

### General Information:

**Date:** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
**Venue:** David Ross Sports Village, University of Nottingham, Beeston Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2RD  
**Entry Date:** Midnight on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
**Draw Date:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Published Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024)  
**Ranking List:** Ranking list 23/04 published on 6<sup>th</sup> December will be used for seeding purposes.  
**Ranking weight:** This event carries Table Tennis England ranking weighting of x2

***Should you have any queries regarding this event please contact the Tournament Director Mark Pinder at [mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk) or 01908 208871***

### Authority

The English Table Tennis Association shall organize the National Championships  
President: Mrs. Jill Parker MBE

### Table Tennis England Board

Mrs. Sandra DEATON, Table Tennis England Chair  
Mr. Adrian CHRISTY, Table Tennis England CEO  
Mr. Kwadjo ADJEPONG, Appointed Director  
Mr. Richard AYERS, Appointed Director  
Mr. Mark BOOTE, Appointed Director  
Mr. Ray JAMES, Appointed Director  
Mr. Steve KEMISH, Appointed Director  
Ms. Sally HUGHES, Elected Director  
Mr. Jos KELLY, Elected Director  
Mr. Don PARKER, Elected Director  
Mr. Ritchie VENNOR, Elected Director

### Championship Jury

The Championship Jury will be made up of the following positions:

- Competition Referee
- Tournament Director

### Competition Officials

Referee – Cliff Bell (NR)  
Deputy Referee – Steve Smith (IR)  
Referee's Assistant – Richard Crowther (TR)

### Events

The following Championship events will take place:

1. Men's Singles Qualification	2. Women's Singles Qualification
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### Invitations & Eligibility

Table Tennis England invites all eligible players to enter the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship Qualifier event to secure one of the top 14 places to go through to the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship in March 2024. Players placed 15-32 may receive invitations if ranking or qualification invitations to the Championships are declined, and players will be invited in order of their finishing positions. Players who play in the qualifier and receive an invitation, will not need to pay the entry fee for the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships.

The Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship Qualifier entries will be accepted in order of receipt (time and date) up until the closing date or the competition is full. There will be a practical limit for entrants, and it may not be possible to accept all entries. This will be determined by when your entry is submitted and paid for. All entries should be considered provisional until confirmed, and any unsuccessful entries will be refunded.

Based on the 23/04 snapshot ranking list published on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, those that are in the top 16 ranked players will automatically qualify for an invitation to the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships and therefore will be ineligible for the competition. Anyone who has entered and is in the top 16 snapshot rankings, will be refunded fully.

### Fees & Membership

Each player will be required to pay an entry fee. Payment must be paid via Sport:80. Instructions for payment will be detailed within the entry system.

**All entrants must have a current Table Tennis England Compete Plus membership.**

Category	Fees
1. Men's Singles Qualification	£40.00
2. Women's Singles Qualification	£40.00
Single Tournament Licence Fee (if required; player must already have Compete membership)	Senior: £10.00 Junior: £5.00

Refunds for entries will only be issued to players who have withdrawn in the below timescale:

- Prior to the deadline date – Full refund minus a £5 admin charge.
- After the deadline date and prior to the draw date – Full refund minus a £10 admin charge.
- After the draw there will be no refunds available

### Formats

The format of the event will be group stages on Saturday, comprising of groups of 6-8 players, subject to entries received, with 2 or 3 players from each group qualifying for the Sunday KO event. Matches will be played to the best of 5 games. Progressive knock-out matches on Sunday will be the last 32 players only and will be played to the best of 5 games. All players will play in groups, no byes through to knock-out. Final format will be at the discretion of the Referee.

The knockout will be played to a final list, for example players losing in the last 16 will play out for places 9-16 and so on. These matches will also be best of 5.

## TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

**It is important that all competitors read and understand these regulations, please take time to do this.**

**Competitors should also ensure that they retain this sheet for reference purposes.**

- The Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship Qualifier is only open to those players who are eligible to play for England. If you are in any doubt about this, please contact Table Tennis England on 01908 208871 / [mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk) for clarification and advice.**
- Players must be eligible on the date entries close and must remain eligible up to the time of playing the tournament. If, after the completion of the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Qualifier, it is found that an entrant was ineligible to play then their name will be expunged from the records.
- All competitors must meet all the following criteria:
  - Be a current Compete or Compete Plus member of Table Tennis England. If a Compete member, a single competition licence fee must also be purchased.
  - Be a British national and be born in or have their main residence in England.
  - Have indicated 'England' nationality in their membership profile, and hence be eligible to appear on the Table Tennis England 'rankings' list.
  - Not be currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU.
  - Not be currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules.
  - Not be in the top 16 ranked players in snapshot rankings list published on 6th December 2023.And additionally in the case of players transitioning from eligibility for another federation:
  - Hold a current British Passport
  - Not have played in a National Championship of any other country in the same year (01 August to 31 July).
- Those that are ranked in the top 16 ranked players will automatically qualify for an invitation to the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships and therefore will be ineligible for the competition. Anyone who has entered and is in the top 16 snapshot rankings, will be refunded fully
- The Mark Bates Ltd Senior Qualifier will be played under the Laws of Table Tennis and Table Tennis England Tournament Regulations. ITTF Regulations for International Competitions apply except those relating to matters covered by items marked (X) in these regulations.
- Completion and submission of the entry form signifies agreement by the entrant to the conditions of the competition including the variations from the ITTF requirements.
- The tournament referee reserves the right to cancel any event for which fewer than 14 entries are received. Event entries will be transferred to the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships. No entry will be accepted after the draw. Fees sent for entries subsequently rejected will be refunded, but entry forms received without fees will be ignored. Entries will be acknowledged automatically; a player not having received such an acknowledgement by the closing date should contact Mark Pinder on 01908 208871.
- The last date for entries is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. There will be a practical limit for entrants, and it may not be possible to accept all entries. This will be determined by when your entry is submitted/ paid for. All entries should be considered provisional until confirmed, and any unsuccessful entries will be refunded. Entries received without full payment or signature will be declined. Table Tennis England retains the right to withdraw an invitation from an athlete under any of the following circumstances:
  - The athlete is no longer eligible for this event.
  - Any exceptional circumstances, which in the reasonable opinion of Table Tennis England, justifies the withdrawal of the athlete concerned.Any athlete who is withdrawn will immediately be notified of the decision and the reason.
- The draw will be published 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.
- The right is reserved to alter the schedule of playing times and/or table for any match. Entrants, if absent at any time when called upon to play, are liable to be disqualified from the event.
- Play throughout will be with Butterfly R40+ 3\* plastic ball (white), Tables, nets and posts will be Butterfly Europa 25, ITTF approved equipment, minimum court size 10m x 5m.
- Group matches will be umpired by players in the same group on Saturday, and the Referee shall appoint an umpire for each knock-out match on Sunday and may, at their discretion, appoint an assistant umpire. Decisions on point of fact by an umpire or assistant umpire appointed by the Referee shall be final. The Referee's decision shall be final on any points of law and in any disputes as to

