



Tournaments explained

| An overview of All-comers Tournaments and summary of TTE regulations

Season 2026–27

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As from 01 August 2026, TTE's gender eligibility criteria at national-ranked level has changed, and gender categories have been renamed as "Men's Open (or Boy's Open)" and "Women's (or Girl's)". Additionally, what were formerly "Open Tournaments" are now named "All-comers Tournaments"



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As from 01 August 2026, TTE's gender eligibility criteria at national-ranked level has changed, and gender categories have been renamed as "Men's Open (or Boy's Open)" and "Women's (or Girl's)". Additionally, what were formerly "Open Tournaments" are now named "All-comers Tournaments"

Introduction

| Table tennis, like all sport, is about competition

Table Tennis England (TTE) is the National Governing Body for the sport in England and is responsible for structuring table tennis competitions. It does this through regulations which it publishes on its website. This document provides guidance to the regulations – in case of any conflict or uncertainty the regulations prevail.

The regulations give the precise definition of an All-comers Tournament* but, in broad terms, it is one that any TTE member may enter.

All-comers Tournaments are designed to provide a tiered approach in order to enable players to play others at the right level, creating competitive matches and with each level being of a higher standard. It's also a key format where Table Tennis England members can earn national ranking points.

This document provides an overview of All-comers Tournaments and summarises important elements of the Table Tennis England Regulations:

- to help Tournament Organisers fulfil their role and duties effectively
- to illustrate recommended standards in relation to regulatory minimums
- to provide practical illustrations of how the regulations apply

This is aimed at both first-time and experienced tournament organisers.

For clarity, these terms are used in this document with the following definitions:

- **TOURNAMENT** – a self-contained one or two-day competition in which a series of events are played in one or more age and/or gender categories
- **EVENT** – a specific event within a tournament for individual players or doubles or teams, each of which may be restricted to players of a particular age and/or gender category
- **TIERS** – the three different levels/ standards of All-comers Tournament (1*, 2* and 4*)
- **OFFICIALS/MATCH OFFICIALS** – this refers to the three types of technical officials: Referees (including Deputy and Assistant Referees), Umpires and Tournament Organisers (often abbreviated to 'TO')
- **RANKING/RATING** – this refers to the TTE national ranking/ rating framework and published lists

For instance, the Club Banana Tournament might take place on a Saturday and Sunday, with Cadet Boys' open Singles + Cadet Girls' Singles events on Day 1, and Junior Boys' Open Singles + Junior Girls' Singles + Mixed Junior Doubles events on Day 2.

** Until Season 26/27, the All-comers event format was known as an 'Open' Tournament; this changed to avoid confusion as 'Open' terminology is now used as part of gender eligibility*

Why we regulate

Light-touch regulation is intended to be positive and beneficial for all concerned, rather than restrictive.

It helps promotion, prevents clashes, means that entrants can expect a consistent and standardised approach, and gives organisers confidence through support mechanisms.

Why do we Regulate?

What are the Benefits?

To create a structured calendar of opportunity

National coordination

To safeguard the regulated competition from other clashes

National promotion to members

To safeguard other member competitions/ activity from clashes

Tiered structure creates competitive and experiential pathway for players and officials – part of cohesive framework not just isolated activity

To support the organiser

To award National ranking points – and validate the integrity of competitions from which these are gained

To support the entrants

Entrants/ Parents have confidence in quality assurance of environment, processes and standards

Guarantee of quality and consistency inc technical officials

Organisers have recourse to TTE policies, regulations & guidelines – and can escalate (eg) disciplinary or child protection issues

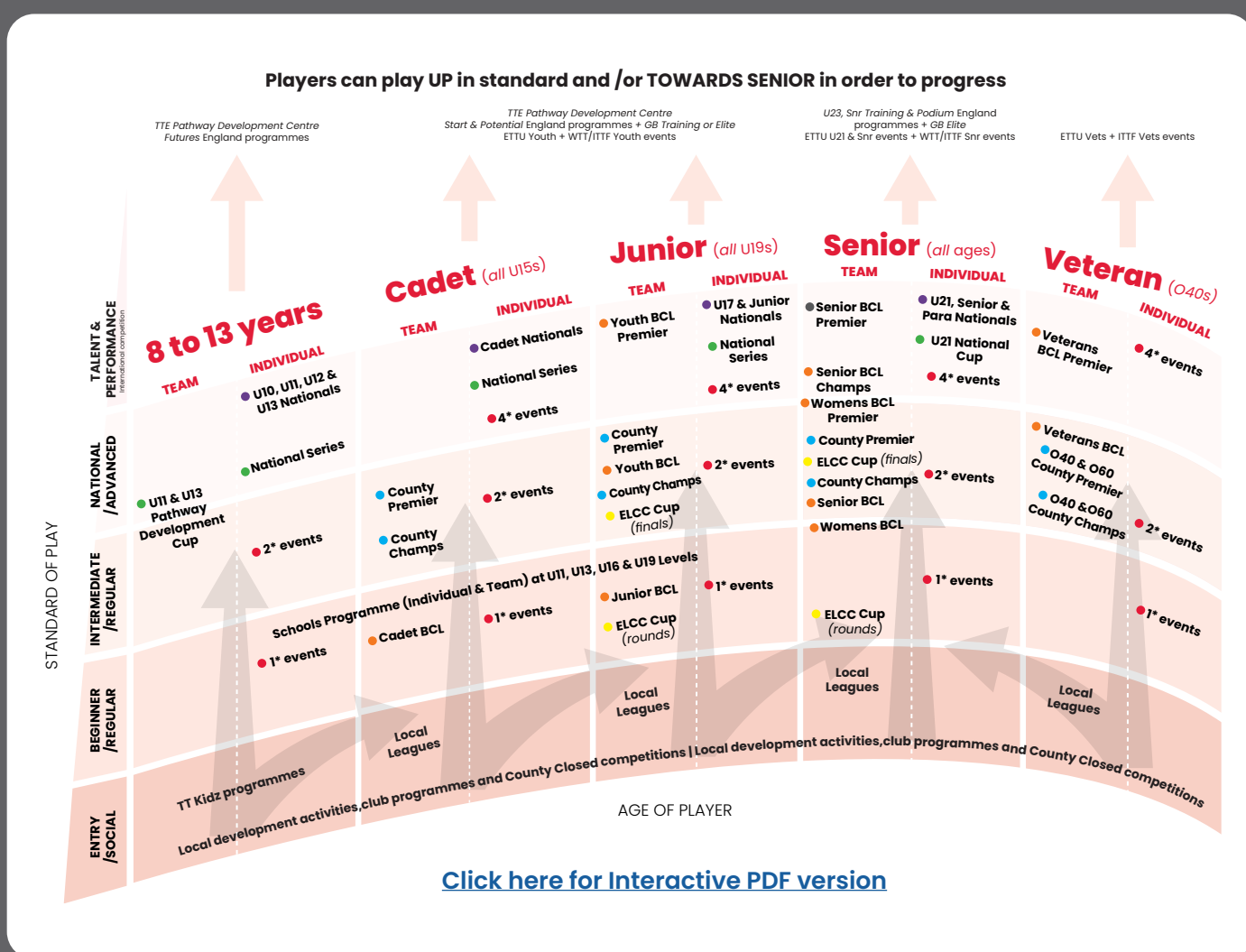
Safeguarding

Suspended members are actively prevented from entering (eg confidential/ sensitive issues arising from safeguarding, in liaison with police & local authorities)



1. Player Pathway Model

TTE competition formats as a player pathway by age-group and by standard - the Tiered All-comers Tournaments are clearly shown at the different levels.



