

SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

RULES

1. (a) The League should be called the "SOUTHPORT AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE" (hereinafter called the "LEAGUE") and shall be affiliated to Table Tennis England, and the Lancashire Table Tennis Association.
- (b) In the event of the dissolution of the League, any assets remaining after the payment of all financial debts and the discharge of all other liabilities shall be donated to Table Tennis causes.

MANAGEMENT

2. (a) The Management of the League shall be vested in a Committee, to be known as the Management Committee. This shall consist of the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary, Fixture Secretary, League Treasurer, Press Secretary and up to six other persons.
- (b) The Management Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Any of the 'six other persons' who fails to attend three consecutive Management Committee Meetings without satisfactory explanation shall lose their seat.
- (d) Any vacancies that occur during that year shall be filled by the Committee until the next A.G.M.
- (e) The Hon. Auditor shall be appointed at the A.G.M.
- (f) The financial year end of the League shall be the 30th April annually.
3. The Management Committee shall have power to control League competitions and Championships and to promote or manage such events which they think proper. This shall be done by appointing sub-committees as it thinks fit.
4. In an emergency situation affecting the League, an emergency Committee comprising not less than three (3) officers and one (1) elected of the Management Committee member shall have power to act, the decision being subject to confirmation by the Management Committee at its next Management Meeting.
5. (a) The A.G.M. shall be held at the end of each season at such place as the Management Committee, then in office, shall decide.
- (b) Notice of the A.G.M. will be given to all Club Secretaries in writing and be advertised on the League website at least 28 days before the date of the meeting.
- (c) One third of the affiliated clubs shall form a quorum.
- (d) Clubs not represented personally at the A.G.M. shall be fined £10.00.
6. (a) The Ordinary General Meeting shall be held at a time prior to the following season to be decided by the A.G.M.
- (b) Notice of the O.G.M. will be given to all Club Secretaries at least seven days before the date of the meeting.
7. (a) Special General Meetings may be called at any time by the Management Committee or by a letter signed by one third of affiliated Club Secretaries provided it is lodged with the League Secretary fourteen days before the date of the meeting.
- (b) Notice of the S.G.M. will be given to all Club Secretaries at least seven days before the date of the meeting.
- (c) One third of the affiliated clubs shall form a quorum.
8. All players ranked in a club under rule 20(a) and all Life and Committee Members and League Officials may attend General Meetings.
9. All clubs receiving Trophies do so on the following conditions:
 - (a) No Trophy can be won outright.
 - (b) All Trophies must be returned by the date of the A.G.M. except Championship Trophies which must be returned by the date of the following Championships.
 - (c) In the event of a club becoming defunct whilst holding any Trophy, the latter shall be returned immediately to the League Secretary.
 - (d) The teams finishing as winners and runners up in each division and in the Anon and Gunson Cup competitions will be presented with individual Trophies which will be suitably engraved. The League will provide Trophies appropriate to the number of players in the team, i.e. 4 person team, 4 Trophies and for a 3 person team, 3 Trophies. Clubs may receive additional Trophies if they desire but these must be asked for through the League Secretary. All additional costs must be met by the club concerned.
10. The Management Committee shall decide any question not provided for in these Rules.

AFFILIATION AND REGISTRATION

11. (a) The Annual Subscription shall be £40 for every team except Junior Teams (comprising at least 3 players under 18 on the 1st January during the relevant season, but can include one senior player), when it shall be £25 per team.
- (b) Subscriptions are intended to cover all the League's normal running expenses, including any affiliation fees it is required to pay. It does not include any Table Tennis England Individual Membership fees payable.
- (c) Although clubs can have an unlimited amount of players ranked in each team, only players who have made at least two League appearances before January 1st will be eligible to play for the rest of the season, unless prior permission from the League Management Committee is granted, also see Rule 20.
- (d) The Management Committee may decline the application of any Club or Player to membership of the League only in exceptional circumstances, when it can be shown that such membership would be deleterious to the League. Any refusal must be accompanied by a written explanation and the Committee must consider any appeal subsequently made by that Club or Player, before confirming its decision.
- (e) The above Rule 11 (d) is not intended to prevent the Management Committee from exercising its duties by suspending offending member Clubs or Players for appropriate lengths of time, for whatever reason.
12. Clubs who fail to register their teams with the Fixture Secretary by the 1st August each season will be fined £10.00.
13. (a) All players must be ranked before they are eligible to play in league or cup matches, including new members after the start of the season
- (b) All players ranked must be current player members of Table Tennis England.
14. (a) All fees due under Rule 11(a) and any outstanding fines must be paid prior to the commencement of each season to the League Treasurer, failing which a fine of £10.00 will be levied against the defaulting club. Those clubs which require a receipt must enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope.
- (b) All monies appertaining to the League shall be deposited in a bank account in the name of the League, and the signatures of any two from Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer shall be necessary for any withdrawal.
15. No player shall transfer to another club without the consent of the club with whom he is ranked, or at the Committee's discretion.
16. (a) Each club must appoint one Secretary for correspondence, irrespective of how many teams they have in the League,
- (b) Any club changing details of its Secretary or other particulars in the official league handbook, must notify the Fixture Secretary and the Secretaries of all other clubs in writing.
17. (a) New clubs admitted to membership with the League will normally be entered in the lowest Division. Applications for membership must state full particulars of the Club Headquarters, name and address of the Club Secretary and the fixed nights for home matches. Applications should be forwarded to the League Secretary seven days before the O.G.M.
- (b) Applications from new clubs will not normally be accepted if their Headquarters are more than 16 miles from Southport Town Hall.
- (c) Existing Clubs who change their venue for matches to a point outside the 16 mile limit specified in Rule 17(b) will not normally be allowed to retain League membership.

