



Sittingbourne and District Table Tennis Association

RULEBOOK

2018 Amendments are shown in bold & underlined

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Sittingbourne and District Table Tennis Association

STANDING RULES

1) Title

- The Association shall be known as the "Sittingbourne and District Table Tennis Association".

2) Constitution

- The admission of clubs that are not already in membership shall be decided at the Association's Annual General Meeting, Winter League Fixture Meeting, Summer League Fixture Meeting, or where participation in the League is not involved, by the Committee. Clubs already in membership may only be expelled from the Association at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose. The Association shall be affiliated to the Table Tennis England and in membership with the Kent County Table Tennis Association.
- The Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Winter League Organiser, Hon. Kent League Representative, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Summer League Organizer
- The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Winter League Organiser, Hon. Kent League Representative, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Summer League Organiser and six other members.

3) General Meetings

Annual

- The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held each year subsequent to the closing of the financial year and at that meeting the Officers and Committee shall be elected for the ensuing year.
- No person absent from the Annual General Meeting without good reason shall be elected to the Committee.
- Two Auditors shall also be elected.
- A record of attendances of the Committee shall be given in the General Secretary's Annual Report.
- Notifications of resolutions shall be submitted to the General Secretary by the 15th March. Such resolutions shall be circulated to all Clubs by the 31st March and any amendments shall be submitted to the General Secretary by the 14th April.
- The complete Agenda and notice of the meeting shall be circulated at least 14 days before the date of the meeting.

Special

- A Special General Meeting shall be called at any time if requested by at least three member Clubs or by the Committee.
- At least 14 days' notice of the date and full agenda of such meeting shall be given and no other matters shall be dealt with at that meeting.

Note!

- At any General Meeting each Club represented shall be entitled to one vote only on matters affecting the constitution, rules or membership of the Association. On other matters voting may be decided by a show of hands at the discretion of the Chairman. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.

- Each member addressing the Chair shall first state his/her name and Club.

4) Finance

- The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st May, and an audited statement of accounts up to that date shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The necessary expenses of the Officers and Committee incurred on Association business shall be paid from Association funds.
- Fees payable to the Association are as follows:

Team Affiliation, Player Registration, Team Tournament (Main Winter League)
& Handicap Singles Team Affiliation (Summer League)

All above fees are to be paid in addition to the Table Tennis England and KCTTA fees. They are payable at the appropriate Fixture Meeting of the Winter League or Summer League.

- Fees to be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

5) Laws & Discipline

Games in all the Leagues and Tournaments shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis as approved by the Table Tennis England.

- Where there is any infringement of the Rules detailed under Standing Rules, and no penalties are already specified the Committee may impose such disciplinary measures or penalties as it may think fit.
- The Committee shall be empowered to take disciplinary action against individual players as may be deemed necessary if circumstances warranted such action.
- Clubs and individuals against whom such action is taken shall have the right of appeal to the Committee, and if not satisfied, to the KCTTA.
- No alterations, additions or deletions shall be made to Standing Rules or to the League or Tournament Rules, except at an Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting. The Committee shall have full power to decide on any matter not covered within these rules.

6) Dissolution

- In the event of the winding up or dissolution of the Association, all surplus assets shall be distributed amongst the full members of the Association, as soon as possible after the event. This would only be done if there is a surplus after discharging all debts and liabilities of the Association.

WINTER LEAGUE RULES

1) Winter League

- The Winter League competition consists of teams being entered into the League from every club in the Association and playing up to 11, best of 5 legs.
- The League shall consist of such Divisions as may be determined by the Committee.
- Each team shall play each other team in its Division twice, home and away unless otherwise agreed by the Committee
- In the event of a match being cancelled or not played on the date shown in the agreed fixture list, the team at fault will be penalised 3 points, and the match should be rearranged, unless an adequate reason has been forwarded to the Winter League Organiser within 48 hours. (examples of adequate reason include a) loss of venue, b) extreme weather conditions. Shortage of players will only be considered in extreme circumstances).

Any rearrangement must be agreed between the teams and advised to the Winter League Organiser within 1 calendar month of the original date. The match shall not include players registered after the original date of the match unless specially agreed previously by the Committee.

If the match is not rearranged, or notification to the Winter League Organiser is not received within 1 calendar month then the match will be adjudicated and the team at fault shall receive no points, and the Committee shall award to their opponents such points as they might have expected to win, with a minimum of 3. Any team wishing to claim points should do so within 48 hours giving reasons.

If the rearrangement includes playing as a double header, then the team at originally fault shall be deducted a further 3 points, no matter the final result.

