

This document cancels and replaces the issue dated 15.7.25.

Regulations Part K: COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

1	General	15	Umpires
2	Alteration of regulations	16	Playing conditions and equipment
3	Management	17	Players' clothing
4	Annual Conference	18	Match procedure
5	Team entry	19	Order of play
6	Formation of Divisions	20	Notification of results
7	Relegation and promotion	21	Pooled expenses
8	Award of points and divisional order	22	Match expenses for single match
9	Fixtures	23	Protests
10	Dates of matches	24	Claims
11	Eligibility of players	25	Fines and penalties
12	Registration and ranking of players	26	Appeals
13	Notification of venue and time	27	Matters not covered in Regulations
14	Notification of teams	28	Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy

Annex A Finance

Annex B Responsibilities and duties of match referee/organiser

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The County Championships is the competition for teams representing Counties affiliated to Table Tennis England (TTE) or in membership of another national Association affiliated to ITTF.
- 1.2 All matches shall be played under the TTE Regulations for Regulated Competitions (www.tabletennisengland.co.uk) and ITTF Regulations 3.2 to 3.5 inclusive with the exceptions noted under Players' Clothing (Regulation 17 below).
- 1.3 The County Championships will comprise competitions in each of the following age-groups: Cadet, Junior, Senior (which shall be open to players of any age), Veterans, and O60s (which shall be open to players age 60 or over on 31 December of the of the current Membership Year)

2 ALTERATION OF REGULATIONS

- 2.1 The Annual County Championships Conference may propose to alter these Regulations via the Head of Competitions & Events, as detailed in the County Championships committee Terms of Reference published on the Table Tennis England website, with the exception of Regulations 1, 2, 3, 27, 28 and Part I of Annex A, which can be altered only by the Table Tennis England Advisory Committee(s) with appropriate responsibility.
- 2.2 Propositions for changes to Regulations for consideration by the Conference can be submitted by the Administrator on behalf of the Championships Committee, or by a participating County.
- 2.3 Any such proposition for consideration by Annual Conference must be sent in writing to reach the Administrator by the last day of February and shall be acknowledged by the Administrator

within 7 days.

- 2.4 All propositions received in time shall be circulated to all participating Counties during March.
- 2.5 Amendments or alternative propositions dealing with the same subject matter will be accepted for consideration by the Conference if submitted in writing and received by the Administrator not later than the last day of April.

3 MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The County Championships are managed by a Committee, whose Chair and Administrator will be appointed under the Terms of Reference for the County Championships committee as published on the Table Tennis England website.
- 3.2 The Administrator is ex-officio a voting member of the Committee and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the championships.
- 3.3 If the position of Administrator becomes vacant the Chair may appoint an interim administrator-
- 3.4 The Committee may appoint such other officials as it thinks fit.
- 3.5 The Referee and Deputy Referee of the County Championships shall be members of the Committee.
- 3.6 The Committee may appoint one or more Assistant Administrators.
- 3.7 The Administrator may delegate a particular part of his duties to an Assistant Administrator as they agree between them and any reference in the regulations to the Administrator shall then be taken to mean the Assistant Administrator responsible for the part concerned.
- 3.8 All appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Head of the Competitions and Events Department.

4 ANNUAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS CONFERENCE

- 4.1 An Annual Conference shall be held in May or June each membership year.
- 4.2 Notice of the place, date, hour and agenda shall be sent to the Secretary of every TTE County Association and to the Secretary of every County Association outside England which participated in the competition in the current membership year not later than 14 days before the date of the Conference and, in any case, before 10 May.
- 4.3 Each County Association which has participated during the current membership year or entered at least one team for the coming membership year may send one delegate with power to vote.
- 4.4 Any County Association which cannot send a delegate under 4.3 may send one observer.
- 4.5 Members of the Board and of the Committee and the Head of the Competitions and Events Department, may attend the Conference.
- 4.6 Only delegates have the right to vote. Other attendees may speak but not vote.
- 4.7 The Conference shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee if present.
- 4.8 The Agenda shall include:
 - 4.8.1 the election of chairman of Conference if the Committee Chairman is not present
 - 4.8.2 the Minutes of the previous Conference
 - 4.8.3 consideration of any matters arising from those Minutes
 - 4.8.4 consideration of the section of the Annual Report of the Board relating to County

