

## **Sheffield Table Tennis League Rules**

**(Updated 30 June 2022)**

### **1 Registration of players**

- a) Clubs must register players with the Competition Secretary with all relevant details using the appropriate documentation, that will be distributed at the AGM or subsequently thereafter.
- b) Each player shall have his or her name, age, address, email and telephone numbers recorded by the Competition Secretary, for the purpose of the administration of the STTL.
- c) Players are only eligible to play in an STTL match if they have registered with the STTL and Table Tennis England. Any player subsequently found not to have completed both registrations will forfeit any sets won.
- d) Players may not be registered for more than one club in the STTL at a time. In the event of registrations for a player being received for more than one club, the registration for the first club represented will apply.
- e) Players may transfer clubs by making an application to the Competition Secretary. The application must be approved by the secretary of his/her present club by endorsement of the application. The final date for transfers shall be 31 December.
- f) The closing date for registrations shall be the later of 31 December or the halfway stage of the league fixtures, except at the discretion of the Executive.

### **2 STTL structure**

- a) Divisions will be formed as decided by the Executive based on the previous season's results. The number of teams in each division shall be decided by the Executive based on the number of teams entered and in the best interest of all the teams in the League.
- b) Promotion and relegation of teams will occur on the completion of the playing season in April.
  - (i) In all divisions, with the exception of the top division, the two teams finishing in positions 1 and 2 will be promoted above the teams finishing in the bottom two positions in the division above. The resultant ranking will be used as the basis for formation of divisions after any withdrawals and additions have been made.
  - (ii) In the event of a tie on league points, sets and then games will decide the position of each team.
  - (iii) Divisions shall be filled from the top down with no vacancies at the discretion of the Executive Committee..
- c) New clubs joining the STTL and existing teams may apply for a position in the league other than the lowest position. The application, giving full details of playing strength must be made before or at the AGM for consideration by the Executive Committee.

d) Any club that disbands due to loss of playing premises will be allowed to retain their existing team league positions when joining another club, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

e) The playing season shall be from September to 30 April and the fixtures will be arranged by the Executive Committee.

### **3 League Competition**

a) All matches shall be played in accordance with Table Tennis England's Approved Laws of Table Tennis.

b) (i) The racket shall comply with Table Tennis England Law 2.4. The racket covering must be of a brand and type included in the latest ITTF authorised list.

(ii) A racket shall not be changed during a set, unless it is accidentally damaged rendering the racket unfit for play.

c) The ball shall comply with Table Tennis England Law 2.3 and be of a type currently approved by the ITTF.

d) Teams shall consist of three players. The members of the home team shall be known as A, B, C and the members of the visiting team as X, Y, Z. Before the start of the match, the home team will write the names of its players, in order of play, on the score card. Then the visiting team will add its players' names, in order of play. The sets (best of five games) shall be played in the following order:- AvX, BvY, CvZ, BvX, AvZ, CvY, Doubles, BvZ, CvX, AvY. The match will start at 7.15 pm. Any set not played in the proper order through the absence of a player, or reserve, shall be forfeited to the opposing team, except by prior mutual consent. Players arriving after 9 pm or the completion of all other sets in the fixture, whichever is the earlier, shall not be allowed to take part in the fixture.

e) In the event of short teams and ineligible players, the sets shall be awarded to opponents except where both teams field a short team or ineligible players, in which case the sets shall be declared null and void. If a team has only one player, then that team shall forfeit the match.

f) Visitors shall umpire the first set and subsequent sets will be taken by alternate teams. g) Matches shall be played on only one table unless play on two tables is necessary to ensure completion of all sets. If play on two tables is required, the home captain must inform his/her opponents by 9 pm. The away team is obliged to comply with the request. Failure to do so will normally result in the forfeiture of any unplayed sets. h) The home team shall electronically forward or post the completed score card, signed by one player from each team to the Competition Secretary within seven days of the match played. Any alteration on the card shall be initialled by one player from each team. Only official score cards will be accepted. Official score cards can be downloaded from the STTL website but must be placed in an envelope if returned by post.

i) Two league points shall be awarded to the team that wins the match and one point shall be awarded to each team for a draw.

