



## RULES AND REGULATIONS 2024/25 LEAGUE SEASON

### 1. REGISTRATION/PAYMENTS

- 1.1. Every league player will complete annually the online league registration form no later than 3 weeks prior to the league season commencing. This will include agreeing to the Stirlingshire Code of Conduct for members and the conditions contained within.
- 1.2. All league members must be affiliated to Table Tennis Scotland. The league secretary will register all players with Table Tennis Scotland at the start of the season following completion of the league registration form. Once players are registered, they will receive notification of their licence/affiliation number from Table Tennis Scotland
- 1.3. All league fees should be paid by bank transfer (preferred) or in-person/online card payment no later than 5 days prior to the start date of the relevant league season. Failure to pay league fees by this point will result in withdrawal from the league.

### 2. PLAYERS/POSTPONEMENTS

- 2.1. Each team will consist of a minimum of two players

For Premier and Division 1 teams:

- 2.2. Teams are responsible for managing and re-arranging their own fixtures, if required. This includes contacting opponents to discuss possibilities via Spond.
- 2.3. The League Secretary should be advised of any fixtures which are re-arranged so this can be reflected in the master fixture list and on the TT365 site.
- 2.4. If a late cancellation is taking place teams **MUST** ensure opponents have acknowledged any messages around the cancellation to avoid unnecessary travel to venues. The League Secretary can assist with contacting players by phone if Spond messages are not responded to.
- 2.5. All fixtures scheduled to take place prior to the Christmas break must take place before this point and not be carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season. Any fixtures not rescheduled or covered by a reserve in this required timeframes will be forfeited by the team postponing.
- 2.6. There is also a designated "Catch Up" week located at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season – teams should not overcrowd this week with fixtures (only 1 fixture per team should be placed here if needed).
- 2.7. If it is not possible to re-arrange the fixture, then teams can also call on a reserve player to stand in – there is a bank of designated reserves for each Division or a player from the Division below could also be called upon to step up. The League Secretary should be

advised of the name of any reserves filling in to check their eligibility and can also assist with contacting such reserves if needed.

- 2.8. Any reserve players called up for a team should have a Ratings Central rating no greater than +100 points compared to the player they are replacing, at the time of selection. Where a player is a new player, who does not yet have a Ratings Central rating, or teams wish to use a player who sits outside of the points criteria due to availability constraints, then at least two members of the committee should first approve the use of the player.
- 2.9. Where teams or players do not present for scheduled fixtures on the night without prior communication to the League/Match Secretary or postpone at very short notice (< 1 hour prior to fixture) on more than two occasions in a season then that team or player shall be suspended from the league.
- 2.10. If a reserve plays more than three games for a team, then any continued usage of that player for other teams throughout the course of the season must first have the approval of at least two committee members.

For Division 2 teams:

- 2.11. **Rules 2.2 to 2.10 above would continue to apply if teams so desire and feel confident in managing their own fixtures. However due to the larger number of players who are new to league play and Junior players in Division 2 the committee will also be willing to assist to a limited extent if it is required. The process to follow if you require committee assistance is detailed in 2.12 – 2.15:**
- 2.12. If teams require the committee to assist, the League Secretary should be contacted in the first instance.
- 2.13. If an availability issue is being notified 2+ weeks in advance of the fixture, then the committee will attempt to find options to reschedule and present these to the team requesting to investigate. If, for example, the opponents are not available on any possible alternative dates, or teams already have other re-arranged matches building up, then a reserve player will be organised to fill in instead.
- 2.14. For any issues notified less than 2 weeks but more than 48 hours before the fixture date, an attempt will be made to find options to reschedule to a date within 1 match week of the original date. If this is not possible then a reserve will be organised to fill in instead.
- 2.15. For any issues notified less than 48 hours before the fixture date a reserve will be organised to fill in.

### 3. DIVISIONS

- 3.1. The desired league structure for any season will be four Divisions containing 8 teams each playing each other 3 times. If entry numbers do not allow for this exact structure in any given season this may be flexed, but Division size should not exceed 12 teams without the implementation of a mid-season split.
- 3.2. General promotion and relegation rules will allow for 1 team being promoted and 1 being relegated from each Division following the end of a season. In cases of a league restructure this may vary but no team should have their promotion cancelled.

- 3.3. If a winning team or part of a winning team withdraws from the league the following season, then these promotion places should instead be offered to the highest ranked players from the individual standings in ranking order who wish to take up the places.
- 3.4. Only the lowest ranked player of a winning team is permitted to decline their promotion place, should they wish to. In this case the spare promotion place will also be offered to the next eligible player in line with rule 3.3.
- 3.5. If any “odd” places remain in teams in the Division above after the process in 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 then these spare promotion places should also be offered to players in individual ranking order.
- 3.6. For those who are new to the league and have no previous participation record, they will be placed in a division deemed suitable by their national Ratings Central rating if an up to date one exists. If their national rating is above that of the highest rated player in the league currently, they will be placed directly into the Premier League, otherwise division allocation will be at the discretion of the committee.
- 3.7. For any returning players from previous seasons who do not have a significantly updated national rating they will be allocated a division today which is reflective of their playing level at their last season of participation.

#### 4. MATCHES

- 4.1. Matches will consist of five games – four singles and a doubles match each played to the best of 5 ends.
- 4.2. Points will be awarded for each individual game won as opposed to the match result, i.e., in a 3-2 win, the winning team gains 3 points and the losing team gains 2.
- 4.3. Fixture lists will be issued at the start of the season to each team and weekly fixtures will also be notified via Spond at least 48 hours before the match to serve as an additional reminder. Players should RSVP to these match invitations promptly.
- 4.4. Matches will be played at Grange Community Education Centre (Mondays), Tamfourhill Community Hub (Tuesdays), and Tullibody Civic Centre (Wednesdays). Other venues can be used, provided this has the agreement of both teams involved and the League/Match Secretary and affiliated club session organiser (if relevant) have also been made aware. All other rules on postponements stated above must also be adhered to. The alternative venue utilised should be restricted to venues where either affiliated club sessions already take place, or the venue allows tables/courts to be booked (i.e. Sports Centres).
- 4.5. All matches must be played using an ITTF approved plastic (poly) ball. These are indicated by the ‘40+’ branding. Three match balls will be provided to each league team at the start of the season. Following this, players are responsible for purchasing any further (approved) match balls.
- 4.6. League tables and match results will be updated throughout the season on the Stirlingshire Table Tennis website ([www.tabletennis365.com/SMC](http://www.tabletennis365.com/SMC)) and Ratings Central. Updates may also be posted on our social media sites.

## 5. FEES

Player fees for the 2024/25 season are as follows:

### Teams

Junior Players (*born 2005 or later*)/Full Time Students: **£70 per player**

Senior Players: **£80 per player**

Additional team players above the minimum of two can be registered at an additional cost of £25 per player (Seniors) & £15 (Juniors/Full Time Students).

### Reserves

Any reserve players joining after the start of the season will be charged fees when they participate in **at least 3 fixtures**.

Fees will be charged on a rolling basis at £3 per fixture played (excluding the first two fixtures) and billed twice yearly – once at mid-season and once at season end. Any reserves who do not pay the appropriate fees due when billed will not be permitted to participate in any future matches until this is received.

### Withdrawals

Should any player be unable to complete at least 50% of matches, having paid the appropriate full season fee at the season outset, they will be entitled to apply to the committee to receive a pro-rated refund of any league fees paid at the start of the season less TTS Affiliation fee amounts. Refunds will not apply where players have been suspended from league participation due to rule or code of conduct breaches.