

Competition Review Phase II: Outline Modelling Agreed Proposals

December 2022



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Part 1 Recap



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Steps so far

- ✓ Project brief agreed – goal, scope, aims
- ✓ Competition mapping process
- ✓ External insight – benchmark NGBs, European TTAs
- ✓ Internal insight – 1:1 interviews & member forums
- ✓ Membership consultation
- ✓ Analysis
- ✓ Phase I: Vision and Principles agreed
- Operational/ functional feedback being progressed as complementary strands
- Phase II: Outline Modelling

... each step builds on the foundations on the last – reflecting the feedback & consultation processes

Principles – agreed ✓

“Must focus on performance of younger players and help them get better”

- Three strands: i) invitational National Championships/Cups/series, ii) tiered open tournaments, iii) national leagues – plus schools
- Table Tennis England to better structure and regulate external events, and deliver centrally less and in more specific areas
- Introduction of a periodised calendar, with specific dates for competitions and tiered tournaments
- Lower-tier tournaments to run concurrent at local level, mid-tier tournaments concurrent at regional level and higher-tier tournaments standalone at national level – and create environment for top-tier open tournaments to attract best players (inc from overseas), eg 2 or 3 focus events
- Make lower-level open events easier to access and more affordable to deliver, with flexibility for innovative formats
- Hosts to apply for events/ dates, which are apportioned centrally to maximise appropriate geographical spread for each age-group
- Critical focus for national events on Cadet and Junior, with the introduction of regional series for U11/U13
- More U21/U23 opportunities to bridge Junior-Senior transition and reduce dropout
- Supporting increased women and girls’ participation via dedicated events and mixed gender opportunities
- Offer Para categories at core age-groups at National Champs (with support from BPTT) and inclusive options/ adaptive rules at opens
- Recognition should be made in national league events of ‘proper clubs’ in order to support club development
- Reduce boundaries/ distinctions between event stakeholders (counties, regions, clubs, leagues) to create consistent approach/ opportunities - and remove competing demands on players whilst giving clarity on playing options
- Rebrand and restructure for simplicity, consistency and in plain-English – e.g. national leagues under one umbrella

refer to Phase 1 for all principles agreed ... further principles feed-in at Phase III

Approach

- Consider the big picture
- Look forward – not back
- Grasp new opportunities & embrace change
- Avoid duplication
- Be bold

*“TTE need to be willing
to make tough
decisions”*

“Grasp the nettle!”

Evolution of Phase II

- Initial Phase II proposals were submitted by the Steering Group to the Board Meeting on 08 September
- Board provided guidance as follows:
 - TTE to continue to centrally deliver the Veterans national league programme
 - Some additional consultation to be undertaken, and specifically relating to the role of County Championships
- A number of updates/ consultations were subsequently undertaken:
 - MAG
 - Open member sessions (x2)
 - National Council
 - VETTS
- Additionally, further conversations were undertaken with the ELCC Committee, the Chair of TAP (Tournament Approval Panel), and in respect of the MAG 'Tournament Report'. National Council and the ELCC Committee also submitted written responses following their verbal feedback
- **This was all very helpful and provided valuable additional insight to help the Project Team and the Steering Group refine proposals which were submitted to Board for further consideration**
- Non-evidenced outlier opinions that ran contrary to the 'body of knowledge' established from mapping + external insight + internal insight + forums + 1:1 interviews + consultation + analysis + modelling + feedback were not incorporated
- An overview of the key feedback during Phase II is provided for info in the Appendix (slides 24-27)

Overseen & proposed by the Steering Group:

Name	Role (if applicable)	Remit/ Representation
Neil Rogers*	Head of Competition	Chair
Simon Mills	Director of Sport	General
Simon Griew*	Board member (tenure now complete)	Ranking
Greg Yarnall	Head of Development & Volunteering	Participation
Alan Cooke	Technical Director	Performance
Brian Jackson	Chair of Technical Officials Committee (TOC)	Technical Officials
Don Parker*	Board member (elected)	Members
Neil Hurford*	Chair of Members' Advisory Group (MAG)	Members
Gary Wood	British League General Secretary	Clubs and organisers
Graham Trimming	Member	Clubs and organisers
Kelly Sibley	Senior Women's Team Captain	Players
Graeme Barella	Member	Players
Sandra Deaton	Chair	Ex-officio
Adrian Christy	CEO	Ex-officio

