

LEINSTER TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE (I.T.T.A.)

RULE BOOK

1. The League shall be called the LEINSTER TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE.
2. The League shall be open for membership to teams, which consist of players affiliated to the Leinster Branch of the Irish Table Tennis Association CLG. The affiliation fees to be collected by the Leinster League and paid to the I.T.T.A.
3. The League shall only be dissolved by nine-tenths of the voting strength of the League.

4. MANAGEMENT

- (a) A President and Vice-President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee, with power to vote.
- (b) The management of the League shall be vested in the hands of an Executive Committee (hereafter called the Committee) consisting of a Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and three members, five to form a quorum, all to be elected from the registered members of the League at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Casual vacancies on the Committee may be filled throughout the year by the Committee.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in Dublin each year for the consideration of the Hon. Secretary's and Hon. Treasurer's reports, the election of Officers and Hon. Auditors and the transaction of any general or special business – 10% of the membership present representing more than 50% of the Clubs to form a quorum.
- (b) Extraordinary General Meetings may be convened at any time by the Committee, or upon written requisition of 33 % of members accompanied by a statement of the reason for which such a meeting is required - 25% of the total members to form a quorum.
- (c) A change of Rule can be passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at a General Meeting.
- (d) Notice of any proposed change of Rule must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before August 15th each year.
- (e) Two Hon. Auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- (f) At the Annual General Meeting every Club shall have one vote for each team that played in the League during the previous season.
- (g) At an Extraordinary General Meeting every Club shall have one vote for each team playing in the League during the season then running or, if the season has concluded, that played during the previous season.
- (h) Voting shall be exercised by delegates appointed by a Club for such purpose.
- (I) No delegate shall exercise more than one vote.
- (j) The Chairman shall have a casting vote at all meetings.
- (k) Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to not more than one vote.
- (l) All Hon. Club Secretaries shall receive not less than 10 days notice of all General Meetings.
- (m) Where a Club is not represented at the Annual General Meeting in each year a fine of €30 shall be imposed on it.

6 ENTRIES AND FEES

- (a) All entries, which must be in writing, must reach the Hon. Secretary of the League, accompanied by the requisite fee. The acceptance, or otherwise, of an entry shall be at the discretion of the Committee; and the Committee shall have power to reject an entry that is not accompanied by the requisite fees.
- (b) Entry fees to the League shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting in each year.
- (c) The acceptance or otherwise of an entry shall be at the discretion of the Committee. This discretion shall not be exercised unreasonably. If the Committee refused an application, it shall inform the applicant of its decision. Such notification shall specify the reason(s) for non-acceptance and set down the procedure for appeal.
- (d) An unsuccessful applicant may appeal against the decision of the Committee. Such appeal must be in writing and must be sent by registered post to the Hon. Secretary within seven days of receipt of notification of non-acceptance, accompanied by a fee of €20, refundable if the appeal is upheld. An applicant, if he/she so wishes, will be entitled to be heard by the Committee in advance of the Committee's final decision in relation to the appeal. The Committee's decision shall be final and shall be communicated to the applicant before the League commences.

