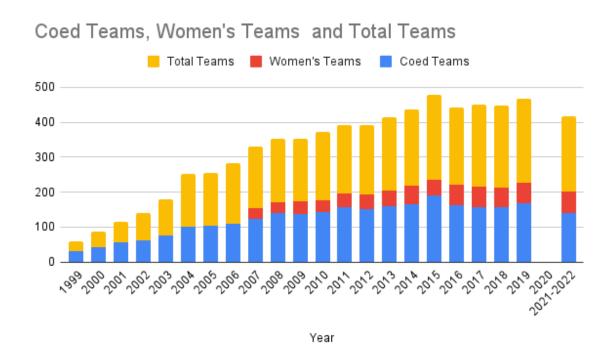






### **LEAGUE**

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.



NCTTA's competition season is played via an academic year which is from October to April 2022. Regular season competition took place both in the fall and the spring, in six regions subdivided into 25 divisions. Almost 3000 competitive athletes participated, forming 141 Varsity Coed and 61 Varsity Women's teams and a total of over 300 teams. NCTTA also organizes singles play in division, regional and championship play.

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) (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022)

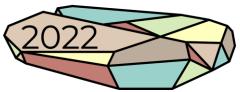
**Regional Championships (in 2022)** (6 around the USA/Canada)

**National Championships (in 2022)** (Averaging 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. It is also coded as a 5 star sanctioned event comparable to the US Open. It is held over three days each spring, and the 2020 and 2021 Championships were supposed to be held in Round Rock, Texas. Months before each of the competitions, NCTTA took the proactive step to protect athletes, staff and volunteers and preserve the integrity of the organization by canceling the Championships due to the pandemic.

The 2022 Championships were one of the most competitive national events in our organization's history. This event was also planned with safety and health as a main priority. All players, NCTTA staff and volunteers were required to turn in a negative PCR test prior to entering the venue, and players/staff were tested daily. NCTTA had the responsibility to its membership and the overall table tennis community to make this a safe event, and was extremely successful in doing so.

A plethora of top tier players (over 270, we average 250) from 50 USA colleges and universities as well as international students from 23 countries competed for team, singles, and doubles championship titles. In all, it is always a diverse event featuring North America's finest athletes from the national and world stage.

### 2022 MEN'S SINGLES

Top 80 players, over 60% rated over 2000

- Sharon Alguetti (Indiana University)
   US National Team member
- Kai Zhang (USC)USA National Team member
- 3. Gal Alguetti (Indiana University)
  Former USA National Cadet Team member
- 4. Nikhil Kumar (UC Berkeley)
  USA Olympian

### 2022 WOMEN'S SINGLES

Top 40 players, over 50% rated over 2000

- Angela Guan (UC Berkeley)
   USA World Team member
- 2. Zhen Deng (Texas Wesleyan) 2022 South Regional Women's Champion
- 3. Jiaqi Lin (Texas Wesleyan) 2020 South Regional Women's Champion
- 4. Xin Li (Ohlone College) 2022 Runner Up West Regionals



Sharon Alguetti (Indiana University)

### **MEN'S / COED TEAMS**

- 1. Indiana University
- 2. New York University
- 3. Texas Wesleyan University



Angela Guan (UC Berkeley)

### **WOMEN'S TEAMS**

- 1. Texas Wesleyan University
- 2. University of California at Berkeley
- 3. MIT





(right) UC Berkeley Women's Team (Photo credit: Shashank Shastry)

(left) Indiana University Table Tennis Team (Photo credit: Luke Gillespie)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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



Member schools can create Men's/Coed teams, Junior varsity teams and all women's teams.

NCTTA has a unique Coed team format that often results in men competing against women, as pictured here (Photo credit to Dennis Yanga).

Of note, NCTTA leverages relationships with local table tennis clubs and colleges and universities to host more than 60 events in the academic calendar (October to March).

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 and Women's teams, with most expenses paid by the college.





Pictured to the left is the Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi and on right is Cleveland State University. Both of these schools are representative of smaller clubs in NCTTA.

