

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

1. This association of clubs shall be called "Warrington and District Table Tennis Association" (hereinafter referred to as "the Association").
2. The objectives of the Association shall be to provide and promote table tennis for clubs in the neighbourhood of Warrington and to arrange leagues, matches, tournaments and all events connected therewith in accordance with the rules of the English Table Tennis Association with a view to the advancement, interest and fellowship of the game.
3. The Association shall be affiliated to the National and County Associations.

MEMBERSHIP

4. Membership shall be open to such clubs within the Warrington area as the Executive Committee may approve. Membership shall also be open by direct affiliation to such individuals as the Executive Committee may approve. Such membership shall be subject to Rule 4a.
- 4a. Subject to no fines or fees being outstanding.
5. Clubs seeking membership should complete an application form and forward it to the General Secretary to arrive no later than the 30th June each year.

FINANCE

6. On admission to the Association each club or individual shall pay an annual affiliation fee of 50p.
7. Monies shall be placed in a suitable bank account, withdrawals being authorised by any two officers at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
8. The Treasurer shall present to the Annual General Meeting a duly audited statement of accounts for the year to 30th April.

ADMINISTRATION

9. The Officers of the Association, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, shall be:

Chairman; Deputy Chairman; General Secretary; Treasurer;
Match Secretary(ies); Town Team Secretary(ies);
Minutes Secretary; Development Officer.
10. The Association shall be administered by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Officers of the Association together with up to 5 Ordinary Members, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
11. An Auditor shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
12. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once per calendar month during the playing season. It shall have the power to fill casual vacancies, co-opt members and form sub-committees. If any member is absent from 3 meetings during the season without reasonable cause, he or she shall automatically retire. A quorum shall be 4 members, including one Officer of the Association.
13. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for determining all other rules and regulations appertaining to tournaments or other championships (except for League Championships) and for their interpretation.
14. All Executive Committee members shall be deemed to have retired at the end of the Annual General Meeting. The new Executive Committee shall assume responsibility on the day following the Annual General Meeting.

MEETINGS

15. **Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting shall be held in May each year. All clubs and directly affiliated individuals shall receive 21 days notice.
- 15a. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
 - a) To read and consider the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any Extra-ordinary General meeting(s) held since that date and take any

matters arising therefrom.

- b) To receive and consider the reports of the General Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary(ies), Town Team Secretary(ies).
 - c) To fix the League fees for the ensuing season.
 - d) To deal with any proposed alterations to rules.
 - e) To consider any other major business outstanding from the past season.
 - f) To elect and appoint a President, Life Members, Officers and Committee for the ensuing season.
 - g) To consider any other competent business.
16. **Extra-ordinary General Meeting:** On receipt of a requisition signed by at least 5 clubs or on instruction of the Executive Committee, the General Secretary shall call an Extra-ordinary General Meeting. All clubs shall receive 21 days notice and no business not stated in the Notice shall be transacted.
17. Every registered member of the Association will be entitled to vote at a General Meeting. The Chairperson shall **not** have a casting vote. In the event of a tied vote, the motion shall be declared lost.
18. Clubs **not** represented at a General Meeting shall be fined £2.00.

ALTERATIONS TO RULES

19. No new rule shall be made or any rule altered except at a General Meeting.
20. Members wishing to propose new rules or amendments to the rules must give full details in writing on or before 31st March in any year to the General Secretary, who must notify all Clubs of the details of the proposed alterations. Any member wishing to put forward amendments to such proposed rule alterations must give in writing before 20th April to the General Secretary, who will then notify Clubs of the proposals and amendments which will be considered at the Annual General Meeting. Alterations to the rules proposed by the Executive Committee shall be similarly dealt with. If an Extra-ordinary General Meeting is called for the purpose of considering rule alterations, then amendments to the propositions will be accepted up to 7 days before the date of the meeting.

21. Any changes to the Association rules must receive two-thirds of the votes cast at the meeting to be carried. Changes to League Championships, Trafalgar House Cup, Divisional and Town Championships Rules may be made on a simple majority.

OTHER RULES

22. A Town Team Secretary has priority on players for Town matches. If a selected player has a league match on the same night this may be postponed. Members selected but unable to play for the Town Team on any specific date shall **not** take part in any league match on that date.
23. Any protest must be made in writing to the General Secretary within 48 hours of the event to which it relates. The General Secretary shall send a copy of the protest to the third-party. All persons connected with a protest shall have the right to attend the Executive Committee meeting at which the matter is to be finalised.
24. The Executive Committee shall have the power to ban or suspend players for offenses against the league. Any ban or suspension imposed by the Executive Committee shall be binding. Any variation or cancellation shall be decided at a subsequent General Meeting only if a written application for the change or cancellation of the ban or suspension is received by the General Secretary, giving the same notice as would be required for rule changes, i.e. 31st March before the Annual General Meeting and 21 days before an Extra-ordinary General Meeting. On receipt of such an application, the General Secretary shall notify all Club Secretaries as per the procedure in Rule 20.
25. All fines and fees must be paid within 28 days of the date of the letter. Any club failing to do so may be subject to further penalties at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Said penalties may include the exclusion from the Association's competitions.
26. Team Captains and/or individuals shall sign for all cups and trophies on receipt and shall keep cups and trophies in proper condition and shall be responsible for any loss, theft and damage thereto. All cups and trophies must be returned, without requests being made, to the General Secretary at least 14 days before the end of the

competition or before the final of the competition is held in the following year.