Championships

- 4.8.5 consideration of any proposals to alter regulations
- 4.8.6 the Appointment of an Administrator, Assistant Administrator(s) and Premier Weekend Organisers for the coming season
- 4.8.7 the Appointment of Referee and Deputy Referee of the Championships
- 4.8.8 Notification of divisions for coming season
- 4.8.9 Any other business of which the Administrator has received written notice before May 1st.
- 4.9 Each delegate shall have one vote. All matters except proposals to change regulations shall be determined by a simple majority of votes of delegates present and voting. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote which may be a second vote if the Chairman is a delegate.
- 4.10 Proposals to alter regulations shall be carried only if supported by at least 2/3 of the delegates present and voting.
- 4.11 The Minutes of the County Championships Conference shall be made available to the Board, and to National Council at its first meeting after the Conference.

5 TEAM ENTRY

- 5.1 The closing date for entry of teams is the 15 May and every team entry must be accompanied by the appropriate fees (Annex A).
- 5.2 If a printed Handbook is produced, the entry fee entitles the County to one printed County Championship handbooks for each team entered plus a further two copies for the County's officials.
- 5.3 If any Regulations are changed after 15 May, a County may withdraw any of its teams and have the entry fee refunded provided the withdrawal is within 7 days of the notification of any such change or in any other case before 1 July.
- 5.4 In any other case, a County withdrawing a team after the date of the Conference will not be entitled to refund of the fees for that team and it may also be liable for its' share of pooled expenses under regulation 21.4.
- 5.5 A team entry may be refused if the County Association did not fulfil its commitments and administrative duties in the preceding season in a manner satisfactory to the Committee.

6 FORMATION OF DIVISIONS

- 6.1 The number and size of divisions depends on the total number of teams in that age section of the Championships.
- 6.2 The composition of divisions will be determined by the Administrator. These will be submitted to the County Championships Conference for comment and endorsement
 - 6.2.1 The Administrator may vary the divisional structure with the agreement of the majority of the Counties concerned.
 - 6.2.2 As far as is practicable, the Administrator shall allocate teams between divisions of equal status on a geographical basis to minimise travelling time and cost.
- 6.3 Where the Administrator considers it unavoidable, some of the Other Divisions may be based on 4 teams.

- 6.4 There shall not be more than one team from any County in a premier division
- 6.5 A new team will be placed in the lowest division, unless a suitable vacancy occurs in a higher division.
- 6.6 If a team fails to fulfil 3 or more fixtures in any one season, it will be deemed to have withdrawn from the County Championships but 6.6 will not apply.
- 6.7 If any team from a County in any age section is withdrawn, all lower teams from that County in that age section must also be withdrawn.

7 RELEGATION AND PROMOTION

- 7.1 The team finishing highest in each division, except a Premier Division, shall be promoted. If this would put two teams from the same County into a Premier Division, then the next highest eligible team from that division will be promoted. If no team in that division is eligible for promotion, the promotion place shall be determined by the Administrator.
- 7.2 In each division, the number of teams to be relegated shall be equal to the total number of teams to be promoted. Those teams to be relegated shall come in equal number from each division at the same level. (For example, if two teams are to be promoted from Division 2, two teams will be relegated from division 1, one from 1a and one from 1b.)
- 7.3 If a vacancy occurs by withdrawal, except in the lowest divisions, the vacancy shall be filled by promoting the team which was most highly placed in the preceding season but was not promoted by right. If more than one team is eligible through being equally placed, the one to fill the vacancy shall be decided by lot.

