

ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

NAME: BRISTOL AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

1. The Association shall be called the Bristol and District Table Tennis Association, and shall be affiliated to Table Tennis England and Avon Table Tennis Associations.

OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Association shall be as follows:
 - a) To conduct an annual competition between affiliated clubs, to be called the Bristol and District Table Tennis League.
 - b) To conduct an annual competition between affiliated clubs of Table Tennis England to be called the Gilbert Belsten Memorial Knockout Competition.
 - c) To conduct an annual competition between affiliated clubs to be called the Morley C Mordecai Memorial Handicap Competition.
 - d) To conduct an annual competition between members of affiliated clubs to be called the Bristol Closed Championships.
 - e) To encourage the formation of Table Tennis clubs in the Bristol District.
 - f) To actively promote participation within key groups, namely, women and girls, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minority communities and people from socially excluded communities in accordance with Sport England's and Table Tennis England's equity objectives.

CONSTITUTION

3. The Association shall consist of duly elected officers, clubs and individual members who may be deemed eligible for membership.

MEMBERSHIP

4. Every club and individual enumerated under Rule 3 shall complete the affiliation form in force for the time being, and shall sign on his/her behalf or by the Club Secretary, Chairperson or other duly appointed official on behalf of the club. NB: A club shall remain affiliated from the previous season until the date upon which it is required to affiliate for the following season. An individual shall be considered to remain affiliated from the previous season until the date upon which he/she is required to affiliate for the following season.
 - a) All individual members must be affiliated to Table Tennis England at the same or higher level as their participation within the Association or Association Club play.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

5. The annual subscription shall be as follows:
 - a) Schedule Item 1 will apply for each team (see Association Rule 9). All entry forms must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.
 - b) An Individual Registration Fee of Schedule Item 2 will apply and shall be paid by all members taking part in League Play. An additional Schedule Item 20 will apply and shall be paid by all members taking part in league play to meet the cost of providing third party liability insurance cover for all players.
 - c) Non-playing members of affiliated clubs Schedule Item 3 will apply.
 - d) Any liability to VAT on affiliation fees payable to the Table Tennis England and/or Avon County Table Tennis Association shall be recovered in the form of a similar surcharge on domestic Player's Registration fees.

OFFICERS

6. The Honorary Officers of the Association, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, shall be: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, and Registration Secretary. The Association shall have powers to further elect a President and Vice Presidents. All officers will retire annually but shall be eligible for

re-election. The Executive Committee shall have power to create and fill any other office which, in its opinion, is necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7. The Association shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers and up to fifteen other members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Executive Committee members shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee but any member or members so appointed shall hold office only until the next Annual General Meeting. Standing Subcommittees: At its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall appoint standing Subcommittees to deal with the following matters: Handbook, Finance, Selection, League Umpires, Tournaments, Development, Coaching, Trophies, Junior League, and Summer League. Subcommittees: The Executive Committee may delegate any of its duties to subcommittees consisting of such persons as it thinks fit. Each Subcommittee appointed by the Executive Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary where necessary (the Association Chairman and Secretary to be ex-officio members) one of whom will be responsible for presenting to the Association Secretary the report of the Subcommittee.

FINANCE

8. Accounting arrangements:
- a) The financial year of the Association shall end on the 30th June in each year and an audited statement of accounts up to and including this date shall be presented annually and circulated to the affiliated clubs and members. The Association Treasurer shall send a request for any fines imposed to Club Secretaries, which must be paid within seven days of receipt.
 - b) An Officer or Executive Committee Member, acting in good faith on behalf of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association in respect of any personal liability arising there-from. The Association clubs shall be guarantors for this the Association
 - c) No contracts, either written or implied, shall be entered into on behalf of the Association without prior approval of the Executive Committee, or the Chairman and Treasurer, or Secretary and Treasurer.
 - d) The appointed League Representative Company Member elected by the Association will have a limited liability to contribute up to a maximum of £10.00 in the event that Table Tennis England becomes insolvent.
 - e) The funds of the Association shall be lodged at a bank, and all cheques, drafts, etc. drawn on the account shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other authorised signatory. All such expenditure must be approved by the Executive Committee.
 - f) If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association, there remains any property whatsoever after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Association, and if effect cannot be given to such provision then to some other purpose approved by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise.
9. **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CHARGES** The Association will operate a Schedule of Charges (referred to as the "Schedule") which will define fees, fines, and other financial values that apply to the Association. The Schedule may be amended at any time, subject to the approval of a General Meeting. For changes to be applied to the Schedule a simple majority will be required. On adoption at a General Meeting changes to the Schedule will take immediate effect.
10. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during May or June, when the Annual Report of the Executive Committee and Financial Statement of Accounts shall be presented.
 - b) At least fourteen days' notice specifying the Place, Date and Hour, Agenda, Nominated Officers and members of the Executive Committee, shall be given to all affiliated clubs and members. A note by post to

