

This document cancels and replaces the issue dated 4.7.24

Note 1: The Board has delegated the strategic oversight of the British Clubs League to the Competitions Committee and its operational management to the British Clubs League Committee. The detailed arrangements (including the arrangements for amending these regulations) are set out in the terms of reference of the British Clubs League Committee which are published on the Table Tennis England website.

Note 2: While the current competition review is in progress it may be necessary for the Board to use its power to amend these regulations during the playing season.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The British Clubs League is a competition for club teams from the British Isles

2 SECTIONS

- 2.1 The British Clubs League shall have four separate sections, each hereinafter referred to as a section:
- 2.1.1 The Senior British Clubs League
 - 2.1.2 The Women's British Clubs League
 - 2.1.3 The Youth British Clubs League
 - 2.1.4 The Veterans' British Clubs League
- 2.2 Each section shall be governed by these general regulations and by a schedule of sectional regulations applying only to that section.
- 2.3 A schedule of sectional regulations may be amended by the Committee in the same way as these general regulations.

3 ENTRY

- 3.1 Any Club which is affiliated to Table Tennis England, the Guernsey Table Tennis Association, the Irish Table Tennis Association, the Isle of Man Table Tennis Association, Table Tennis Jersey, Table Tennis Scotland or the Table Tennis Association of Wales, either through a Local League or by direct affiliation, may apply to enter team(s) in the League.
- 3.2 Clubs must renew their affiliation as at 01 August each season
- 3.3 The Committee shall have power to accept or reject any application, or to remove a team from the League.
- 3.4 Each club must appoint a Club Secretary to be responsible for its commitments to the British Clubs League.
- 3.5 Each season each club shall pay (at the time of registration) Entry Fees and any Player Registration Fees and no entry will be valid without full cleared payment.
- 3.6 Entries must be completed by the date specified on the online system.

4 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 4.1 Eligibility
 - 4.1.1 A Club may be represented only by players whose registration has been confirmed by the Executive Officer or BCL Secretary.
 - 4.1.2 A club may register any player who is not currently registered for another club participating in the same section of the British Clubs League.
 - 4.1.3 All players must be affiliated as Compete Plus Members or be registered as Visiting Players.
For details of TTE Affiliation & Registration see Regulations Part J (Affiliation & Registration)
- 4.2 Registration Procedure
 - 4.2.1 A club must register a full complement of players for each team entered at the time of team entry.
 - 4.2.2 Additional player registrations must be completed via the online system at least 48 hours before the start of the next match, except as provided by Regulation 4.2.3.
 - 4.2.3 Players may be registered at any time up to the date specified in Regulation 4.1 of the relevant section regulations providing the player meets the criteria specified in 4.1 and the registration form is submitted with the any player registration fee. All registrations are to be submitted via the online system.
 - 4.2.4 In an emergency, a Club Secretary may register a player by obtaining oral agreement to registration and ranking from the Executive Officer or BCL Secretary. The player must be registered via the online system but only after obtaining agreement. An emergency registration fee shall be paid as set out in Annex C.
 - 4.2.5 Except as provided in 4.2.6, no player may be registered or transferred after the date specified in the relevant section regulations, in any season.
 - 4.2.6 In divisions other than the Premier and Senior Championship Divisions, the Executive Officer or Committee of the appropriate British Clubs League may in exceptional circumstances allow a replacement registration during the week before the weekend of the matches, provided that the additional player is placed lower on the National Rating List in use for the date of the round in question than the player replaced. A dummy rating may be given to the newly registered player if they do not have a

current TTE rating. The newly registered player and the replaced player cannot subsequently both play in the same round or session.