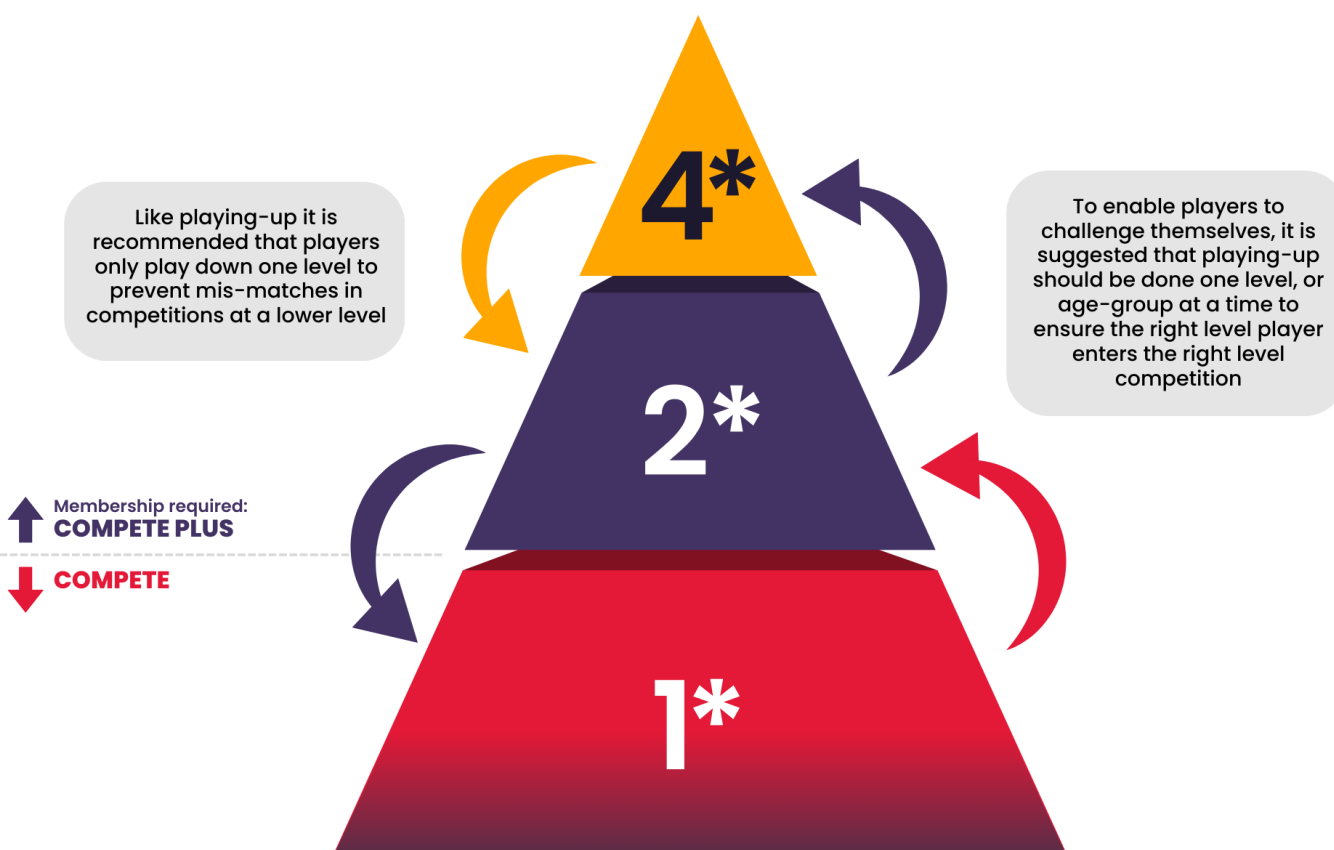
Players looking to challenge themselves can play-up the 'star rating' or play-across the age-group. For instance, a Junior player looking to take a step forward from Junior 1* tournaments could play a Junior 2* (up a tier) or a Senior 1* (across an age-group)

2. Tiered All-comers Tournaments overview

Table Tennis England's Tiered All-comers Tournaments are the frequent, tiered pathway of all-comers tournaments, accessible to all – the bread and butter of tournament play!

This section provides an overview of the structure and how it fits together.

There are three tiers – 1* (the lowest standard/ level), 2* and 4* (the highest standard/ level) (Please note that there is no 3*).



3. Regulated and Non-regulated competition

Regulated competition

A competition that is authorised and regulated by TTE, under specific and defined regulations.

Regulated competitions can either be:

ALL-COMERS

A competition that can be entered by any individual affiliated to TTE, including reciprocal affiliations (members of other home countries) and visiting players (members of other ITTF associations). There are 3 tiers of All-comers Tournaments – 1*, 2* and 4*.

INVITATION

A nationally authorised tournament which complies with the all the regulations for an All-comers Tournament except that it is not open to every Affiliated Member. This includes National Championships, National Series and National Cups.

CLOSED

A competition that is authorised and regulated by a TTE affiliated organisation (county, club or league) and restricted to its bona fide membership

It is key to understand when a 'closed competition' becomes an All-comers competition, i.e. what is the threshold?

- The point at which a Club competition invites participants outside the club membership it becomes a League-regulated competition.
- The point at which a League-regulated competition invites participants outside the league membership it becomes a County-regulated competition.
- The point at which a County-regulated competition invites participants outside the county membership, it becomes an All-comers competition.

Closed competitions are designed only for existing members of that particular club/ league/ county. Where a closed competition attracts genuinely new (or returning) players to Table Tennis England, this may continue to be deemed closed.

| Unregulated competition

A competition run by an organisation that is not affiliated to TTE (such as BUCS, TT365, VETTS, U3A etc) – these competitions are not governed by TTE, are not part of TTE jurisdiction, and are separate and distinct.

All tournaments organised by affiliated organisations are considered to be regulated competitions to which the relevant regulations apply.

There are two exceptions:

1. An internal club tournament for (and only for) its own members.
2. A tournament which is a “Legacy Event”. “Legacy Events” are defined by the Regulations, but examples are tournaments which restrict the racket coverings that can be used (eg a ‘hard bat’ tournament) and a tournament which uses a different number of points to decide the outcome of a game (eg a ‘handicap’ competition which is played up to 21)

If necessary, the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) will determine at its sole discretion whether a specific competition is All-comers, Invitation or Closed, or constitutes a ‘legacy’ event.

An ‘engagement/development activity’ for new and inexperienced players may exist outside of this structure – please see Section 10. Other competition formats are shown in Section 11 for information.



4. What does an All-comers Tournament look like?

The essential characteristics of All-comers tournaments – who they are aimed at, what they look like, and what might you consider as an organiser

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>CATCHMENT</p> <p>Standard – what cohort is audience for each level?</p> | <p>1*</p> <p>Regular, localised, accessible, affordable</p> <p>Players who have been playing consistently for a short while but are inexperienced competitive players or are players returning to the sport after a long absence. Ideal for those wanting to start to build a national ranking and prepare for other similar level competitions, or just to compete regularly at a local level</p> | <p>2*</p> <p>Bigger pond, larger competition, increasing standard</p> <p>Established players who have been players for a consistent period across competitive environments. Players aspiring to become highly ranked players, are competing regularly as part of their enjoyment of table tennis, or younger players wanting to progress in the sport</p> | <p>4*</p> <p>Pinnacle competition, prize-money, attracting foreign players, eligibility/ qualification route for National Championships</p> <p>Aimed at the better players in the country with high-ranking positions, and wanting to compete against others of a similar standard</p> |
| <p>Size</p> | <p>Smaller; this might typically comprise of 4 tables or more</p> | <p>Medium; this might typically comprise of 8 tables or more</p> | <p>Larger; this might typically comprise of 16 tables or more</p> |

[See Casestudy: Sussex Senior 4* on page 45](#)

4. What does an All-comers Tournament look like?

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|--|--|---|---|
| Frequency | No restrictions | No restrictions | Typically 4–5x Senior and 5–6x Cadet/ Junior tournaments annually |
| Playing Formats + singles/doubles/ team events + age-group sub-categories + scheduling | <p>At discretion of organiser – please see Recommended Formats & Preferences section</p> <p>Unless a dedicated women and girls only tournament, must have both men’s open (or boy’s open) and women’s (or girl’s) categories for main events and all banded events at the point of entry</p> | <p>At discretion of organiser – please see Recommended Formats & Preferences section</p> <p>Unless a dedicated women and girls only tournament, must have both men’s open (or boy’s open) and women’s (or girl’s) categories for main events and all banded events at the point of entry</p> <p>It is highly recommended that Senior 4* tournaments follow the following broad format: Men’s Open Singles (MS), Women’s Singles (WS), Men’s Open Banded events, Women’s Banded events, Men’s Open U21s, Women’s U21s, Veterans Mixed Singles & Restricted 22–39 Mixed Singles</p> | |
| Entry costs | At discretion of organiser, but recommended to remain largely commensurate with similar tournaments (‘market rate’) | | |

