

**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Ltd**  
**trading as TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND**

**Regulations Part LS: SENIOR BRITISH LEAGUE**

**Approved by Board:**

**In effect from:**

**1 CONSTITUTION OF DIVISIONS**

- 1.1 There shall be a Premier Division, a Championship Division, 2 National A Divisions, 4 National B Divisions and 8 or more National C Divisions.
- 1.2 There shall be 8 teams in the Premier Division and in other divisions such number of teams not exceeding 10 as the Committee shall decide.
- 1.3 No club at Premier, Championship or National A and B levels, may have more than one team in the same division.
- 1.4 With the exception of the Premier Division, the competition shall be completed over four weekends as allocated by the Committee, preferably not more than five weeks apart.
- 1.5 Each Premier team shall initially play each opposing team once either home or away.
- 1.5.1 Two mini-divisions of four will then be formed, based on the finishing positions (teams 1-4 and 5-8), with each team competing once against all the other teams in its mini-division over the final allocated match days on a home or away basis, balanced as evenly as possible at the discretion of the Administrator.
- 1.5.2 Results of all matches will be carried forward from the first seven sessions to the appropriate four-team mini-division which will determine the final league position of each team.

**2 PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

- 2.1 At the end of each season's competition, the highest eligible team in each division other than the Premier and Championships Divisions shall be promoted and their places taken by the two lowest placed teams in the next higher level. (The "highest eligible team" shall mean the highest placed team which could be promoted without placing two teams from the same club in the same division.)
- 2.2 If a team is relegated into the Championship, National A or National B division in which there is already a team from the same club, to avoid a breach of Regulation 1.4 the latter team shall be relegated.
- 2.3 The lowest placed team in each of the lowest divisions shall be deemed to have resigned but may apply for re-admission.
- 2.4 If a team withdraws from any division either before or after completing all its fixtures, the place vacated by that team shall be filled by reducing by one the number of teams relegated from that division.
- 2.5 In the Premier and Championship Divisions
  - 2.5.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> placed team in the Championship division will automatically be promoted to the Premier Division, taking the place of the relegated 8<sup>th</sup> placed team in the Premier Division, providing there is not already a team from the same club in the Premier Division.
  - 2.5.2 If a club with a team in the Premier Division wins the Championship Division the next highest placed eligible team will have the opportunity to challenge the 8<sup>th</sup> placed team in the Premier Division in a play-off.
  - 2.5.3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> highest placed eligible team from the Championship Division, other than a team relegated from that division, will have the opportunity to challenge the 7<sup>th</sup> placed team from the Premier Division in a playoff.
  - 2.5.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of 2.5.1-2.5.3, if there are divisions having too many or too few teams, the Committee shall have power to adjust the allocation of teams to divisions, except that no promoted team shall have its promotion cancelled and no more than two teams shall be relegated from any division of eight or fewer teams.
  - 2.5.5 The BL Secretary will notify eligible clubs of their right to apply to challenge for a Premier Division place and any club wishing to do so must submit its application to the BL Secretary within 14 days.
  - 2.5.6 The BL Secretary will notify the appropriate Premier Division club of the challenge and that club must then notify the BL Secretary within 14 days of its decision whether to accept the challenge or to be relegated.
  - 2.5.7 If both clubs accept the challenge the BL Committee will provide details of play-off dates.
  - 2.5.8 The play-off shall consist of two matches, on a home and away basis, in the normal BL match format, and the winner shall be determined by aggregating the scores in the two matches.

**3 PLAYING FORMAT**

- 3.1 In all Divisions
  - 3.1.1 The home team shall be designated A, B, C, D and the away team W, X, Y, Z.