*Support, guide,
and 'test &
challenge' prior to
Board*

Those denoted * also comprise the Project Team



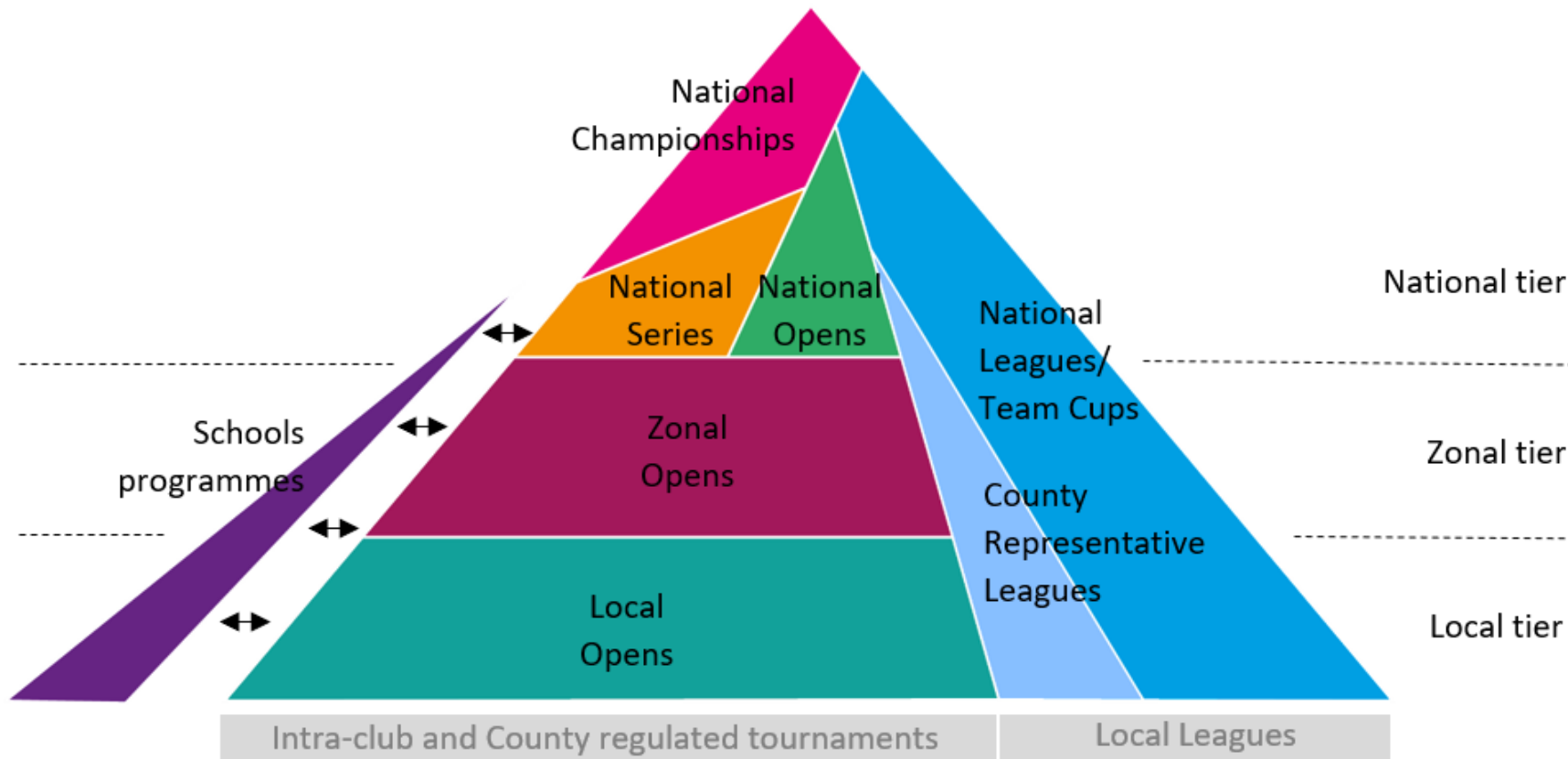
Part 2

Model & Competition Formats



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National competition model



- National Championships + Series + Leagues/ Team Cups delivered (or supported) centrally
- Other events regulated and structured by TTE, supported and enabled by TTE community
- The structure identifies the complementary approaches suitable to enable all competitions strands to develop and thrive

