

COOL-DOWN GUIDE

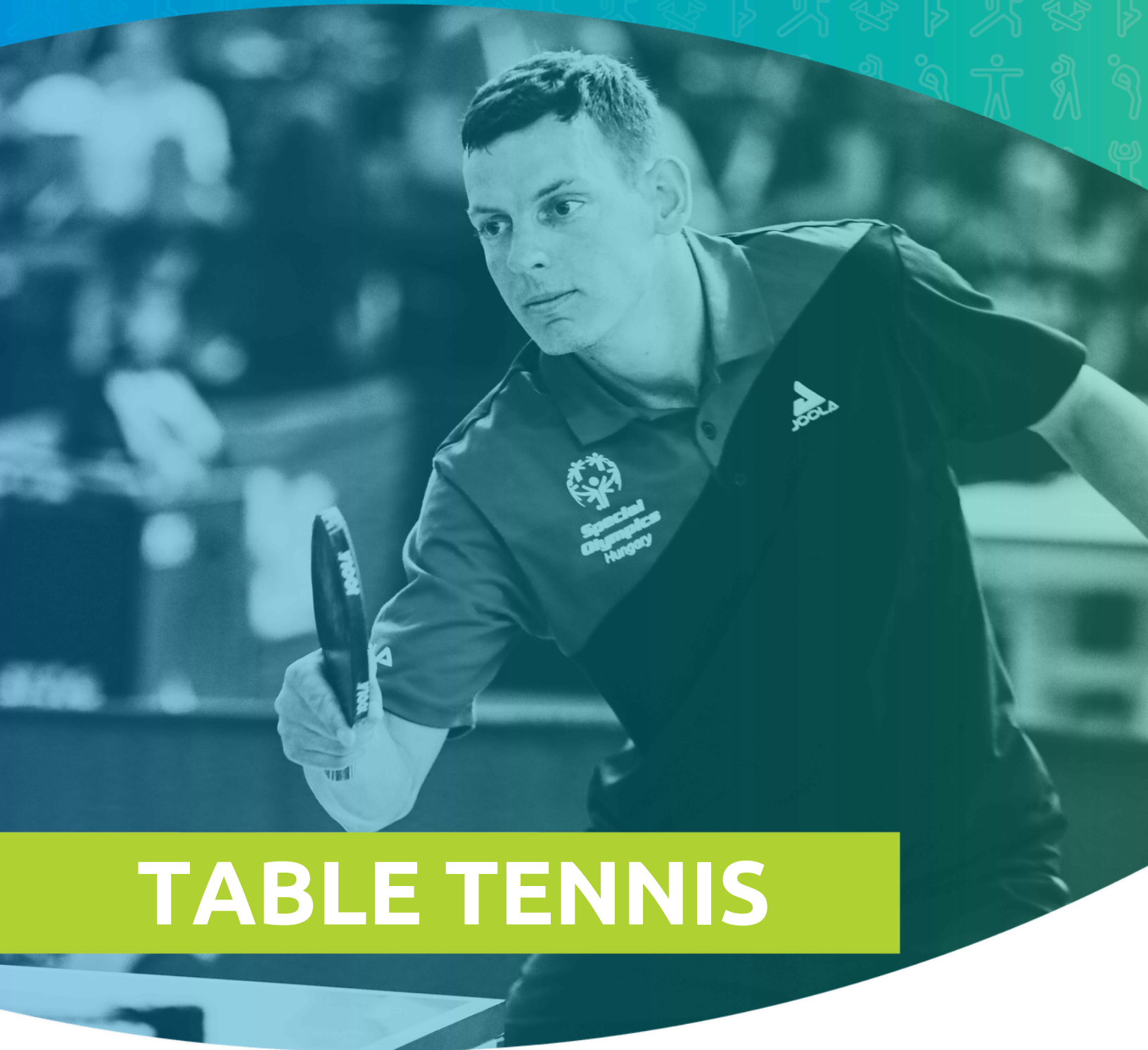


TABLE TENNIS

***Special
Olympics***





Special Olympics **Health**

MADE
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Cool-Down Directions

When your training, practice or sport session is complete, you should always cool-down. A good cool-down allows your body to gradually return to a state of rest.

