



European Table Tennis Union

EUROPE
TOP 16 CUP | 中国建设银行
MONTREUX (SWITZERLAND)



中国建设银行
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LIEBHERR

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Sofia Polcanova

AGE

31

EU RANKING

2

NATION

MOLDOVIAN, AUSTRIAN

PLAYING STYLE

OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE

PLAYING HAND

LEFT

CLUB

KINOSHITA ABYELL KANAGAWA

DATE OF BIRTH	3 SEPTEMBER 1994
HEIGHT	180 CM
PLACE OF BIRTH	CHISINĂU, MOLDOVA
GRIP STYLE	SHAKEHAND
COACH	LIU YAN JUN / BIAN YA DONG
WORLD RANKING	33
CLUBS AS THE ACTIVE PLAYER(S)	KINOSHITA ABYELL KANAGAWA

MEDALS AND TITLES

WTT Events

- 2024 Star Contender Doha, Women's Doubles – Bronze
- 2023 Contender Amman, Women's Singles – Bronze
- 2023 Contender Doha, Women's Doubles – Bronze
- 2022 European Summer Series, Women's Doubles – Bronze
- 2022 Contender Zagreb, Women's Doubles – Bronze
- 2022 Singapore Smash, Women's Doubles – Bronze

World Championships

- 2025 Doha Women's Doubles (with Bernadette Szőcs) – Silver medal – second place
- 2023 Women's Doubles (with Bernadette Szőcs) – Quarterfinalist

European Championships

- 2024 Linz Singles – Gold medal – first place
- 2024 Linz Mixed Doubles (with Robert Gardos) – Silver medal – second place
- 2024 Linz Doubles (with Bernadette Szőcs) – Silver medal – second place
- 2022 Munich Singles – Gold medal – first place
- 2018 Alicante Singles – Bronze medal – third place

Europe Top 16 Cup

- 2020 – Europe Top 16, Women's Singles – Bronze
- 2019 – Europe Top 16, Women's Singles – Bronze

National Titles

- 2009 Moldovan Junior National Championships Singles – Gold medal – first place
- 2009 Moldovan Junior National Championships Doubles – Gold medal – first place

PLAYING STYLE AND PERSONALITY

Left-handed shakehand grip with an offensive, topspin-driven game built on strong forehand and backhand looping, tactical block transitions, and precise placement. Maintains consistency in long rallies and adapts tempo against higher-ranked opponents. On court, she demonstrates resilience

and composure under pressure, frequently delivering competitive performances in tight matches. Off the table, she is regarded as determined, humble, and approachable, reinforcing her status as a role model for young athletes in Austria and beyond.

BREAKTHROUGH MOMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2025

World Championships, Doha

- Reached the women's doubles final with Bernadette Szőcs, winning silver and delivering a historic performance as the first European women's doubles pairing to reach a World Championships final since 1977. Solidified her status among the world's elite in doubles competition.

2024

European Championships, Linz

- Won the women's singles title on home soil, marking her second European singles crown. Added two silvers in women's doubles (with Bernadette Szőcs) and mixed doubles (with Robert Gardos), completing one of the strongest continental campaigns of her career.

Olympic Games, Paris

- Reached the quarterfinals in women's singles, demonstrating competitive progress on the world stage and delivering her most successful Olympic performance to date.

Europe Top 16 Cup

- Runner-up in women's singles, reinforcing her top-tier position in European competition.

2023

Europe Top 16 Cup

- Women's singles runner-up, consolidating her presence among the continent's most consistent performers.

2022

European Championships, Munich

- Claimed the women's singles title and added a women's doubles title, confirming her status as one of Europe's leading players.

2018

European Championships, Alicante

- Bronze medal in women's singles, marking her first major individual podium and signaling her rise within Europe.

2017

ITTF World Tour Croatia Open

- Women's singles runner-up, one of her first significant tour-level breakthroughs.

CAREER

Born on September 3, 1994, in Chișinău, Moldova, Sofia Polcanova moved to Austria as a teenager to pursue elite training and soon emerged as a key figure in Austrian table tennis. Representing Austria internationally, she progressed from junior promise to senior consistency, earning multiple European Championship titles across singles and doubles and reaching a career-high world ranking of No. 10 in 2022. A three-time Olympian (Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024), she continued her international impact in 2025 by reaching the World Championships women's doubles final, securing a historic silver for Europe. Her career reflects over a decade of competitive relevance on the European and global circuits.

LEGACY AND FUTURE GOALS

Widely regarded as one of Austria's most successful table tennis players, Polcanova's legacy is anchored in multiple European titles, sustained global competitiveness, and a landmark World Championships silver medal. Her achievements have elevated Austria's international profile and inspired developing players, particularly in Austria and Moldova. Looking forward, her goals include pursuing further World and Olympic medals, consolidating her position among the world's top singles competitors, and contributing to Austria's international success while supporting the next generation of talent.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Instagram: @sofia.polcanova