

General Information

Date: Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April 2026

Venue: Arena Sports Kettering, Thurston Dr, Kettering NN15 6PB

Entry Closing Date: Midnight on Wednesday 25th March 2026

Draw Date: w/c Monday 5th April 2026

Ranking Weighting: This event carries a Table Tennis England Ranking weighting of x2.0

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

1. Authority

The English Table Tennis Association shall organize the National Open Championships

President: Mrs. Jill Parker MBE.

2. Table Tennis England Board

Ms. Clare BRIEGAL, Table Tennis England Chair

Ms. Sally LOCKYER, Table Tennis England CEO

Mr. Richard AYERS, Appointed Director

Mr. Paul BISHOP, Appointed Director

Ms. Kath CURRAN, Appointed Director

Ms. Sally HUGHES, Elected Director

Mr. Jos KELLY, Elected Director

Mr. Liam McTIERNAN, Elected Director

Mr. Don PARKER, Elected Director

Mr. Ritchie VENNER, Elected Director

Ms. Anna HOWELL, Appointed Director

3. Championship Jury

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

- Competition Referee
- Tournament Director (as chair)
- Head of Competition & Events

4. Tournament Director

Should you have any queries regarding this event please contact:

Tournament Director: Mr. Mark Pinder. mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk

5. Officials

Referee – Paul Nichols (TR)

Deputy Referee – John Mackey (TR)

Referee's Assistant – Richard Crowther (TR)

Umpire Manaher – Margaret Welch (TO3)

6. Events

The following Open Championship events will take place:

1. U10 Boys Singles (those born in 2016 or later)	2. U10 Girls Singles (those born in 2016 or later)
3. U11 Boys Singles (those born in 2015 or later)	4. U11 Girls Singles (those born in 2015 or later)
5. U12 Boys Singles (those born in 2014 or later)	6. U12 Girls Singles (those born in 2014 or later)
7. U12 Boys Doubles (those born in 2014 or later)	8. U12 Girls Doubles (those born in 2014 or later)
9. U13 Boys Singles (those born in 2013 or later)	10. U13 Girls Singles (those born in 2013 or later)
11. U13 Boys Doubles (those born in 2013 or later)	12. U13 Girls Doubles (those born in 2013 or later)

7. Invitations & Entry Priority

Table Tennis England invites all eligible players to enter the Mark Bates Ltd U10-13 National Open Championships.

The Mark Bates Ltd U10-13 National Open Championship entries will be accepted in order of receipt (time and date) up until the closing date or the competition is full. Players can only enter one singles, and one doubles age group per day.

There will be a practical limit for entrants which will be at the discretion of the referee, and therefore it may not be possible to accept all entries. This will be determined by when your entry is submitted and paid for, or in the case of doubles once both players entry is submitted and paid for. All entries should be considered provisional until confirmed, and any unsuccessful entries will be refunded.

The following players will have protected entries, should they meet the eligibility criteria and the entry/payment deadline:

- Players ranked in the top 16 in a specific age group, in the 25/07 snapshot ranking, for the Singles category of the relevant group.
- Pairings with a Player ranked in the top 8 in a specific age group, in the 25/07 snapshot ranking, for the Doubles category of the relevant group.

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, the ranking list is a fixed 'snapshot' basis and will not themselves change if the live list changes retrospectively.

Doubles:

Doubles events will be restricted to 24 pairs per category. All eligible players are able to enter both Doubles events.

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, or a Compete membership with a One Time Tournament Top-Up.

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Category	Fees	Category	Fees
1. U10 Boys Singles	£29:00	7. U12 Boys Doubles	£25:00
2. U10 Girls Singles	£29:00	8. U12 Girls Doubles	£25:00
3. U11 Boys Singles	£29:00	9. U13 Boys Singles	£29:00
4. U11 Girls Singles	£29:00	10. U13 Girls Singles	£29:00
5. U12 Boys Singles	£29:00	11. U13 Boys Doubles	£25:00
6. U12 Girls Singles	£29:00	12. U13 Girls Doubles	£25:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible players can enter either U11 OR U13 Singles, but not both • Eligible players can enter either U10 OR U12 Singles, but not both 			

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

The format of the Singles categories will be group stages followed by knockout matches. The size and number of the groups will be determined by the referee, who may progress seeded players to later rounds if suitable. All matches will be played to the best of 5 games, 11 up.

All singles events will have a minimum guaranteed capacity. The U10s and U11s events will have a minimum guaranteed capacity of 24 players. The U12s and U13s events will have a minimum guaranteed capacity of 48 players. Should entries exceed these minimum capacities, the final number of entrants will be determined by referee.

The format of the Doubles categories will be straight knockout matches played to the best of 5 games, 11 up.

All doubles age-groups will have a maximum capacity of 24 pairs.

10. U18's participants at the competition

All U18 participants should be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. Officials and Organisers of a competition do not take responsibility for or stand in loco parentis for any U18s.

11. 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/>

12. 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/>

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 & INFORMATION

**It is important that all competitors read and understand these regulations.
Competitors should also ensure that they retain this sheet for reference purposes.**

1. The English National Open Championships are only open to those players who are eligible to play for England or transitioning to become eligible to play for England. If you are in any doubt about this, please telephone the Events Department on 01908 208871 for clarification and advice. Also see below eligibility criteria.

