

## **CENTRAL LONDON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE RULES 2016-17**

### **A. Overview**

1. The combination of the clubs shall be known as the Central Table Tennis League (hereinafter called "the League").
2. The object of the League shall be to promote and continue the spirit of friendly rivalry amongst table tennis clubs centrally situated in London.
3. A centrally situated club desiring affiliation to the League shall make a written application to the Hon. General Secretary on the form prescribed for such purposes. Such applications shall be accepted or refused by the Committee.
4. Resignations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. General Secretary and accompanied by any subscriptions or other dues outstanding at the date of resignation. Each club wishing to participate in the Divisional Competition shall provide annually such information as may be required by the Committee on the form provided. The Committee may, at its discretion, exclude from the Divisional Competition any club failing to comply with this Rule by the date specified by the Committee.

### **B. Officers and the Committee**

5. The officers of the League shall be: the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Divisional Secretaries or the holders of such offices as may, from time to time, be deemed expedient. These officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and shall hold office until the following Annual General Meeting.
6. The management of the League and of its funds shall be vested in the Committee which, with the exception of the Vice-Presidents, shall consist of all the officers elected under Rule 5 and up to 5 other members to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, more than half of the members forming a quorum. Resolutions shall be passed by a single majority of those voting at a meeting or by an e-mail vote. The Chairman to have a casting vote.
7. The Committee:
  - (a) may appoint a Vice-Chairman to take the chair in the absence of the Chairman at any meeting of the League or Committee; such Vice-Chairman shall have the same rights and duties as the Chairman;
  - (b) may fill any casual vacancy that occurs on that Committee;
  - (c) may co-opt other members to that Committee, but those other members shall not have voting rights;
  - (d) may open banking accounts;
  - (e) shall seek an endeavour to maintain affiliation to Table Tennis England;
  - (f) may suspend any club, team or individual from the League or any team from any competition or tournament promoted by the League;
  - (g) may appoint such sub-committees as it may deem desirable, the Chairman and the Hon. General Secretary shall be members of all such sub-committees.
8. Any dispute between or protest, claim or complaint from any clubs or players that arises in connection with any of the League's activities may be referred, in writing, to the Committee via the Hon. General Secretary or the appropriate Hon. Divisional Secretary; the decision of the Committee shall be final.
9. If any complaint be received by the Committee from any club as to playing conditions, etc., of any other club, three Committee representatives shall be appointed to report to the Committee, which shall take such action as it thinks desirable in the interests of the League.
10. Separate regulations for individual or other tournaments shall be prepared and circulated by the Committee to all Club Secretaries.
11. The Committee may require registered players (see Rule 26) to represent the League in matches arranged by that Committee. Selection of such registered players shall be made by the Committee or such subcommittee, consisting of not less than two members, as it may appoint for the purpose.
12. The Committee shall be responsible for insuring the trophies presented to the League for competition and shall pay any insurance premiums out of the League funds.
13. The Committee shall have the power to deal with all matters not covered in these Rules, and to take such action as it thinks fit; any decision of the Committee shall be final.

### **C. Annual General Meetings**

14. The Annual General meeting shall be held in each June to conduct the following business.
  - (a) To consider the reports of the Hon. General Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, and the audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the period to the preceding 30th April.
  - (b) To determine the subscription to be paid by member clubs for the forthcoming year.
  - (c) To determine the registration fee to be paid by players for the forthcoming year.
  - (d) To determine the entrance fee to be paid by member clubs for knock-out competitions during the forthcoming year
  - (e) To determine the fine to be paid under Rule 16.
  - (f) To determine the fine to be paid under Rule 33.

- (g) To elect all the members of the Committee and the Vice-Presidents.
- (h) To elect Auditors, not being members of the Committee, to hold office until the following Annual General Meeting.
- (i) To consider any other business regarded by the Committee to be appropriate to an Annual General Meeting.

15. Preliminary notice calling an Extraordinary General Meeting (a) may be issued by the Committee at any time; (b) must be issued by the Committee within fourteen days of the receipt by the Hon. General Secretary of a written application stating the purpose of the Meeting and signed by the representatives of at least 25 per cent of the affiliated clubs, but where such an application is received by the Hon. General Secretary during May or June, the Committee shall have power to postpone the holding of the Extraordinary General Meeting until immediately before the Annual General Meeting held in the following June.

