



BRAINTREE & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Founded 1948

Affiliated to:
Table Tennis England (ETTA)
E.C.T.T.A.

LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

2018 / 2019 SEASON

Scorecards to:

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League website: www.tabletennis365.com/braintree

Table Tennis England website: www.tabletennisengland.co.uk

RULES

RULE 1 - NAME

The league shall be called the Braintree & District Table Tennis League. In seasons where the league is sponsored, the sponsor's name may be added to the title.

RULE 2 - OBJECTS

The league shall promote (a) the game of table tennis in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) for the benefit of members and (b) social and fund raising activities if the management committee so decide.

The league shall run an annual league competition and may jointly or individually arrange other competitions during the season.

RULE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall comprise: -

- (a) President, vice presidents and honorary life members of the league.
- (b) The management committee members elected in accordance with Rule 5.
- (c) Players registered with clubs affiliated to the league and general secretaries of those clubs.
Players taking part in league competitions must be affiliated as a player member of the ETTA.
Applications from clubs for membership must be made to the fixtures secretary before 1 July.

RULE 4 - GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held by the end of June.
- (b) A Special General Meeting shall be convened by the general secretary: -
 - (i) On receipt of a resolution signed by at least ten members stating the purpose of the meeting, such meeting to be held within 28 days of the notice being received, or
 - (ii) When so required by the management committee.
- (c) All members shall be entitled to attend a General Meeting.
- (d) Voting at General Meetings shall be by a simple majority of those present and eligible to vote. Each club shall be entitled to one vote for each team affiliated to the league. No person may exercise more than one vote. If voting is equal, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- (e) At least 14 days' notice of a General Meeting shall be given to all club secretaries, life members and members of the management committee.
- (f) Life members may be elected at the AGM only upon the nomination of the management committee in recognition of long and meritorious service to the league.
- (g) The president and vice presidents shall be elected at the AGM. All shall retire annually but be eligible for re-election.
- (h) All decisions of every General Meeting shall be binding on all members.
- (j) Any club, with only one team, not represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £10.00. Any club with more than one team represented by only one member at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £10.00 or shall be fined £20.00 if the club is not represented at all at the Annual General Meeting.

RULE 5 - ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The honorary officers of the league shall consist of chairman, vice chairman, general secretary, treasurer, fixtures secretary, competition secretary, development officer, coaching secretary, inter-league secretary, social secretary and press officer. All shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM.
- (b) (i) For the purposes of administering the league, a management committee comprising the officers and four other members shall be elected at the AGM.

(ii) Voting for members of the management committee shall be by secret ballot by simple majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- (c) Any member of the management committee absent from three consecutive meetings of the committee without explanation satisfactory to the committee shall be deemed to have resigned.
- (d) The management committee shall have power to: -
 - (i) Decide upon all questions arising from any competitive game run under the auspices of the league.
 - (ii) Decide upon any relevant matter upon which these rules are silent.
 - (iii) Delegate duties to sub-committees, subject to report at each committee meeting.
 - (iv) Elect a member to fill a casual vacancy on the management committee.
 - (v) Suspend or impose a fine not exceeding £20.00 on any club or member for breach of rules.
 - (vi) Appoint a disciplinary panel, comprising a minimum of three members, to decide on matters relating to Rule 6.
- (e) A decision of the management committee shall be binding on all members' subject to appeal to the Essex County Table Tennis Association.
- (f) A quorum at any management committee meeting shall be five.
- (g) At least seven days' notice of each management committee meeting shall be sent to all members of the committee. Club secretaries may attend meetings as observers without the right to speak other than with the permission of the chairman.

RULE 6 – CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Members of the league whose conduct is inappropriate or who decline to abide by any of the rules or bylaws may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the disciplinary panel. Appeal against a decision of the panel may be made to the Essex County Table Tennis Association in accordance with its rules.