j) At the end of the season, the team that obtains the highest number of league points in each division will be the champions of that division. In the event of a tie on league points, sets and then games will decide the position of each team.

k) Any team that withdraws during the season shall have all their matches declared void. l) Should a team forfeit, concede or not fulfil a match, the opponents shall be awarded two league points and 10 sets. The defaulting team will be deducted one league point unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Competition Secretary. m)(i) All matches shall be played during the week shown in the fixture list. A match may only be postponed if the opposing team agrees, or if there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Competition Secretary. In these circumstances, the home team must provide, at least 1 date not conflicting with scheduled matches for either team, within seven days of the original fixture.

(ii) All re-arranged matches must be played within four match weeks of the original fixture and within the playing season. Postponed matches between teams from the same club will be declared void if not played within 14 days of the original playing week

(iii) If the opposing team does not agree to a postponement or the home team cannot provide a suitable date then the team requesting the postponement must concede the match.

(iv) Details of any postponed or conceded matches, including any exceptional circumstances, must be notified to the Competition Secretary by BOTH teams within 7 days of the end of the scheduled week. Failure to comply will normally result in the forfeiture of points and a fine in accordance with Rule 8c(vii).

n) Players shall not play in more than one match originally scheduled for any one calendar week. Any player who plays a match on a scheduled week may not play for any other team that has a rearranged match from that week.

o) Before the start of the season all clubs shall nominate players for each team, in each division. Players are ineligible to play for any team that is junior to the team they have been nominated for. A minimum of 3 players shall be nominated for each team. A player may not be nominated for a team more than one division below the highest division in which they have won 12 or more sets in the previous season without the permission of the Executive Committee. Where a club has more than one team in the STTL, a player may play in their nominated team or any senior team until a total of 6 single sets have been won in senior teams, after which they will be ineligible to play in junior teams. An A team is senior to a B team, which is senior to a C team etc. In the case of 'Named teams' seniority shall be agreed by the Executive Committee at the start of the season. No more than eight players shall play for any one team over the course of the season

p) If a player is ranked nationally in the top 75 men or 20 women for any period of time, then that player must either play in a minimum of 40% of the remaining available league fixtures (rounded to the nearest whole number) from the date of registration or ranking whichever occurs last, or play in a minimum of 40% of the available league fixtures (rounded to the nearest whole number) from the date of registration whichever is the smaller or else any sets won in that time period will be forfeited and be awarded to the opponents. The player will not be allowed to play in any postponed or rearranged fixture prior to that date

q )Where a club has more than one team in a division when submitting its first list of registrations, the club must nominate three players for each team in that division. All nominated players may play for any team, except the other team (or teams) of that club in the same division. These nominations must be approved by the Executive Committee and may be amended by the Executive Committee in light of subsequent registrations. Any player or players making more appearances in a team than any two of the three nominated players for that team shall remain tied to that team until such time as this no longer applies. On one occasion only during the first six league matches of the season, re-nomination of a club's team may be made with the approval of the Executive Committee, if the original nominated player or players is/are unable to play for that team due to illness or other unforeseen absence not envisaged at the time of the nomination.

r ) Protests and/or claims (including conceded matches) must be forwarded in writing within seven days of the occurrence to the Competition Secretary, with a copy being sent to the opponents.

#### **4 Three-a-side Competition**

a) All STTL teams are automatically entered in the 3-a-side Competition and are charged accordingly, unless the team opts not to enter. A team not entering must inform the 3-a-side Secretary in writing by 31 July. Only STTL registered players may play in the competition.

b) The competition shall be divided into three sections in the best interests of the League based on team positions at the end of the previous winter league season after promotions and relegations. Players shall be eligible to compete only in a section corresponding to the division in which the majority of their league fixtures have been played at the playing date of each round. However, should a player subsequently become tied to a team in a higher section (rule 3p), that player shall be deemed ineligible. A player may not play in a semi-final or final unless that player has played at least six league fixtures in a division that relates to that section of the 3-a-side cup

c) Each team shall consist of a maximum of five players from the same club, any three of which may play a match. At the time of the first round of fixtures in the competition, the names of every player of each team entering the competition, including those teams with a bye in the first round, shall be given to the 3-a-side Secretary. Any amendments will not normally be allowed.

