



ITTF AFRICA WEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LAGOS 2025



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Three-Horse Race In Men's Singles Showdown Thrills Lagos

THE men's singles event at the 2025 ITTF Africa West Regional Championships is shaping up to be a thrilling showdown, with three former champions vying for the coveted title as the tournament concludes on Saturday, July 19.

With the level of competition intensifying, even seasoned table tennis enthusiasts are finding it difficult to predict who will emerge victorious.

The spotlight is firmly on Côte d'Ivoire's Oba Oba Kizito (2019 champion), Nigeria's Taiwo Mati (2022 champion), and the defending champion, Matthew Kuti of Nigeria.

Kizito, who clinched the inaugural title in Abidjan in 2019, is aiming to become the first player to win the championship twice. However, both Mati and Kuti are equally determined to etch their names in the record books with a second title.

Based on his flawless performance in the team event, Kuti appears to be the man to beat. The reigning champion has yet to drop a single

game throughout the tournament, showcasing a blend of confidence and precision. However, his tendency to rush points could prove costly if not managed carefully in the high-stakes matches ahead.

Mati, on the other hand, has had a mixed tournament. After suffering a group-stage loss to an Ivorian opponent – a defeat he later avenged in the team final – his form remains under scrutiny. The Portugal-based star has yet to display the dominance expected of him and will need to raise his game to challenge for the title in Lagos.

Kizito may not have the best record against Nigerian players, but he remains a dangerous contender. Known for his ability to rise to the occasion, the Ivorian is in Lagos with a clear mission and cannot be underestimated.

In the women's singles, Nigeria remains firmly in control, with their top players advancing confidently through the group stages. However, predicting the eventual winner remains a tall order, as the competition heats up heading into the final day.



Although Nigeria reclaimed the top spot in the men's team event, Togo found cause for celebration by clinching the final qualification berth for the 2025 African Championships. After defeating Benin in the third-place match, the Togolese men's team earned their place among the three West African contingents heading to the continental showpiece in Rwanda later this year, joining Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire in representing the region.

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Dominant Nigeria Sweeps West African Team Titles

NIGERIA’S men’s team reclaimed their crown at the 2025 ITTF Africa West Regional Championships on Thursday, July 17, with a commanding victory over Côte d’Ivoire in the final.

Earlier in the tournament, the Nigerian women’s team, led by Ajoke Ojomu, continued their regional dominance with a flawless run, defeating Benin Republic, Ghana, and Guinea to retain their title.

The four-day event also served as a qualifier for the 2025 African Championships, scheduled to take place later this year in Kigali, Rwanda.

After narrowly losing the title to Togo in 2024, the Nigerian men returned with renewed determination. Playing on home soil in Lagos, they powered through the group stage, dropping only a single set,

ironically to Côte d’Ivoire.

From the quarterfinals onward, the trio of Matthew Kuti, Taiwo Mati and Abdulbasit Abdulfatai delivered a series of dominant performances, culminating in a 3-0 sweep of the Ivorians in the final.

The singles competition continues on Friday, July 18, with intense battles expected. Defending men’s singles champion Oba Oba Kizito of Côte d’Ivoire faces stiff competition from Nigeria’s Taiwo Mati and Matthew Kuti, both former champions. Players from Togo and the Benin Republic are also in strong contention for podium finishes.

Guinea’s Maret Camara made a strong impression by topping Group 9 with a 3-0 win over Ghana’s James Marfo.

Meanwhile, Nigeria’s Matthew Fabunmi suffered the country’s only singles defeat so far, narrowly losing 3-2 to Benin Republic’s Atanda Adou in Group 11.

In the women’s singles, Nigeria’s representatives — Ajoke Ojomu, Kabirat Ayoola, Aishat Rabi, Favour Ojo, Maryam Ahmed and Sukurat Aiyelabegan — all topped their respective groups to advance to the knockout stage.

The tournament concludes on Saturday, July 19, with champions to be crowned in both the men’s and women’s singles events.

Ten countries, including host nation Nigeria, are competing in this four-event regional championship. The top three teams in each category will qualify for the continental finals in Rwanda this October.



Baba Ijebu Bet Players of Day 1; Cote d'Ivoire's duo of Dosso Ben Moussa and 12-year-old Eve Ndah, on Wednesday, July 16, 2025



Valuejet Players of Day 2; Togo's Kossi Akakpo and Nigeria's Kabirat Ayoola on Thursday, July 17, 2025