16.(a) Twenty-one days' preliminary notice, and (b) seven days' final notice in writing shall be given by the Hon. General Secretary to each club Secretary, of any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. A copy of the Agenda shall be circulated with the final notice of an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, together, in the former case, with a copy of the audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet to the preceding 30th April, and the Hon. General Secretary's Report and the Hon. Treasurer's Report. Any club failing to send a nominee to an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting shall be fined an amount as determined at the preceding Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 14 (e).

17. Any number of members from each club may attend and speak at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, but each club may nominate only one person to vote on its behalf; a person may not act as nominee for more than one club at any particular meeting. The nominee shall not exercise his voting right until his name and club have been notified to the Chairman of the Meeting. Each nominee shall have one vote, and the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The Chairman shall have the power to adjourn a meeting of the League for a period not exceeding 28 days.

18. The quorum at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall consist of the nominees of 50 per cent of the affiliated clubs. A resolution at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting shall be passed by a simple majority of nominees present and voting, except that resolution to alter these Rules, Warne Cup, or a resolution to wind up the affairs of the League and to dispose of surplus funds shall be passed, if approved by not less than two-thirds of the nominees present and voting.

19. A resolution shall be considered at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting if a copy thereof, signed on behalf of an affiliated club, is received by the Hon. General Secretary at least fourteen days before the day fixed for such meeting. Any such resolution so received shall be placed by the Hon. General Secretary on the Agenda.

20. The annual subscription to the League shall be as determined at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 14 (b) plus the ETTA fees and levies and any Value Added Tax levied thereon. No club shall be considered permitted to take part in any of the activities of the League before the subscriptions have been paid, and in any case such subscriptions must be paid 14 days before the commencement of the season.

#### **D. League Divisional Structure**

21. The League competition shall be constituted by the formation of as many Divisions (for teams of players) as the Committee thinks fair. The Divisions shall be 1 2 3 and so on.

22. Promotion and relegation for the following season shall (unless decided otherwise by the Committee and announced to clubs before the commencement of the season) be as follows:

The last two teams in the First Division shall be relegated to Division Two and the first two teams in Division Two shall be promoted to the First Division and so on throughout all the Divisions.

Where a team is withdrawn or suspended or expelled from the League during a playing season and before it completes its fixtures for that season then any match it has played shall be deemed void and removed from that season's records, save for the purpose next stated.

In any case mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the team in question shall be deemed to have been placed in bottom position in its Division.

23. Vacancies in Divisions may be filled at the discretion of the Committee.

24. The team winning the first Division shall hold the Central League trophy for one season. In the remaining Divisions, the winners shall hold the appropriate divisional championships for which shields shall be provided.

#### **E. Team composition**

25. Players must be members of the club they represent. In order to be registered for the League, all players must be fully paid up player members or hold a player licence from Table Tennis England. Registered players must provide their full names to the League and Table Tennis England. Any players taking part in League matches, who are not fully paid up members of Table Tennis England, will forfeit their sets.

26 (a). All players shall be registered in writing, and no player shall be eligible to compete until his name and registration fee has been received by the League. Players may be registered at any time during the season

except where Rule 29 (b) applies but the initial registration of players shall be by a date to be announced by the Committee. No player may be registered at any time for more than one club. Each player may be charged an annual registration fee as determined at the Annual general Meeting in accordance with Rule 14 (c). After playing for a particular club, transfer to another club in that season will be allowed only at the discretion of the committee.

26 (b) Any club not able to register at least three named players by the date set for initial registration shall nevertheless by that date pay to the League a fee for each team entered in the League of three times the registration fee set in accordance with Rule 14 (c). Such fee will be offset against the registration fee of that club's first three players registered in each team.

27 Each team in the League Divisional Competition shall consist of three players each playing one set, best of five games, against each opponent. In addition, one doubles set, best of five games, will be played. In exceptional circumstances, if time pressure makes the full doubles set impossible the doubles set can be best of three games, if both teams agree. The doubles set can be conceded by either side. If the teams cannot agree concerning the doubles set, the matter must be referred with details of the circumstances to the Divisional Secretary for adjudication. In addition to the three players involved in the singles sets, the doubles pairing may contain one player registered for that team, but who did not participate in the rest of the match.

