



TTX

**EQUIPMENT
APPROVAL SCHEME**

16 December 2017

Contents

1. Introduction..... 2

2. Definitions 2

3. Equipment covered by this Scheme 4

4. Benefits of the Scheme 4

5. Terms of reference 4

6. General Procedure for obtaining Approval 5

7. Procedures for each stage..... 6

8. License Fee..... 8

9. Withdrawal/Suspension of Equipment 8

10. Quality Inspection 9

11. Changes to Approved Equipment 10

12. Trademarks/Brands 11

13. Approved Suppliers’ contact details..... 11

14. Approval and Testing Fees 11

15. Penalties and Fines 12

16. Calendar 13

17. TTX Contact Information 13

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

1. Introduction

This document (herein referred to as this "**Scheme**") sets out the procedure for any supplier or manufacturer (an "**Applicant**") applying for official ITTF approval of Equipment (as defined in the Definitions) proposed to be manufactured and sold for the game of TTX ("**Approval**" as further defined in the Definitions). All Equipment which has been officially 'Approved' is listed in the published lists of TTX Approved Equipment ("**TTX Lists**").

All rights to sell / manufacture or otherwise use Equipment is conditional upon (i) Approval; and (ii) the Applicant entering into a License Agreement with the ITTF (or such other entity from time to time authorised by the ITTF) on its standard terms.

2. Definitions

Definitions of terms as used later in this document:

'Applicant': has the meaning given to it in the Introduction.

'Approval Fees': has the meaning given to it in paragraph 14 (Approval and Testing Fees).

'Approval Form(s)': the forms, which must be filled in by suppliers and submitted to TTX, for initiating application for TTX Approval.

'Approval(s)' or 'TTX Approval(s)': official ITTF approval of Equipment proposed to be manufactured and sold for the game of TTX in accordance with this Scheme, and the terms '**Approving**', '**Approved**', '**TTX Approving**' and '**TTX Approved**' shall be interpreted accordingly.

'Approved Equipment': equipment, which has current Approval under this Scheme and appears in TTX Lists.

'Approved Supplier': any supplier, which manufactures and/or supplies Approved Equipment.

'brand name': particular name, under which companies market their Equipment.

'Control': the beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the issued share capital of a company or the legal power to direct or cause the direction of the general management of the company, and '**controls**', '**controlled**' and the expression '**change of control**' shall be construed accordingly.

'Equipment': balls, nets, tables and rackets for use in the game of TTX.

'Infringement': any action of violation of the TTX policies, laws, regulations and requirements.

'ITTF': the International Table Tennis Federation.

'License Agreement': a license agreement to be entered into by the applicant on the ITTF's standard terms (from time to time) conditional on Approval.

'Manufacturers': companies manufacturing and supplying Equipment.

'Model name': particular name used to describe a particular product of a brand.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

'Penalty(ies)' or 'Fine(s)': penalties and fines imposed on suppliers in case of Infringements.

'Quality Inspection': the Testing done at scheduled or random times, on samples obtained from the suppliers, market, tournaments, clubs etc.

'Retest' or 'Retesting': any repeated Test (either because of a prior failed Test, or for a scheduled Quality Inspection).

'Suppliers': companies marketing Equipment under their own brand name. For the avoidance of doubt, a supplier may or may not be a manufacturer.

'Suspension': the suspension of an Approval imposed by the ITTF for technical or financial reasons pursuant to paragraph 10 Withdrawal/Suspension of Equipment or for any other reason at the discretion of the ITTF.

'Test(s)' or 'Testing': the series of tests required to reach TTX Approval by the ITTF, as described by the TTX Equipment Technical Requirements document, and the term **'Tested'** shall be interpreted accordingly.

'Testing Fees': has the meaning given to it in paragraph 14 (Approval and Testing Fees).

'TTX Brand Guidelines': the official ITTF publication setting out the TTX brand identity including the TTX Trademark and other TTX logos and indicia.