Centrally-delivered Competitions - Individual: *unchanged*

Programme	Description	Current events in this space
National Championships (closed)	A series of three annual KO tournaments for men's and women's individuals at U11 & U13s, Cadet, U17 & Junior, U21 & Unrestricted age-groups. Restricted to the top24-48 England-eligible players, determined by rankings, and additionally via qualification from national open tournaments and wildcards. Para categories and doubles pairings included at U15, U19 and Snr levels	Broadly unchanged, with addition of Para categories (age-groups realigned in 20/21)
National Series (closed)	A series of four events each season for boys and girls at U13, Cadet and Junior age-groups, played in a one-day/ small-group/ round-robin format, with promotion/ relegation between groups after each event. Restricted to the top10-30 GB or England - eligible players, depending on age-group/ gender, determined by rankings at the beginning of the season. Vacancies due to injury or unavailability filled on an invitational basis. Boys on Saturday/ girls on Sunday/ age-group events to rotate around hosts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadet National Cup (1) • Junior National Cup (1)

Centrally-delivered/ supported Competitions - Team

Programme	Description	Current events in this space
National Leagues (open)	<p>A national merit league structure open to clubs, counties and teams across GB at different age-groups/ genders: <u>U15</u> (mixed then both genders), <u>U19</u> (mixed then both genders), <u>Unrestricted</u> (mixed), <u>Unrestricted</u> (women's) and <u>Veterans</u> (both genders)</p> <p>An evolution of existing Leagues is proposed in order to achieve greater overall alignment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NCL/ NJL and British League</i> will move under a single club league umbrella and become more directly aligned in terms of branding, TTE support and processes – <u>though no change is proposed to the formats of either competition</u> • Local delivery will be supported by the area staffing structure • The national Junior club competition will be expanded (to three or four weekends for boys and girls teams) whilst avoiding entry cost increases to participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British League – Junior (JBL), Senior (SBL), Women's (WBL), Veterans (VBL) • National Cadet & Junior Leagues (NCL/ NJL)
National Leagues (county representative)	<p>A County representative merit league structure open to counties within GB in mixed gender teams at <u>U15</u>, <u>U19</u>, <u>Unrestricted</u>, <u>Veterans</u> and <u>O60s</u> – <u>no immediate change is proposed to the formats of these competitions</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Championships – Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veterans, O60s
National Team Cups (closed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>U11/U13 Area</u>: a targeted team competition opportunity for specific boys and girls age-groups at area level where critical mass does not exist at club or county level. To be supported locally by the area staffing structure. Springboard to National Leagues • <u>Local League Representative Team Knock-out Cup</u>: at boys and girls <u>Junior</u> and men and women <u>Unrestricted</u> age-groups in zonal rounds prior to national finals – <u>no immediate change is proposed to the formats of these competitions</u> • <u>Unrestricted Club</u>: the national 'Senior' club competition will include a KO cup for the top division clubs. Pinnacle event for the very best teams as season finale and showcase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Leagues Cup Competition • Inter-Regional Competition (partial)

