

# NORTHUMBRIA TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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## 1. ALTERATION OF REGULATIONS

- 1.1 These regulations may be altered only by the Annual Conference of the Northumbria Table Tennis League which has the power to alter by amending, deleting or making new regulations with the exception of those contained in Schedule 'A' to these regulations.
- 1.2 Any regulations the numbers of which are contained in Schedule 'A' hereto may only be altered by the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis.
- 1.3 Propositions
  - 1.3.1 Propositions for any changes in regulations for consideration by the Annual Conference may be submitted by a participating club or by a director of Northumberland Table Tennis.
  - 1.3.2 Any such proposition for consideration by the Annual Conference must be sent in writing to reach the League Secretary by the last day in May and shall be acknowledged by the League Secretary within seven days.
  - 1.3.3 All propositions so received shall be circulated to all participating clubs at least 21 days before the date of the Annual Conference.
- 1.4 Alterations to these regulations altering entry fees and fines shall be effective for the following season.

## 2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The League shall be managed by the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis.
- 2.2 The directors of Northumberland Table Tennis shall have the power to decide any question arising from these regulations and any matter concerning the conduct of the competition which is not specifically covered by these regulations.

## 3. FINANCE

- 3.1 Northumberland Table Tennis will be responsible for the financial affairs of the League.
- 3.2 All fees and fines will be payable to Northumberland Table Tennis.
- 3.3 Fees.
  - 3.3.1 Each season each club shall pay entry fees the amounts of which are specified in Schedule 'C'.
  - 3.3.2 Each club in membership of the League shall pay a guarantee deposit.
  - 3.3.3 The guarantee deposit shall be repaid to the club when it ceases to take part in the League subject to the club having fulfilled all of its commitments within the League to the satisfaction of the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis.
- 3.4 Appropriate entry fees and guarantee deposits must be received by the Treasurer of Northumberland Table Tennis by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## 4. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 4.1 League Conference to be called the Annual Conference, shall be held in each year.
- 4.2 Notice specifying the place, date, hour and Agenda shall be given to the secretary of every participating club at least 21 days before the date of the Conference.
- 4.3 Each team which participated during the current season shall be entitled to send one representative with power to vote.
- 4.4 Additionally, every team which has been accepted to participate the following season shall be entitled to send one observer with right to speak but not to vote.
- 4.5 Every director of Northumberland Table Tennis shall be entitled to attend with right to speak and to vote.
- 4.6 The Chairman of Northumberland Table Tennis, if present, shall be chairman of the Conference, otherwise the conference shall elect its own chairman.
- 4.7 Voting.
  - 4.7.1 Every matter shall be determined by a majority of the votes of representatives under regulation 4.3 and 4.5.
  - 4.7.2 In the case of equality of votes the chairman of the conference shall have the casting vote.

## 5. MATCH CONDUCT

- 5.1 The laws of Table Tennis as adopted by the English Table Tennis Association shall be observed in all matches.

5.2 The make of the ball used shall be one of those officially approved for the current season by the English Table Tennis Association and a sufficient number of balls shall be available for the selection of a ball satisfactory to both players. A new ball of '3 star' quality must be available at the start of each match.

5.3 All clubs in the league must have for match play a table, lighting and conditions which are, in the opinion of the Management Committee, of satisfactory standard.

5.4 Recommended conditions are set out in Schedule 'B' to these regulations.

## 6. LEAGUE FORMATION

6.1 The directors of Northumberland Table Tennis shall be responsible for the League formation as soon as possible after the closing date for receipt of entries. The divisions of the League will be designated, Premier, Division 1, Division 2. etc. depending on the number of teams entered in the league.

6.2 Except as provided in 6.4

At the end of each season's competition the two highest placed teams in each division below the Premier division shall be promoted and their places shall be taken by the two lowest placed teams in the next highest division regardless of there being byes in that division.

6.3 Teams that have resigned during the season shall be regarded as relegated teams.

6.4 Where there are special circumstances the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis shall decide upon the promotion and relegation of teams between divisions.

