

2024-2025 Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship

General Information

- Date:** Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd March 2025
- Venue:** David Ross Sports Village, University of Nottingham, Beeston Ln, Nottingham, NG7 2RD
- Entry Closing Date:** Midnight on Wednesday 5th March 2025
- Draw Date:** w/c 10th March 2025 for Doubles and Men's and Women's Singles Group stages.
Friday 21st March 2025 for Men's and Women's Singles knockout stages.
- Ranking Lists:** Senior Invites will be based on the 24/04 snapshot ranking list (Published 11th December 2024)
Seedings will be based on the 24/07 snapshot ranking list (Published 12th March 2025)
- Ranking Weighting:** This event carries a Table Tennis England Ranking weighting of x 2.25

Should you have any queries regarding this event please contact the Tournament Organiser Mark Pinder at mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk or 01908 208871.

1. Authority

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

2. Table Tennis England Board

Mr. Nick DONALD, Table Tennis England Chair
Ms. Sally LOCKYER, Table Tennis England CEO
Mr. Kwadjo ADJEPONG, Appointed Director
Mr. Richard AYERS, Appointed Director
Mr. Mark BOOTE, Appointed Director
Ms. Kath CURRAN, Appointed Director
Mr. Ray JAMES, Appointed Director
Ms. Anna WHOWELL, Appointed Director
Ms. Sally HUGHES, Elected Director
Mr. Jos KELLY, Elected Director
Mr. Don PARKER, Elected Director
Mr. Ritchie VENNOR, Elected Director

3. Championship Jury

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

- Competition Referee
- Tournament Director
- Tournament Organiser
- Table Tennis England Chair (if present)
- Table Tennis England Chief Executive Officer (if present)
- Technical Operations Manager

4.

Tournament Director

Should you have any queries regarding this event please contact:

Tournament Director: Mr. Neil Rogers neil.rogers@tabletennisengland.co.uk

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5. Officials

Referee: Mr. Steve Smith (IR) (ENG)

Deputy Referee: Mr. Matthew Pryke (NR) (ENG)

Assistant Referee: Mr. Kim Mudge (NR) (ENG)

Umpires Manager: Mrs. Karen Tonge OBE, (IR) (ENG)

Field of Play Manager: Mr. Brian Jackson (TO4) (ENG)

Technical Operations Manager: Mr. Chris Newton (ENG)

6. Events

The following Championship events will take place:

1. Men's Singles	2. Women's Singles
3. Men's Doubles	4. Women's Doubles
5. Mixed Doubles	
6. Para Mixed classes 2-5	7. Para Mixed classes 6-10

7. Criteria for Invitations

Table Tennis England will invite eligible players as below. Please note that rankings remain live until the end of the season, and published places in a given ranking list may change slightly following subsequent month's ranking runs – for this reason, invitations are done on a fixed 'snapshot' basis, and will not themselves change if the live list changes retrospectively.

Senior Singles invitations:

- 16 Men and Women on the Table Tennis England Ranking list
- 14 Men and Women who qualified at the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Qualification Tournament
- 2 Wildcards for Men and Women will be selected.

Should an athlete decline their invitation, the next eligible player listed in order, from the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Qualifying event will be invited up to player number 32. If places remain after all qualifying places have been used, then remaining places will be offered to eligible players on the 24/04 ranking list, published on 11th December, from 17 up to and including place 50.

Para Players: Table Tennis England will invite Para players based on BPTT selection, which is at the sole discretion of BPTT, and Para players must also be current TTE members.

Athletes can only compete in the singles event which they have been invited. It will be at the discretion of the Table Tennis England panel to select further players if the maximum entry hasn't been reached.

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8. 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	£43:00
2. Women's Singles	£43:00
3. Men's Doubles	£36.00
4. Women's Doubles	£36.00
5. Mixed Doubles	£36.00
6. Para Mixed classes 2-5	£43:00
7. Para Mixed classes 6-10	£43:00

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

9. Formats

Singles Categories - The format will be group stages (comprising of 8 groups of 3 players, with 1 player qualifying) played to the best of 5 games, followed by knockout matches played to the best of 7 games, 11 up. The top 8 seeds will get a bye to the last 16 stages.

Doubles Categories - Matches will be played on a knockout basis, played to the best of 5 games, 11 up, and will involve up to 16 pairs for each category.

Para Categories - The Para categories will play in 2 groups of 3, for each competition followed by knockout matches played to the best of 5 games, 11 up.