4. What does an All-comers Tournament look like?

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|---|--|--|--|
| Prize money | Not expected, and not necessarily recommended due to intended target cohort | Not expected | At discretion of organiser – an expectation at Senior 4* tournaments |
| Eligibility | It is recommended that entry is open to TTE members and reciprocal members rated below the Top 30 for men's/boys' open and Top 20 for women and girls in the appropriate age-group/ sub-age-group, and players who would be dummied as such, at the entry deadline | It is recommended that entry is open to all TTE members and reciprocal members | It is recommended that entry is open to all TTE members and reciprocal members excluding never-rated or current <200pt players in the appropriate age-group/ sub-age-group – but including formerly-rated or foreign players who would be dummied >200pts, at the entry deadline |
| National Championships eligibility/ qualification | n/a | n/a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadet and Junior players must play a minimum number of designated tournaments for National Championships eligibility • Direct qualification route and 'Leaderboard' qualification opportunity for Cadet and Junior National Championships |

4. What does an All-comers Tournament look like?

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|--|---|--|---|
| Why run this tournament? | <p>Hosting a 1* provides a key playing and development opportunity for your Club's youth programmes and club players – keep it local!</p> | <p>Allow your club players to stretch themselves against better players and from further afield – and an opportunity to gain more national ranking points!</p> | <p>Top players will want to be at these Senior prize money events – and the best Cadet & Junior players in England will need to compete in order to gain eligibility for National Championships and/ or to qualify directly. These tournaments will be a highlight of the annual calendar, with the full attention of the TT community!</p> |
| What is the cost to run this tournament? | <p>Flat rate levy payable to TTE of £65 per tournament</p> | <p>Flat rate levy payable to TTE of £125 per tournament</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat rate levy payable to TTE of £250 per tournament for age-groups other than Senior • English hosts of Senior tournaments can apply to receive financial support from TTE towards delivery costs in Season 26/27, and no levy is payable |

The naming conventions are consistent with previous similar competitions, but the nature and requirements for each tier changed for Season 25/26 to make these events easier and more cost-effective to deliver and enter.

If you are a new competitor at one of these events, please see our introductory [Guide to Entering a National Competition video](#)

5. Who can host?

Only TTE affiliated organisations or members can host a TTE regulated tournament:

i) A designated officer¹ of a Premier Club/Associate Club/League/County can apply to host a 1*/2*/4* if their individual membership and organisation affiliation is current. If the membership and affiliation is lapsed or pending, these must be renewed before an application can be considered.

The affiliation process will provide Public Liability Insurance. For Premier and Associate clubs, the process will ensure an Equal Opportunities Policy and Safeguarding Policy is in place, and that a Club Welfare Officer has current Safeguarding certification. Leagues and Counties should independently ensure these elements are all in place.

All affiliated organisations should ensure that they undertake a Risk Assessment exercise, including consideration of 1st Aid, DBS and training requirements + procedures for accident, incident and emergency.

ii) A Registered Team/TTE Member²/Technical Official can apply to host a 1*/2*/4* on the following basis:

- Their affiliation/ membership is current (not lapsed)
- They submit appropriate evidence of minimum standards and safeguards for approval, inc:
 - Public Liability Insurance
 - Equal Opportunities Policy – adoption of [TTEs policy](#) is acceptable
 - Safeguarding Policy – adoption of [TTEs policy template](#) is acceptable
 - Current safeguarding certification for the individual fulfilling safeguarding responsibilities at the tournament (eg Tournament Organiser) You can access a recognised training course for free here: [Safeguarding In Sport Course | Free Online Safeguarding Training](#)
 - Risk Assessments, including consideration of 1st Aid, DBS and training requirements + procedures for accident, incident and emergency – for guidance please see [Sport England's 'Buddle' resource website](#)

Applicable to all applicant categories:

They are not in legal dispute with TTE, have outstanding monies due to TTE, are in the process of appeal [on a related matter], are currently subject to suspension or other sanction under the Company's Disciplinary Regulations, are in breach of or have acted in such a way to be deemed contrary to TTE's articles, objectives, codes of conduct, policies, regulations or processes

TTE Regulated Tournaments held in other territories (eg by TT Wales or Jersey TTA) under the scope of a Memorandum of Understanding will be considered under ii) above.

6. Delivery Framework

Playing conditions, equipment and officiating standards

Regulations for the physical environment and officiating requirements have been relaxed from Season 25/26 onwards to help make these tournaments easier and more cost-effective to run for hosts and to enter by participants.

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|--|--|--|--|
| Membership requirements | Compete | Compete Plus | Compete Plus |
| National Ranking eligibility/ results submission | Flexible – yes or no* <i>* the event is still considered a national-ranked level even if an organiser declines for results to be included in rankings</i> | Yes | Yes |
| National Ranking Weighting ³ | 0.75x event weighting Automatic 'starter event' status for all age-group events at Cadet & Junior tournaments | 1.5x event weighting +L8 bonus points for categories with 16+ players | 1.75x event weighting (other than senior)/ 2.0x (senior only) +L8 bonus points for categories with 16+ players |
| Application timeframe | Typically 3 months+ | Typically 6 months+ | Typically 6 months+ |
| Tournament Organiser qualification | Minimum TTE member | Minimum TO2 | Recommended: TO3 Minimum: Experienced TO2 approved by TAP & TOC Committees for maximum 1yr only |

[See Casestudy: Sussex Senior 4* on page 45](#)

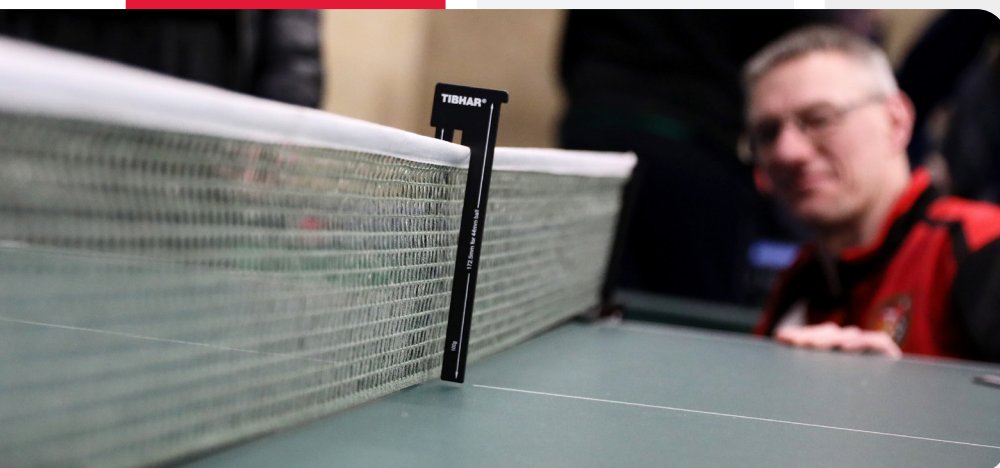
6. Delivery Framework

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Referee qualification | Minimum TTE member | Minimum LI (TR) | Recommended: L2 (NR) Minimum: Experienced LI (TR) approved by TAP & TOC Committees for maximum 1yr only |
| Deputy Referee qualification | - | - | Minimum LI (TR) |
| Umpire | Designated individual preferred | Recommended: LI Umpire for finals in main men's open (or boys' open) and women's (or girls') categories Minimum: Designated individual preferred | Recommended: 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. 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. Delivery Framework

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Organising Committee | Recommended | Required | Required |
| Entry commitment | - | - | Valid entries from the top 50 TTE ranked men's open (or boys' open) players and top 30 TTE ranked women's (or girls') players in the event age-group must be accepted |
| Playing conditions & equipment | <p>Minimum requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.5x4m x3m high • 300lux • ITTF approved balls • Surrounds at ends and corners | <p>Minimum requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9x4.5m x3m high • 300lux • ITTF approved tables and nets • ITTF approved balls • Surrounds at ends and corners <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10m x 5 x 3m • 500lux | <p>Cadet:</p> <p>Recommended: 10m x 5m x 3m</p> <p>Minimum: 9m x 4.5m x 3m</p> <p>Junior:</p> <p>Recommended: 10m x 5m x 3m all courts</p> <p>Minimum: 9m x 4.5m x 3m 10m x 5m x 3m for Show Courts</p> <p>Senior/ Veterans:</p> <p>Recommended: 10m x 5m x 3m</p> <p>Minimum: 9m x 4.5m x 3m 10m x 5m x 3m for Show Courts and Doubles matches</p> <p>All Age-groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500lux • ITTF approved tables and nets • ITTF approved balls • Surrounds on all sides |



6. Delivery Framework

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Score Indicators | At least for finals | All matches | All matches |
| Programme | - | Match schedule | Match schedule |
| Finals | - | Clearly defined 'show table' | Clearly defined 'show table' |



7. Key Regulations & Explanations (FAQs)

This section provides a summary of key requirements and approaches, and what the regulations mean in terms of practical application. Please note that these key principles apply similarly to club hosts of national competitions such as Cadet/ Junior/ Senior British Clubs Leagues, National Cups and National Series.