In the event of any cancellation or postponement the Winter League Organiser must be advised at the outset the reason for this and which team is at fault

- Any team at fault on three occasions shall be automatically removed from the League.

Note! The above applies apart from the lowest division. In this division they can play with handicaps as determined by the Committee. Where two players have the same handicap, the game shall commence at love all and be played to 11 each leg. In doubles play the handicap shall be the average of the two players rounded towards zero.

2) Registrations

- All players must be registered as bona fide members of the Association.
- Fixtures shall be arranged at a fixture meeting held in September and any Club not represented at that meeting can be fined a sum of money determined by the Committee.
- Each Club must supply a copy of its fixture list to the Hon. Winter League Organiser before the first match is due to be played. Every match must be played on the date shown in the fixture list unless otherwise mutually agreed by the clubs concerned.
- A team shall consist of three players who shall be bona fide members of the Club represented. Such members shall be registered for that team at the time when the team is entered into the League.
- Registered players will be provided with the Association Handbook.
- New members may be registered after the allocation of teams to the League provided that the necessary form and fee are in the hands of the Hon. Winter League Organiser at least 24 hours before the first match in which they are required to play.
- The closing date for League registration applications shall be the end of January unless special dispensation is received from the Committee. Such registrations for the first division shall be fully effective at the outset. Registrations for other divisions will be subject to ratification by the Committee. Games played before the registration is approved are at the discretion of the Hon. Winter League Organiser
- If any Club is represented by more than one team, such teams shall be graded first, second, third, etc.

- To be eligible to play in any team other than the first a player must not have played during the current season in more than four matches for any team or teams of higher grading. Should a player have played more than four matches for any team or teams of a higher grading that player shall then be only eligible to play for the remainder of that season for the highest team for which these matches were played.

3) Play

- All matches shall be played between the first Monday in September and the last Friday in April unless otherwise approved by the Committee.
- When a Club has two or more teams in the same division, and it becomes clear that the higher-ranked team is the weaker, the Committee may, if it sees fit, decide that players from the lower-ranked team may not play for the higher ranked team.
- The Committee in special cases may grant transfers from a higher to a lower team. Any infringement of this rule shall entail the forfeiture of the ties played.

4) Matches

4.1

- A match shall consist of ten ties, i.e., nine singles and one doubles, each tie to be the best of five games. The Committee may determine that a division may consist of teams of 2 players, in which case a match shall consist of 5 ties i.e. 4 singles and one doubles, each tie to be the best of five games. Subsequent rules in this section are amended accordingly.
- Matches must commence by 7.30 p.m. when at least the first player from each team shall be present
- The second player must be available to play by 7:45 pm at the latest, and the third player by 8:15 pm at the latest.
- games must be played in the order shown on the scorecard. Where a player is not available to play their first and/or subsequent scheduled games they shall forfeit in favour of the team not at fault
- If a player arrives after 8:15 pm then all his/her games shall be forfeited in favour of the team not at fault.
- By mutual consent the Captains may vary this rule by prior notification of any late arrival of their opponents.
- Alternatively should a team arrive after 7.45 p.m. the opponents may claim each game not completed by 11.00 p.m. with the non-offenders declaring their intention prior to commencement of the first game.
- Should the offending team arrive after 8.15 p.m. then the team not at fault may claim the match as detailed in rule 1.
- Any situation not covered by the above will be dealt with under General Rule 5

4.2

- Any Club failing to produce three players for a League Match shall forfeit to the opposing team all the games that are not played. In the event of both teams in a match having only two players, the match shall consist of five ties only, each player of one team playing each player of the opposing team the best of five legs in addition to a doubles tie.
- One player shall constitute a team with three singles matches being played if playing a three man team, two singles matches being played if playing a two man team and one singles being played if playing a one man team.

5) Doubles League

- The doubles game played within the normal scheduled league match will also count towards a separate Doubles League for each division.
- Points will be awarded to each team, regardless of player combination, according to the following scale:
 - 5 points for a victory in 3 straight legs
 - 4 points for a victory in 4 legs
 - 3 points for a victory in 5 legs
 - 2 points for a defeat in 5 legs
 - 1 point for a defeat in 4 legs
 - 0 points for a defeat in 3 straight legs
 - 0 points will be awarded if there is a team of only one player

