



National Collegiate Table Tennis Association

2023 Annual Report

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2023 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 - **Cyrus Aga as of July 1, 2023 taking over for Randy Kendle who resigned**

Athlete Representative - **James Wang as of Feb. 7, 2023 taking over for Jenna Kiyasu who resigned**

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)

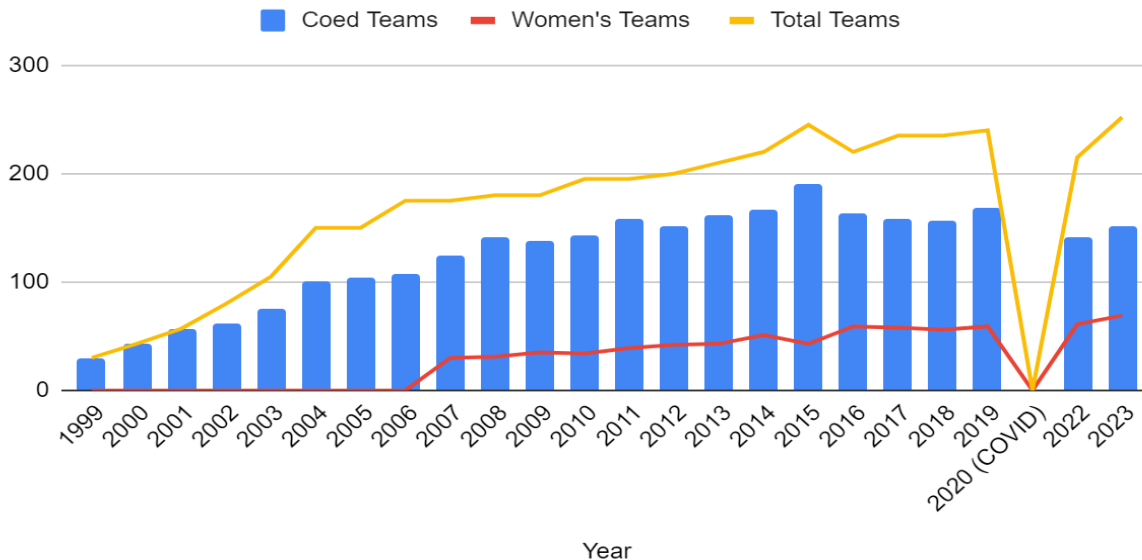
MAJOR SPONSORS



LEAGUE

The NCTTA league is the organization's main activity. The league consists of intercollegiate varsity team competition among Coed/Men's teams and 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.

Coed Teams, Women's Teams and Total Teams



NCTTA's competition season is played via an academic year which is from October to April 2023. Regular season competition took place both in the Fall and the Spring, in six regions subdivided into 25 divisions. Almost 3500 competitive athletes participated, forming 151 Varsity Coed and 69 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.

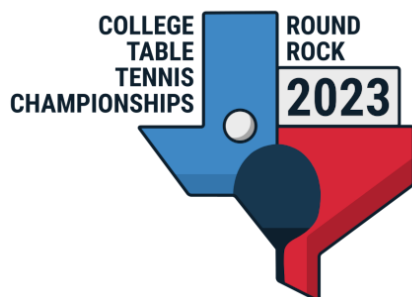
Division (League play) (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)

▣ **Regional Championships** (in 2023) (6 around the USA/Canada)

▣ **National Championships** (in 2023) (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.

The 2023 Championships were one of the most competitive national events in our organization's history.

A plethora of top-tier players (over 270, we average 250) from 54 USA colleges and universities as well as international students from 27 countries competed for teams, 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.