Can I hold a 21-up, handicap or hard-bat event?

Not as part of the All-comers Tournament structure – all such tournaments must conform to ‘standard’ ITTF/ TTE regs. However, a club, league or county may hold a ‘legacy’ tournament using non-regulated formats such as handicap or hard-bat for its own bona fide members

Does every participant in a regulated tournament have to be a TTE member?

Yes – and the level of membership required will depend on the level of the tournament

What if a player from Wales/ Ireland/ Scotland/ Europe or elsewhere in the world wants to enter my tournament?

Existing members of other Table Tennis Associations can obtain a ‘reciprocal membership’ by contacting the TTE membership department – for the higher-level tournaments, a small upgrade fee is also payable. Please also see Section 9.

What happens if a player or an entrant is not a member?

Non-members should not be permitted by the Organiser to compete; please ensure before the tournament takes place that all entrants are members at the appropriate level by liaising with the TTE membership department. The membership team will also be able to advise if a player is currently under suspension

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

Can suspended members take part?

No - members under suspension cannot take part in regulated activity - and on some occasions may not be permitted to be present at a TTE tournament; the Membership Team will advise, if applicable

What are the Table Tennis England age-groups for regulated competition?

There are four core age-groups in regulated competition - Cadet (U15), Junior (U19), Senior (all ages) and Veterans (O40s)

Standard sub-categories exist in each core category as follows: Cadet/U15s: U10s, U11s, U12s, U13s; Juniors/U19s: U17s; Senior: U21s, U23s; Veterans: O50s, O60s, O70s

Events planning any non-standard age-groups, for instance O18s only, must highlight this at application stage and organisers must provide a rationale for consideration by the Tournament Approval Panel

Which age-group(s) a player is eligible for is determined by their age on 31 December of the season in question. The season runs 01 August to 31 July each year. As an illustration, a Cadet (Under 15) player must be aged 14 or under on 31 Dec of the relevant season. If in doubt, please contact competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk

Will my tournament carry national ranking points?

Yes - unless the tournament organiser chooses to opt-out (for 1* tournaments only)

How do I meet the costs of Officials at my tournament (eg referee and umpires)?

Current qualified Technical Officials have a set expenses policy when appointed to a TTE regulated tournament, including travel and meals, though meals can be provided as part of general tournament provision for the organisers and any volunteers. Please contact competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk for more information. You can expect qualified technical officials to wear official uniform and have necessary personal equipment (eg red/ yellow cards etc.)

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

When should I provide accommodation for Officials?

The following broad approach applies for TTE National Leagues/ Championships/ Series/ Cups etc – it is recommended that the same approach is used for 1*/2*/4* regulated events for consistency.

Ideally, the appointed officials are close enough to the event that they do not require accommodation.

Hotel accommodation may be provided where it is not possible or reasonable to travel away from and back to home in the same day. This may be determined on a needs-basis at the discretion of the Organiser.

Typically, 1-day events may not include accommodation provision. However, accommodation may be provided the previous night if it is not realistic for the official to travel for the start of the competition day (eg leaving home prior to 07:30)

As a non-definitive illustration, the Organiser may consider (eg) 60 minutes as being reasonable to travel away from and back to home in the same day, for a weekend/ 2-day event. However, accommodation may be provided mid-event dependent on the length of competition day and/ or demands of the event.

It is recognised that Referees and Deputy Referees may find it necessary in a morning/ evening to do work related to the tournament, and those officials may therefore be allocated a room to themselves where possible.

Umpires of the same gender may be twin-roomed by default. This is standard at all levels of the game, including international events hosted in the UK and worldwide. Some individuals may prefer to single-room at events, and this may be supported via an offset (eg 'pay the difference')

Officials should highlight any relevant accessibility/ mobility or health/ welfare issues during the appointment process, so the Organiser can factor these into decisions as required.

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

What does the requirement to run both men's open (or boys' open) and women's (or girls') categories mean in practice?

My tournament is small and may not achieve a critical mass of women & girl players ...

Unless a dedicated women and girls only tournament – at entry stage, separate gender options must be offered in main singles events and all banded singles events in order to maximise the potential opportunity for standalone women or girl's categories to take place. Practically, it is appreciated that depending on entries a critical mass may not be achieved, and a referee may need to amalgamate these into an All-comers/mixed event

Main events refer to the oldest singles age-category on any given day within Cadet, Junior and Senior core age-groups – excepting a Veterans event run on the same day as a Senior event – and the youngest singles age-category on any given day within a Veterans core age-group. For instance: for a Cadet tournament running Cadet, U13 and U11 singles events, the Cadet category would need to offer separate gender options at entry, but U13 and U11 could be mixed. This is not mandatory for doubles or team tournament formats.

Is there a specific convention for naming my Tournament?

Typically the tournament name will be "Club + Age-group(s) + Grade" – eg "Club Banana Senior 2*" If the venue is in a different town/ city than the tournament, or the club name does not reflect its geography, it is recommended to add this in brackets – eg. "Club Banana Senior 2* (Timbuktu)" Table Tennis England may reject proposed names at their discretion, eg that are deemed offensive, make a political statement, or are similar to an existing name. Table Tennis England may at its discretion reject any proposed event names that refer to an organisation or commercial partner that conflicts with the interests of Table Tennis England.

Do I need to provide medals or trophies (or similar) for winners?

This is at discretion of the organiser, and should be commensurate with the level and size of the tournament. A small 1* event may offer winners certificates – and a larger 4* tournament may have prize money for medal-placings and trophies for winners. Medals, trophies and prize money should be stated on the event entry form.

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

What should I do if a player defines as a different gender?

There are two gender categories for regulated table tennis at national-ranked level – men’s open (or boys’ open) and women’s (or girls’). A TTE player’s eligibility is defined by the TTE Gender Eligibility policy, and may be different from eligibility in non-regulated competition, or in regulated competition below national-ranked level (such as Local Leagues or County events). Click [here](#) for further information. If you or a tournament entrant have any queries on gender identity or gender reassignment and how it relates to your competition, please contact help@tabletennisengland.co.uk

What should I consider if a wheelchair player enters my event?

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 – you can see [further info here](#).

Can I run a tournament that is open to everyone but is non-regulated?

Any competition by a TTE affiliated organisation is by definition regulated and a tournament for players outside county boundaries is by definition All-comers – and therefore subject to national approval, rules, formats and sanctions etc. But a ‘closed’ League/ County competition may be an option for you instead (see Section 3) ... or if the tournament is for non-ranked players (only) then potentially the competition might meet the definition of an engagement/ development activity (see Section 10)

But some other organisations say they run ‘All-comers tournaments’?

References to an ‘All-comers tournament’ in this document mean an All-comers tournament as defined by TTE. Other organisations may use the same term to mean a competition they define as an All-comers tournament, but which is different to a TTE All-comers tournament.

A competition run by an organisation that is not affiliated to TTE (such as BUCS, TT365, VETTS, U3A etc) is not governed by TTE, is not part of TTE jurisdiction, and is separate and distinct. These organisations may still apply to deliver TTE-regulated tournaments if they wish

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

Can I run a competition on behalf of a non-affiliated organisation?