Regulated Externally-delivered Competitions

Programme	Description	Current events in this space
<p>Local/ Zonal/ National Open Tournaments (open)</p>	<p>A tiered open tournament programme in varying formats, sanctioned and regulated by TTE on application against periodised calendar, at i) U15 (and lower), ii) U17/ U19, iii) U23/ Unrestricted age-group, and iv) Veterans age-groups:</p> <p><u>Local</u>: c.10 event dates per year, depending on age-group; up to 10 events concurrent per event date. To be supported locally by the area staffing structure</p> <p><u>Zonal</u>: c.5 event dates per year, depending on age-group; up to 5 events concurrent per event date. To be supported locally by the area staffing structure</p> <p><u>National</u>: up to 3 event dates per year, depending on age-group; events to stand alone in calendar, and receive resource from TTE at U15 & U19 as pinnacle event. Also comprises qualifying route to Cadet, Junior & Unrestricted age-group National Champs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 1-day player memberships introduced to aid transition to competitive play • Entry to concurrent local and zonal events will not be geographically restricted • Simplified flat-rate levies introduced for organisers + reduction in officiating/ physical requirements at lowest level • Local Open Tournaments can choose in advance whether to be ranking <i>or</i> non-ranking • 1 in 2 Local Open Tournaments at all age-groups will have a designated 'W&G' category at the event to maximise competitor numbers and value. Similarly, 1 in 2 events at Cadet level will be designated to have U11/ U13 categories • Greater assurance of geographical spread and incentivisation of preferred formats and categories via allocation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, 1* • 2*, 3*, Grands Prix • 4*, Senior National Qualifiers

What are the key changes?

“Whole structure should be simpler and more easily understood”

1. New four-date **National Series** for top U13, U15 & U19 boys and girls – small-group round-robins with promotion/ relegation between tiers
 2. Evolution and increased alignment of the **National Leagues** (NCL/ NJL and British League)
 3. 1*, 2* & 4* events to sit within new **Tiered Open Tournaments** structure - with Local events concurrent at local level, Zonal events concurrent at zonal level, and National events standalone in the calendar; all events will take place on designated dates within the calendar to avoid event clashes
 4. New **U11/U13 Area Team Event** as a springboard to National Leagues
 5. New **national ‘Senior’ club KO competition** for the very best teams as season finale and showcase
 6. The **new area staffing structure** to work with clubs, leagues and members at a local level to grow capacity and engender more participation, including growth of weekend youth leagues and club engagement in national leagues, advocating and supporting local/ zonal open tiered tournaments, and actively creating school/club links
 7. Grand Prix format/ category opportunities are provided through the tiered open tournament approach
 8. No direct equivalent is proposed for Inter-regional competition; alternative opportunities are offered elsewhere within the programme
- All events attract weighted national ranking points; Local Opens can opt-out if they choose
 - ‘Unrestricted’ is proposed as a more accurate term for what is currently designated the ‘Senior’ age-group
 - **Finer detail for each format will follow in Phase III, continuing to follow the agreed principles**

Illustrative Calendar

- The illustrative calendar indicates how the events fit together over a full season, and shows:
 - How top-tier events fit around international commitments and ENG camps, and where there is exclusivity for particular events and age-groups
 - The frequency and quantity of events for each age-group and level
 - The local/ national delivery mix for each age-group and level
 - The relative timings of events for each age-group and level
- This demonstrates overall capacity and viability of the event matrix, NOT specific dates for specific events
- The calendar is based in the first instance on Talent & Performance commitments (international competition, England camps etc) and thus requires T&P to designate these in a suitable timeframe; continued uncertainty in the WTT programme will be a risk, but still represents a significantly positive development from the status quo
- The calendar is absolutely fundamental to ALL proposals for change – without this ‘proof of concept’ the viability of all proposals/ options are unknowns!
- This now represents a complete ‘full house’ in terms of scheduled activity; the remaining windows for additional event dates are either xmas holidays or extending (further) into July-August (currently open tournaments only)

“the right format, frequency, location and standard of competition across all demographics, for existing and potential members”

Examples:

Cadet – national & international

	Age-group	Geography	Aug	Sept	Oct	HT	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	HT	March	April	May	HT	June	July
2	International events	International	1 YC	5 YC	9 EY10	10 YG	11 YC	14 YG	15 YC	18 WY	28 YC	30 YG	32 YG	37 EU21	38 YC	44 YC	49 YC
4	England camps	U15	3 YC	7 YG	10 YC	12 YC	15 YC	19 WY	23	29 YC	31 YG	33 YC	36 EU21	41 YC	43 YG	45	50 YC
8	National Championships	U15		1	2		3	4	5	6		7	8				9
14	National Series	U15															
24	Open Tournament	=<U15				1		2			2						
37	County Representative	Cadet			1					2							

