

2026 MEDIA GUIDE



THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Web site: [2026 NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships](https://www.nctta.org/2026-college-table-tennis-championships)
- April 10-12, UW Health Sports Factory, Rockford, Illinois
- Athletes - The 250+ top college table tennis players in the US, Puerto Rico and Canada, representing 50 and more 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 United States, Puerto Rico and Canada who represented Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, India, Sweden and Hong Kong just to name a few
- Defending champions:
 - Men's/Coed Team: **University of California - Berkeley**
 - Women's Team: **University of California - Los Angeles**
 - Men's Singles: **Nikhil Kumar, University of California - Berkeley**
 - Women's Singles: **Kelly Yenn, Harvard University**
 - Men's Doubles: **Sid Naresh & Nikhil Kumar, University of California - Berkeley**
 - Women's Doubles: **Joanna Sung & Angie Tan, University of California - Los Angeles**
 - Peakapong Singles: **Jingting Lin, Harvard University**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 10

- 9:00 am Men's Doubles Main Draw
- 9:30 am Women's Singles Preliminary Round
- 11:00 am Women's Doubles & Men's Singles Preliminary Round
- 2:00 pm Opening Ceremonies
- 2:30 pm Women's & Coed Team Event

7:30 pm Doubles Semifinals and Finals

Saturday, April 11

9:00 am Men's/Coed and Women's Teams main draw
1:00 pm Men's/Coed and Women's Teams, Finals
6:00 pm End of competition day

Sunday, April 12

9:00 am Men's and Women's Singles, knockout rounds
1:00 pm Men's and Women's Singles, semifinals and finals
5:00 pm End of competition day

THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

- Started as an upper-class parlor game in 19th-century England
- Developed into a competitive sport in the early 20th 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 100 mph and spinning at nearly 10,000 rpm
- Matches at these Championships are best 3 out of 5 games, except for singles semifinals and finals, which are best 4 out of 7 games. consists of the best 4 out of 7 games. Games are first to 11 points, alternating serve every two points.

NCTTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE



- 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 2024-2025 NCTTA League
- Over 175 participating colleges, competing in 6 regions, subdivided into 29 divisions, played in fall and spring academic semesters or quarters.
- NCTTA offers scholarships, and some colleges offer their own table tennis scholarships
- Many international student-athletes
- The 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
- [NCTTA Championships](#)
- [NCTTA Instagram](#)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

- A total of 24 Men's/Coed teams & 16 Women's teams qualified through regional events

Men's/Coed teams:

- **Texas Wesleyan University** (Fort Worth, TX) – 15-time men's/coed team champion; 12-time South Region Coed Champion (including 2026). They are featuring 2 players (Senura Silva and Jonatan McDonald) in Major League Table Tennis. They are one of the few scholarship schools in the team competition. The most successful of any College Table Tennis program in College Table Tennis history.



- **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2017, 2018, 2023, 2024 West Region Men's/Coed Champions, led by Major League Table Tennis Player and US International, Sid Naresh and US National team player and #1 seed in Men's singles, Ved Sheth.



- **New York University** (New York, NY) – 2025, 2026 NYC Division Team winners, 2019, 2024, 2025, 2026 Northeast Regional Champions and 2018, 2022, 2023 National Champion Team winners, features Coach Yan Jun Gao a former NCTTA 2010 Men’s Singles Champion and former Men’s Team US Collegiate team coach and led by hybrid chopper, Peter Yuan (seen here)



- **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA) – 2023. 2025 West Region Champions; 2024 West Region Runner-ups featuring a star-studded team led by US Junior and National Team player, Angie Tan and former Beijing Provisional star Luoxuan “Astrid” Shao



- **University of Pennsylvania** (Philadelphia, PA) - 2025 Mid Atlantic Regional Champions. UPenn is led by former USA junior phenom, Sushant Lebaka
- **University of Western Ontario** (London, ON, Canada) - Current CITTA Canadian Table Tennis Champions. Highest-ranked Canadian school in the NCTTA

Championships, led by former Indian international, Suhaan Gulati (featured here) and the powerful Table Tennis, Cai sisters, Nicole and Demi