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

### **MEDIA**



NCTTA Media team is comprised of all volunteers and mostly alumni from different areas like graphic design, journalism, video production, and more. As a team we publish a monthly email newsletter that includes all current topics related to college table tennis and reaches over 4000 people providing exposure to 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 NCTTA YouTube Channel and worked on by all volunteers once again.

Our very own Andy Nguyen, Marketing Committee Chair extraordinaire, put together a number of clips featuring NCTTA and our student-athletes found on the NCTTA Youtube Channel: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@NCTTAVideos/videos">https://www.youtube.com/@NCTTAVideos/videos</a>. They included interviews, highlights and summaries of our programming.

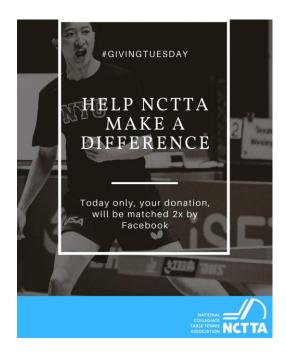


The clip evokes nostalgia for the past stellar accomplishments of NCTTA member schools and also demonstrates the professional setup that NCTTA strives to create at the champs without fail.

The graphics team led by Cedric Mosdell and Tae Kim expanded NCTTA's look in key areas of programming in Superlatives, NCTTA Fundraisers, NCTTA Championships, NCTTA Registration, and National Holidays!









NCTTA Media Team has outdone themselves year after year and this past 2022 Championships was no different. Producing graphics for our membership and viewership alike.



NCTTA was featured in several positive news stories, one featured <u>here</u> about Table Tennis Dynasties from "Beyond the Trestle".



Photo of Texas Wesley table tennis teams courtesy of Texas Wesleyan University

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NCTTA offers scholarships up to \$500 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 are a recent change to the program in the hopes of promoting high school play and continued college play. This <u>program</u> has been in place since 2009. It was originally funded by Newgy Industries, and will be funded by The **Hsing Family Foundation** for the 2022-2023 season.

The 2022 scholarships were awarded to:

Sharon Alguetti (Indiana University)



Nicholas Hains (Texas Wesleyan University)



Eliel Sosis (University of Michigan)



Victor Dimartino (Wichita State University) Not pictured

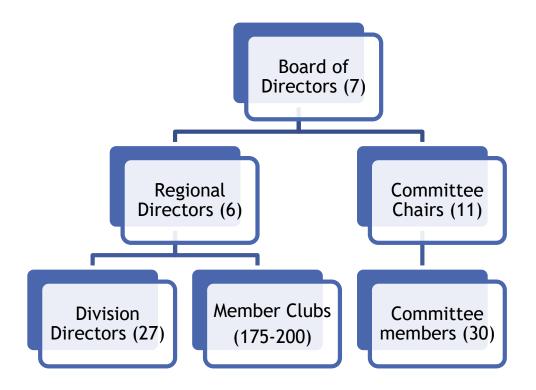
### MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The NCTTA Executive Board governs and manages the organization. The board (seen below) consists of 7 volunteer directors, each with specific duties doubling as almost a front office staff.



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; during the pandemic, however, no competition was held.

Committees oversee various specific areas. Current committees include: Alumni, Ethics/Grievance, Championships, Coaches, High School, Enrollment, Marketing, Media, 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 compensation of any sort. We are passionate about promoting table tennis, and specifically college table tennis.

### **GRASSROOTS AND GROWTH**

<b>2020 REGIONALS</b>	2022 REGIONALS
Men's Singles = 146	Men's Singles = 128
Women's Singles = 61	Women's Singles = 62
Total Singles = 207	Total Singles = 190
Coed Teams = 70	Coed Teams = 61
Women's Teams = 35	Women's Teams = 31
Total Teams = 105	Total Teams = 92

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

Statistics for 2021 were not available since no regional tournaments were conducted.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

NCTTA sought out much support from the table tennis community and was able to partner with <u>American Youth Table Tennis Organization</u> (AYTTO) and <u>LA Ping Pong</u> to further its goals in growing the pipeline through high school table tennis.



