**EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

**CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

NAME:

1. The league shall be called the East Grinstead & District Table Tennis League

OBJECTS:

2. The Objects of the League shall be:-

(a) To conduct an annual competition between affiliated clubs.

(b) To organise individual championships and tournaments.

(c) To encourage and promote the game of Table Tennis.

MANAGEMENT:

3. The Management of the League shall be in the hands of a Management Committee which shall consist of the Honorary Officers plus two elected members.

4. An executive committee shall be formed to make decisions upon matters which cannot await the next meeting of the Management Committee. The Executive committee shall comprise the Chairperson and two other members of the committee if practicable representing different participating table tennis clubs. The two additional members shall be selected in the following order: General Secretary, Treasurer, Divisions Secretary, Development Officer, Handbook Secretary, Sussex County Representatives, and other elected members.

5. Every decision shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present, each member, other than the Chairperson shall be entitled to one vote and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

6. A quorum shall consist of not less than half the members of the Management Committee.

7. The Management Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees, to fill casual vacancies and to make temporary provision for dealing with emergencies as found necessary for the efficient running of the League which will stand until the next General Meeting.

8. The Management Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any club, team or player.

OFFICERS:

9. The Honorary Officers of the League shall be the Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Divisions Secretary, Tournament Secretary, Development Officer, Handbook Secretary and Sussex County Representatives.

10. No individual shall hold more than two of these offices.

11. A President, Honorary Officers and the Honorary Auditor shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting and hold office until the next AGM when they will retire automatically, but shall be eligible for re-election. Additional Vice-presidents may also be elected, once elected they shall become life members of the League.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

12. The Annual General Meeting shall be held by 30th June each year. A Special General Meeting of the League shall be convened on the written requisition to the General Secretary by any two clubs. The nature of the business transacted shall be specified.

13. Twenty-one days notice shall be given for any General Meeting and for this purpose notice to the Club Secretary shall be deemed sufficient notice to each individual member of that club.

14 It shall be the duty of the President, or in his absence, a Vice-president or other suitable person to preside at the AGM.

15. The quorum for all General Meetings shall consist of ten percent of those persons entitled to vote and shall include not less than three persons who are Honorary Officers of the League.

16. All Honorary Officers and players registered for the current season shall be entitled to vote if present at a General Meeting. When a General Meeting is held during the close season players registered for the preceding season shall be entitled to vote.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES:

17. Rules may be amended at the AGM provided that such proposed alterations are notified in writing to the General Secretary by 30th April preceding the AGM.

18. Amendments to proposed alterations may be put to the General Meeting with the agreement of the original proposer, or in his absence a person nominated by him in writing.

FINANCE:

19. The Honorary Treasurer shall give an official receipt in respect of all cash handed to him/her and shall keep proper accounts so as to be able to submit a statement of the League's financial affairs, fully audited for each financial year ended 30th April, to the Annual General Meeting. A statement of the Leagues accounts shall be sent to each club at the end of the financial year. Where payment is by cheque, a receipt shall not be given unless specifically requested.

20. The Management Committee shall have the power to borrow, raise or invest funds upon such terms as it thinks fit.

21. If upon winding up or dissolution of the League there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the League, but shall be transferred to an institution/s having similar objects to the League and if the effects cannot be given to such provision then to some other purpose approved by the Commissioners of Customs and Exercise.

AFFILIATION:

22. Affiliation to the League, subject to election, shall be open to all table tennis clubs and/or table tennis sectors of clubs or organisations within such distance of East Grinstead as the Management Committee may from time to time decide.

23. The League accepts no responsibility for accident or injury to players or property.

24. Affiliation forms shall be completed by clubs seeking election to the League and shall be submitted to the General Secretary not later than 23rd August. Election shall be at the discretion of the Management Committee. In the event of a club withdrawing one or more teams from the League's divisional games before the end of the playing season, no refund of the team(s) registration fee(s) will be made.