8 AWARD OF POINTS AND DIVISION ORDER

- 8.1 Four points shall be awarded for a 10-0, 9-1 or 8-2 win, three points for 7-3 or 6-4 win, two points for a 5-all draw, one point for a 4-6 or 7-3 loss, and zero points for a 2-8, 1-9 or 0-10 defeat.
- 8.2 Position in the division shall be determined by the number of points obtained.
- 8.3 If two or more teams are level on points at the end of the season, the ratio of individual matches won to individual matches lost shall determine the position. If teams are level on this count, the ratio of games won to games lost shall determine the relative positions. If teams are also level on this count, the ratio of individual points won to individual points lost shall determine the relative positions. If this fails to determine the order, the Committee shall decide the order within the division taking into account the "head-to-head" results between the teams.

9 FIXTURES

- 9.1 Each team shall play one match against each other team in the same division unless there are 5 or fewer teams in the division. In that case, the County delegates for those teams present at the Conference may decide by a simple majority to play home and away against each other in the same season.
- 9.2 Where there is more than one team from the same County in the same division, the matches

between the teams from the same County must be played before the fourth match of the season.

- 9.3 All matches in a Division must have been completed by the end of the final round of Group matches. Any matches not completed by the end of the final round of Group matches will be declared void

10 DATES OF MATCHES

- 10.1 The Administrator shall fix match dates by 30 June, in liaison with the Tournament Approval Panel, as shown in the TTE Calendar
- 10.2 The Senior, Veteran and Over-60s Premier Divisions shall be played on a group basis on two weekends, and the Junior and Cadet Premier Divisions on one weekend on dates and at venues arranged by the Administrator and/or the Premier Weekend Organiser.
- 10.3 Matches in all divisions below the Premier divisions shall be scheduled to be played on the weekends allocated in TE Calendar for County Championship matches.
- 10.3.1 In every Division below Premier the Counties concerned should play off their fixtures over one, two or three weekends at venue or venues agreed by majority decision. After such agreement has been reached each County shall immediately confirm in writing or by email to the Administrator its consent to such arrangements. The organising County shall tell the Administrator in writing the name of the appointed Organiser, together with a contact address, email address and phone number(s). This must be done by 31 August.
- 10.3.2 The Administrator may consent to matches being played on dates other than those allocated in the TTE Calendar for County Championships matches, providing that the amended dates have been agreed by the County teams concerned at least 14 days before the 1st set of matches listed in the TTE Calendar. Failure to reach agreement will mean that matches must be played on the allocated dates in the TTE Calendar. All such changes must also be agreed by the Tournament Approval Panel at the earliest opportunity in order that the TTE Calendar can be updated. The TT Leagues fixture platform must be updated by the relevant Administrator at the earliest possible opportunity to accurately show any changes.
- 10.4 The fixtures shall be played in accordance with the order listed in the County Championships handbook and/or as shown in TT Leagues for the County Championships unless the consent of the Administrator has been obtained to vary the order.
- 10.5 Any alteration of a match date is subject to the consent of the Administrator. If there is a disagreement over the dates on which a matches will be played, the Administrator will fix a date or dates on which the match must be played. In either case, alterations must also be agreed by the Tournament Approval Panel.
- 10.6 If a match has not been or cannot be played on the date fixed for reasons outside the control of the Counties and teams concerned (e.g. travel delay, serious adverse weather conditions, no electricity or fuel), the Administrator may at his discretion allow a postponement. Within 21 days of being notified by the Administrator that a postponement has been allowed, the Counties concerned must rearrange the match and must notify the Administrator of the agreed new date. If the Administrator does not receive this information within 21 days, he shall set a date on or before which the match must be played.
- 10.7 Except for matches in the Senior or Junior Premier Divisions, a County shall be entitled to

claim a postponement of a match if two or more of its players are required by TTE for International duties.

11 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 11.1 Except as provided in 11.2, to be eligible to represent a County a player must be affiliated as a Compete Member and must either:
- 11.1.1 have been born in the County or
 - 11.1.2 be residing in the County at the time of the match or
 - 11.1.3 have represented the County in at least 6 rounds of matches.
- 11.2 Exceptionally, and only with the prior agreement of the County Championships Administrator, a player may represent a County adjoining his/her county of residence if, and only if, they are playing in a local league of the adjoining county and are not playing in a local league which is affiliated to their county of residence.
- 11.3 No player may represent more than one County in any one season.