- 3.1.2 All individual matches shall be the best of 5 games.
- 3.1.3 All possible individual matches shall be played.
- 3.2 In the Premier Division:
  - 3.2.1 Each team shall consist of 3 players.
  - 3.2.2 A team match shall consist of 1 individual doubles match and 4 individual singles matches.
  - 3.2.3 The order of play shall be B/C v Y/Z, A v X, C v Z, A v Y, B v X
- 3.3 In the Championship Division:
  - 3.3.1 Each team shall consist of 4 players.
  - 3.3.2 A team match shall consist of 8 individual singles matches.
  - 3.3.3 The order of play shall be A v X, B v W, C v Z, D v Y, A v W, C v X, B v Y, D v Z.
- 3.4 In all other divisions:
  - 3.4.1 Each team shall consist of 4 players for singles and up to 2 additional players for a doubles.
  - 3.4.2 The singles players may play also in doubles but the additional players may not play in singles.
  - 3.4.3 A team match shall consist of 8 individual singles matches and 1 individual doubles match.
  - 3.4.4 The order of play shall be A v X, B v W, C v Z, D v Y, Doubles, A v W, C v X, B v Y, D v Z.
  - 3.4.5 Team captains shall independently nominate their doubles pairs to the referee at any time up to the start of the doubles match and this nomination cannot be changed thereafter.
- 3.5 If a team is more than one player short, it shall be deemed not to have fulfilled the fixture and a penalty will be imposed in accordance with Annex E.
- 3.6 Until 30 minutes before the starting time for the match the order of play may be varied by agreement of both team captains and the Referee.
- 3.7 No player shall be allowed to take part in more than one team match played simultaneously in the same venue.
- 3.8 Where an individual match is forfeited in accordance with regulation 3.5 and the opposing player was either not present or was ineligible for any reason, that individual match shall be considered void with neither team being awarded the win.
- 3.9 Where both teams are missing one or more players, any individual matches that would involve both missing players shall be considered void.
- 3.10 Where a team is missing one player, any individual matches the missing player would have played shall be awarded to the opposing team; the individual result will not be counted for British League player averages.

#### **4 REGISTRATION & TRANSFER**

- 4.1 The latest date for registration or transfer (BL General Regulations 6.2.2, 6.2.5, 7.3) is 31st December.
- 4.2 In exceptional circumstances, (excluding the Premier and Championship Divisions) the Committee may allow a replacement registration after the date specified in Regulation 4.1, provided that the additional player is ranked lower (on the Ranking List in use on the day of competition) than the one replaced; the newly registered player and the replaced player cannot subsequently both play in the same round (session).
- 4.3 In exceptional circumstances, (excluding the Premier and Championship Divisions and Premier play-offs) the Committee may allow a player to be transferred after the date specified in Regulation 4.1 provided that the transferred player is ranked lower than the replacement player (on the National Ranking list in use on the day of competition); the transferred player and the replaced player cannot subsequently both play in the same round (session).

#### **5 GUARANTEE DEPOSITS**

- 5.1 On a team first being entered, its club shall pay a guarantee deposit of the amount specified in British League General Regulations.
- 5.2 The Committee may at any time deduct from the guarantee deposit any amount due and payable to the League in respect of the team for which the guarantee deposit is held.
- 5.3 If at any time the guarantee deposit or any part of it shall be used as provided by British League General Regulations, the Club shall forthwith pay a sufficient amount to bring the guarantee deposit up to the amount specified and the team concerned shall not be permitted to take part in any match until such payment has been made.
- 5.4 The guarantee deposit shall be repaid to the club when the team in respect of which it was lodged ceases to take part in the League, whether withdrawn by its club or removed by the Committee, subject to the team having fulfilled all its commitments within the League to the satisfaction of the Committee.

#### **6 PLAYER RANKING**

- 6.1 By 30th June each club shall submit to the Administrator a Ranking List listing all its registered players in order of merit for approval by the Committee, which has the right to re-rank at its discretion.