MATCH REGULATIONS

18. (a) Each new club shall find suitable accommodation and no Southport & District TT League match shall be played therein until it is approved by the Management Committee.
- (b) All matches must be played under the Laws of table tennis as recognised by Table Tennis England, with the exception of certain Gunson Cup handicap scoring.
19. (a) Teams competing in League Competitions shall consist of four players.
- (b) The opposing Captains shall simultaneously exchange lists of playing strength as submitted in Rule 20 and this order shall not be altered.
- (c) The Captains alternately shall have the option of declaring the next game to be played starting with the visiting Captain. In the event that the home club premises are required to be vacated within a time scale which is likely to be insufficient for all ten sets to be played and those club premises are provided with two suitable tables and surrounding areas, then the home team may require some/all sets to be played in pairs simultaneously.
- (d) Each match shall consist of 8 singles and 2 doubles, best of 5 games, played in accordance with the following:

SINGLES No 1 plays opposing 1 & 2
 No 2 plays opposing 1 & 3
 No 3 plays opposing 2 & 4
 No 4 plays opposing 3 & 4
DOUBLES Pairs using all 4 players arranged at the Captains' discretion.
One point shall be awarded for each set won.

- (e) Any club playing a player short shall be liable to a fine of £2.
20. (a) Prior to the commencement of each season the Secretary of each Club shall send to the Fixture Secretary a ranking list of players in the Club together with a ranking list of those players in groups in order of playing strength for each team. Any club failing to comply with this rule shall be fined £5.00. A ranked player may play for a higher team than the team for which he/she is ranked but when doing so must play in a lower position than players ranked above them in accordance with the club's ranking list. No ranked player may play for any team below which he/she is ranked nor below his/her ranked position in that team. No player shall be permitted to play in more than 26 League matches in any one season. No registered player may play in a match until he/she has been ranked. N.B. The figure 26 contained in the above Rule is based on the assumption that each division will consist of 12 teams and is therefore variable season by season at the Committee's discretion per division whenever this position varies. The remaining registered players shall also be listed in order of playing strength and play in their ranked position. Players registered subsequently will necessitate a new ranking list.
- (b) Ranking lists may not be revised after 31st December unless there are exceptional circumstances. Revised ranking lists shall take effect only upon official notification from the Fixture Secretary. All ranking lists must be acceptable to the Committee as being in the interests of the League.
- (c) At the end of the season no player shall have played for a higher team on more occasions than the team for which he is ranked. Contravention of this rule will mean the deduction of any points gained by the player for his ranked team.
21. (a) Matches shall be played by the dates originally fixed unless postponement permitted under Rule 21(b)
- (b) Postponements may only take place for the following reasons:
- (i) if weather conditions make travelling impossible,
 - (ii) if players have been selected for Southport Town Teams, County Teams, Regional Teams or International Teams,
 - (iii) if a Cup Match has been unavoidably arranged for the same date,
 - (iv) if the home club's premises are not available to them for reasons beyond their control, or
 - (v) if a match is scheduled for a UK Public Holiday.
- (c) Should a Club fail to keep an engagement for any other reason it shall be liable to a fine of £2.00 and have 4 points deducted and deemed responsible for the out of pocket expenses of its opponents but such club shall have the right of appeal to the Management Committee.
- (d) Such fines will be collected by the Treasurer at the end of the season.
- (e) Dates for rearranged matches must be confirmed in writing between the Club Secretaries and notified to the Fixture Secretary.
- (f) A club team finding itself unable to play any fixture for one of the above reasons must not give less than 2 days notice (excluding reason (i) to which advance notice can not apply) to the opposing club team and the Fixture Secretary. Alternative arrangements must be made as early as possible and the Fixture Secretary advised accordingly.
- (g) 'All matches subject to postponement under Rule 21(b) must be played within 6 weeks of the original date or the end of the League season if earlier. Failure to do so will result in any match not played within this time scale being declared a walkover to the away team'.
- (h) Where a match has been conceded or claimed the Captain of the team receiving the match points must submit a card within 7 days to the Fixture Secretary showing his team for the match. Failure to do so will result in the loss of points. No match may be postponed except with prior agreement of both Captains and the Fixture Secretary. Such agreed postponed games must be played as soon as possible, to the satisfaction of the Fixture Secretary, who shall be empowered to impose a deadline, any infringement of which shall be dealt with by the Management Committee as they see fit.
- (i) Any team of any club conceding a 10-0 walkover on three occasions in any one season may be asked to withdraw from the League and its records expunged.
- (j) Each walkover conceded shall incur a fine of £10 for the team conceding it plus any out of pocket expenses of its opponents.
22. Matches shall start at 7.30pm. In the event of a match not having been started by 8.00pm