'TTX Equipment Staff': the professional staff appointed by TTX in charge of TTX Equipment Approvals.

'TTX Equipment Technical Requirements': the ITTF appointed, employee or otherwise approved personnel responsible for TTX Equipment Approvals.

'TTX List(s)': has the meaning given to it in Introduction.

'TTX Testing Institute(s)': institutes that TTX appoints from time to time to carry out Testing for the purposes of Approvals.

'TTX Trademark': the official trademark of TTX from time to time.

'TTX Website': the official website of TTX at TTX.world.

'TTX': Table Tennis X.

'Withdrawal': the withdrawal of Approval when requested by a supplier pursuant to paragraph 10 Withdrawal/Suspension of Equipment.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

3. Equipment covered by this Scheme

This Scheme sets out the process of Approval for the following Equipment for use in the game of TTX:

- a. Balls;
- b. Nets;
- c. Tables; and
- d. Rackets.

4. Benefits of the Scheme

The Scheme has the following benefits:

- a. Approval enables suppliers to give their customers an assurance of quality, certified by an independent and worldwide-recognized authority, the ITTF.
- b. Approval is an assurance that the Equipment is designed and manufactured to the highest standards and suitable for TTX play.
- c. The TTX Trademark may be used on Equipment which has been Approved and this helps suppliers of Equipment enhance quality perception and brand awareness.
- d. The Scheme functions as a platform for suppliers to sponsor TTX events and for organizers and players to be sponsored by suppliers.
- e. Continual Quality Inspection protects suppliers and end users.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Equipment carrying a TTX Trademark is considered TTX Approved, provided that the Equipment also appears on the most up to date TTX Lists.

5. Terms of reference

- a. Rule Book – The laws of TTX
- b. TTX Equipment Manufacturing Technical Requirements
- c. TTX Branding Guidelines

5.1. TTX Equipment Technical Requirements and TTX Brand Guidelines

The ITTF publishes:

- a. The TTX Equipment Technical Requirements which sets out detailed specifications, requirements and technical guidance on the Equipment; and
- b. the TTX Brand Guidelines which provides guidelines for the brand standards, values and image which the game of TTX should present.