- 6.2 All players who have actual or dummy rankings, or are deemed to be of that standard from a reliable source of information received, in the top 100 of the current English Men's Ranking, must be ranked contiguously from number 1 in the same order for their club and above any who have no such ranking; the Administrator/Referee will make any adjustment necessary to achieve this.
- 6.2.1 For the Premier Division the relevant Ranking will be that current at 14 days prior to each match and for other divisions that current 14 days prior to each weekend of play.
- 6.3 A ranking list may be altered only once during the season and that being after the half-way stage, when all teams in the division have played each other at least once. This could be, whichever is appropriate for each season:
  - 6.3.1 on 31st December each year, or
  - 6.3.2 before the next series of matches (a weekend or a day) after each team have played each other at least once.
- 6.4 Otherwise, a ranking list can be altered only on deletion of players who cease to be registered for the club and insertion of players newly registered for the club.
- 6.5 Where a club has more than one team in the League
  - 6.5.1 the top 3 players in the Ranking List of a club having a team in the Premier Division shall not be eligible to play for a team in a Division lower than that club's 1st team; the players ranked 4-7 shall not be eligible to play for a team in a Division lower than that club's 2nd team and the players ranked 8-11 shall not be eligible to play for a team in a Division lower than that club's 3rd team; this principle of the next 4 players in the club's ranking list belonging to the next team number shall be applied to clubs with teams of 4 or more.
  - 6.5.2 the top 4 players in the Ranking List of a club not having a team in the Premier Division shall not be eligible to play for a team in a Division lower than that club's 1st team; the players ranked 5-8 shall not be eligible to play for a team in a Division lower than that club's 2nd team and the players ranked 9-12 shall not be eligible to play for a team in a Division lower than that club's 3rd team; this principle of the next 4 players in the club's ranking list belonging to the next team number shall be applied to clubs with teams of 4 or more.
  - 6.5.3 except as provided in 6.5.4, a player may not play for more than one team from the same club in divisions of the same level;
  - 6.5.4 In National C or lower divisions a player may play for more than one team from the same club in divisions of the same level except where these teams are in the same division. Team I will be assessed as higher than Team II and Team II higher than Team III etc, and Reg. 6.5.9 will apply;
  - 6.5.5 a player ranked 5 or below who has played for the club's first team on five or more occasions may not play below the first team;
  - 6.5.6 a player ranked 9 or below who has played for the club's first or second team on a total of five or more occasions may not play below the second team;
  - 6.5.7 a player ranked 13 or below who has played for the club's first, second or third team on a total of five or more occasions may not play below the third team;
  - 6.5.8 the principle exhibited in Regulations 6.5.4, and 6.5.5 and 6.5.6 shall apply to players ranked 17 or below and so on.
  - 6.5.9 a player who has played for a team on five or more occasions shall be ineligible to play for any team in the same or lower division. Not later than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of play, each team captain shall nominate to the Match Referee, a team in ranking order (ie the order in which the players appear in the club's Ranking List under Regulation 6.1 or under Regulation 6.2 as appropriate). Up to the official starting time a substitution may be made in case of injury or non-arrival of a nominated player, the order of play being changed if necessary to reflect the official Ranking List order.
- 6.6 Where a club has a team in the Premier Division and one or more in other Divisions, players registered for a lower-placed team may play in the Premier Division team only if they are ranked (or have a dummy ranking) in the top 100 places of the TTE Senior Rating List, the top 20 places of the TTE Junior Rating List or the top 5 places of the Cadet Rating List. Any individual match played by a player who does not meet this requirement will be awarded to the opposing team.
- 6.7 Exceptionally, in an emergency the Committee may give permission for a player who does not meet the criteria of 6.6 to play for the higher team, but it is the responsibility of the club to demonstrate that the concession is justified.
- 6.8 Not later than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of play, each team captain shall nominate a team to the Match Referee.
- 6.9 Except in the Premier Division, players shall be nominated in ranking order (ie the order in which the players appear in the club's Ranking List under Regulation 6.1 or under Regulation 6.2 as appropriate). Up to the official starting time a substitution may be made in case of injury or non-arrival of a nominated player, the order of play being changed if necessary to reflect the official Ranking List order.

- 6.10 If a team plays out of ranked order, a player of that team shall forfeit with the score of 0-11, 0-11, 0-11 any match played against a player against whom he would not have played if his team had played in ranked order and the team will be liable to the fine specified in Annex E.

## **7 PRIZE MONEY**

- 7.1 The Committee will issue details of the Premier Division prize fund for the season not later than 1st November.

## **8 AWARDS**

- 8.1 Trophies will be awarded to first-, second- and third-placed teams, in the Premier Division and first- and second-placed teams in all other divisions, up to a maximum of four per team. Additional trophies may be ordered from the Secretary at the expense of the team.
- 8.2 Where perpetual trophies are awarded, it shall be the responsibility of the recipients to return the trophies, when requested, in good condition.
- 8.3 A trophy will be awarded for the 'Player of the Season', which will be decided by the Committee.
- 8.4 A trophy will be awarded to the player with the most wins in each division. In the event of a tie the player who has won most games will be the winner; if this does not resolve the tie a trophy will be awarded to each player.

## **9 ETTU CUP**

- 9.1 The clubs finishing 1st and 2nd in the Premier Division shall be eligible for nomination by ETTA to enter the Men's ETTU Cup competition.
- 9.2 British League will pay the Club Entry Fee only of the team finishing 1st in the Premier Division or, if that team declines nomination, that of the 2nd-placed team. If both teams accept nomination, only the 1st-placed team's entry fee will be paid

## **10 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- 10.1 Players must not be under any current ETTA sanctions (See ETTA Regulations for Competitive Table Tennis - Suspension of Right to Play).

## **11 CLUB ELIGIBILITY**

- 11.1 For Premier Division teams only, clubs must meet the requirements of "Club Guidance Criteria", published in the British League section of the Table Tennis England website.

## **12 REPRESENTATION**

- 12.1 A Premier Division player is required to represent his club in a total of at least three matches in a season, including matches in other divisions or sections of British League..
- 12.2 If he fails to do so, his record in the Premier Division will be deleted and any individual matches which he has played in that division will be awarded to the opposing player, unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Committee that failure to meet the required total was due to circumstances beyond his and his club's control.