

This document cancels and replaces the issue dated 04.07.24

Note: 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.

1 CONSTITUTION OF DIVISIONS

- 1.1 Teams shall be divided into male divisions and female divisions.
- 1.2 Each division shall consist of not more than eight nor fewer than five teams, as determined by the Committee.
- 1.3 The Committee may decide to have two or more divisions of equal status.

2 PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- 2.1 At the end of each season the highest and second highest teams in each division other than the Premier and men's Division 1 (Groups 1 and 2), and the highest team only in men's Division 1 (Groups 1 and 2), shall be promoted (subject to Regulations 2.3 and 2.4).
- 2.2 At the end of each season the lowest and second lowest team in each division shall be relegated (subject to Regulations 2.3 and 2.4), but teams in the lowest division so relegated may apply for re-admission.
- 2.3 If there are divisions of equal status, at least one team shall be promoted from each division, and the number of teams to be relegated shall be equal to the total number of teams to be promoted to those divisions. The teams to be relegated shall be provided on an equal basis from each division on the same level; the Committee reserves the right to be satisfied that teams' players meet the required standard of the division in which the team will compete.
- 2.4 There shall be no more than two teams from the same club in any division; where there are two, they must play each other in the first round (session) of each weekend's competition.
- 2.5 The Committee reserves the right to fill divisional vacancies caused by the withdrawal of teams, whether by further promotions or the addition of extra teams.
- 2.6 In the event of there being too many applicants for places available, a play-off competition may be organised by the Committee.
- 2.7 If a team withdraws from any division either before or after completing all its fixtures, the place vacated by that team shall be filled by reducing by one the number of teams relegated from that division.

3 PLAYING FORMAT

- 3.1 Each team shall consist of three players selected from those registered for that team.
- 3.2 A team match shall consist of six singles matches, played in the following order: A v Y, B v X, C v Z, A v X, C v Y, B v Z.
- 3.3 Until 30 minutes before the starting time for the match the order in Regulation 3.2 may be varied by agreement of both team captains and the Referee.
- 3.4 All individual matches shall be played.
- 3.5 No registered player may represent another team in the same or a lower division.
- 3.6 Clubs which have more than one team in the League may play any of their players from a lower-ranked team in a higher-ranked team, with the proviso that the player

may not replace a lower-rated player; on playing up in three rounds the player becomes restricted to play for that higher-ranked team.

4 REGISTRATION & TRANSFER

- 4.1 The latest date for registration or transfer is 48 hours before the first match of the season.
- 4.2 In divisions other than the Premier Division and Division 1, after the first weekend and up to 48 hours before the first match of the second weekend, a club can register further players for its lowest team provided that their rating points are less than those of the lowest-ranked player already registered for that team. See also LG 4.2.8

5 PLAYER RANKING

- 5.1 The online club ranking order module will be accessible shortly after the closing date for entries has passed and will remain open through to July 31 for clubs to submit their club ranking order.
 - 5.1.1 The online team ranking order will reopen after the first weekend of play for teams to submit an updated team order and will close 14 days prior to the second weekend of play. After this time, it will not be possible to adjust a team ranking order
- 5.2 All players who at the time of entry have actual or dummy ratings, or who are deemed to be of that standard from a reliable source of information received, appear in the top 50 men or top 30 women of the appropriate TTE Rating, must be ranked contiguously from No 1 in the same order for their team and above any who have no such rating; the Executive Officer or the Referee will make any adjustment necessary to achieve this.
- 5.3 Immediately before each weekend of competition, the Executive Officer or the Referee shall rank the players in each team in accordance with the procedure of 5.2; these rankings and team playing orders will be published in the programme for the relevant sections for that weekend and must be observed in all matches during the weekend.
- 5.4 For each team the players present must be declared to the Referee not later than 1 hour before the scheduled start of play.
- 5.5 If a team plays out of ranking order, a player of that team shall forfeit with the score of 0-11, 0-11, 0-11 any match played against a player against whom he would not have played if his team had played in ranked order and the team will be liable to the fine specified in BL General Regulations. This includes the case where a team plays an ineligible player and this affects the ranking position of another player, or players.

6 SYSTEM OF PLAY

- 6.1 The League shall be completed over two weekends, preferably not more than ten weeks apart.
- 6.2 In 6-team divisions each team shall compete against all other teams in its division at both weekends.
- 6.3 In 8-team divisions each team shall compete against all other teams once (five sessions of the first weekend and the first two sessions of the second weekend).
- 6.3.1 Two mini-divisions of four will then be formed based on the finishing positions (teams 1-4 and 5-8), with each team competing against all the other teams in its mini-division over the final sessions of the second weekend.

6.3.2 Results of all matches will be carried forward from the first seven sessions to the appropriate 4-team mini-division.

7 AWARDS

- 7.1 Medals will be awarded to players in all first and second placed teams, to a maximum of four per team.
- 7.2 Where perpetual trophies are awarded, it shall be the responsibility of the recipients to return the trophies in good condition, by arrangement with the Administrator.

8 ELIGIBILITY

- 8.1 Players must not be under any current TTE sanctions (See TTE Regulations for Regulated Table Tennis - Suspension of Right to Play).
- 8.2 For the Premier Division, a club cannot register for any team more than one player who is not affiliated to the national Association of a Home Country. Where a non- Home Country affiliated player may be eligible to play-up from a lower division under Regulation 3.6, then no more than one such player may play in any fixture.
- 8.3 All players must be 40 years of age or over on 31st December during the current Membership Year.

9 THE PLAYING AREA

- 9.1 The following individuals are authorised to be at the playing area and to give advice:
- 9.1.1 all players named on the matchcard
 - 9.1.2 all players registered for the team in question
 - 9.2.3 up to three coaches and/or non-playing captains

10 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 10.1 In exceptional circumstances, the Committee shall have power to take such action as it considers necessary, including redefinition of the structure and temporary waiving of regulations.