the last notified address of each club secretary will be deemed to cover all members of that club. The Annual General Meeting is open to all affiliated members.

- c) At all General Meetings each club may be represented by one member for each team entered. Voting power shall be one vote per team; one delegate may not vote for more than one team.
 - d) Before any resolution affecting the constitution of the Association can be declared carried, at least three-fifths of the total votes cast shall be in favour of the resolution.
 - e) It shall be the duty of the Annual General Meeting to elect two Auditors, (not members of the Executive Committee), who shall take office from the day following the Meeting.
11. SPECIAL OR GENERAL MEETING Two General Meetings shall be held, one prior to the start of the season and the Rules Meeting early in the New Year. A special General Meeting of the Association shall be convened on a resolution of the Executive Committee, or within three weeks of receipt by the Secretary of a resolution signed by the authorised representatives of at least ten per cent of the affiliated clubs, and Rule 9 regarding circulation of notices and procedures shall apply as at the Annual General Meeting. A Special General Meeting shall have the same power of control of the Association as the Annual General Meeting. Clubs failing to be represented at Annual, Special, or General Meetings shall be fined (see Schedule). No club or individual shall vote at any meeting on any protest or dispute concerning themselves or their club.
12. ALTERATION OF RULES
- a) No addition to, alteration or rescission of the Rules shall be effected unless at the Rules Meeting which shall be held in February. Any proposed addition to, or alteration or rescission of the Rules shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary before 31st December or together with the demand for a Special General Meeting.
 - b) All proposed additions to, alterations. or rescissions of the Rules shall be circulated to all affiliated clubs and members, together with the Agenda, not later than fourteen days before the date fixed for the Rules Meeting or Special General Meeting. In the event of any question or matter arising which is not provided for in the foregoing Rules, such question or matter should be dealt with by the Executive Committee, subject to confirmation by the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, whose decision shall be final. All alterations to the handbook should be notified in writing to the General Secretary, Registration Secretary and Secretary of clubs concerned.
13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- a) Nomination forms for election of Officers, including Executive Committee, shall be forwarded by the General Secretary to all Secretaries of clubs in membership at least twenty-eight days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Each club shall be entitled to nominate as many persons as there are vacancies to be filled, and no more. No nominations will be effective unless received by the General Secretary within fourteen days of the issue of the nomination paper.
 - b) The voting for the election of Officers, including Executive Committee, shall be as laid down in Rule 10.
 - c) If there are more valid nominations than vacancies to be filled. Each elector shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled.
 - d) The Executive Committee will select a member of the Association to act as Table Tennis England Company Member and representative of the Association with Table Tennis England.
14. LEAGUE REFEREE At its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee shall appoint a League Referee whose terms of reference shall be as set out in this handbook.
15. LIFE MEMBERS Life Members shall be nominated by the Executive Committee only, and if approved by the Annual General Meeting, shall be allowed to attend all General Meetings and be automatically admitted to any representative matches and special functions of the Association.