the team in default shall be reported to the Management Committee. A team shall be deemed absent and shall forfeit the match unless 3 players are present at 8.00pm. The non-attendance of a player after 8.30pm shall result in the loss of each set he/she is called upon to play under Rule 19(c), to the opposing team.

23. (a) The Umpire for each set shall be nominated alternately by each Captain, commencing with the home Captain. The Umpire alone is responsible for awarding points or determining lets, in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis, having heard any submissions by the players.
- (b) ITTF officially approved 40mm balls shall be used in ALL matches.
24. The home team shall be responsible for sending the Match Result Scorecard signed by both team captains to the Fixture Secretary within 48 hours, failing which it will incur a £1.00 per day fine thereafter.
25. (a) At the close of the season the team having the most points in each division shall be declared winners of that division. In the event of a tie on points the number of matches won shall decide or if these are also equal the number of matches drawn. (When all three are equal a play-off shall decide). Remaining positions in the division shall be decided in the same manner, i.e. number of points followed by number of matches won/drawn. Play off matches may also be necessary to decide the runners up and bottom two positions in the division.
- (b) Where applicable in the following season the top two teams in any division may be promoted to the next higher division and the two bottom teams may be relegated to the next lower division.

CUP COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS

26. Clubs shall be allowed one entry per team playing in the League in the Open Competition for the **Anon Cup** and the Handicap Competition for the **Gunson Cup**.
27. The Competitions shall be on a knock-out principle.
28. The Competitions shall be governed by the League Rules where applicable unless covered by the following specific Rules.
29. (a) The finals of the Anon and Gunson Cups shall be played in the two weeks after the League Fixture programme has ended on dates decided prior to the OGM.
- (b) The finals shall be played on neutral tables, unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee.
30. (a) Rules 13 (a) and (b) apply.
- (b) In the Gunson Cup each team shall be ranked in accordance with Rule 20(a).
- (c) No player shall play for more than one team in the Anon Cup and one team in the Gunson Cup unless prior permission is obtained from the Committee.
- (d) Each player in the semi-finals and the finals of the Anon Cup and the Gunson Cup must have played in at least 6 of the League matches for that team during the current season, unless prior permission is otherwise obtained from the Committee.
- (e) Any team playing an ineligible player shall be automatically disqualified.
31. (a) The draw for both Competitions shall be made for each round by the Committee or Sub-Committee and published in the Southport Visiter for the week after the closing date for each round.
- (b) In the Anon Cup, teams from Division 1 shall be seeded so as not to meet in the first round.
32. (a) Anon Cup matches will be played in accordance with the normal system of play in League matches.
- (b) In the Gunson Cup, each player will be given an individual handicap and this they will keep for the season unless the Committee thinks fit to change it, giving notice to the Club and player. Only players who intend to play will receive a handicap, each Club informing the Committee of players who intend to play in the competition. Matches will consist of eight singles events, each of 5 games up to 11 points, the order of play being as in Rule 19(d). At the end of the match, points for each team will be totalled and the handicap adjustment added to each team. The team with the greatest number of points after the adjustment will be the winner. Clubs may elect in writing to exclude named players, at the time of their registration in the Club's Ranking List from the Gunson Cup Competition.
- (c) In the event of a draw in the Anon Cup, the winner shall be the team scoring the most games or if equal, the most points in the match. In the event of a draw in the Gunson Cup the match will be replayed within one week at the club which played away in the first match.
- (d) In the Gunson Cup, further replays shall be played until a clear winner is decided.
33. (a) The home team in both Competitions is responsible for arranging the fixture, and sending the result to the Fixture Secretary before the closing date.
- (b) Failure to comply with Rule 33(a) will result in automatic disqualification.
- (c) Unless an alternative night is mutually agreed between the captains concerned, all