NCTTA with the AYTTO has garnered support to recruit assistant coaches (NCTTA college players) for AYTTO's high school, middle school and league and elementary after-school programs in New York City. NCTTA college students are primarily in the NYC Public School Athletic League assistant coaching program.

In addition, NCTTA and AYTTO came together to offer the George Braithwaite Community Service Award and Scholarship. It will recognize individuals who have made outstanding



contributions to the sport of Table Tennis and will offer up to \$5,000 scholarship for a high school senior in the AYTTO family who is entering college and exhibits outstanding volunteerism for our sport.

LA Ping Pong is a 501c3 non for profit organization with a goal to boost table tennis participation and competitive table tennis opportunities in Southern California. Their board includes many NCTTA alumni and partners: Alex Figueroa (NCTTA Southern California Director), David Del Vecchio and Jack McCarthy (NCTTA Alumni). NCTTA is happy to promote LA Ping Pong's initiatives as they promote ours.



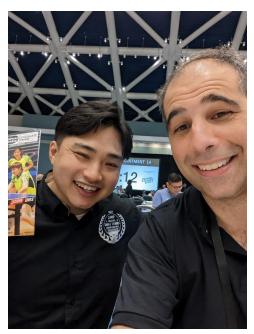
### CONFERENCES-EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NCTTA is committed to attracting the best locations for its National Championship through conferences. NCTTA attended the 2022 Connect Conference with special regard to attracting competitive cities and facilities for our Championship event.

# **Connect** SPORTS

Leparulo met with the Puerto Rican Table Tennis Federation here in this picture. Thanks to Jose Pagan and Ivan Santos President of the Federacion de Tenis De Mesa of Puerto Rico!

The <u>2022 Connect Sports Conference</u> in San Jan, Puerto Rico and was attended by NCTTA representatives Andy Nguyen (Marketing) and Willy Leparulo (President) here.



Leparulo says "We are really fortunate to be able to attend these events. We meet with so many cities and facilities and this is how we make connections to host our Championships!".



### **PROGRAMS**

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NCTTA created an internship program for qualified college students this past summer 2022. Interns were available in several areas listed below.

For the Summer of 2022, the interns were:



Newsletter Nicholas

Kozenieski, University of Florida, Math and Astrophysics Major (Newsletter Intern)



Lavanya Maruthapandian

Laranya Maruthapandian, University of California at Berkeley, (Graphic Design Intern)



Tina Chen, Software engineering

Tina Chen, Northwestern University, (Software Intern)



Victoria Pham. Software engineering

Victoria Pham Computer Science, (Software Intern)



Antonio Molteni. Software engineering

Antonio Molteni **UC** Berkeley (Software Intern)

Each contributed toward individual tasks according to their skills and interests. Over the 2month term, our interns worked on all sorts of different tasks.

### **ALUMNI**

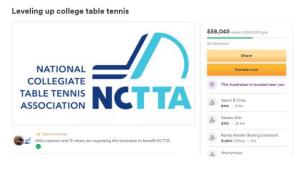


NCTTA alumni come in all shapes and forms: graduated student-athletes, administrators, and volunteers. NCTTA is growing this area to achieve goals in alumni retention for volunteer recruitment for events, in-kind donations, alumni meet-ups and mentorship.

The NCTTA alumni group was energized in 2021 when an anonymous donor offered to double our fundraising. From that interaction, hundreds of

thousands of interested alumni came back to the sport to lend support. NCTTA was founded on a core principle namely Volunteerism and Service to the sport.

In 2022 (as in 2021) NCTTA partnered up again with <u>SPIN</u> to host Pong Parties and raise money for a good cause, namely NCTTA. Spin has locations in New York City, San Francisco, DC and several other major North American Cities. NCTTA Alumni came out in droves to support College Table Tennis and prove that NCTTA's core principles are still alive and kicking even after their student-athlete days.



The NCTTA National Fundraiser would go on to raise almost 60,000 dollars and that amount was matched by the anonymous donor.

