WALSALL AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

LEAGUE RULES 2023-2024

- 1. That this League shall be called "The Walsall and District Table Tennis League" and its object to be:
 - (a) To promote and foster organised table tennis
 - (b) To use its influence to obtain better facilities for the game
- **2**. A General Committee shall be formed consisting of a Secretary or Nominee from each club in the league.
- 3. A Management Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Registration Secretary, Divisional Match Secretaries, Cup Secretary, Coaching Co-ordinator, Tournament Organiser, County Representative and Publicity Officer shall be formed to govern League affairs in general. Chairman shall have casting vote only.
 - (a) An agreed number of Divisional Representatives be elected at each Secretaries meeting to be co-opted onto the Committee for the ensuring year.
 - (b) Any member of the League giving meritorious service over a number of years or retiring due to ill health or domestic circumstances may be elected on the recommendation of the League Committee to an Honorary Life member. This membership entitles the holder and spouse to free entry/admission to all events organised by the League for which a charge would usually be made.
- 4. In the event of a member absenting himself from three consecutive meetings his name shall, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be deleted from the Management Committee. The said Management Committee shall have the power to co-opt another member to fill the vacancy.
- 5. A quorum shall be any five members of the Management Committee.
- **6**. Each team in the League shall pay the following fees:

(a) League Entry Fee £ 10.00 per team (b) Guarantee Fee £ 10.00 per team

(c) Table Tennis England Affiliation Fee N/A

(d) Staffs affiliation Fee Seniors £ 10.00 per team Juniors £ 5.00 per team

(e) Score Cards N/A

(f) Handicap Cup £ 2.00 per team

(g) Insurance N/A

NB Please note that the level of TTE and Staffs Affiliation Fees are outside the control of Walsall & District TTL.

The Guarantee Fee is subject to forfeit in the event of a team not fulfilling its obligations. Otherwise it shall be repayable at the end of each playing season.

- 7. In addition there shall be an Annual Registration Fee of £6.00 per Senior Member and £3.00 per Junior Member of a team . A member is one who has completed the official Members Registration Form to the satisfaction of the Registration Secretary and has previously obtained a TTE Player Membership Number.
 - (a) Names of at least three players to accompany the application form for each team to enter the League, without which, the application may be refused. Additional players can be registered at a later date if required.
 - (b) An additional fee of £1.00 be levied on all player registrations received after the Secretaries' meeting. This may be waived at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- **8**. All fees must be paid before taking part in League fixtures or Competitions organised by the League.
 - (a) That a TTE Player Membership Number has been issued prior to the application to the League and is submitted with the application.
- **9.** The Management Committee reserves the right to refuse the registration of any person applying for membership. The closing date for applications shall be 31^{st.} January, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 10. No player registered with any other table tennis league will be allowed to compete in any Cup competition organised by the Walsall & District TTL unless they have played in at least 25% of the matches played by the team for which that person is registered at the time or at the discretion of the Cup and Divisional Match Secretaries.
 - (a) Players will only be eligible to enter the Annual Closed Tournament if they have played in at least 4 league matches in the Walsall & District TTL for the team for which they are registered subject to the discretion of the Management Committee. (b) Any player who knowingly or unknowingly plays in any match coming under the auspices of the Walsall and District TTL without first obtaining a TTE Player Membership Number renders themselves liable to suspension from the league and their results being expunged from the records.
- 11. A member must not transfer or play for a team other than the one for whom they originally registered in any one season unless they have the consent of their club and written approval of the Management Committee. There will be a transfer fee of £10.00 payable by their proposed new team upon application. In the event of a club withholding their consent the Management Committee shall have the power to agree the transfer if they consider the reason not to be justified.
- 12. A player may be temporarily promoted to a senior side of the same club subject to rule 12b. After playing in four League matches for any senior team shall automatically become registered for the most senior side played for and consent of the Match Secretary and two other members of the Management committee must be obtained before they can play again for their original team.
 - (a) A player may be eligible to play in one Divisional Cup Competition only for either the team in which they are a registered member or any other senior team. (A player may however deputise **once** only as a reserve in a senior team subject to rule 12b.) In all other cup competitions organised by the Walsall & District TTL a player shall be eligible to play for one team only in each competition subject to any conditions which may be laid down by the Management Committee.