A tournament which a TTE affiliated club, league or county runs for more than its own bona fide members is automatically a regulated competition and an All-comers tournament. As such it must abide by the regulations for an All-comers tournament and, in particular, obtain permission from TAP

Are there a minimum number of tables required to run a 1*, 2* or 4* tournament?

No – there is no minimum requirement for the number of tables to run an authorised event at each tier, but the number of tables and entry capacity, as well as standard of players, may help inform which tier you apply for

Do tables at my event have to be the same make and colour?

This is preferred, but not required – so long as tables are ITTF approved, a mix of makes and colours can be used if necessary

Is a levy payable?

Yes – a small levy is payable to TTE depending on the level of regulated tournament – £65 for a 1*, £125 for a 2* and £250 for a 4* tournament (excepting English hosts of Senior 4*s)

Can an Official at the tournament also play in an event?

No – a single individual cannot play and also fulfil an official's role at the same time

Can the same individual fulfil more than one Officials role at the same time?

No – the responsibilities of the different officials are distinct and a single individual cannot fulfil more than one role at the same time

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

Where do I find details of local Officials – and how can I access training to become an Official?

You can use TTE's [About Officials](#) webpage to find an official and find forthcoming training opportunities. All officials must be current TTE members – including any officials from other home countries (Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man) who should each obtain reciprocal TTE membership ([see P.33](#)) Officials' qualifications from other Home Countries are typically transferable to TTE – please contact help@tabletennisengland.co.uk if this applies

What happens if an Official issues a yellow or red card at my tournament?

Any cards issued by qualified officials at a regulated tournament will be logged as part of the national sanctions scheme. If a player receives multiple sanctions, they may be suspended for a defined period. Cards issued to players should be recorded on TTE form OT3 and submitted to the TAP Sanctions Administrator within 3 days of the tournament ending; this facilitates any period of player suspension to start on the Saturday following the end of a tournament

Do I have to ask my County to support my planned tournament?

Yes, please. When you ask them, your County should check to see if a planned tournament clashes with any other local commitments. If there is a legitimate clash, then an alternative date should be explored. If the County is unable or unwilling to engage with the application process, or an agreed position cannot be reached, then the Tournament Approval Panel will progress on the basis of available information

If your tournament takes place in a different county to where you are based, you should please ask both counties for their support

If your venue and/or date changes you must resubmit this to your County/Countries before applying to the TAP Committee

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

Can I use a sponsor's name in connection with the event?

Yes – but TTE reserves the right at its sole discretion to appoint a national sponsor, and/ or to reject the association of a sponsor at local level. If you are unsure, please contact competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk

The All-comers Tournaments are wholly owned by The English Table Tennis Association, trading as Table Tennis England, and the sponsorship rights for events remain with Table Tennis England

Can I stream my tournament, and can I or other participants take photographs?

Maybe – TTE do not restrict organisers from streaming or taking photographs at All-comers Tournaments, unless otherwise advised. However, you should please check the relevant policies and guidance with particular reference to UI8s, including your own Safeguarding policy and TTE Codes of Conduct and policies for Streaming/ Photography/ Social Media use

The All-comers Tournaments are wholly owned by The English Table Tennis Association, trading as Table Tennis England, and the rights for broadcasting or streaming of any events remain with Table Tennis England

Can I use TTE's national tournament entry and payment system?

The national system is not yet available for 1*/2*/4* tournaments, but is expected to be piloted and then rolled-out to all regulated All-comers tournaments in due course. This will also include the tournament application process and post- tournament reporting/ submission of ranking results. In the meantime, we suggest you use a hard-copy entry form or googledocs (or similar)

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

What information must be included on the entry form, and where will this be promoted?

Please see Appendix B for a template of information that must be included on the entry form for an All-comers Tournament

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.

You must send the finalised entry form, incorporating the advised alterations, 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. If you publish the entry form on a website or platform separate to the TTE website then the entry form must be identical to that approved by TAP

Can spectators attend my tournament?

Yes, the standard expectation is that tournaments will have free and unrestricted access for spectators including players' friends, supporters, dependents, carers and family members, plus players' coaches. If there is an entry charge, this must be included on the entry form details. If spectator access is restricted for any reason, for instance due to venue capacities, then this must be highlighted at application stage and organisers must provide a rationale for consideration by the Tournament Approval Panel

Why does the name of the players' coach need to be added to the scoresheet?

The name of any individual acting in a support role in a player's corner must be entered onto the scoresheet. The names of these 'athlete support personnel' (eg coach, parent, team captain, teammate etc) are required so that Table Tennis England complies with the requirements of both the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and UK Anti-Doping (UKAD)

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

How soon do I need to submit the ranking results?

Results for ranking tournaments need to be received by TTE no later than 7 days after the tournament, or by the ranking deadline (the first Friday of each month), whichever is the sooner. Email submission is preferred. If you use post, then please use a guaranteed/ trackable postal service, and avoid sending your only copy

A TTE ranking results template is the preferred format and helps avoid data entry errors and delays – please contact help@tabletennisengland.co.uk for details. Alternatively, you can send copies of the completed matchcards and knockout brackets to help@tabletennisengland.co.uk

Do I need a qualified 1st aider at my tournament?

This is most effectively determined by a robust Risk Assessment exercise, and will be informed by the venue, its equipment and facilities, the activity taking place, the age and standard of the participants, and also take into account any processes and requirements stipulated by the venue – who may have their own 1st aider. See [Sport England's 'Buddle' resource website](#)

Do I need to submit participation data to TTE?

Yes, please – along with the levy and ranking results, we need to know how many players competed in each event category at your tournament, as part of national participation monitoring

Is a 'Singles League' treated different to an All-comers tournament?

At regulated level, a 'Singles League' held over multiple rounds on different dates is treated in terms of approach, approval and regulation as a series of separate All-comers tournaments, which the competitors may enter as a 'block'

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

What happens if I have a safeguarding concern or a conduct issue?

All participants at regulated competitions are subject to TTE's Safeguarding Policy and Codes of Conduct.

As an organiser, you should be familiar with these documents, as well as TTE's Privacy/ Data Protection policy, TTE anti-doping regulations, TTE's Photography & Livestreaming Guidelines – and any other relevant documents – in addition to the competition Rules & Regulations

If you have a concern, or a concern is raised with you, please contact the relevant person at TTE at the first opportunity

As a Tournament Organiser, am I responsible for a minor who may attend my event?

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.

What happens if I receive a complaint about my tournament?

We expect that any complaints received by a Tournament Organiser about their tournament are acknowledged, taken seriously, investigated appropriately, and then responded to in a timely fashion. Please try to stay objective and not feel 'blame'! This is the best and most effective way of addressing the issue, and – if necessary – making positive adjustments for future tournaments.

However, if a player or parent feels they have not been listened to, or that the issue was suitably serious, they will typically follow-up direct with TTE – who will follow national complaint processes. If a serious issue or regulatory breach is found to have occurred, then this will be raised with the TO and may ultimately impact on the sanctioning of future tournaments

7. Key Regulations and Explanations (FAQs)

Who is responsible in the event of an accident or incident?

Everyone has a legal duty of care to others – and the essential question is ‘what is a reasonable expectation?’ Ultimately anyone attending a competition organised by a member or affiliated organisation will have a legitimate and reasonable expectation that the organiser has made appropriate consideration of risks, and put appropriate controls in place

The applicant/ Tournament Organiser is the tournament host and is responsible for the safe operational delivery, including safeguarding, 1st aid, security, and in the event of injury or emergency.

The applicant/ Tournament Organiser should produce their own risk assessments and implement appropriate controls as required. These should be specific to the venue, its equipment and facilities, the activity taking place, the age and standard of the participants, and also take into account any processes and requirements stipulated by the venue

The applicant/ Tournament Organiser should hold public liability insurance for the tournament (see section 5), and be able to evidence any current training/ certification indicated by risk assessment, such as safeguarding, 1st aid or DBS check

What do I do if I feel an event hasn't met the required standards (eg officiating or physical environment)?

In the first instance, a stakeholder should please raise any queries directly with the organiser. If necessary, a query may be followed-up directly with Table Tennis England.