Junior – local & regional

	Age-group	Geography	Aug	Sept	Oct	HT	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	HT	March	April	May	HT	June	July
17	Open Tournament	U17/ U19	1	3	9	10	14	18	23	28	30	32	36	40	42	44	49
21	Open Tournament	U17/ U19	2	7	11	12	15	19	24	29	31	33	37	41	43	45	50
29	National Leagues	U19		1	1		2	5				7	4			9	5
37	County Representative	Junior					1	2				2	4				

Veteran – all levels

	Age-group	Geography	Aug	Sept	Oct	HT	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	HT	March	April	May	HT	June	July
19	Open Tournament	Veteran	1	5	9	10	14	18	23	28	30	32	36	40	42	44	49
23	Open Tournament	Veteran	2	6	10	11	15	19	24	29	31	33	37	41	43	45	50
27	Open Tournament	Veteran		1	3		2	5				2					
34	National Leagues	Veteran					1	1									
40	County Representative	Veteran				1		1				1					
41	County Representative	O60s											2		2		

Illustrative phased implementation

- Agreed changes will not all kick-in immediately, but nor will they all sit and wait until the heavens align
- Remaining cognisant of long-term venue bookings and existing commitments for both TTE and all other organisers, plus the time required to plan, support and deliver change-management effectively, an illustrative approach is shown below :
 - ASAP: *Introduction of National Series*
Alignment of NCL, NJL & BL
Explore options with Committee to refine County Championships dates/ formats
Launch 'Senior' National Team Cup
 - +1yr: *Launch U11/U13 National Team Cup*
Expand national Junior club competition
Integrate principles of periodised calendar (eg concurrent hosting, fewer but enhanced 4 pinnacle events)*
 - +2yr: *Full launch of tiered open tournaments against periodised calendar*

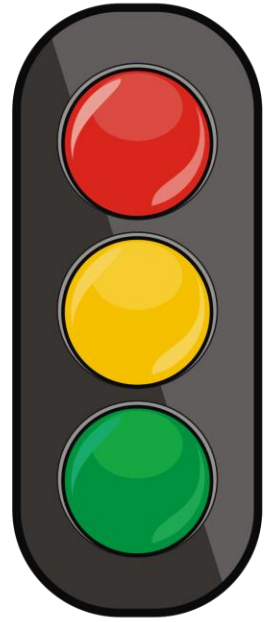
Checklist (from project brief) – does this give appropriate foundations to:

- ✓ Reduce current levels of ‘calendar congestion’ and unsustainable burden on available officials, whilst identifying appropriate space in the calendar for events and performance squad commitments
- ✓ Engender a more sustainable delivery approach; reduce financial cost to Table Tennis England and external organisers, and provide Value for Money for players
- ✓ Facilitate opportunity for more creative and innovative external/ sanctioned event formats
- ✓ Provide greater quality assurance of external/ sanctioned events
- ✓ Encourage a more equal geographical spread of tournaments
- ✓ Create ‘upward pressure’ through a pathway of tournament events (must balance with #2)
- ✓ Prepare talented athletes experientially for international competition
- ✓ Deliver greater opportunity to identified gaps in TTE demographic, including Women & Girls, and accessible integrated competition for athletes with disabilities
- ✓ Consider extent of future integration of schools events into core structures
- ✓ Assess the relative benefit of existing programme events
- ✓ Offer an objective basis for removal of existing lower-value competitions from the programme
- ✓ Deliver a high-quality & inclusive event environment
- ✓ Deliver a high-quality player experience

“the right format, frequency, location and standard of competition across all demographics, for existing and potential members”

Checklist:

- ✓ It fits
 - ✓ It works (can be delivered with no clashes)
 - ✓ Meets objectives
 - ✓ Delivers principles (see slide 4)
-
- requires us all to embrace what's best for the future