Classes 2-5 are for physical impairment (sitting), class 1 being the most severely affected and class 5 having the most physical functionality.

Classes 6-10 are for physical impairment (standing), class 6 being the most severe and class 10 the least. These are set by the International Paralympic Committee.

10. Sunday Format

Sunday matches will use International standard pre-match procedures, and multi-ball will also be in operation. There will be on-court presentations between Sunday's matches.

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11. Prize Fund

The tournament will be offering prize money in each of the Championship Events. The prize money on offer for the tournament will be as below:

Category	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing Semi-Finalists	Losing Quarter-Finalists	Total
Men's Singles	£1600	£800	£400	£200	£4000
Women's Singles	£1600	£800	£400	£200	£4000
Men's Doubles	£300 each	£150 each	£70 each*	n/a	£1180
Women's Doubles	£300 each	£150 each	£70 each*	n/a	£1180
Mixed Doubles	£200 each	£100 each	£70 each**	n/a	£880
Para Class 2-5	£240	£120			£360
Para Class 6-10	£240	£120			£360
Total Prize Fund					£11,960

All players must attend their medal ceremony or else they will forgo any prize money earned.

* Medal Ceremony to be held on Sunday 23rd March following conclusion of the Final; losing semi-finalist prize money and medals will only be issued if entry numbers warrant

** Medal Ceremony to be held on Saturday 22nd March following the conclusion of the Final; losing semi-finalist prize money and medals will only be issued if entry numbers warrant

12. 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.

For further details please see the Table Tennis England Photo and live streaming Policy:

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/photography-guidelines/>

13. 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/>

All rules will be played as per Table Tennis England Regulated Competition, unless otherwise stated below, which can be found in the below link: [Articles and regulations - Table Tennis England](#)

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TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

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.

1. The Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship is only open to those players who are eligible to play for England. If you are in any doubt about this, please telephone Table Tennis England on 01908 208871 or email mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk for clarification and advice.
2. 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 a Championships, it is found that a title winner was ineligible to play then their name will be expunged from the records.
3. All competitors must meet all the following criteria:
 - Be a current Compete Plus member of Table Tennis England.
 - 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.
 - 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)
 - The Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships 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 this entry form signifies agreement by the entrant to the conditions of the competition including the variations from the ITTF requirements.
4. Entrants in events 1-2, Table Tennis England will invite up to 16 Men and 16 Women eligible for each of the Singles categories and a further 14 Men and Women who qualified at the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Qualification and 2 Wildcards per Men and Women's Singles event.
5. Entrants in events 3-5, will involve up to 16 pairs for each category, Men, Women and Mixed; event entrants can invite their regular doubles partner if that individual meets the requirements of 3., as this is not restricted to event entrants only – if oversubscribed, priority will be given to pairs with the highest aggregate Senior ranking. Should a player withdraw from the doubles after the closing date, but before the event category commences, their doubles partner will have an agreed time to find a replacement player before the next pairing are accepted, at the discretion of the referee. The replacement player can't be higher ranked, and the combined ranking can't be lower than the highest ranked pair on the reserve list, should there be one.
6. Any player withdrawing after the Championships has started, in either the singles or doubles events, will then be withdrawn from all remaining categories of the competition.
7. Any player withdrawing from the competition after the initial draw has been made, may receive a £50 fine.
8. Table Tennis England Tournament Director will invite eligible players, invited players must be ranked senior rankings 1 to 16 Men and Women on the Table Tennis England 24/04, 11th December 2024 snapshot ranking list. Should an athlete decline their invitation, the next eligible player listed in order, from the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Qualifying event will be invited up to player number 32. If places remain after all qualifying places have been used, then remaining places will be offered to eligible players on the 24/04 ranking list (in order) from 17 up to and including place 50.
9. Entrants in events 6 & 7 will be submitted by BPTT, invited by Table Tennis England and will meet international classification set by the ITTF, in consultation with BPTT. Selection is at the sole discretion of BPTT, and Para players must also be current TTE members.
10. The tournament referee reserves the right to cancel any event for which fewer than 8 entries are received and to hold qualifying competitions or merge events if necessary. No entry will be accepted after the draw however Table Tennis England reserves the right in exceptional circumstances to invite additional players to fulfil vacant gaps in the groups. Fees sent for entries subsequently rejected will be refunded, but entry forms received without fees will be ignored.
11. Entries will be acknowledged automatically; a player not having received such an acknowledgement by 5th March 2025 should contact the Events department on 01908 208871.
12. The last date for receipt of entries is mid-night, Wednesday 5th March 2025. Please note that entries received without payment or signature will be declined.
13. 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.