12 REGISTRATION AND RANKING OF PLAYERS

- 12.1 Each season each participating County shall register all players by sending to the Administrator separate lists in order of merit of Cadet Boys' Open, Cadet Girls, Junior Boys' Open, Junior Girls', Senior Men's Open, Senior Women, Veteran Men's Open, Veteran Women, Over 60s Men's Open Men and Over 60s Women. The list must include the qualification of each player under Regulation 11 and the date of birth of every Cadet, Junior, Veteran and Over 60s player. No two players shall be ranked equally on any list. The lists must be sent to the appropriate Administrator bearing a postmark or email date not later than 6 days before the County's first match of the season. If a County does not provide a list by the required date, it shall incur a fine for each list not provided. (Fine 6 Annex A) The County Championships Committee will decide on any further penalties that may be applied.
- 12.1.1 Players in Over 60s teams must be 60 years of age or older on 31 December in the current membership year.
- 12.2 A County may register additional players at any time, or alter the order of merit, by sending a revised Registration List to the Administrator, but any such registration or alteration shall not take effect until 6 days after the date of the postmark or the email date.
- 12.3 In an emergency a County may register a player by obtaining oral agreement to registration and ranking from the Administrator. The registration will only be valid if a revised Ranking List is sent to the Administrator by first class post or email not later than 48 hours after the oral registration.
- 12.4 The Administrator may refuse to accept a registration if satisfactory information showing a players' entitlement to be registered is not provided. In such a case, the Administrator shall immediately notify the relevant County.
- 12.5 In the Senior Competitions, the top 3 men's open players and the top 2 women shall be eligible to play only for the 1st team; the next 3 men's open players and the next 2 women shall be eligible to play only for the 1st and 2nd teams; the next 3 men's open players and the next 2 women shall be eligible to play only for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams; and so on.
- 12.6 In the Cadet and Junior Competitions, the top 3 boy's open players and the top 2 girls shall be

eligible to play only for the 1st team; the next 3 boy's open players and the next 2 girls shall be eligible to play only for the 1st and 2nd teams; the next 3 boy's open players and the next 2 girls shall be eligible to play only for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams; and so on.

- 12.7 In the Veteran and Over 60s Competitions, the top 3 men's open players and top woman shall be eligible to play only for the 1st team; the next 3 men's open players and the next woman shall be eligible to play for only for the 1st and 2nd teams; the next 3 men's open players and the next woman shall be eligible to play only for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams; and so on.
- 12.8 A player shall not be eligible to play for a team if he has played in 4 or more rounds of matches in that season for a higher team or teams in the same age section.
- 12.9 Players must play in order of merit in accordance with their County's current Registration List. Where a County has two teams in the same section of a Division playing on the same day and at the same venue and in the same session, the order of merit of the two teams should be considered as one from their County's Registration List. A player playing out of order shall be deemed ineligible for the purposes of Regulation 18.7.
- 12.10 On the written request of any player, the Administrator shall immediately remove that player's name from a County's Registration List, at the same time notifying the County concerned.

13 NOTIFICATION OF VENUE AND TIME

- 13.1 For matches played on a group basis, the Organiser shall send to each of the participating counties details of the venue and the proposed starting time of that County's first match. This should be sent no later than 14 days before the match.
- 13.2 For a single match, the home County should send to the visiting County details of the venue and start time at least 14 days before the match. Failure to comply may incur a fine (Fine 1 Annex A).
- 13.3 Unless the Counties concerned agree at least 21 days before the relevant fixture, a single match should not start before 14:30. A single Junior or Cadet match should not start later than 16:00, and a Senior, Veteran or Over-60 match should not start later than 18:00.

14 NOTIFICATION OF TEAMS

- 14.1 For matches played on a group basis, each of the participating Counties shall send to the Organising County at least 14 days before the weekend details of its participating players, who must follow the order of merit (see Regulation 12) and the name of the team captain.
- 14.2 For a single match, each County shall supply the same information to the opposing County at least 14 days before the match.