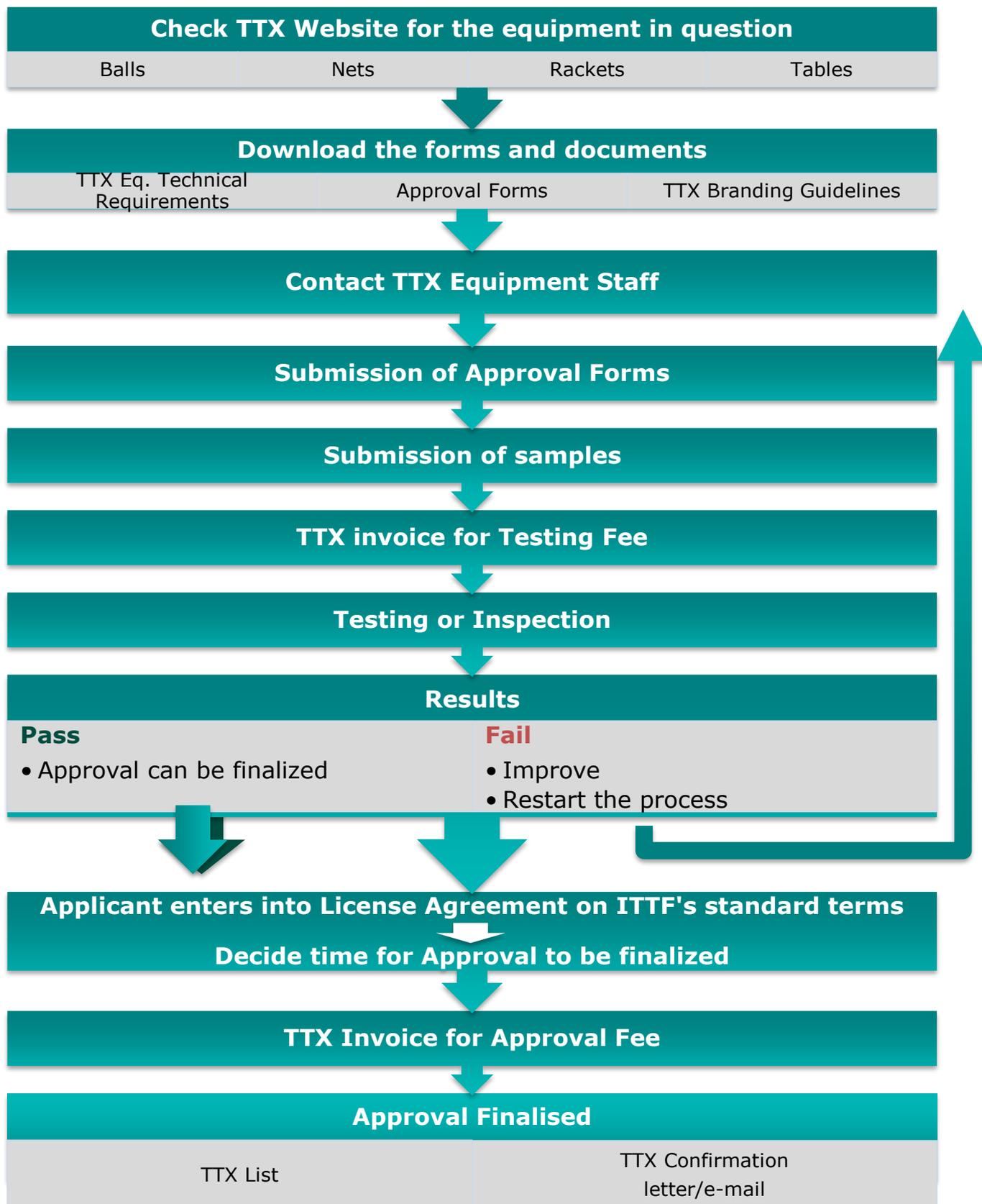
An Applicant who wishes to submit Equipment for Approval under this Scheme should first ensure that such Equipment complies in all respects with the TTX Equipment Technical Requirements and the TTX Brand Guidelines. Any such Equipment which is submitted for Approval and which is not in compliance with the TTX Equipment Technical Requirements and the TTX Brand Guidelines risks rejection.

The TTX Equipment Technical Requirements and the TTX Brand Guidelines may be downloaded from the TTX Website and are subject to changes and updates.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

6. General Procedure for obtaining Approval

* Detailed procedures for each stage follow in the next pages.



TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME**7. Procedures for each stage****7.1. Check on the TTX Website**

The Applicant should check the TTX Website for the appropriate TTX Equipment Manufacturing – TTX Equipment Technical Requirements, TTX Approval Forms, TTX Equipment Staff relevant to the particular item of Equipment for which Approval is being sought.

7.2. Download the necessary forms and documents from the TTX Website

- a. TTX Equipment Technical Requirements
- b. Approval Forms (different for each type of Equipment)
- c. TTX Brand Guidelines

7.3. Contacting TTX Equipment Staff

TTX Equipment Staff are available to assist the Applicant with the Approval process and this Scheme generally. Any Applicant requiring assistance with the TTX Equipment Approval Scheme should contact TTX Equipment Staff. The contact details of TTX Equipment Staff appear at the end of this document.

7.4. Submission of the Approval Form

Applicants should complete and submit the relevant Approval Forms by email to TTX Equipment Staff.