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14. The live draw for Men's and Women's Singles Knockout stages will take place at David Ross Sports Village on Friday 21st March 2025. All other categories will be drawn in the week commencing Monday 10th March 2025.
15. 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 disqualification from the event.
16. Play throughout will be with Butterfly R40+ 3* plastic ball (white), Butterfly nets and posts and a minimum court size 12m x 6m. Tables will be Butterfly Europa 25 or Centrefold 25. Triofloor flooring will be used over semi-sprung wooden flooring.
17. The Referee shall appoint an umpire for each match 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.
GROUP MATCHES IN THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SINGLES WILL BE PLAYED TO BEST OF 5 GAMES. ALL KNOCKOUT MATCHES IN THE MEN'S & WOMEN'S SINGLES EVENTS WILL BE PLAYED TO BEST OF 7 GAMES. DOUBLES AND PARA EVENTS WILL BE PLAYED BEST OF 5 GAMES.
18. 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. Racket testing will be compulsory for all semi-finals and finals.
19. It is the player's responsibility that bats must be submitted 15-20 minutes prior to play. Voluntary testing will be available all weekend.
20. At all times when playing, competitors are required to display their name on the back of their playing shirts. Any player without their name displayed without their name on the back will receive a £20 fine per match.
21. 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.
22. No competitor or official shall engage in betting on players or matches.
23. 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.
24. Separate practice tables will be available throughout the event for PARTICIPANTS only, practice on the match tables once the competition starts will be at the discretion of the Referee.
25. Suitably engraved Medals will be presented to the finalists as well losing semi-finalists in all Championship Events, that have more than 14 entries.
26. All medal winners must attend their ceremony for each individual event they gain a medal, or they will forgo their prize money for that specific event. If awarded, losing semi-finalists of events with finals on the following day (e.g Doubles), will have the option of being presented with their medal on the day of the Semi-Final, should both losing semi-finalists not be attending on the following day.
27. 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 Championships 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.
28. Doping shall not take place before or during play. Players competing in this tournament may be subject to drug testing from UK Anti-doping.
29. 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.
30. Changing facilities, light meals and refreshments will be available at the venue for purchase. Parking is available at the venue, a parking ticket will need to be purchased on the Friday only, free parking on Saturday and Sunday. Limited disabled parking is also available.
31. All competitors must report to the reception for check-in on arrival on the first day they are attending and must not leave the venue without first obtaining permission from the Referee.
32. Table Tennis England may authorise photographers and other media representatives to record the event.
33. 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.
34. Admission – each Singles Player will receive one accreditation for their coach, they must confirm the name of the coach, in advance, on the entry form, or this may not be provided. Any accreditations issued after the deadline will incur a £10 fee. Invited doubles partners will not be entitled to a coach's accreditation. All other spectators will be required to buy a ticket. Accreditations will allow access to the venue throughout the event from 21st – 23rd March 2025, in an accredited area ONLY (eg not the spectator area), and subject to available of seating each day. Accreditations must be worn at all times. Players/coaches must sit in the allocated seating.
35. Notification – entrants will be notified of the time of their first match on each day.
36. If players have taken part in the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championship Qualifier in Nottingham for either the Women's or Men's Singles event, they are not required to pay the entry fee for the Women or Men's singles event at the Senior National Championship, held at Nottingham in January. Players will, however, be required to pay entry fees for any other event categories they have been invited to participate in.

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Trophies

Competitors should note that Table Tennis England retain the ownership of all Perpetual Trophies, but each Championship Event winner will continue to receive a medal as currently provided. If a player requests permission to retain a trophy for a period of time, this is acceptable providing the player signs a guarantee of safe return form.

Provisional Playing Schedule

Details for the playing schedule will be circulated to the players and will be posted on the Table Tennis England website. It may be subject to alteration by the Referee depending on the number of entries for each event and other extraneous factors. Completing and signing this form constitutes the player's acknowledgement of this.

Schedule Outline:

Friday noon: Men's and Women's Singles – Group Stages

Friday Eve: Mixed Doubles to Semi-Final

Saturday: Mixed Doubles Final
Men's and Women's Doubles to Semi Finals
Men's and Women's Singles to Quarter Finals
Para 2-5 Class Groups to Semi Finals
Para 6-10 Class Groups to Semi Finals

Sunday: Men's and Women's Singles Semi Final & Final
Men's and Women's Doubles Final
Para 2-5 Class Final
Para 6-10 Class Final