2023 MEN'S SINGLES

Top 80 players, all but 3 rated over 2000

1. Kai Zhang (USC)
US National Team member
2. Nikhil Kumar (UC Berkeley)
USA Olympian
3. Jeremy Hazin (NYU)
Canadian Olympic Team member
4. Nathan Xu (University of Pennsylvania)
New Zealand National Team

2023 WOMEN'S SINGLES

Top 40 players, over 50% rated over 2000

1. Amy Wang (UCLA)
US National Team member
2. Zhen Deng (Texas Wesleyan)
2023 South Regional Women's Finalist
3. Rachel Sung (UCLA)
US National Team member
4. Jiaqi Lin (Texas Wesleyan)
2023 South Regional Women's Champion



Kai Zhang (USC)



Amy Wang (UCLA)

MEN'S / COED TEAMS

1. Texas Wesleyan University
2. UCLA
3. NYU

WOMEN'S TEAMS

1. UCLA
2. Texas Wesleyan University
3. UPenn



(right) Texas Wesleyan's Women's Team (Photo credit: Grant Bergmann)

(left) New York University Table Tennis Team (Photo credit: NCTTA)

(below) 2023 NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships Athlete Presentation



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 creating a club at their college and registering their college with NCTTA.



Member schools can create Men's/Coed, Junior Varsity, and all Women's teams.

NCTTA has a unique Coed team format often resulting 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:

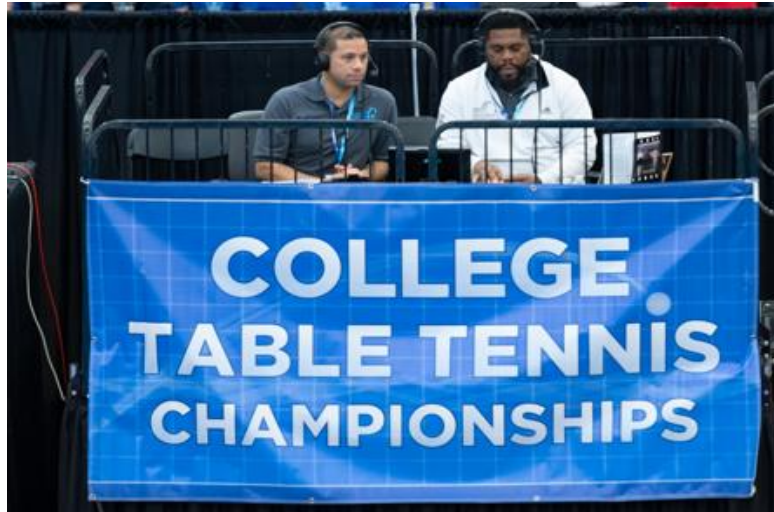
- Small clubs of few members, self-funded by students, peripherally recognized by their college.
- Medium-sized clubs which receive partial funding by the college.
- Large clubs with both Coed and Women's teams, with most expenses paid by the college.



Pictured to the left is the University of Alabama and on right is Northwestern University. Both of these schools are representative of medium-sized 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

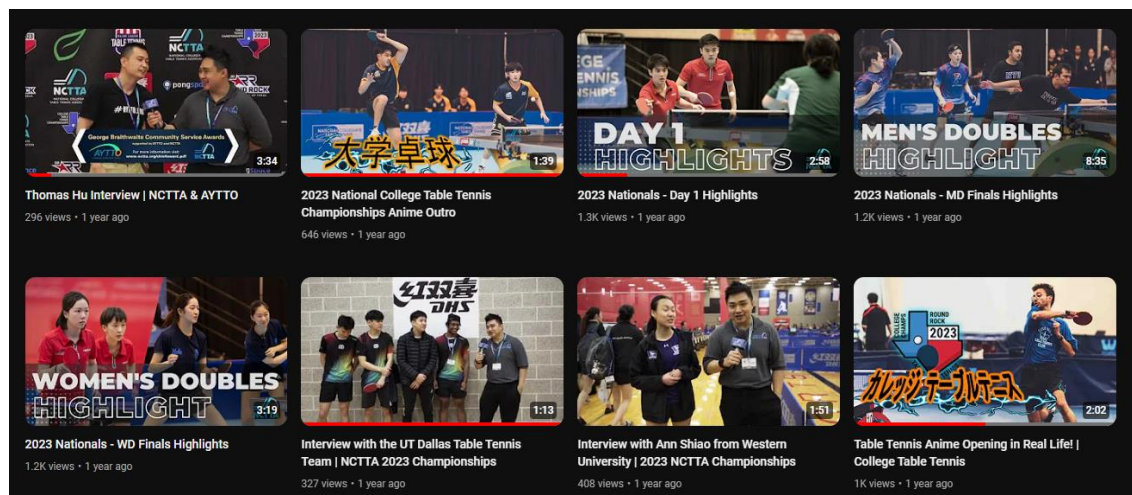


NCTTA Media team comprises all volunteers and mostly alumni from different areas like graphic design, journalism, video production, and more.