7.5. Submission of the samples for Testing

- a. Upon receipt by the TTX Equipment Staff of the Applicant's Approval Forms (and any other documents requested), the TTX Equipment Staff shall either confirm full receipt or shall notify the Applicant what documents or information are missing and the Applicant shall then revise and resubmit the relevant documents and/or provide such additional documentation and information as required.
- b. Once the TTX Equipment Staff has confirmed full receipt of the necessary Approval Forms and such other documentation and information as may have been requested, the TTX Equipment Staff shall confirm that the Applicant may submit its sample Equipment for testing and shall provide details of the relevant TTX Testing Institute.
- c. No Equipment should be sent prior to written confirmation from the TTX Equipment Staff containing the address for submission of the Applicant's sample Equipment for Testing. The ITTF is not responsible for any Equipment or any costs arising as a result of shipments sent to it or to any address not in accordance with the instructions of TTX Equipment Staff.
- d. Applicants shall pay all costs for shipment of Equipment, including shipping, customs or any other costs as well as costs for the return of such Equipment. The ITTF will not pay or be responsible for any of these costs.

7.6. Invoice from the ITTF for Testing Fees

TTX Equipment will issue and send to the Applicant an invoice for the Testing Fee. Details of current Testing Fees are set out in paragraph 14 but may be subject to change, according to the quotes received by the TTX Testing Institutes. No sample Equipment shall be tested or Approved unless and until payment of the Testing Fee has been received by the ITTF in full.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME**7.7. Samples will be Tested by one of the TTX Testing Institutes**

TTX works with different TTX Testing Institutes, which conduct the Testing for Approvals. Direct contact between the Applicant and the TTX Testing Institutes is not allowed save where the ITTF consents to the same in writing. Any enquiries regarding Testing should be addressed to the TTX Equipment Staff directly. TTX Equipment Staff will reply to all enquiries or contact the TTX Testing Institutes, where necessary, and provide the requested feedback to Applicants.

7.8. Delivery of Testing results to Applicant

TTX Equipment Staff will send the Testing results to the Applicant, together with feedback, after the results are received from the TTX Testing Institutes, subject to receipt of the Testing Fees.

7.9. Outcome of Testing results**7.9.1. If the Equipment **fails** the Tests:**

- a. the Applicant may re-start the process and submit new samples for Testing which should be modified in accordance with the results of the Tests. If the TTX Equipment Staff is satisfied, at its discretion, with the modifications made by the Applicant, it may waive the requirement for further Tests.
- b. a Testing Fee is applicable for each separate Testing.

7.9.2. If the Equipment **passes the Tests:**

- a. Subject to the Applicant entering into a License Agreement in accordance with paragraph 7.9.2(b) and payment of the Approval Fees referred to in paragraph 7.10, the Equipment shall be eligible to be added onto the TTX List(s) and the Applicant shall indicate the date on which the eligible Equipment should be added to the TTX List(s). Such date shall not be later than 6 months from the date in which the Equipment passed the Tests.
- b. the Applicant shall enter into a License Agreement with the ITTF on the ITTF's standard terms.
- c. only after the Equipment is added on the TTX List(s), the Approval is considered complete and the Equipment can then be marketed as Approved.

7.10. Payment of the Approval Fees

Upon successful passing of Testing of Equipment and subject to receipt of an invoice for the same, the Applicant shall pay to the ITTF the Approval Fee set out in paragraph 14.

An Approval Fee shall be payable on a one-time basis following successful passing of a Test (which shall include any re-Tests occurring following suspension or as part of a Quality Inspection).

The Approval Fee covers all Equipment in the specific Equipment line.

No Equipment shall be Approved or added to the TTX List unless and until payment of the Approval Fee has been received by the ITTF in full. For so long as an Applicant has any of its Equipment on the TTX List, the ITTF will confirm it as an 'Approved Supplier' and the Applicant may manufacture, market and sell the TTX Equipment as 'TTX Approved'.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

7.11. Approval Code

ITTF uses an Approval code for each Approved Equipment, consisting of:

- a. The TTX Trademark – TTX
- b. The Equipment initial – B for balls, N for nets, R for rackets, T for tables
- c. The year of Approval
- d. The serial number according to the date of Approval (the number starts from 001 each year)

Example – TTX-B-2016-001

The number is issued by the ITTF just before the Approval is completed and it's communicated to the 'Approved Supplier', who can use the number for own marketing if desirable.

