

# **SALISBURY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

## **RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **THE ASSOCIATION**

- 1.1 The Association shall be called "The Salisbury Table Tennis Association".
- 1.2 The object of the Association shall be to promote table tennis in the Salisbury area.
- 1.3 The Association shall be affiliated to Table Tennis England (TTE) and the Wiltshire Table Tennis Association (WTTA) and as such, will abide by their policies.
- 1.4 (a) Membership is open to anyone interested in table tennis, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowed on a non-discriminatory basis.
- 1.4 (b) The Association may bestow life membership for outstanding services to table tennis.
- 1.5 The Association shall not be wound up except at a General Meeting called for that purpose. In that event, the funds of the Association shall either be distributed amongst the member clubs in proportion to the number of teams entered, or be devoted to objects similar to those of the Association, as the Meeting shall decide.
- 1.6 The Executive Committee may refuse or remove membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Association or the sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to TTE.
- 1.7 The Executive Committee, whilst bearing in mind TTE guidelines, shall decide the suitability of venues.

### **OFFICERS**

- 2.1 The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Registration Secretary, Records Secretary, County Representative, and other officers as deemed necessary, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.2 The General Secretary shall be responsible for convening and taking minutes at all General and Executive Meetings and for conducting all correspondence of the Association
- 2.3 (a) The Treasurer shall administer the funds of the Association and shall keep these funds as approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the accounts and preparing an independently audited statement of accounts for submission to the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.3 (b) The financial year shall end on 30th April each year.
- 2.4 The duties of the other officers shall be decided from time to time by the Executive Committee.
- 2.5 On retirement from office, an Officer shall hand over to the Executive Committee all papers and books etc which appertain to his office.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 3.1 The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers (except the President and Vice-Presidents) and up to a maximum of three other persons who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.2 They shall meet at least once a month during the playing season.
- 3.3 Four members shall form a quorum.

3.4 They may co-opt such members as the business may require and may delegate their powers to such sub-committees as it may be necessary to form.

3.5 Members of the Executive Committee and co-opted members (except the Chairman) have the right to vote at Committee Meetings. The Chairman shall have the casting vote.

3.6 Any club may send one representative to Committee Meetings. A representative only has the right to speak on matters directly affecting his club and has no right to vote.

3.7 All property of the Association shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

3.8 Expenses properly incurred by members in carrying out the business of the Association may be paid out of the Association's funds.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in May and may be attended by Officers, members of the Executive Committee, registered players and any other interested person.

4.2 Nominations for Officers or Committee Members, countersigned by the nominee, must be received by the General Secretary by the 1<sup>st</sup> April immediately preceding the AGM. Nominations and the agenda shall be sent out with the notice of the AGM. In the absence of sufficient nominations, candidates may be proposed at the AGM.

4.3 Four weeks notice of the AGM shall be given to all Officers, members of the Executive Committee, club secretaries, team captains and the local press. All matters to figure on the agenda shall reach the General Secretary at least six weeks before the meeting.

4.4 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called (i) by the Executive Committee, or (ii) upon a request in writing being made to the General Secretary, signed by at least twenty-five registered players. In either case, the General Secretary will ensure that the EGM is held within four weeks of receipt of notice. Two weeks notice of the meeting shall be given to all Officers, members of the Executive Committee, club secretaries, team captains and the local press.

4.5 Eleven members shall form a quorum at all general meetings.

4.6 Only Life Members, the Officers and registered players shall have the right to vote. The Chairman shall also have a casting vote.

## **THE LEAGUE**

5.1 The annual subscriptions per club, team and player for entry into the league and the Standard Fine shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting. These fees may be altered by the Executive Committee to conform with any variation in the WTTA's affiliation fee.

5.2 All applications to compete in the league must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to the formation of the league.

5.3 A club must grade its teams in order of merit, nominate the home night and register at least three players for each team prior to the commencement of the season.

5.4 Each club must provide suitable playing conditions and to this end, club premises may be inspected before acceptance of their application.

5.5 The Executive Committee may, upon reasonable notice, request an inspection of a team's home venue during the playing season.

5.6 The league shall consist of as many types of division as entries render necessary.

5.7 The composition of the divisions shall be approved by the Executive Committee prior to the start of each season.

5.8 In all divisions, each team shall play each other as decided by the Executive Committee.

5.9 The league shall open on or before the first week in October and no match shall be played after the last scheduled match for that division except with the prior sanction of the Executive Committee.