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 several clips featuring NCTTA and our student-athletes found on the NCTTA Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@NCTTAVideos/videos>. They included interviews, highlights and summaries of our programming.



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, Player Spotlights, NCTTA Registration, and National Holidays!





NCTTA Media Team has outdone themselves year after year and this past 2023 Championships was no different. Producing graphics for our membership and viewership alike.



NCTTA has a talented and engaging video crew led by Andy Nguyen showcasing feature player interviews and videos. Featured below is Andy engaging UCLA's US National Team players, Amy Wang and Rachel Sung



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 [program](#) has been in place since 2009. It was originally funded by Newgy Industries, and will be funded by The Hsing Family Foundation for the 2023-2024 season.

The 2023 scholarships were awarded to:

- **Stephanie Chen**
(University of Pennsylvania) (right)
- **Nikhil Kumar**
(University of California-Berkeley) (left)



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.

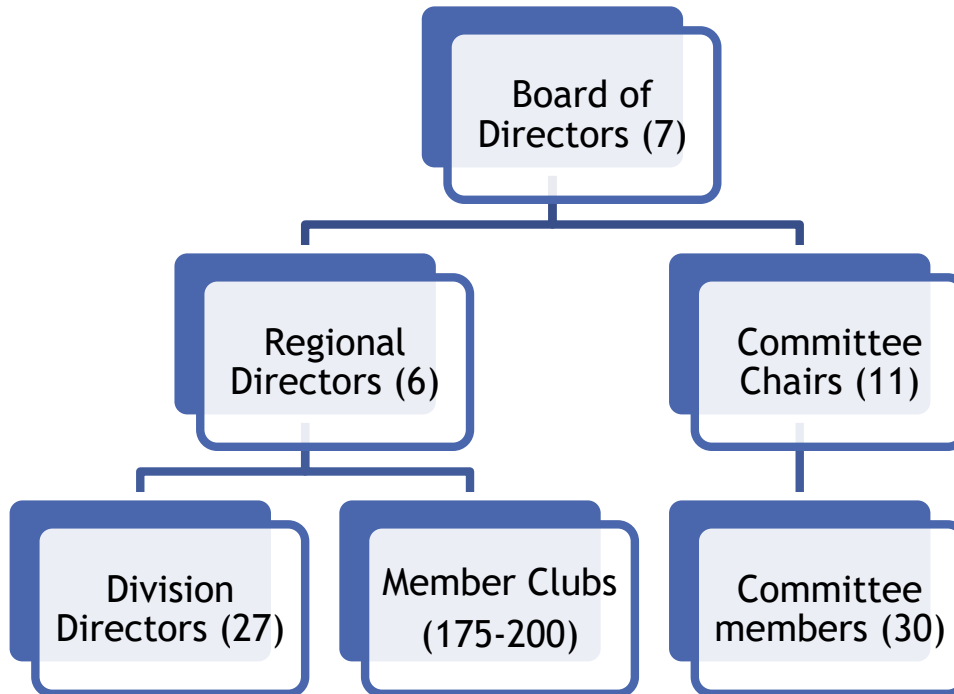


Regional Directors manage the six NCTTA regions, and Division Directors manage the NCTTA divisions. The number of divisions varies yearly; however, no competition was held during the pandemic.



West Region Directors seen to the left: James Wang and assistant Sabrina Le.