8. License Fee

Continuing Approval of Equipment shall be conditional upon and subject to the relevant Approved Supplier complying with all terms of the License Agreement including payment of the relevant License Fee payable thereunder. Details of the applicable License Fee to be paid are contained in the License Agreement.

9. Withdrawal/Suspension of Equipment

9.1. Withdrawal: Initiated by the Approved Supplier

Approved Suppliers may withdraw Equipment from the TTX List(s) at any time by notifying the ITTF ('**Withdrawal Notification**'). Any Equipment withdrawn at the election of an Approved Supplier will remain on the TTX List(s) for six months from the time of Withdrawal Notification (but noted as 'pending withdrawal on [date]') in order to give customers/users sufficient notice of the withdrawal and the ability to continue to use the Equipment while replacements are sought. However, Approved Suppliers shall stop marketing the Equipment as TTX Approved with immediate effect from the date of the Withdrawal Notification.

If following a Withdrawal Notification, the Approved Supplier wishes to reinstate the withdrawn Equipment to the TTX List, the following procedure shall apply:

If less than 12 months has elapsed since the Withdrawal Notification, reinstatement of the Equipment will be accepted on condition that the supplier pays a new Approval Fee.

If more than 12 months has elapsed since the Withdrawal Notification, the Equipment will be treated as a new product and subject to full Testing, Testing Fees and payment of the Approval Fee.

The following are guidelines for any Equipment to be reinstated back to the TTX List(s):

- a. the Supplier shall not have any outstanding fees (including but not limited to Approval Fees and Testing Fees) from the past owing to the ITTF.
- b. the Equipment shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Scheme.
- c. a License Agreement shall be in force between the Approved Supplier and the ITTF in respect of the Equipment.
- d. NB the above are indicative only and a decision on whether to reinstate Equipment to the TTX List shall rest with the ITTF.

9.2. Suspension: Initiated by the ITTF

The ITTF may suspend (for any period of time the Equipment from the TTX List(s) for technical reasons or for reasons of non-payment by a supplier of any of the fees owed to the ITTF ('**Financial Reasons**') or for any other reason at the reasonable discretion of the ITTF. Such suspension can be published on the TTX Website and communicated to TTX stakeholders ie. TTX event Organisers, as deemed necessary.

If Equipment has been suspended for technical reasons, it may not be reinstated to the TTX List(s) with the same model name. Any Equipment, which is so defective but has been remedied must be Tested under a different model name.

If the Equipment is suspended for Financial Reasons it shall not be reinstated to the TTX List(s) unless:

- a. the supplier has no amounts outstanding to the ITTF.
- b. the Equipment shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Scheme.
- c. a License Agreement shall be in force between the Approved Supplier and the ITTF in respect of the Equipment.

10. Quality Inspection

Quality Inspections are applicable to all Equipment and are carried out to ensure that any Equipment on the market continues to conform to the standards and specifications met upon Approval.

Quality Inspections are divided to two subcategories:

- a. Scheduled Quality Inspection (SQI)
- b. Random Quality Inspection (RQI)

10.1. Scheduled Quality Inspection (SQI)

The ITTF has in place scheduled series of Tests for each type of Equipment, as described below. Testing Fees are to be paid in respect of all Tests. Any Equipment subject to Testing for which the relevant Testing Fee has not been paid within 30 days of invoice shall be removed from the TTX List.

10.1.1. Balls:

Scheduled Quality Inspection of Balls might take place every 4 years. The TTX Equipment Staff shall purchase samples for Testing on the open market.

