

ASSOCIATION RULES

1. This Association shall be called the “WOLVERHAMPTON AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION”

OBJECTS

2. Its objectives to be;

- (a) To foster and promote organised table tennis.
- (b) To use its influence towards obtaining better facilities for the game,

BOUNDARIES

3. The Association to be confined to league Clubs within the Borough of Wolverhampton, or a seven mile radius of Queen Square (whichever is the greater) except in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Management Committee.

FEES

- 4. (a) The League Entry Fee per team shall be £20.00 (which includes entry fee for the Divisional Team K.O. Competition), plus County affiliation fee.
- (b) A levy of £15 will be added as a further fee where a team is not separately represented at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Should a team retire from the Association during the playing season no refund shall be made, and all matches played by them shall be deleted from the records.
- (d) All players must be individually affiliated to TTE and provide their membership number.

GOVERNMENT

- 5. (a). The Association shall be governed by a Management Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and a maximum of fifteen other representatives.
- (b) The Management Committee has power to co-opt, and shall meet regularly during the playing season.
- (c) The Management Committee shall be empowered to appoint an Hon. Tournaments Secretary, Hon .Umpires Secretary, and an Hon .Official Coach, and to form Sub-committees.
- (d) The elected members of Management Committee shall have full voting rights, but any member co-opted shall not be entitled to vote.
- (e) The Management Committee may appoint at its first meeting a Finance Committee including the Treasurer and Secretary. It shall be responsible to study all estimates of income and necessary expenditure, to recommend to the Management Committee a suitable financial policy for the ensuing year, and to advise the Management Committee on financial matters.

DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 6. (a) To administer the Rules of the Association.
- (b) Consider all applications for membership and compile the league in such numbers as can be effectively controlled by the number of members at its disposal.

- (c) Deal with all claims, disputes and reports submitted by clubs.
- (d) Call a General Meeting of the Association whenever it is desired.
- (e) Deal with all other matters that may arise.

HON.SECRETARY’S AND HON.TREASURER’S DUTIES

7. (a) The Hon. Secretary’s duties shall be to convene and attend all meetings, to conduct the correspondence of the Association, and at all times act under the direction of the Management Committee. When retiring from office, all books (duly audited) and documents belonging to the Association which may be in the possession of the Hon. Secretary shall be handed over to the Chairman of the Association.

(b) The Hon. Treasurer’s duties shall be to receive all monies belonging to the Association from whatever source derived, to bank all such monies in the name of Wolverhampton and District Table Tennis Association, and to pay all accounts of the Association as directed by the Management Committee. A full account of all the Association’s monies shall be kept’ and when retiring from office, all books (duly audited), and all documents and monies belonging to the Association which may be in the possession of the Hon. Treasurer shall be handed over to the chairman of the association..

Cheques for withdrawing money from the Bank shall be signed by two of the following officers: Hon. Treasurer, Chairman, Hon. Secretary or other designated officer.

MEETINGS

8. (a) The Annual General Meeting be held on or before July 31st each year.

(b) At least 28 days’ notice be given to each Club accompanied by a copy of the Agenda, and details of the attendance of Management Committee members at meetings during the season.

(c) All officials of the Association (including the Hon. Auditor) be appointed at the A.G.M. Proposals for such Officers to be forwarded, in writing, to the Hon .Secretary, 21 clear days before the date of the A.G.M. All such nominees to have been in membership of the Association for at least twelve months.

(d) No proposed resolution shall be accepted at the Annual General Meeting unless submitted to the Hon. Secretary, in writing, by 30th April. All proposed resolutions so received shall be circulated to all clubs not later than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting and amendments or alternative proposals with the same substance shall be accepted for consideration at the Annual General Meeting, if submitted, in writing, and received by the Hon. Secretary not later than 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Alternative proposals or amendments received after that date will not be considered.

(e) The Hon. Secretary shall circulate names of proposed officers, proposed resolutions, and Balance sheet, seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

(f) Attendance at any General Meeting shall be open to all registered members and each affiliated team shall be entitled to one vote. Each team must be separately represented. Voting by proxy is not permissible.

(g) At least one-third of the total number of affiliated teams shall form a quorum for a General Meeting, and at least one-third the number of members, with voting powers, for a Management Committee Meeting.

(h) At any meeting the Chairman shall have only one vote, and that to be a casting vote.

(i) No more than three members of any one club shall be allowed to vote at the Management Committee Meetings.

FINANCIAL YEAR

9. The financial year shall end on the 31st May.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

10. The Hon. Secretary of the association shall, on receiving a requisition signed by the Secretaries of one-third of the teams in membership of the Association, convene a Special General Meeting.

