



HARROGATE
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

2024-25 RULEBOOK

www.tabletennis365.com/harrogate
TTE Website: www.tabletennisengland.co.uk

CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Whilst the individual clubs may give various responsibilities to their captains this schedule summarises the duties for captains as referred to within the rules of the HTTA:

- 1) Read and familiarize themselves with the rules of HTTA
- 2) Arrange any postponement up to 24 hours prior to commencement of the original fixture. If responsible for the postponement, advise the Match Secretary within 48 hours of such postponement Re -arranged fixtures to be determined in accordance with Rule 7.3
- 3) Return match card claiming the match if the opposing team fails to turn up. (Rule 7.4).
- 4) Home team captain to advise the Match Secretary of the need to adjourn any match and to arrange for the match to be completed on a subsequent date. (Rule 7.9).
- 5) Home team captain to fill in the score card first. (Rule 8.1).
- 6) Home team captain to return the score card to the Match Secretary on time (Rule 9.2).
- 7) Both captains to keep a copy of the score card. (Rule 9.4).
- 8) Team captains to ensure that divisional trophies be returned to the HTTA Secretary by 30th April. (Rule 13.2).

In addition to ensuring that the rules of the HTTA are followed, the captains should encourage their teams to display the highest levels of sportsmanship reflecting the standards and aspirations of the HTTA and their clubs and in line with the new HTTA Code of Conduct which can be downloaded on:

www.tabletennis365.com/Harrogate/Pages/Code_of_Conduct

KNARESBOROUGH CHARITY CUP - HANDICAP

A) The fixture to consist of 9 matches, 2 games per match, 21 up per game, at 20 all - the next point wins. Match and game results to be entered onto the result sheet and totalled at the end of the match.

B) The WINNING team to return the Result Sheet. In the event of a Tie then the match is replayed on the Away table HOME team to enter their players on the result sheet first. The Handicap to be set on a Round by Round Basis.

C) Each player will be allotted a personal handicap and the calculation of the handicap will be done on the night according to the 3 players who are playing. Once a player has played for a given team they will not be able to play for another team although reserves could play who have not previously played for another team.

D) The teams will not be restricted to the normal players who play in a particular team but can consist of any three players.

E) As all teams will be included in the weeks set aside for the handicap the home team's night will be observed. Clubs where two teams were drawn at home and share the same home night, one team will be required to re-arrange their match.

F) A player is defined as: i) any HTTA player registered under Rule 6, Registration of Players, in the previous season; or ii) any HTTA player registered under Rule 6, Registration of Players, in the current season.

G) Eligibility for Round 1 of the Charity Cup: i) all players as defined in Rule F.

H) Eligibility for Round 2 and subsequent rounds of the Charity Cup "The Round", all players as defined in Rule F except that those players registered in the current season but NOT in the previous season must have played a minimum of two league games in the current season prior to commencement of The Round.

FINE FOR CONCEDED A CHARITY CUP FIXTURE

I) The club of any team conceding their Charity Cup fixture will be fined £30 which will be donated to HTTA's chosen charity.

INCORRECT CALCULATION OF HANDICAPS OR SCORECARD

J) Handicaps are to be agreed on the night of the match by the two team captains. The handicap and signed scorecard will stand even if subsequently either are found to be incorrect.

ENTRY FEES

Charity Cup fees included with affiliation fees.

ENTRY FORMS

Will be sent to team captains 2 to 4 weeks before commencement.

LICENSED BALLS ALL I.T.T.F. approved 3 Star

RULES 2024-2025

1. NAME

- 1.1 The Association shall be known as "The Harrogate and District Table Tennis Association" (HTTA) and will be affiliated to the English and Yorkshire Table Tennis Associations.

2. OFFICERS

- 2.1. The Officers shall consist of: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching Secretary, Competitions Secretary, A Match Secretary for each Division, Social Media Secretary, Tournament Secretary and Welfare Officer.
- 2.2. A President may be elected at the A.G.M. to serve for a period not exceeding three years. Nominations to be made by the Executive Committee.
- 2.3. Vice Presidents may be elected at the A.G.M. Nominations to be made by the Executive Committee.
- 2.4. Life Membership may be conferred by the A.G.M. Nominations to be made by the Executive Committee.

