

## **NORTHUMBRIA TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

### **1. ALTERATION OF REGULATIONS**

- 1.1. These regulations may be altered only by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Northumberland County Table Tennis Association (NTTA.) which has the power to alter by amending, deleting or making new regulations.
- 1.2. Propositions
  - 1.2.1. Propositions for any changes in regulations for consideration by the AGM may be submitted by a participating club or by a member of the Executive Committee of the NTTA.
  - 1.2.2. Any such proposition for consideration by the AGM must be sent in writing or by email to reach the League Secretary by the last day in May and shall be acknowledged by the League Secretary within seven days.
  - 1.2.3. All propositions so received shall be circulated to all participating clubs at least 21 days before the date of the AGM.
- 1.3. Alterations to these regulations altering entry fees and fines shall be effective for the following season.

### **2. MANAGEMENT**

- 2.1. The League shall be managed by the Executive Committee of the NTTA (Executive Committee).
- 2.2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide any question arising from these regulations and any matter concerning the conduct of the competition which is not specifically covered by these regulations.

### **3. FINANCE**

- 3.1. The NTTA will be responsible for the financial affairs of the League.
- 3.2. All fees and fines will be payable to the NTTA.
- 3.3. Fees.
  - 3.3.1. Each season each club shall pay entry fees the amounts of which are specified in Schedule 'B'.
  - 3.3.2. Each club in membership of the League shall pay a guarantee deposit.
  - 3.3.3. The guarantee deposit shall be repaid to the club when it ceases to take part in the League subject to the club having fulfilled all of its commitments within the League to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.
- 3.4. Appropriate entry fees and guarantee deposits must be received by the Treasurer of the NTTA by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **4. MATCH CONDUCT**

- 4.1. The laws of Table Tennis as adopted by Table Tennis England shall be observed in all matches.
- 4.2. The make of the ball used shall be one of those officially approved for the current season by Table Tennis England and a sufficient number of balls shall be available for the selection of a ball satisfactory to both players. A new ball of '3 star' quality must be available at the start of each match.
- 4.3. All clubs in the league must have for match play a table, lighting and conditions which are, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, of satisfactory standard.
- 4.4. Recommended conditions are set out in Schedule 'A' to these regulations.

### **5. LEAGUE FORMATION**

- 5.1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the League formation as soon as possible after the closing date for receipt of entries. The divisions of the League will be designated, Premier, Division 1, Division 2. etc. depending on the number of teams entered in the league.
- 5.2. Except as provided in 5.4: At the end of each season's competition the two highest placed teams in each division below the Premier division shall be promoted and their places shall be taken by the two lowest placed teams in the next highest division regardless of there being byes in that division.
- 5.3. Teams that have resigned during the season shall be regarded as relegated teams.

- 5.4. Where there are special circumstances the Executive Committee shall decide upon the promotion and relegation of teams between divisions. Requests from teams to be exempt from promotion (or relegation) will not be upheld unless they can demonstrate exceptional circumstances apply, e.g. loss of players that significantly impacts that team's strength.
- 5.5. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies occurring in divisions higher than the bottom division the vacancies will be filled in the following order:
  - 5.5.1. New teams will be placed in a division appropriate to their playing strength.
  - 5.5.2. Teams finishing in third place in the lower division will be promoted to the next division.
  - 5.5.3. Teams finishing second bottom will remain in the same division as the previous season.The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill any remaining vacancies by placing a team in a division appropriate to that team's playing strength.
- 5.6. The Executive Committee shall prepare league fixtures prior to the start of the season.
- 5.7. Each team shall play 1 home and 1 away match against each other team in the same division, except by mutual agreement and with the permission of the League Secretary.
- 5.8. Each team shall designate, on the club entry form submitted before each season, a home match night which shall not be a Saturday or Sunday. In the event of that match falling on a Bank Holiday or religious festival either team may insist upon re-arrangement. (See reg.9).
- 5.9. All changes in club information, including change of match night, shall be notified to the League Secretary in writing or by email with an assurance that the home club secretary will inform all visiting club secretaries of the revised information until a circular notifying the amendment is issued. A fee will be payable if an alteration to the team's match night is made after the start of the season.