League Rules General

1. Any club affiliated to the Bristol and District Table Tennis Association shall be eligible to compete in the League.

2. The number of teams in any Division shall not exceed fourteen.
3. League matches shall start on the 4th Monday of September with a break at Christmas.
4. All matches shall be played in strict accordance with the rules and laws issued by TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND, unless otherwise stated.
5.
 - a) Any club official or member of the Association offending against the Rules of the Association, or behaving in a manner likely to bring the game into disrepute, may be given details in writing of the charge and be summoned before a hearing of the full Executive Committee, or a similar disciplinary body, who shall then determine what action shall be taken.
 - b) Should any question or dispute arise which is not covered by the Rules, it shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
6.
 - a) Any individual or club aggrieved by a decision or action of this League or of a Committee, Officer or Official of the League, may apply to the Executive Committee to review such decision or action and the Executive Committee shall arrange a meeting if requested.
 - b) Any such application for review shall be made in writing to the General Secretary within fourteen days of notification of the decision or action for which review is sought.
 - c) The right of appeal against any decision or action of this League, or of a Committee, Officer or Official of the League, including a decision of the Executive Committee on a review under this Rule, and the procedure to be followed, is clearly laid down in the official Table Tennis England Handbook . Notwithstanding this, full details of this right and procedure shall be given to any club official or member who so requests, by the General Secretary, provided the request is made in writing within seven days of the notification of the decision or action.

CONDITIONS AND DRESS

7. Clubs must provide adequate space and lighting facilities. Any objection to the playing conditions must be raised by the visiting captain prior to the commencement of or during the match. The match must be played unless it is considered by the captain of either team that the condition of the floor is or has become dangerous. Any objection to playing conditions must be reported to the General Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee.
8. It is recommended by the Executive Committee that a minimum playing space be 6.40 metres x 4.00 metres
9.
 - a) It is recommended that players should wear suitable footwear during play, unless prevented from doing so by a physical disability. All clubs shall have the right to ban any player from match play should he/she not comply with this recommendation
 - b) The main colour of a shirt, skirt or shorts, other than the sleeves and collar of a shirt, shall be clearly different from that of the ball in use.

TEAMS

10.
 - a) All teams shall consist of three players for the singles sets. Additional player or players may be introduced for the doubles set.
 - b) Clubs having more than one team shall register distinct teams and name a minimum of three players for each team registered, before any league matches are played.
11. Should a club or club team retire from the League for any reason during the season, no money shall be returned. All matches played by them shall be ignored.

PLAYERS

- 12.
- a) All players must be registered with Table Tennis England and BDTTA and the full registration fee paid to the Association Treasure and the full registration fees paid to the league before becoming eligible to play in a league match. No player shall register for more than one club at a time.
 - b) The Executive Committee shall have the power to refuse registration.
 - c) After the 31st January no new registration can be accepted unless approved by the Executive Committee.
13. No transfer to another club will be considered, unless application is made to the General Secretary by the Secretary of the player's original club. Any transfer approved shall take effect from the date of the Executive Meeting approval.
- 14.
- a) No player shall assist a team in a lower division or another team in the same division to that in which he/she is originally registered, unless the transfer has been sanctioned by the Registration Secretary. A team is able to call upon a 'colleague' from another team in their club in the same division. to play for them once during the season but that player will not be eligible to play in the doubles match. This rule will only apply where a club has more than one team in 'their' bottom division.
 - b) A player can appeal for such transfer provided that he/she has missed three consecutive matches in a higher division.
 - c) After playing an aggregate of four times in divisions higher than for which he/she originally registered, a player shall no longer assist the original team. He/she shall automatically become eligible only to assist the highest team that he/she has assisted as a reserve. Should he/she afterwards assist a team more than twice, in a still higher division, he/she shall become eligible only to assist that team.
15. No player may register for a team more than one division lower than the team for which he/she was registered to play at the end of the preceding season, without the approval of the Executive Committee.
16. Any club playing an ineligible player may be fined (see Schedule of Charges) and the sets concerned shall be lost.

MATCHES

17. Teams in all divisions shall play one home and one away match with each of the other teams in the same division, the home team to have choice of date. Should home nights not be published in the Association's Handbook or electronic equivalent, the Secretary of the home club shall give seven clear days' notice to the opponents. All matches must be completed by the date specified as the official end date of each season.
- 18.
- a) A match shall comprise nine singles sets, each the best of five games, 11 points up, between three players of one side playing the three of the other side once, and a doubles set, the best of five games, 11 up.
 - b) Each set won will count as one point to a maximum of ten points. (c) If only two players from each team turn up for a match, the tenth set will be awarded to the winning team.
- 19.
- a) All matches must start not later than 7.30pm, or in exceptional circumstances, (see below), not later than an Executive Approved start time which shall be shown in the handbook. After the relevant start time, no "knocking up" shall be permitted, with the exception of a maximum period of two minutes between contestants, to be taken immediately prior to the commencement of their set.
 - b) The Executive Committee will only approve a variation to the 7.30pm start time in exceptional circumstances, related to the availability of the home venue/premises. This could include the curtailment of a pre-match knock-up.
 - c) Should any player not have made his appearance when required to play by reason of the opposing captain's nomination, the set shall be lost by forfeit.

d) If no member of a team has appeared within 15 minutes of the 7.30pm start time (OR the Executive Approved start time, if applicable), that team may be liable to forfeit the match, subject to ratification by the Executive Committee.