- 4.2.7 Clubs in the Youth British Clubs League, Women's British Clubs League and Veterans British Clubs League shall be allowed to register additional players to a team after the first weekend's play, provided that they are rated lower than all other registered players in that team. These players can be registered following the first weekend up to 48 hours prior to the second weekend's play.
- 4.2.8 In circumstances where the regulations restrict the capability of player that may be registered, the team requesting the registration must declare all relevant information in writing with the registration request so that a dummy rating can be established; if later the Executive Officer or Referee consider the player is more capable than has been disclosed the player will be deemed ineligible and any matches they have played will be awarded to their opponents.
- 4.2.9 If the player to be registered is currently registered for another club the player registration form must be accompanied by a completed player transfer form. A transfer fee will be paid as set out in Annex C
- 4.3 A registration shall be valid from the date of its receipt by the Executive Officer until the day following the last fixture of the current season unless previously cancelled by the Committee Secretary
- 4.3.1 at the request of the club for which the player is registered; or
- 4.3.2 on the completion of a player transfer form; or
- 4.3.3 on the club for which the player is registered withdrawing all its teams from the League.

5 TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

- 5.1 For the purpose of this regulation 'transfer' shall include the registration of any player who has at any time during the same season been registered for another club.
- 5.2 A club wishing to sign a player currently registered for another club must inform that other club before making any approach to the player.
- 5.3 A player may transfer from one club to another at any time up to the date specified in the relevant section regulations, in any season.
- 5.4 A player may transfer to any club, provided they have not played any matches in the current season. If the player has played one or more matches in the current season, they may only play in a division higher than the one they were previously registered in.
- 5.5 Registration of Transfer
- 5.5.1 The Administrator shall register a player for the club to which he has transferred on receipt of a completed transfer form accompanied by the fee shown in Annex C.
- 5.5.2 The transfer form must be signed by:
- 5.5.2.1 the player;
- 5.5.2.2 the Committee Secretary of the club from which the player has transferred;
- 5.5.2.3 the Committee Secretary of the club to which the player has transferred.
- 5.6 The transfer form, which shall contain a declaration by the player that he or she is not under any contractual obligation to continue to play for the club from which he or she is transferring, shall be signed by the player before it is submitted for signature by the Committee Secretary of that club.

5.7 In divisions other than the Premier division, the League Committee may in exceptional circumstances allow a player to be transferred after the date specified in the relevant section regulations, provided that the transferred player is ranked lower than the replaced player on the National Rating list in use on the day of application; the transferred player and the replaced player cannot subsequently both play in the same round or session.

6 RIGHT TO WITHDRAW BECAUSE OF REGULATION CHANGE

6.1 If any of these Regulations are changed after a team has entered, a club shall be entitled to withdraw that team and have the entry fee refunded, provided that it is withdrawn not later than 7 days after the club's being notified of the change.

7 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

7.1 Acceptance of an entry shall be conditional upon the club concerned satisfying the Committee as to its ability to meet the requirements set out in *the British Clubs League regulations detailed in general regulation 2, including Annex A (Playing Conditions & Equipment) and Annex B (Player Clothing)*.

7.2 All clubs are required to continue to meet the requirements of 7.1.

7.2.1 If the Committee is not satisfied that a club is doing so, that club will be notified in writing of the conditions not being met and be given 30 days to make good.

7.2.2 If the club fails to meet the deadline specified in 7.2.1 the Committee shall have the right to withdraw its team from the competition.

8 WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE

8.1 If a club withdraws a team from the League before it has completed all its fixtures the record of that team shall be completely expunged, and the club shall be liable to a fine of the amount shown in Annex D or such lesser amount as the Committee may decide.

8.2 If the withdrawal of a team results in the club having no teams in the League the registrations of all players registered for that club shall be cancelled.

8.3 Players that are de-registered as a result of 8.2 are eligible to sign for another club providing they have either not played in the current season or they are registering for a club where they will compete in the same or higher division than the one they were registered in, or were restricted to by having played up, in accordance with the section regulations.