28 (a) With the exception stated in 28 (b), where a club has more than one team, the players must be registered in order of merit, and at any time in the season from the initial registration period, a divisional secretary may query the suitability of a player for a particular team if they are clearly playing out of rank order (i.e. weaker players are registered in higher teams). The Club will have the choice to re-register such a player in a higher team or list him as playing out of rank order.

(b) A club may register a player out of rank order, but this must be stated clearly on the registration form and that player will not be allowed to play up under Rule 29 (a). Such players will only be eligible for re-registration in a higher team on application to the Committee with an acceptable reason for the request. Such players will not be eligible for re-registration in a higher team in the last six weeks of the season.

29 (a). Vacancies occurring in a higher team may be filled by promotion from a lower team, except in the circumstances described in Rule 28 (b). Once a player has played on 4 occasions for a higher team or teams than that for which he is registered, he must be re-registered for any of his club's higher teams provided that it is not lower than the lowest team for which he has already played up. A player having been thus re-registered may not again play for either a higher or a lower team than that for which he has been re-registered without the prior permission of the Committee.

29 (b) A player who has not played in a league match by the commencement of the last 6 weeks of the scheduled season shall be ineligible to take part except where the prior consent of the Committee has been obtained.

#### **F. Fixture Arrangements**

30. The home team shall state its home night in the League's Handbook, and unless otherwise permitted by these Rules the relevant match shall be played on that night in accordance with the Fixture List. The home team may elect to play a match on another date (not being a Saturday or Sunday) within the period laid down

by the Fixture List if the home team notifies such election in writing both to the Hon. Divisional Secretary and the away Team Secretary. The written notification must be sent not less than fourteen days before the original match date. Where a home team finds it necessary to play two matches on the same night two tables

must be available for this purpose and the opponents' prior agreement obtained. Failure to comply with this Rule shall render the home team liable to forfeit the points for the match and to a fine.

31. Clubs must state on the team application form an opening time, the start time between 6.30pm and 7pm and a closing time. If no member of a team is ready to play by 15 minutes after the due or otherwise agreed starting time, the first set due to be played will be conceded by that team. If, after a further quarter of an hour, there is still no member of that team ready to play, the second set will be conceded. If a player is not ready to play within 45 minutes of the agreed time of commencing, the opposing team has the right to claim the matches due to be played by the missing player, unless arrangements have been made between the captains. Any claim that sets or a match are forfeit must be made before the relevant set or match is played.

32. The order of play shall be as follows except by mutual agreement of the captains:

1. A v X 4. B v X 7. B v Z

2. B v Y 5. A v Z 8. C v X 10. Doubles

3. C v Z 6. C v Y 9. A v Y

A B C shall be the Home Team order of play. If either captain so wishes, each captain shall write down his or her team's players in order of play and exchange it for the other team's order.

33. The Secretary of the home team shall email the completed score card of each match, signed by the team captains, to the Hon. Divisional Secretary of his Division within 48 hours of the completion of the match. Failure to do so will result in the home team losing their bonus points for the match.

34 (a) Where a match is played with only two players on each side, the winning team will receive 2 extra points and the losing side 1 extra point. Thus 5-0 becomes 7-1; 4-1 becomes 6-2; 3-2 becomes 5-3. In the situation where a team has only 1 player present, the match will be declared a walk-over for the other team and points calculated under Rule 44.

34 (b) Any match where fewer than seven sets are actually played may be referred to the Committee, which will take any action deemed necessary.

35. Where no date has been agreed or stipulated by the League Committee or Hon. Divisional Secretary for the playing of any match not played under Rule 30, but duly authorized to following procedure shall be followed.

The home team secretary, not later than 14 days before the chosen date, shall notify in writing the date (not being Saturday or Sunday) for the match, to the away team secretary and Hon. Divisional Secretary. Unless this date is accepted, the away team secretary shall apply in writing within 4 days of receipt of the home team's notice to the Hon. Divisional Secretary to fix an alternative date, stating the reasons therefor. On receipt of such application the Hon. Divisional Secretary may take any action he thinks appropriate, including reference to the League Committee, and shall inform both team secretaries of his decision. If either team secretary fails to comply with this procedure the Committee may award the points to the non-offending team and/or take any other action.