25. The affiliation fee payable by clubs affiliated to the League shall be decided each year by the Annual General Meeting and shall be included with the club's application for affiliations.

26. All league players must be registered members of Table Tennis England. Clubs must pay the league fees decided at the AGM to the East Grinstead & District Table Tennis League. The league fees include individual player affiliation fees set each year by the Sussex County Table Tennis Association. All fees must be paid by the deadline dates as notified by each organisation otherwise playing records for those individuals or teams may not stand.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS:

27. Only players registered with the Divisions Secretary and registered with Table Tennis England and affiliated to S.C.T.T.A shall be entitled to take part in any game organised by the League. Any Honorary Officers of the League shall be entitled to enter competitions arranged by the League irrespective of whether they are members of any affiliated club and shall pay a fee as a registered member. Players shall be selected to represent the League by the Management Committee.

28. The registration fee payable by players registered with the League shall be decided each year by the Annual General Meeting.

29. Only bona fide and paid members of an affiliated club shall be eligible for registration with the League. No player shall be allowed to participate in any of the League's activities if he or she is in arrears with subscriptions to a club in respect of the previous season. Such a suspension shall be enforced by the Management Committee upon application from the Secretary of a Club to whom the subscriptions are due.

30. Registration forms together with the appropriate fees shall be completed and in the hands of the Divisions Secretary at least 48 hours before a player participates in a match. Failure to submit the forms and fees within the specified period or the playing of an unregistered player in a match shall be referred to the Management Committee which in the absence of a satisfactory explanation may take such disciplinary action as it sees fit against the club and/or the player concerned. The submission of a registration form without the appropriate fee shall not be deemed an application of registration.

31. No application for registration with the League shall be accepted by the Divisions Secretary after 31st December of any season without the prior consent of the Management Committee.

32. The Management Committee shall have the right to decline any application for registration.

33. A club affiliating to the League shall nominate its teams in order of playing strength to the Divisions Secretary not less than three players shall be nominated for each team. Where more than one team is entered they shall be designated by the suffixes "A", "B", "C" etc. The players nominated for the first team shall be eligible to play for that team only. A player may only be re-nominated for another team with the sanction of the Management Committee. No player shall play for a team junior to that for which he or she is nominated, however, he or she may play for senior teams on up to three occasions. He or she may then continue to do so unless or until he or she has won seven single sets, cup competitions excluded. Thereafter, he or she shall be automatically classified as a member of the next higher senior team within the club, subject to confirmation by the Management Committee. A player shall not play more than 1 extra time against any one opposition team in league matches (handicap matches excluded). One of the players registered for each team shall be named as team captain and shall be responsible for liaising with other team captains regarding match arrangements.  A Team Captain must be a registered player of the team he/she captains.

34. A player may transfer from one club to another during any one season with the sanction of the Management Committee and no additional registration fee shall be payable. Applications for the transfer shall be made to the General Secretary in writing, who in turn shall immediately inform the secretaries of both clubs concerned. Any objections to proposed transfers shall be lodged in writing within seven days from the receipt of notifications.

PLAYING REGULATIONS:

35. All matches shall be played under Table Tennis England Laws and Regulations.

36. Only balls approved by Table Tennis England shall be used for the League's competitions.

37. Teams shall consist of three players, however the match shall continue to be played when only two members of a team are present, one player shall not be deemed a team. Each member of the home team shall play each visiting player one set (the best of five games), with one doubles set (also the best of five games). Where one team has only two players, the third player’s sets shall be conceded to the team with three players, if both teams have only two players each, no sets will be conceded. The match shall be played to the finish and each team will be awarded one point for each set it wins.

38. The League Champions in each division will be the team with the most points. In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points then it will be decided by games for and against. In the event of two teams having the same number of points and identical games for and against then a play off at a neutral venue will be arranged (excluding doubles).

39. Matches shall commence at 7.30pm except by mutual agreement between the captains of each team. If no member of a team arrives within fifteen minutes of the agreed starting time, the points determined by Rule 43 may be claimed by the team present.