20.

a) An Umpire shall be mutually agreed upon before the start of each set.

b) At the commencement of a League Match, the team captains shall decide by lot, which shall have the first choice in player nomination. The winner shall have the choice of first nominating a player from his/her team, or requiring the loser to first nominate a player from their team. The choice shall alternate for each set.

c) For the ten minutes prior to the agreed commencement of a match the visiting team shall have the sole use of the match table for practice. Unless overridden by an Executive Committee agreed change, as per LR 19 b).

SCORE SHEETS

21. The result of a match must be entered into the Bristol League approved electronic system within 5 days of the completion of the match. Any match score not submitted within this period will result in a fine for the home team (see Schedule) for each request sent to the home team by the Executive Committee.

22. Alternate arrangements from the above should be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and agreed. Failure to comply with the agreed method and period of result submission will result in a fine for the home team (see Schedule) for each request sent to the home team by the Executive Committee.

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

23. Premier Division: The two bottom teams relegated, Division 1 and below: The two top teams promoted and 2 bottom teams relegated.

24. Where promotion or relegation positions are the subject of ties on points won, the procedure to decide the final positions will be as follows:

a) The greatest number of sets won (including walkovers) by a team in the aggregate of the two matches played between them shall decide the tie.

b) In the event of a tie on the aggregate number of sets won then the games won shall decide (walkovers discounted). c) In the event of a tie on games won the greatest number of points won shall decide.

25.

a) Teams finishing in promotion places at the end of a season shall take their place in a higher division for the next season, if any ONE or more players winning promotion stays with the club.

b) Where all these players leave the club and only players of a lower division standard are available to the club, application may be made to the Executive Committee to use its discretion to waive this requirement.

c) Such discretion can only be used if application is made by 1st July to the Registration Secretary. The two teams in bottom positions will be relegated, any vacant positions will be filled on the discretion of the Executive Committee by judging the strength of the teams in contention.

26. Should a club change its name due to circumstances which the Executive Committee shall consider beyond the control of that club, the position of its team(s) in the League for the previous season shall be retained for allocation purposes in the ensuing season, provided the players are substantially the same.

27. Should any team wish to transfer from one club to another, and the Secretaries of both clubs agree in writing to the transfer, then at the discretion of the Executive Committee, the position of the team in the League for the previous season can be retained for allocation purposes in the ensuing season, provided the players are substantially the same.

RESIGNATIONS

28. Should any team(s) resign from the League, their places may be filled at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

29. The team(s) to be promoted, after normal promotions have been made, shall be the team(s) with the greatest number of points won. If there is a tie then the positions shall be decided under Rule 31.

NEW TEAMS

30. Normally, all new teams joining the League shall compete in the lowest division.
31. Should a team consider that they are entering a new team of ability well in excess of that of the lowest division, they should submit a request for special consideration to the Executive Committee by 1st July.
- a) The request shall set out the players' names for that team, and their table tennis history.
 - b) Any such request will only be considered if a suitable vacancy exists.

UNFINISHED MATCHES

32. Where a match was not completed on the agreed date, the home team must offer two dates, (not a Saturday or a Sunday unless mutually agreed with their opponents), nor a night which clashes with their opponent's scheduled league fixtures, giving at least 14 days' notice. The dates offered must be copied to Executive Committee Member responsible for cancellations. The away team must reply within 10 days, with the Executive Committee Member responsible for cancellations being notified of the accepted date. Failure by either side to comply with this will result in a fine.