15 UMPIRES

- 15.1 The TOC shall appoint umpires and referees for Senior and Junior Premier weekends. The expenses for these umpires and referees shall be met by the participating Counties as part of pooled expenses. (Part 111 – Expense Rate 3)
- 15.2 At all other group matches, each team must provide at least one person to perform umpiring duties unless permission has been given in advance by the Organiser not to do so. Failure to do so may incur the same fine as for an incomplete team and will be determined by the

Committee (Fine 3 Annex A)

16 PLAYING CONDITIONS

- 16.1 Playing conditions and equipment shall conform to TTE Standard Conditions of Grade 4 for the Senior Premier Division and Grade 3 for all other matches unless all teams concerned agree in advance to deviations from the standards.

17 PLAYERS' CLOTHING

- 17.1 All players in a team shall wear matching clothing of colours registered by the County with the Administrator at time of team entry. Any County wishing to change its team colours must notify the Administrator before 10 August.
- 17.2 Clothing shall comply with ITTF Regulations as specified in TTE Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions. See Regulation 1.2
- 17.3 Any failure to meet these clothing regulations shall be reported to the Administrator by the Match Referee. The Administrator may impose a fine (Annex A – Fine 4).

18 MATCH PROCEDURE

- 18.1 For each single match, the home County shall appoint a Match Referee. For each weekend of matches played on a group basis there shall be an Organiser or a Match Referee.
- 18.2 The Match Referee may be a qualified umpire for Other Divisions.
- 18.3 The Organiser and Match Referee shall ensure that the responsibilities and duties listed in Annex B are carried out.
- 18.4 Each team match shall consist of 10 individual matches, each the best of 5 games.
- 18.5 Any individual match not started within 5 minutes of the time fixed for its commencement, or from the end of the previous individual match, owing to the absence of one player, shall be awarded to the opposing County. If both players are absent the individual match shall not be counted in the match result.
- 18.6 If a County has an incomplete team, all individual matches involving players nominated under Regulation 14 but absent, and for whom no reserves are present, shall be forfeited to the opposing County. A County fielding an incomplete team shall be fined per missing player (Fine 3 Annex A).
- 18.7 If an unregistered or ineligible player takes part in a match, the individual matches affected will be awarded to the opposing County. Each County involved will be notified of the infringement. An unregistered or ineligible player may be considered to be an absent player and the County fined (Fine 3 Annex A)
- 18.8.1 Any County not fulfilling a fixture on the due date shall be liable to forfeit the match and to a fine (Fine 2 Annex A), as well as a potential points deduction, to be decided by the County Championships Committee.
- 18.8.2 The Committee may order a defaulting County to pay all or part of the unavoidable expenses incurred by the opposing County or Counties in connection with the un-played match.
- 18.8.3 A County match may be abandoned, if due to unforeseen circumstances, it is not possible for play to continue and the match cannot be concluded on the day or weekend, if six individual matches have not been played at the time the match is abandoned, the match must be

replayed before a date set by the Administrator. If six or more individual matches have been played, then the remaining individual matches shall be divided equally between the two teams, subject to the approval of the Administrator. If the un-played individual matches are an odd number, then the team leading at the time of the abandonment shall be awarded the remaining odd individual match.

19 ORDER OF PLAY

19.1 The order of play may be altered by common consent.

19.2 Veteran and Over 60s Divisions

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Men's <u>Open</u> Singles | No 2 v No 1 |
| 2 Men's <u>Open</u> Singles | No 3 v No 3 |
| 3 Men's <u>Open</u> Singles | No 1 v No 2 |
| 4 Mixed Doubles 1 | |
| 5 Men's <u>Open</u> Singles | No 2 v No 3 |
| 6 Women's Singles | |
| 7 Men's <u>Open</u> Doubles | |
| 8 Men's <u>Open</u> Singles | No 3 v No 2 |
| 9 Men's <u>Open</u> Singles | No 1 v No 1 |
| 10 Mixed Doubles 2 | |

