

Regulations: SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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- 1 INTRODUCTION**
 - 1.1 'Schools table tennis' is table tennis played by school pupils in their capacity as members of their school.
 - 1.2 'School' means an educational establishment (regardless of its title) whose principal purpose is to provide education to pupils aged under 19 of the type which is normally provided by schools.
 - 1.3 'School player' means one who is playing table tennis in their capacity as a pupil of their school.
 - 1.4 'Schools competition' means a competition for school players, other than a competition which is internal to a single school.
- 2 HOME EDUCATED PUPILS**
 - 2.1 A home educated pupil is a pupil aged under 19 who is receiving the education normally received at a school at home instead.
 - 2.2 A home educated pupil who is playing table tennis in that capacity shall be eligible to enter schools competitions on the same basis as a school player.
 - 2.3 Any player who is learning via an online school will need to apply for approval from the committee to find out if they are eligible to enter a competition.
- 3 MEMBER SCHOOLS**
 - 3.1 A school which meets the requirements of Part J (Affiliation and Registration) of the regulations may apply for Member Schools status.
 - 3.2 Every Member School shall have the privileges of the Schools Membership as listed on the Table Tennis England (TTE) website under 'Schools Membership'.
 - 3.3 The internal arrangements for table tennis within a Member School are a matter for the school. The head teacher shall appoint a responsible adult as the School Representative who is authorised to represent the school to Table Tennis England.
 - 3.4 A Member School shall affiliate, free of charge, to the relevant County Association.
- 4 SCHOOLS COUNTIES**

- 4.1 The Board has divided England into geographical areas called 'Schools Counties' for the purpose of organising Schools Table Tennis. The names and areas of the Schools Counties are listed in Annex C.
Note: Schools Counties are not the same as Counties as defined in the Articles and the areas of some Schools Counties differ from those of Counties with the same geographical name.
- 4.2 An organisation which promotes schools table tennis in a Schools County and meets the requirements of Part J (Affiliation and Registration) of the regulations may apply to the Company to be the Schools County Association for the Schools County concerned.

5 SCHOOLS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

- 5.1 There shall be an affiliated organisation or affiliated individual called the Schools County Representative, in each Schools County responsible for organising schools competitions and liaison between the Company and the schools and School Representatives in its Schools County.
- 5.2 If a Schools County has a Schools County Association, that Association shall be the Schools County Representative.
- 5.3 If a Schools County does not have a Schools County Association the Schools Committee will propose and the Board will appoint the Schools County Representative.

6 SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

- 6.1 The Schools Committee will organise a National Schools Championships annually for individuals and for teams; the regulations for the Championships are set out in Annexes A and B.
- 6.2 Part A (Regulated Competitions) of the regulations shall apply to Schools Competitions, including the National Schools Championships, except where stated otherwise in the regulations for the competition concerned.
- 6.3 Unless otherwise stated in the regulations of a particular Schools Competition, an event for players under a certain age shall be restricted to players under that age on 31 August of the current Membership Year.

ANNEX A - Regulations for the National Schools Individual Championships

1. Administration of the competition

- 1.1. The Individual Championships will be organised on behalf of Table Tennis England by a sub-committee of its Schools Committee.
- 1.2. The Individual Championships Sub-Committee shall consist of; the National Schools Individual Championships Organiser (Chair), the Chair of the Schools Committee, one other member from the Schools Committee, and a nominated member of staff from Table Tennis England.
- 1.3. The Schools Committee will appoint a National Schools Individual Championships Organiser (herein known as the Organiser) whose decision, after agreement with the Individual Championships Sub-Committee, shall be final on all questions concerning the interpretation of these Regulations and on any Individual Championships matter not

provided for in these Regulations.

2. Competition Entry Requirements

- 2.1. There will be eight separate events, for boys and girls aged Under 11, Under 13, Under 16 and Under 19 on the 31 August preceding the Championships.
- 2.2. Each Schools County Representative shall be entitled to enter one player in each of the events.
- 2.3. This player should be the champion arising from the Schools County Individual Singles Championships of the current season played in the eight age categories above.
- 2.4. The acceptance of an entrant other than the current champion as representative of a Schools County shall be at the discretion of the Organiser. The player's school, academy or college (hereafter referred to as a school) must be located within the appropriate Schools County.
- 2.5. A player may play in only one age group event. A player may play only in the lowest age group event for which he or she is eligible, or in the next higher age group event.
- 2.6. In the Girls Under 19 event, a second player may be entered to represent the appropriate Schools County; one of the two entrants must be 16 or over on the 31 August preceding the Championships.
- 2.7. Pupils may be nominated who leave school at the end of the Spring Term but who were in full-time education for the Autumn and Spring Terms.
- 2.8. Home-schooled players may play in the event of the School County of their residence.
- 2.9. Every player competing in the National Final of the Individual Championships must hold a Table Tennis England membership at a minimum of a Club Play level.