- 26a. Any person other than the Team Captain and/or individual accepting a returnable cup or trophy on behalf of the aforementioned persons, shall be deemed responsible for any loss, damage & theft thereto.

RULES GOVERNING LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

27. The following rules shall be observed by all participating clubs. They shall be subject to amendment only in accordance with rules 19, 20 & 21 of the Association. The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide all matters not specifically provided for in the rules.
28. A Club wishing to complete in the League shall complete an entry form and forward this to the General Secretary to arrive no later than 30th June each year. A Club may enter any number of teams. In the event of new Clubs, or complete teams of new players from existing clubs, joining the league, The Executive Committee, after having evaluated their standard of play and playing facilities, shall decide in which division each team shall play.
29. Entry fees, which must be submitted with entry forms, shall be decided at the previous Annual General Meeting. National and County fees shall be due as levied. Any club failing to pay all entry fees by 30th June shall not be entered into the league. The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend any offending clubs for a season. A junior team shall be a team consisting of not more than one senior player.
30. Each club shall deposit a Guarantee Fee of £2.00 with the Association at the beginning of each season. This fee shall be returnable, on request, provided the club has met all its obligations.
31. Any bona-fide member of an affiliated Club shall be eligible to register as a senior player or any such member under 17 years of age on 1st July in the year the season commences as a junior player, before the commencement of the season.
32. Application forms for registration of player must be completed and signed by each club secretary and a list of all players in each team forwarded to the General

Secretary with the application form for membership of the league. When, due to extreme transient conditions, it shall be impracticable for the Match Secretary to receive individual notification and registration of players, the Executive Committee may, at their sole discretion, accept a composite list of player registration under a single heading provided such heading is received 28 days prior to the commencement of the season.

Further registrations and transfers, after the start of the season, will become effective as soon as the Match Secretary is notified in writing, and in the case of transfers, as soon as the Match Secretary is satisfied that the Secretaries of both clubs concerned are in agreement. Both further registrations and transfers will have to be ratified at the next Executive Committee meeting.

If any player plays for a team before his or her registration, his or her name shall be deleted and the team considered to have played a player short.

33. Clubs with more than one team shall register those teams, but not necessarily the individual players, in ranking order. Players may be transferred at the Executive Committee's discretion.
34. No player shall play for more than one club nor for a team of lower ranking than that which he or she is registered. A player may play as a reserve:
 - a) For a team in a higher division;
 - b) For the next higher ranking team only to that with which he or she is registered when the teams are in the same division.

Where a player is required to play as a reserve for a higher team, he or she may do so without jeopardising his or her appearance in his or her normal team fixture of the same week, subject to rule 35. Any player may be prohibited from making reserve appearances for a higher team at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

No player may play in the last four league matches of a division unless he or she has played in at least four league matches for that club earlier in the season.

35. Any player playing for teams higher than that with which he or she is registered shall, in the event of playing 4 matches, be transferred up immediately at least one team.
36. Fixtures shall be arranged by the Match Secretary. A match may only be postponed

under the following conditions:

- a) Under Rule 22 of the Association. In this instance the Match Secretary must be informed of any such postponement within 7 days of the scheduled date, and of the revised date as soon as possible.**
- b) In extenuating circumstances where the Match Secretary and both Club Secretaries agree on the postponement. In this event the match must be played within 14 days of the date it was originally scheduled to be played.**
- c) In the event of a postponed match not being played within 14 days of the date it was originally scheduled, the match will be graded by the Executive Committee. The criteria the Executive Committee will use to grade the match is: 'what would the score have been had the match been played with both teams fielding their regular team'. Only the non offending team (the team that did not cause the original postponement) will be awarded the sets resulting from the Executive Committee grading.**
- d) In the event of a match being played after the scheduled date in the handbook without the agreement and knowledge of the Match Secretary, the Executive Committee shall declare the result null and void, with no sets awarded to either team. It is the responsibility of BOTH teams involved to ensure that the Match Secretary is advised of any change to the original scheduled date of any match.**

The Executive Committee shall have the power to postpone, cancel or rearrange any fixture.