## **6. REGISTRATION**

- 6.1. In order to be eligible to play in the league all players must be registered with Table Tennis England as a Compete Member.
- 6.2. The secretary of each club entering the league shall submit, not later than the Monday preceding the start of each season, a team registration form with a minimum of 3 players registered for each team entered.
- 6.3. The Executive Committee may refuse to accept or rescind the registration of a player.
- 6.4. Teams shall be registered on playing ability with the 'A' team being the strongest, etc. A team cannot be registered for a lower division than that of a lower ranked team from the same club. New players must be registered, by informing the League Secretary which team they are registered for, before their first match. No new registration or transfer will be accepted, without the consent of the Executive Committee after 1<sup>st</sup> February in any season.
- 6.5. No player may play for a lower ranked team than that for which they are registered.
- 6.6. A player can play for a higher ranked team than that for which they are registered (but see reg 6.7 and reg 6.8)
- 6.7. If a player plays for higher ranked teams than his registered team on 6 occasions during a season then that player is automatically re-registered for the next higher ranked team that he has played for. That player would be subject to further upwards re-registration if he again plays for higher ranked teams on 6 occasions (including any occasions prior to re-registration).
- 6.8. Where a club has more than one team in any division a player may only play for a team higher than the one for which he/she is registered in that division provided that that player's grading at the commencement of the season is lower than the gradings of the top two players already registered for the higher team concerned.
- 6.9. A player who has played for one club cannot play for another club in the same season except after making representation in writing or by email to, and receiving permission from, the Executive Committee. (For this purpose the Winter League and the Summer League count as separate seasons). Both clubs must agree to the transfer of the player concerned and any club subscription due from that player to the club which he/she is leaving shall be paid before the transfer is allowed to take place. A transfer fee must accompany the transfer application. No such request for transfer will be accepted after 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## 7. MATCH PLAY

- 7.1. Teams shall consist of 3, 4 or 5 players, 3 of whom shall be nominated to play singles and any 2 shall be nominated to play the doubles. The order of play of each set, which can only be altered by mutual agreement between the team captains, shall be:

(1)	A v Y	(2)	C v X	(3)	B v Z	(4)	C v Y	(5)	Doubles
(6)	A v Z	(7)	B v X	(8)	C v Z	(9)	B v Y	(10)	A v X

Where A, B & C are the home team and X, Y & Z are the away team.

Each set shall be the best of 5 games.

- 7.2. Matches shall commence at 7.00pm or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 7.3. Any player not being ready to play within 5 minutes of the announcement of their set or within 5 minutes of completion of the preceding set will forfeit their set. In the event of a complete team failing to be ready to commence a match by 7.30pm the team present and ready to play may claim the match by default. During the period up to 7.30pm up to 3 sets only may be claimed.
- 7.4. The visiting team shall accept any reasonable request by the home team to use additional tables to ensure that the match is completed within the time available. When a team uses a venue which has limited playing time, they shall inform all teams in their division in writing, stating the time by which the match must be completed.

## 8. FULFILMENT OF FIXTURES

- 8.1. Teams being entirely absent on the match night and having failed to contact their opponents at least 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the match shall be liable to a fine and the match will be awarded 10-0 in favour of the non-defaulting team.
- 8.2. When a team is one or more players short of the required number it forfeits the relevant sets, the scorecard being marked 'set forfeited'. When players are absent from both teams the relevant sets are void, the scoresheet being marked 'set void'.
- 8.3. When a match is forfeited for any reason, a scorecard claiming the match must be submitted by the non-defaulting team to the League Secretary and the defaulting team shall be liable to a fine.
- 8.4. In the event of a team forfeiting two or more matches in a winter season or two or more matches in a summer season the record of that team will be expunged from the league table and the team treated as relegated at the end of the season.