In exceptional circumstances the Committee may void/award the doubles points

6) Results

- Results of matches must be notified to the Hon. Winter League Organiser by the Captain of the home team within 7 days on a League Result Card, which shall be signed by a member of each team. If the result card is posted then it should be posted within 2 days of the match being played. The Hon. Winter League Organiser can use his/her discretion on receipt of the card if received outside the time limits.
- Where no result card is received by the Hon. Winter League Organiser within 7 days from the due date of the match, the team at fault will be penalised 3 for a first offence, with both teams being notified accordingly. If the match has been played and can be verified by both teams then match points will be awarded subject to a deduction for the penalty incurred. If the same team is at fault for a second and subsequent times then they will be penalised 5 points for each occurrence.
- The winner of each division shall be decided by points, one point being awarded for each game won. Where the number of games won is equal, the winner shall be decided by the number of matches won. Where these are equal the matter shall be resolved by the Committee.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENTS

1) Rules

- Junior and Senior Tournaments shall be organised annually and shall be restricted to members of Clubs in membership with the Sittingbourne and District Table Tennis Association.
- Any bona fide club member who, owing to special circumstances, has not been able to play the number of games required to qualify may be allowed to enter at the discretion of the Committee.
- All the events shall be played at a central venue on one or more days as may be determined at the Annual General Meeting. The actual dates, times and venue being decided by the Committee.
- Any player who, having entered a tournament, either fails to attend without due notice or a reasonable excuse, or leaves before completing his or her matches, may be excluded from the next tournament.
- All entries shall be made on forms supplied for the purpose to Club Secretaries, and such forms shall be forwarded to the Tournament Organiser or such other person as may be decided by the Committee, together with the entry fees, not later than the date specified on the forms. (The entry fees shall be as determined by the Committee).
- Any points not covered by the rules should be referred to the appropriate Tournament Organiser for that event, or to the Association Committee via the Hon. General Secretary.

2) Junior

Junior Tournaments shall consist of the following events:-

1. Jimmy Mannooch Trophy - Rules are as follows
 - Open to members of either sex under the age of 15.
 - Who have not previously won any tournament.
 - Those players who are registered S.D.T.T.A. players, playing in the lowest two divisions (subject to review annually by the Tournament Organiser) prior to entry forms being issued..
 - Have entered at least one other event in the current Junior Tournament.
2. **Junior Singles & Doubles**
3. **Under 15 Singles & Doubles**
4. **Under 13 Singles**
5. **Under 11 Singles**
6. **Consolation Singles** for players between ages 15 to 18 who are eliminated at the group stage of Junior Singles (under 18) shall be entered into a consolation event
 - These Tournaments shall be open to players who were under 18 (15 or 13 for the younger events) on the preceding 1st January, and who have played a minimum of 5 matches in total in the current Winter League, Team Tournaments, Summer League prior to the closing date for entry or who reside or attend school in the Swale Borough.
 - No player may enter more than five events, including the Jimmy Mannooch Trophy.
 - Where there are less than 4 entries for any event the tournament organiser will decide whether to run the event or to combine it with another event.
 - All singles events shall be played in groups, the size of which shall be determined by Committee, with the winner of each group taking part in a knock-out competition
 - Where there are less than six entries for any event it shall be played as a straight knockout or Round Robin as determined by the Committee.

3) Senior

Senior Tournaments shall consist of:-

1. Closed Singles
2. Consolation Singles (for First Division players knocked out of the groups of the Closed Singles event)
3. Women's Singles & Doubles
4. Veterans' Singles & Doubles (The Veterans' Singles & doubles shall be open to players of either sex aged 40 years or over on the previous 1st January.
5. Open Doubles & Mixed Doubles
6. Divisional Singles for each separate Division of the League except the first.
 - Where there are less than six entries for a divisional singles, that event may be combined with the next highest division. Where there are less than four entries for any other event or for the second division singles (after combination if appropriate) there shall be no competition for that event.
 - Entrants in the divisional singles may only take part in the event appropriate to the lowest division of the league for which they are eligible at the closing date.
 - Players registered after the league has commenced may be excluded from the divisional singles at the Committee's discretion, provided that the decision is taken and notified at the time of registration.
 - Doubles events shall be played on a straight knockout basis, but singles events may be played in groups, at the discretion of the Committee, according to the number of entries, and the time available.

- Entrants will usually be required to have played a minimum of 5 matches in total in the current Winter League or Team Tournament prior to the closing date for entry, however this number may be reduced at the Committee's discretion.

HANDICAP KNOCKOUT TEAM TOURNAMENT AND SECONDARY TOURNAMENTS

1) Rules

- A team tournament for teams shall be organised each season.
- The competition may be run on a divisional basis or by combining divisions together.

