

**Table Tennis England**  
**National Competition Review**  
**Evolution of Tiered Open Tournaments**



1. What happens in '24/25 and what happens in '25/26

Season '24/25	Season '25/26
<p><b>Partial implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple flat-rate levy for 1*, 2* &amp; 4* Open events</li> <li>• Concurrent activity at 1* and 2* levels</li> <li>• Club-delivered events expand into Senior 4* Open space (eg in lieu of Grands Prix)</li> <li>• Pilot for online tournament sanctioning, entry/ payment, event reconciliation and payment, and rankings upload</li> <li>• [If on the same date] One in two 1* Open Tournaments at all age-groups will have a designated 'W&amp;G' category at the event to maximise competitor numbers and value. Similarly, 1 in 2 events at Cadet level will be designated to have U11/ U13 categories</li> <li>• [If on the same date] Incentivise U11, W&amp;G, U21/ U23 competitions (and other priorities as they may emerge) by giving preference in local/ regional/ national opens</li> </ul>	<p><b>Full implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change to Local Opens + Zonal Opens + National Opens *</li> <li>• Reduced officiating/ physical requirements at lowest level of tiered open tournaments to make more cost-effective for organisers – <i>see section 2 for details</i></li> <li>• Designated dates in annual calendar for each activity</li> <li>• Greater assurance of geographical spread and incentivisation of preferred formats and categories via quarterly allocation process – <i>see section 3 for more detail</i></li> <li>• All Tiered Tournaments must use online sanctioning/ entry platform &amp; must submit results in upload template</li> <li>• Create automatic qualification + leaderboard for Senior National Championships from Senior Open Tournaments, using model established for Cadet/ Junior 4* events. All Youth players, and all Snr players outside top10 ranking, must play at least 1 National Open event in last 3 for eligibility</li> <li>• Local Open Tournaments can choose in advance whether to be ranking or non-ranking, at their discretion, in order to be more flexible/ easily-deliverable (but 1* can effectively do this via 'Development' tier until this time)</li> <li>• Subsidise National Opens for youth and senior age-groups to enable high-quality environment for participant and to be cost-effective for organiser (envisaged as prize money events)</li> </ul>

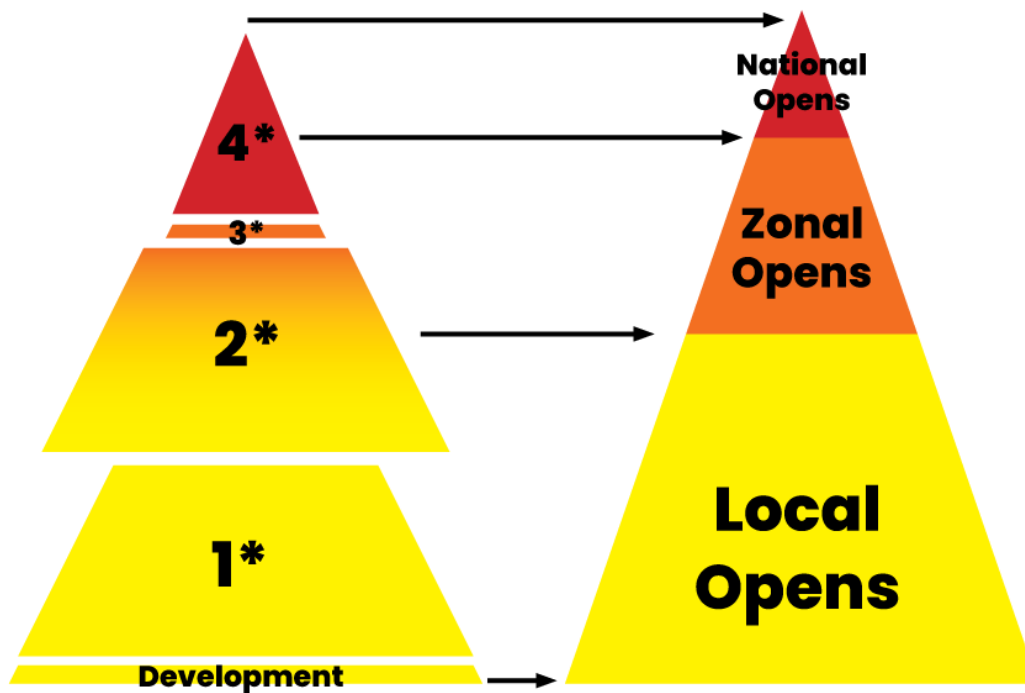
\* Satellite Grands Prix such as those currently run by Cardiff and Jersey can apply to be a Zonal Open. VETTS Regional events will be encouraged to sit in the 'Veterans Zonal Open' calendar spaces and the VETTS Nationals in the 'Veterans National Open' calendar spaces in order to avoid direct clashes

## 2. Framework for the three new levels

All current 1\* competitions will naturally fit into the Local Open category. Current 2\* competitions may become Local Opens or Zonal Opens depending on how they compare to the criteria laid out for each competition. Similarly, current 4\* competitions may become Zonal Opens or National Opens.

Two key points are that: i) the competition opportunities themselves will not be lost, and ii) each tier will represent a meaningful step-up in size and standard - more tables, more players.

As you go up the pyramid there are naturally fewer but larger and better events.