d) If possible, the draw will take place at the Handbook Meeting or at a League Meeting. The team drawn first will have the choice of venue for the match. Matches shall be played in the designated weeks as given in the STTL Handbook, with the home team confirming the playing night with the opposing team. For subsequent rounds, the 3-a side Secretary will notify the relevant club secretaries of the draw giving at least 24 days to complete the fixtures.

e) The match shall be played under the same rules as a league fixture (rule 3a-g), with the exception that there will be no doubles set.

f) The official score card shall be sent to the 3-a-side Secretary by the winning team immediately after the match.

g) A claim, in respect of an unplayed tie, must be forwarded to the 3-a-side Secretary in writing by the club or team concerned, with a copy to the opponents, within three days of the closing date of the round. In the event of neither a claim nor a result being received by the 3-a-side Secretary

within three days of the closing date of that round, both teams shall be eliminated from the competition.

h) The Executive Committee may, under certain circumstances, vary the rules regarding the draw and playing of matches.

i) The 3 a side secretary reserves the right to apply STTL rules and fines where applicable

## **5 Closed Tournament**

a) The Closed Tournament shall be played annually at the discretion of the Executive. The date and venue shall be announced at a League Meeting not less than two months prior to the tournament.

b) Entry shall be open to players registered with the STTL,(Sheffield Junior League included) who have played a minimum of matches determined by the tournament committee and published on the entry form at the closing date for entries, which shall be no less than 14 days prior to the tournament.

c) Entries shall be submitted to the Closed Tournament Secretary on the entry form found in the Handbook. Block entries from clubs will be accepted if all the required details on the form are given.

d) If there are less than four entries for an event, that event will not take place. e) It is the responsibility of both players to indicate their partners in the doubles event on the entry form. When a partner is requested, or where entries do not show an agreement of pairing, the Tournament Committee shall have the right to decide the pairing.

f) The tournament shall be controlled by the Tournament Secretary and the Tournament Committee, who shall elect a person to act as Referee for the event. The Referee shall be responsible for the seeding of players, the draw, the order of play and other aspects of the tournament as required.

g) Except at the discretion of the Referee, the losing player must umpire the next match on that table. Failure to do so may result in refusal of entry for future tournaments.

## **6 Summer League**

The STTL shall run a Summer League, for which the Summer League Secretary reserves the right to apply any STTL rules and fines where applicable.

## **7 Trophies and awards**

a)

League Champions Trophy for the winners of Division 1

Graham Lynch Trophy for the runners-up of Division 1

Wortley Cup for the winners of Division 2

Foster Cup for the winners of Division 3

Thompson Cup for the winners of Division 4

Taylor-Gill Cup for the winners of Division 5

Rutland Cup for the winners of Division 6

Bell Cup for the winners of Division 7

Graham Buckingham Shield for the leading scorer in Division 1

W.Stones Memorial Cup for the Youth Special Award

Ben Fisher Junior Award for the Top Junior

Drake Cup for the winners of the Top Section of the 3-a-side Competition Jack Crookes Memorial Cup, winners of the Middle Section of the 3-a-side Competition

W. Matthews Memorial Cup, winners of the Lower Section of the 3-a-side Competition Collier Cup for the Men's Singles in the Closed Tournament

J.C. Smith Cup for Ladies' Singles in the Closed Tournament

Cowen Cup for Juniors' Singles in the Closed Tournament

Sowter Cup for Veterans' Singles in the Closed Tournament

Cutler Cup for the Men's Doubles in the Closed Tournament

Hinchcliffe Cup for Ladies' Doubles in the Closed Tournament

Clarke Cup for Mixed Doubles in the Closed Tournament

Edison Cup for Youth Singles in the Closed Tournament

Carver Memorial Cup for Junior Ladies' Singles in the Closed Tournament Holmhirst Shield for Handicap Singles in the Closed Tournament