A typical cool-down includes:

1. Light aerobic activity
2. Static stretching

The aerobic activity in a cool-down should decrease in intensity. It could be a light jog, moving into a brisk walk and finally ending to a slow walk.

After you complete the light aerobic activity, you will want to stretch. Stretching for flexibility is very effective in the cool-down.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- Hold each stretch for **at least 30 seconds**.
- **Stretch both sides** – if you stretch your right shoulder muscle, stretch the left!
- Stretches should be performed to **mild discomfort**, but should not be painful.



Sample Cool-Down

LIGHT AEROBIC ACTIVITY

The light aerobic activity in a cool-down should decrease in intensity. It could be a light jog, moving into a brisk walk and finally ending to a slow walk.

STATIC STRETCHES

Unlike dynamic stretches, static stretches consist of one position that is held in place. If you don't have enough time, select a few that focus on the different muscles used in your sport:

- Calf Stretch
- Cross Body Shoulder Stretch
- Neck Flexion and Extension
- Quadriceps Stretch
- Rounded Upper Back Stretch
- Triceps Stretch
- Wrist Flexion and Extension



Butterfly Stretch

DIRECTIONS

- Sit on the ground with the bottoms of your feet touching each other.
- Let your knees fall toward the floor. Your feet should be close to your body.
- Sit tall and lean forward over your feet.
- You should feel a stretch in your groin.



Calf Stretch



DIRECTIONS

- Stand facing a wall. Put your hands against the wall at shoulder height.
- Put one foot in front of the other.
- Bend your elbows and lean in toward the wall. You will feel a stretch in your calves.
- Keep your knee straight and your hips forward. Make sure your heel stays on the ground.
- Switch your feet and repeat the stretch.

Cross Arm Shoulder Stretch

DIRECTIONS

- Cross your left arm across your chest with your elbow slightly bent. Make sure to keep your left shoulder down away from your ear.
- Place your right hand on the back of your left arm just above the elbow. Pull your left arm in toward your chest until you feel a stretch. Repeat with your right arm.



Hamstring Stretch

DIRECTIONS

- Stand tall with your left foot a few inches in front of your right foot. Lift your left toes.
- Bend your right knee slightly and lean your body forward.
- Reach for your left toes with your left hand. Keep your right hand on top of your right thigh for balance and support.
- You should feel a stretch in the back of your left leg.
- Repeat the stretch with your right leg forward.