6.5 In the event of a vacancy or vacancies occurring in divisions higher than the bottom division the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis shall have the power to place a team in a division appropriate to that team's strength.

6.6 The directors of Northumberland Table Tennis shall prepare league fixtures for confirmation at a Handbook Meeting to be held prior to the start of the season.

6.7 Each team shall play 1 home and 1 away match against each other team in the same division, except by mutual agreement and with the permission of the League Secretary.

6.8 Each team shall designate, on the club entry form submitted before each season, a home match night which shall not be a Saturday or Sunday. In the event of that match falling on a Bank Holiday or religious festival either team may insist upon re-arrangement. (See reg.10).

6.9 All changes in club information, including change of match night, shall be notified to the League Secretary in writing with an assurance that the home club secretary will inform all visiting club secretaries of the revised information until a circular notifying the amendment is issued. A fee will be payable if an alteration to the team's match night is made after the start of the season.

## 7. REGISTRATION

7.1 In order to be eligible to play in the league all players must be registered with the ETTA as a Player Member.

7.2 The secretary of each club entering the league shall submit, not later than the Monday preceding the start of each season, a team registration form with a minimum of 3 players registered for each team entered.

7.3 Teams shall be registered on playing ability with the 'A' team being the strongest, etc. A team cannot be registered for a lower division than that of a lower ranked team from the same club. New players must be registered, by informing the League Secretary which team they are registered for, before their first match. No new registration or transfer will be accepted, without the consent of the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis after 1<sup>st</sup> February in any season.

7.4 No player may play for a lower ranked team than that for which they are registered.

7.5 A player can play for a higher ranked team than that for which they are registered (but see reg 7.6).

7.6 If a player plays for higher ranked teams than his registered team on 6 occasions during a season then that player is automatically re-registered for the next higher ranked team that he

has played for. That player would be subject to further upwards re-registration if he again plays for higher ranked teams on 6 occasions (including any occasions prior to re-registration).

- 7.7 A player who has played for one club cannot play for another club in the same season except after making written representation to, and receiving permission from, the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis. (For this purpose the Winter League and the Summer League count as separate seasons). Both clubs must agree to the transfer of the player concerned and any club subscription due from that player to the club which he/she is leaving shall be paid before the transfer is allowed to take place. A transfer fee must accompany the transfer application. No such request for transfer will be accepted after 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## 8. MATCH PLAY

- 8.1 Teams shall consist of 3, 4 or 5 players, 3 of whom shall be nominated to play singles and any 2 shall be nominated to play the doubles. The order of play of each set, which can only be altered by mutual agreement between the team captains, shall be :

(1) A v Y (2) C v X (3) B v Z (4) C v Y (5) Doubles  
(6) A v Z (7) B v X (8) C v Z (9) B v Y (10) A v X

Where A, B & C are the home team and X, Y & Z are the away team.

Each set shall be the best of 5 games.

- 8.2 Matches shall commence at 7.00pm or as soon as possible thereafter.

- 8.3 Any player not being ready to play within 5 minutes of the announcement of their set or within 5 minutes of completion of the preceding set will forfeit their set. In the event of a complete team failing to be ready to commence a match by 7.30pm the team present and ready to play may claim the match by default. During the period up to 7.30pm up to 3 sets only may be claimed.

## 9. FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES

- 9.1 Teams being entirely absent on the match night and having failed to contact their opponents shall be liable to a fine and the match will be awarded 10-0 in favour of the non-defaulting team.

- 9.2 When a team is one or more players short of the required number it forfeits the relevant sets, the scorecard being marked 'set forfeited'. When players are absent from both teams the relevant sets are void, the scoresheet being marked 'set void'.

- 9.3 When a match is forfeited for any reason a scorecard claiming the match must be submitted by the non-defaulting team to the League Secretary.

- 9.4 In the event of a team forfeiting six or more matches in a winter season or four or more matches in a summer season the record of that team will be expunged from the league table and the team treated as relegated at the end of the season.

