

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

**Regulations Part LW: WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE**

**Approved by Board:**

**In effect from:**

**1 CONSTITUTION OF DIVISIONS**

- 1.1 There shall be a Premier Division consisting of six teams.
- 1.2 The Committee may decide to have two or more divisions of equal status.
- 1.3 Each division, other than the Premier Division, shall consist of not more than eight nor fewer than five teams, as determined by the Committee.

**2 PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

- 2.1 At the end of each season the highest and second highest teams in each division other than the Premier shall be promoted (subject to Regulations 2.3 and 2.4).
- 2.2 At the end of each season the lowest and second lowest team in each division shall be relegated (subject to Regulations 2.3 and 2.4), but teams in the lowest division so relegated may apply for re-admission.
- 2.3 If there are divisions of equal status, at least one team shall be promoted from each division, and the number of teams to be relegated shall be equal to the total number of teams to be promoted to those divisions. The teams to be relegated shall be provided on an equal basis from each division on the same level; the Committee reserves the right to be satisfied that teams' players meet the required standard of the division in which the team will compete.
- 2.4 No club shall have more than one team in the Premier Division nor more than two in any other division; where there are two in the same division they shall play each other in the first round of each weekend.
- 2.5 The Committee reserves the right to fill divisional vacancies caused by the withdrawal of teams, whether by further promotions or the addition of extra teams.
- 2.6 In the event of there being too many applicants for places available, a play-off competition may be organised by the Committee.
- 2.7 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.

**3 PLAYING FORMAT**

- 3.1 Each team shall consist of three players selected from those registered for that team.
- 3.2 A team match shall consist of six singles matches, played in the following order: A v Y, B v X, C v Z, A v X, C v Y, B v Z.
- 3.3 Until 30 minutes before the starting time for the match the order in Regulation 3.2 may be varied by agreement of both team captains and the Referee.
- 3.4 All individual matches shall be played.
- 3.5 No registered player may represent another team in the same or a lower division.
- 3.6 Clubs which have more than one team in the League may play any of their players from a lower-ranked team in a higher-ranked team, with the proviso that the player may not replace a lower-ranked player; on playing up on three occasions the player becomes a member of the higher-ranked team.

**4 REGISTRATION & TRANSFER**

- 4.1 The latest date for registration or transfer (BL General Regulations 6.2.2, 6.2.5, 7.3) is 48 hours before the first match of the season.
- 4.2 Other than in the Premier Division and Division 1, for the second weekend clubs shall be allowed to register additional players to their lowest ranked team after the first weekend's play, provided that these players are rated lower than all other registered players. These players can be registered following the first weekend up to 48 hours prior to the second weekend's play.

**5 PLAYER RANKING**

- 5.1 Clubs shall submit Team Ranking List(s) of their players with Team Application Form(s).
- 5.2 All players who at the time of entry have actual or dummy rankings, or who are deemed to be of that standard from a reliable source of information received, appear in the top 30 women of the appropriate TTE English Ranking, must be ranked contiguously from No 1 in the same order for their team and above. For any who have no such ranking the Administrator/Referee will make any adjustment necessary to achieve this.

- 5.3 Immediately before each weekend of competition, the Referee shall rank the players in each team in accordance with the procedure of 5.2; these rankings will be published in the handbook for the relevant section for that weekend and must be observed.
- 5.4 Before the scheduled start of play, each team captain shall nominate to the umpire a team with players ranked in the order in which they appear in the team's Ranking List under Regulation 5.2.
- 5.5 If a team plays out of ranking 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 BL General Regulations.

## **6 SYSTEM OF PLAY**

- 6.1 The League shall be completed over two weekends, preferably not more than ten weeks apart.
- 6.2 In 6-team divisions each team shall compete against all other teams in its division at both weekends.
- 6.3 In 8-team divisions each team shall compete against all other teams once (five sessions of the first weekend and the first two sessions of the second weekend).
- 6.3.1 Two mini-divisions of four will then be formed based on the finishing positions (teams 1-4 and 5-8), with each team competing against all the other teams in its mini-division over the final sessions of the second weekend.
- 6.3.2 Results of all matches will be carried forward from the first seven sessions to the appropriate 4-team mini-division.

## **7 PRIZE MONEY**

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

## **8 AWARDS**

- 8.1 Trophies will be awarded to players in all first and second placed teams, to a maximum of four per team.
- 8.2 Where perpetual trophies are awarded, it shall be the responsibility of the recipients to return the trophies in good condition, by arrangement with the Administrator.
- 8.3 Trophies will be awarded to the team and player nominated as "Team of the Weekend" and "Player of the Weekend" respectively.

## **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 Women'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 ELIGIBILITY**

- 10.1 Players must not be under any current ETTA sanctions (See ETTA Regulations for Competitive Table Tennis - Suspension of Right to Play).
- 10.2 For the Premier Division only, no more than one player not eligible to represent one of the Home Countries or a Member State of the European Union may register for any team in the League.