9 VENUE & FACILITIES

9.1 Playing conditions and equipment shall conform to the requirements set out in Annex A.

9.2 The table allocated for the first match of the day shall be available for practice for 60 minutes prior to the commencement of the first round of matches as follows:

9.2.1 first 20 minutes - team scheduled as home team

9.2.2 second 20 minutes - team scheduled as away team

9.2.3 next 10 minutes - team scheduled as home team

9.2.4 last 10 minutes - team scheduled as away team

- 9.3 For all subsequent matches, when the table becomes available, practice time on the table allocated for each match shall be divided equally between the two teams, with the team scheduled as the home team taking the first half.

10 FIXTURE DATES & STARTING TIMES

- 10.1 The fixture dates and starting times for matches shall be decided by the Administrator.
10.2 The competition website shall be the principal source for fixture information.
10.3 Fixtures will be published on the competition website at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

11 LEAGUE POSITIONS

- 11.1 In SBCL Premier Division, the winning team will be awarded 3 League Points and the losing team in a completed match will be awarded 1 League Point, but no League Points will be awarded to the losing team in an uncompleted match. In all other Divisions, a team will be awarded 2 League Points for a team match won and 1 League Point for a team match drawn.
11.2 Position in the League shall be determined primarily by the number of League Points won.
11.2.1 if two or more teams are equal on League Points, their relative positions shall be determined by the ratios of individual matches won to individual matches lost;
11.2.2 if they are still equal, their relative positions shall be determined by the ratios of games won to games lost.
11.2.3 if they are still equal, their relative positions shall be determined by the ratios of individual points won to points lost.

12 APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REGULATIONS

- 12.1 The matches governed by these regulations are subject also to TTE Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions and to the ITTF Regulations specified therein.
12.2 In all matches governed by these Regulations the regulations concerning racket testing shall apply.

13 FORFEITURE FOR LATENESS

- 13.1 If a team is not ready to play by 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time it shall forfeit the match and shall be liable to a fine.
13.2 A player who is not ready to play 10 minutes after the match umpire has called his or her individual match shall forfeit that match.

14 MATCH RESULT SHEETS

- 14.1 All match result sheets must be handed to the match referee or other designated official.
14.2 A 'Player of the Match' will normally be determined according to a standard formula within the online results platform, determined by the British Clubs League Committee. If this is not possible the selection will be made by a referee or umpire or, if a referee or umpire is not present, by the Executive Officer.

15 RANKING POINTS

15.1 All matches played in the British Clubs League will be subject to TTE ranking points.

16 PLAYERS' CLOTHING

16.1 Players' clothing shall conform to the requirements set out in Annex B.

17 PRESS & PUBLICITY

17.1 The League operates a press and publicity service.

17.2 Permission to photograph and video competitors is a condition of entry, but players under 18 can opt-out by informing the referee before play commences.

17.3 Table Tennis England can use photos and videos for publicity and promotion.

18 PENALTIES

18.1 Penalties shall be imposed for offences as shown in Annex D, except where the Committee decides to impose a lesser penalty.

18.2 The warning, fine or penalty shall be notified to the club by the Committee Secretary.

18.3 At the same time as being notified of a fine or penalty the club shall be informed that it may appeal against its imposition, such appeal to be made not later than 10 days after the notification.

18.4 Every fine shall be paid not later than 28 days after the date on which the notification is sent, unless the club has appealed to the Committee against its imposition.

Note: If the fine remains unpaid after 21 days a reminder will be sent, but failure to send or receive the reminder will not invalidate the application of Regulation 18.5.

18.5 If a fine has not been paid within 28 days of notification the amount of the fine shall be doubled.

18.6 Any appeal shall be adjudicated in the first instance by a Committee executive comprising the Chair, the Secretary and the Executive Officer. If required, an appeal shall be further considered by the Committee, excluding the Executive Officer and any member of the Committee who is also a member of the appealing club.

18.7 If the Committee decides that a team is guilty of persistent breach of these Regulations it may expel that team from the League.

