National Series 2026/27
Reference Document

General Info

Dates: 17-18th October, 21– 22nd November 2026 & 23-24th January 2027

Venues:

Cadets @ Nottingham TTC, Carlton le Willows Academy, Wood Lane, Nottingham, NG4 4AA

U13's & Juniors @ Grantham College, Stonebridge Rd, Grantham NG31 9AP

Invitations: by 21st September 2026 (Based on the Opening Season Ranking List, published August 2026)

Entry Deadline: 6th October 2026 @ midnight

1. Authority

The English Table Tennis Association shall organize the National Series

President: Mrs. Jill Parker

2. TTE Board

Ms. Clare Briegal, Table Tennis England Chair

Ms. Sally Lockyer, Table Tennis England CEO

Mr. Richard AYERS, Appointed Director

Mr. Paul BISHOP, Appointed Director

Ms. Kath Curran, Appointed Director

Ms. Sally HUGHES, Elected Director

Mr. Jos KELLY, Elected Director

Ms. Leanne O'Leary, Appointed Director

Mr. Liam McTIERNAN, Elected Director

Mr. Don PARKER, Elected Director

Mr. Ritchie VENNER, Elected Director

Ms. Anna Whowell, Appointed Director

3. Series Director

Should you have any queries regarding this event, please contact: Mark Pinder

mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk

4. Officials

Officials will be specific to each host venue. As a minimum this will include a TR referee at each venue and L1 umpires at a ratio of 1 umpire to 2 tables, this will allow table managing per two tables (one group) and therefore self-umpiring may be required; optimally this will include a minimum NR referee, and 1.5 minimum qualified umpires per table at each venue with at least one those being minimum L2.

5. Events

The following Series events will take place:

- U13s boy's open & U13 girls categories
- U15s boy's open & U15 girls categories
- U19s boy's open & U19 girls categories

6. Format

6.1 The series shall comprise of three rounds per season, in each age-group and gender eligibility

6.2 If there is more than one venue, the host for each round of each boy's open and girls category may rotate around the host venues

6.3 Each category will typically play in divisions of up to 8 persons, with a minimum of 16 players (2 tiers) and a maximum of 32 players (4 linear tiers)

6.4 Each division will play a full round-robin on each round
6.5 The match format shall be Best of 5 games, 11-up

6.6 Players will gain 2 match points for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match. The group ranking order shall be determined by the number of match points gained.
6.7 The maximum number of tiers in each category will be determined each season at the sole discretion of the Head of Performance Development
6.8 The maximum depth on the ranking list for Invitations and Replacements will be determined by the number of places in that category. (24 places - Max depth 50; 32 places - Max depth 60)
6.9 There will be promotion/ relegation between each tier after each round, a minimum of 2-up/ 2-down
6.10 Up to 2 players may also be relegated from the bottom tier after each round, dependent on regulation 10.

7. Invitations

7.1 Invitations will be issued 1 month prior to the first round of each season
7.2 England or GB National Squad players may be exempted from invitation at the sole discretion of the Head of Performance Development
7.3 Invitations will be determined by the ratings for eligible players in each category*, including up to 4 wildcards in each category at the sole discretion of the Head of Performance Development (eg if the cohort is 24 players, then a minimum of 20 will be rating invitations and up to 4 will be wildcards)
7.4 Declined places and unused wildcards will revert to eligible players in rating order
7.5 If the number of declined places mean that the anticipated number of tiers in a given category cannot be established, or established in a suitable timeframe, then that category may operate with fewer tiers than originally determined in 6.6
7.6 For the avoidance of doubt, performance in the Series in a previous season has no bearing on invitations for following seasons
7.7 If a player is eligible for invitation in more than one age-category, then they must choose one category to enter in consultation and agreement with the Head of Performance Development
7.8 Players will be treated independently in each age-group in respect of relegation replacements and wildcard replacements, but may only be active in one age-group at any one time
7.9 Players relegated from the bottom tier in any category may be replaced in the following round by the next eligible player in the ratings list four weeks preceding the following round who is not yet part of the Series, including any players who declined an original invitation, and notwithstanding any restrictions due to previous illegitimate absence. For the avoidance of doubt, any player who declines this invite will not be guaranteed a place in subsequent rounds. Replacement players will join the bottom tier.
7.10 Players relegated from the bottom tier in any category will be ineligible for selection as a *replacement* in that age-group for one round

8. Eligibility

8.1 Players must fulfil all the following criteria:
   a. TTE Compete Plus members *or* home country upgrade members
   b. British nationals who were born in or have their main residence in one of the home countries
   c. Have indicated one of the home countries as their nationality in their TTE membership profile
   d. Not be currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU
   e. Not be currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules.
8.2 If a player becomes ineligible, they will forfeit their place in the Series for the remaining rounds