If a tournament fails to achieve the stated requirements for a particular grade of competition, then the tournament may also be declassified (as non-ranking) or reclassified (to a different star rating, and hence different event ranking weighting/ bonus point eligibility)

Can I appeal a technical decision by an umpire or referee?

Any queries regarding a technical decision should be raised immediately with the relevant personnel on-site. Table Tennis England is unable to enter into dispute on officials' technical decisions after the fact.

8. Recommended Formats & Preferences

Improving the quality of competition experiences for players should remain the key focus when considering formats.

This section provides an overview of playing formats, scheduling and other ‘added value’ considerations.

The national competition review established that the three largest determining factors in whether a player enters an event are:

- 1. The number of matches**
- 2. Distance to travel**
- 3. Competing against players of a similar standard**

Point 1 and overall competition experience is addressed below. Points 2 and 3 underpin the framework of All-comers Tournaments. Combined, these form an important part of the application and assessment process.

Additionally, Table Tennis England have national priorities to (eg) provide opportunities to under-represented groups, and provide appropriate pathways for talented youth players.



Length of day

The majority of TTE members advise that an optimal competition day (start of registration to end of final game) should run for about 8 hours. If this is not possible, more members prefer shorter days (6hrs) to longer (10hrs). Ideally, tournaments shorter than 6hrs, or longer than 10hrs, should be avoided, though this will also depend on what event categories each individual can enter.



Number of games

The optimal number of matches for a player per day is 7-9, with more members then preferring fewer (eg 4-6) rather than more (10+). Tournaments and playing formats with fewer than 4 matches should be avoided.

In general, younger players will tend to prefer more matches than adults, and those playing in lower-standard competitions will tend to prefer more matches than those in higher-standard competitions.

8. Recommended Formats & Preferences



Preferred Formats

Playing formats with more guaranteed games are significantly preferred. Potential options include:

- Progressive KO (eg to final placings)
- Banded round-robin groups
- ‘Group-to-group’ formats, where an initial round is preliminary, and a subsequent phase places all 1st places together in a group, all 2nd places together in a group, and so on.
- Larger group stages with smaller KO stages
- Inclusion of Consolation events
- Event formats where individuals can enter multiple categories at the same tournament – eg an All-comers singles + age-group and/or banded events

Straight KOs, and small group/ large KOs should be avoided. It is recommended that the minimum group size is 4 players.

Please note that the number of matches in a group increases exponentially with more players – a group of 4 requires 6 matches, a group of 6 requires 15 matches, and a group of 8 requires 28 matches.

Your referee can assist with the details of formatting and scheduling. Please also see Section 12 for Tournament Stationary.



Preferred Categories

Key considerations include:

- U11 and/or U13s categories at Cadet tournaments
- U21 or U23s categories at Senior (All Ages) tournaments

National priorities will continue to evolve over time. Please note that inviting entries for Women’s & Girls’ categories is a mandatory requirement, and that standalone events are run if a critical mass is achieved; events should only be combined if a standalone event is not viable once entries are established.



8. Recommended Formats & Preferences



Venue/Tournament

The overall provision for players and spectators, and the general tournament attributes, will also be important factors. Consideration might include:

Venue Provision

- Seating
- Changing facilities
- Parking
- Refreshments
- Accessibility/ DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliancy
- Standard and condition of tables
- Wheelchair compliant tables
- Connectivity (WiFi)
- PA system

Etc

Tournament Attributes

- Entry cost(s)
- Capacity (number of participants)
- Prize money (if applicable)
- Exceeding minimum regulatory standards:
 - Qualification(s) of Technical Official(s)
 - Court size, flooring and lighting
- Added value – eg TV display screens, show court area, printed programme

Etc

Tournament hosts should look to maximise these factors wherever possible in order to improve the competition experience for participants.



9. Further Guidance

Player membership

| | 1* | 2* | 4* |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Compete | ✓ | | ✗ |
| Compete Plus | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Compete level + a <i>One-Time Tournament Top-Up</i> (for each tournament) | n/a | | ✓ |
| <i>One-Time Tournament Pass</i> (for each tournament; available soon) | ✓ | | ✓ |

- Members of other Table Tennis Associations (in the UK, Europe, or worldwide) can obtain a 'reciprocal membership' for 1* Tournaments by contacting the TTE membership department with evidence of their existing membership; for 2* and 4* Tournaments, a small upgrade fee is also payable

Please note that it is not permitted to be a full member of more than one national table tennis association (TTA) at the same time. If an individual is already a member of another TTA they should not obtain a full Table Tennis England membership – this may result in the TTE membership being ineligible/void

- It is NOT possible to obtain memberships/reciprocal memberships/top-ups/passess at the tournament – this must be done in advance and ideally during working days/hours

National Ranking & Rating Points

- You can find out more about national ranking and rating points – including how new players get initial ratings, event weightings, bonus points, what 'starter events' are, and how an organiser/ referee can seed/ band players for events [here](#)
- An event draw will use the rating list current at the time of the draw – which specific rating list might underpin seeding or banding for your event depends when in the season the draw takes place:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| From mid-Aug to mid-Sept: | 'new season ratings' lists (showing players when they 'graduate' to new age-group eligibility on 01 August) |
| From mid-Sept to end-July: | monthly published rating lists |
| From early to mid-August: | Recommended that the rating list from July of previous season is used, adjusted as necessary to reflect new age-category eligibility |

Draw information should be clearly stated in the tournament documentation and entry form.

When the draw is published, it is recommended that players seed numbers are stated in brackets after their names – eg Peter Smith (3)

Player Sanctions

For all information relating to the 'red and yellow' card scheme, [click here](#)

Tournament Organisers

- The Tournament Organiser is ultimately responsible on behalf of the applicant for the safe and effective delivery of the tournament
- The Tournament Organiser should be available at all times when tournament participants are on-site, and is not able to participate in the tournament as a player

The following is a summary of the main duties of a TO and should be read in conjunction with the separate 'Tournament Organiser Duties' document:

- organise venue, facilities and equipment
- organise referee, umpires and volunteers
- manage player entries and payments
- ensure all entrants are TTE members
- prepare a Risk Assessment for the tournament in consultation with the venue and ensure that it is communicated effectively and delivered as required
- ensure all players, match officials and spectators are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures
- act as the tournament Safeguarding lead (unless there is a specific safeguarding officer)
- on-the-day liaison with the venue staff and any physical/ environmental issues that may arise
- maintain safe access to gangways and fire exits
- make arrangements for 1st Aid provision
- arrange for the safe cleaning-up of any liquid and blood-spills
- ensure any TTE special safety measures, that may be in force from time to time, are managed
- submit results and participation monitoring data to TTE



10. Development Activity

The following guidance outlines an approach to support light-touch grassroots engagement/development activity which uses the format of a competition in order to bring new people into table tennis, and sits across a wide geographical area.

If an activity meets the following requirements then it would not constitute a regulated competition, and may be held freely by members and affiliated organisations across County boundaries:

Distinction

This MUST be clearly different to league/county or nationally-regulated competitions, and by targeting the cohort of participants very clearly and specifically. Entrants can only comprise of the following:

- those new to table tennis
- club players with no current or former national ranking/rating within last 2 years
- local league players that have not previously played nationally regulated tournaments

Regulations

Not applicable; these are non-ranking and non-regulated (eg technical regs need not apply, and sanctions do not apply)

If necessary, the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) will determine at its sole discretion whether a specific competition constitutes a regulated competition.

Affiliation/ Membership

- It is strongly recommended that the lead entity (eg club) is affiliated to TTE, and hence has public liability insurance
- It is strongly recommended that all participants have a minimum of TTE 'Club Play' Membership (free of charge; includes insurance and adherence to TTE policies)

Approval

None is needed – however, hosts are encouraged to check with all counties in the area out of courtesy and so as not to create any risk of clashes with county activities

Safe & Effective Delivery

The organising group unavoidably takes responsibility for safe and effective delivery, and has duty of care for all participants.