### **G. Postponements**

36. The Committee shall arrange the programme of play. Except as otherwise provided in this Rule, matches must be played before the end of the period laid down in the Fixture List, including a final free week, except that the appropriate Hon. Divisional Secretary shall have power to extend this period by a maximum of seven days, if both teams concerned make a written or email application for such extensions before the end of the period and if he considers the reasons given warrant such extension; illness will not be considered satisfactory where other players are registered for the club.

37. Where a team postpones the playing of a match less than 30 hours before the agreed time of commencement and without a reason satisfactory to the Committee, the points for the match shall be awarded to the other team. Where the reason is satisfactory to the Committee, they shall state a period for the completion of the match. In any case not otherwise provided for, it shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Team Secretary to notify in writing (and as soon as possible) the Hon. Divisional Secretary of any matter concerning any match which requires a decision by the Hon. Divisional Secretary or the Committee.

38. Should a match not be played within the period or within a further seven days where an extension has been granted, the Committee shall be empowered (a) to award the points for the match to either or both teams (b) to fine either or both teams or (c) to grant further extension.

39. (Deleted 2015)

### **H. Walkovers / Concessions**

40 (a). Any match may be conceded by letter to the Hon. Divisional Secretary signed on behalf of the team concerned.

40 (b). In any case (of extension or concession) the Committee may approve, alter or reject the decision of the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

41. Any team having awarded against it/or conceding three matches by walkovers shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the League.

### **I. Points Award**

42. League points shall be awarded as one point for each set won. In addition, matches that are played in or before the scheduled week will attract a bonus of 3 points to each team.

43 (a). Where a match is postponed, the team originally requesting the postponement will not receive the 3 point bonus when the match is played, but their opponents will.

43 (b). In the event that both teams cause a postponement, or the Divisional Secretary is not informed of the circumstances of the postponement by at least one team captain within seven days of the date of the original scheduled fixture, then neither team will receive the bonus.

43 (c). If a match has to be postponed for reasons outside either teams control then the bonus will still apply to the rearrangement, subject to league approval. Non availability of players does not apply.

43 (d) If a team is awarded a walkover or has a match conceded to it, the points awarded to that team shall be based on the calculation of sets in Rule 44.

44. Any team which concedes a match or has the points for a match awarded against it shall be credited with no sets. The opposing team shall be awarded points determined as follows. Five plus the average number of sets it has won in its League matches prior to the due date of the match conceded or awarded minus the average number of sets the conceding team has won in its League matches prior to the due date of the match conceded or awarded. The value should be rounded to the nearest whole number (0.5 to be rounded up), but shall not be greater than 10 or less than six. If at that date either team has played fewer than 5 league matches the calculation of sets due to be awarded to it shall be delayed until each has played 5

matches and shall then be based on the average number of sets won in those matches. In exceptional circumstances, however, the committee may exercise discretion to substitute a different score.

45. Positions in the League shall be decided by the number of points obtained; failing that, by the number of matches won; failing that, by the number of sets won as a percentage of the number of sets played and/or awarded; failing that, by the number of games won as a percentage of the number of games played and/or awarded; failing that, by a knock-out match or matches to be arranged by and at the discretion of the Committee who may stipulate when, where and by what registered players the match or matches shall be played.

#### **J. Regulations**

46 (a). All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis as adopted by Table Tennis England and the home team shall be responsible for the provision of playing conditions and equipment.

46 (b). When serving to a wheelchair player, the service must, if it were to continue on its path, cross the end line at the receiver's end of the table. A let will be declared if the umpire decides that this has not been complied with.

47 (a). The main colour of a shirt, skirt or shorts, other than sleeves and collar of a shirt shall be clearly different from that of the ball in use.

47 (b). Players are entitled to practise on the match table for up to 2 minutes immediately before the start of a match.

47 (c). Play shall be continuous throughout an individual match except that any player is entitled to an interval of up to 1 minute between successive games of an individual match.

47 (d). The League does not permit "Time-outs".

47 (e). The League expects courteous conduct and high standards of sporting behaviour at all times. Captains, including acting Captains, have a responsibility to ensure this occurs. Where bad behaviour occurs, Captains should report this to the Committee who will take whatever action they deem appropriate.