7 PLAY CONDITION

- (a) At the time of entering the League, each Club must furnish the Committee with the names of its players, in order of merit on their respective teams and such order of merit cannot be altered throughout the season, without the consent of the Committee.
- (b) The League shall exist for the playing of fixtures on a home and away principle, and PLAYING FOR DOUBLE POINTS IS PROHIBITED.
- (c) The League shall be divided into such divisions as shall be decided by the Committee; and said divisions may be divided into such sections as decided by the Committee.
- (d) If a Club has two or more teams graded into the same division, such teams shall be treated as separate Clubs.
- (e) The winning team shall receive two points. Where a fixture ends in a draw each team receives one point.
- (f) At the commencement of a fixture, the home team and the visiting team shall enter their teams on the sheet (123 and 123) in order of merit as submitted to the Committee on their entry form. Play shall proceed as follows; 2 v 1, 1 v 3, 3 v 2, 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3, 1 v 2, 3 v 1, 2 v 3. One doubles shall be played; the personnel for which need not be decided until said doubles arises. Teams shall decide their pairings and the home team shall enter its choice on the sheet first.
- (g) A match shall consist of the best of five games and played up to eleven in each game. The matches, singles and doubles, are to be played under the same conditions and under the Rules and with the ball, at that time authorised by the Irish Table Tennis Association.
- (h) The official starting time for a fixture is 7.30 p.m. A team is under no obligation to fulfil a fixture if the opposing team is not in a position to commence play at 7.30 p.m. To be in a position to commence a fixture, a team must have two players present. Where only two players are present by 7.30 p.m. the opposing team may insist that play commence and proceed as per order on score sheet. Should the third player not be present when it is his/her turn to play, the opposing team may claim each match as it arises. Where the third player is not present by 8.30 p.m. the opposing team is under no obligation to fulfil said player's matches. The Committee's decision shall be final on all appeals in respect of this Rule.
- (i) Teams travelling in excess of fifteen miles must be ready to commence a fixture by 8.30 p.m. Other than this qualification, they must abide by the conditions laid down in Rule (h).
- (j) All League fixtures, with the exception of divisional play-offs, must be played by a date fixed by the committee.
- (k) All divisional play-offs, semi-finals and finals must be played at a neutral venue, and must be played to a finish at the first attempt.
- (l) No player registered in any division of the League shall be eligible to play in a lower division; and a player from a lower division shall not, on playing more than two fixtures in a higher division, be eligible to play in a lower division.
- (m) Any points gained by a team with an ineligible player shall be awarded to the opposing team by the Committee. (n) The Committee, if justified, shall have power at any time during the season to re-instate a player on payment of 1Euro.
- (o) No fixture may be postponed without the permission of the Steward in charge of the division concerned. Where such permission is not requested, the Committee may penalise the defaulting team by awarding the points to their opponents.
- (p) Any team that finds it necessary to postpone a fixture must give the Steward in charge of the division concerned and the opposing team at least 48 hours notice.
- (q) Where a team finds it necessary to postpone a fixture at short notice, the Steward in charge of the division concerned must be notified immediately and the reason for said postponement given in writing for consideration by the Committee.
- (r) A team having two walk-overs awarded against it shall be suspended from further competition for the remainder of the season. A team must concede a walkover without sufficient reason to come under this rule.
- (s) The results of all fixtures must reach the Steward concerned not later than seven days from the date played. Where a team fails to comply with this rule, the Committee may deprive said team of the points gained in the fixture concerned. (If a draw, the home team to dispatch score sheet.)

8. CUP COMPETITIONS

- (a) The League shall promote annually, Cup competitions for each division, which shall be played on a knockout system. The draws for such competitions shall be made by the Committee.
- (b) A Cup fixture must be played to a finish at the first attempt, with a deciding doubles to be played in the event of a draw, such doubles to be decided simultaneously before commencement of deciding doubles.
- (c) All Cup finals shall be played at a venue decided by the committee and played to a finish at the first attempt.
- (d) All Cup fixtures, with the exception of the finals, must be played by a date fixed by the committee.
- (e) In all Cup competitions, the order of play shall be as follows; 2 v 1, 1 v 3, 3 v 2, 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3, 1 v 2, 3 v 1, 2 v 3. 1 & 2 v 1 & 2, 1 & 3 v 1 & 3, 2 & 3 v 2 & 3.
- (f) A player cannot play in the cup unless said player has played at least two matches in the shield or league or unless passed by the committee.

9. REGISTRATIONS

- (a) Each Club must return, with their Entry form, the Registration form supplied, fully completed. It must contain the full name of all their players who shall participate in the League for the coming season, and only those thereon shall be eligible to play on teams.
- (b) The further registration of players may be made during the season which shall be at the discretion of the committee. Where a further registration is made during the season, the Committee's decision as to said player's eligibility shall be final. Should a Club use a player before confirmation from the Committee, the onus shall rest with the Club. In the event of the said player being declared ineligible, his/hers games in any fixture shall be forfeited.

10. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- (a) The table must be standard and set in the middle of a clear rectangle, whose standard dimensions shall be 30 feet long by 15 feet wide; but the Committee shall have power to grant permission to Clubs whose playing space is less than standard, but not less than 25 feet in length by 15 feet in width.
- (b) The table shall be lighted to the satisfaction of the Committee.
- (c) All Clubs must satisfy the Committee as to the suitability of their premises.

11. PROTESTS

Protests must be sent in writing or e mail to the Hon. Secretary of the League , within three days of the alleged infringement giving rise to the protest, accompanied by a fee of €20 to be returned only if the protest is deemed reasonable.

12. TRANSFERS

Transfer of a player from one Club to another during any playing season can be obtained after the consent in writing has been received by the Hon. Secretary from each Club concerned and approved by the Committee.

13. AWARDS

- (a) At the end of each season, the winners and runners-up of each division shall be suitably awarded.
- (b) At the end of each season, the winners and runners-up of each divisional Cup competition shall be suitably awarded.
- (c) At the end of each season, the winners and runners-up of each individual competition shall be suitably awarded.
- (d) In all such competitions, the Committee shall have the power to declare teams or individuals joint winners or runners-up, as they see fit, and these shall be suitably awarded.

14. DISCIPLINE

1. (a) In the interest of justice, matters relating to misconduct and/or rule infringements will be dealt with by the Executive Committee or a Disciplinary Committee. The judgement of the Committee may be appealed against. Such appeal is to be made to the second Committee within the stipulated time limit.

(b) Any member or Club infringing the foregoing rules, or who shall be guilty of any misconduct which, in the opinion of the Executive or Disciplinary Committees, may be detrimental to the game, the League, or the Association, may be fined, suspended or dealt with as the Committee deems appropriate.

(c) Allegations of rule infringement or misconduct against any League member or Club must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, and must be postmarked within 48 hours of the alleged incident.

(d) Any allegation of misconduct or rule infringement must be brought in the first instance to the attention of the Executive Committee, who may decide to deal with the matter, or refer it to the Disciplinary Committee.

(e) The member or Club must be informed, in writing, of the allegations against them and must be given the opportunity to make a written or oral submission to the relevant meeting(s) of the Committee(s) and call witnesses in his/her/its defense.

(f) Notification of the Committee's decision will be communicated by registered post and any appeal against this decision must be made within seven days of the date of posting.

2. (a) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee of the League consisting of three members elected at the General Meeting or appointed by the Executive Committee, and the Hon. Secretary of the League who shall be a non-voting member. The members shall elect their own chairperson. Subject to Article 14 (2) f, the Committee may nominate an alternate if this is so necessary.

(b) The Disciplinary Committee shall determine their own parameters and terms of reference for each individual case.

(c) The Disciplinary Committee shall give a personal hearing to each side of the case, and shall have power to call what witnesses or demand whatever information they deem necessary to the case. This shall be applied equally on both sides of the case.

(d) Any person who shall be found to have obstructed the Disciplinary Committee shall be subject to the sanctions outlined in Article 14 (1) (a). The Disciplinary Committee shall have power to exercise these sanctions in all cases.

(e) Upon exhaustion of the entire disciplinary and appeals procedure within the League, the matter may be referred or appealed to the Disciplinary Committee and/or Jury of Appeal of the Irish Table Tennis Association. There shall be a charge of referring this matter to the ITTA that shall be the cost of the logistics involved in arranging such meeting of the relevant Committee or Jury.

(f) In all cases, without exception, the principle of *nemo iudex in causa* shall apply.

15. The Committee shall have power to hold such other competitions as they see fit, provided that such competitions are confined to players registered with the League.

16. The Committee's decision shall be final on any question arising as to the correct interpretation of these Rules.