

This document cancels and replaces the issue dated 24.03.25

Note: In 2025/26 the classification system for tournaments as development 1*,2*,3* and 4* will be replaced by National, Zonal and Local. These regulations cover the requirements for both systems.

Regulations Part B: TOURNAMENTS

REGULATIONS

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Classification
- 3 Permission
- 4 Other Applicable Regulations
- 5 Tournament Officials
- 6 Entry Form & Entries
- 7 The Draw
- 8 Banded Events
- 9 Playing Conditions & Equipment
- 10 Programme
- 11 Finals
- 12 Reports
- 13 National Invitational Events

Annexes

- A Notes for Organisers
- B Entry Form Check List

Forms OT1, OT3, OT4 and OT5 can be downloaded from the TTE website under Coach-Officials-Tournament Organiser Forms

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An Open Tournament is a tournament for which entry is open to the players of any Association affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).
- 1.2 A Closed Tournament is a tournament for which entry is restricted to members of a particular community, such as an organisation or a profession.
- 1.3 An Invitation Tournament is a tournament for which entry is restricted to particular players or teams, individually invited.
- 1.4 A Grand Prix is an Open Tournament which is subject to supplementary regulations, as set out in Regulations Part G: Grand Prix.

2 CLASSIFICATION

- 2.1 Open Tournaments will be classified by the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) as Development, 1-Star, 2-Star, 3-Star or 4-Star in order of rising standards. From the 2025/26 season 2025/26 the classification of Open Tournaments will change to Local, Zonal and National.

3 PERMISSION

- 3.1 The TAP is responsible for arranging the Competition Calendar for each Membership Year.
- 3.2 Application to run an Open Tournament must be sent on Form OT1 to the TAP Secretary
 - 3.2.1 for a Development Tournament not later than 4 weeks before the proposed date.
 - 3.2.2 for a 1 Star-graded tournament not later than 3 months before the proposed date.
 - 3.2.3 for a 2-4 Star-graded tournament not later than 6 months before the proposed date.

- 3.3 The TAP may, at its discretion, accept late applications.
- 3.4 From the 2025-26 season applications to run a Local, Zonal or National Open must be sent on Form OT1 to the TAP Secretary
- 3.5 For a Local or Zonal Open applications must be submitted not later than 5 months before a designated event window
- 3.6 For a National Open a period of consultation with prospective hosts will commence up to 12 months prior to the season in which the event is due to be held
- 3.7 Local and Zonal Open tournaments will have designated dates in the calendar, as determined by the TAP, and applicants may apply on a quarterly basis to stage such tournaments

4 OTHER APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

- 4.1 The Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions (including the use of ITTF regulations where Part A specifies that) apply to all tournaments.

5 TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

- 5.1 The Organiser and Referee of an Open Tournament must be separate Affiliated Members and they, or responsible deputies, must be present throughout play.
- 5.2 The Organiser, Referee and Deputy Referee must not participate in the tournament as a player, umpire or coach.
- 5.3 The identities, and whereabouts during play, of the Organiser and Referee must be made known to participants.
- 5.4 The Organiser of a 2- or 3-Star tournament must be qualified to at least Level 2 (TO2), that of a Senior 4-Star tournament must be qualified to at least Level 3 (TO3) or be an experienced TO2 as approved by the TAP and TOC Committees, and that of a 4-Star tournament of all other age-categories to at least Level 3 (TO3).
 - 5.4.1 The Organiser of a Local Open must be a member of Table Tennis England.
 - 5.4.2 The Organiser of a Zonal Open must be qualified to at least Level 2
 - 5.4.3 The Organiser of a Senior National Open must be qualified to at least Level 3 (TO3) or be an experienced TO2 as approved by the TAP and TOC Committees, and that of a National Open tournament of all other age-categories to at least Level 3 (TO3)
- 5.5 The Referee of a Development or 1-Star tournament must be a suitably experienced person whose appointment will be subject to approval by the TAP.
- 5.6 The Referee of a 2 Star tournament must be qualified to at least Level 1 (Tournament Referee), that ~~and~~ of a 3-Star tournament (all age categories) or 4-Star tournament (all age-categories except Senior) to at least Level 2 (National Referee), and that of 4-Star Senior tournament be at least Level 2, or be an experienced Level 1 as approved by the TAP and TOC Committees; a Deputy Referee of a 3- or 4-Star tournament must be qualified to at least Level 1.
 - 5.6.1 The Referee of a Local Open must, as a minimum, be a suitably experienced member of Table Tennis England or another National Association affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation.
 - 5.6.2 The Referee of a Zonal Open must be qualified to at least Level 1 (Tournament Referee)
 - 5.6.3 The Referee of a National Open (all age-categories except Senior) must be qualified to at least Level 2 (National Referee), and that of Senior National Open tournament be at least Level 2 or an experienced Level 1 as approved by the TAP and TOC