3. MANAGEMENT

- 3.1. The Association shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers and no more than four representatives to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The quorum needed to conduct business shall be four, including the chairman, in the event of a tied vote, the chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 3.2. The Executive shall have the power to determine subscriptions, registration fees and any other monies in order to keep the finances of the Association solvent.
- 3.3. All protests and disputes shall be placed before the Executive. Executive decisions when appealed against will be heard by an Appeals Board, to be appointed by the Annual General Meeting. Any appeal against the Executive decision must be made in writing to the Secretary within 14 days of notification.
- 3.4. The Executive will have the power to levy fines, to suspend players and expel Clubs from the Association and take any action deemed necessary to benefit the Association and the running of the Association.
- 3.5. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be empowered to act in cases of emergency, decisions shall be subject to confirmation at the ensuing Executive Meeting. The Secretary will give information and advice but this will not be considered binding on the Executive Committee.
- 3.6. The Executive may delegate some of its duties to a Sub Committee, provided that the Chairman of any such Committee shall be an Association Officer.
- 3.7. The Executive shall meet at least four times in a season.
- 3.8. The Executive have the power to grant an honorarium to an Officer.
- 3.9. The Executive shall make regulations for the various Competitions organised by the Association.

3.10. The Financial Accounts of the Association will be the exclusive responsibility of the Treasurer who will be required to keep the Books of Account. An examined Statement of Annual Accounts will be prepared by the Treasurer and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

- 4.1 The AGM shall be held in June or July and the Secretary shall give four weeks' notice to all club secretaries. The Notice shall include the date and venue, an agenda together with any proposed additions to, alterations to, and deletions from the Rules and the notice shall also be put on the HTTA Website.
- 4.2 The AGM shall elect officers and Executive committee for the ensuing season. Any person wishing to be elected or re-elected as an officer or as a member of the Executive Committee must notify the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.3 All additions to, alterations to, and deletions from the Rules shall come before the AGM. All proposals for such alterations in writing, to be in the hands of the Secretary by 31st May.
- 4.4 Any amendment to the proposed alterations must come via Club Secretaries and must be in the hands of the Association Secretary fourteen days before the date of the A.G.M.
- 4.5 Any registered player, committee member or life member unable to attend the AGM may send a proxy vote in writing (including email) to vote on any of the Resolutions before the meeting.
- 4.6 Any person wishing to vote by proxy must send their vote to either the Secretary or Chairman at least 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- 4.7 The Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time.
- 4.8 The Executive Committee shall also call an Extraordinary general Meeting within 21 days of a written requisition by 25 members representing no less than a third of all clubs at the time of the requisition specifying the business to be discussed including any proposed alterations to the constitution or rules or other propositions.
- 4.9 The Secretary shall give 14 days notice to all club secretaries of the Date and Venue of any EGM specifying the business to be discussed including any proposed alterations to the constitution or rules or other propositions and the notice shall also be put on the HTTA Website.
- 4.10 Any registered player, committee member or life member unable to attend the EGM may send a proxy vote in writing (including email) to vote on any of the Resolutions before the meeting.

- 4.11 Any person wishing to vote by proxy must send their vote to either the Secretary or Chairman at least 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- 4.12 All additions to, alterations to and deletions from the rules and any amendments to such proposals shall require a majority of those voting either in attendance or by their proxy.
- 4.13 Any Club not represented at the AGM or an EGM shall be fined £5.
- 4.14 Voting at the A.G.M. or an EGM shall be on the basis of one vote per Registered player or committee member or Life Member of the Association

5. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Any TTE affiliation fees must be paid by the player or their club direct to TTE. Subscriptions and YTTA team affiliation fees are to be paid on or before 30th September. Individual subscriptions will be £6.00 for each registered senior player and £2.00 for each registered junior player - defined as under the age of 18 on 31 December during the current season. Team subscriptions will be £6.00 for each registered team. In addition, the Association will collect on behalf of the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association (YTTA), the team affiliation fee and pay this over to YTTA which will affiliate each club to the YTTA. This affiliation fee is determined at the annual YTTA AGM.

6. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 6.1. The secretary of each club shall register with the Secretary within 14 days of the Annual General Meeting, on a provisional basis, the names of all playing members. A player who registers to represent any other league to the exclusion of being available to represent Harrogate must play at least one half of the Harrogate league fixtures being one half of the total fixtures for the division highest the player plays in, total games to count. Failing to do so may, at the discretion of the committee, result in all points won by the player in question, being deducted from the team total at the end of the season and in addition for those deducted points to be awarded to the appropriate opposing teams.
If a player is registered in another league then that player must inform either the Secretary or the relevant Match Secretary and must play a minimum of six fixtures in the Harrogate League during the season. Failing to do so may, at the discretion of the committee, result in all points won by the player in question, being deducted from the team total at the end of the season and in addition for those deducted points to be awarded to the appropriate opposing teams.
- 6.2. If a player wishes to change clubs during current season he must re-register, together with the old club's written acceptance.
- 6.3.
 - 6.3.1. A player shall be eligible to play only for the team for which he or she is registered. Subject to Rule 6.3.2, a player may play for any higher team within the same club provided that the overall total of higher appearances does not exceed four. If a player does make a fifth appearance then that player is deemed to be registered for the team the player played for on the fifth occasion. The player will not be allowed to play up on any further occasions. If a player does play up, Rule 15-4 will be implemented.
 - 6.3.2. A player is unable to play for a higher team within the same Club once the player's team, for which he or she is registered, has completed its league fixtures. "Completed its league fixtures" is defined as the Friday of that week on which a team's league fixtures should have been completed in accordance with the fixture list published at the commencement of the season, irrespective of the actual fixtures themselves having been played.
If a player does play up, Rule 15.4 will be implemented.
- 6.4. All players will be nominated for a team prior to the commencement of the season and shall not be eligible for a lower team unless downgraded by the Executive Committee or Sub-Committee.
- 6.5. Higher grade players will not be allowed to register in lower divisions without the prior consent of the Executive Committee or Sub-Committee.
- 6.6. Additional players may be registered in accordance with Rule 6.1 after the season has commenced. Such players shall be registered by the club secretary making a request for registration to the Divisional Match Secretary or the Website Secretary. The request may be made in writing, by email or orally. The appropriate fee must be sent to the Divisional Match Secretary within one week

from registration. If this fee is not received, then until the fee is received, all points won by the additional player in question will be deducted immediately from the team total at the end of the season and, in addition, for those deducted points to be awarded to the appropriate opposing teams.

- 6.7. Under 17 players playing in any junior division may also play as a senior player bound by the senior rules.

7. MATCHES

- 7.1. All Fixtures should be played in accordance with the fixture list. Best of five games per match. The Rules of TTE, including the Rules of Table Tennis (Laws), which can be found at <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/compete/rules-regs/laws/> shall apply in all respects for which provision is not made in these rules except that Laws 2.1.1 and 2.12.3 will be waived in Handicap Competitions.
- 7.2. Matches shall not be played as double headers i.e. for double the points in order that a return fixture need not be played. If the committee adjudges a double header to have been played then both teams involved will have the points deducted that were claimed for both matches deducted from both teams' total at the end of the season.
- 7.3. Fixtures may be postponed, up to 24 hours prior to the original commencement of the fixture. Fixtures may also be played earlier if both teams agree. The Match Secretary to be informed within 48 hours by the team asking for the postponement.
 - 7.3.1. Within 14 days of the original fixture date one of the following must occur:
 - 7.3.1.1. If the home team requested the rearrangement or if the fixture was postponed due to weather conditions or in other unforeseen circumstances where neither team requested the postponement then the home team must offer at least two dates to the away team.
 - 7.3.1.2. If the away team requested the rearrangement then the home team is obliged to offer one date only to the away team.
 - 7.3.2. If the home team does not offer any dates in accordance with the above then the away team can claim the fixture.
 - 7.3.3. The dates offered must be as soon after the original fixture date as possible and not clash with either club's other existing fixtures.
 - 7.3.4. If the rearranged fixture date is not agreed by the away team within 14 days of the date(s) being offered pursuant to clause 7.3.1 then the home team can claim the fixture.
 - 7.3.5. If, after agreeing a rearranged date, the same team who requested the postponement requests another postponement this shall not be allowed without the Executive Committee's permission and if no permission is granted the other team shall be awarded the fixture. If the other team requests a postponement or if the original fixture was postponed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances where neither team requested the postponement, then Rules 7.3 & 7.3.1-7.3.4 shall apply