HONORARIA

11. The Hon. Secretary may be granted a honorarium, the amount to be renewed annually, and in keeping with the progress and development of the Association.

METHOD OF PLAY

12. (a) All teams shall play home and away matches with each one of the other teams in their section. Unless special circumstances arise.

(b) Teams of all divisions shall consist of three members, and the method of play to be as follows:-

Singles – No. 1 v Nos. 1, 2 and 3. No. 2 v Nos. 1, 2 and 3. No. 3 v Nos. 1, 2 and 3

Doubles – one set of doubles shall be played and can include one player registered for that team who did not play in the singles. All sets to be the best of five games.

(c) The game shall be run on Table Tennis England Rules as laid down in the Table Tennis England's current handbook.

(d) The match shall be played continuously to a finish, and the team winning the greater number of sets shall be the winners of the match. Points will be awarded as follows:

4 points for 10-0, 9-1 or 8-2 wins; 3 points for 7-3 or 6-4 wins; 2 points for 5-5; 1 point for 4-6 or 3-7 defeat.

(e) In the case of a tie or ties at the end of the season, sets average shall be the decider. If a tie on sets then games average shall decide.

(f) The captains shall appoint an umpire before the commencement of each set. (This shall be undertaken alternatively by the members of each team).

(g) Captains shall have the option of choosing the order of play alternately (home team captain having first choice).

MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

13. (a) Each team shall state its home match night, which shall not be Saturday or Sunday. In the event of this night not being suitable (through exceptional circumstances) to either of the opposing

teams, an alternative night can be mutually agreed. Three day's notice must be given by either team wishing to rearrange a match. In no circumstances shall any fixture be altered except by mutual agreement between both team secretaries, in which case the secretary of the team requesting the alteration must notify the appropriate divisional secretary, not later than the date of the original fixture. Any breach of this rule renders the offending team liable to a fine of £1.00 and loss of points.

(b) A team agreeing to postpone a match is also expressing where possible a willingness to rearrange that match. The onus to rearrange is on the team that postpones the original fixture. A team not prepared to rearrange should not agree to postpone.

(c) Rearranged matches shall be played within 21 days after the original fixture date, otherwise the team first applying for rearrangement forfeits the points, but if the team not applying for rearrangement, having agreed to cancel does not offer/agree a new date then the match will be void and no points awarded to either team. The two free weeks at Christmas are not included in the 21 days mentioned above.

(d) No match shall be conceded under any circumstances. Any breach of this rule renders the offending team liable to a fine of £2.50.

(e) All fixtures must be completed by the end of the playing season 19 April 2024.

(f) Clubs shall provide suitable accommodation and lighting facilities for all matches. The Management Committee shall decide what is, and what is not suitable.

(g) Any club wishing to change the venue or layout of its clubroom after the commencement of the season must inform the Management Committee of the Association seven days before their next home match. In addition, Club secretaries must notify the Divisional secretary, the Hon .Secretary and all Team Secretaries in the Division concerned, of any change of venue, match night or secretary.

ATTENDANCE AT MATCHES

14. (a) In the event of a team's non-attendance at a match, its opponents shall be awarded the points. There will also be a fine of £5.00 unless a reasonable excuse is given.

(b) In the event of a team's second non-attendance at a match without reasonable excuse, it shall be expelled, and its records deleted from the league.

(c) All matches shall commence not later than 7.15 pm. A minimum of two players from each team must be present by this time. In the event of a match not being started by 7.15 pm, the points will be awarded to the team present.

Where a club has an end time of 10.00 pm matches shall commence not later than 7.15 pm. If either team (a minimum of 1 player) is not present to play at 7.15 that team will forfeit any un played games at closure time. In the event of un played games when the match starts on time (7.15 pm) the home team will forfeit any un played games.

(d) In the event of the non-attendance of a player or players by 8.30 pm his or her games shall be considered lost, unless registered reserves be in attendance. Should a reserve be called upon to play, he shall then be required to play throughout the match.

Any variation of this rule regarding commencement of matches, and attendance of players, must be by mutual consent of both captains.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

15. (a) Registration of at least three players must accompany the application form for each team to enter the League. That application form must include full address etc, of each player.

All new registrations will be vetted by the respective Divisional Secretary, and should a player be considered too strong for the division for which they are registered, the Divisional Secretary will immediately contact the team concerned, and notify them that the registration is not accepted until approved by the Management Committee.

Additional Registrations must be sent to the divisional secretary not later than 24 hours after an unregistered player has taken part in a match. Any new player not so registered shall be deemed an ineligible player (see rule 16). All forms must include the players postcode, date of birth, and IM number.

(b) All players must register for individual membership with Table Tennis England and provide their membership number to play in this Association.

