

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What does this mean for National Championships?

The U11 & U13 National Championships will become a broader U10, U11, U12 & U13 open event, in order to provide more youth opportunities that are not restricted by having an existing national ranking.

Other age-group National Championships will be reconfigured into a Cadet & U17s event, an U17 & Junior event, and a standalone Senior event.

These approaches will also enable more doubles opportunities, and continue to support integration of para categories.

What does this mean for National Cups?

The Cadet and Junior National Cups will be enhanced, expanded and become more frequent as the new 4-date 'National Series' for the top U13, U15 & U19 boys and girls in Great Britain. This will provide a regular high-quality competitive opportunity for the top cohort in each youth age-group.

A new U21 National Cup will also be launched to aid retention and provide valuable competition opportunity to this priority cohort in England; members of the new U21 national age-group squad will be required to be available for this event.

What does this mean for British League (Junior, All Ages, Women's, Veterans)?

No existing opportunities will be lost – the national merit league structure will continue to be open to all clubs, counties and teams from across GB.

The national Junior club competition (JBL) will be expanded to three weekends for boys and girls' teams, and doubles introduced in the Premier Divisions, at the same general entry cost to participants. The national 'Senior' club competition (SBL) will continue to include a KO cup for the top division clubs – a pinnacle event for the very best teams as a season finale and showcase.

Other changes will include a streamlined player registration process to avoid individual costs related to each individual player; Premier/ Associate/ Registered club status will be reflected in a tiered financial approach, plus tiered priority in the entry waiting list, and will become a factor in divisions formed by aggregated ranking; and previous season 'promotion/ relegation' position + 1st team entry + returning entry + player retention will also be introduced as factors in divisions formed by aggregated ranking.

An online annual forum ("Conference") will be launched as a regular opportunity for clubs and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the competitions and help inform the future direction of the national club leagues.

What does this mean for County Championships?

No immediate change is proposed to the formats of these competitions (U15, U19, All Ages, Veterans and O60s). The County Champs Committee will be engaged to consider opportunities for evolution and to deliver in a defined footprint (eg specific dates).

What does this mean for National Cadet & Junior Leagues?

No immediate change is proposed to the formats of these competitions. NCL/ NJL and British League will move under a single club league umbrella and become more directly aligned in terms of branding, TTE support and processes – in order to increase efficiency, and to provide an improved experience to hosts and entrants. Local delivery will be supported by the new area staffing structure.

What does this mean for ELCC (English Leagues Cup Competition)?

No immediate change is proposed to the formats of these competitions. The ELCC Committee will be engaged to consider opportunities for evolution.

What does this mean for Inter-regional Competition?

No direct equivalent is proposed for Inter-regional competition. Alternative playing opportunities for players are offered within the programme,

including a one-day annual U11 & U13 boys and girls' Team Cup competition – to be supported locally by the Pathway Development Centres, as a springboard to National Leagues. This will provide a targeted team competition opportunity for these priority age-groups at area level where critical mass does not exist at club or county level

What does this mean for Grands Prix?

Competition opportunities in these formats/categories will be provided through the tiered open tournament approach, including the 'Satellite Grands Prix' in Jersey and Cardiff

What does this mean for 1*, 2* and 4* events?

Tiered open tournaments will be hosted concurrently at local and zonal level, with support and advocacy provided locally by the area staffing structure. Hosts will be sanctioned by Table Tennis England on a quarterly application/ attribution process against designated calendar dates in order to avoid clashes and provide greater assurance of geographical spread – the allocation process will allow for incentivisation of preferred formats and categories, eg inclusion of U11/U13 at Cadet Opens, U23 at Unrestricted Opens, or Women and Girls categories.

At local level, non-designated dates may also be approved with county support, events may choose to be ranking or not, a simplified flat-rate levy will be introduced, and requirements for venues and officiating will be reduced.

There will be fewer but enhanced national open tournaments, which will receive resource from Table Tennis England at U15, U19 and All-Ages (Senior) levels as pinnacle events. National Opens will comprise the qualifying route to Cadet, Junior and All Ages (Senior) age-group National Championships.

These events will remain wholly flexible – playing formats, singles/ doubles/ teams, age-group sub-categories and pricing will be determined by the Organiser. We will create detailed guidelines to support delivery of Open Tournaments and illustrate preferences to tournament organisers – including: length of day, preferred formats, preferred categories, provision for players and spectators – based on practical processes for allocation of

local/ zonal/ national opens, plus specific member feedback from Phase I of the review.

This will result in more localised, affordable and accessible competition for participants and hosts – the bread and butter of tournament play.**What does this mean for Local Leagues?**

The Competition Review is for nationally-regulated events; no change is proposed to local structures as a result of this review. However, the new Area network will help link local and national competitions – and support more nationally-regulated tournament and league delivery at local level.

What does this mean for Ranking/ Ratings?

Rankings and ratings are not directly impacted by any proposed changes; future options for the ranking framework are being considered as a separate project**What does this mean for Membership?**

A separate membership project will consider the future options and approaches for Table Tennis England membership, and how this will relate to levels of competition.

When will this all happen?

We recognise that tournament organisers and other associations like VETTS and BUCS have long-term venue bookings and existing commitments, as well as it taking time to plan, support and deliver change effectively ... consequently, implementation of the Review will be phased with some changes launched in late '23/24, some for season '24/25 and some for season '25/26.

Where necessary, committee support and regulations will be reconfigured and evolve to suit the new formats – and this will also feed into other developments including the Officials Strategy.

All stakeholders will be contacted to discuss this process and timeline.