

National Series 2024/25

Reference Document



General Info

Dates: 24-25 August 2024, 19-20 October, 23-24 November, 1-2 February 2025

Venues: Draycott & Long Eaton TTC, Nottingham TTC, St Neots TTC & Joola Plymouth TTC

Date / Age	Under 13s	Cadets/ U15s	Juniors/ U19s
24 Aug (Girls)	Draycott & Long Eaton TTC	St Neots TTC	Joola Plymouth
25 Aug (Boys)			
19 Oct (Girls)	St Neots TTC	Joola Plymouth	Nottingham TTC
20 Oct (Boys)			
23 Nov (Girls)	Joola Plymouth	Nottingham TTC	St Neots TTC
24 Nov (Boys)			
1 Feb (Girls)	Draycott & Long Eaton TTC	St Neots TTC	Joola Plymouth
2 Feb (Boys)			

Invitations: by 24 July 2024

Entry Deadline: 07 August 2024

1. Authority

The English Table Tennis Association shall organize the National Series

President: Mrs. Jill Parker

2. TTE Board

Mr. Nick DONALD, Table Tennis England Chair

Mr. Adrian CHRISTY, Table Tennis England CEO

Mr. Kwadjo ADJEPONG, Appointed Director

Mr. Richard AYERS, Appointed Director

Mr. Mark BOOTE, Appointed Director

Mr. Ray JAMES, Appointed Director

Mr. Steve KEMISH, Appointed Director

Ms. Sally HUGHES, Elected Director

Mr. Jos KELLY, Elected Director

Mr. Don PARKER, Elected Director

Mr. Ritchie VENNOR, Elected Director

3. Series Director

Should you have any queries regarding this event, please contact: Mark Pinder

mark.pinder@tabletennisengland.co.uk

4. Officials

Officials will be specific to each host venue. As a minimum this will include a TR referee and one L1 umpire per venue; optimally this will include a minimum NR referee, and 1.5 minimum qualified umpires per table at each venue with at least one those being minimum L2

5. Events

The following Series events will take place:

- U13s boys & U13 girls categories

- U15s boys & U15 girls categories
- U19s boys & U19 girls categories

6. Format

- 6.1 The series shall comprise of four rounds per season, in each age-group and gender
- 6.2 The host for each round of each boys and girls category will rotate around the host venues
- 6.3 Each category will typically play in divisions of 6 persons, with a minimum of 12 players (2 tiers) and a maximum of 30 players (5 linear tiers)
- 6.4 Each division will play a full round-robin on each round
- 6.5 The match format shall be Best of 5 games, 11-up
- 6.6 The maximum number of tiers in each category will be determined each season at the sole discretion of the Head of Performance Development
- 6.7 There will be promotion/ relegation between each tier after each round, a minimum of 2-up/ 2-down
- 6.8 Up to 2 players may also be relegated from the bottom tier after each round, dependent on 10.8

Note on scheduling: 5 matches per player per round; 15 matches per division per round. With 1 table per division, this will equate to c.10hrs play at 40mins per match, and will be played on a rolling basis. The largest projected cohort (30 players) can be delivered in a 5-table venue – larger venues and/or smaller cohorts will complete play on more than 1 table per division

7. Invitations

- 7.1 Invitations will be issued 1 month prior to the first round of each season
- 7.2 Invitations will be determined by the ratings for eligible players in each category*, plus up to 4 wildcards in each category at the sole discretion of the Head of Performance Development (eg if the cohort is 24 players, then 20 will be invitations and 4 will be wildcards)
- 7.3 Declined places and unused wildcards will revert to eligible players in rating order
- 7.4 If the number of declined places mean that the anticipated number of tiers in a given category cannot be established, or established in a suitable timeframe, then that category may operate with fewer tiers than originally determined in 6.6
- 7.5 For the avoidance of doubt, performance in the Series in a previous season has no bearing on invitations for following seasons
- 7.6 If a player is eligible for invitation in more than one age-category, then they must choose one category to enter in consultation and agreement with the Head of Performance Development
- 7.7 Players will be treated independently in each age-group in respect of relegation replacements and wildcard replacements, but may only be active in one age-group at any one time
- 7.8 Players relegated from the bottom tier in any category may be replaced in the following round by the next eligible player in the ratings list two weeks preceding the following round who is not yet part of the Series, including any players who declined an original invitation, and notwithstanding any restrictions due to previous illegitimate absence. Replacement players will join the bottom tier. Please see also 10.8
- 7.9 Players relegated from the bottom tier in any category will be ineligible for selection as a *replacement* in that age-group for one round

** If the first round is in August, then this will be based on ratings from the previous season, but with age-eligibility factored for the season in question*

8. Eligibility

- 8.1 Players must fulfil all the following criteria:
 - a. TTE Compete Plus members *or* home country reciprocal members
 - b. British nationals who were born in or have their main residence in one of the home countries
 - c. Have indicated one of the home countries as their nationality in their TTE membership profile

- d. Not be currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of Table Tennis England or ITTF & ETTU
- e. Not be currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules.