(c) No player may be registered for more than one Club in this Association.

(d) No registrations will be accepted after March 1st.

INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

16. Should a club play an ineligible player the match will be awarded in total to its opponents and the offending club dealt with by the Management Committee, according to the gravity of the offence, possibly resulting in suspension of the offenders, or a fine of £1.00

INCOMPLETE TEAMS

17. A Club failing to play a full team in a League or K.O. match shall be fined £1.00 for each player absent, unless a reasonable excuse is forwarded to the appropriate Match Secretary within 24 hours after the match.

RESULT CARDS

18. The result of each match shall be forwarded to the appropriate Divisional Secretary by the Home Captain or Secretary on a card printed for this purpose, and signed by the respective Captains, giving indications of the scores, etc., within 24 hours of the playing of the match. The card should be written in ink, and the alterations should be initialled by both the captains. As an alternative the result card may be emailed to the divisional secretary if so agreed by that secretary. A fine of £2.00 for each offence shall be imposed on teams not complying with this Rule. Should any information on the match card be proved false, both teams will be liable to a fine of £2.00.

PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

19. (a) Divisions shall be numbered 1, 2, 3 etc consecutively (no separate sections of a division) and promotion and relegation will normally be on the basis of Two Up and Two Down.

(b) The Management Committee has power to form divisions as it deems fit.

CLUBS WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM

20. (a) Where a Club is running two or more teams in the same division such teams shall be deemed to be separate clubs.

(b) The "A" team shall be considered to be of higher standard than the "B" team of higher standard than the "C" team, and so on.

(c) A player shall register for a specific team. Under no circumstances shall a player then play for a team of lower standard, except by obtaining a transfer. Whilst remaining a registered member of that specific team a player may play twice in a season for only one team of a higher standard, but under no circumstance will be permitted to play for the team from which the transfer took place.

On the third appearance in such team of higher standard, a player becomes a registered member of that team, and whilst remaining a registered member of that team, may play twice in a season for only one team of higher standard. Players who have played three or more times for a team of higher standard and have subsequently transferred back to their original team shall not be eligible to play again for the team of a higher standard.

TRANSFERS

21. (a) In the event of a registered member wishing to leave their club, then the member must obtain the consent of that Club, and of the respective Divisional Secretaries of the teams involved.

They shall have the power to deal with the matter as they think fit, and the player shall not play for their new team until permission to do so has been received. A transfer fee of £3.00 must be paid to the Association by the players new Club.

(b) A registered member wishing to transfer from one team to a team of lower standard in the same Club must obtain the written consent of their Club and permission from the respective Divisional Secretaries. There is no transfer fee.

(c) No transfers will be allowed after March 1st.

PROTESTS

22. All protests and disputes shall be emailed or posted, to the Hon. Secretary and a copy to the Divisional Secretary for consideration at the next Committee meeting. No protests relating to a match which has been played shall be considered unless received by the Secretary within seven days. Any members of the Management Committee representing either Club shall not be allowed to discuss the resolution or vote upon it.

FINES

23. (a) If the fine is not paid within seven days, it will be doubled. Further non-payment of fines and further offences render the team liable to suspension, or other penalties, as may be decided by the Management Committee.

(b) Any Club which has been fined has the right to appeal to the Management Committee, and at this hearing a representative of each Club concerned should be present. Any member of the Management Committee representing either Club shall not be allowed to discuss the resolution or vote upon it.

OFFICIAL BALL

24. The selection of the official ball or balls shall rest with the Management Committee. For season 2023-2024 the following are approved in white and in plastic:

Schrildkrot Champion 40+ 3 star; TSP 40+ 3 star; Nittaku Premium 40+ 3 star; Joola Flash 40+ 3 star; Butterfly 40+ 3 star; Tibhar 40+ SL 3 star; plus others on the list of ITTF approved 40mm Balls.

COMPOSITION OF LEAGUES

25. The Management Committee shall have power to decide upon the number of divisions which can effectively be controlled by the number of members at its disposal.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

26. (a) All trophies are the property of the Association. Clubs or individuals holding same will be held responsible for their safe return by the date of the closed tournament. A fine of £5.00 will be imposed if trophies are more than two weeks late being returned.

(b) Funds permitting, medals, badges, vouchers or trophies shall be awarded to the winners and runners up in each division.

(c) Funds permitting, medals, badges, vouchers or trophies shall be awarded to the players with the highest number of wins in each division.

(d) players representing Wolverhampton will be awarded Town Badges as follows:-

Town Badge Grade 3 will be awarded to any player representing the Town. Town badge Grade 2 will be awarded to any player representing the Town at any level on 10 occasions. Town Badge Grade 1 will be awarded to any player representing the town 30 times at any level or 20 times in the Senior first team. Badges may be worn in all representative matches

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

27. Financial arrangement and expenses incurred for representative matches should be budgeted for each season by the Management Committee as appropriate.

