

## NATIONAL SERIES FAQs

### What is the national series?

The National Series is a new competition for season 24/25, which provides a regular high-quality competitive opportunity for the top cohort of players in U13s, U15s & U19s.

There are multiple divisions typically of six players in each age/gender category, played in a round robin format, that will see promotion and relegation between divisions after each round, to create regular tight competitive matches amongst the top ranked players.



### How does it work?

The inaugural four-date National Series will be held as follows:

Round	Date	Age Group	Venue
1	24 Aug 2024	U13 Girls	Draycott & Long Eaton TTC
		Cadet Girls	St Neots TTC
		Junior Girls	Joola Plymouth TTC
	25 Aug 2024	U13 Boys	Draycott & Long Eaton TTC
		Cadet Boys	St Neots TTC
		Junior Boys	Joola Plymouth TTC
2	19 Oct 2024	U13 Girls	St Neots TTC
		Cadet Girls	Joola Plymouth TTC
		Junior Girls	Nottingham TTC
	20 Oct 2024	U13 Boys	St Neots TTC
		Cadet Boys	Joola Plymouth TTC
		Junior Boys	Nottingham TTC
3	23 Nov 2024	U13 Girls	Joola Plymouth TTC
		Cadet Girls	Nottingham TTC
		Junior Girls	St Neots TTC
	24 Nov 2024	U13 Boys	Joola Plymouth TTC
		Cadet Boys	Nottingham TTC
		Junior Boys	St Neots TTC
4	1 Feb 2024	U13 Girls	Draycott & Long Eaton TTC
		Cadet Girls	St Neots TTC
		Junior Girls	Joola Plymouth TTC
	2 Feb 2024	U13 Boys	Draycott & Long Eaton TTC
		Cadet Boys	St Neots TTC
		Junior Boys	Joola Plymouth TTC

Each age group will move between venues throughout the season, with girls matches taking place on the Saturday and boys playing on the Sunday.

Results and League tables will be published after each weekend on the event landing page [National Series - Table Tennis England](#)



### **Who is eligible?**

The National Series is open to U13, U15 and U19 home countries players (England, Scotland Ireland, Wales, Jersey, Guernsey & Isle of Man) on the TTE ratings lists.

If a player is eligible in more than one age-group, they must choose one of these.

Eligible members of national squads will be required to be available for this event.

### **How many players are taking part?**

Each age-group/ gender will have between 12 and 30 players taking part, in divisions of 6.

### **What happens if a player misses a round – do they keep their place?**

If a player is 'legitimately absent', eg due to injury, illness or international duties, then their place in the same Division will be protected for the following round.

Players who are illegitimately absent will lose their place and be ineligible as a replacement for one further round. Illegitimate absences may be filled by a wildcard or ratings list replacement, who will enter the bottom division.

Players who enter are expected to be available and to attend each round.

### **How does promotion and relegation work?**

The divisions for each age-group/ gender are formed for Round 1 based on ratings – and after that, there is promotion and relegation after each round, until a champion is crowned at the end of round 4.

The draw matrix for matches in each division are seeded based on the ratings lists two weeks preceding each round.

Typically, promotion/ relegation is two-up/ two-down from a standard division of 6, but if there is a vacant place then players will shuffle-up from a lower division, and if the vacancy is a 'legitimate absence' (a protected place in the Division) an additional relegation spot will be created in all affected divisions so the absent player can re-enter their original division in the following round.

If a player is relegated from the bottom division, another eligible player from the ratings list will be invited as a replacement – and the relegated player will be ineligible as a replacement for one further round.

### **What happens if an age-group/ gender is a player short, or someone doesn't turn up on the day?**

If absences and/or declined invitations mean that a Division may play short, and venue capacity/ scheduling permits, then Divisions of 7 players may be created to help ensure a suitable number of matches for each player. Relegation will be increased accordingly to allow for a return to standard Divisions of 6 for the following round.



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If a player doesn't attend on the day, or drops out after the Divisions are formed for a round - for instance due to an emergency - then typically the Division will be played with a vacant place. If there are multiple absences in a Division, and if it is possible, the organiser or referee may reconfigure divisions at short notice to help ensure a suitable number of matches for each player.

The absent player(s) will be deemed either a legitimate absence or illegitimate absence based on the circumstance.

### **How will I know what promotion and relegation applies in each division?**

This will be specific to each division in each round due to 'protected places', and players and host venues will be informed when the divisions are formed – and as and when any additional changes may be necessary.

### **How are standings in each Division calculated?**

As per *Annexe B of Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions: Group Competitions*, a player shall score 2 match points for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match, and 0 for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match. For the avoidance of doubt, unplayed matches include those affected by a player withdrawing after having started a match.

The ranking order in the group shall be determined primarily by the number of match points scored; if two or more members of the group have scored the same number of match points, their relative positions shall be determined only by the results of the matches between them.

### **When will the details of each round and divisions go out to players?**

Specific details will be sent directly to each player one week before each round, and as and when any additional changes may be necessary.



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