



WEMBLEY & HARROW TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. OBJECTIVES

The Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League exists to assist and encourage the formation of clubs in our area and to promote the sport of Table Tennis as a worthwhile and rewarding pursuit, providing a facility for players of all ages and of all standards to enjoy the game whether it be in a competitive sense, involved with coaching or purely for recreational purposes.

These aims are best achieved in an atmosphere which is friendly but well-structured and in which all players behave in an appropriate manner and are treated fairly and equally.

2. STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

In order to develop the structure, it is necessary that ALL players are fully aware of the expected standards of behaviour whilst involved in League-organised activities. A failure to do may result in spoiling the enjoyment of others and can be disruptive.

The Management Committee, whose members are unpaid volunteers who give their time and effort in the administration of the League, is charged with upholding appropriate behaviour.

The following standards have been developed to clarify what is expected:

(i) Your purpose in taking part in League competitions is to play Table Tennis and to respect the desire of others who wish to do that under conditions that are conducive to the sport.

(ii) Such an atmosphere requires that you are respectful of the umpire, your team mates, your opponents and others present whilst you are on the table. When not playing, you are expected to appreciate that it is the turn of others and not to disrupt play on yours or any other table by interrupting or distracting with any undue noise or activity or any other behaviour which could be construed as unsporting.

(iii) You should care for the tables and equipment with which you play.

(iv) Swearing (in any language), personal arguments and taunting or humiliation or physical abuse of other players will not be tolerated.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THOSE WHO REPRESENT THE CLUB IN REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

(i) To represent the League (or the County) in competitive events is an honour, which has to be earned by showing appropriate commitment and correct behaviour.

(ii) In representative matches, the League will not tolerate any discourtesy to opponents under any circumstances.

(iii) When not actually involved playing on the table, the other team members are expected to stay in the seating area and support their colleagues.



(iv) It has long been a tradition of our sport that you apologise to your opponent for winning a fortunate point (i.e. with a net cord, edge, etc.) and to not outwardly show anger when your opponent gains a lucky point - it is all part of the game and such luck tends to even itself out. This tradition is paramount to good sportsmanship in the game.

(v) Players are expected to umpire games in the matches in which they are playing. The umpire must take an objective and unbiased view and the players must accept the umpire's decisions.

(vi) Players must be gracious in defeat and congratulate their opponent. Win or lose, do not leave the playing area without shaking hands with your opponent(s) and the umpire.

(vii) Home teams should treat their opponents as guests and ensure their comfort, well-being, refreshments, facilities, etc.

(viii) Players should shake hands before departure and thank the opposing team for the match.

4. MATCHDAY ETIQUETTE

(i) In accordance with League Rule 30, the home team should arrive by 7.30pm to set up the venue. Matches should start not earlier than 7.30 p.m. and not later than 8.00 p.m. If a team has no member ready to commence play by 8.00 p.m., the match will be forfeited to their opponents. Late finishes are a growing problem and a barrier to younger players participating in league games, so please try to ensure a prompt start and finish.

(ii) If you want some pre-match practice time then allow for this in your arrival time.

(iii) The home side must provide a clean match ball and (in League matches) shall complete their names on the match card BEFORE handing the card to their opponents to put theirs down.

(iv) In accordance with League Rule 27, the home side must provide a table or tables in accordance with Table Tennis England regulations, together with a reasonable floor surface, lighting and run back AND the home team shall provide refreshments.

5. GENERAL SUMMARY

The Committee accepts that the large majority of members behave accordingly and it does not wish to offend those who do so. Unfortunately, however, there are often a few players who show no respect for others in their bad behaviour and poor attitudes. The Equality and Inclusion policy and Disciplinary Code provide further guidance in respect of standards of behaviour.

6. POLICY ANNEXE

- EQUALITY AND INCLUSION POLICY (1 page)

- DISCIPLINARY CODE (2 pages)



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EQUALITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

The Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League is committed to ensuring that equality is incorporated across all of its activities. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following aims:

- Equality and inclusion represent fairness in our sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about challenging the culture and structure of table tennis to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.
- The League will respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status and League members are expected to do likewise as individuals.
- The League is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy table tennis in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- All League members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- The League will investigate any reported incidence of discriminatory behaviour, and deal with the results of the investigation in accordance with its disciplinary procedures.



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DISCIPLINARY CODE

MEMBERS' CONDUCT

- a) If any person has cause to complain about the conduct of any member of the Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League whilst they are involved in League activity, the complaint should be made and sent to the Management Committee as soon as possible after the incident occurring;
- b) The Management Committee will contact all parties involved in the incident and ask them to make representations, with any supporting evidence, in good time for the next scheduled committee meeting;
- c) If there are any matters deemed of utmost importance the Secretary will convene an emergency sub-committee meeting to discuss them with at least three committee members present;
- d) When discussing the matter, committee members shall take into consideration the details in appendices A and B below. If any committee member, or their immediate family member (spouse, sibling, child, parent), was a party to the incident then those persons must be excluded from these discussions. The Chairman shall decide whether committee members who have a club connection with those cited should remain in the discussion, with a view to mitigating any potential conflicts of interest which may arise;
- e) During the discussion the committee will:-
 - (i) take into consideration all relevant information provided to them, whether reported or in writing;
 - (ii) come to a conclusion as to what, if any, action should be taken as a result of the evidence provided;
 - (iii) use Appendix C as a guide for any sanctions, if appropriate;
 - (iv) treat all matters independently;
 - (v) advise all parties concerned of the conclusion of the discussions and reasons for the conclusion within seven days of the meeting, in writing by e-mail or post;
- f) If any party to the proceedings is aggrieved with the outcome then they have leave to appeal to the Middlesex Table Tennis Association in writing within 21 days under MTTA Rule 14; this fact should be communicated in the advice given in line with e) (v) above.

If any conduct by any person (member or non-member) is such as to constitute being detrimental to the best interests of the League or dangerous then the Management Committee may temporarily suspend the membership of that member and/or their guest immediately and until the procedure above is completed.



DISCIPLINARY CODE APPENDIX

A. Misconduct Levels

Verbal misconduct

- Level 1 - mild offensive language at another
- Level 2 - offensive language which is persistent
- Level 3 - offensive and aggressive behaviour

Physical misconduct:-

- Level 1 - slight pushing, shoving or to put someone in fear that such is to happen to them
- Level 2 - pushing, shoving which causes another to lose balance, fall or suffer from a minor cut or abrasion
- Level 3 - any behaviour to cause injury to a person such as to require medical treatment which cannot be dealt with at the site of the premises

Miscellaneous

- Theft
- Correct playing etiquette
- Criminal damage to property

B. Additional matters to take into consideration

Aggravating features including but not exclusively

- Presence of young children or vulnerable adults;
- Prolonged course of action;
- Disruption to organised matches or others' enjoyment of table tennis;
- Any ongoing disputes;
- Actions motivated by prejudice of any kind;
- Previous warnings/incidents;
- A group attack.

Mitigating features

- Actual remorse shown as soon as possible after incident;
- Unreasonable provocation;
- Age;
- Behaviour which is out of character;
- Any special personal mitigation.

C. Sanctions available to the Management Committee

1. Written/ verbal apology by the perpetrator(s) to the committee;
2. Written/ verbal apology by the perpetrator(s) to the complainant(s);
3. Suspension period – 1 week; 1 month; 3 months; 6 months; 12 months (except to collect or deliver minors and in which case can take them to the doors but go no further);
4. Indefinite suspension.