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

2022 REGIONALS	2023 REGIONALS
Men's Singles = 128	Men's Singles = 140
<u>Women's Singles = 62</u>	<u>Women's Singles = 81</u>
Total Singles = 190	Total Singles = 221
Coed Teams = 61	Coed Teams = 68
<u>Women's Teams = 31</u>	<u>Women's Teams = 38</u>
Total Teams = 92	Total Teams = 106

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

PARTNERSHIPS

NCTTA sought out much support from the table tennis community and was able to partner with [American Youth Table Tennis Organization](#) (AYTTO), [Major League Table Tennis](#) (MLTT), [PongSpace](#) and [LA Ping Pong](#). AYTTO and LA Ping Pong were partners in helping to grow the pipeline through high school table tennis to College. PongSpace and Major League Table Tennis were NCTTA sponsors.



NCTTA and PongSpace 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 a \$5,000 scholarship for a high school senior in the

AYTTO family who is entering college and exhibits outstanding volunteerism for our sport.

In addition, PongSpace opened up its George Braithwaite Major League Table Tennis to NCTTA schools which many joined this year.



LA Ping Pong

Los Angeles area ping pong clubs, leagues, and news

LA Ping Pong is a 501c3 not-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) and David Del Vecchio. NCTTA is happy to promote LA Ping Pong's initiatives as they promote ours.

Major League Table Tennis, the brainchild of Flint Lane, was created in early 2023 and became a sponsor of NCTTA allowing a number of NCTTA Athletes and Alumni the opportunity to play professional table tennis in the USA!



CONFERENCES-EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

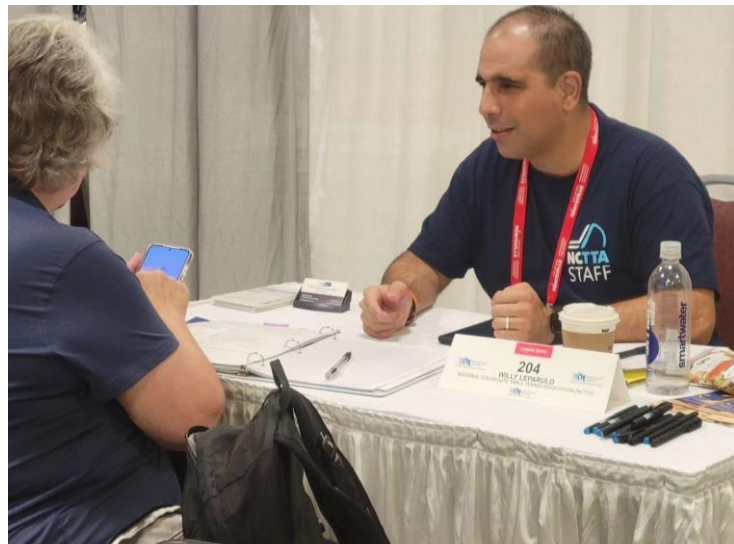
NCTTA is committed to attracting the best locations for its National Championship through conferences. NCTTA attended the 2023 Connect Conference with special regard to attracting competitive cities and facilities for our Championship event.

Connect SPORTS



The [2023 Connect Sports Conference](#) was held in Minneapolis, MN and was attended by NCTTA representatives Andy Nguyen (Marketing) and Willy Leparulo (President) and AYTTO CEO, Thomas Hu (pictured at the top right)

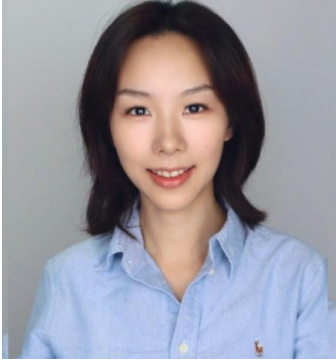
Leparulo says “We are fortunate to be able to attend these events. We meet with so many cities and facilities and this is how we make connections to host our Championships!”.