9. Seedings

9.1 Divisions will be seeded contiguously at the beginning of the Series based on the most recent ratings list two weeks prior to the first round; thereafter promotion/ relegation will apply for each round

9.2 Each division in each round after the opening round will be seeded on the basis of their final position within their division in the previous round, in order to produce a playing schedule

10. Player Unavailability & Wildcard Replacements

10.1 If a player is unavailable, the Head of Performance Development shall at their sole discretion deem the absence either:

a. *Legitimate* absence. Examples of legitimate absence may include but is not limited to injury/ illness, suspension, extenuating personal circumstance or unavoidable international commitment. This will be strictly applied, and evidence may be required. Only one such absence will be granted each season; thereafter any such absence will be deemed illegitimate

OR *b*. *Illegitimate* absence

10.2 Players who are *illegitimately absent* will be automatically relegated for the subsequent round

10.3 Players who are *legitimately absent* will regain their existing place in the same tier in the following round

10.4 All withdrawals and non-responses, for any reason, following the draw for a given event date or within 10 days of the event date, whichever is sooner, shall be deemed illegitimate absences by default and therefore result in an automatic relegation for the subsequent round

10.5 In the event that absences create a scenario whereby a division falls below 6 persons, then the standard approach shall be to fill such vacancies continuously (eg the top-rated (Round 1) or highest-finishing player (Round 2 &3) from the division below will be promoted pre-event into the higher tier, and/ or an additional player invited to the lowest tier). Where such absences include a legitimate absence, an additional relegation place may be created in each affected tier to allow legitimately absent player(s) to re-enter their original tier for the following round.

10.6 If the number of absences means that the anticipated number of tiers in a given category cannot be established, or established in a suitable timeframe, then that category may operate with fewer tiers than originally determined in 6.6, for any given round

10.7 In exceptional circumstances, the organisers shall have power to take such action as they consider necessary, including redefinition of the structure and temporary waiving of regulations.

11. Standings

11.1 Standings shall be calculated as per Annex B to Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions: Group Competitions which can be found in the below link: Articles and regulations - Table Tennis England

12. Fees

11.1 For season 26/27, each player will be required to pay an entry fee of £105 as part of the event entry ~~in the Sport:80 platform~~via Table Tennis England's entry process. Instructions for payment will be detailed within the entry system

11.2 Except where they have already played an earlier round, players called up for subsequent rounds will be required to pay a proportional fee

11.3 Players relegated from the Series will receive a proportional rebate at the end of the season, less a transaction charge

11.4 There will be no refund in the event of legitimate or illegitimate absence

13. Medals & Trophies
The top three finishing individuals in the top tier in each category will be presented with an engraved medal after the final round. While the winner of the top tier will be presented with a Trophy after the final round.

Competitors should note that Table Tennis England retain the ownership of all Perpetual Trophies. If a recipient requests permission to retain a trophy for a period of time, this is acceptable providing the player signs a guarantee of safe return form.

14. Weighting
These events carry a Table Tennis England ranking weighting of 1.75

15. Racket Testing
Racket tests may be implemented at this event, randomly selected according to ITTF regulations

16. Equipment
Equipment will be specific to each host venue. As a minimum this will meet Grade 3 requirements (including 10x5m courts); optimally this will meet Grade 4 requirements (including 12x6m courts)

17. Anti-Doping
Anti-doping testing may be carried out through this event, randomly selected accordingly to ITTF regulations.

18. Clothing
Competitors are required to have their name printed on the back of their playing shirt at all times when playing.

19. Mobile Phones
Mobile phones are not permitted to be used within the match court area and should remain somewhere safe within an individual's bag, or with a parent or coach attending the event. Any player caught using their phone during time out, change of ends or during matches will forfeit the match.

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

21. Photography and Streaming
Table Tennis England may be taking photos and live streaming matches during this event, the use of which may include (but not be limited to) our printed and online platforms, social media, press releases and funding applications. If you do not give permission to take photographs and/or video of you (or individuals for whom you are legally responsible), please contact competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk

For further details please see the Table Tennis England Photo and live streaming Policy:
https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/photography-guidelines/

22. Codes of Conduct

All participants and attendees at Table Tennis England events are subject to Table Tennis England Codes of Conduct https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-codes-of-conduct-and-terms-of-reference/

We will not tolerate swearing 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 rigorously pursue disciplinary sanctions if necessary.

For further details, please see the Table Tennis England Workforce Protection Policy
https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/policies-and-procedures/Seeding
All rules will be played as per Table Tennis England Regulated Competition which can be found in the following link: Articles and regulations - Table Tennis England

Schedule Outline:

Saturday: Girls U13's, Cadet Girls & Junior Girls
Start time 10:00 (Warm up from 09:00)

Sunday: Boy's Open U13's, Cadet Boy's Open & Junior Boy's Open
Start time 09:00 (Warm up from 08:00)