19.2.1 Doubles pairings do not have to be named until after the end of the previous individual match.

19.2.2 Only one man may play in four individual matches and no man may play in both mixed doubles.

19.2.3 Players in the doubles may be additional to those playing singles matches.

19.3 All other Divisions for play on 1 or 2 tables:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Men's/Boys' <u>Open</u> Singles | No 2 v No 1 |
| 2 Men's/Boys' <u>Open</u> Singles | No 3 v No 3 |
| 3 Women's/Girls' Singles | No 1 v No 2 |
| 4 Women's/Girls' Singles | No 2 v No 1 |
| 5 Men's/Boys' <u>Open</u> Singles | No 1 v No 2 |
| 6 Men's/Boys' <u>Open</u> Singles | No 2 v No 3 |
| 7 Women's/Girls' Singles | No 2 v No 2 |
| 8 Women's/Girls' Singles | No 1 v No 1 |
| 9 Men's /Boys' <u>Open</u> Singles | No 1 v No 1 |
| 10 Men's/Boys' <u>Open</u> Singles | No 3 v No 2 |

20 THE PLAYING AREA

20.1 The following individuals are authorised to be at the playing area and to give advice:

20.1.1 all players named on the match card.

20.1.2 all players on county's registration list for the team in question and from lower teams

20.1.3 up to five coaches and/or non-playing captains in Cadets, Junior and Senior Divisions; coaches/ non-playing captains at a ratio of one per player named on the match card in Veteran and Over 60s Divisions

21 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 21.1 The home County is responsible for completing the score sheet and copy and for forwarding the top carbon-copy sheets to the appropriate Administrator as an attachment in an email or by 1st Class mail bearing a postmark not later than 2 days after the day on which the match was completed. For Group matches, the Organiser or Match Referee may accept the responsibility of forwarding all the top scoresheets to the appropriate Administrator.
- 21.2 The score sheet and copies shall be signed by both captains and by the Match Referee to signify their acceptance of the score sheet as a correct record.
- 21.3 If the score sheet has not been received by the Administrator within 5 days of the day on which the match was completed, the Administrator shall notify the Home County that if it is not received within a further 5 days of the date of such notification the Home County shall incur a fine (Fine 4 Annex A).

22 POOLED EXPENSES

- 22.1 Each team involved in playing group matches in a Premier Division shall bear an equal share of the cost of travel and of accommodation for numbers of representatives as listed below.
 - 22.1.1a Cadet Premier Division: 8 persons to include the umpire provided by participating teams
 - 22.1.1b Junior Premier Division: 7 persons (Umpire provided by TOC)
 - 22.1.1c Senior Premier Division: 6 persons (Umpire provided by TOC)
 - 22.1.2 Veterans and Over 60 Premier divisions: 5, or 6 if the team provides its own qualified umpire.
- 22.2 For each eligible representative return travel shall be calculated to and from the person's home directly to the venue at mileage rate 1 (Annex A). Overnight accommodation, if essential, shall be at rate 2 (Annex A).
 - 22.2.1 All claims to be added to Match Expenses Pool must be submitted to the weekend match organiser within 14 days of the matches being played.
- 22.3 The cost of the venue for group matches, excluding Premier Weekends, shall also be shared equally among the teams.
- 22.4 With the exception of teams playing in Premier Weekends, teams playing in group matches shall meet their own costs for travel and accommodation.
- 22.5 A County which fails to send a team to a session of group matches shall be liable for its share of the expenses pool with no allowance for its own expenses. The weekend organiser shall notify the Treasurer of the County concerned the share of pool expenses due from the absent team.

23 MATCH EXPENSES FOR SINGLE MATCHES

- 23.1 Each County is responsible for its own expenses (travel, hotel, meals) for single away matches.
- 23.2 If a visiting County uses transport other than public transport and is prevented for any reason from reaching the venue within half an hour after the agreed starting times, any loss sustained by the home County as a result shall be reimbursed by the visiting County.