40. Matches shall be played as laid down on the official score card except by mutual agreement between the captains of each team. Umpiring shall generally be undertaken by members of the home and away teams alternately.

41. Prior to the commencement of a match, the team captains shall designate their respective orders of singles play. Any subsequent alteration to the score cards shall be at the discretion of the opposing team captain. Any player not present to play his game in the specified sequence shall concede that game to the opposing team. It shall be the responsibility of each team captain to send a score card duly completed to the Divisions Secretary within twenty-four hours of the match being played. If no score card is received within seven days of the match being played, the Divisions Secretary shall notify the team captains concerned who shall within seven days of such notification provide the original or a duplicate copy thereof to the Divisions Secretary. In default of this notification no points shall be awarded to either team

42. Any team playing an ineligible player under Rules 27, 29 or 33 shall forfeit any sets won involving that player. Any objection to the awarding of points or sets under Rule 37, 39 or 41, shall be submitted to the General Secretary in writing within twenty-one days of notification for reference to the Management Committee for adjudication whose decision shall be final.

43. When a match is not played or points are awarded under Rules 39 or 41 the number of points shall be:- Defaulting Team – 0 Points. Non-Defaulting Team – 10 points.

DIVISIONS:

44. The Management Committee shall, at the beginning of each season, arrange the teams into divisions.

45. Each team shall normally play each other team in their division twice, once at home and once away, except by mutual agreement between captains of each team or by the direction of the Management Committee.

46. Normally at the end of each season the two top teams in each division, other than the top division, shall be promoted to the next higher division and the two bottom teams in each division, other than the bottom division, shall be relegated to the next lower division. However, The Management Committee shall have sole discretion in deciding whether to promote or relegate teams between Divisions and if so how many and which teams.

POSTPONEMENTS:

47. League matches shall normally be played on the date in the fixture list. A postponement may be allowed:- (a) By mutual consent of both team captains. (b) In extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the Divisions Secretary, such as non-availability of playing venue, extremely adverse weather, loss of electricity supply or other reason. As much notice as practicable shall be given to the Captain of the opposing team, when extenuating circumstances have been accepted by the Divisions Secretary, by the Captain of the Team involved. For either (a) or (b): The Divisions Secretary must be notified of the date of the rearranged fixture as soon as possible, the match must be played within 4 weeks of the original date of the fixture or the end of the playing season whichever is the earlier. The end of the playing season shall be the last day of the last week shown in the fixture list. If this does not happen, the Management Committee will have a non-negotiable ability to determine the outcome including, at its discretion extending the period to rearrange the match if felt necessary. Non-availability of players is insufficient reason for a match or rescheduled match to be postponed.

For the purpose of eligibility of players, postponed matches shall be deemed to take place on the original date of the fixture. No team shall concede a league match except with the agreement of the management committee.

TOURNAMENTS:

51. The organisation of Tournaments shall be the responsibility of a sub-committee appointed by the Management Committee.

52. The sub-committee may take such decisions as it thinks fit to enable the Tournament(s) to run smoothly. In the event of disputes arising from such decisions, the ruling of the Management Committee shall be final.

53. Entry for Tournament events organised for individuals or pairs shall be open, subject to payment of entry fees as may be decided by the Management Committee, to any registered player in the League who has, for one team or another, played 25% or more of the total league (not cup) games played by the closing date for that entry. This rule may be waived by the Management Committee in respect of junior events.

54. Unless otherwise stated in the competition rules issued by the Management Committee for that season, teams entering any handicap team competition, where individual handicaps are in place, may be composed of any players registered with their club. Players will be cup-tied once they have played for any team in that competition. In a competition where there is a “team handicap” allocated, players may not play for any other team that is ranked by number or letter below the one they qualify to represent in league matches. If there is more than one handicap team event in a season they are deemed to be separate competitions.”