

**Isle of Man Table Tennis Association**  
**League Rules**  
**As Amended by Special General Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

- 1(a) Clubs must register teams for the forthcoming season by submitting team registration forms to the Match Secretary by the date specified by the Match Secretary.
- 1(b) Before the commencement of the season clubs must register at least three named players for each registered team by submitting completed registration forms to the Match Secretary.
- 1(c) The registration of teams and players shall be at first agreed by the Management Committee at a meeting prior to the start of the season.
- 1(d) In addition, the Isle of Man Table Tennis Association may enter one or more Junior Development teams where it believes that this will help promote the development of table tennis. Any such team will not be classed as a registered team and accordingly will be exempt from the requirement to register players or to pay registration fees.
2. No player may become registered unless he/she can show permanent residence in the Isle of Man or that he/she will be living in the Isle of Man for a period of six months in the year following his/her application. The Management Committee shall give consideration to any applications for registration of players outside this category.
3. All registered teams will pay a registration fee. This will be payable in two instalments, the first being payable by 31st October and the second by 31st January. Failure of any team to pay fees by the due dates will result in the team forfeiting all points accrued to the date of payment.
4. The Match Secretary must be given prior notice for registration of new players.
5. Any registered team players may play for the team for which they have been named and for any team above that team but NOT below it. The total number of appearances for teams other than that for which a player is registered should not exceed FOUR. Should a player exceed this number he/she is automatically deemed to be registered for the team immediately above that for which he/she was previously registered. This player may not then play for any other team without being reallocated to that team by the Management Committee prior to any appearance in that team. Any player registered after 31st January may only play for the team to which he/she is allocated by the Management Committee.
- 6(a) Subject to Rule 5, a player may not be reallocated to another team without prior approval by the Management Committee. Applications for reallocation, which should be in writing, must be received by the Match Secretary not later than 31st January.
- 6(b) A player who is re-ranked down from one team to a lower team shall not be eligible to play up for any higher team EXCEPT that any player shall be entitled to play up for any higher team for a maximum of two games if and only if he/she has not played two or more times for a higher team during the same half of the season and in any event any games played for a higher team before re-ranking shall be taken into account in calculating the number of games played up.
- 6(c) It will not be possible for a player to both play for his own team and to simultaneously play up for a higher team in a match which has the same scheduled start time.
7. Players who play in any matches in breach of Rules 5 or 6 shall forfeit any games won in those matches and the points arising therefrom shall be awarded to the opposing team.
8. Transfers between clubs during the season must be approved by the Management Committee who may allocate the player to a particular team. Transfers during the season may incur an administration fee (to be

determined by the Management Committee prior to the commencement of the season) payable to the Association by the receiving club.

9. The league may be divided into as many divisions as may be considered necessary. Promotion and relegation shall apply at the discretion of the Management Committee. The format of matches will be defined for each division before the season starts and will consist of nine singles sets and a doubles set at the discretion of the Management Committee.

10(a) Matches will be played at the National Sports Centre, Douglas, on set nights and scheduled start times as specified on the official website, which will be updated by the Match Secretary prior to the start of the season. The Management Committee reserves the right to change the venue and/or the date or scheduled start time in exceptional circumstances (see Rule 11 below).

10(b) Matches should normally be played on the match night and may only be altered in the case of exceptional circumstances (see Rule 11 below) where prior application (if possible) has been made to the Match Secretary who shall form an Emergency Committee, as defined in the Constitution, to determine the matter. In the event of any such application, the team making the application must have agreed a future date and venue with the opposing team (such date to be within 30 days of the scheduled date) and inform the Match Secretary of this revised date at the time of application. The non-availability of players shall not as a general rule be accepted as an exceptional circumstance but the Emergency Committee may exercise its discretion in this respect. Where the Emergency Committee is satisfied that the reasons put forward for the alteration in a scheduled match night are exceptional the Committee shall have the power to permit the match to be rearranged.

11. The exceptional circumstances referred to in Rule 10 above shall include:

- non-availability of premises for the week of that match
- severe weather conditions preventing travel
- circumstances of a very sudden and extreme nature.

The Management Committee may call for any abandoned match to be replayed.

12. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game as laid down by the ITTF. In addition, the covering material on a side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF and shall be attached to the blade so that the supplier and brand names and the ITTF logo plus the ITTF number (when applied) are clearly visible near the edge of the striking surface.

13(a) At the discretion of the Management Committee players not regularly available shall be allocated to one particular team or division (according to their standard) below which they shall not be eligible to play.

13(b) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to re-rank any team if in its opinion where a club has more than one team in a division the lower ranked team is the stronger in playing strength.

14. Matches shall consist of 9 singles sets, plus 1 doubles set if the match format for the division in which the match is being played contains a doubles set. A set is the best of 5 games up to 11 points. In the singles each player plays against each of the opposing side. The doubles pairing will be optional and will normally be selected from the above players, but may include persons not playing in the singles. It is the duty of the team captains to provide match balls and to produce an umpire capable of properly controlling the match and keeping score.

15. Players' names, excluding the doubles, must be completed on the result card before the commencement of play and may not be altered thereafter.

16. The team designated as the home team will be responsible for providing match balls, which must be on the current list of balls approved by the International Table Tennis Federation.

17. The team captains will toss a coin for first choice of set and thereafter choice alternates between the two captains.

18. In each match the total number of points to be played for will be 9 or 10 if it includes a doubles set. A team will be awarded points equal to the number of sets won (e.g. a match result 7-3 would give 7 points to the winning team and 3 points to the losers). In the event of a tie on points at the end of the season the record of match wins will decide. A further tie on match wins will be decided by the highest number of matches drawn, and in the event of this also being equal by the results of the league matches played between the tied teams. This rule will apply to both Championship and Runners-up positions and relegation in every division.

19. In the event of any team withdrawing at any time during the season, the whole of their playing record shall be expunged.

20. It is the responsibility of the team captains to ensure that the result card for a match is forwarded to the Match Secretary at the end of the match.

21. Matches should be started at the start time printed in the fixture list. If no member of a particular team is present to start the match within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time the opposing team captain should deliver to the Match Secretary a blank result card with the wording "Match claimed under Rule 21". The total number of points available for the match will then be awarded to that team and up to five points may be deducted from any points accrued by the defaulting team.

22. Prior to the start of a match there should be agreement between the team captains concerning the late arrival of a team member and the consequent deferment of his/her games and provided there is no loss of continuity to the match it is hoped that a spirit of goodwill would operate. However, after 20 minutes from the published start time, it is within the jurisdiction of a team captain to call for a certain set and if an opponent is not present, to claim such set for his/her team.

23. Any sets not completed by the scheduled finishing time shall be declared void with no points in respect of those sets being awarded to either team, except that, in the event that the failure to complete the match is the result of a late arrival of a player or due to a player taking part in more than one match on the same night, the points in respect of any uncompleted sets shall be awarded to the opposing team.

24. Alterations to these rules can only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Any proposed amendments or alterations must be sent in writing to the General Secretary by 1st March in the case of the Annual General Meeting or at least one month prior to a Special General Meeting. The General Secretary shall notify the club secretaries of any proposed amendments or alterations at least 21 days prior to the meeting. All alterations must receive a clear majority of votes of the people present at the meeting.

25. The Management Committee shall have the power at all times to determine any matter not provided for under these rules or the constitution.

***TS Baker***  
***20/6/14***