WALKOVERS

33. A team conceding a walkover either under Rule or by a decision of the Executive Committee shall be fined (see Schedule) for each walkover conceded and forfeit all ten sets. Any team conceding more than two walkovers in any one season shall not be eligible to play in the league in the following season, subject to any extenuating circumstances accepted by the Executive Committee.
34. All claims for walkovers must be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

TROPHIES

- 35.
- a) Three individual trophies will be awarded to each of the divisional winners and runners-up. Requests for additional trophies must be made to the Registration Secretary or Trophy Subcommittee at least three weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. The cost of additional trophies will be met by the club requesting them.
 - b) The question of League awards shall be left to the Executive Committee.
- 36.
- a) Teams or individuals winning a perpetual trophy must return it to the Association Treasurer or Trophy Subcommittee by the date of the Rules General Meeting held in February (see "Important dates to remember" in the handbook).
 - b) Teams or individuals failing to return trophies by the due date will incur a fine as specified (see Schedule).
 - c) Perpetual Trophies are:-Teams or individuals failing to return trophies by the due date will incur a fine as specified (see Schedule).
 - d) Perpetual Trophies are: League Awards, Morley Mordecai and Belsten Cups, Closed Championship Trophies.
37. Arrangements shall be made at the first Executive Meeting of the season for the Bristol Closed Championships, Gilbert Belsten Memorial Cup Competition and Morley C Mordecai Cup Competition.

POSTPONED MATCHES

38. Postponements shall be limited to two per team per season. Thereafter teams must either play without a full side or include reserves from lower divisions if available.
- 39.
- a) Matches played on a different night, during the same week of the original fixture, and matches prior to the week of the original fixture are exempt from this rule.

- b) Matches due to be played on all Statutory Public Holidays may be changed without counting against the maximum two postponements allowed under this rule. However, the Registration Secretary must be advised and the same procedure followed as for normal postponement.

40.

- a) A club/team wishing to postpone a match should notify their opponents' team captain at least 48 hours before the scheduled match time. If the notification is made within 48 hours of the scheduled match time the opposing team captain can decide whether to accept the request for a postponement or request a walkover. The opponent's team captain must be contacted on the email address or telephone number(s) that are in the current handbook or on the website or as previously notified as a change by the League Fixture Secretary, no previous contact details (from old handbooks) may be used. If an email is sent or a message left on an answer phone, then the postponing team should ask for an urgent acknowledgement of the communication. Should no confirmation from the opposing team captain be received within 48 hours of the original notification or within 24 hours of the scheduled match time (whichever comes first), then contact should be tried again by telephone, and the League Fixture Secretary notified.
- b) All postponements should be notified to the Executive Committee Member responsible for monitoring cancellations within 2 days of the scheduled date of the fixture by the team captain who postponed the match. The Executive Committee Member responsible for cancellations must be notified of the re-arranged date within 28 days of the original date by the club originally postponing the match. Any club failing to do so will be fined (see Schedule).
- c) Following a postponement the home team must offer two dates, (not a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday unless mutually agreed with their opponents), nor a night which clashes with their opponents scheduled league fixtures, giving at least 14 days' notice. The dates offered must be copied to the Executive Committee Member responsible for postponements. The away team must reply, within 10 days, with the Executive Committee Member responsible for postponements being notified of the accepted date. Failure by either team to comply with this requirement will result in a fine (see Schedule).

POSTPONEMENTS

In order to assist administration please ensure all the following information is provided as part of the notification both for the original postponement and when providing notification of rearrangement. Division, Original Match Date, Home Team v Away Team, Postponing team. Postponement Form available on 365 Web site. The information is needed to fully reference which match has been postponed and will avoid the need to try to identify the match in question based on incomplete information. Please be considerate when requesting postponements. Do not leave the postponement until the last moment when it is known well in advance that a postponement will be needed. If a late postponement is unavoidable, please contact the opposition by phone to make sure they have received the notification, and do not assume that an email or letter has been received and read in time. Try to bring matches forward rather than postpone. Make sure the (Registration Secretary) is sent the Postponement Form on the 365 web site. This will help administration in the event disputes arise and will reduce the possibility of a fine for failing to notify the league.

TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND APPROVED LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS 2015/16

2. Note: Laws shown in italics are additions approved by Table Tennis England and do not form a part of the ITTF Laws of Table Tennis.
- 2.1. THE TABLE
- 2.1.1. The upper surface of the table, known as the playing surface, shall be rectangular, 2.74 m long and 1.525m wide, and shall lie in a horizontal plane 76 cm above the floor.
- 2.1.2. The playing surface shall not include the vertical sides of the table-top.