3. Entry Forms

- 3.1. The Schools County Representative should complete the online Form S1 and return it to the Organiser on or before the date specified on the entry form indicating in which events the Schools County will be represented. They shall ensure the submission of the entry fee per event entered as specified on the entry form. Each Schools County Representative will be required to provide details of the name of each entrant on Form S1, with contact email/telephone number.
- 3.2. Schools County Representatives will also be asked to nominate on the online Form S1 the appropriate player who has played in their own Schools' County Individual Singles Championship (e.g. Championship Runner- up) and who in case of emergency, late illness or unavailability of the player nominated on Form S1 will take their place at the Organiser's discretion.
- 3.3. The Schools County Representative shall submit Forms S2 (as indicated by the Organiser at the start of the season), to each of its representative players who shall return it to the Organiser on or before the date, as specified on the entry form. This form must give full details of the representative players and be agreed by the authorised member of staff at the entrant's school signifying their support and approval.
- 3.4. Entry is only confirmed for the player when the payment and all forms are submitted and received, in line with the Organiser's instructions at the start of the competition by the Organiser.

4. Competition Structure and delivery

- 4.1. Normally, each player will be placed in a group of at least 5 players, with group winners and runners-up progressing to the knock-out stage, but the Organiser may modify the format of an event if the number of entries is small.
- 4.2. Ranking order within groups shall conform to the Annex B of the Regulated Competitions Regulations. For each match in a group, 2 match points will be awarded for a win, 1 match point for a loss in a played match and 0 match points for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match. The ranking order shall be determined primarily by the number of match points gained. If two or more members of the group have gained the same number of match points their relative positions shall be determined by the results only of the individual matches played between those being equal taking successively the ratio of wins to losses in games and points. *(Note Annex B of the Regulated Competitions Regulations contains a worked example)*
- 4.3. The Organiser may require players to umpire as needed. A player shall be allowed to provide a competent umpire instead.
- 4.4. Clothing shall conform to Annex A of the Regulated Competitions Table Tennis Regulations.
- 4.5. The back of a player's shirt must display clearly the number allocated to the player in the Championships programme unless they have their name on the back of their shirt.
- 4.6. Throughout the Championships all individual matches shall be the best of 5 games (up to 11 points), unless an event does not have the time or space to manage this. Should this happen then individual matches can be played as best of 3 games.
- 4.7. All individual matches in the Championships shall be played under the Laws of Table Tennis and the National By- Laws.
- 4.8. Trophies will be awarded to the top four players in all eight events, and certificates will be given to all participants to certify that they represented their Schools County Association in the Championships.

Details of venues, dates, entry fees etc for the current season are available on the TTE website under Schools Competitions

ANNEX B - Regulations for the National Schools Team Championships**1. Administration of the competition**

- 1.1 The Team Championships will be conducted on behalf of Table Tennis England by a sub-committee of the TTE Schools Committee.
- 1.2 The Team Championship Sub-Committee shall consist of; the National Schools Team Championship Organiser (Chair), the Chair of the Schools Committee, one other member from the Schools Committee and a nominated member of staff from Table Tennis England

- 1.3 The Committee will appoint a National Schools Team Championships Organiser (herein known as the National Organiser) whose decision, after agreement with the Team Championships Sub-Committee, shall be final on all questions concerning the interpretation of these Regulations and on any Team Championships matter not provided for in these Regulations.

2. Competition Entry Requirements

- 2.2 The Championships will be open to teams from all schools, academies and colleges (hereafter referred to as 'schools') in England, whether or not part of the State System.
- 2.3 Players representing a school must be full-time pupils at that school, except that a player transferring to another school may continue to represent the former school provided they were on the school roll when the Team List was received by the National Organiser, but no player may represent more than one school in the same Membership Year.
- 2.4 There will be eight separate events, for boys and girls aged Under 11, Under 13, Under 16 and Under 19 on the 31 August preceding the Championships.
- 2.5 No player may compete in more than one age group in the same Membership Year and at each stage of the Championships at least one member of each team shall be playing in the lowest age group for which he or she is eligible.