PROGRAMS

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NCTTA created an internship program for qualified college students this past summer 2023. Interns were available in several areas listed below. For the Summer of 2023, the interns were:



Xinran Zhao (Rutgers)
Masters in Data Science



Manheng Wang (University of Michigan)
Bachelors of Science in Data
Science/Computer Science

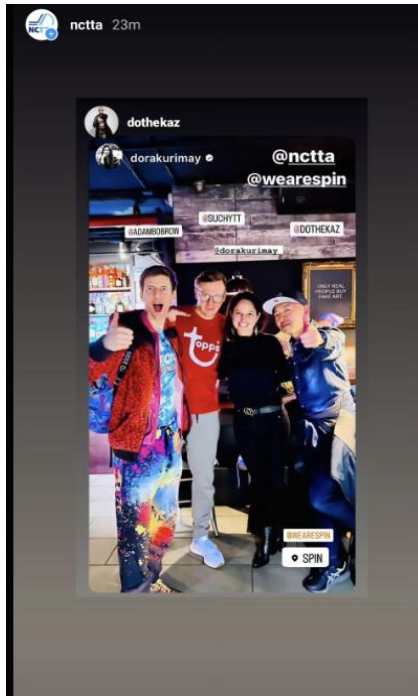


Zoey Sun (UC Berkeley)
Masters in Electrical Engineering/Computer
Science

From Tae Kim, NCTTA Internship Supervisor:

“They helped get us started with the migration. Many system components and foundations were set up for the new framework. Thanks for their efforts.”

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 2023 (as in 2021 and 2022) NCTTA partnered up again with [SPIN](#) 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 principle of “paying it forward” is still very much an active strategy.

Featured to the right, is last summer’s SPIN Seattle Alumni Pong Party, and below, is Nelson Chin (one of the founders of NCTTA) at the SPIN Boston NCTTA pong party.



VOLUNTEERISM

NCTTA as a National Organization is completely managed by volunteers from top to bottom. We are former College Table Tennis athletes who wish to “pay it forward” for the next generation of College Table Tennis players. NCTTA embodies the spirit of generosity, camaraderie, and support within a collegiate Sports Community.

Paying it Forward is described as a strategy of being a recipient of a good deed and repaying that “kindness” to others. What NCTTA stands for is an active example of this strategy.



One of our own, NCTTA President Willy Leparulo has received one of the highest honors in table tennis for his volunteer work-an induction into the [US Table Tennis Hall of Fame](#).

A list of NCTTA Alumni joined him in the [Class of 2023 US Table Tennis Hall of Fame](#), Dennis Davis (longtime NCTTA supporter) and Ashu Jain (Former UMich player and USATT board member).

We are NCTTA is a common social media hashtag, and at the NCTTA Championships, this principle is very much at play from the many who take time out of their lives to be away from family and friends in another location for sometimes up to a week.

“People power”, as it was coined by one of the organization’s founders, Thomas Hu, was always how NCTTA has remained relevant.

From Vvdeo streaming to umpiring to media to even our trophies which are now 3D Printed and custom made from one of our volunteers!



NCTTA brings together everyone in their particular expertise and somehow in a strange microcosm of what society should be, we (NCTTA) make it work for our student athletes.

NCTTA has and will continue to lean on the good graces of those willing to pay it forward:

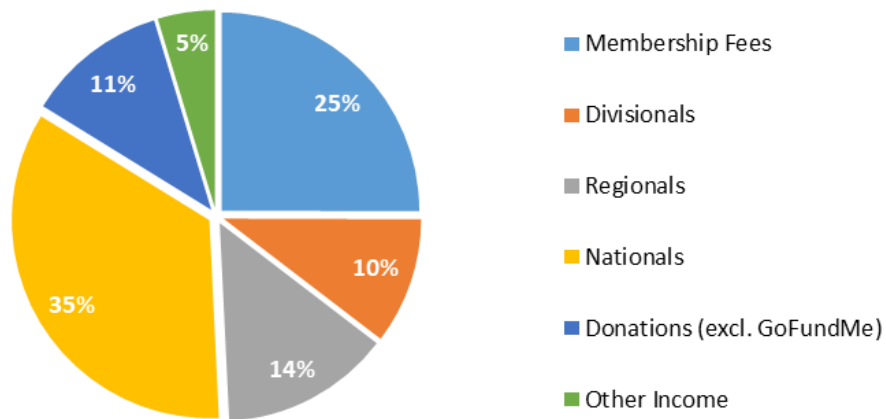
- Poley Cheng (NCTTA Alum and Division Director) on Video Stream;
- Jorge Vanegas (NCTTA Volunteer Umpire)
- Grant Bergmann (NCTTA Volunteer Photographer)
- NCTTA Trophies: 3D Printed and customized by Logan Zimmerman (NCTTA volunteer)