- **Yale University** (New Haven, CT) - Wildcarded into this event, led by Canadian star Kevin Guo , and former Ohio State Table Tennis #1 and transfer to Yale, Denethi Wijegunawardana (featured here)



- **Cornell University** (Ithaca, NY) - 1st place in the 2023, 2026 Upstate NY West Division led by Canadian Women's Singles Champ, Gina Fu (featured here), and Dominican International, Omar Andujar



- **University of Toronto** (Toronto, ON, Canada) - 2025 Great Lakes Regional Team champions, 2025 Greater Toronto Division Champions. Led by Canadian National Team and World University Team member Max Ji and former Sichuan Province team member Jayden Jiang

- **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** (Champaign, IL) - 2024, 2025 Lower Midwest Division Champions; Led by Master's student, Jiaxin Ren #5 in Women's singles, #35 in Men's singles, Akash Pardeshi
- **Universidad de Puerto Rico - Arecibo** (Arecibo, Puerto Rico) - First Puerto Rican university to join NCTTA since 2012. UPR finished in 3rd place in the Northeast Regional Championships. Led by Dominican international, Eduardo Darley Mejia. Men's and Women's team and Athletic Director, Christian Tellado, Head Coach, Alexis Pietri (pictured below)



- **University of California at San Diego** (San Diego, CA) - Third place finisher in the 2026 West Regional Championships, led by third year PHD student in Electrical and Computer Engineering and the #1 player.



- **Rutgers University** (New Jersey) - Runner-up in 2026 Northeast Regional Championships, led by #1 player Boyun Zhao



- **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX) – Perennial South Region powerhouses, UT Austin finished 2nd in the 2026 South Regionals. Led by 1st year player, and chopper extraordinaire, Fan Miao, who boasts a 19-1 season for Texas.
- **Columbia University** (New York City, NY) - Annual top school from the Northeast, winner of the 2026 NYC Uptown division. Led by former USA Table Tennis junior player, Rachel Wang (seen here) and recent Washington University transfer Thomas Yuan.



- **Duke University** (Durham, NC) - Carolina Division winners for the past decade, Duke finished 2nd in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships. Led by Anirudh

Chandramouleeswaran

- **Washington University in St. Louis** (St Louis, MO) – 3rd place in 2024, 2026 Midwest Regional and 2025 Midwest Regional Champions; Led by #1 player and former Midwest High School (AYTTO) Table Tennis Champion, Faizaan Shaikh.
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** (Chapel Hill, NC) - Qualified for the National Championships by finishing third in the 2026 Mid Atlantic Regional Championships. Led by former Canadian Table Tennis International, Xander Ye

- **Princeton University** (Princeton, NJ) - A wildcard entry into the National Championships. Princeton is led by former US National Junior team member Emily Quan
- **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor) - 2026 Ohio/Michigan Division winner. Led by Taiwanese internationals, Shih-Chaio Lai and 3rd year PHD student, Po-Yung Kung
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (Boston, MA) - 2026 Upper New England Division Champions, led by #1 player Lawrence Long
- **University of Maryland** (College Park, MD) - 2026 DC Division Champions and Mid Atlantic Regional Champions. Led by #1 player James Zhang
- **Purdue University** (West Lafayette, IN) - Winner of 2024, 2025 Upper Midwest Division Led by former US Table Tennis junior team member, Jensen Feng



- **University of South Florida** (Tampa, FL) - Second place in Florida division; Third place in South Regionals, led by former USA Women's Team member, Kayla Goodwin.



Women's teams:

- **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA) - 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 Women's West Regional Champions. 2023 & 2025 Women's Team National Champions. Led by US National team members Angie Tan & Beijing Provincial Team member, Luoxuan Shao



- **New York University** (New York City, NY) - 2024, 2025, 2026 Women's Northeast Region Champion, Led by current USA Women's National Team player Tiffany Ke



- **Harvard University** (Cambridge, MA) - 2nd place in 2025 Northeast Regional Women's Team event, led by former Hong Kong Women's Table Tennis Champion, Kelly Yenn. Yenn is also defending NCTTA Women's Singles Champion and this year is also #2 seed in NCTTA Women's singles.