5.10 (a) A Club withdrawing a team or teams from the league season may be fined twice the Standard Fine for each team withdrawn from the league.

5.10 (b) All results involving such teams shall be expunged from league tables etc.

5.11 Following the withdrawal of any teams prior to the end of the second week of the season, the Executive Committee may restructure that division.

## **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

6.1 If teams tie with an equal number of points, their relative positions in a division shall be decided by successively applying the following criteria until the teams are parted; (i) the number of matches won, (ii) the number of matches drawn.

6.2 Should the matter still be unresolved and if promotion or relegation is involved, then the teams shall play an extra match or matches on a neutral table under the direction of the Executive Committee (but at the expense of the teams involved) until the matter is decided.

6.3 The top two teams shall be promoted and the bottom two teams relegated, except where, at the start of the season (i) the Premier division(s) consists of fewer than seven teams, then only the top team of the lower Premier division and of Division One shall be promoted and the bottom team of the Premier division(s) relegated; (ii) any division consists of fewer than seven teams, in which case the top team shall be promoted and the bottom team relegated.

6.4 When a vacancy occurs, a relegated team may apply for re-election to the division from which it was relegated the previous season.

## **OTHER COMPETITIONS**

7.1 The Closed Championships shall be held annually and shall be organised by the Executive Committee. To qualify, a player must have played at least five matches in the league during the current season before the closing date for entries, except at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

7.2 The Executive Committee may organise such other competitions as seen desirable, and to make any rules it deems necessary for that purpose.

## **FIXTURES**

8.1 The Executive Committee shall, prior to the commencement of the season, have the power to decide the week each match will be played.

8.2 Matches must be played by the dates specified in the fixture list except as provided for under section 9.

8.3 Teams shall consist of up to four players, three of whom will play each opponent over the best of five games. There shall be one doubles event which may include any two players, (including a fourth player not having played in the singles).

8.4 The home captain will be responsible for providing; (i) a grade three ball as approved by TTE; (ii) an official score card; (iii) a copy of the rules of the Association; (iv) a copy of the rules of table tennis as issued by TTE; and (v) a competent umpire. He will also ensure that the playing conditions are as good as possible.

8.5 (a) Prior to a match starting, the captains shall state in which order their players will play. The sequence of singles shall be (home team first): 1v1, 2v2, 3v3, 2v1, 1v3, 3v2, 2v3, 3v1, 1v2.

8.5 (b) The doubles event shall be played as the last event unless mutually agreed otherwise.

8.6 All games shall be played in accordance with TT's approved laws of table tennis. Only rackets with rubbers on the ITTF's approved list may be used in play.

8.7 A match shall not commence before 7:00pm and not later than 7:30pm, as stated in the fixture schedule.

8.8 It shall be the responsibility of the team captain to advise both teams prior to the commencement of the match of any time constraints.

8.9 Should the constraints of time prevent the completion of a match, the team not applying the constraint may (providing they have complied with rule 8.10) claim the sets not completed.

8.10 Each team must be represented by two players ready to commence the match at the agreed time. Failing the appearance of the third player within one hour of the match starting, his games may be claimed in default by the opposing team.

8.11 Points shall be awarded on the basis of one point for each game won. If both teams lack a third player then only the games actually played shall count for points.

8.12 The captain of the home team must email a properly completed score card to the Records Secretaries within twenty-four hours and both captains must sign the card. Failure to comply with this rule may entail a fine not exceeding the Standard Fine, or deduction of points at the Committee's discretion.

## **POSTPONEMENTS AND UNPLAYED FIXTURES**

9.1 A team wishing to postpone a match must inform the Records Secretary at the latest twenty-four hours before the date of the match. The penalty for not informing the Records Secretaries as required shall be the deduction of up to a maximum of 10 points, at the discretion of the committee.

9.2 Except at the discretion of the Executive Committee, the only reason for the postponement of a match shall be if two or more players are on the official business of the Association.

9.3 The absence of regular players, or their inability to play, shall not be deemed sufficient reason for the postponement of a match. Reserves must be played.

9.4 The Records Secretaries shall prepare a report of all postponed matches for discussion at the next Executive Committee Meeting. The Executive Committee may deduct one or more points or impose a fine not exceeding eight times the Standard Fine, or both, from teams who postpone matches without a satisfactory reason.

9.5 The onus for re-arranging a postponed match shall rest with the team who sought the postponement. The rearranged match should be played within four weeks of the date of the original match, the Records Secretary to be notified in advance of the revised date. If the rearranged match is not played within four weeks, the matter shall be referred back to the Executive Committee for further consideration and possible action.