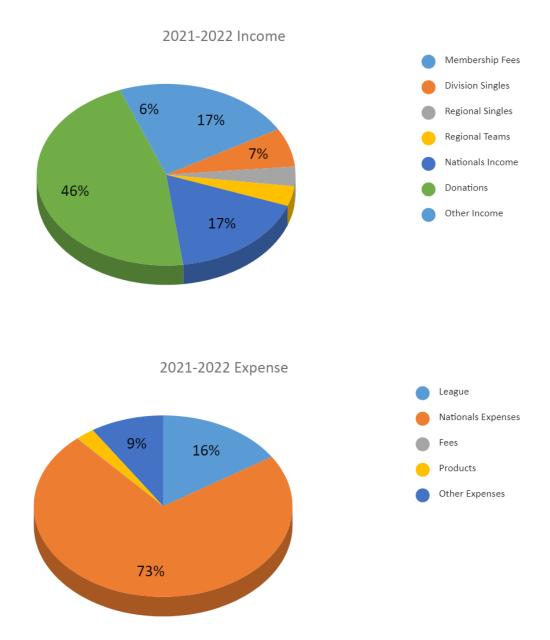
Featured to the right, one of the founders of NCTTA, Nelson Chin at the SPIN Boston NCTTA pong party and below winners of NCTTA Swag!





### 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. Note we are still recovering from the pandemic that created some challenges in our finances.



### NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES

Year after year, NCTTA has been a home to former and current Junior/National athletes from the USA, Canada and other countries.

Representing one's country while being in college is not an easy feat and one that takes coordination, support and true grit. Trailblazers like Lily Zhang (UC Berkeley) and others have paved the way for the new group to step into the light.

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.

A number of collegiate athletes that once competed for USA Table Tennis teams as juniors or even on the national team should be noted.

On the women's side Amy Wang, Angie Tan, Rachel and Joanna Sung all from UCLA are still very involved in representing themselves in international competitions.

On the men's side, Sharon and Gal Alguetti (Indiana University), Kai Zhang (USC), Nikhil Kumar (UC Berkeley), Nathan Xu (University of Pennsylvania), Jack Wang (Northwestern) and more are continuing their table tennis success while enrolled in college or university and playing in the NCTTA.

Nikhil Kumar, Amy Wang, Sharon Alguetti and Rachel Sung all competed at the 2022 Pan American Table Tennis Championships!

In addition, in July 2022 the Top 4 Men at the US National Team Trials were all from NCTTA.

- Indiana University (Sharon Alguetti and Gal Alguetti)
- UC Berkeley (Nikhil Kumar)
- Texas Wesleyan University alum (Liang Jishan)



Several Top Canadian Athletes participate in NCTTA and have their share of national team athletes: Jeremy Hazin (NYU), Terrence Yeung (Western University) Julian Gaboriaud, Vida Siue (Universite du Montreal), Ivy Liao (University of British Columbia).

Jeremy Hazin of NYU led his team to a coveted NCTTA Team Championships as well, all while a full-time student.



Ivy Liao is a part of the Canadian National Team since 2013 when she was 11 years old and continues to compete for both University and Country.



### WORLD UNIVERSITY TEAM ATHLETES

The <u>FISU World University Games</u> is College Table Tennis' version of our World Cup and Super Bowl rolled into one. NCTTA has been successfully organizing a TEAM USA College team to attend **since 2006**. NCTTA formalized the process as they once did in 2006 by having the World University Games trials at another 5 star event, the US Open 2021 in December.

Unfortunately the last several years (2021, 2022) the World University games have been cancelled due to the pandemic. NCTTA currently manages the games through the World University Games committee and its members (Brandon Lawrence, Stephanie Shih, Willy Leparulo and Jasna Rather).





The USA Men's and Women's team consisted of top NCTTA athletes that met the FISU eligibility rules.

The Men's Team was Nikhil Kumar (UC Berkeley), Jonathan Li (University of Texas), Eliel Solis (University of Michigan), Steven Gong (UC Davis), and Joshua Mak (University of North Texas).

The Women's team was Angela Guan (UC Berkeley), Crystal Wang (Emory University), Lucy Ma (Stanford University), Stephanie Zhang (University of Maryland) and Lavanya Maruthapandian (UC Berkeley).

Expect to see several college table tennis players compete for spots for Olympics and National Team competitions.

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