Procedure:

- a. ITTF buys samples of randomly selected brands from the market.
- b. These samples are sent to the TTX Testing Institutes for Testing.
- c. If the balls pass the Tests, the Approval is maintained (subject to payment of the Testing Fee).
- d. If the balls fail the first Test, then a second Test is applied, following the same procedure for the first Test. If there is a failure in this second Test the ITTF will purchase new samples from the markets. If this third Test is successful then the Approval is maintained. If not, then the balls shall be suspended from the TTX List. For the avoidance of doubt, each Test shall be subject to a Testing Fee.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

10.1.2. Tables

Scheduled Quality Inspection of Tables might take place every 10 years. The TTX Equipment Staff shall notify the Approved Supplier of the Test and the Approved Supplier shall submit Tables for the Test to the relevant TTX Testing Institute. Details of the relevant procedures and requirements for the Testing will be sent to the Approved Supplier together with the notice of the Test.

10.1.3. Nets

Scheduled Quality Inspection of Nets takes place as and when the ITTF deems necessary. The TTX Equipment Staff shall notify the Approved Supplier of the Test and the Approved Supplier shall submit Nets for the Test to the relevant TTX Testing Institute. Details of the relevant procedures and requirements for the Testing will be sent to the Approved Supplier together with the notice of the Test.

10.1.4. Rackets

Scheduled Quality Inspection of Rackets might take place every 10 years. The TTX Equipment Staff shall notify the supplier of the Test and the Approved Supplier shall submit Rackets for the Test to the relevant TTX Testing Institute. Details of the relevant procedures and requirements for the Testing will be sent to the Approved Supplier together with the notice of the Test.

10.2. Random Quality Inspection (RQI)

Without prejudice to the Scheduled Quality Inspections, ITTF has the right to acquire, inspect and Test Equipment from the market or during an event **at anytime**. The ITTF shall pay the cost of any Test carried out for a Random Quality Inspection save where the Equipment fails the Test in which case the Approved Supplier shall remunerate the ITTF for the costs of the same.

10.3. Costs

All costs of shipping shall be paid by the Approved Supplier.

11. Changes to Approved Equipment

Although the ITTF does not wish to limit what may be sold within the ranges expressed in the Rule Book, and under the TTX Technical Requirements and TTX Brand Guidelines and this Scheme, once an item is Approved it may not be modified or altered in any way unless and until written permission has been obtained from the TTX Equipment Staff. This restriction on modification includes:

11.1. Any change on the Equipment itself, such as:

- a. a change in the manufacturing process
- b. a change in the material, structure, paint (referring to material not colours).
- c. a change in the grading procedure of a ball

11.2. Any change in the packaging, the marking on Equipment or the advertising, which could imply that the Equipment itself has changed. Before anything is changed, the artwork should be submitted to the ITTF for Approval.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

11.3. Any change of manufacturer or manufacturing site of a piece of Equipment. This could lead to a change in the Equipment that is neither foreseen nor immediately apparent.

11.4. Advertising any item as TTX Approved, even if it has been Tested and accepted, under a different brand name than the one under which it was Approved. Manufacturers who provide Equipment under other brand names than the one Approved should notify suppliers that they must pursue their own separate Approval, if they wish to market the Equipment as TTX Approved.

12. Trademarks/Brands

Change of brand ownership: If an Approved Supplier is subject to a change of Control, the Equipment will remain Approved subject to the new controllers entering into a novation of the existing License Agreement. The ITTF will inform the new controller that all outstanding fees (including but not limited to Approval Fees and Testing Fees) owing to the ITTF, if any, should be settled.

Otherwise the Equipment will be removed from the TTX Lists.

Offensive trademarks/brands: It is at the ITTF's own discretion to reject any Equipment which carries logos or advertising that would be considered offensive.

Brands under players' names: In case of an application using a top level player's name or part of his/her name as brand name, the ITTF at its own discretion may require the Applicant to provide a written confirmation by the player, before processing the application.