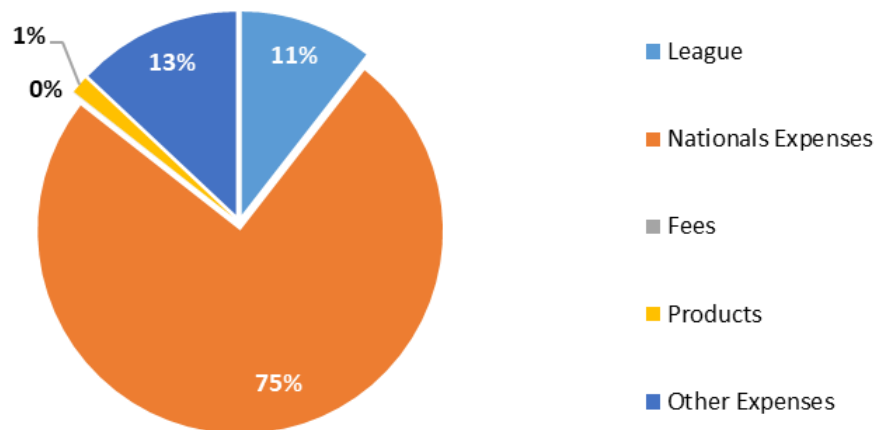
FINANCIAL STATUS

The NCTTA 2022-23 financial year shows increased year-on-year revenue resulting from a one-time GoFundMe campaign (excluded from pie charts to display normalized financial performance). The NCTTA National Championships continue to comprise the largest percentage of overall expenses. Note that the NCTTA is still recovering from financial challenges resulting from the pandemic.

2022-23 Revenue Breakdown (%)



2022-23 Expense Breakdown (%)



NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES

NCTTA has played a crucial role year after year in fostering national team table tennis athletes. NCTTA has been a home to former and current Junior/National athletes from the USA, Canada and other countries.

Being in College or University while maintaining one's table tennis level takes an immense amount of time management skills, support and grit! Lily Zhang was the trailblazer that showed all of the rest that it indeed could be done.

NCTTA provides a competitive platform for these collegiate table tennis players to test and showcase their skills and compete at a high level.

Several collegiate athletes who 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 and play in NCTTA!

On the men's side, Kai Zhang (USC), Nikhil Kumar (UC Berkeley), Jeremy Hazin (NYU), Nathan Xu (UPenn) and more are continuing their table tennis success while enrolled in college or university and playing in the NCTTA.

Nikhil Kumar (UC Berkeley), Amy Wang (UCLA) competed at the 2023 US Nationals and won their respective gender categories Men's and Women's singles while also having won the NCTTA Championships singles earlier in the year!

Key point: go to college (Play in NCTTA) and continue to play table tennis at a high level while using your academic prowess to earn a college degree!



Derron Douglas, a Trinidad and Tobago National team player, attends Texas Wesleyan University and plays on the Varsity team there while still holding a National team ranking.



Several Top Canadian Athletes participate in NCTTA and have their share of National team athletes: Jeremy Hazin (NYU) and Ivy Liao (University of British Columbia).

Jeremy Hazin of NYU led his team to a coveted NCTTA Team Championships as well, all while being 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.



In addition, top NCTTA athletes competed at the FISU World University games. The 2023 event was in Chengdu, China and was organized by former UC Berkeley Phenom, current NCTTA division director Angela Guan (seen here at the games). Thank you to Angela for her leadership and organizational skills for these games!



Picture credit: Angela Guan

The USA College team featured players from UT Austin, UC Davis, University of Michigan, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Emory University and more.

Amy Wang and Rachel Sung took home the bronze medal! First medal for College Team USA ever!



Picture credit: Rachel Sung