- 2.1.3. The playing surface may be of any material and shall yield a uniform bounce of about 23cm when a standard ball is dropped on to it from a height of 30cm.
- 2.1.4. The playing surface shall be uniformly dark coloured and matt, but with a white side line, 2cm wide, along each 2.74m edge and a white end line, 2cm wide, along each 1.525m edge.
- 2.1.5. The playing surface shall be divided into 2 equal courts by a vertical net running parallel with the end lines, and shall be continuous over the whole area of each court.
- 2.1.6. For doubles, each court shall be divided into 2 equal half-courts by a white centre line, 3mm wide, running parallel with the side lines; the centre line shall be regarded as part of each right half-court.
- 2.2. THE NET ASSEMBLY
- 2.2.1. The net assembly shall consist of the net, its suspension and the supporting posts, including the clamps attaching them to the table.
- 2.2.2. The net shall be suspended by a cord attached at each end to an upright post 15.25cm high, the outside limits of the post being 15.25cm outside the side line.
- 2.2.3. The top of the net, along its whole length, shall be 15.25cm above the playing surface.
- 2.2.4. The bottom of the net, along its whole length, shall be as close as possible to the playing surface and the ends of the net shall be as close as possible to the supporting posts.
- 2.3. THE BALL
- 2.3.1. The ball shall be spherical, with a diameter of 40mm.
- 2.3.2. The ball shall be of a weight approved by Table Tennis England
- 2.3.3. The ball shall be made of plastic material and shall be white or orange, and matt.
- 2.3.4. The ball shall be of a brand and type currently approved by the ITTF.
- 2.4. THE RACKET
- 2.4.1. The racket may be of any size, shape or weight but the blade shall be flat and rigid.
- 2.4.2. At least 85% of the blade by thickness shall be of natural wood; an adhesive layer within the blade may be reinforced with fibrous material such as carbon fibre, glass fibre or compressed paper, but shall not be thicker than 7.5% of the total thickness or 0.35mm, whichever is the smaller.
- 2.4.3. A side of the blade used for striking the ball shall be covered with either ordinary pimples rubber, with pimples outwards having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 2.0mm, or sandwich rubber, with pimples inwards or outwards, having a total thickness including adhesive of not more than 4.0mm.
- 2.4.3.1. Ordinary pimples rubber is a single layer of non-cellular rubber, natural or synthetic, with pimples evenly distributed over its surface at a density of not less than 10/cm² and not more than 30/cm².
- 2.4.3.2. Sandwich rubber is a single layer of cellular rubber covered with a single outer layer of ordinary pimples rubber, the thickness of the pimples rubber not being more than 2mm.
- 2.4.4. The covering material shall extend up to but not beyond the limits of the blade, except that the part nearest the handle and gripped by the fingers may be left uncovered or covered with any material.
- 2.4.5. The blade, any layer within the blade and any layer of covering material or adhesive on a side used for striking the ball shall be continuous and of even thickness.
- 2.4.6. The surface of the covering material on a side of the blade, or of a side of the blade if it is left uncovered, shall be matt, bright red on one side and black on the other.
- 2.4.7. The racket covering shall be used without any chemical, physical or other treatment.
- 2.4.7.1. Slight deviations from continuity of surface or uniformity of colour due to accidental damage or wear may be allowed provided that they do not significantly change the characteristics of the surface.
- 2.4.8. At the start of a match and whenever he changes his racket during a match a player shall show his opponent and the umpire the racket he is about to use and shall allow them to examine it.
- 2.4.9. The racket covering shall be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF.
- 2.4.10. A racket shall not be changed during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used.
- 2.5. DEFINITIONS