19 PROTESTS & APPEALS

19.1 All protests regarding the conduct of the competition shall be initially presented to the organiser by the team captain only.

19.2 A club that wishes to formalise a protest must put the protest in writing and submit it to the Committee Secretary within 5 days of the original notification to the organiser.

19.3 The Committee Secretary will acknowledge receipt of the protest within 5 days.

19.4 If the protest involves another player or club then all parties will be notified within 5 days.

19.5 The written protest will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and a response will be sent to all parties involved within 5 days.

19.6 A club may appeal to the Appeals Panel against any action or decision of the Committee.

Annex A: PLAYING CONDITIONS & EQUIPMENT

- 1 The playing space shall be not less than 12m long, 6m wide and 4m high (TTE Grade 4) for Senior Premier Division matches and should be not less than 10m long, 5m wide (TTE Grade 3) and 3m high for other matches.
- 2 The playing area shall be delineated by dark-coloured screens or surrounds, about 75cm high, along each end and with at least one screen at right angles to the end screens to indicate each corner of the playing area.
- 3 The light intensity, measured at the height of the playing surface, shall not be less than specified hereafter uniformly over the whole of the playing surface and the intensity at any other part of the playing area shall not be less than half of the intensity over the playing surface. For the Senior Premier Division, the specified intensity is 1,000 lux (TTE Grade 5) and for matches in all other divisions 500 lux (TTE Grade 3).
- 4 The light source shall not be less than 4m above the floor for Senior Premier Division matches and not less than 3m above the floor for other matches.
- 5 The background shall be generally dark and shall not contain bright light sources nor daylight through uncovered windows.
- 6 The floor shall be of hard, non-slippery wood or thermoplastic and shall not be white nor brightly reflecting.
- 7 The table and net assembly shall be of a brand and type which comply with TTE Regulations for a 4 Star tournament and the table top shall have a thickness of not less than 18mm (20mm nominal).
- 8 The ball shall be the official ball of the British Clubs League, as specified on the current score-sheet.
- 9 All matches shall be the best of five games.
- 10 Sponsor's banners and surrounds, if provided, shall be displayed.
- 11 The Committee reserves the right to require all competitors to wear identification numbers bearing the League Sponsor's logo.
- 12 If any match is televised, the Committee reserves the right to ensure all clothing advertising conforms to the specifications set by the television authority concerned.
- 13 Umpires and assistant umpires will be appointed at the discretion of the Committee.
- 14 In the event of umpires not being provided; the umpire for the first individual match shall be provided by the home team, and then alternately by each team.

Annex B: PLAYERS' CLOTHING

Extract from ITTF Regulations for International Competitions 2022 as amended by TTE

- 3.2.2.1* 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.
- 3.2.2.2* 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.
- 3.2.2.3 Clothing may bear numbers or lettering on the back of the shirt to identify a player, his or her Association or, in club matches, his or her club, and advertisements in accordance with the provisions of 3.2.5.9; if the back of a shirt bears the player's name, this shall be situated just below the collar.

- 3.2.2.4 Any numbers required by organisers to identify a player shall have priority over advertisements on the centre back part of a shirt; such numbers shall be contained within a panel having an area not greater than 600 cm².
- 3.2.2.5 Any markings or trimming on the front or side of a playing garment and any objects such as jewellery worn by a player shall not be so conspicuous or brightly reflecting as to unsight an opponent.
- 3.2.2.6 Clothing shall not carry designs or lettering which might cause offence or bring the game into disrepute.
- 3.2.2.8 Opposing players and pairs must wear shirts that are of sufficiently different colours to enable them to be easily distinguished by spectators.
- 3.2.2.9 Where opposing players or teams have a similar shirt and cannot agree which of them will change, the decision will be made by lot.
- 3.2.5.9 Advertisements on playing clothing shall be limited to
- 3.2.5.9.1 the maker's normal trademark, symbol or name contained within a total area of 24cm²;
- 3.2.5.9.2 not more than 6 clearly separated advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 600cm², on the front, side or shoulder of a shirt, with not more than 4 advertisements on the front;
- 3.2.5.9.3 not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a total area of 400cm², on the back of a shirt;
- 3.2.5.9.4* not more than 2 advertisements, contained within a combined total area of 120cm², on the front or sides of shorts, trousers or skirt.
- 3.2.5.10 Advertisements on players' numbers shall be contained within a total area of 100cm².
- 3.2.5.11 Advertisements on umpires' clothing shall be contained within a total area of 40cm².