Broomhead Trophy for Cadets' Singles in the Closed Tournament

A and M Dawson Plate for the Plate Singles in the Closed Tournament John Hatfield Award for Under 12 Singles in the Closed Tournament

Norman Lee Jubilee Trophy for the Club Secretary Award

Arthur Smith Memorial Trophy for the League Service Award

Andrea Holt Shield for Volunteer of the Year

Roger Turner Memorial Award

b) The champions of each division in the STTL shall receive awards for three team players plus one reserve, if possible.

c) The winning team in each section of the 3-a-side Competition shall receive an award. d) The winner of each event in the Closed Tournament shall receive an award. e) No trophy may be won outright. However, for the Closed Tournament, a replica will be

presented when the same trophy has been won for three successive seasons by the same player or players.

f) The presentation of these trophies and awards shall be only to the winners or club secretaries and will take place at an event to be decided by the Executive Committee g) The recipients of the trophies are responsible for the safe keeping and rectifying any loss or damage to the trophies.

h) The recipients shall retain the trophies until the February League Meeting when the trophies should be returned to the Social Secretary. Failure to comply will incur a fine (rule 8c (ix)), which will be the responsibility of either the club or the individual awarded the trophy.

## **8 Finance**

a) The following fees shall be paid by clubs to the Competition Secretary before the start of the season:-

(i) STTL player registration fees of £7 for Seniors and £3 for Juniors. Junior fees apply to those under 18 on 31 December in the year that the season commences. Such fees entitle the player to a STTL Handbook which shall contain rules, fixtures, particulars of all clubs in the STTL and any other information that may be considered necessary.

(ii) Table Tennis England player individual registration fees, if application is via the STTL.

(iii) £1.50 per team for scorecards.

b) The following fees shall be paid by clubs to the Treasurer by 31 October:- (i) STTL fees of £15 per team.

(ii) SYCTTA affiliation fees.

c) The following fines, payable to the Treasurer, shall be levied as appropriate:- (i) £5 for late payment of STTL fees and the club shall be liable to suspension until such time as the fees are paid.

(ii) £3 administration fee for additions or amendments (printing errors excepted) made to the Handbook before or at the Handbook Meeting.

(iii) £10 plus costs incurred for non-attendance of a club at the Annual General Meeting, a League Meeting or the Handbook Meeting

(iv) £1 for causing a match to start later than 7.15 pm.

(v) £1 for the first week missing and £1 for each week thereafter for a score card received late up to a maximum of £5. £1 plus the cost incurred for a card received unstamped. £1 for each team involved with an incorrect or incomplete score card.

(vi) £1 for a player short if a club does not play a full team and £1 for each ineligible player played.

(vii) £3 for each team if their secretary or team captain does not give written notice of a postponed fixture to the Competition Secretary (rule 3m).

(viii) £10 for failure to fulfil an original or rearranged fixture with prior notification to the opposing team. £15 for failure to fulfil an original or rearranged fixture without notification of which the opposing team may claim up to £5 for expenses incurred.

(ix) £5 per trophy for each week or portion of a week after the February League Meeting for the late return of trophies (rule 7h).

d) A Presentation Night fee of £10 per team shall be paid by clubs to the Treasurer. e) Clubs retiring from the STTL for any reason during the season shall forfeit all monies paid.

f) All monies due to the STTL must be paid promptly at the League Meeting following the issue of the account and all final accounts paid by the AGM. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.

## 9 General rules

a) If any player or club is found guilty of flagrant breaches of the foregoing rules, acting against the interests of the STTL or its members, or conduct likely to bring the STTL or game into disrepute (This includes postings on social media that are detrimental to players, officials or the STTL) the executive committee shall have the power to impose such fines or suspensions as it deems necessary.

b) In the event of any question not provided for in the foregoing rules, such question shall be referred in writing to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final, subject to the Board of Appeal.

c) Except by unanimous decision at a league meeting, no amendments to the rules shall be made during the season unless done so at a special general meeting or AGM. All clubs must be given a minimum of seven days notice of any such proposed amendments for consideration at a league meeting.

d) All the foregoing rules shall be interpreted by the Executive Committee for the benefit of the STTL.