

## **Playing System for the 2009 Men's and Women's World Cup**

1. The tournament will consist of 3 stages.
2. In the preliminary stage the 4 continental representatives from Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania shall compete for an Intercontinental Cup, played on a group basis with all the members of the group playing each other. The winner of this group shall join the remaining 15 players in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage.
3. Seeding shall be done according to the latest available World Ranking.
4. In the 1<sup>st</sup> stage the players will be divided into 4 equal groups, with all the members of a group playing each other, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage the group winners and runners-up will compete in a knockout.
5. For the 1<sup>st</sup> stage, the highest-ranked player will be placed in Group A, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Group B, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Group C and the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Group D. The remaining players will be drawn into the groups 4 at a time in ranking order.
6. If there are 2 players from the same Association, they will be drawn into separate groups but a 3<sup>rd</sup> player from the same Association may be drawn into any group.
7. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, the winners of Groups A and B will be placed in positions 1 and 8 respectively and the winners of groups C and D will be drawn between positions 4 and 5; the runners-up will be drawn into the remaining places, in opposite halves from the winners of the same groups. There will not be separation by Association.
8. In the semi-finals, the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterfinal will play the winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> will play the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> ; the winners of the semi-finals will play each other in the final, with the losers of the semi-finals playing each other for third place.
9. The tournament will be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.
10. All matches shall be the best of 7 games.

Judit Farago  
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Graeme Ireland  
Technical Committee Chairman