## 9. RE-ARRANGED MATCHES

- 9.1. Matches should be played strictly in accordance with the official fixture list and clubs are strongly urged to reject requests for rearrangements especially if they are the home club involved. Requests to rearrange games should be limited to exceptional circumstances and lack of players due to commitments to other leagues should not be accepted as grounds for rearrangement. Where problems in fulfilling fixtures are anticipated, teams are strongly encouraged to bring games forward rather than postpone. Rearrangement of fixtures is permissible subject to 9.2 provided there is mutual agreement between the clubs concerned. Once rearrangement has been agreed, within two weeks of the original date of the fixture, the home club must offer 2 dates (which shall not be a Saturday, Sunday, Bank Holiday, religious festival or clash with scheduled fixture) to the visiting club, one of which dates must be accepted. The home club secretary must inform the League Secretary of the new date. Once a postponed match has been rearranged the rearranged date cannot be changed unless it is to bring the game forward.
- 9.2. No team is allowed to have more than two matches outstanding at any one time, except in the case of a rearrangement under regulation 9.4. An outstanding match is a postponed fixture which does not yet have a rearranged date agreed.
- 9.3. Rearranged fixtures shall be played either ahead of, or as soon as possible after the original date. It is recommended that all outstanding games are played no later than 4 weeks after the original date. All fixtures for the first half of the season must be played before the second half commences. Rearranged fixtures for the second half of the season must be played no later than the final scheduled week of the season or any extension thereof agreed by the Executive Committee. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the match being awarded 10-0 to the away team and the home team incurring a fine.

- 9.4. A club may insist on a match being re-arranged if a team member is required for international or Northumberland County/League representative duties or business as a member of the Executive Committee.

#### **10. MATCH CARDS**

- 10.1. For any fixture the home club secretary shall arrange for a match card to be submitted online, or inform the League Secretary of any postponement within 48 hours of the scheduled start time of the fixture. Failure to comply will result in a fine for the club concerned.
- 10.2. In the event of a match card being submitted incorrectly a fine will be imposed for each error or omission.
- 10.3. In the event of a deliberate falsification of a completed match card the offending club will be fined and may have points deducted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

#### **11. MERIT POINTS**

- 11.1. Merit Points will be awarded on the basis of 1 point for each set won.
- 11.2. League positions shall be decided on merit points, or in the event of merit points being equal, on games won in each of the league matches in the relevant season between the tied teams or, on total games won, or on that being equal on points won.

#### **12. COMPLAINTS**

- 12.1. Failure to comply with these regulations shall not entitle the opposing club to claim a match, except as provided for in reg. 7.3, but may be grounds for a complaint, or a claim that the match be forfeited.
- 12.2. In either case notice shall be given in writing or by email by the secretary of the complainant club to the League Secretary and to the secretary of any other club involved. The secretary of the alleged offending club shall, within 7 days of receipt of such complaint, send a response to the League Secretary and the secretary of the complainant club if it is wished to refute the statements made. The matter will then be dealt with by the Executive Committee.

#### **13. GENERAL**

- 13.1. Attendance by a club currently in membership of the winter league at the NTTA Annual General Meeting is compulsory.
- 13.2. No affiliated players or clubs may take part in competition with any players or clubs or in exhibition at any club or under any auspices not registered with the I.T.T.F.

#### **14. DISCIPLINARY**

- 14.1. Sections 12 and 13 of the N.T.T.A. Constitution apply.
- 14.2. All clubs and players shall conduct themselves in accordance with Table Tennis England Code of Conduct. The disciplinary procedure of the NTTA will be based on the Disciplinary Procedure of Table Tennis England as set out in the Articles and Regulations of the Company and summarised in Schedule 'D' to these Regulations.

#### **15. RIGHT OF APPEAL**

- 15.1. Section 14 of the NTTA Constitution applies.
- 15.2. Any individual or club aggrieved by a decision or action of the Disciplinary Committee may appeal against such decision or action to the Board of Appeal of Table Tennis England.

## 16. SUMMER LEAGUE VARIATIONS

### Regulation

- 3.4 Replace '31<sup>st</sup> October' with '30<sup>th</sup> June'.
- 6.4 Replace '1<sup>st</sup> February' with '1<sup>st</sup> July'.
- 6.7 Replace '6 occasions' with '4 occasions' (twice).
- 6.8 This regulation does not apply
- 6.9 Replace '1st February' with '1st July'
- 8.1 Replace '10-0' with '30-0'
- 9.3 Replace '10-0' with '30-0'
- 11.1 Replace 'each set' with 'each game'
- 11.2 Replace wording with 'League positions shall be decided on merit points, or in the event of merit points being equal, on sets won in each of the league matches in the relevant season between the tied teams or, on total sets won, or on that being equal on points won'.