Suppliers, who previously used the TTX Trademark illegally: The ITTF can refuse an application from an Applicant which previously used the TTX Trademark for non-Approved Equipment under the same or different brand name on the application. The ITTF can further reject the application from an Applicant who may have obtained the rights from a previous supplier, who illegally used the TTX Trademark for non-Approved Equipment.

13. Approved Suppliers' contact details

It is the Approved Suppliers' responsibility to inform the ITTF if they have changes in contact details, such as e-mail addresses, contact persons, postal address etc. Failure to notify the ITTF of any such changes may result in the Approved Supplier's Equipment Approved being suspended.

14. Approval and Testing Fees

14.1. Testing Fee

Equipment (per line)	Balls	Nets	Rackets	Tables
Testing Fee	USD 1250	USD *	USD 750	USD *

*Testing Fees for Nets and Tables to be determined.

Tables which have been approved by the ITTF for table tennis shall also be deemed Approved for the purposes of TTX.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

14.2. TTX Approval Fee

Equipment (per line)	Balls	Nets	Rackets	Tables
STELLAR	USD 1500	USD 1000	USD 1500	USD 3000
SOLID	USD 1300	USD *	USD *	USD *

The ITTF reserves the right to change the Testing Fees and Approval Fees from time to time. Applicants and Approved Suppliers should contact the TTX Equipment Staff to confirm the rates currently applicable.

15. Penalties and Fines

The following Penalties and Fines may be levied by the ITTF against an Approved Supplier for the following reasons and at the following amounts:

Description	Amount
Unauthorised advertisements on Approved Equipment *	Up to USD 50 000
False claims (on Equipment, advertisements, marketing channels etc) *	Up to USD 50 000
Changes without the prior Approval of TTX*	Up to USD 30 000
Use of the TTX logo on non-Approved Equipment *	Up to USD 50 000
No date code on balls packaging and table-tops	USD 1 500
Breach of deadline for payments (as described earlier)	USD 5 000
Repeated breach of deadlines for payments (>3 times)	USD 10 000
First repeat of any Infringement (except payments)	x 2
More than two repeats of any Infringement	x 4
Outstanding payment and other severe Infringement *	Can lead to suspension of Equipment or, in extreme cases, suspension of supplier's line of Equipment.

All cases marked with (*) will be reported by the TTX Equipment Staff to the ITTF Management, before a Fine or Suspension is imposed.

All other Penalties and Fines will be imposed automatically by the TTX Equipment Staff.

In cases of illegal use of the TTX Trademark by companies not participating on the Approval Scheme the following procedure will apply:

- A warning letter will be sent to the Approved Supplier, with requested correction action.
- In case the company does not act accordingly, the case will be reported to the ITTF Management
- Further legal action may be taken.

TTX EQUIPMENT APPROVAL SCHEME

16. Calendar

Month	Required actions by the ITTF	Required SUPPLIERS	actions by Testing
January	01 Jan: Publication of the Lists of TTX Approved Equipment		B, N, R, T
			B, N, R, T
March			B, N, R, T
			B, N, R, T
May			B, N, R, T
			B, N, R, T
July			B, N, R, T
			B, N, R, T
September			B, N, R, T
	Beginning Oct: Call for changes for the following year's Lists of TTX Approved Equipment	End Oct: Submission of changes for the following year's Lists of TTX Approved Equipment	B, N, R, T
November	Beginning Nov: Invoicing of Approval Fees for the following year's Lists of TTX Approved Equipment	30 Nov: Deadline for payments of Approval Fees for the following year's Lists of TTX Approved Equipment	B, N, R, T
			B, N, R, F

* **B**= Balls | **N**= Nets | **R**= Rackets | **T**= Tables

17. TTX Contact Information

For further TTX equipment enquiries please contact:

Email address: equipment@ttx.world