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 any player 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 or Compete Plus member of Table Tennis England. If a Compete member, a one-time tournament top-up must also be purchased
- Must have played in at least one Local Open Tournament (or 1*) or higher in the same season ahead of the deadline date. For the avoidance of doubt playing in the Cadet or Junior British Clubs League will be accepted as meeting this criteria.
- Have indicated 'England' nationality in their membership profile.
- 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:

- Must 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)
- For the avoidance of doubt, players may be either ranked or unranked.

Athletes may apply for mitigating circumstances, in the event that they are unable to complete 1x 1* events. Athletes should apply to the Tournament Director as soon as possible ahead of the 25/07 ranking list is published. Injury and international representation are reasons that will be looked on favourably.

4. The 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.

5. 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.

6. Entrants in events 1 & 2 must have been born in 2016 or later. In events 3 & 4 must have been born in 2015 or later. Entrants in events 5, 6, 7 & 8 must have been born in 2014 or later. In events 9, 10, 11 & 12 must have been born in 2013 or later.

7. All singles events will have a minimum guaranteed capacity. Events 1, 2, 3 & 4 will have a minimum guaranteed capacity of 24 players. Events 5, 6, 9 & 10 events will have a minimum guaranteed capacity of 48 players. Should entries exceed these minimum capacities, the final number of entrants will be determined by referee.

8. Should any player withdraw following the draw has been made, they can only be replaced by the next player on the waiting list, who is lower ranked than the withdrawn player.

9. In events 7, 8, 11 & 12 **"Partner Wanted" entries will not be accepted**. Any entrant whose nominated doubles partner does not enter, will be withdrawn from that event.

10. **Doubles:** Doubles will be restricted to 24 pairs for boy's doubles and 24 pairs for girl's doubles in both age categories.

11. If events 7, 8, 11 or 12 are oversubscribed, priority will be given to pairs with a player ranked in the top 8 of a singles category, followed by a first come first served basis, date and time of the payment of both players.

12. 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. If the withdrawal happens after the draw has been made, the replacement player can't be higher ranked than the withdrawn player.

13. 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.

14. Entries will be acknowledged automatically; a player not having received such acknowledgement by 26th March 2026 should contact Mark Pinder mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk. The last date and time for receipt of entries is Midnight Wednesday 25th March 2026.

15. 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.

16. The draw will take place w/c Monday 5th April 2026.

17. The right is reserved to alter the schedule of playing times and/or table for any match. Entrants, if absent at any time when scheduled upon to play, are liable to disqualification from the event.

18. Play throughout will be with Butterfly R40+ 3* plastic ball (white) and on 24 x Butterfly Europa 25 tables (blue), minimum court size 9m x 4.5m. The make of nets and posts will be Butterfly. Sports Hall flooring will be used.

19. Singles categories will be group stages, followed by knockout matches, with all matches played to the best of 5 games, 11 up.

20. The size and number of the groups will be at the referee's discretion and may progress seeded players into the later rounds.

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21. The final order in a group shall be determined in accordance with ITTF Regulation 3.7.5 for group competitions. Each match will be controlled by an umpire, whose decision will be final on matters of fact. The Referee's decision shall be final on points of law in any dispute as to the interpretation of these regulations and on any matter not covered by them. Scoring machines will be used for all matches.
22. Table Tennis England reserves the right for changes to format should numbers not be suitable, including if below 8 players. There will be no consolation event.
23. The format of the Doubles categories will be straight knockout matches played to the best of 5 games, 11 up.
24. Events 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 & 12 will be played on Saturday 18th April 2026 with play starting at 9am. Events 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & 8 will be played in their entirety on Sunday 19th April 2026, with play starting at 9am.
25. 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.
26. **At all times when playing, competitors are required to display their name printed onto the back of their playing shirts** Players must wear rubber soled shoes and clothing which complies with Table Tennis England Tournament Regulations. ITTF Regulation 3.2.2.9 applies for finals only (X).
27. No competitor or official shall engage in betting on players or matches.
28. 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.
29. There will be separate practice tables available throughout the competition, but competitors only will be permitted to practice on any free match table at the discretion of the Referee BUT will be required to be suitably attired with one ball allowed at a time.
30. Suitably engraved medallions will be awarded to the finalists and losing semi-finalists in all events that have more than 14 entries.
31. 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 Championship Jury (3) fulfill 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**.

32. Doping shall not take place before or during play. This tournament may be subject to drug testing.
33. 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.
34. Changing facilities, including showers, are available at the venue.
35. Car parking is available at the venue.
36. All competitors must report to the control table on arrival and must not leave the venue without first obtaining permission from the Referee.
37. Table Tennis England may authorise photographers and other media representatives to record the event.
38. 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.
39. Notification – Entrants will be notified of the time of their first match on each day by e-mail.

If you are unable to attend the event or need to contact Mark Pinder, Table Tennis England, on 01908 208871

Trophies

Competitors should note that Table Tennis England retain the ownership of all Perpetual Trophies, but each 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:

Saturday 09:00: U11 & U13 Group stages to start.

Followed by: U13 Doubles and individual knockouts.

Sunday 09:00: U10 & U12 Group stages to start.

Followed by: U12 Doubles and individual knockouts.