**RATIONALE FOR RULE CHANGES**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic we have taken the decision to run a reduced season with only league fixtures being played, no cup competitions, and no doubles leg to be played during the matches. This requires changes to several rules. The expectation is that these shall be reviewed for the 2022-2023 season if things return to normal.

Other changes are due to Table Tennis England renaming and restructuring their membership levels. These rule updates are only to reflect those changes, they are not intended to have substantive effect.

**Rule 5:**

The rationale is that Associate memberships are no longer available.

**Current:**

For the general administration of the business of the league and for the government of the league in the interval between two Annual General Meetings, there shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the league, together with an agreed number of registered members.  Nominations for officers and committee must be received by the General Secretary at least 7 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.  The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, by ballot if necessary.  All officers and elected members of the committee must be individually registered with Table Tennis England (A minimum of Associate membership of Table Tennis England is required).

**Proposed:**

For the general administration of the business of the league and for the government of the league in the interval between two Annual General Meetings, there shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the league, together with an agreed number of registered members.  Nominations for officers and committee must be received by the General Secretary at least 7 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.  The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, by ballot if necessary.  All officers and elected members of the committee must be individually registered with Table Tennis England.

**Rule 15:**

The rationale is that to clarify the membership type required.

**Current:**

It is a requirement of Table Tennis England that all League Players are members of Table Tennis England. No players will be permitted to play matches if they are not Table Tennis England members.  Anyone playing in a match whilst not a member of Table Tennis England will forfeit the match and a £10 fine will be imposed, except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior agreement of the General Secretary.

**Proposed:**

It is a requirement of Table Tennis England that all League Players are Compete members of Table Tennis England. No players will be permitted to play matches if they are not Table Tennis England Compete members.  Anyone playing in a match whilst not a Compete member of Table Tennis England will forfeit the match and a £10 fine will be imposed, except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior agreement of the General Secretary.

**Rule 18:**

The rationale is due to lack of time to produce handbooks, money saving and the fact that information is now on the website.

**Current:**

Registration Fees shall be decided by the Executive Committee annually. Registration forms must state for which club and team a player will be registered.  All registered players shall be entitled to receive a League Handbook

**Proposed:**

Registration Fees shall be decided by the Executive Committee annually. Registration forms must state for which club and team a player will be registered.

**Rule 19:**

The rationale is to clarify the use of temporary registrations and remove the reference to the cups.

**Current:**

Only players whose Registration Forms and fees have been received by the League General Secretary shall be allowed to play in league games and cup competitions. No new player registrations (or temporary Registrations) shall be accepted after 28th February each year, and no registered player (either temp or permanent) who has not previously played in either of these competitions prior to this date may play in either competition after this date, except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior permission of the General Secretary. Registration shall be in the following categories:

· Senior Registration for players over 18 years of age.

· Junior Registration for players under 18 years of age.

· Temporary Registration for reserve players to cover a maximum of two league and cup matches but excluding eligibility for entry to any league tournaments. Only the Table Tennis England membership fee will be payable.

**Proposed:**

Only players whose Registration Forms and fees have been received by the League General Secretary shall be allowed to play in league games and cup competitions. No new player registrations (or temporary Registrations) shall be accepted after 28th February each year, and no registered player (either temp or permanent) who has not previously played in either of these competitions prior to this date may play in either competition after this date, except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior permission of the General Secretary. Registration shall be in the following categories:

· Senior Registration for players over 18 years of age.

· Junior Registration for players under 18 years of age.

· Temporary Registration for a maximum combined total of two league matches to cover unexpected player availability. Temporary registrations may not play in league tournaments. Only the Table Tennis England membership fee will be payable.

**Rule 28:**

The rationale is that no doubles are to be played this season

**Current:**

Teams competing in the League competitions shall consist of 3 members, each member of the team shall play each member of the opposing team, making 9 sets of singles. Each set shall be the best of 5 games of 11 points up. One set of doubles shall also be played. Teams shall have the right to call on a fourth player to play in the doubles only, should they so desire. All sets shall be played in accordance with the rules adopted by Table Tennis England.

**Proposed:**

Teams competing in the League competitions shall consist of 3 members, each member of the team shall play each member of the opposing team, making 9 sets of singles. Each set shall be the best of 5 games of 11 points up. All sets shall be played in accordance with the rules adopted by Table Tennis England.

**Rule 29:**

The rationale is that due to no doubles being played there are only 9 points available.

**Current:**

A point will be awarded for each set won during a match, e.g. Team A wins 8 sets and Team B wins 2 sets, then the teams are awarded 8 points and 2 points respectively.

**Proposed:**

A point will be awarded for each set won during a match, e.g. Team A wins 7 sets and Team B wins 2 sets, then the teams are awarded 7 points and 2 points respectively.

**Rule 31:**

The rationale is that no doubles are to be played this season.

**Current:**

All matches shall start at 7pm or 7:15 pm, at the discretion of the home team, by which time two members of each team shall be present. The third player should arrive by 8:00 pm, but this time may be extended by prior agreement between the teams. Matches may start earlier by mutual consent. The order of play shall be laid down by the Executive Committee and shall be as follows: where 3 players on one side are named A, B & C and the 3 players on the other side are named X, Y & Z.

Set 1 A v X Set 4 B v X Set 7 B v Z

Set 2 B v Y Set 5 A v Z Set 8 C v X

Set 3 C v Z Set 6 C v Y Set 9 A v Y Set 10 Doubles

The home team shall be A, B, C and the home captain shall name his/her team, allocating a letter to each of his/her three players. The visiting captain shall then allot a letter to each of his/her players and inform the home captain of his/her decision. The order of play thus determined may be altered by mutual agreement between the two captains. The doubles may be played at Set 7 if the home captain so desires.

**Proposed:**

All matches shall start at 7pm or 7:15 pm, at the discretion of the home team, by which time two members of each team shall be present. The third player should arrive by 8:00 pm, but this time may be extended by prior agreement between the teams. Matches may start earlier by mutual consent. The order of play shall be laid down by the Executive Committee and shall be as follows: where 3 players on one side are named A, B & C and the 3 players on the other side are named X, Y & Z.

Set 1 A v X Set 4 B v X Set 7 B v Z

Set 2 B v Y Set 5 A v Z Set 8 C v X

Set 3 C v Z Set 6 C v Y Set 9 A v Y

The home team shall be A, B, C and the home captain shall name his/her team, allocating a letter to each of his/her three players. The visiting captain shall then allot a letter to each of his/her players and inform the home captain of his/her decision. The order of play thus determined may be altered by mutual agreement between the two captains.

**Rules 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48:**

These are rules concerned with handicap cups and tournaments. The proposal is to delete these rules, the rationale being that these competitions are not being run.