2) Registrations

- A team shall consist of 3 players eligible to play in the league for that particular team.
- A player may play once for another of their club teams within the same competition, but only at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser.
- Any player may play for their club's other teams that are in a different tournament upon application to and at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser providing that a revised handicap has been given.
- After the second round, no player not already eligible may be introduced to a team unless special permission is obtained from the Tournament Organiser.
- A player who registers after the Fixture Meeting must have played in at least 2 league games prior to the round concerned unless special permission is obtained from the Tournament Organiser.
- The draw shall be made by the Committee, and circulated to all participants at the Winter League Fixture Meeting.

3) Handicaps

- Each player will be allocated a handicap; this handicap will be decided by the Committee and can be varied from round to round.
- Any player who has not played in the league before will receive a handicap of zero, unless the player's standard compared to other known players is included on the appropriate form.
- Any new handicaps requests for players playing up or down or new registrations must be obtained from the Team Tournament Organiser at least 24 hours before the match is due to be played

4) Play

- One week in October shall be left free of league fixtures for the first round and one week in November for the second round.
- The home team must offer their opponents a minimum of two dates after the second round for subsequent rounds. In the first and second rounds only one date need be offered since certain weeks are set aside for them.
- The final shall be played at a neutral venue to be decided by the Committee.
- A set shall consist of two legs up to 21, with no deuce. The total amount of points gained by each player in both legs shall then be entered in the appropriate column on the official scorecard. Handicaps should be added to this total. Therefore, an accumulated total is kept after each set, showing the match score.

Matches will consist of nine singles (all play all, with two legs up to 21 for each game (N.B) all games must be played). The winning team shall be the one with the highest accumulated total over the nine singles.

- Where the final totals are equal each team shall nominate one player to play a deciding singles, consisting of one leg only. Each player shall receive points, equivalent to their handicap and the winner shall be the first player to reach 21 points or to gain a two point lead after 20 all. The players shall toss for ends or service and shall change ends at 10 points (including handicaps).

5) Matches

- Matches must commence by 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise previously and mutually agreed, with all games played in the order shown on the scorecard unless otherwise agreed by the captains. Umpires shall be provided by both teams by mutual consent, and their decision must be accepted as final.
- Where a team (whether home or away) is late arriving without good cause, the opponents if not themselves, at fault, may claim 5 points per leg of all games not played within three and a half hours of the agreed start time. The legs not played will be adjudicated by the Tournament Organiser on the basis of the handicap given to the players in the outstanding games and the winner put forward to the next round.

6) Results

- The result card must be forwarded to the Tournament Organiser by the 'Winning Team' within one week, otherwise the home team shall be eliminated at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser

HANDICAP, SECONDARY HANDICAP & INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP SINGLES

1) Rules

- **The Handicap Singles event for individual players shall be organised each season.**
- **The competition may run on a divisional basis or by combining divisions together.**
- The Finals shall be played at a venue decided by the Committee.
- Each player who is drawn at home in each round shall be supplied with a card on which shall be shown his or her opponents name and contact details and the date by which the match must be played. The home player must then offer his opponent reasonable dates for selection within seven days of receipt of the card. Opponents who do not receive such notification within the specified time shall notify the Tournament Organiser. When a date has been fixed it shall not be altered except by mutual consent and defaulting players shall forfeit the match to their opponents.

2) Play

- A match shall consist of 3 legs up to 31 points with no deuce. The total amount of points gained by each player in each leg shall be entered into the appropriate column on the official scorecard.
- Handicap totals should be added to the score so an accumulative total is kept after each leg and the winner shall be the player with the highest accumulated score after 3 legs.
- In the third leg players change ends when the first player reaches their midway point.

- Where the total points accredited to each player are equal, then a deciding leg shall be played. Each player shall receive points, equivalent to his/her handicap and the winner shall be the first player to reach 31 points or gain a two point lead after 30-all. The choice of ends or service shall be decided by the toss of a coin. In the deciding leg players will change ends when the first player reaches their midway point.

3) Results

- The result must be forwarded to the Tournament Organiser within 2 days of the closing date of the round.
- In the event of a match not being played by the due date, the home player may be eliminated at the discretion of the Handicap Singles Organiser.

4) Handicaps

- A list of handicaps shall be supplied to each Club, with the draw for each round.
- All players' handicaps can be reviewed after each round.

