

RDTTA – Standing Regulations

1. Group competitions

1.1 In a group competition all members of the group shall compete against each other and the positions in the group shall be determined primarily by the number of sets won. If a member of a group should fail to complete any set the results of all sets in which that member took part shall be discounted.

1.2 If two or more members of the group have won the same number of sets their relative positions shall be determined only by the results of the sets between them, by considering successively the ratios of wins to losses first in sets then games then points, as far as is necessary to resolve the order.

1.3 If at any step in the calculations the position of one or more members of the group have been determined while the others are still equal, the results of sets in which those members took part shall be excluded from any further calculations needed to resolve the equalities in accordance with the procedure of 1.1 and 1.2.

2. Special Competitions (Individual Handicap)

2.1 A Referee will be appointed and his or her decision will be final on any questions arising on the day of the competition.

2.2 Entries will be accepted from players, including youth division players and junior players, who are registered at the closing date for entries.

2.3 It will be decided how many groups of four or five can be accommodated in each of two sessions, allowing a few floaters for each session.

2.4 Groups of four and the floaters will then be drawn.

2.5 The draw sheet for the knockout stage will then be prepared.

2.5.1 If there are fewer runners-up than the number of first round spaces, runners-up will be drawn into the first round spaces evenly throughout the draw.

2.5.2 If there are more runners-up than the number of first round spaces, runners-up will be drawn into the first round spaces as far as possible and the remainder drawn into bye positions evenly throughout the draw.

2.5.3 Winners will be drawn into the vacant positions still left ensuring that the winner of a group is drawn into the opposite half to the runner-up of the group.

2.6 Players will be called to report in 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session and MUST report in NOT LATER than 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the session.

2.7 The name of any player reporting in late may be added to the list of floaters and applications will be accepted on the day from other players to have their names added. All names added to the original list of floaters will be added in strict order of application.

2.8 Any vacancies in groups will first be filled by drawing from the original list of floaters who have reported in time and if there are still vacancies from any names added on the day, these names being taken in strict order of application.

2.9 If there are insufficient vacancies to accommodate all the original floaters who have reported in time those left over will be drawn into the existing groups to make the appropriate number of groups of five.

RDTTA – Standing Regulations

2.10 All players will be required to play on the allotted table and on being called must go to that table and begin play without delay. Any player not ready to play when called may be scratched.

2.11 Knocking up on vacant tables may be allowed at the discretion of the Referee, but only by two players at a time on any one table.

2.12 All sets will be 21 up best of three games. Where a player has received a start, ends shall be changed in the third game when the player giving the start reaches ten points.

2.13 The winner and runner-up from each group will go forward to the knock out stage of the competition and the names will be entered on the draw sheet into the positions drawn at 2.5 above.

2.14 The remainder of the competition will then be played on a knock out basis.

2.15 The losing player in the knock out stage may be required to umpire one of the later sets and after losing must report to Control.

2.16 When playing (including knocking up) players are expected to wear Table Tennis dress and the standard of dress must satisfy the Referee. In particular jeans or denim or similar clothing will not be allowed.

3. Special Competitions (Lower Divisions Knock-Out Cup and Team Handicap)

3.1.1 Entries for the **Lower Divisions Knock-Out Cup** will be accepted from all affiliated clubs in respect of teams playing in lower divisions as determined from time to time by the Management Committee but players may only play for the team for which they are registered at the time of the tie.

3.1.2 Entries for the **Team Handicap** will be accepted from all affiliated clubs who may enter any number of teams. A team may be made up of any players provided that each member of the team is registered for one of the club's teams in one of the main divisions and is specified for a particular team. At least three players must be specified for each team at the time of entry to the competition. Applications for additional players to be specified must be made to the Special Competitions Secretary in writing, at least 24 hours before any match. No additions will be allowed after the second round.

3.2.1 A player may play for only one team in each competition.

3.2.2 A player must have played in at least four league or cup matches in order to be eligible to play in either final.

3.2.3 Compositions of teams and orders of play shall be recorded before the commencement of the team match, by the home team first.