RULE 7 – SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Affiliated clubs shall pay a fee of £45 for each team that they enter into the league divisional competitions.
- (b) The fees in 7 (a) must be paid before the team plays its first game. Any points gained before these fees have been paid will be declared void.
- (c) Any club levies must be paid before the start of the playing season. Any points gained or matches won by the clubs before their levies have been paid will be declared void.

RULE 8 - PLAYING LAWS

All games shall be played in accordance with the laws adopted by the ETTA. In the event of any dispute, the matter shall be referred to the management committee, whose decisions shall be final.

RULE 9 – EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

- (a) All games must be played with a make of ball, bat and rubber approved by the ETTA.
- (b) All players must wear clothing conforming to the standards adopted by the ETTA.

RULE 10 - UMPIRES

The umpire for each set shall be mutually agreed by the players concerned, or provided: -

- (i) Alternately by the home team and away team captains or,
- (ii) By the tournament organiser.

In the case of a disputed point the umpire's decision shall be final.

RULE 11 – REGISTRATIONS

- (a) In each season, prior to playing a match in the league, a player must have obtained an ETTA player membership number, and this membership must be for the whole of the current season, ie to the end of July following the date of registration. This information, and that detailed in Rule 11 (b), must be provided to the fixtures secretary before a player takes part in a competitive match in order for that player to be registered with the league.
- (b) Prior to the Sunday of the first week of the playing season, clubs must send to the fixtures secretary a schedule showing the team for which each player will be registered, giving details of full name, address, date of birth, telephone number (as provided to the ETTA), email address (if any) and ETTA player membership number. Failure to comply with this rule will result in any points gained being declared void until such information is provided.
- (c) All players must be registered with and play for one club only unless a transfer to another club is permitted by the fixtures secretary. Such a transfer shall only be permitted when the fixtures secretary receives written confirmation of agreement from both clubs. Applications for transfer from one team to another within the same club shall also be made to the fixtures secretary in writing.
- (d) No player may play in any competitive game under the auspices of the league before registration is approved by the management committee or at the fixtures secretary's discretion if received on or before 31 December.
- (e) Registrations or applications for transfer received after 31 December shall only be approved if the fixtures secretary considers it in the best interest of the league.

RULE 12 - FIXTURES

- (a)
 - (i) All matches shall be played in accordance with the fixture list except where the fixtures secretary agrees re-arrangement due to exceptional circumstances. Where a postponement is granted the game will be played in the next available cup week.
 - (ii) Where a postponement is agreed, at least 24 hours' notice (preferably more) shall be given to the opposing team.
 - (iii) Where a postponement is granted, only players eligible on the original date shall be qualified for the re-arranged fixture. The management committee shall have power to impose a deadline for the fulfilment of any unplayed game. This rule shall take precedence over Rules 12 j) and k).
 - (iv) When a team is compelled to change the scheduled date of its home fixtures the club concerned shall as soon as possible notify in writing the revised dates to the secretaries of all other clubs and to the fixtures secretary. Additionally, the captain of each team that has

changed the scheduled date of its home fixtures shall contact the away team captain at least 10 days before the revised date of each match to remind him/her of the revised date. (The address or telephone number of the away team captain can be obtained from the fixtures secretary if not available in handbook).

- (b) (i) Where for any reason a match is claimed by one team against another, this claim is to be notified to the relevant club secretaries by the fixtures secretary. If no objection against the claim is lodged with the fixtures secretary within 7 days of such notification, then the claim will be allowed to stand. Where a factual objection is raised then the matter will be resolved by the league management committee whose decision will be final. A representative from each club will be allowed to attend.

