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ENGLISH VERSION



*Photo: Manfred Schillings*

## **Tobias Bergman in extended role as national team captain**

**36-year-old Tobias Bergman has deservedly been the national team captain for the Swedish women's national team since 2022. Now he enters a completely new role as responsible national team captain for both the senior women's and men's national teams. The position will be formally assumed on the first of November.**

**– In the reorganization we are now carrying out in the national teams, Tobias has been the first choice for this modern solution where we want to work in a new way for the next four years. Tobias is a recognized good player developer with a lot of accumulated international experience in recent years, says Daniel Ellermann, Sports Director at the Swedish Table Tennis Association.**

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Since the outgoing captain of the men's national team, Jörgen Persson, internally announced his end after the Olympics in Paris, the Swedish Table Tennis Association's national team management has worked intensively and made far-reaching future predictions about how international table tennis will develop, and how Sweden should best face the future with strength.

It is now clear that Tobias Bergman will occupy a unique role in Swedish table tennis.

– It is a great honor and a fantastic challenge to step into this newly created role. I look forward to contributing with both experience and innovative thinking, as well as a strong commitment to ensure that Swedish table tennis continues to develop. Our goal is to consolidate Sweden's position as a world nation in men's table tennis in the short term, while at the same time building a long-term plan to lift women's table tennis to the same level, says Tobias Bergman.

– In an increasingly competitive everyday life, we have looked at a model where we can work better and more closely with player development, both for our absolute top players, but also those who are behind a possible Olympic squad in four years. We also need to look at the effects for the Olympics in eight years or even further, says Daniel Ellermann.

– We see great gains in having an overall responsible captain. With Tobias Bergman, we get a person who has gained great experience in recent years, who knows the international systems in depth and has been close to both national team groups for a long time, continues Daniel Ellermann

### **Player development and assistant manager**

The model is based on the national team captain working with a greater focus on player development, in collaboration with the Swedish elite environments and in the national team players' international training environments. The STTA will attach a number of assistant leaders to the national team captain, who will flexibly contribute to competence at camps and coaching at championships and on the world tour.

One name that is clear is Peter Blomqvist, 51 years old from Söderhamn, and who was previously the men's national team 2017–2020.

– Peter is part of Tobias' permanent staff of assistant leaders who will be expanded with more people. The overall organizational solution makes us more flexible where an individual person does not have to have 300 travel days per year. We will have a stronger leadership group, where developments can be discussed more broadly. We also get a much clearer common thread between junior and senior national teams, concludes Daniel Ellermann.

### **The management staff for the EC in Linz 15–21 October**

For the EC in Linz next week, Tobias Bergman will be the responsible leader for the ladies. Jon Persson makes further efforts as a coach when he will be responsible for the men. Peter Blomqvist will assist on both the women's and men's side.



### **Facts/Tobias Bergman**

Age: 36 years

Lives: Stockholm

Previous leadership achievements: Captain of the women's national team 2022–2024, responsible captain of the cadet and junior national teams 2020–2022

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