LIFE MEMBERS

28. Life Members of the Association shall enjoy the following privileges:

- Full right to discussion etc. at general meetings, except that as voting as an individual
- Free copy of the Association's annual accounts when requested
- Free registration for any one club in the Association

RULES

29. (a) The rules of the Association shall not be altered or added to except at the Annual general Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting convened for this purpose.

Any alteration to existing rules can only be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the members entitled to vote, and present, at the Annual General Meeting, or at the Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

(b) In the event of any question arising not provided for in any of the forgoing rules, such questions shall be referred to the Management Committee whose decision will be final.

(c) In the event of a National Emergency or severe weather conditions (e.g. heavy snow or dense fog) the Management Committee will have powers to amend any rules where necessary and their decisions will be final.

W. & D.T.T.A. TOURNAMENT RULES

A divisional league cup competition the entrance fee for which is included in the league entrance fee (See General Rule 4 (a)), shall be run in conjunction with the league programme.

1. A player may play only for the team for which he is a registered player prior to the commencement of the match being played, and under no circumstances shall he play for any other team unless the league cup match forms part of a mini league format in which case normal league rules will apply.

2. Match to be played on normal home team night in week designated in the Fixtures. The 21 day rule applies to cancellations.

3. All rounds up to and including the semi-final shall be played on the home or away principle.

4. The final tie shall be played at a neutral venue and will be arranged by the divisional secretary. If a neutral venue is not available finalists will toss a coin for choice of venue.

5. If the match is drawn on sets it shall be decided on games, if games are equal it shall be decided on points. In the event of a tie of points a replay shall be arranged by the divisional secretary.

A TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT shall be run in conjunction with the league programme, league rules will apply except that:

1. The entrance fee shall be £3.00

2. Closing date for entries be the day of the Secretaries Meeting.

3. Teams shall consist of 3 players who will play each other three games, each of 11 up making a total of 27 games. N.B. A game of 11 up means that that the game is over as soon as the score reaches 11, even if the score at the previous point was 10 all.

4. Teams shall be handicapped for each round on its existing registered players. After the handicap has been formed no further registrations will be permitted unless permission has been given by the team handicap tournament secretary.

5. A player may play only for the team for which he is a registered member when the handicap is formed.

6. Match night and venue to be arranged by the home team. The team drawn as the home team shall play as the home team where-ever the match is played.

7. All rounds up to and including the semi-final shall be played on the home or away principle.

8. The final tie shall be played at a neutral venue and shall be arranged by the Team Handicap Tournament Secretary.

9. In the event of a tie on points a replay shall be arranged by the Team Handicap Tournament Secretary.

CLOSED TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Subject to the final decision of the Management Committee the events in the Wolverhampton Closed Tournament shall be: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Junior Girl's Singles, Junior Boy's Singles, Mixed Doubles, Veteran Singles, "Savoy" Registered Singles and additional events.
2. Subject to the final decision of the Management Committee entrance fees shall be as follows: Men's and Women's £5.00 per player. Veterans £5.00 per player and Savoy Singles £5.00 per player. Junior Boy's and Girl's £2.00 per player. Doubles events £2.50 per player.
3. All entries for the additional events to be made to the Tournament Secretary, in writing, and to be accompanied by the appropriate fee.
4. No player may substitute for any entrant absent.
5. No player may enter unless registered with this Association, Juniors and Veterans may register for the Tournament only, at a fee of £3.00, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
6. Players who have represented another Association or League in the current or previous season, will only be eligible to enter the Tournament if they have played in at least half of the possible Club League matches at the time of the closing date for entries.
7. The "Savoy" Restricted Singles is open only to those players who:
 - (a) Have not previously won this event.
 - (b) Are over the Junior age as in Rule 8 below.
8. A Junior is a player born on or after 1/1/2007
9. A Veteran is a player born on or before 1/1/1985
10. All individual and doubles events to be the best of five games unless otherwise decided by the Committee.
11. The Umpires decision to be final on points of fact, and the Hon. Referee's decision to be final on points of Law.

THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS

2.11 A Game

A game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring 11 points unless both players or pairs score 10 points when the game shall be won by the first player or pair subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.

2.13

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. The player or pair starting at the 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 the match, the players or pairs shall change ends when one player or pair scores 5 points.

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, 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.

2.15.6 Once introduced, the expedite system shall remain in operation until the end of the match.

The expedite system cannot be introduced if the score has reached 9-9 or 10-8.