- The organiser should manage all issues/ incidents/ accidents through their operational processes and procedures including welfare, safeguarding, security, 1st aid, and in the event of injury or emergency
- The organiser should produce their own risk assessments and implement appropriate controls as required. These should be specific to the venue, its equipment and facilities, the activity taking place, the age and standard of the participants, and also take into account any processes and requirements stipulated by the venue
- The organiser should hold such insurances as may be appropriate for the activity, such as public liability, and be able to evidence any current training/ certification indicated by risk assessment, such as safeguarding, 1st aid or DBS check

11. Other Competitions

This section provides an overview of some other competition formats, for information and to illustrate how they relate to the tiered All-comers Tournaments:

1. Ladders

Ladder formats are often used within a club setting, providing regular and flexible non-regulated competition opportunities for club members.

Ladder competition proceeds via a system of ‘challenges’. Any player can challenge a player above them on the ladder. Typically, challenges cannot be declined. If the lower-placed player wins the match, then the two players swap places on the ladder. If the lower-placed player loses, then they cannot challenge the same person again without challenging someone else first. There is typically a limit as to how many ‘rungs’ above themselves players may challenge. When first setting up a ladder tournament, the usual practice is to place the more skilled players at the bottom of the ladder, so that they have to play to work their way up.

This approach has the following benefits:

- Could run over (eg) a 10 or 12wk block, or indefinitely
- Can be mixed gender competition
- It is the individual player’s responsibility to plan matches
- Club members can play as often or as little as convenient (or as challenged), potentially subject to a minimum number of games to be played in a given time period
- Club members can arrange to play at a time/date of mutual convenience – not dependent on a fixed schedule
- There are easy online resources available to support club-based ladder formats

An internal club competition for (and only for) its own members can be run wholly at the club’s discretion.

2. Local Leagues

Local Leagues are TTE-regulated competitions in which the Local League is a TTE-affiliated organisation and responsible for delivery of the competition. Critically, the competition is in a *league* format, and a team of several players is entered by an affiliated *club*. Typically, this competition format takes place mid-week. As a regulated competition – although below national-ranked level – participants in the League must meet specific regulatory requirements including TTE membership and gender eligibility, and the Local League itself must be played in accordance with the ITTF Laws of Table Tennis and TTE’s National By-Laws (though variations to the ITTF Regulations are permitted if agreed by the League)

Local Leagues are defined in the TTE Articles and Regulations in Part A: Regulated Competitions

3. 'Summer Leagues'

'Summer Leagues' is a general term used to refer to various different formats run by Local Leagues (TTE affiliated organisations) outside of the core League format itself (which typically run Autumn to Spring)

Some 'Summer Leagues' are simply shorter and/ or smaller local league programmes for the same membership cohort that take place in the summer months.

Other 'Summer Leagues' use different formats to complement the core Local League format – this may include handicap competitions, and/or invite players from a wider geographical area, and/or act as engagement/ development events for new players as a springboard to potential entry in the 'main leagues'. These events may be in a league/ team format, or in a tournament format, and remain regulated competitions although below national-ranked level.

By definition in the TTE Articles, Local Leagues conduct competitions between teams from clubs, and in a particular locality only; if a Local League's 'Summer League' competition takes place in a league/ team format, over multiple dates, and within the geographical area of the Local League, then they typically remain the responsibility of that Local League (as a TTE affiliated organisation).

Local Leagues are defined in the TTE Articles and Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions

However, if a 'Summer League' is run as a self-contained event or series for singles/ pairs/ teams, then they are considered to be 'Tournaments' and may potentially fall into the All-comers tiered tournament framework:

Do these Tournaments align with 'Development Activity'?

- *Yes, they can do. Development Activity is non-regulated, with flexible formats, specifically for new, returning and Local League players only, can legitimately take place across Local League boundaries (with appropriate agreement of the affiliated organisations affected), and be open to non- TTE-members (although membership is strongly recommended). See Section 10 (p.35) for more information.*

Development Activity exists below Tournaments as defined in Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions and Part B: Tournaments

Can this approach also apply to more capable players?

- *'Legacy events' are non-regulated, and include (eg) hard-bat, 21-up and handicap competitions – but must be restricted to bona fide members of the affiliated organisation (eg members of the local league competing in the standard league format), who must in turn also be TTE members.*

Legacy events are defined in Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions (Part 10)

Is it possible for (eg) a Local League to host a Legacy tournament that attracts national-ranked players from outside (eg) the Local League?

- This would not meet the definition of Development Activity or the regulations for Legacy Events.
- However, it may be possible for a Local league to host a legacy-type event as a non-ranking All-comers tournament, in line with other regulatory requirements for nationally regulated events, and with appropriate approval from TAP (Tournament Approval Panel) This is not intended to discourage anyone – it is essentially just a check to ensure the planned event doesn't clash with other activity, and also then safeguards the Legacy event from any other clashes.

Tournaments are defined in Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions and Part B: Tournaments

Is it possible for (eg) a Local League to run an All-comers tournament that attracts national-ranked players from outside (eg) the Local League?

- This is only possible if approved as a 1*/2*/4* All-comers tournament (or series of tournaments), at which point the competition may also be eligible for national ranking. See also p.22 Can I run a tournament that is open to everyone but is non-regulated? But, again, this check/ approval process is quick and easy and intended to support rather than discourage organisers!

Tournaments are defined in Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions and Part B: Tournaments

If necessary, the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) will determine at its sole discretion whether a specific competition constitutes regulated competition, or a 'legacy' event, or is considered an All-comers event.

12. Application & Approval Process

The TTE national calendar is for TTE nationally authorised regulated competitions, including All-comers Tournaments

The TTE national calendar runs 01 August to 31 July, and is typically released for 1*/2* applications in the preceding Oct/ Nov (around 10–22 months in advance) When considering a tournament in the first instance, the Tournament Organiser should contact the Chairman of the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) to obtain outline approval for the date of the tournament.

The TTE national calendar may at the discretion of the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP) also include other sizeable, notable, or non-regulated competitions for information. This would typically be determined on the following considerations:

- Size and reach of the competition
- Impact on TTE suppliers
- Potential impact on availability of Technical Officials

Table Tennis England is under no obligation to include (eg) closed or non-regulated activity on the TTE national calendar.



The TTE national calendars can be seen [here](#)

No tournament will be entered on the TTE National Calendar until a fully completed and approved OTI Application Form has been submitted and approved and the venue is confirmed.

A number of considerations are taken into account when approving the date(s) of a tournament:

1. The TTE national calendar will be pre-populated with key national events before being made available for applications for 1*/ 2* tournaments. The pre-populated dates will include: National Championships, National Series, National Cups, Senior/ Youth/ Womens/ Veterans British Clubs League, Cadet/ Junior British Clubs League, County Championships and English Leagues Cup Competition. Advance discussions on dates for Cadet/ Junior 4* and Senior 4* events will also take place before the calendar is released for other applications.
2. 1* and 2* applications, and subsequent 4* applications, will be considered in terms of a) potential clashes with age-categories in national events listed above, and b) potential clashes with age-categories for other 1*/ 2*/ 4* events already agreed in the calendar. As an illustration:
 - 1* events should generally be at least 50mi/ 1hr travel from another 1* event or Cadet/ Junior BCL division on the same date for the same age- categories, and 100mi/ 2hrs from a 2* or 4* event on the same date for the same age-categories
 - 2* events should generally be 100mi/ 2hrs from another 1*/ 2* event or Cadet/ Junior BCL division on the same date for the same age-categories, and avoid the same dates as 4* events and County Champs (non-Premier) for the same age-categories
 - 2* and 4* events should avoid National Series/ Championships/ Cups and BCL Senior/ Youth/ Veterans/ Womens for the same age-categories
 - 4* events should avoid other 4* events (of any age category), plus core dates for Cadet/ Junior BCL, and County Champs (Premier), for the same age-categories

TAP endeavours to be as fair as possible when considering all date approval applications; this is not a 'precise science' and all applications are considered with a view to the possible negative impact on already approved tournaments, and upon that of an applicant tournament.

Application & Approval process flowchart



13. Key Contacts

It is expected that communication referred to in this document will be by email.