- 2.5.1. A rally is the period during which the ball is in play.
- 2.5.2. The ball is in play from the last moment at which it is stationary on the palm of the free hand before being intentionally projected in service until the rally is decided as a let or a point.
- 2.5.3. A let is a rally of which the result is not scored.
- 2.5.4. A point is a rally of which the result is scored.
- 2.5.5. The racket hand is the hand carrying the racket.
- 2.5.6. The free hand is the hand not carrying the racket; the free arm is the arm of the free hand.
- 2.5.7. A player strikes the ball if he touches it in play with his racket, held in the hand, or with his racket hand below the wrist.
- 2.5.8. A player obstructs the ball if he, or anything he wears or carries, touches it in play when it is above or travelling towards the playing surface, not having touched his court since last being struck by his opponent.
- 2.5.9. The server is the player due to strike the ball first in a rally.
- 2.5.10. The receiver is the player due to strike the ball second in a rally.
- 2.5.11. The umpire is the person appointed to control a match.
- 2.5.12. The assistant umpire is the person appointed to assist the umpire with certain decisions.
- 2.5.13. Anything that a player wears or carries includes anything that he was wearing or carrying, other than the ball, at the start of the rally.
- 2.5.14. The ball shall be regarded as passing over or around the net assembly if it passes anywhere other than between the net and the net post or between the net and the playing surface.
- 2.5.15. The end line shall be regarded as extending indefinitely in both directions.
- 2.6. THE SERVICE
- 2.6.1. Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.
- 2.6.2. The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.
- 2.6.3. As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then, after passing over or around the net assembly, touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.
- 2.6.4. From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.
- 2.6.5. As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the area between the ball and the net.
- 2.6.6. It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can be satisfied that he complies with the requirements of the Law and either may decide that a service is illegal.
- 2.6.6.1. If either the umpire or the assistant umpire is not sure about the legality of a service he may, on the first occasion in a match, interrupt play and warn the server, but any subsequent service by that player or his doubles partner which is not clearly legal shall be considered incorrect.
- 2.6.7. Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a good service where he is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.
- 2.7. THE RETURN
- 2.7.1. The ball, having been served or returned, shall be struck so that it passes over or around the net assembly and touches the opponent's court, either directly or after touching the net assembly.
- 2.8. THE ORDER OF PLAY
- 2.8.1. In singles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return and thereafter server and receiver alternately shall each make a return.

- 2.8.2. In doubles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return, the partner of the server shall then make a return, the partner of the receiver shall then make a return and there after each player in turn in that sequence shall make a return.
- 2.8.3. When two players who are in wheel chairs owing to a physical disability are a pair playing doubles, the server shall first make a service, the receiver shall then make a return, but there after either player of the disabled pair may make a return. However, no part of a player's wheelchair shall protrude beyond the imaginary extension of the centre line of the table. If it does, the umpire shall award the point to the opposing pair.
- 2.9. A LET
- 2.9.1. The rally shall be a let,
- 2.9.1.1. if in service the ball, in passing over or around the net assembly, touches it, provided the service is otherwise correct or the ball is obstructed by the receiver or his partner;
- 2.9.1.2. if the service is delivered when the receiving player or pair is not ready, provided that neither the receiver nor his partner attempts to strike the ball;
- 2.9.1.3. if failure to make a service or a return or otherwise to comply with the Laws is due to a disturbance outside the control of the player;
- 2.9.1.4. if play is interrupted by the umpire or assistant umpire.
- 2.9.1.5. if the receiver is in a wheelchair owing to a physical disability and the ball, provided the service is otherwise good.
- 2.9.1.5.1. leaves the receiver's court after touching it in the direction of the net.
- 2.9.1.5.2. comes to rest on the receiver's court;
- 2.9.1.5.3. in singles leaves the receiver's court after touching by either of its sidelines.
- 2.9.2. Play may be interrupted
- 2.9.2.1. to correct an error in the order of serving, receiving or ends;
- 2.9.2.2. to introduce the expedite system;
- 2.9.2.3. to warn or penalise a player or adviser;
- 2.9.2.4. because the conditions of play are disturbed in a way which could affect the outcome of the rally.
- 2.10. A POINT
- 2.10.1. Unless the rally is a let, a player shall score a point
- 2.10.1.1. if his opponent fails to make a correct service;
- 2.10.1.2. if his opponent fails to make a correct return;
- 2.10.1.3. if, after he has made a service or a return, the ball touches anything other than the net assembly before being struck by his opponent;
- 2.10.1.4. if the ball passes over his court or beyond his end line without touching his court, after being struck by his opponent;
- 2.10.1.5. his opponent obstructs the ball;
- 2.10.1.6. if his opponent deliberately strikes the ball twice successively;
- 2.10.1.7. if his opponent strikes the ball with a side of the racket blade whose surface does not comply with the requirements of 2.4.3-2.4.6;
- 2.10.1.8. if his opponent, or anything his opponent wears or carries, moves the playing surface;
- 2.10.1.9. if his opponent, or anything his opponent wears or carries, touches the net assembly;
- 2.10.1.10. if his opponent's free hand touches the playing surface;
- 2.10.1.11. if a doubles opponent strikes the ball out of the sequence established by the first server and first receiver;
- 2.10.1.12. as provided under the expedite system (2.15.4).
- 2.10.1.13. if both players are in wheelchairs owing to physical disability and
- 2.10.1.13.1. his opponent does not maintain a minimum contact with the seat or cushions with the back of the thigh when the ball is struck;
- 2.10.1.13.2. his opponent touches the table with either hand before striking the ball;