9.6 If a postponed match is not played by the end of the season, and if neither promotion nor relegation are at stake, then the Executive Committee may declare the match void, or award the match and sets by default, at their discretion.

9.7 The innocent team may apply to the other team for the reimbursement of their expenses. If the team who sought the postponement declines to pay, they may be found to be in breach of rule 12.6.

## **PLAYERS: REGISTRATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS**

10.1 A player shall register for only one team. A registration form and appropriate fee, as fixed by the Annual General Meeting, for each player must reach the Registration Secretary not less than forty-eight hours prior to his playing his first league match. Failure to comply may result in the player's sets being forfeited and the club fined.

10.2 The Executive Committee shall reject, or rescind, any registration that it holds not to be in the best interests of the Association, league or division.

10.3 Only in exceptional circumstances, and with the prior permission of the Executive Committee, shall a player be registered, transferred or reinstated after 1st February of each season.

10.4 No player shall play for a lower graded team than the one for which he has registered, unless reinstated by the Executive Committee.

10.5 If at any time during the season, a player plays in more than three matches for higher graded teams than that for which he is registered, then he shall automatically be registered for the lowest of such higher teams.

10.6 Any player who played in more than three matches for a subsequently promoted or relegated team shall, the following season, be regarded as having the status of a player in that higher, or lower division. Apart from this exception, no player who has played more than three matches in one division during a season shall play in a lower division during that, or the following season, unless reinstated by the Executive Committee.

10.7 A player wishing for transfer or reinstatement must obtain the permission of the Executive Committee.

10.8 Pending the outcome of any appeal to the Executive Committee against the refusal of his registration, or reinstatement, a player may play, but if the appeal is unsuccessful his sets will be forfeited.

10.9 Should an ineligible player play in a match his sets shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

10.10 For inclusion in the players' divisional averages, a player must have played for a team at least 66% of possible sets in a division for the season. Credit will be given only for sets played, any that are forfeit do not count.

10.11 Any player who has played in fewer than four matches by the end of the season may claim a partial refund of his registration fee by writing to the appropriate Records Secretary before 30th April.

10.12 All registrations become void on 1<sup>st</sup> August of each year.

## **TROPHIES**

11.1 Individual mementoes will be awarded annually to the winners and runners-up in each division, up to a maximum of four per team at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

11.2 Association trophies awarded to winning teams or individuals must be returned to the Treasurer by 31<sup>st</sup> December. Failure to do so may entail a fine of up to four times the Standard Fine, and reimbursement of any expenses incurred in collection.

11.3 In the event of loss or damage, the club or individual shall be responsible for the total cost of replacement or repair.

## **RULES**

12.1 The rules of the association cannot be altered or rescinded except at a General Meeting.

12.2 Proposed alterations to the rules must be forwarded to the General Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> April immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting (or three weeks before a General Meeting called under rule 4.4).

12.3 Proposed amendments to the rules shall be notified to all Officers, members of the Executive Committee, club secretaries, team captains and interested persons prior to the General Meeting.

12.4 A General Meeting shall have the power to accept, amend or reject any proposed alterations to the rules, provided such action is supported by at least two-thirds of those persons present and eligible to vote.

12.5 Fines may be imposed for infringements of any of these rules. Failure to pay such fines within two weeks shall be deemed to be a further breach of the rules and may result in either a further fine or suspension under rule 12.6.

12.6 The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend from taking part in any competitions, any club, team, or individual found guilty of a breach of the rules, or of bringing the game or Association into disrepute.

12.7 Except at the discretion of the Executive Committee, protests and complaints must reach the General Secretary or Records Secretaries in writing within two weeks of the incident taking place.

12.8 When a player or a club is reported for an infringement of the rules, the player and/or secretary of such a club shall be called upon for a full explanation and invited, if deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, to attend when the matter comes up for discussion.

12.9 Any point not covered by the rules shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

## **NOTES:**

- (a) Throughout these rules the male gender is assumed to include the female.
- (b) Any member may appeal to the WTTA for a final ruling concerning any decision made by the Executive Committee.

These rules were confirmed at the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

## **FEES FOR THE 2022/2023 SEASON**

Team fee: £25.00 (including insurance) £10 for teams consisting wholly of juniors

Senior fee: £15.00 (TTE registration also required) (£7.50 if registered in January)

Junior fee: £nil (TTE registration required) Juniors must be under 18 on 30th June 2022

Standard fine: £10.00 per offence

The senior and junior fees above include entry to the Championships