## 10. RE-ARRANGED MATCHES

- 10.1 Matches should be played strictly in accordance with the official fixture list and clubs are strongly urged to reject requests for re-arrangements especially if they are the home club involved. Re-arrangement of fixtures is permissible provided there is mutual agreement between the clubs concerned. Once re-arrangement has been agreed the home club must offer 2 dates (which shall not be a Saturday, Sunday, Bank Holiday, religious festival or clash with scheduled fixture) to the visiting club, one of which dates must be accepted. The home club secretary must inform the League Secretary of the new date.

- 10.2 Rearranged fixtures shall be played as soon as possible after the original date and in no case later than the final scheduled week of the season or any extension thereof agreed by the directors. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the match being awarded 10-0 to the away team and the home team incurring a fine.

- 10.3 A club may insist on a match being re-arranged if a team member is required for international or Northumberland County/League representative duties or business as a director of Northumberland Table Tennis.

## 11. SCORECARDS

- 11.1 The home club secretary shall arrange for a completed scorecard or written explanation of postponement to reach the League Secretary no later than 7 days after the scheduled match date or re-arranged match date. Failure to comply will result in a fine to the club concerned. In the case of re-arranged matches the original week number must be entered on the scorecard.
- 11.2 The above regulation 11.1 will be relaxed in respect of matches scheduled for the last 2 weeks prior to Christmas week only but cards/explanations for these matches must be received by the League Secretary by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the New Year.
- 11.3 In the event of a scorecard being submitted incorrectly completed a fine will be imposed for each error or omission. The receipt by the League Secretary of posted, unstamped scorecards will result in the home team being fined.
- 11.4 In the event of a deliberate falsification of a completed scorecard submitted to the League Secretary the offending club will be fined and may have points deducted at the discretion of the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis.
12. MERIT POINTS
- 12.1 Merit Points will be awarded on the basis of 1 point for each set won.
- 12.2 League positions shall be decided on merit points, or in the event of merit points being equal, on games won in each of the league matches in the relevant season between the tied teams or, on total games won, or on that being equal on points won.
13. COMPLAINTS
- 13.1 Failure to comply with these regulations shall not entitle the opposing club to claim a match, except as provided for in reg. 8.3, but may be grounds for a complaint, or a claim that the match be forfeited.
- 13.2 In either case notice shall be given in writing by the secretary of the complainant club to the League Secretary and to the secretary of any other club involved. The secretary of the alleged offending club shall, within 7 days of receipt of such complaint, send a response to the League Secretary and the secretary of the complainant club if it is wished to refute the statements made. The matter will then be dealt with by the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis.
14. GENERAL
- 14.1 Attendance by a club currently in membership of the league at the Annual Conference or the Handbook Meeting is compulsory.
- 14.2 No affiliated players or clubs may take part in competition with any players or clubs or in exhibition at any club or under any auspices not registered with the I.T.T.F.
15. DISCIPLINARY
- 15.1 Any club or player may be suspended from the privileges of membership of the League under the power created by the ETTA rules, subject to the right of appeal provided by such Rules. The ETTA General Secretary will be notified of any suspension under this rule.
- 15.2 No member shall without good and sufficient cause absent himself from a hearing of any allegation or appeal after having been requested with reasonable notice to attend or refuse to answer any question put to him in connection with such allegation or appeal if the body hearing the allegation or appeal direct him to answer.
16. RIGHT OF APPEAL
- Any individual or club aggrieved by a decision or action of the directors of Northumberland Table Tennis may appeal against such decision or action to the Board of Appeal of the ETTA.
17. SUMMER LEAGUE VARIATIONS
- Regulation
- 3.4 Replace '31<sup>st</sup> October' with '30<sup>th</sup> June'.
- 6.4 Delete "... for confirmation at a Special General Meeting (the Handbook Meeting) to be held ....".
- 7.3 Replace '1<sup>st</sup> February' with '1<sup>st</sup> July' (twice).
- 7.6 Replace '6 occasions' with '4 occasions' (twice).
- 7.7 Replace '1<sup>st</sup> February' with '1<sup>st</sup> July'.