- 2.10.1.13.3. his opponent's footrest or foot touches the floor during play
- 2.10.1.13.4. as provided under the order of play (2-8-3)
- 2.11. A GAME
- 2.11.1. A game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring 11 points unless both players or pairs score points, when the game shall be won by the first player or pair subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.
- 2.12. A MATCH
- 2.12.1. A match shall consist of the best of any odd number of games.
- 2.13. THE ORDER OF SERVING, RECEIVING AND ENDS
- 2.13.1. The right to choose the initial order of serving, receiving and ends shall be decided by lot and the winner may choose to serve or to receive first or to start at a particular end.
- 2.13.2. When one player or pair has chosen to serve or to receive first or to start at a particular end, the other player pair shall have the other choice.
- 2.13.3. After each 2 points have been scored the receiving player or pair shall become the serving player or pair and so on until the end of the game, unless both players or pairs score 10 points or the expedite system is in operation, when the sequences of serving and receiving shall be the same but each player shall serve for only 1 point in turn.
- 2.13.4. In each game of a doubles match, the pair having the right to serve first shall choose which of them will do so and in the first game of a match the receiving pair shall decide which of them will receive first; in subsequent games of the match, the first server having been chosen, the first receiver shall be the player who served to him in the preceding game.
- 2.13.5. In doubles, at each change of service the previous receiver shall become the server and the partner of the previous server shall become the receiver.
- 2.13.6. The player or pair serving first in a game shall receive first in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a doubles match the pair due to receive next shall change their order of receiving when first one pair scores 5 points.
- 2.13.7. The player or pair starting at one end in a game shall start at the other end in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a match the players or pairs shall change ends when first one player or pair scores 5 points.
- 2.14. OUT OF ORDER OF SERVING, RECEIVING OR ENDS
- 2.14.1. If a player serves or receives out of turn, play shall be interrupted by the umpire as soon as the error is discovered and shall resume with those players serving and receiving who should be server and receiver respectively at the score that has been reached, according to the sequence established at the beginning of the match and, in doubles, to the order of serving chosen by the pair having the right to serve first in the game during which the error is discovered.
- 2.14.2. If the players have not changed ends when they should have done so, play shall be interrupted by the umpire as soon as the error is discovered and shall resume with the players at the ends at which they should be at the score that has been reached, according to the sequence established at the start of the match.
- 2.14.3. In any circumstances, all points scored before the discovery of an error shall be reckoned.
- 2.15. THE EXPEDITE SYSTEM
- 2.15.1. Except as provided in 2.15.2, the expedite system shall come into operation after 10 minutes' play in a game or at any time when requested by both players or pairs.
- 2.15.2. The expedite system shall not be introduced in a game if at least 18 points have been scored.
- 2.15.3. If the ball is in play when the time limit is reached and the expedite system is due to come into operation, play shall be interrupted by the umpire and shall resume with service by the player who served in the rally that was interrupted; if the ball is not in play when the expedite system comes into operation, play shall resume with service by the player who received in the immediately preceding rally.
- 2.15.4. Thereafter, each player shall serve for 1 point in turn until the end of the game, and if the receiving player or pair makes 13 returns in a rally the receiver shall score a point.

- 2.15.5. Introduction of the expedite system shall not alter the order of serving and receiving in the match, as defined in 2.13.6.
- 2.15.6. Once introduced, the expedite system shall remain in operation until the end of the match.