Committees; a Deputy Referee of a National Open must be qualified to at least Level 1 (Tournament Referee)

- 5.7 All matches in a Star-graded tournament must be controlled by someone acting in the role of an umpire.
 - 5.7.1 For a 2-Star tournament there must be at least 1 umpire qualified to Level 1 (County Umpire) or above.
 - 5.7.2 For a 3-Star tournament (all age categories) or 4-Star tournament (all age-categories except Senior) there must be at least 1 umpire qualified to Level 1 or above for 1-4 tables, at least 2 for 5-8 tables, and so on.
 - 5.7.3 For a 4-Star Senior tournament it is recommended there is at least one designated Table Coordinator for 1-4 tables, at least two for 5-8 tables and so on for Group and early knock-out rounds; this complement must include a minimum of two L2 Umpires, or they be acting in a coordinating role for the duration; Umpires for all semi-finals and finals must hold a valid Umpire qualification, and main events semi-finals and finals must include a minimum of two L2 Umpires. As a *minimum*, Umpires for all finals must hold a valid Umpire qualification, and Umpires for all main events semi-finals and finals must hold a valid Umpire qualification and include a minimum of two L2 Umpires.
- 5.8 Umpires qualified to Level 1 or above must be appointed for all knock-out matches in a 4-Star tournament (all age-categories except Senior) and the finals of 2- and 3-Star tournaments; it is recommended that they be appointed for all knock-out matches in a 3-star tournament.
- 5.9 All matches in Local, Zonal and National Opens must be controlled by someone acting in the role of an umpire
 - 5.9.1 In a Local Open preferably by a designated person
 - 5.9.2 In a Zonal Open there must be a minimum of one qualified umpire, and all Finals must be controlled by a qualified umpire
 - 5.9.3 In a National Open (all age-categories except Senior) there must be at least 1 umpire qualified to Level 1 or above for 1-4 tables, at least 2 for 5-8 tables, and so on. All knock-out matches must be controlled by an umpire qualified to a minimum of Level 1.
 - 5.9.4 For a Senior National Open tournament it is *recommended* there is at least one designated Table Coordinator for 1-4 tables, at least two for 5-8 tables and so on for Group and early knock-out rounds; this complement must include a minimum of two L2 Umpires, or they be acting in a coordinating role for the duration; Umpires for all semi-finals and finals must hold a valid Umpire qualification, and main events semi-finals and finals must include a minimum of two L2 Umpires. As a *minimum*, Umpires for all finals must hold a valid Umpire qualification, and Umpires for all main events semi-finals and finals must hold a valid Umpire qualification and include a minimum of two L2 Umpires.

6 ENTRY FORM AND ENTRIES

- 6.1 An entry form is required for all Star-graded, Local, Zonal and National tournaments and is recommended for Development Tournaments.
- 6.2 The entry form must include the items shown in the Entry Form Check List (*Annex B*) and is to be submitted for TAP approval in accordance with the procedure set out in Annex A.