## SCHEDULE 'A' TO REGULATIONS

Match Conduct – Recommendations (see regulation 4.4).

### Playing Conditions:

1. Playing area should be a minimum of 25ft (7.63m) by 15ft (4.58m) and free from obstruction.
2. The floor, and covering if any, shall be firm and even and shall provide good footing for players.
3. The playing area shall be adequately lit by electric light which should be evenly distributed and should not un-sight the players.
4. The end walls of match rooms should not be white or near white in colour.

### Players Clothing:

1. It is recommended that clothing worn during play shall be in accordance with English Table Tennis Association regulations.

## SCHEDULE 'B' TO REGULATIONS – FEES

	<u>Reg</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Team Entry fee – Winter League	3.3.1	£50.00
Summer League	3.3.1	£30.00
Guarantee Deposit – per club	3.3.2.	£10.00
Alteration of match night after the start of the season – per team	5.8	£ 1.00
Transfer fee	6.8	£ 5.00
Surcharge for late payment of winter league fees – per club		
Not received by 31 <sup>st</sup> October within season	3.4	£10.00; and
further surcharge for non-payment by 30 <sup>th</sup> November		£10.00; and
further surcharge for non-payment by 31 <sup>st</sup> December		£10.00; and
exclusion from the league at the discretion of the Executive Committee		
Surcharge for non-payment of summer league fees – per club		
Not received by 30 <sup>th</sup> June within season	3.4	£10.00; and
and further surcharge for non-payment by 31 <sup>st</sup> July		£10.00; and
and further surcharge for non-payment by 31 <sup>st</sup> August		£10.00; and
and exclusion from the league at the discretion of the directors.		

## SCHEDULE 'C' TO REGULATIONS – FINES

	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Failure of team to arrive at scheduled match	8.1	£10.00
(This amount to be credited to the non-offending team and set against their existing or future fees and fines).		
Team forfeiting a scheduled match	8.3	£10.00
(This amount to be credited to the non-offending team and set against their existing or future fees and fines).		
Failure to comply with regulation regarding rearranged fixtures	9.3	£ 2.00
Failure to submit match card online within 48 hours of the scheduled match	10.1	£ 3.00
Match card submitted incorrectly completed per error or omission	10.2	£ 1.00
Falsification of completed match card	10.3	£ 5.00
Failure to attend Annual General Meeting – per club	13.1	£10.00

## **SCHEDULE 'D' DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

1. Investigation of alleged breaches of the Disciplinary Code will be carried out by the Disciplinary Committee of the NTTA. (See Sections 12 and 13 of the NTTA Constitution).
- 1a The Disciplinary Committee at any hearing will consist of at least three of the five members appointed by the Executive Committee each of whom will be independent and will have no interest in the matter to be discussed.
2. Any player/club charged with a breach of the Disciplinary Code shall be furnished with details in writing of such charge and required to respond to that charge in writing within 14 days. If then required, the Disciplinary Committee will convene a Hearing of all parties relevant to the charge within a further 14 days/as soon as possible.
- 2a No member shall without good and sufficient cause absent him/herself from a Hearing after having been requested with reasonable notice to attend or refuse to answer any question put to them in connection with the alleged breach if the Disciplinary Committee direct them to answer.
- 2b Any player charged may be accompanied at a Hearing by one other person of their choice who is not a witness. The player charged may give and call evidence in rebuttal of the allegation; cross-examine any witness who gives evidence in support of the allegation; and address the Disciplinary Committee to sum up their answer to the allegation/speak in mitigation of any proven breach.
- 2c Members of the Disciplinary Committee are empowered to ask questions of the player charged and the complainant as they see fit.
- 2d The Disciplinary Committee shall consider its decision in private and reach a conclusion as to whether the allegation is proved. If a formal allegation is deemed to have been proven, and having listened to any plea in mitigation, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose one or more of the penalties specified in Section 13.9 of the NTTA Constitution.
- 2e A Decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be deemed to be a decision of the NTTA and binding on all members, subject to the right of appeal as set out in Section 14 of the NTTA Constitution. The Disciplinary Committee can review any of its decisions at any time in accordance with the guidelines approved by the ETTA as detailed in Appendix E of the ETTA. Rules.