(ii) Any team that on more than three occasions either concedes a match or has a match awarded against them will be automatically removed from the division in which they play. The failure to fulfil a Sunday fixture shall not count as a successful claim for the purpose of this rule where a team declares its intention not to fulfil any Sunday fixtures before the start of the season. That declaration to be made in writing to the fixtures secretary and all club secretaries concerned.
- (c) No club shall register more than one team per division to play on a Sunday, except in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances must be submitted in writing to the league committee for discussion at the time of entry.
- (d) No match shall be arranged to start later than 7.15pm. Where a match starts after 7.15pm the defaulting team shall forfeit any sets uncompleted by 11.00pm unless the team captains concerned otherwise decide. Failure to start a match by 7.45pm will result in all sets being awarded against the defaulting team. Such award shall be counted as a match conceded in accordance with Rule 12(b)(ii) unless otherwise decided by the management committee. All three players from each team must be in attendance by 8.30pm. If any player fails to arrive by 8.30pm the sets he/she was due to play shall be forfeited to the opposing team. A different start time may be permitted, subject to management committee approval, provided it is notified to the fixtures secretary by 1 July when entries are submitted.
- (e) When it is not possible to complete a match for any reason, the facts shall be submitted in writing by the team captain concerned within 7 days to the competition secretary or fixtures secretary as appropriate. The committee shall have power to order the match to be replayed or to take any other steps necessary to see that the league functions in the interests of all players.
- (f) The home team must send a match result card giving the names of players and results to be received by the fixtures secretary within one week of the match being played, ie if a match is played on a Tuesday, the fixtures secretary must receive the result by the following Tuesday. Teams in default of this rule will have three points deducted from their total.
- (g) Any team failing to fulfil a fixture without giving 48 hours' prior notice shall reimburse the opposing club up to a maximum of £20.00 to cover the cost of travelling expenses plus the cost of the hall hire if the home team are charged such expenses. Extenuating circumstances to be at the management committee's discretion. Any such claims should be submitted to the league management committee.
- (h) No team shall be permitted to fulfil a fixture with only one player and any such match shall be declared void. The points shall be awarded to the opposing team as laid down in Rule 12(b)(i), and it shall be considered a successful claim for the purposes of Rule 12(b)(ii).
- (j) All matches shall be finished within 14 days of the end of the last scheduled league fixture.

RULE 13 - TEAMS

- (a) Teams shall consist of three players in each match. Any sets played by an ineligible player shall be forfeited to the opposing team.
- (b) If a player fails to attend a match the opposing team shall be awarded the sets due to have been played by the defaulter.

- (c) Teams should be ranked in order of their overall strength (i.e. Team A should be stronger than Team B etc., irrespective of players' individual merits).
- (d) At least three players must be registered and eligible for each team before the first fixture of that team is played.

RULE 14 - ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- (a) A player of a lower ranking team may play for a higher ranking team until he/she has won a total of five or more singles for a higher ranking team or teams. Only sets won on the table count towards the number of singles wins and not sets conceded. When a player plays for a higher ranking team after the match in which the fifth singles win is gained, he/she will automatically become a member of the next highest ranking team for which he/she has played. When a player becomes a member of a higher ranking team by virtue of this rule he/she shall not be permitted to play for a lower ranking team for the remainder of the season unless reinstated by the fixture secretary.
- (b) Where a player becomes a member of a team by virtue of rule 14 (a), that rule shall continue to apply. Any singles sets which the player has previously won playing for a team or teams higher than the one of which he/she becomes a member shall continue to count for the purposes of rule 14 (a).

RULE 15 - MATCHES

- (a) In all divisions the order of play shall be:

1 v 2 3 v 1 2 v 3 3 v 2 1 v 3 2 v 1 Doubles 3 v 3 2 v 2 1 v 1.

- (b) Before the start of a match, the home team captain shall enter the home team order on the scorecard, and the visiting team captain shall then enter the away team order. In the case of a match being played on a neutral table, the 'home' team shall be decided by the toss of a coin. Each match shall be played to a finish.
- (c) The home team shall provide suitable refreshments during the match.