3. Entry Forms

- 3.1 Each Schools County shall nominate by online entry only on the form supplied by the National Organiser at the start of the competitions, known as Form T1, the events in which it will be represented and the names of the schools and submit it to the National Organiser to arrive by the specified date.
- 3.2 The online form, Form T1, shall be accompanied by the specified entry fee for each team, unless the completed form indicates that schools representing their Schools County will be paying the fee themselves.
- 3.3 Each school qualifying for the Area rounds shall complete the online form in full, as supplied by the National Organiser at the start of the competition, known as Form T2. Schools must also provide the school name, details of the teacher in charge, an email address, and phone number. This must be a current teacher at the school. If the person responsible for attending on the day is different, their contact details and name must also be provided. This must be provided by the deadline given. Failure to do so may, at the discretion of the National Organiser, result in the team being removed from the competition. Every school team competing in the National Finals shall be accompanied by a member of the teaching staff of their school or other adult nominated by the school.

4. Competition Structure and delivery

In each event:

- 4.1 The winning team and runner-up from each Schools County may take part in the Area Finals; the winning team from each Area will progress to the National Finals plus the runner-up team from the seven Areas that has the highest rating based on the January dated rating list which is released in February.

- 4.2 In the event a winning team withdraws, the runner up from that area will be invited to the National Finals unless they have already been invited, whereupon the next highest rated team will be invited.
- 4.3 Only one team, per school, per event, will be invited to progress to the National Final.
- 4.4 If there is parity of rating points, then a lot will be drawn to decide which team gets invited.
- 4.5 For each team match, the team listed first in the schedule will be designated Team A and the other team will be designated Team B; each team shall then list its players in ranking order as A1, A2 etc or B1, B2 etc.

5 In the Boys events:

- 5.1 A team shall consist of 4 players; a team match shall consist of 8 individual matches, all of which shall be played, each being the best of 5 games;
- 5.2 The order of play shall be A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A3 v B4, A4 v B3, A1 v B1, A3 v B2, A2 v B3, A4 v B4.
- 5.3 If a situation arises where a match is drawn 4-4 then a best of 5 doubles match will be played to decide the winner. Any two registered team members can play doubles.

6 In the Girls' events:

- 6.1 In the Girls U19 event a team shall consist of 2 players; a team match shall consist of 5 individual matches, all of which shall be played, each being the best of 5 games;
- 6.2 The order of play shall be A1 v B2, A2 v B1, doubles (any two registered team members can play doubles), A1 v B1, A2 v B2.
- 6.3 In the Girls U16, U13 and U11 event a team shall consist of 3 players; a team match shall consist of 7 individual matches, all of which shall be played, each being the best of 5 games;
- 6.4 The order of play shall be A1 v B2, A2 v B1, A3 v B3, Doubles (any two registered team members can play doubles), A1 v B1, A2 v B3, A3 v B2.

- 7 Two or more team or individual matches may be played at the same time at the discretion of the National Organiser; where this results in a player having to play two individual matches in succession, they may claim an interval of up to 5 minutes between those individual matches.
- 8 Team matches may be played across multiple tables at the sole discretion of the National Organiser.
- 9 Team matches can be played to a result at the sole discretion of the National Organiser at the National finals. The decision, if taken by the National Organiser, is final.

10 Play in the Schools County and Area rounds of the Championships will be on a group basis, where:

- 10.1 All members of the group shall compete against each other and shall score 2 match points for a win, 1 for a completed loss and 0 points for an unplayed or unfinished match.
- 10.2 All individual matches shall be the best of 5 games (up to 11 points), unless an event does not have the time or space to manage this.
- 10.3 Should this happen then individual matches can be played to best of 3. The decision on whether to do this or not will sit with the Referee of that particular event.

- 10.4 For the County round, the teacher or person in charge must play their team in strength order and must stay in this order for the duration of the County Round.
- 10.5 The ranking order in the group shall be determined primarily by the number of match points scored; if two or more members of the group have scored the same number of match points their relative positions shall be determined only by the results of the team matches between them, by considering successively the numbers of match points, the ratios of wins to losses first in team matches (for a team event), then in individual matches, then in games and then in points, as far as is necessary to resolve the order;
- 10.6 If at any step in the calculations the positions of one or more members of the group have been determined while the others are still equal, the results of team matches in which those members took part shall be excluded from any further calculations needed to resolve the equalities.
- 10.7 After the Schools County rounds, the country will be divided into seven Areas where the qualifying teams from the Schools County rounds will play in the Area in which their Schools County is located. The qualifiers from the Area rounds will progress straight to the Team Championships National Finals. The National Organiser may, at their discretion, move qualifying schools from one Area to another at the Area rounds.
- 10.8 For each Area the Committee will appoint an Area Organiser, whose duties will include working with the National Organiser in obtaining and equipping a venue, and supplying the National Organiser with details of the teams qualifying for the National Finals.
- 10.9 At Area rounds the relevant Area Organiser will act as Referee. Where there is a dispute from a participating school with the Area Organiser, the Organiser shall make the final decision, after consultation with the Teams Championships Sub-Committee.
- 10.10 For the Area Finals onwards, the teacher or person in charge must play their team in strength order and must stay in this order for the duration of the Area Final or National Final. Strength order will be determined using the Ratings published by Table Tennis England in December for Area Finals and in February for National Finals. Ratings can be found on the Table Tennis England website under 'Player rankings'. Each player with more rating points relating to their category as shown below must play in their rating order:

u11 girls – cadet rating list above 200 points

u13 girls – cadet rating list above 300 points

u16 girls – junior rating list above 300 points

u19 girls – junior rating list above 500 points

u11 boys – cadet rating list above 300 points

u13 boys – cadet rating list above 500 points

u16 boys – junior rating list above 600 points

u19 boys – junior rating list above 800 points

- 10.11 When a team plays out of ranking order, the results of the incorrect matches shall be recorded as wins for the opposing team.

- 11 Play in the National Team Final of the Championships shall be played on a knock-out basis, where:**
- 11.1 In each age group / event, there will be 8 teams competing, with play taking place across 4 tables unless the organiser decides otherwise.
 - 11.2 From the 8 teams, the Top 4 will be seeded based on Ratings from the January dated rating list published in February. If there is parity of rating points then a lot will be drawn to decide which team gets invited. The other 4 teams will be randomly drawn against the 4 seeded teams. The runner-up team will not be drawn against the team from the same Area as them.
 - 11.3 The winning 4 teams will play in a semi-final, final and 3rd / 4th playoff match to determine positions 1-4. The losing 4 teams will play in a consolation semi-final, final and 7th / 8th playoff match to determine positions 5-8.
 - 11.4 All teams will play 3 matches.
- 12 Every school competing in the Area Rounds and National Final of the Teams Championships must hold a Schools membership with Table Tennis England. Every player competing in the Area rounds and National Final of the Teams Championships must hold a Table Tennis England membership at a minimum of a Club Play level.
- 13 The Championships will be played in accordance with the TTE Regulations for Regulated Competitions.
- 14 Anything not covered by the above regulations will be resolved at the discretion of the organising committee.

Details of venues, dates, entry fees etc for current season are available on the TTE website under Schools Competitions.

ANNEX C – Schools County Areas

The list below gives the Schools Counties in capitals followed by the areas which they comprise. For convenience these are defined in terms of local authority areas as at 1 April 2021.

County	Area	LEA
Avon	South West	Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire
Bedfordshire	East	Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton
Berkshire	South East	Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Reading, Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham
Birmingham	West Midlands	Birmingham
Black Country	West Midlands	Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton

Buckinghamshire	South East	Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes
Cambridgeshire	East	Cambridgeshire, Peterborough
Cheshire	North West	Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Halton, Warrington
Cleveland	North East	Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton on Tees
Cornwall	South West	Cornwall, Isles of Scilly
Cumbria	North West	Cumbria
Derbyshire	West Midlands	Derbyshire, Derby
Devon	South West	Devon, Plymouth, Torbay
Dorset	South West	Dorset, Bournemouth, Poole
Durham	North East	Durham, Darlington
East Sussex	South East	East Sussex, Brighton & Hove
Essex	London	Essex, Southend on Sea, Thurrock
Gloucestershire	South West	Gloucestershire
Greater Manchester	North West	Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan
Hampshire	South East	Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton
Herefordshire	West Midlands	Herefordshire
Hertfordshire	East	Hertfordshire
Humber	North East	East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire
Kent	South East	Kent, Medway Towns
Lancashire	North West	Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool
Leicestershire	East	Leicestershire, Leicester, Rutland
Lincolnshire	North East	Lincolnshire
London Central	London	Camden, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth, Westminster
London East	London	Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, City of London, Greenwich, Hackney, Havering, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets
London North	London	Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest
London South	London	Bromley, Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton
London West	London	Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow
Merseyside	North West	Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helen's, Sefton, Wirral
Norfolk	East	Norfolk
Northamptonshire	East	Northamptonshire
Northumberland	East	Northumberland
North Yorkshire	North East	North Yorkshire, City of York
Nottinghamshire	East	Nottinghamshire, Nottingham
Oxfordshire	South East	Oxfordshire

Shropshire	West Midlands	Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
Somerset	South West	Somerset
South Yorkshire	North East	Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield
Staffordshire	West Midlands	Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent
Suffolk	East	Suffolk
Surrey	South East	Surrey
Tyne & Wear	North East	Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland
Warwickshire	West Midlands	Warwickshire, Coventry, Solihull
West Sussex	South East	West Sussex
West Yorkshire	North East	Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield
Wiltshire	South West	Wiltshire, Swindon
Worcestershire	West Midlands	Worcestershire