- 6.3 Entries must be numbered in order of receipt; if it is necessary to restrict entries, priority shall be given in order of receipt except that, in a 4-Star tournament, valid entries from Junior Boys rated 1-50 in the Rating List current at the closing date and from Cadet Boys, Junior Girls and Cadet Girls rated 1-32 must be accepted, with priority thereafter being given to Junior Boys rated 51-500 and Junior Girls rated 33-250, in order of receipt.
- 6.4 Entries must be numbered in order of receipt; entry priority shall be given in order of receipt except that, in a National Open tournament, valid entries from players ranked 1-30 in the Rating List and 1-10 in the Junior Ranking List at All-ages events; valid entries from players ranked 1-30 in the Junior Ranking List, and players ranked 1-10 in the Cadet Ranking List at Junior events; valid entries from players ranked 1-30 in the Cadet Ranking List, and players ranked 1-10 in the Under 13 Ranking List at Cadet events; current at the closing date, must be accepted

7 THE DRAW

- 7.1 The Referee of an Open Tournament is responsible for the conduct of the draw in accordance with the ITTF Regulations for International Competitions.
- 7.2 The draw for all events must be displayed in the playing venue and regularly updated to show the progress of play.
- 7.3 The draw will use the rating list current at the time of the draw.

8 BANDED EVENTS

- 8.1 An Open Tournament may include events from which players above and below certain rating points totals are excluded, the limits being by the ratings shown on the relevant National Rating List.
- 8.2 Such events must be called 'Band 1 Men's Singles', 'Band 2 Women's Singles', 'Band 3 Boys' Singles' etc, as appropriate.
- 8.3 Bands must be clearly indicated in the entry form – e.g. 'from 1000-1499', or 'above (or below) 1000'.
- 8.4 To be eligible for a banded event a player must have a rating within that band at the time the draw takes place.
- 8.5 A Senior 4* Tournament and Senior National Open tournament must offer both men's and women's opportunities in all events. These may be combined if minimum viable entry numbers are not achieved.

9 PLAYING CONDITIONS AND EQUIPMENT

- 9.1 The playing conditions and equipment appropriate for each class of Open Tournament are set out in Annex A to the Regulated Competitions Regulations.
- 9.2 Score indicators must be provided for at least the finals of a 1-Star or local tournament and for all matches in other Star-graded, zonal and national tournaments.

10 PROGRAMME

- 10.1 It is recommended that a programme with draw sheets be supplied free to all competitors in a 2-, 3- or 4-Star tournament, or a Zonal, and National, tournament either electronically or as hard copy.
- 10.2 For 3- or 4- Star tournaments, or, Zonal and National, tournaments, the programme should show individual match times.
- 10.3 As a minimum for Senior 4-Star and Senior National Open tournaments, a match schedule shall be made available on the day

11 FINALS

- 11.1 Finals of 2-, 3- and 4-Star tournaments, and Zonal or National tournaments, should be played on a clearly defined 'show table'.
- 11.2 For finals of 3-Star (all age-categories) and 4-Star tournaments (all age-categories except Senior), and National tournaments (all age-categories except Senior), there should be no play on immediately adjacent tables.

12 REPORTS

- 12.1 Not later than 7 days after an Open tournament, or by the published ranking deadline (whichever is sooner), the Organiser must send to the Table Tennis England Office
 - 12.1.1 the results together with a list of entries and, for a Star-graded, local, zonal or national tournament, completed draw sheets and 2 copies of any programme produced: *(Form OT4)*
 - 12.1.2 a report of disciplinary actions, if any, taken by umpires or the Referee. *(Form OT3)*
- 12.2 The TAP may appoint a Tournament Observer to report on the conduct of an Open Tournament, and the Organiser of a 1- or 2-Star, local or zonal tournament can submit a self-assessment. *(Form OT5)*

13 NATIONAL INVITATIONAL EVENTS

- 13.1 The schedule of events in closed National Championships/ Cups/ Series will be determined by the Competitions and Events Manager and published on the TTE website.
- 13.2 All competitors must meet all the following criteria:
 - Be a current Compete or 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' listAnd 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 membership year (1 August to 31 July)

Annex A to Tournament Regulations: NOTES FOR TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

It is expected that communication referred to in these notes will normally be by email, but traditional hard copy communication is equally acceptable.

