



March 4, 2014

Re: Challenge Grant to Support a historic table tennis school initiative.

Dear Supporter of Youth Table Tennis Programs

We are excited to inform you that the *New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) will add table tennis as an official varsity sport of the New York City High Schools in the spring of 2014.* This is a first! We at AYTTO see this a huge and landmark opportunity, for the school children of New York City, and for our sport at large -locally, regionally and nationally.

To make this work effectively, we need your support. Can you help us introduce the Olympic sport of table tennis to hundreds of New York City school children?

Purpose-Rationale: AYTTO-NYCDOE Strategic Partnership.

No major public educational system in the United States currently includes table tennis as an official varsity sport. A High school student who wishes to play high school table tennis in the United States must find a teacher to sponsor and form a “club”. In doing so, this student is immediately relegated to limited budgets and reduced stature. That same student who wants to play baseball, has all the resources available - a dedicated school coach, equipment, training, competition, added stature, and an opportunity to improve. *Adding Table Tennis as an official varsity sport, injects money into our sport via the school athletic department – a new channel of funding.*

The NYCDOE budget for table tennis is \$150 thousand to be spent in spring of 2014. 12 High Schools, 125 interscholastic matches, a playoffs and a New York City High School Championships! The vision is to have 64 schools playing table tennis in three years. Girls and Boys teams, ten deep, playing table tennis for their high school – a pathway to college – a lifetime sport. We envision at least 1,500 students playing competitive table tennis for their high school in three short years. A first. If successful, other school districts around the country will follow.

The NYCDOE has committed to the program, but they need our expertise and your support. Table Tennis is technical and requires know-how. We bring the needed expertise – equipment, workshops, coaches, and tournament management. This expertise costs money. And to ensure a New York City’s decision to add table tennis is a correct one, we need your support!

USA Table Tennis, recognizes the significance of the NYCDOE’s decision. And have offered to assist by offering a dollar for dollar challenge grant.

Can you help? Your donation for this initiative will be matched dollar to dollar by USA Table Tennis. Visit www.aytto.org for an online donation or mail a check to AYTTO, PO Box 155, Irvington, NY 10533. All donations are tax deductible. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Ben Nisbet and AYTTO Board of Directors.

FACT SHEET

Background: AYTTO is a 501c3 not for profit organization. Over the past 10 years we have raised over \$1 million dollars with proceeds going to support table tennis activities in New York City public schools. Our key programs currently are:

- Middle School Table Tennis League: 16 to 24 schools participate in the league.
- AYTTO Saturday Academy: 15-20 school children each Saturday.
- AYTTO Sunday Academy: 30 to 40 school children each Sunday.
- Mayors Cup for Table Tennis: Table Tennis Tournament in partnership with New York City
- After School Instruction: 12 Schools pay for direct AYTTO coaching instruction.
- AYTTO Summer Camps. In partnership with Sports & Arts in School Foundation

The number of school children we serve each year ranges from 1,800 to 3,000. We have forged strong partnership with the New York City Department of Education, Chinese Community Center of Flushing, Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation, Henry Street Settlement, Charles B Wang Community Medical Center and other local area Not for Profits. Our website is www.aytto.org.

New York City Varsity High School Table Tennis:

- The New York City Public Schools assigns administration of varsity sports to the Public School Athletic League (PSAL). The PSAL itself is a 501c3 not for profit. Its sole mission is to organize and run New York City High School Sports on behalf of the NYCDOE. The PSAL's website is www.psal.org. Currently the PSAL boasts 39 official varsity sports offered to New York City High School Students. Table Tennis is slated to become the 40th varsity sport.
- AYTTO will provide PSAL with know-how, expertise and funding. The funding component is essential and will help tie in success. Beat the Streets Wrestling and City Lax (Lacrosse) for example regularly contribute monies to the PSAL for their respective sports. The model of AYTTO providing expertise to the PSAL assures a strong partnership and a sharing of resources.
- PSAL table tennis will be modelled after tennis - Separate Boys and Girls Teams, 7-10 Players on a team, with three singles and two doubles.

-----Cut here and mail to address below-----

Pledge Form

First Name: _____ Last Name _____ Company (if applicable)

Email: _____ Amount: \$50, \$100, \$500, Other Amount: _____:

(We plan to list all supporters behind this initiative on AYTTO, USATT and PSAL websites. Please let us know if you would like your donation to be: Anonymous or Public