General Enquiries: contact [Vincenzo \(Vince\) Chiarello](#) (Secretary, TAP Committee)

Tournament Dates: in the first instance contact [John Mackey](#) (Chairman, TAP Committee) for outline approval

OT1 Application Forms: send to [Gary Whyman](#) (TAP Committee)

Entry Forms for Approval: send to [Lyndon Griffiths](#) (TAP Committee)

OT3 Misconduct Reports: send to [John Stalker](#) (TAP Committee)




Levy payment and Ranking results: [Table Tennis England](#)

Complaints or Issues: [Neil Rogers](#), TTE Head of Competition & Events





14. Further Resources



Please visit the [Tournament Organiser](#) page for the following:

-  [Template forms](#) including OT1, OT3 & OT5
-  [Rules, guidance and advice](#)
-  [Tournament Stationery](#), including match cards for different singles and team match formats

All hosts and participants should please be aware of applicable Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding guidance and policies, which can be seen as follows:

-  [Information for Parents](#)
-  [Policies & Procedures](#)
-  [Safeguarding](#)
-  [Codes of Conduct and Streaming/ Photography/ Social Media use](#)

Please also see appendices for a Template Budget Planner and Entry Form Check List.

If you require assistance or guidance at any stage, please contact [Vincenzo \(Vince\) Chiarello](#) (Secretary, TAP Committee) or [John Mackey](#) (Chairman, TAP Committee)

Appendix A

Template Budget Planner

The following template illustrates some income and expenditure lines for consideration in the planning and delivery of a tournament. This is offered for guidance only and is not exhaustive or definitive.

Income

Entry Fees

Refreshment sales

Sponsorship

Total Income

Expenditure

Venue

Equipment hire (eg tables/ barriers)

Equipment purchases (eg balls)

Refreshment supplies

Volunteer expenses

Official's expenses

Volunteer/ Official's refreshments

Trophies/medals

Prize Fund

TTE Levy

Printing (eg match schedule or programme, wall charts, participant certificates)

Misc (eg player numbers, clipboards)

Contingency

Total Expenditure

Balance

Appendix B

Entry Form Check List

A Items 1-53 must be on part of the form that can be retained by the entrant.

B Items 24-39 must be in the section headed "Regulations".

C Items 54-65 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", "2-Star", or "1-Star"
- 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 (if applicable)
- 6 Venue: Address, directions and telephone number (if any)
- 7 Referee: Name and qualification
- 8 Deputy Referee (4-Star 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. See [here](#)"
- 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](#) "

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 4-Star:
"If it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt."
For 4-Star:
"If it becomes necessary to restrict entries, priority will be given in order of receipt, except that all valid entries from the top 50 TTE ranked men's open (or boys' open) players and top 30 TTE ranked women's (or girls') players in the event age-group will be accepted"
- 23* If applicable, "No entry will be accepted after the draw has been made."

Regulations Section (Items 24– 39)

- 24* For 1-star 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 in order to gain a reciprocal membership. 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/> once this product is launched. It is not possible to obtain the OTTP at the tournament"
- 25* For 2-Star 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 and pay the appropriate fee in order to gain a reciprocal membership. 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/> once this product is launched. 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 OTTP or the OTTT 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-Star tournaments: "Players may/will/will not be expected to umpire group matches." (Delete as appropriate) [Additional details may be added here]
- 30* For 2-Star and 1-Star tournaments: either "No competitor will be obliged to umpire" or "All competitors may be required to umpire at least one match in each event entered" [Additional details may be added here]
31. Any tournament with a team event must clearly state which individuals are authorised to be present and to give advice at the playing area. It is recommended that this comprises –
- the players named on the match card for the match in question
 - 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:
- 1-Star: Main colour of clothing must be different from colour of ball
 - 2-Star or above: Playing clothing shall consist of a shirt and shorts, trousers including tracksuit bottoms, 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. 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. Any markings or trimming on the front or side of a playing garment and objects such as jewellery worn by a player shall not be so conspicuous or brightly reflecting as to mislead an opponent.
- 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 40– 46)

- 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-Star and 4-Star tournaments: that they will be used for all matches
 - 1-Star tournaments: that they will be used for finals, and whether or not they will be used for all matches

Information Section (Items 47– 53)

- 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, the total cash prize fund and, wherever possible, 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](#)

Entry Section (Items 54– 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 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.
- 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

Appendix C

Case Study - Sussex Senior 4*

Download ↓



CASE STUDY: SUSSEX SENIOR 4*

Sept 2025



| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Venue: | K2, Crawley | Referees: | Dan Bullen (NR/ L2) & John Mackey (TR/ L1) |
| Date: | 13-14 September 2025 | Tournament Organisers: | Carol Miles (TO4) & Maureen Hazell (TO2) |
| Tables: | 30 | Entry Fee: | £40 for first event + £10 deposit; £20 for additional events |
| Space: | 'triple' sports hall | Prize fund: | £1200 |

Sussex County TTA wished to host a regulated TTE event in order to:

- Offer a quality competition to their local players
- Gain experience in organising events
- Invest in key volunteers and local infrastructure
- Support their local affiliated leagues
- Create more qualified officials in their area
- Encourage investment into equipment & resources
- Build relationships with local clubs & equipment suppliers
- Engage with local authority targets and leisure facility's community objectives – creating new opportunities to build ancillary development activities with local agencies
- Support the wider table tennis community & TTE



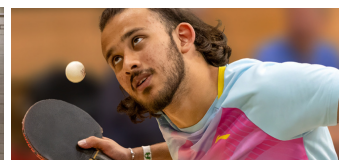
The organising group engaged county, league and club officials, and met regularly with TTE for advice and guidance



Attendance numbers exceeded expectations and the event was oversubscribed in all categories




An operating surplus enabled investment in equipment and volunteers, and will allow reinvestment into other County programmes



CASE STUDY: SUSSEX SENIOR 4*

SEPT 2025



What TTE can do to help organisers:

- Advice and guidance, including other event data
- Financial assistance towards delivery costs
- Waive tournament levy
- Organise pre-event Umpire course in the area
- Shadowing/ mentoring support for local Officials
- Direct email promotion to TTE members
- Online entry/ payment system – coming Season '26/27!
- Tournament Management platform and event results webpages – coming Season '26/27!

Successes

- ✓ Demonstrably successful in terms of entries, finances and stated objectives
- ✓ Clear growth trend – progressively larger and more successful, as confidence and familiarity grows, and the 'series' becomes more established and embedded with the TTE community
- ✓ Comparable with former Grands Prix



“
We were lucky to have experienced Technical Officials to guide us, and the support from TTE gave us a lot of reassurance. We learned a lot that we can build on for the future. The most important thing that we took away from the experience was the positive feedback from the players – the event was oversubscribed and players really appreciated the event. It was hard work .. but worth it!
 ”
Maureen Hazell, Event Committee

“
Hosting this event has allowed us to improve our knowledge and capabilities in relation to organising competitions. From marketing to dealing with sponsors, and making connections with the wider framework of table tennis – we are in a much stronger position, and will be able to improve on what we delivered for future events. The County will use this knowledge to benefit all of our affiliated local leagues by offering organisational support, providing tangible benefits for those leagues to offer more to their members
 ”
Dennis Hayden – Sussex TTA Chairman

| | Cleveland 4* | Nottingham 4* | Sussex 4* |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Men's Singles | 36 | 75 | 94 |
| Women's Singles | 8 | 22 | 24 |
| Men's U21 Singles | 17 | 25 | 54 |
| Women's U21 Singles | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Men's 22-40 Singles | 10 | 35 | 33 |
| Women's 22-40 Singles | 1 | 4 | |
| Men's Veterans Singles | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| Women's Veterans Singles | 0 | 0 | |
| Men's Bands | 82 | 169 | 211 |
| Women's Bands | 30 | 43 | 34 |
| Total Men (individuals) | 64 | 108 | 147 |
| Total Women (individuals) | 18 | 27 | 29 |
| Total Participants | 82 | 135 | 176 |
| Total Men's entries | 156 | 317 | 407 |
| Total Women's entries | 43 | 79 | 70 |
| Total Entries | 199 | 396 | 477 |
| Ave. Men's entries per individual | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Ave. Women's entries per individual | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.4 |
| Ave. entries per individual | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 |

Please refer to 'Tournaments Explained' for general information

Local Organising Groups for events can comprise of interested individuals across areas, counties, leagues and clubs, in order to share responsibility and create capacity

Please contact: competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk with any queries and to explore further!