	<b>Local Open</b> (Grade 1-2 in regs)	<b>Zonal Open</b> (Grade 3 in regs)	<b>National Open</b> (Grade 4 in regs)
<b>Ranking eligibility/ results submission</b>	Flexible – yes or no	Yes	Yes
<b>Ranking Weighting</b>	1.25x	1.5x	1.75x (all except Senior)/ 2.0x (Senior)

<b>Tournament Organiser qualification</b>	<i>Minimum</i> TTE member	<i>Minimum</i> TO2	<i>Minimum</i> TO3
<b>Referee qualification</b>	<i>Minimum</i> suitably experienced TTE member approved by TAP	<i>Minimum</i> L1 (TR)	<i>Minimum</i> L2 (NR)
<b>Deputy Referee qualification</b>	-	-	<i>Minimum</i> L1 (TR)
<b>Umpire</b>	Designated individual preferred	A <i>minimum</i> of one L1 umpire. Minimum L1 (all finals)	A <i>minimum</i> of one L1 umpire for 1-4 tables, at least 2 for 5-8 tables and so on. Minimum L1 (all KO matches)
<b>Organising Committee</b>	Recommended	Required	Required
<b>Entry commitment</b>	-	-	Entry priority to top30 ranked players & top10 ranked Juniors at All-Ages events; to top30 ranked Juniors & top10 ranked Cadets at Junior events; to top30 ranked Cadets & top10 ranked U13s at Cadet events
<b>Playing conditions &amp; equipment</b>	<i>Minimum</i> requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.5x4m x3m high</li> <li>• 300lux</li> <li>• ITTF approved balls</li> <li>• Surrounds at ends and corners</li> </ul> Grade 2 preferred in all areas (9x4.5 x 3m high)	<i>Minimum</i> requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10x5m x3m high</li> <li>• 500lux</li> <li>• ITTF approved tables and nets</li> <li>• ITTF approved balls</li> <li>• Surrounds at ends and corners</li> </ul>	<i>Minimum</i> requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12x6m x4m high (Senior) <i>or</i> 10x5m x3m (all except Senior)</li> <li>• 500lux</li> <li>• ITTF approved tables and nets</li> <li>• ITTF approved balls</li> <li>• Surrounds on all sides</li> </ul>
<b>Score Indicators</b>	At least for finals	All matches	All matches
<b>Programme</b>	-	Recommended with individual match times	Recommended with individual match times
<b>Finals</b>	-	Clearly defined 'show table'	Clearly defined 'show table'; no adjacent play

### 3. Assessment Process

The assessment process will change from a rolling approach where all dates are ‘valid opportunities’, to a quarterly process for specific advance dates.

The assessment date will be 5-8 months in advance of the event window. There will be a ‘2nd chance’ for additional applications in the following assessment window, for events which will then sit 2-4 months ahead.

This is illustrated as follows:

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Assess &amp; Award</b>	<b>For Event Period (1)</b>	<b>For Event Period (2)</b>
End-Feb	March	Aug-Oct	May-July
End-May	June	Nov-Jan	Aug-Oct
End-Aug	Sept	Feb-Apr	Nov-Jan
End-Nov	Dec	May-July	Feb-Apr

Local: c.10 designated event dates per year, depending on age-group; up to 10 events concurrent per event date

Zonal: c.5 specified event dates per year, depending on age-group; up to 5 events concurrent per event date

National: up to 3 specified event dates per year, depending on age-group; events to standalone in calendar

In addition to the designated dates, Local Open tournaments will be able to apply to be hosted on other, non-designated, dates with agreement of their County, through the same quarterly process. This maintains opportunity and flexibility, with appropriate check/ balance on a case-by-case basis and active validation at local level. If multiple local hosts in a single area all wish to use non-designated dates, then approval will be assessed and prioritised in the same way.

The Local and Zonal areas are not defined, and will be considered independently on each designated/ specified date to help ensure optimal geographical distribution:

- Eg. Local events may be broadly NE, NW, E Mids, W Mids, E, SE, SW and London – the total number and their boundaries will be reactive to the quantity and location of potential event hosts – but no more than one event shall take place in each *locale*; similarly, Zonal events may be broadly N, E, Mids, S, W – or they may be East & Mids, London & SE, SW and N – and no more than one event shall take place in each *zone*
- When two or more hosts apply for the same date in the same locale, the priority event will be determined by Committee at their discretion based on identified TTE priorities and the inherent properties of the venue/ event. TTE priorities will be published and communicated to hosts, may evolve over time, and may incorporate entry cost, venue and facilities, formats (eg inclusion of consolation events) as well as particular categories (eg age-groups and/or gender provision)
- Each assessment process will be independent of others, and success or not in one will not be taken into account for others
- A non-binding ‘litmus test’ based on travel time will be applied by Committee at their discretion in order to maintain an appropriate degree of separation. As an illustration, tournaments may not usually be sanctioned within an hour/ 50 miles of each other for Local events, or 2hrs/ 100 miles for Zonal events
- The ‘one in two’ rule for designating a particular Local Open as a ‘W&G’ event, and similarly for U11/ U13 categories at Cadet level, will be applied by Committee at their discretion to Local events on the same date within the same area and relevant to the travel/ distance time above - eg N, E/ Mids, S, W etc

Hosts applying for a Youth or Senior National Open event must submit an outline budget, in a standard template format to be provided, if seeking to receive financial support from TTE towards the delivery costs. If a host is awarded financial support then TTE reserve the right to audit event finances and in the event of discrepancies recoup some or all of their contribution.

*Updated: 25/06/24*