Part 3

Next Steps




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Overall timeline

	Process	Detail	Timeframe
Phase 1	✓ Mapping	Identify all event details on common template to provide global map of competitive opportunity	Spring '21
	✓ Insight1	<u>External</u> : research exercise with benchmark NGB and TTAs	Late Spring '21
	✓ Consultation	Open membership consultation, inc. specific targeted questions	Oct-Nov '21
	✓ Insight2	<u>Internal</u> : insight interviews and forums	
	✓ Analysis	Analysis of consultation feedback	Dec '21 – April '22
	✓ Decision1	Update to Board inc. key principles and agreement to proceed	May '22
Phase 2	✓ Update/ consult	With MAG and National Council on key principles	June – Aug '22
	✓ Modelling	Outline modelling of future events and overall programme	
	✓ Update	Outline proposal to Board for feedback	08 Sept '22
	✓ Modelling	Refinement of future events model and overall programme	Nov '22
	✓ Decision2	Revised proposal to Board for agreement	Dec '22
3	Development	Detailed development of events and overall programme	Jan - Mar '23
	Decision3	Full agreement by Board	24 March '23
4	Implement1	Phased/ partial implementation	Late '22/23 thru '24/25
5	Implement2	Full implementation	Season '25/26

Extra membership updates & consultation



* all events on 23/24 calendar remain provisional at this time

pls refer to consultation document for detailed actions/ timeline

Phase III

a) Detailed event development refer again to principles, insight & feedback + Table Tennis United

- individual event formats/ standards/ eligibility/ processes
- membership requirements
- ranking weightings
- staff support
- committee support
- revised budget projections
- regulatory changes
- detailed implementation milestones
- etc

b) Agreement: anticipated to be considered by Board in March

On behalf of the
Steering Group -
Thank you!

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Appendix: overview of key Phase II feedback # 1

- **General** Unfortunate but wholly expected general position of *'we like all the new stuff, please add it in, but don't take anything away'* which is clearly unworkable – there has to be some trade-off!
- ✓ **General** Retaining a County Champs representative programme was a strong and consistent theme for all age-groups (Cadet, Junior, Senior, O40s, O60s), although binary differences of opinion on what age-groups were/weren't the key ones. Compelling case made for unique nature of CC representative programme which can't be delivered through club league structure alone (eg kudos/ honour) Noted that County Champs programme also helps plug gaps in club structure (eg by providing another geographical 'unit' in which players can access team competition) Other feedback recognised problem with County Girls getting full teams; noted that Counties are struggling for volunteers and may not be viable in several years; suggesting need to be stricter and more specific with CC dates to ensure remains viable in calendar **Event retained in proposals**
- ✓ **MAG/ National Council** Note that CC (held in clubs by division) is cheaper than BL (typically a large national event) - though NCL/ NJL is cheaper to enter than either **Overall programme will provide mix of both club-based and national events for each age-group and standard, and on principle that more reasonable/ accessible at lower-levels - recognising importance of cost-effectiveness and offering a blend of opportunities**
- ✓ **National Council** Would new proposals create additional burden on volunteers? **Not expected to; sustainability in this area is an objective of project**
- ✓ **National Council** Would new proposals create additional financial burden on players? **Not expected to; sustainability in this area is an objective of project**
- ✓ **National Council** Noted that expansion of Junior club league would need to remain affordable **Agreed; to be addressed in Phase III**
- ✓ **National Council** Noted domestic competition clashes with Junior European events **Agreed; review will actively address this**
- ✓ **National Council** Noted that National Opens are expensive to host by members, eg due to cost of sports hall **Agreed; proposals include that TTE support/ resource these pinnacle events centrally to ensure viability and ability to attract best players**

Appendix: overview of key Phase II feedback #2

- ✓ **Open/ National Council** Several comments that review proposals support T&P development and make domestic programme more fit for purpose
- ✓ **Open** Noted importance of younger age-groups in Local Opens (eg U11) as key competition opportunity [Agreed; reflected in priorities for allocating events](#)
- ✓ **ELCC/ National Council** Small pockets of strong feedback on ELCC competition, notably from the ELCC Chairman and Committee members, plus some National Council members. Noted that ELCC is the only opportunity for local league representation in the national programme. Noted importance of local leagues to the Association. Oldest current domestic national competition (almost 90 years). All Committee members clearly very surprised by some of the quantitative feedback – does not tally with their existing understanding of participant satisfaction or feedback received directly (though not doubting the data or analysis) [Option for retaining this event proposed to Board and agreed](#)
- ✓ **Open** Noted that regional team has been first opportunity for many U11s to play outside clubs, and works as a blended team [Agreed; specific opportunity proposed for this cohort](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Suggested NCL/ NJL sits as ‘development’ activity rather than ‘competition’ [All Competition is categorised as Development under Table Tennis United](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Noted MAG report on tournaments [Has been considered and incorporated within proposals](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Felt that implementation could be phased to greater degree [Illustration now provided to indicate phased approach](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Queried if officiating requirements was manageable [Anticipated yes; sustainability in this area is an objective of project](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Welcomed para and inclusive/ adaptive elements
- ? **MAG** Potential to combine all age-groups into single National Championships [Multiple practical considerations prevent this at current time - mileage in a feasibility study when capacity allows in order to ascertain if a viable medium-term aspiration](#)