* *TTE variations underlined.*

Regulations 3.2.2.8 and 3.2.2.9 will be enforced only for the Senior Premier Division.

Senior Premier Division, Women's Premier Division: Matching club kit to be worn at all times in the venue, to include shirt, shorts/skirt/trousers and tracksuit. Player's name must be printed on the back of the shirt and be clearly visible.

Senior Championship Division: Matching club kit to be worn at all times in the venue, to include shirt and shorts/skirt/trousers.

Senior Divisions National A and B, Women's Divisions 1 and 2, Youth Premier Divisions 1 and 2, Veterans' Premier Divisions 1 and 2: Matching club kit to be worn whilst playing to include shirt and shorts/skirt/trousers.

Senior Divisions National C and lower, All Divisions 3 and lower in all formats: Same colour matching shirts to be worn whilst playing.

These requirements apply also to pre-match warm-up, post-match cool-down, and all personnel sat on the team bench

All kit at all levels must have club name on the back of shirt (and tracksuit where appropriate). Club names and Individual names must be legible to officials in the course of their duties.

Annex C: FEES 2024/25

Note: Unless otherwise stated, references are to BCL General Regulations

Senior British Clubs League

No.	Description	Reg.	Fee
1	Team Entry Fee - Premier Division team <u>(Premier Club)/ £1,090 (Associate Club)/ £1,140 (Registered Team)</u>	3.5	<u>£1,040</u>
2	Team Entry Fee - Championship Division team <u>(Premier Club)/ £1,015 (Associate Club)/ £1,065 (Registered Team)</u>	3.5	<u>£965</u>
3	Team Entry Fee - other Division team <u>(Premier Club)/ £800 (Associate Club)/ £850 (Registered Team)</u>	3.5	<u>£750</u>
4	Emergency Player Registration (in addition to Reg. Fee)	4.2.4	<u>£20</u>
5	Transfer Fee	5.5	<u>£25</u>
6	Guarantee Deposit - for a club's 1st team	SBCL 9	£178
7	Guarantee Deposit - for each other team	SBCL 9	£122

Youth British Clubs League

No.	Description	Reg.	Fee
1	Team Entry Fee <u>(Premier Club)/ £570 (Associate Club)/ £620 (Registered Team)</u>	3.5	<u>£520</u>
2	Emergency Player Registration (in addition to Reg. Fee)	4.2.4	<u>£20</u>
3	Transfer Fee	5.5	<u>£25</u>

Women's British Clubs League

No.	Description	Reg.	Fee
1	Team Entry Fee <u>(Premier Club)/ £625 (Associate Club)/ £675 (Registered Team)</u>	3.5	<u>£575</u>
2	Emergency Player Registration (in addition to Reg. Fee)	4.2.4	<u>£20</u>
3	Transfer Fee	5.5	<u>£25</u>

Veterans' British Clubs League

No.	Description	Reg.	Fee
1	Team Entry Fee <u>(Premier Club)/ £655 (Associate Club)/ £705 (Registered Team)</u>	3.5	<u>£605</u>
2	Emergency Player Registration (in addition to Reg. Fee)	4.2.4	<u>£20</u>
3	Transfer Fee	5.5	<u>£25</u>

For the purposes of Entry Fees, established clubs from the Home Countries outside of England shall be treated as Associate Clubs as opposed to Registered Teams.