3.3.1 For ties in the **Team Handicap** each player shall play each of three opposing players one set, best of three games 21 up. A doubles set shall not be played. All nine sets must be played unless otherwise agreed by both captains.

3.3.2 In a handicap match where a player has received a start, ends shall be changed in the third game when the player giving the start reaches ten points.

3.4.1 For ties in the **Lower Divisions Knock-Out** each player shall play each of three opposing players one set, best of five games of 11-up. A doubles set shall not be played. All nine sets must be played unless otherwise agreed by both captains.

RDTTA – Standing Regulations

3.4.2 Alternatively, the organiser may use their discretion to play the **Lower Divisions Knock-Out** as a doubles competition.

3.5 The first two rounds shall be played during the allotted weeks left free in the League Fixtures Chart. However if both captains agree the match may be played at an earlier date.

3.6 Details of all ties, the home team, the date by which the tie must be played, handicaps etc. shall be notified to interested parties throughout the season.

3.7 Within four days of receipt of notification of the tie the home team captain shall offer the away team captain two alternative weekday evening dates neither of which shall clash with the league fixtures of either team. Acceptance of one of these dates shall be advised by the away team captain within a further four days. Another date may be agreed by mutual consent. In any event the tie must be played not later than the stipulated date.

3.8 The names of the players taking part in the tie and full scores of every individual set must be forwarded by the captain of the winning team to the Special Competitions Secretary, preferably by electronic mail on the day following the match, or stamped with a first class stamp and postmarked no later than the day following the date on which the tie was played or delivered by hand to the residence of the Special Competitions Secretary within 48 hours of the tie.

3.9 Failure to comply with any of these regulations may result in the offending team being scratched from the competition.

3.10 Any queries or disputes will be resolved by the Special Competitions Secretary or the duly appointed Referee as appropriate.

4. Closed Championships

As shown on the entry form.

5. Reading Masters and Reading Junior Masters

The READING MASTERS' TOURNAMENT is the premier event with no age restriction and the READING JUNIOR MASTERS' TOURNAMENT is the premier junior event, both run annually by the Association. Entry to each event is by invitation only to the ten most successful players in the Reading league competition during the recently completed season.

A player who qualifies for both tournaments MUST opt for one or the other.

The qualifications of the ten most successful players for invitation to the READING MASTERS' TOURNAMENT are:

- (i) The five players with the highest playing averages in Division 1 during the recently completed season – having played in a minimum of 50% of team matches;
- (ii) The two players who have won the highest number of sets during the recently completed season – not including the players who have already qualified under (i) above;

RDTTA – Standing Regulations

(iii) The player with the highest playing average in Division 2 during the recently completed season – having played in a minimum of 50% of team matches;

(iv) The Winner and Runner-up of Reading Closed Men's Singles during the recently completed season (one or both of these players may have already qualified under (i), (ii) or (iii) above;

(v) If reserves are required – for any reason, such as unavailability on the day, or dual qualification – they will be taken in strict order of number of sets won in Division 1 during the recently completed season.

The qualifications of the ten most successful junior players for invitation to the READING JUNIOR MASTERS' TOURNAMENT will be at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Information on the qualifications for the two events will be contained in the Newsletter during the season.

6. The Invitation Shield

This event is an invitation team knockout competition restricted to the top sixteen available teams participating in the current league season. The teams are invited on the following basis:

All teams competing in Division 1 in the current season; and the balance of teams from Division 2 or lower considered by the organisers to be the strongest teams available based on the previous season's performance.

A draw is made for each round and there is no seeding. Other regulations and player eligibility as circulated to the invited teams' captains.

RDTTA – Standing Regulations

ANNUAL AWARDS

“THE STANDARD CUP” and “THE EDELSTON CUP”

These two cups are awarded each year to junior players who are registered players of the Association. The recipient of each is entitled to hold the cup for one year. In considering who should receive the cups, the Committee will take into account the sportsmanship and the general conduct of the player throughout the season, the loyalty shown by the player to the Association and to the number of team matches played in the Reading League. Both cups will not normally be awarded to the same player in any one year.