8.2 If a player becomes ineligible, they will forfeit their place in the Series for the remaining rounds

9. Seedings

9.1 Divisions will be seeded contiguously at the beginning of the Series based on the most recent ratings list two weeks prior to the first round; thereafter promotion/ relegation will apply for each round

9.2 Each division in each round will be seeded on the basis of the rating list 2 weeks preceding each round, in order to produce a playing schedule

10. Player Unavailability & Wildcard Replacements

10.1 If a player is unavailable, the Head of Performance Development shall at their sole discretion deem the absence either:

- a. *Legitimate* absence. Examples of legitimate absence may include but is not limited to injury/ illness, suspension, extenuating personal circumstance or unavoidable international commitment
- OR
- b. *Illegitimate* absence

10.2 Players who are *illegitimately absent* will be ineligible as a *replacement* in all age-groups for one further round

10.3 Players who are *legitimately absent* will regain their existing place in the same tier in the following round

10.4 Any vacancies created by either legitimate or illegitimate absence, or by changes in player eligibility, will be filled contiguously (eg players 'shuffle-up'). The resultant vacancy(s) in the bottom tier will be filled by a *wildcard replacement(s)* at the sole discretion of the Head of Performance Development. If no wildcard replacement is nominated by the Head of Performance Development, this vacancy will revert to the next eligible player on the rating list who is not yet part of the Series, including any players who declined an original invitation, and notwithstanding any restrictions due to previous illegitimate absence. Wildcard replacements remain valid for all remaining rounds in the season, subject to relegation

10.5 If the number of absences means that the anticipated number of tiers in a given category cannot be established, or established in a suitable timeframe, then that category may operate with fewer tiers than originally determined in 6.6, for any given round

10.6 As such, invitations to players in all categories should be considered provisional until such time as the viability of all anticipated tiers is confirmed for each round

10.7 For any divisions so affected by legitimate absence, and for each instance, an additional relegation place may be created for that round only, in order to allow legitimately absent player(s) to re-enter their original tier for the following round. As an example: if a legitimate absence is in the top tier, then players in all divisions will 'shuffle-up' and all divisions will have an additional relegation place created, including the bottom tier, in order for balance to be regained when the absent player rejoins

10.8 In the event that legitimate absences create a scenario whereby standard promotion/ relegation approach cannot be applied, for instance if the quantity of protected places would result in players finishing in a promotion position being relegated, or as a consequence of 10.5, then 10.9 shall apply

10.9 In exceptional circumstances, the organisers shall have power to take such action as they consider necessary, including redefinition of the structure and temporary waiving of regulations.

11. Standings

11.1 Standings shall be calculated as per Annex B to Regulations Part A: Regulated Competitions: Group Competitions

12. Fees

- 12.1 Each player will be required to pay an entry fee of £120 as part of the event entry in the Sport:80 platform. Instructions for payment will be detailed within the entry system
- 12.2 Except where they have already played an earlier round, players called up for subsequent rounds will be required to pay a proportional fee
- 12.3 Players relegated from the Series will receive a proportional rebate at the end of the season
- 12.4 There will be no refund in the event of legitimate or illegitimate absence

13. Medals & Trophies

The top three finishing individuals in the top tier in each category will be presented with an engraved medal.

The winner of the top tier in each category will be presented with a Trophy. Competitors should note that Table Tennis England retain the ownership of all Perpetual Trophies. If a recipient requests permission to retain a trophy for a period of time, this is acceptable providing the player signs a guarantee of safe return form.

14. Weighting

These events carry a Table Tennis England ranking weighting of 1.75

15. Racket Testing

Racket tests may be implemented at this event, randomly selected according to ITTF regulations

16. Equipment

Equipment will be specific to each host venue. As a minimum this will meet Grade 3 requirements (including 10x5m courts); optimally this will meet Grade 4 requirements (including 12x6m courts)

17. Anti-Doping

Anti-doping testing may be carried out through this event, randomly selected accordingly to ITTF regulations.

18. Clothing

Competitors are required to display their name on the back of their playing shirt at all times when playing.

19. Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used within the match court area and should remain somewhere safe within an individual's bag, or with a parent or coach attending the event. Any player caught using their phone during time out, change of ends or during matches will forfeit the match.

20. Photography and Streaming

Table Tennis England may be taking photos and live streaming matches during this event, the use of which may include (but not be limited to) our printed and online platforms, social media, press releases and funding applications. If you do not give permission to take photographs and/or video of you (or individuals for whom you are legally responsible), please contact competitions@tabletennisengland.co.uk

For further details please see the Table Tennis England Photo and live streaming Policy:
<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/photography-guidelines/>

21. Codes of Conduct

All participants and attendees at Table Tennis England events are subject to Table Tennis England Codes of Conduct <https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-codes-of-conduct-and-terms-of-reference/>

We will not tolerate swearing or verbal abuse of volunteers, officials, staff or venue staff, nor a failure to follow the operational directions of stewards and event staff. We will treat all such instances extremely seriously and will rigorously pursue disciplinary sanctions if necessary.

For further details, please see the Table Tennis England Workforce Protection Policy
<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/policies-and-procedures/Seeding>

All rules will be played as per Table Tennis England Regulated Competition which can be found in the following link: [Articles and regulations - Table Tennis England](#)