- 37. Each Club shall play its registered league team in all league matches with equipment conforming to E.T.T.A. standards. A suitable supply of balls must be provided by the home club.**
- 38. Matches shall consist of 10 sets; 9 singles and 1 doubles. For the purpose of single sets, teams shall consist of 3 players each playing 3 sets; ie one set against each of the opposing team players. Players taking part in the doubles set need not necessarily have played in the single sets. Games are to commence at 7.30pm prompt and play shall be continuous in the order of the card unless prior agreement to change this order has been made with the opposing team.**

39. Clubs not playing a full team may be fined at least £1.00 for each player short. The offending team(s) captain MUST write an explanation on the score card stating why their team was a player short. Clubs not fulfilling a fixture may be fined at least £3.00. The offending club(s) MUST write an explanation to the Match Secretary stating why the match was not played within 7 days of the date it was originally scheduled to be played. Should any infringement of this Rule, by the insertion of fictitious entries on the score-card, come to the notice of the Executive Committee, a fine of at least £5.00 will be imposed on the offending team, or at the discretion of the Executive Committee, on both teams involved.
40. Should a team arrive with a player(s) short, the match will be graded by the Executive Committee, although the non-offending team will be awarded a minimum of 9 games. If both teams are a player(s) short then the match will be graded with no minimum award.
41. A score-card shall be filled in for each match and signed by both captains. The card shall be posted to the Match Secretary immediately after the match. Clubs shall be fined £1.00 per week if the scorecard has not been received by the Match Secretary 7 days after the date of the match.
- If a match is not played, the home team shall post a score-card, endorsed to this effect, to the Match Secretary unless prior advise has been given.
42. Matches shall be decided on games won. The number of games won shall decide the position in a division. Where teams have equal games for, then the team with the least games against will decide the final position in a division, followed by the number of matches won, then the number of matches drawn. Where teams have equal games for, against, wins and draws, there shall be a play-off on a neutral table. The play-off shall consist of 9 singles only.
43. At the end of a season the team scoring the highest number of games in each division, subject to rule 42, shall be awarded a trophy and declared champions. Runners-up in each division shall receive prizes, funds permitting.

44. At the end of a season the top team in each division shall be promoted; the final composition of each division shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
45. In the event of a team withdrawing or being expelled from a division before the completion of all its fixtures, all fixtures, whether honoured or not, shall be considered cancelled and shall not count in any league table.
46. At the end of a season, the player in each division with the most wins shall be awarded a trophy as leading player in that division, funds permitting.
47. All persons, including reserves, playing in the Warrington League shall use a bat which is in accordance with the I.T.T.F. ruling on bat rubbers as stated below. There shall be no exception to this rule.

The I.T.T.F. ruling states:

"the surface of the covering material on a of the blade, or of a side of the blade if it is left uncovered, shall be matt, bright red on one side and black on the other."

The current rule now also goes on to state:

"the racket covering should be used as it has been authorised without any physical, chemical or other treatment, (except normal wear) – changing or modifying playing properties, friction, outlook, colour, structure, surface etc."

RULES GOVERNING THE TEAM HANDICAP CUP

COMPETITION

48. The Executive Committee may organise a Team Handicap Cup Competition during the season.
49. All registered Clubs shall be eligible to enter teams into the competition.
No player shall play for more than one team.
Lower team players are eligible to play for higher teams.
A sub-committee of the Executive Committee will be responsible for all other

competition rules for any one season.

These rules will be either sent out with an entry form or, where an entry form is not required, in advance of the 1st round matches.

50. If the Executive Committee set aside weeks specifically for the Team Handicap Cup Competition, the matches shall be played on the normal match night of the home team. In the event of a clash of match nights for two teams from the same club, one of the match will be re-arranged with the discretion of the Executive Committee.
51. Teams entering the competition shall be subject to Rule 25.

RULES GOVERNING TOWN CHAMPIONSHIPS

52. The Executive Committee may organise a Closed Championship for all registered members of the League either during or at the end of each season.
53. Trophies and prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
54. Entries will only be acceptable if accompanied by the correct fee and before the closing date decided by the Executive Committee.
 - a) Players may enter restricted competitions provided they are eligible at the closing date for entries.
55. Entrants must have played at least 30% of the League matches available at the closing date for entries. Entries from registered players who have not attained the 30% qualifying figure may be accepted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
56. The draw and seeding deemed necessary will be made by a sub-committee of the Executive Committee.
57. Any event may be cancelled if, in the opinion of the sub-committee, insufficient

entries have been received.

58. Changes to the draw will not normally be made. In the event of an unavoidable absence, a partner in a doubles event may be substituted at the discretion of the sub-committee.
59. Players entering the competition shall be subject to Rule 25.

RULES GOVERNING DIVISIONAL AND DIVISIONAL HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIPS

60. The Executive Committee may organise a Divisional and/or a Divisional Handicap Championships either during the season or as part of the Town Championships.
61. Trophies and prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
62. A sub-committee of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for the draw and any seedings deemed necessary.
63. Any registered player who wishes to enter the competition must have played at least 30% of the league matches available at the date of closing for entries. Entries from registered players who have not attained the 30% qualifying figure will only be accepted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
64. Any entrant who is unable to play on the date selected must inform the venue referee at least 24 hours before the scheduled time of the event. **Failure to do so may result, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, in the entrant being barred from further competitions during the current season.**
65. Players entering the competition shall be subject to Rule 25.