Annex D - FINES & PENALTIES 2023/24

Notes: 1 Unless otherwise stated, references are to BL General Regulations

2 The fines shown are maxima and the Committee may impose a lesser fine at its discretion

Senior British Clubs League

No. Offence	Reg.	Fine
1 Failure to use nominated match ball	18.1	£5
2 Failure of team to arrive at scheduled match (plus League and opponents' expenses)	18.1	£100
3 Playing with incomplete team (per player short or ineligible)	18.1	£20
4 Not playing in nominated kit (per player, per match)	18.1	£20
5 Failure to be ready to play at appointed time (per 10 minutes late up to 30 minutes)	13.1	£5
6 Withdrawal of team without fulfilling fixtures	8.1	£100
7 Persistent infringement of regulations	18.7	Expulsion
8 Failure of a team to play in correct order	18.7	£20
9 Late Team Entry Application	18.7	£25
10 Withdrawal of team after team entry deadline	18.7	Forfeiture of all entry fees
11 Failure to declare players present to the referee at due time	SBCL7.8	£25
12 Failure of Premier Division home team to report results	SBCL14.1	£50

Youth British Clubs League

No. Offence	Reg.	Fine
1 Failure of team to arrive at scheduled match (plus League and opponents' expenses)	18.1	£100
2 Playing with incomplete team (per player short or ineligible)	18.1	£20
3 Withdrawal of team without fulfilling fixtures	8.1	Expulsion
4 Persistent infringement of regulations	18.7	Expulsion
5 Failure of a team to play in correct order	18.1	£20
6 Not playing in nominated kit (per player, per match)	18.1	£20
7 Registered player not playing any matches	18.1	£100
8 Failure to declare players present to the referee at due time	YBCL5.4	£25

Women's British Clubs League

No. Offence	Reg.	Fine
1 Failure of team to arrive at scheduled match (plus League and opponents' expenses)	18.1	£100
2 Playing with incomplete team (per player short or ineligible)	18.1	£20
3 Withdrawal of team without fulfilling fixtures	8.1	Expulsion
4 Persistent infringement of regulations	18.7	Expulsion
5 Failure of a team to play in correct order	18.1	£20
6 Not playing in nominated kit (per player, per match)	18.1	£20
7 Failure to declare players present to the referee at due time	WBCL5.4	£25

Veterans' British Clubs League

No.	Offence	Reg.	Fine
1	Failure of team to arrive at scheduled match (plus League and opponents' expenses)	18.1	£100
2	Playing with incomplete team (per player short or ineligible)	18.1	£20
3	Withdrawal of team without fulfilling fixtures	8.1	Expulsion
4	Persistent infringement of regulations	18.7	Expulsion
5	Failure of a team to play in correct order	18.1	£20
6	Not playing in nominated kit (per player, per match)	18.1	£20
7	Failure to declare players present to the referee at due time	VBCL5.4	£25

Annex E - FORMS

All references are to GBCL Regulations

Senior British Clubs League

No.	Form	Reg
1	Team Entry Form	3.6
2	Player Registration Form	4.2
3	Player Transfer Form	5.5
4	Club Ranking List	4.2
5	Match Score Sheet	14.1
6	Notice of Warning or Fine	18.2
7	Fine Reminder	18.4

Youth British Clubs League

No.	Form	Reg
1	Team Entry Form	3.6
2	Player Registration Form	4.2
3	Team Ranking Form	4.2
4	Player Transfer Form	5.5

Women's British Clubs League

No.	Form	Reg
1	Team Entry Form	3.6
2	Player Registration Form	4.2
3	Team Ranking Form	4.2
4	Player Transfer Form	5.5

Veterans' British Clubs League

No.	Form	Reg
1	Team Entry Form	3.6
2	Player Registration Form	4.2
3	Team Ranking Form	4.2
4	Player Transfer Form	5.5