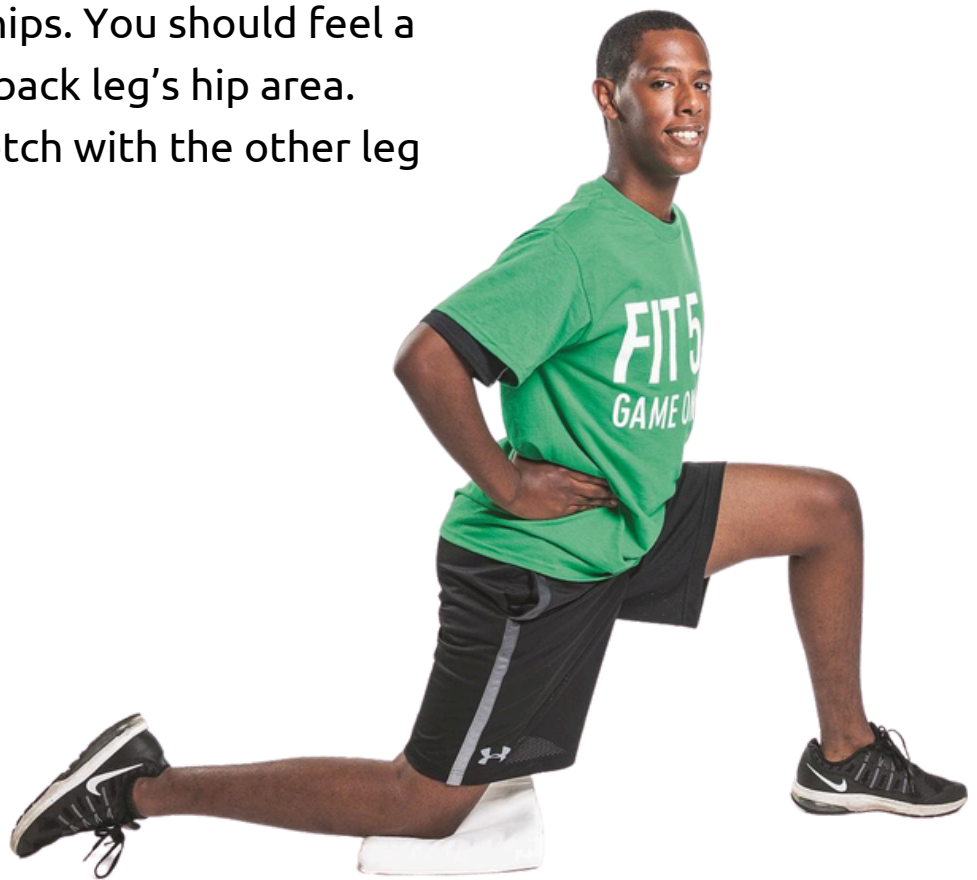
NOTE: You can also do this stretch kneeling on the ground.



Kneeling Hip Stretch

DIRECTIONS

- Kneel on the ground.
- Take one big step forward. Bend your front leg.
- Push your hips forward and put your hands on your hips. You should feel a stretch in your back leg's hip area.
- Repeat the stretch with the other leg in front.



Knee to Chest

DIRECTIONS

- Lie on your back with your legs straight.
- Bring your right knee toward your chest.
- Wrap your hands underneath your knee. Pull your leg closer to your body until you feel a stretch in the back of your right thigh.
- Repeat the stretch on your left leg.



Modified Hurdler's Stretch

DIRECTIONS

- Sit on the floor with your left leg straight out in front of you.
- Bend your right leg. Place the bottom of your right foot on the inside of your left knee. Let your right knee fall towards the floor.
- Keep your back straight. Bend your hips toward your left knee and reach toward your left foot. You should feel a stretch in the back of your left leg and the inside of your right hip.
- Repeat this stretch with your right leg straight and your left leg bent.



Triceps Stretch

DIRECTIONS

- Stand or sit tall with your left arm by your ear. Bend your elbow so that your hand touches your back.
- Reach over your head with your right arm. Grab your left elbow with your right hand. Pull your left arm even closer to your ear. You should feel a stretch in your upper left arm.
- Repeat the stretch with your right arm by your ear and your left arm grabbing your right elbow.



Wrist Flexion & Extension



FLEXION

DIRECTIONS

- Sit or stand with your head up and looking forward.
- **Extension:** Turn your palm towards the ground. Use the other hand to pull your hand down toward the ground.
- **Flexion:** Turn your palm face up toward the ceiling. Use the other hand to pull your fingers back toward the ground.
- Switch arms and repeat both stretches.



EXTENSION

Benefits of a Cool-Down

It is just as important to have a good cool-down as it is to have a good warm-up. A good cool-down **allows the body to gradually return to a state of rest.**

Physical and Mental Benefits

- Decrease heart rate
- Decrease breathing rate
- Decrease body and muscle temperature
- Returns rate of blood flow from the active muscles to resting level
- Decrease muscle soreness
- Improve flexibility
- Increases the rate of recovery from exercise
- Promote relaxation