THE SUMMER LEAGUE

1) Rules

- The Summer League Committee shall consist of the Hon. Summer League Competitions Organizer (SLCO), the Hon. General Secretary of the Association and one representative from each club entering the Summer League.
- The Summer League shall consist of such Divisions as may be determined by the Committee.
- Any points not covered by these rules should be referred to the SLCO, or to the Association Committee via the Hon. General Secretary

2) Play

- All matches shall be played between the last Monday in April and the second Friday in August.
- Each team shall play each other team in its Division twice, normally home and away unless mutually agreed.
- Fixtures shall be played on the club's home night in the week as shown on the fixture chart unless mutually agreed otherwise, in which event the SLCO must be informed prior to the designated match date.
- The change of serve shall be maintained at every five. (Note!., if the game commences at 3 - love, the first server only has two services, the service being changed at 5 - love or the equivalent.)
- A change of ends shall take place in the third leg when the first player reaches the mid-.point of the required number of points to win the leg. (e.g., a player on Owe 6 shall cause a change of ends upon reaching 13 (having to go to 27) or a player on a Plus 9 shall similarly do so on reaching 15.)

3) Registrations

- New players may be registered after the Summer League Meeting provided they are registered with the SLCO and receive an appropriate handicap before the first match in which they are required to play.
- A team shall consist of two players (although it is advisable to register at least three). Such members shall be registered for that team at the time when the team is entered into the Summer League, and any fees shall be paid before or at the Summer League Meeting.

4) Handicaps

- The Summer League Committee prior to the commencement of the League shall complete the allocation of teams and handicaps.
- Where two players have the same handicap the game shall commence at love all and be played to 21 each leg.
- In doubles play, the handicap shall be the average of the two players comprising the team, rounded towards zero.
- The Summer League Sub-Committee (consisting of at least 4 members including the SLCO) shall be empowered to revise any handicap of any player after receipt of the first four result cards that involved the player, should these have indicated that the original handicap was inappropriate.
- Any new handicap requests for players playing up or down or new registrations must be obtained from the Summer League Organiser at least 24 hours before the match is due to be played

5) Matches

- A match shall be of 5 ties i.e., four singles and one doubles, each tie to be the best of three games.
- Matches shall commence by 8 p.m. unless otherwise previously and mutually agreed, and games must be played in the order shown on the result card unless otherwise agreed by the Captains.
- Where a team (whether home or away) is late in arriving by more than forty-five minutes without good cause, the opponents if not themselves also at fault, may claim the match unless it is either mutually agreed to continue the match or rearrange it within the league timetable. Should a match commence after 8 p.m. without mutual consent, the team not at fault may claim one tie for each complete 15 minutes that the start of the match is delayed or alternatively all ties not completed by the club's closing time.
- Any club failing to produce two players for a match shall forfeit to the opposing team all games not played.
- In the event of both teams only having one player the match shall be cancelled and either each team will receive no points or it shall be mutually rearranged.
- In the event of the match not being played by the end of the season the team at fault shall automatically forfeit the points and a Sub-Committee (consisting of at least 4 members) shall award a minimum of two points to the team not at fault with the offending team awarded no points. Any team at fault on three occasions shall be removed from the Summer League

6) Results

- The winner of each division shall be decided by points as follows:
 - 3 points for 4 - 1 or 5 - 0 victory
 - 2 points for 3 - 2 victory
 - 1 point for 2 - 3 loss
- The Captain of the home team shall forward results of matches to the SLCO within 7 days on a results card, which shall be signed by a member of each team. If the result card is posted then it should be posted within 2 days of the match being played. The Hon. Summer League Organiser can use discretion on receipt of the card if received outside the time limits.

GENERAL RULES ALL COMPETITIONS

1) Transfer of Players

- No player shall represent more than one Club, but a player may be transferred from one Club to another during the season provided a fortnight's notice is given to the General Secretary before the player takes part in a match for his new Club.
- The Secretary of each Club concerned must sign notification of transfer.
A player so transferred may not play for his new Club in a Division lower than that for which he would have been eligible with his former Club, except by permission of the Committee.

2) Captains

- Each team shall appoint as Captain a responsible person who need not necessarily be a playing member. The Captains shall be responsible for:-
 1. Entering the names of their respective players on the result card, the Home Captain to enter his players' names first
 2. The organisation of the match in accordance with the Winter and Summer League rules.
 3. The general conduct of the players
 4. In the case of the Home Captain, such of the playing conditions as are within his control

3) Umpires

- Umpires shall be provided by both teams by mutual consent and the Umpire's decision shall be accepted as final.
- Umpires should indicate the change over points prior to commencing the final leg of any match.

4) Additional Competitions

- The Committee at its discretion may organize additional events as may be appropriate to further the game of table tennis.

- 5)** In the event of any matter arising which is not provided for in the rules, such matters shall be decided by the Committee whose decision shall be final.