- 7.3.6. Where a team requests a postponement less than 24 hours prior to the original commencement of the fixture then the other team will be awarded the fixture unless the fixture was postponed less than 24 hours prior to commencement due to weather conditions or in other unforeseen circumstances where neither team requested the postponement, in which case Rules 7.3 & 7.3.1-7.3.4 shall apply.
- 7.3.7. ALL fixtures to be completed no later than 14 days from the last Friday of the season (the last Friday of the season is the Friday in which the Charity Cup Final is scheduled to be played). Fixtures not completed by this time will be regarded as void and incurring penalty as per 15.7.
- 7.4. In the event of a team failing to turn up on the arranged night the opposing team must submit an official score card claiming the match. The offending team will be subject to rule 15.9.
- 7.5. All matches to commence no later than 7.30 pm unless by prior arrangement with the opposing team.
- 7.6. Players must complete all games in a match.
- 7.7. All points will be lost if two members of a team are not present at 7.30 pm unless by prior arrangement with the opposing team.
- 7.8. A player is not allowed to take part in a match if arriving after 8.00 pm unless by prior arrangement with the opposing team.
- 7.9. Fixtures which are unable to be completed due to unforeseen circumstances may be adjourned and re-arranged, to be completed within 14 days. The Match Secretary to be informed by the home team captain. All completed matches to stand and the same players are to finish the fixture.
- 7.10. The main colour of a shirt, shorts or skirt must be different from that of the ball.
- 7.11. Smoking and vaping are not allowed in the communal playing areas.
- 7.12. All games to be scored alternately by the home and away players or by third parties with the agreement of both team captains.

8. TEAMS

- 8.1. The HOME team captain shall enter his full team on the official score card first. Doubles need not be declared until commencement of the doubles match.
- 8.2. The order of play shall be set out on the scorecard unless suspended with the agreement of both team captains.
- 8.3. All divisions shall consist of three player teams.

9. MATCH RESULTS

- 9.1. One point to be awarded for each game won, including the doubles and one point to be awarded for each match won e.g. If the score of a singles (or doubles) match is 3-2 then the winners are awarded 4 points and the losers 2 points.
- 9.3. The HOME team captain shall be responsible for returning the score card to the Match Secretary so as to arrive no later than 7 full days after the fixture.
- 9.4. Team positions in the league will be decided on the points won in accordance with Rule 9.1. Where there is a tied situation, the team that has won most

fixtures will be deemed to have been placed higher and if there is still a tie, the team with more draws will be deemed to have been placed higher. If there is a still a tied situation affecting promotion or relegation, a play-off at a neutral venue, arranged by the Match Secretary, will decide final placings. The play off will consist of 9 singles sets only. Doubles will be played if the scores are tied (this can happen if both teams field two players). To play in a play-off a player must have made at least 6 appearances for the team involved in the play-off or a lower team.

9.5 A copy of the score card shall be kept by both Captains.

10. CONSTITUTION OF ASSOCIATION

- 10.1. The number of teams in a division shall be at the discretion of the committee.
- 10.2. A new team entering the Association shall be placed at the highest available vacancy at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 10.3. The Winners and Runners Up in each Division, except the first, may be placed in the next highest division and the bottom two teams in each division, except the first and the lowest, may be relegated to the next lowest division, where the playing strength remains the same. Where a vacancy occurs in a division then the Executive shall decide which team shall fill the vacancy.
- 10.4. Promotion into or relegation from Division 1 based on a fixture grid in that division of eight teams or fewer will include a play off between the runner up in Division 2 (at home) and the second bottom in Division 1, and the winner will play in Division 1 and the loser will play in the Division 2.
- 10.5. Where deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, rule 10.4 may be overridden and clause 10.3 will be applied to Division 1 if the structure of the league needs to be changed
- 10.6. A Harrogate Junior Team may be placed in any Division at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

11. ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

- 11.1. The Annual Tournament will be known as the Harrogate Closed Championship.
- 11.2. This Tournament is open to any player defined as:
 - 11.2.1. subject to 11.2.3 any HTTA player registered under Rule 6, Registration of Players, in any one of the previous three seasons; or
 - 11.2.2. any HTTA player registered under Rule 6, Registration of Players, in the current season but NOT in the previous three seasons, who has played a minimum of two fixtures in the current season prior to the closing date for Tournament entries The Tournament will be conducted in accordance with the rules of TTE
 - 11.2.3. a player will not be eligible for the Tournament under rule 11.2.1 if they are not playing in the HTTA league in the current season but are playing in another league
- 11.3. The Executive will determine the format of the Tournament.
- 11.4. Each game will be controlled by an umpire whose decision will be final on point of fact. The decision of the Referee will be final on point of law. Every match

after the first on each table shall be umpired by the player losing the previous match. Losing players will remain at the table.