- **Cornell University** (Ithaca, NY) - 2025, 2026 Great Lakes Women's Regional Team Champion. Led by Canada's Gina Fu and former USA Junior player, Muskan Gupta



- **University of Maryland** (College Park, MD) - 2022, 2023, 2024 DC Division Champions; 2024 Mid Atlantic Regional Champions, led by #1 player, Gayatri Swaminathan
- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** (Champaign, IL) - 2024 Women's Midwest Region Runner-up, 2025 Women's Midwest Region Champions led by Jiaxin Ren #5 in Women's Singles event
- **Columbia University** (New York City, NY) - 2026 NYC Uptown Division Champs and 2026 Northeast Regional Women's Team Runnerup. Led by former USA Table Tennis junior player, Rachel Wang and Chinese National First Level player, Jingyan Xiao

- **University of Texas** (Austin, TX) - 2026 South Regional Women's Team Champions; led by Fan Miao (seen here)



- **University of North Carolina** (Chapel Hill, NC) - 2026 Carolina Division Women's Team Champions; 2026 Mid Atlantic Regional Women's Team Champions. An excellent one two combo in USA based players, Isabella Xu and Sara Gulabani
- **Rice University** (Houston, TX) - 2025 Texas Division Champs, 2025 South Region Women's Team Champions; #1 player, Yun-Ying Tsai leads the way with former #1 player, Brazilian international, Daniela Yano as the teams coach.
- **Yale University** (New Haven, CT) - Wildcarded into the National Championships. #1 and #2 players Ziyi Zhou and Denethi Wijegunawardana will lead them.

- **University of Western Ontario** (London, ON Canada) - 2026 Greater Toronto Division Women's team champions. Led by the Cai sisters (Nicole and Demi)



- **McMaster University** (Hamilton, ON Canada) - Runnerup in 2026 Great Lakes Regional Championships (Women's Teams)
- **Purdue University** (West Lafayette, IN) - 2025, 2026 Upper Midwest Division Women's Team Champions; 2026 Midwest Regional Women's Team Runnerup
- **Stanford University** (Palo Alto, CA) - 2026 Northern California Division Women's Team Champions.
- **Rutgers University** (New Jersey) - Wildcarded into the NCTTA Championships, led by #1 player Iknour Kour

TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF NOTE

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (FORT WORTH, TX)



- 15-time Men's/Coed Team Champion; 2024 Men's/Coed Team Champion
- 2nd place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2025 College Table Tennis Championships
- 12-time South Region Coed Champion (including 2026)
- Coached by Jasna Rather – Olympic bronze medalist (Yugoslavia) and Doru Gheorghe (former Romanian International)
- Offers table tennis scholarships

Senura Silva (Undergraduate)

- 2024, 2025 Men's South Regional Singles Champion; plays in Major League Table Tennis





Jonatan McDonald (Undergraduate)

- 2024, 2026 Men's South Regional Singles Champion; runnerup and plays in Major League Table Tennis
(Photo courtesy of Grant Bergmann)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BERKELEY, CA)



- 2017, 2018, 2023, 2026 West Region Men's/Coed Champions,
- 2025 NCTTA College Table Tennis Team Champions
- Led by Sid Naresh and Ved Sheth both US National Team players
- Ved Sheth, #1 in Men's Singles, top 8 finisher at the 2024 US Olympic Team Trials
- Sid Naresh, #2 in Men's Singles, USA National Team player

Ved Sheth (Undergraduate)

- #1 in Men's Singles
- US National Team player

Sid Naresh (Undergraduate)

- #2 in Men's Singles
- US National Team Player





NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NYU) (NEW YORK CITY, NY)

- 2018, 2022, 2023 NCTTA College Table Tennis Team Champions
- Coed team led by Major League Table Tennis player and US Women's National Team player, Tiffany Ke and hybrid chopper, Peter Yuan
- Coach Yan Jun Gao a former NCTTA 2010 Men's Singles Champion and former Men's Team US Collegiate team coach



SPONSORS

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