- 1 For permission to run a 1 Star-Graded Tournament you must apply to the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) Secretary* at least 3 months before the proposed date.
- 2 For permission to run a 2 Star or above Graded Tournament you must apply to the TAP Secretary at least 6 months before the proposed date.
- 3 For permission to run a Development Tournament you must submit your application not later than 4 weeks before the proposed date. Development Tournaments will not be entered on the Competitions Calendar.
- 4 No tournament will be entered on the TTE Calendar until a fully completed and approved Form OT1 has been submitted and approved.
- 5 You are advised to discuss possible dates with the TAP Chair* before submitting a formal application, so that a suitable date can be chosen within an increasingly crowded Competitions Calendar.
- 6 The application form must be countersigned by the General Secretary of your County Association before it is submitted. You must inform your County Association if you propose to change the date of your tournament after the form has been countersigned. If the Tournament venue is in the area of another County Association, you must inform that County Association of the proposed date and venue of the Tournament at the same time as you send the application form to your own County Association.
- 7 You must take all reasonable steps to obtain the County Association's endorsement. If, in exceptional circumstances, this is not possible, you should send full details of the circumstances (including copies of the relevant emails) with form OT1 to TAP who will then decide how to proceed.
- 8 You must send a draft entry form to the TAP Entry Form Checker* for approval at least 6 weeks before the date of the tournament. When it has been checked, a copy will be returned to you with a note of any alterations required, and the original will be retained for reference.
- 9 You must send the finalised entry form, including any required amendments, to the TAP Entry Form Checker at least 4 weeks before the date of the tournament, so that it can be added to the TTE website. *(This is the only way entry forms can be included in the website.)*
- 10 Within 7 days after the last day of the tournament, or by the published ranking deadline (whichever is sooner), you must send:

To the TTE Office:

- (a) A record of the number of entries and winners and runners-up in each event (Form OT4)
- (b) Two copies of any programme produced
- (c) A fully made up draw sheet for each event showing scores
- (d) Completed Entry Forms
- (e) Tournament Report (Form OT6) (1- or 2-Star only)

To the TAP Sanction Scheme Administrator*:

Misconduct Report (Form OT3) if appropriate

* The names of the TAP members currently responsible for these functions can be found on the TTE website at *Organisers and Venues/Organise a Tournament*.

11. The Equality Act requires the organisers of activity to make reasonable provision and adjustment for individuals with a protected characteristic(s), including disabilities. Please be aware of the wheelchair compliant status of your equipment and note the adaptive rules applicable should an entrant to your event be a wheelchair user, as per ITTF and TTE regulations detailed in TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND Regulations Part A: REGULATED COMPETITIONS Annex E 2.9.1.5.

Annex B to Tournament Regulations: ENTRY FORM CHECKLIST

A Items 1-52 must be on part of the form that can be retained by the entrant.

B Items 24-38 must be in the section headed "Regulation".

C Items 53-65 must be on the part of the form that the competitor sends in.

The exact wording must be used for all items marked *.

General (Items 1- 19)

- 1 Name of tournament
- 2 Tournament category: "4-Star", "3-Star", "2-Star", "1-Star", or "Development", "Local Open", "Zonal Open" or "National Open"
- 3* "The tournament is/is not included in the Computer Ranking Scheme." (*delete as appropriate*)
- 4 Promoting body
- 5 That the tournament is approved by TTE and, if the County Association is not the promoting body, by the appropriate County Association
- 6 Venue: Address, directions and telephone number (if any)
- 7 Referee: Name and qualification
- 8 Deputy Referee (3- and 4-Star, and National only): Name and qualification
- 9 Tournament Organiser: Name, postal/email address and telephone number and, for 2-Star and above, qualification
- 10 Organising Committee: Names of members
- 11 Entry Forms: Name, postal/email address and telephone number of person from whom they are available
- 12 Date(s) on which tournament is to be played
- 13 Time(s) of start of play
- 14 Draw: Date on which it will be made
- 15 Admission charge to venue and whether any is payable by competitors
- 16 Admission charge, if any, to parents of Junior/Cadet competitors