- (b) Players in the same division may not play as a reserve for another team in that division. All players playing as a reserve must play **UP** in a higher division. This rule applies to all League and Divisional Cup matches (see Rules regarding registration for Handicap Cup Matches.) Where a club does not have a team in a lower division a player may play two matches for a senior team in a higher league position.
- (c) A team may apply for an emergency registration to cover for a player unavailable long Term through injury, work commitments or for any other reason acceptable to the Committee at any time of the season that will prevent them from playing at least four consecutive matches. The 'new player' must not be of a higher ranking than the player replaced as decided by the Committee and under no circumstances will the replacement (new) player be allowed to play in any match with the player they were signed to replace. Should this occur then both players matches shall be forfeited.
- (d) In the Divisional Cup Competitions singles matches only will be played.
- (e) In cup competitions the draw for Divisional Cups to be made to a conclusion prior to the season. Draw for other cups to be made round by round.
- **13.** The Management Committee shall decide the composition of the League and the fixture lists.
- **14.** The order of play shall be as follows:

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SET 1) 1..v..1
SET 2) 2..v..2
SET 3) 3..v..3

SET 4) 2..v..1
SET 5) DOUBLES
SET 6) 1..v..3

SET 7) 3..v..2
SET 8) 2..v..3
SET 9) 3..v..1

SET 10) 1..v..2
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Teams shall agree an order of play before the match starts. When agreement cannot be reached the fixed order of play will apply. Players turning up late and unable to comply with the fixed order run the risk of forfeiting their game(s) if not available to play when the set is due to be played. If a problem regarding attendance of a player is foreseen prior consent of the opposing Team Secretary should be sought. Playing in another league is not recognised as a good excuse.

All sets to be best of 5 games 11 up (except for the Handicap Cup which shall be four games only 11 up.

- (a) A fourth player correctly registered for a team playing in a match but not playing in the Singles sets shall be eligible to play in the doubles in that match.
- **15.** Matches will be run in accordance with TTE rules as laid down in the current TTE handbook.
- **16.** One league point shall be awarded for each set won by a team.
 - (a) The winner of each division shall be the one with the highest number of league points. Where points are equal tables will be ordered by :-

Highest games for

Lowest games against

Highest points for

Lowest points against

Wins

Draws

17. All fixtures must be played in accordance with the handbook of the Walsall & District TTL under the control of the appropriate Divisional Match Secretary to whom all disputes

regarding fixtures must be referred.

- (a) No match shall be postponed unless in exceptional circumstances and then only with the agreement of the opposing team and the Divisional or Cup Secretary as applicable. If no such agreement is forthcoming then the team needing to postpone may appeal to the Divisional or Cup Secretary and a sub-committee consisting of the Divisional or Cup Secretary plus two other independent Committee members shall use its discretion and any decision it makes shall be final. If agreed by the sub-committee league matches shall be mutually re-arranged but must be played within 21 days and 14 days in the case of Cup matches.
- (b) If a match has to be postponed due to circumstances beyond the control of either team such as adverse weather conditions then the home team must notify the Divisional or Cup Secretary (as applicable) as soon as possible. League matches not played under such circumstances shall be mutually re-arranged but must be played within 21 days and 14 days in the case of cup matches.
- (c) The result of each match played giving the individual scores shall be in the hands of the Divisional or Cup Secretary within 5 days of the playing of the match on the official scorecard. A fine of £10.00 will be imposed for failure to comply with this rule.
- (d) If no scorecard has been received within 10 days of the date on which the match should have been played and the Divisional or Cup Secretary has not been advised of the circumstances the match shall be awarded to the away team. The home team having appeal to the Management Committee.
- (e) No matches to be played on Bank Holidays without the agreement of both teams.
- **18.** Teams failing to turn up or conceding a match without satisfactory explanation will on the first occasion forfeit match points and guarantee fee and on the second occasion be suspended from the League subject to the discretion of the Management Committee.
- 19. Unless mutually agreed between the teams beforehand all league and cup matches shall commence no later than 7.30pm. At least two players from each team must be present by this time and their names entered on the score card. Teams failing to meet this regulation will concede the match in full to the opposing team irrespective of any sets which may have been played. The third player must be present by 8.30pm unless agreed beforehand failing which their sets shall be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team. If a fourth player is to be utilised that player must be present before the end of the fourth set.