24 PROTESTS

- 24.1 A County may lodge a protest about an alleged breach of these or other relevant TTE regulations or about the playing conditions for a match.
- 24.2 Any protest about playing conditions for a match must be made to the Match Referee or weekend Organiser before the fifth individual match is played. If the conditions change subsequently, the protest must be made as soon as possible.
- 24.3 The Match Referee or weekend Organiser shall note on the score sheet if a County intends to lodge a protest about the arrangements for a match or the conditions of play or the playing of the match. This note should be signed by the team captain of the County registering the protest and by the Match Referee.
- 24.4 Full details of any protest shall be sent to the Administrator bearing a postmark or email date not later than the second day after the scheduled date of the match. This must also state if a match is being claimed by the protesting County.
- 24.4.1 The Administrator shall immediately send a copy of the protest and claim (if any) to the opposing County.
- 24.4.2 The opposing County must respond to the protest to the Administrator within 2 days of receipt of the copy of the protest. This response shall be sent immediately to the complaining County.
- 24.5 Protests or responses which are out of time will not be considered.
- 24.6 No amendment or addition to a protest or response is allowed, but a County receiving a copy of a response may inform the Administrator within one day of receiving the copy if anything in the response is considered to be incorrect.
- 24.7 The Administrator shall send a statement to the Championship Referee with a copy of the protest and of the response.

25 CLAIMS

- 25.1 If an alleged breach of these Regulations puts a County at a disadvantage in a match, the County may, at the same time as lodging a protest, make a claim that the match be forfeit by the offending County.
- 25.2 If a protest includes a claim for forfeiture of the match, the County against which the claim is made must respond to the claim for forfeiture within 8 days of receiving the copy of the complaint from the Administrator. Failure to do will lead to automatic forfeiture of the match.
- 25.3 The Championships Referee shall determine the outcome of the claim for forfeiture.

26 FINES AND PENALTIES

- 26.1 The Administrator may impose the fines listed in Annex A and the other penalties specified for breach of these regulations.
- 26.2 All such fines must be paid to the Administrator not later than 14 days after the date of the postmark on the notification (or date of the email) or of the date on which any appeal against the fine is dismissed, whichever is the later.
- 26.3 All matters arising under protests and claims shall be reported to the Committee by the Administrator.
- 26.4 The Committee shall have power to impose Fine No 5 in Annex A.
- 26.5 The Committee may require the Administrator or any other person who is an Affiliated

Member to make a written application to the Disciplinary Secretary that an alleged Disciplinary Matter be investigated.

- 26.5.1 On receipt of such a written application, the Chief Executive Officer of TTE may impose an interim suspension on an Affiliated Member or Affiliated Organisation in accordance with section 8 of the Disciplinary Regulations.
- 26.6 Any penalty imposed by the Committee shall be paid not later than 28 days after the date of the postmark or the email date on the notification unless it is the subject of an appeal. Failure to do so will result in the person or County concerned being suspended from taking part in the County Championships until the penalty has been paid.
- 26.7 The Committee shall have power to award any part of the penalty imposed to any other party concerned.

27 APPEALS

- 27.1 Any appeal by a County against forfeiture or fine must be sent to the Administrator in triplicate accompanied by Fee No 7 in Annex A bearing a postmark not later than 14 days after the date of the postmark (or email) on the notification of forfeiture or fine.
- 27.2 The Committee shall adjudicate the appeal. The Administrator and any member of the Committee who is a member of the appealing County shall not take part in the adjudication.
- 27.3 The appeal fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

28 MATTERS NOT COVERED BY REGULATIONS

- 28.1 Any matter arising relating to the Championships which is not covered by these Regulations shall be dealt with by the Committee, with the approval of the Head of the Competitions and Events Department, whose decision shall be final.

29 LESLIE FORREST MEMORIAL TROPHY

- 29.1 This trophy shall be awarded each season at the discretion of the TTE Honours Committee to the person who, in an administrative capacity in a participating County, has made the greatest contribution to promoting the County Championships, other than a previous holder of the Trophy.
- 29.2 A nomination for the Award may be made only by a County Association and must be sent by the due date to the named TTE staff member.