“THE STANDARD CUP”. This cup was presented by the Reading Standard a former newspaper and is awarded to the junior player whose game has shown the most improvement in the current season. Whilst it is possible for a player to be awarded this cup more than once it would only be in exceptional circumstances. It would be even more exceptional for a player to be awarded the cup in consecutive seasons.

“THE EDELSTON CUP”. This cup was presented by Maurice Edelston a former England International footballer, BBC sports commentator, owner of a local sports shop and a former President of the Association, and is awarded to the junior player for the best performance in the current season. This can mean the best single performance, the best performance over a tournament as a whole or the best performance over the season as a whole. The relative playing standard of the player concerned will be taken into account. It is possible for a player to win this cup more than once.

“THE HAROLD LARCOMBE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD”

This cup was presented by Jim Stokes in memory of the late Harold Larcombe, who was President and a Life Member of the Association for many years. It is presented to the player who, in the opinion of his or her peers, has shown at all times, in both victory and defeat, and both on and off the table a sporting demeanour. The winner of this award will be an example to all Association members. Any player may make a nomination - in writing - to the General Secretary stating the reasons for making that nomination. The cup will be awarded annually, when possible at the Association’s Presentation event.

“THE READING CHRONICLE TROPHY”

This trophy was presented by the Reading Chronicle. It is awarded to the player, who in the opinion of the Referee and Organising Committee has produced the most meritorious performance(s) during the Reading Closed Championships before the finals of the five main events.

“THE JOHN FREEMAN TROPHY”

This trophy was presented by John Freeman JP, former President and Life Member of the Association and is awarded annually to the player with the best relative playing record in the main divisions of the Reading League during the season. To be eligible, during the season a player must have played in singles sets in at least 75% of the possible team matches according to the size of the division, as is shown on form RTT33. Only sets played in the highest division for which a player is registered in the season may count. A player who achieved an average of 67% or more in a higher division in either of the two preceding seasons, or a player (other than one registered in Division 1) who received the award in any of the five preceding seasons, shall not be eligible. The best playing record will be decided by the best average obtained by multiplying the number of singles sets won by one hundred and then dividing by the number of singles sets played. Only sets actually played will count. The relative positions of any players with equal best average will be determined first by the highest percentage of possible singles sets played in the division, then by their respective ratios of total games won to total games lost during the season, and then if necessary by the respective ratios of total points won to total points lost during the season of those players still equal.

“THE ALAN DINES MEMORIAL CUP”

The “Alan Dines Memorial Cup” was donated to the Association by Adam McTiernan in memory of Alan Dines, a respected player, coach and RDTTA Management Committee member for a number of years. The Cup is to be awarded annually to the person the RDTTA Committee decides has made the best contribution to junior development. The award could be any person (e.g. helper, teacher, parent) but the emphasis will be on grassroots volunteering, whether it be coaching or assisting with the development of players - particularly beginners or intermediates.

RDTTA – Standing Regulations

LEAGUE FIXTURES CHART

For your team's season's fixtures refer to the line against your team's number in the left-hand column of the chart. Team numbers are shown in the lists of divisions on the appropriate pages. Whilst the greatest of care is taken in the preparation of fixture lists, club secretaries should check to see that there are no home fixtures clashes.

UMPIRES and REFEREES

There are four categories of Umpire - Local Umpire, County Umpire, (Tournament Umpire is being phased out), National Umpire and International Umpire, and four categories of Referee - Tournament Referee, Match Referee, National Referee and International Referee.

Robin Lockwood, Allan Bruton, Derek Brooke-Wavell and Derek Crombie are County Umpires. Nigel Maltby and Paul Treadgold are Local Umpires. Members are encouraged to become Local Umpires.

Approved by RDTTA Management Committee, March 2022