- 11.5. Any player not ready to play when called will be automatically 'scratched'.
- 11.6. Seeding positions will be at the tournament secretary's discretion.
- 11.7. All entries will require approval by the Executive.
- 11.8. In the event of any questions arising not provided for in the rules or any dispute as to interpretation, the decision of the Referee shall be final.

12. EQUIPMENT

- 12.1. Official balls - Only ITTF approved 3star balls to be used in League, Competitions and Tournament matches.
- 12.2. One side of a table tennis paddle must be black rubber, while the other side can be any bright colour that contrasts with black and the ball. All rubbers must be ITTF approved and display the ITTF logo of approval.
- 12.3. Racket - A racket shall not be replaced during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used, if this happens the damaged racket shall be replaced immediately by another which the player has brought with them to the playing area or one which is handed to them in the playing area. The opposing player(s) and the umpire must be allowed to examine the replacement.

Note: no glues containing 'volatile compounds' (VCs) to be used.

Only ITTF authorised glues to be used.

13. TROPHIES

- 13.1. Trophies cannot be won outright.
- 13.2. All trophies to be handed to the Association Secretary by 30th April of the following season.

14. FINES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

New Clubs will be required to make a once only deposit before the commencement of their first season in order to protect the Association against excessive fines. The deposit will be £10 but if more than 3 Teams per club are registered then the deposit will be increased to £20. If before the season commences any Club reduces their number of Teams to 3 or less then a £10 refund will be made. Similarly an increase to more than 3 Teams will require an additional £10 deposit. Both adjustments will be made on the Clubs annual account. Any Club resigning from the Association will forfeit their deposit which retained by the Association. Should outstanding fines exceed the deposit then the club players must meet the outstanding fines before being re-admitted into the Association.

15. FINES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS – CLUBS

- 15.1. All protests lodged and not upheld will be subject to a fine of £10.00 to be deducted from the annual deposit.

- 15.2. or a dispute or protest put before the Executive Appeals Board against the Executive's previous decision which is not successful: £10.00 fine
- 15.3. or playing a non-registered player, his/her points lost and added to the opposing teams score and: £10.00 fine
- 15.4. or playing a non-eligible player, his/her points lost and added to the opposing teams score and: £10.00 fine
- 15.5. For failing to return score card within SEVEN (7) full days after a match: home team one (1) point deducted.
- 15.6. For every subsequent week or part week of breach of rule 15.5, up to five (5) weeks maximum at one (1) point deducted per week.
- 15.7. For failing to complete fixtures before the end of the season if offending Team: 40 points deducted for one match plus 40 points for each subsequent match.
- 15.8. For allowing a player not to complete a match within the stated time: £10.00 fine
- 15.9. If responsible for a match not to be played as specified in the Rules for Matches.
 - 15.9.1. Fine the offending Club: £10.00 fine and/or
 - 15.9.2. Award the match to the opposing team or:
 - 15.9.3. Order the match to be played within 14 days of the Executive or Sub Committee Meeting.
 - 15.9.4. Any team affected by rule 15.9.2 has the right to appeal (within one week of the season ending) to the appropriate Division Match Secretary. Such appeals will immediately be referred to "The Board of Appeal"
- 15.10. For returning the result card with insufficient postage: £10.00 fine
- 15.11.
 - 15.11.1. For failing to return any trophies to the Association Secretary in compliance with rule 13.2: £10.00 fine
 - 15.11.2. For lost/damaged trophies: £50.00 fine
- 15.12. For failing to report a postponed game -home team points deducted as rule 15.5 & 15.6.
 - 15.12.1. For failing to pay Subscriptions by 30th September:
 - 15.12.2. a fine of 5% of the outstanding Subscriptions if paid before 30 October
 - 15.12.3. a fine of 10% of the outstanding Subscriptions if paid before 30 November
 - 15.12.4. a fine of 15% of the outstanding Subscriptions if paid before 31 December or later

16. **HANDICAPPING**

- 16.1. Handicapping of all handicap events is to be determined by 'The Competitions Secretary' (or other appointed person identified by the committee) with the assistance of the divisional secretaries.
- 16.2. Each player's handicap may be adjusted after each newly drawn round.
- 16.3. All players have the right of appeal, (within two weeks of the date of issue of the handicaps) to the Competitions Secretary. Such appeals will immediately be referred to 'The Board of Appeal'.
- 16.4. The Committee's word is final.

17. **COACHING**

- 17.1. The Association will appoint a Coaching Secretary . Coaching courses will be held during each season at certain venues, by appointed coaches.