- 17 "All entries and event details are subject to COVID-related restrictions, or protocols that Table Tennis England may deem necessary. Venues used for events may impose COVID restrictions that go beyond government guidance."
- 18 "All participants and attendees at Table Tennis England events are subject to Table Tennis England Codes of Conduct. Please see <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-codes-of-conduct-and-terms-of-reference/> "
- 19 "TTE, the Organisers and the Referee will not tolerate bad language 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 take disciplinary action if necessary. For further details, please see the Table Tennis England Workforce Protection Policy <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/policies-and-procedures/> "

Entry Provisions (Items 20-23)

20 Entries: Name and postal/email address of person to whom entry should be sent

21 Closing date for entries.

22* For all tournaments except Junior 4-Star:

"If it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt."

For Junior 4-Star:

"If it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt, except that all valid entries for Junior Boys rated 1-50 in the Rating List current at the closing date and for Junior Girls, Cadet Boys and Cadet Girls rated 1-32 will be accepted, with priority thereafter being given to Junior Boys rated 51-500 and Junior Girls rated 33-250."

For a National Open tournament:

National Cadet Open

"if it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt, except that all valid entries from players ranked 1-30 in the Cadet Ranking List, and players ranked 1-10 in the Under 13 Ranking List current at the closing date, must be accepted"

National Junior Open:

"if it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt, except that all valid entries from players ranked 1-30 in the Junior Ranking List, and players ranked 1-10 in the Cadet Ranking List current at the closing date, must be accepted"

National Senior Open:

"if it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt, except that all valid entries from players ranked 1-30 in the Rating List and 1-10 in the Junior Ranking List current at the closing date, must be accepted"

23* If applicable, "No entry will be accepted after the draw has been made."

Regulations Section (Items 24- 38)

24* "For development and 1-star tournaments, and Local tournaments: "Every entrant must be affiliated as a Compete Member or provide proof of being a member of another National Association in membership of the ITTF. An entrant who is not a TTE member or is affiliated as a Supporter or Club Play Member may alternately purchase a One-Off

Tournament Pass at the time of entry via <https://tabletennisengland.sport80.com/> It is not possible to obtain the OTP at the tournament"

- 25* For 2-Star and above, and Zonal, National and above: "Every entrant must be affiliated as a Compete Plus Member or provide proof of being a member of another National Association affiliated to the ITTF.–An entrant who is not a TTE member or is affiliated as a Supporter or Club Play Member may alternately purchase a One-Off Tournament Pass at the time of entry via <https://tabletennisengland.sport80.com/>". An entrant only affiliated as a Compete member may enter the tournament upon payment of the appropriate One- Time Tournament Top-Up fee via <https://tabletennisengland.sport80.com/> It is not possible to obtain the OTP or the OTT at the tournament".
- 26* "TTE Regulations Part A (Regulated Competitions) and Part B (Tournament Regulations) apply to the tournament."
- 27* "ITTF Regulations for International Competitions apply to the tournament except where otherwise specified in TTE Regulations Parts A or B, or in this form."
- 28 If applicable, any further variations of ITTF Regulations
- 29* For 4- and 3-Star, and National tournaments: "Players may/will/will not be expected to umpire group matches." (*Delete as appropriate*)
- 30* For 2-Star, 1-Star and Development, Local, and Zonal: either "No competitor will be obliged to umpire" or "All competitors may be required to umpire at least one match in each event entered."
31. Any tournament with a team event must clearly state which individuals are authorised to be and to give advice at the playing area. It is recommended that this comprises –
 - a. the players named on the match card for the match in question
 - b. up to one additional person per player.
- 32 System of play: Whether in groups and/or knockout
- 33 Number of games to be played in each match
- 34 Qualifying age(s) for players in any events having an age qualification
- 35 If applicable, eligibility for banded events
- 36 Players' Clothing:
 - 2-Star & above, and Zonal & above: as specified in TTE Regulations Part A
 - Development & 1-Star, and Local: main colour of clothing must be different from colour of ball
- 37* "No competitor or official shall engage in betting on players or matches."
- 38* "Doping shall not take place either before or during play."
- 39* "Completion and submission of this Entry Form signifies agreement by the entrant to the conditions of the competition, including any variations of ITTF regulations."