RULE 16 - LEAGUE TABLES

- (a) One point shall be awarded for each set won, awarded or gained by concession.
- (b) If a match be conceded, the opposing team shall be awarded the maximum points and sets otherwise obtainable.
- (c) If a team withdraws from the league before completing its fixtures, that team's record shall be expunged from the league table. It is the responsibility of the club to notify all the clubs in the division of their withdrawal.
- (d) The team winning most points shall be the divisional winners.
- (e) In the case of a tie between two or more teams, the final position of those teams shall be decided first by the number of matches won, then by the number of matches drawn, then by the number of games won. If the position remains unresolved, a deciding match shall be played.

RULE 17 - PROMOTION & RELEGATION

Wherever possible the top team in division 2 and downwards shall be promoted to the division immediately above and the bottom team in division 1 and downwards shall be relegated to the division immediately below. This can only be varied by a decision of the management committee. In the event of a vacancy arising in any division, the management committee shall have the power to fill that vacancy by any means which it considers in the best interests of the league competition.

In the event of the league adopting a different format, the management committee shall have the power to fill the divisions based on the placing of the teams in the previous season.

RULE 18 - TEAM KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

- (a) Team knockout competitions on a handicap and non-handicap basis shall be organised annually.
- (b) The regulations governing these competitions shall be decided by the management committee and any changes for the ensuing season advised to the clubs with notification of the AGM. The decision of the management committee on these regulations shall be final subject only to appeal under Rule 5(e).

RULE 19 - INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (a) (i) The championships shall be open to all registered players provided they have played in at least 4 matches in a league competition run by the Braintree League by the closing date for entries. Where a player feels there are extenuating circumstances they must make a claim to the committee detailing what those circumstances are.

(ii) All events shall be open to all registered junior players and, at the management committee's discretion, other junior players who have attended coaching sessions organised by the league or its affiliated clubs during the current season.
- (b) The entry fee shall be £3.00 per member per senior event and £1.50 per member per junior event up to a maximum of £15.00 for seniors and £7.50 for juniors.
- (c) A set shall be the best of 5 games.
- (d) (i) To be eligible for junior events, players must be under 18 on 31 December during the season in question. For cadet events, they must be under 15 on that date.

(ii) To qualify for veterans' events, players must be 40 or over on 1 January during the season in question.
- (e) (i) Singles events in which fewer than 4 players enter may be declared void.

(ii) Doubles events in which fewer than 4 pairs enter may be declared void.
- (f) The restricted singles shall be open to any player except: -
 - (i) First division players
 - (ii) Any player having a singles average of over 50% in division 1 during either of the preceding two seasons and subject to that player having played at least 3 matches in division 1 in the relevant season(s).
 - (iii) A previous winner of the event three times, the last win to have been in the last five years.
- (g) The ladies' restricted singles shall be open to all ladies except: -
 - (i) First division players.
 - (ii) A player having a singles average above 50% in division 1 during any of the preceding two seasons and subject to that player having played at least 3 matches in division 1 in the relevant season(s).
 - (iii) A winner of the ladies' singles within the last two years.
 - (iv) The seeds in the ladies' singles.

- (h) Separate knockout competitions may be held for each division. The division 1 competition shall be open to all division 1 players (except the best eight players eligible for the competition) plus the top 2 seeds in the restricted singles and those players' ineligible for the restricted singles. The other divisional competitions shall be open to all players in those divisions except the top 2 seeds in the restricted singles.

RULE 20 - LEAGUE TROPHIES

All trophies held by the winners for a period of 12 months shall be returned in a clean and good condition when requested. Failure to do so will result in the recipient being responsible for a replacement.

RULE 21 - LEAGUE BADGES

A senior, junior or veterans badge may be awarded after five appearances in a Braintree League representative side.