Appendix: overview of key Phase II feedback #3

- ✓ **MAG** More difficult for W&G to gain initial ratings at tournaments as smaller pool of players **Agreed; change to starter points agreed for December '22**
- ✓ **MAG** Does the 'local open' approach dilute the W&G playing pool too much – should there be fewer events designated for W&G, despite greater travelling distance, in order to maximise numbers of W&G competitors at a given event? **Agreed; reflected in proposals**
- ✓ **MAG** Are there opportunities to expand local youth leagues at weekends **Agreed; area staffing opportunities reflected in proposals**
- ✓ **MAG/ National Council** Comments around best-targeting prize money **Agreed needs to be clear rationale – eg National Opens, as part of package to attract best players + Snr Nat Champs, at appropriate level to constitute reward and recognition – reflected in proposals and further detail in Phase III**
- ✓ **VETTS** Welcomed more structured approach to calendar
- ✓ **VETTS** Noted that requires collaborative approach between TTE and VETTS to agree VETTS dates to fit into new proposed schedule **Agreed; need to engage positively and reach desired position over 1-2 seasons**
- ✓ **VETTS** Noted that VETTS are not regulated by TTE but O40s events are given ranking points by 'special arrangement' **To be clearly defined in due course as part of MOU outlining relationship**
- ✓ **National Council** National Junior and Cadet Leagues are very valuable competitions. **Agreed; there is no suggestion of material change to NCL/ NJL, only greater overall alignment – eg branding, TTE support and processes – in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and to provide an improved experience to hosts and entrants.**
- ✓ **National Council** U10 and U12 National Championships provide motivation for youngsters **Agreed in terms of principle - the competition review is proposing instead that multiple additional opportunities are specifically created in this age-group. The age-groups with a specific National Championship event are still considered to provide the optimal approach at this time**

Appendix: overview of key Phase II feedback #4

- ✓ **National Council** Competitions are considered expensive for entrants [Agreed; the competition review proposes an overhaul of the domestic tournament structure to help address this](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Improvements can be made at local league level [Local League was out of scope of the *National* Competition Review – this has been clearly stated throughout - but the Steering Group agree that improvements can be made at local level that will complement the review](#)
- ✓ **National Council** The programme requires a minimum of at least 20 days of the right level of competition for youth players [Agreed; the frequency/ quantity of competition opportunities are covered by proposals in the competition review](#)
- ✓ **National Council** The Junior and Cadet National Championships should remain unchanged. [Agreed; as per the competition review](#)
- ✓ **National Council** There should be multiple National Cup events for juniors and cadets [Agreed - this is the ‘National Series’ as per the competition review](#)
- ✓ **National Council** A realignment of 4 Star tournaments should take place with fewer, better and more geographically spread events [Agreed; this is covered by the proposal for open tiered tournaments](#)
- ✓ **National Council** England should host a WTT Youth event(s) [This is covered within the Table Tennis United strategy](#)
- ✗ **National Council** A new Cadet British League should be established on the same basis as the Junior British League [The Steering Group do not agree on this point, and this direction is not evidenced by the body of knowledge established via the review. It is considered that a\) the best Cadets play-up to Junior events, b\) NCL provides appropriate opportunity for lower-level, and c\) this would risk player pressure to double-up, also creating calendar clashes. Instead, an expansion of the national Junior league programme is proposed, to three or four weekends, which is considered to better meet the same principles](#)
- ✓ **National Council** Counties, Leagues and Clubs should host events in table tennis clubs to encourage local competition [Agreed; this is reflected in the Tiered Open Tournament approach, and area staff will be advocates at local level](#)