All players should try to arrive as early as possible and the match commence with the minimum of delay.

- **20.** The home team shall provide suitable accommodation and lighting facilities for the match and be responsible for all such arrangements.
 - (b) Refreshments may be provided by the home team at their discretion.
- **21.** The captains shall appoint an umpire before the commencement of each set (this shall be undertaken alternately by the members of each team).
- 22. The score cards shall show a 6" long gauge, hence please check the height of your net.
- **23.** Should a team retire from the league all matches played by that team shall be deleted from the records.

- 24. All protests and disputes shall be sent to the Divisional Secretary in writing after first informing the opposing team, for consideration at the next Management Committee meeting. No protest relating to the match will be considered unless received within seven days of the match in question.
- **25.** The holders shall be responsible for the safe custody of trophies and shall return them in a clean and undamaged condition to the Functions Secretary or Cup Secretary by 31st. March latest each year. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of **£30.00** being imposed on the individual or club concerned.
- **26.** All League trophies to be insured by the league authorities at the discretion of the Committee.
- **27.** Funds permitting medals, badges or trophies shall be awarded to the winners and runners-up teams and/or individuals in the League Championship, Lawrence Cup, or any other such trophies or competitions as may be inaugurated by the League in the future. There shall be promotion between divisions, subject to the number of teams remaining static.
 - (a) In the event of a non-attendance of any member from a club receiving any trophies at the presentation of prizes evening that team will forfeit their trophies.
- **28.** Cases of misconduct by either teams or individuals or other such matters not specifically provided for in the rules shall be dealt with by the Management Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 29. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be usually held during June and that 21 days notice in writing shall be given of the date of the meeting. All nominations for the officials and Committee and proposals of the alteration on Rules shall be in the Hon Secretary's hands within 14 days of the notice. Any club not being represented shall lose their Guarantee Fees.
- **30.** All voting at the Annual General Meeting of the Walsall &District TTL shall be on a proportional basis of one vote per team per club.
- **31.** To protect the interests of the members of the League applications for registration by players with outstanding debts to their previous club will not be accepted until these debts are settled subject to the right of appeal by the player concerned.
- **32.** Teams shall be entered in the Midland and Staffs Table Tennis Leagues at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (a) A town badge be awarded for 10 appearances in a Junior and Intermediate and for 20 in a senior team subject to availability.
 - (b) A Super Town Badge or other suitable award be awarded for 100 appearances for any Men's team or 50 for any Ladies team subject to availability.
- **33.** The current TTE regulation concerning the two colour bat rule is one side shall be black and the opposite side shall be any other colour approved by TTE. In all other playing matters current TTE regulations apply.

34. Dissolution of the Walsall & District Table Tennis League:

- (a) The league can be dissolved only by a resolution to that effect passed by a two thirds majority of those paid up members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at a Special General Meeting(SGM) so convened.
- (b) In the event of dissolution the officers are empowered to convert into money all the property of the league and to discharge all debts and liabilities of the league forthwith.
- (c) Any assets that cannot be realised such as equipment etc. Shall be donated to a local club or league.
- (d) All remaining finances shall be handed to Staffordshire County Table Tennis Association (SCTTA) for safe keeping until such time that a replacement or equivalent organisation shall be constituted subject to their (SCTTA) satisfaction.
- (e) Interest from the finances held in trust by SCTTA to be used by them (SCTTA) to further the interests of table tennis within the county.