RULE 22 - FINANCE

- (a) The financial year shall end on 30 April.
- (b) The account of receipts and payments for the year shall be presented to the AGM. The accounts shall have been audited by a suitable person elected at the previous AGM.
- (c) Should the account show a deficiency in the year's workings, all clubs may be called upon to contribute towards such deficiency in proportion to the number of teams in the league competition. This shall apply to all clubs and teams whether or not remaining in membership the following season.
- (d) At the discretion of the management committee, funds surplus to the day-to-day running of the league may be invested.
- (e) The management committee may operate a loan scheme at its discretion. This loan scheme is to allow member clubs to purchase tables and equipment only. The amount available for the forthcoming season will be stated at the AGM of the preceding season.

RULE 23 – MARTIN BAWDEN TROPHY

The Martin Bawden Trophy shall be awarded each year to a member of the league in recognition of service or achievement. The winner will be chosen by a panel consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman and general secretary.

RULE 24 - GENERAL

- (a) Any breach of these rules shall be reported to the general secretary in writing and in duplicate by the aggrieved party. The general secretary shall send a copy of the correspondence to the other party concerned and refer the matter to the committee.
- (b) No alteration to these rules shall be made except at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- (c) All proposed alterations must be made in writing to the general secretary at least 28 days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting, unless such alterations are desired or recommended by the committee. At least 14 days' notice of any proposed rule changes must be given to those entitled to notice under Rule 4(e).

RULE 25 – DISSOLUTION

- (a) Any member club acting through its authorised representative may call for the dissolution of the league by giving notice in writing to the general secretary.
- (b) On receipt of such notice a SGM shall be convened within 28 days of receipt, the purpose of which shall be solely to decide the motion by vote.
- (c) Voting at the SGM shall be the same as for rule changes in accordance with Rule 4 (d).
- (d) In the event that a motion to dissolve the league is carried the management committee shall, by a date specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets and discharges the debts and liabilities of the league.
- (e) Any remaining assets after discharging all debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to a voluntary organisation agreed by the SGM having objectives similar to those of the league.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. The league will run handicap, team knockout and restricted knockout cups. For the team knockout and restricted cups, the previous season's league tables will be used to determine which competition each team will play in. After inserting any new teams where the management committee deems appropriate, the teams will be divided at the halfway point. Those in the top half will play in the team knockout and those in the lower half in the restricted knockout. The management committee will have power to vary this arrangement if necessary.

2. Teams shall consist of three players. Teams will be automatically entered into the cup competitions unless they opt out.

3. Handicap Cup

- (i) A player may play for any team within their club
- (ii) No player may play for more than one team in the competition

4. Team Knockout and Restricted Cups

No player may play in both the team knockout and restricted cup competitions.

(a) Team Knockout Cup

- (i) Any registered player may play in this competition
- (ii) A player may play for any team (ie not limited to the team for which they are registered)
- (iii) A player may not play for more than one team

(b) Restricted Cup

- (i) Only players registered for teams participating in the restricted cup may play in that competition
- (ii) A player may play for any team (ie not limited to the team for which they are registered)
- (iii) A player may not play for more than one team

5. The closing date for entries shall be 15 July.

6. Matches shall be played on the home night of the team drawn at home unless mutually agreed, except for the finals where a neutral venue shall be used on a date specified. Semi finals may also be held at a neutral venue.

7. In the handicap knockout competition, handicaps shall be decided by the management committee or by the competition committee.

8. All matches shall consist of 9 sets played as follows: -

(a) Handicap cup :

A v X, B v Y, C v Z, A v Y, C v X, B v Z, C v Y, A v Z, B v X

(b) Team and restricted knockouts cups:

1/2 v 1/2, 3 v 3, 1 v 2, 2 v 1, 1/3 v 1/3, 3 v 2, 2 v 3, 1 v 1, 2/3 v 2/3

9. Both teams will list their players separately, then bring them together to be entered on the scoresheet.

10. A date for the completion of each round will be specified and failure to play the match by that date will result in the match being awarded against the offending team unless otherwise decided by the management committee

11. Any matter not provided for in these regulations shall be decided by the management committee or duly appointed sub-committee.