Annex A: FINANCE 2026/27
Part I - Fees

The entry fees shall be as stated on the entry form and published on the website.

Part II - Fines

Fine No		Regulation	
1	Late or no notice of venue etc	13.2	up to a max. of £20.00
2	Unplayed match	18.8.1	up to a max. of £50.00
3	Incomplete team	15.2, 18.6, 18.7	up to a max. of £20.00
4	Sundry - Administrator	20.3, 25.1	up to a max. of £20.00
5	Penalty - Committee	25.4	up to a max. of £20.00
6	Late registration list	12.1	up to a max. of £20.00
7	Appeal Fee	26.1	£4.00

Part III - Expense Rate

Rate No.

- 1 Travel to be included in pooled expenses at ¼ of the TTE Approved Rate for current season.
- 2 Overnight accommodation rate for pooled expenses at £30.
- 3 Umpires & Referees – Expenses for travel, meals & accommodation (if necessary) at TTE Approved Rates for current season.

Annex B: RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES OF THE MATCH REFEREE/ORGANISER

- 1 Appointment
 - 1.1 Except as provided in 1.3 below, for every match played as a single event, the home County shall appoint a Match Referee. For group matches, the Organiser should ensure that a Match Referee is appointed.
 - 1.2 The Match Referee shall be a qualified umpire.
 - 1.3 If there are only 2 umpires at a single match, they shall act alternately as umpire and referee such that when one is umpiring the other is acting as referee.
- 2 Responsibilities
 - 2.1 The Match Referee is responsible for the general conduct of the match in accordance with the Regulations for Regulated Competitions, the County Championships Regulations and the Laws and By-Laws. To this end, the Match Referee should have available with at the match a copy of the relevant Laws, Rules and Regulations.
 - 2.2 The Match Referee or Organiser is responsible for the allocation of a table for each match during the weekend, which should be arranged so that, as far as possible, no team plays more than one match on the same table during the weekend.

- 3 Venue
 - 3.1 The Match Referee or Organiser should arrive at the match venue sufficiently early to be able to check playing conditions and equipment and to see that any necessary corrections are made. It is recommended that s/he arrive not later than 65 minutes before the scheduled start time.
 - 3.2 The Match Referee or Organiser should ensure that the venue is ready for play not later than 60 minutes before the starting time of the first match.
 - 3.3 The Match Referee or Organiser should allocate practice periods for teams in a group event. For a single event, the Match Referee should ensure that the home players allow visiting players the use of the table for practice for the 30 minutes immediately before the starting time.
- 4 Before the match the Match Referee should:
 - 4.1 make himself/herself known to the captain of each team;
 - 4.2 supervise the entry of players' names on the score-sheet
 - 4.3 approve the appointment of umpires and any other match officials and the order of umpiring;
 - 4.4 ensure that all players are correctly dressed
 - 4.5 advise umpires, and players as appropriate, on the interpretation of any Laws or Regulations which may cause contention (for example, the service law);
 - 4.6 agree with captains and players a sufficient number of acceptable balls for the match, to avoid the need for further selection after play starts
- 5 During the match the Match Referee will:
 - 5.1 be present at the match venue as near to the playing area as is practicable, and appoint a responsible deputy during any unavoidable period of absence;
 - 5.2 decide any question of interpretation of Laws, Rules or Regulations (including such aspects as legality of clothing and rackets);
 - 5.3 record on the score sheet any complaint made, as required by Regulation 23.3, noting the stage in the match at which it was made;
 - 5.4 keep a watch on the standards of umpiring, and advise where necessary (having power, if required, to change the umpire);
 - 5.5 deal with any emergencies which may affect the continuity of play, such as interruption due to accident or injury;
 - 5.6 ensure that there is no undue delay between individual matches
- 6 After the match the Match Referee will:
 - 6.1 ensure that the score sheet has been properly completed and signed by the two captains and the Match Referee (Regulation 20.2);
 - 6.2 report to the Administrator any rulings made, and any notable incidents related to the responsibilities of the Match Referee and in particular any complaints made under Regulation 23.