Playing Conditions and Equipment (Items 39- 45)

- 40 Tables: make and number
- 41 Nets and posts: make and type
- 42 Balls: make/name, grade and colour of currently ITTF-approved balls to be used
- 43 Courts: Whether or not each table is in an individual court enclosed by surrounds
 - Dimensions of court.
 - Minimum height of playing area (floor to ceiling)
 - Minimum height of lighting from floor
- 44 Lighting: Whether over each table or only general

- Type (traditional, tungsten, fluorescent, quartz-halogen etc)
- 45 Floor: Type (wood, plastic, etc)
- 46 Score indicators:
- 2*, 3*, 4*, Zonal and National: that they will be used for all matches
 - 1* and Local: that they will be used for finals, and whether or not they will be used for all matches
 - Development: which matches they will be used for

Information Section (Items 46- 52)

- 47 That doping control tests may take place
- 48 Practice: Whether or not any separate practice facilities and, if so, how many tables and whether or not with same playing conditions as tournament
- 49 Changing facilities: Details, including whether or not hot showers are available
- 50 Car Parking: What facilities are available and whether free or at a charge
- 51 Catering: Details, including whether or not full meals are available
- 52 Prizes:
- Whether cash, vouchers, goods or trophies
 - To whom to be awarded (e.g. 'to all winners and runners-up')
 - Except where trophies only are awarded, a full list of prizes, showing the amount of each cash prize and the approximate value of each prize consisting of vouchers or goods
- 53 Photo/livestreaming
(Organisation name) may 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 (organisation email) Please be aware that we follow the Table Tennis England's Photo and live streaming Policy: <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/photography-guidelines/>

Entry Section (Items 53- 65) *(Properly separable from portion containing obligatory information)*

- 54 Events: Name of every event being run
Entry fees: Amount for each event
- 55 Player's Name *(Block Capitals)*
- 56 If not affiliated to TTE, name of National Association
Membership/Player Licence Number
- 57 County of Affiliation
- 58 In any event with age restriction: Space for date of birth
- 59 Please detail any relevant disability, accessibility or health issues
- 60* Player's Undertaking: "I undertake to observe the regulations of the tournament, to abide by the decisions of the Referee, and to fulfil the schedule of play arranged for me unless prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond my control and accepted as such by the Referee."
- 61* Table Tennis England require consent to the use of personal data in the administration of this competition, in accordance with the TTE Privacy Policy; the information will be

shared where necessary with the organisers and event committee. For a player under 16 this consent must be given by a parent or guardian, who must also confirm agreement to the player's participation in the competition. The TTE Privacy Policy is at <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/privacy-policy>

62* *If player is 16 or over:*

Data Protection

I am the player named above and I consent to the use by TTE of my personal data in the administration of this competition.

Signed:

Date:

63* *If player is under 16:*

Data Protection & Activity Consent

I have legal responsibility for the player named above and I consent to his/her participation in the competition, and to the use by TTE of his/her personal data in its administration.

Name: (block capitals)

Relationship to player:

Signed:

Date:

64* The UK Anti-Doping Rules apply to all persons entering an event or competition, for whichever is the longer of a) the length of their membership or licence period; or b) 12 months from the date of their participation, whether or not the entrant or licence holder is a citizen of, or resident in, the UK.

65* A player under 18 may not participate in a Table Tennis England event or competition unless a parent or guardian of that player has consented to testing of that player in the following form:

Anti-Doping Acknowledgment

I have legal responsibility for the player named above and I confirm that I have read the TTE Anti-Doping Regulations (Appendix P) and that I hereby acknowledge that the player is bound by these Regulations.

Name: (block capitals)

Relationship to player:

Signed:

Date