the interpretation of these regulations and on any matter not covered by them. Scoring machines will be used for all matches. All matches will be played to the best of 5 games.

13. All refunds will be made as per the refund policy outlined in the under 'Fees & Memberships'. Notification that a player is unable to attend must be made as soon as possible.
14. Withdrawal prior to the completion of the competition.  
Table Tennis England reserve the right to penalise any player not fulfilling the 1-32 progressive knockout stage. Any such player withdrawing from the competition prior to its conclusion, without exceptional mitigating circumstances, will be demoted to last place and any wilful withdrawals or no-shows will forfeit all remaining scheduled games. Players placed 15-32 may receive invitations if ranking or qualification invitations to the Championships are declined, and players will be invited in order of their finishing positions.
15. Rackets: The surface of one side of the racket can now be either pink, violet, green, blue or the normal bright red and the surface of the other side shall remain black, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball and must conform to ITTF Regulations for International Competitions. Racket testing may take place and randomly selected according to ITTF regulations. It is the player's responsibility to check the racket testing schedule
16. Playing clothing shall consist of a shirt and shorts, trousers, leggings or skirt, or a one-part sports outfit, socks and playing shoes; a sports hijab may also be worn. Other garments shall not be worn during play except with the permission of the referee. The main colour of a shirt, shorts, trousers or skirt, other than sleeves and collar of a shirt, shall be clearly different from that of the ball in use.
17. **At all times when playing, competitors are required to display their name on the back of their playing shirt.**
18. No competitor or official shall engage in betting on players or matches.
19. Signing the entry form constitutes agreement by the competitor, under the Data Protection Act 1984, to the storing of his or her name, address and date of birth on a computer system.
20. Separate practice tables may be available during the event for PARTICIPANTS ONLY. Practice on the match tables once the competition starts will be at the discretion of the Referee.
21. Competitors are required to sign an undertaking\*: I undertake to (1) observe the regulations of the tournament (2) abide by the decision of the Referee and Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Qualifier Jury (3) fulfil the schedule of play arranged for me unless prevented by circumstances beyond my control and accepted as such by the Referee. \*This undertaking may be signed on behalf of a junior competitor by a parent or legal guardian but not by a coach.
22. Doping shall not take place before or during play. Players competing in this tournament may be subject to drug testing from UK Anti-doping.
23. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used within the match court area and should remain somewhere safe within your bag or with a parent or coach attending the event. Any player caught using their phone during time out, change of ends or during matches will forfeit the match
24. Changing facilities, including showers, light snacks and refreshments are available at the venue. Parking is available at the venue and is free on Saturday and Sunday, including limited disabled parking.
25. All competitors must report to the check-in table on arrival and must not leave the venue without first obtaining permission from the Referee.
26. For entrants aged 17 and under, no entry will be accepted unless the person having legal responsibility for the entrant has completed and signed the Anti-Doping Consent and Agreement form.
27. Notification – entrants will be notified of the start time on each day.

**If you are unable to attend the event or need to contact the Referee, then please  
telephone Mark Pinder, Table Tennis England, on 01908 208871**

**PROVISIONAL PLAYING SCHEDULE WILL FOLLOW**

**A provisional programme for the guidance of competitors only, will be available in due course. It may be subject to alteration by the Referee depending on the number of entries for each event and other extraneous factors. Completing the entry form for this competition constitutes the players acknowledgement of this.**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Group Qualifications @ 9.00am**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Qualifications Knockout Stages groups start @ 9.00am**

### **Photography and Streaming**

Table Tennis England will be taking photos and live streaming matches during this event which may include (but not limited to), using them in our printed and online platforms, social media, press releases and funding applications. If you do not give permission to take photographs and/or video of you (or individuals for whom you are legally responsible), please contact [competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk).

For further details please see the Table Tennis England Photo and live streaming Policy: <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/photography-guidelines/>

### **Code of Conduct**

All participants and attendees at Table Tennis England events are subject to Table Tennis England Codes of Conduct <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-codes-of-conduct-and-terms-of-reference/>

We will not tolerate swearing or verbal abuse of volunteers, officials, staff or venue staff, nor a failure to follow the operational directions of stewards and event staff. We will treat all such instances extremely seriously and will rigorously pursue disciplinary sanctions if necessary. For further details, please see the Table Tennis England Workforce Protection Policy <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/policies-and-procedures/>