Cup/Plate matches shall be played on the normal home night of the team drawn at home, as shown in the League handbook. Such night must be confirmed to the away team captain at least 5 days before the match is due to be played.

(d) In the Gunson Cup the order in which the games are played must be entered on the score card.

(e) **Anon Plate & Gunson Plate**

Teams knocked out in the first round of either the Anon Cup or the Gunson Cup will be automatically entered into the Anon Plate and Gunson Plate respectively. The rules and playing dates for these Plates will be the same as for the primary competitions, the finals being played in the two weeks after the League Fixture programme has ended on dates to be decided prior to the OGM. Any trophies awarded will depend on financial considerations.

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

34. (a) The Southport & District Table Tennis League shall hold annual closed Championships, organised by the Management Committee or a Sub-Committee delegated by it.
(b) The Championships shall be open to all registered players of the League, provided that they have played in at least 6 League matches prior to 31st January in the current season.
35. (a) All events to be decided by the Championship Committee at the time.
(b) The entrance fees will be decided annually by the Committee.
(c) The Junior Event will be open to registered League members who are under 18 years on the 1st January prior to the relevant closed championships.
(d) The Veterans Over 40 Event will be open to registered League members who are over 40 on 1st January prior to the relevant closed championships.
(e) The 'Over 55's' event will be open to registered League players who are over 55 on 1st January prior to the relevant closed championships.
(f) The winners and the runners-up of the events shall be presented with trophies which shall be suitably engraved.
36. The closing date for entries shall be fourteen days before the commencement of the Tournament.
37. (a) Seedings in the Tournament are permitted at the Committee's discretion.
(b) Players not available to play when called upon are liable to be scratched.
(c) In a group round, all members of the group shall compete against each other. The winner shall be, in order of priority if otherwise equal, the person who:-
(a) wins most sets.
(b) wins most games.
(c) has the highest ratio of games won to games lost.
(d) has beaten any other player in the group who is otherwise equal.
(e) wins a decision by lot.
(d) The Championship Referee's decisions in all matters appertaining to the Championship shall be final and binding on all parties.
38. Arrangements for prize giving shall be left to the Management Committee.

APPEALS AND RULE AMENDMENTS

39. Any Club infringing the rules shall be liable to such a fine or other penalty as the Management Committee may decide to impose except where already provided for in these rules.
40. (a) Protests and appeals relating to any violation of the Laws of the game or League Rules shall be lodged with the League Secretary by the protesting Club within seven days of playing the match through which the protest or complaint arises. A full copy of the protest shall also be sent to the Secretary of the club protested against at the same time as the one sent to the League Secretary, stating under which rule the protest or complaint is made.
(b) All protests and appeals will be heard by the Management Committee who may ask the parties concerned to attend.
(c) A member of the Management Committee shall not be present, except in his capacity of Club Secretary, when a protest or appeal concerning a club of which he is a player or Committee member, is under consideration.
(d) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee shall be referred to the Appeals Committee. The appeal must be lodged with the League Secretary within fourteen days of notification of their decision.
(e) The Appeals Committee shall consist of 3 Life Members who have no office on the Management Committee. Their findings in any appeal shall be final.
41. (a) No alterations or amendments to these Rules shall be made except at the A.G.M. or S.G.M.
(b) Proposed alterations for submission to the meeting must reach the League Secretary 21 days before the date of that meeting.

- (c) All amendments or alterations must be properly written out, also stating which Rule is to be changed and which words, if any, are to be deleted.
- (d) No alterations will be made unless supported by a simple majority of the votes present. Votes shall be allocated as follows:-
 - (i) Each team shall have one vote, namely the Captain. If the Captain cannot attend, he should nominate another team member to represent him.
 - (ii) Each Management Committee Member present at the meeting will also have one vote.

CODE OF CONDUCT

42. All players, officials and spectators at League, Cup/Plate matches and the League's Closed Competition shall be subject to the Code of Conduct detailed on the League's official website. Anyone in breach of such Code shall be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with the League's existing Rules.