

# ***Association Rules 2016-17***

## **1 Title**

The Association shall be called the **Didcot and District Table Tennis Association** (DDTTA).

## **2 Affiliations**

The DDTTA shall be affiliated to Table Tennis England and abide by the Rules and Regulations of Table Tennis England and Table Tennis England Approved Laws of Table Tennis.

The DDTTA shall be affiliated to the Oxfordshire Table Tennis Association (OTTA).

Any league run by the DDTTA shall be known as the Didcot and District Table Tennis League.

## **3 Objects**

The objects of the Association shall be:

- a: To encourage and raise the standard of Table Tennis in Didcot and its district;
- b: To promote and organise such annual championships as may be decided;
- c: To function without prejudice and without tolerating abuse.

## **4 Constitution of the Executive Committee**

The policy of the DDTTA, the management of its affairs and the administration of its rules and regulations shall be vested in an Executive Committee (EC). This shall consist of the President of the Association, League representative member to Table Tennis England and honorary officers being elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and the Secretary of each affiliated club. The officers of the EC shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretaries, Inter-Town Secretary, Publicity Officer, Coaching Secretary, Rules Secretary, Fixture Secretary, County Representative, League Development Officer, Trophy Secretary, Schools Liaison Officer, Handbook Secretary, Welfare Officer, Website Administrator and Assistant Officers if these posts exist. The EC may co-opt additional officers as required. The members of the Association shall be its Officers, registered Player Members and registered Associate Members. A President, Vice President and Life Vice Presidents may be appointed by election at an AGM.

## **5 Meetings, Rule Changes & Voting**

### **5.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The AGM of the DDTTA shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. At least 40 days notice shall be given. A minimum of nine members of the Association shall constitute a quorum. The date of the Pre-Season Meeting will be decided at the AGM.

### **5.2 Special General Meeting (SGM)**

A SGM of the DDTTA shall be held whenever the EC think it expedient, or whenever twenty-five members (or one-tenth of the membership, whichever is the smaller) by individual demand in writing delivered to the General Secretary, so request. At least 14 days notice shall be given. A minimum of nine members of the Association shall constitute a quorum. Only business specified in the written demand shall be discussed at the meeting called in response to such a demand. Each member attending an SGM shall have one vote.

### **5.3 Executive Committee Meeting (ECM)**

ECM's shall be held on the first Friday of every month of the playing season unless notified otherwise. A minimum of three EC members shall constitute a quorum. A club, whose secretary is not present at an ECM or will be present as an Officer, may nominate a club member to represent the club. This person will have a vote, but an officer who also represents their club on the EC is only allowed one vote. No member of a club may vote on any matter directly concerning that club when it is involved in an appeal. Any other DDTTA member may attend an ECM as an observer, and may be allowed to join discussion at the Chairperson's discretion, but will not be allowed to vote.

### **5.4 Pre-Season Meeting (PSM)**

**5.4.1** On the date set at the AGM, an ECM known as the Pre-Season Meeting, shall be held. This will decide the league structure (the number of divisions and number of teams in each division) and the identity of the teams to be placed in each division for the coming season.

**5.4.2** At least 14 days before the PSM, DDTTA affiliated clubs shall provide the Fixture Secretary with the preferred division of each team they wish to enter into the League. The names of the probable captains and players must be declared for each team. The Fixture Secretary will provide suitable forms for this purpose.

**5.4.3** Within 7 days after the PSM, clubs shall provide the home night and contact details of the captain for each team that has been accepted into the league. Subsequent changes to these details, or of the club secretary or venue, must be notified to the General Secretary who shall inform all club secretaries of the changes. Club secretaries must acknowledge receipt of such amendments within 7 days or be fined according to Rule 14.3.

**5.4.4** Fees payable to the DDTA shall be set at the PSM. These are clubs' affiliation fees and guarantee payments, and players' registration fees.

### **5.5 Late admission into the League**

Teams may be admitted into the League up to one month after the league programme has started, providing they can be suitably accommodated into the structure.

### **5.6 Changes to DDTA Rules**

DDTTA and League Rules may be altered only at AGMs or SGMs. All proposed amendments must be submitted to the General Secretary at least 28 days before the meeting, and will be sent to all Club Secretaries and EC members at least 14 days before the meeting. At the meeting, amendments to a proposal may only be accepted with the agreement of the proposer.

### **5.7 Voting**

a) Voting at all meetings shall be restricted to members of the DDTA. Motions shall be decided on a majority of those voting with each eligible voter having one vote. The Chairperson of a meeting shall have a normal vote and an additional casting vote if a vote is tied.

b) The General Secretary shall be empowered to solicit a vote on an issue that is time-sensitive by telephone or email, by stating a time and date by which responses are required. If the vote is tied or fewer than 50% of the eligible voters have cast a vote at the deadline, the motion shall be lost but can be put again at a subsequent ECM if still relevant. Decisions reached in this way shall be reported at the next ECM and be subject to the normal appeals procedure.

## **6 Finance**

**6.1** The financial year of the DDTA shall end on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. A statement of accounts up to and including this date shall be published and examined annually. The independent examiner shall be appointed at the AGM.

**6.2** The DDTA shall pay fees levied by Table Tennis England and the OTTA.

**6.3** Clubs shall pay all required fees before their teams play their first matches, otherwise be fined under Rule 14.5.

**6.4** Should the DDTA be wound up, any assets remaining after discharging all debts and liabilities shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the DDTA, but shall be transferred to some voluntary organisation(s) having objects similar to those of the DDTA.

**6.5** The Association shall nominate a League Representative Member of Table Tennis England and indemnify them out of the assets of the DDTA should their guarantee be called upon in the event of the winding up of Table Tennis England.

## **7 Club Affiliations**

The DDTA shall be open to accept affiliation from any club in Didcot and its district playing under the laws of Table Tennis England, provided it shall accept the DDTA's regulations. Clubs wishing to affiliate shall send the following details to the General Secretary: the location of the club, where home ties are played (if different), and the name and contact details of the club chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

# **League Rules**

## **8 Registration of Players**

**8.1** A club with more than one League team must define its teams as 'A', 'B' etc., and hereinafter the 'A' team shall be termed the highest team, the 'B' team the next highest team, etc.

**8.2** The names of the players and their details as required by the Fixture Secretary shall be registered with the Fixture Secretary before they participate in a tie. Their registration fees will be automatically deducted by the treasurer, from their Club's deposit.

**8.3** The registered division of any player shall be no more than one below that in which he/she last played, except with the prior agreement of the EC.

**8.4** Any player may be re-registered for a higher team without extra charge by informing the Fixture Secretary before the player participates in a tie.

**8.5** Once a player has been re-registered he/she cannot substitute for another team unless he/she did not play in **any** ties for the original team. He/she may only be registered again by applying to the EC for permission.

**8.6** Any player having lost their place in the team for which registered and wishing to play for a lower team, may themselves, or through their Club Secretary, apply for re-registration at no extra cost.

**8.7** A player may apply to the EC to be allowed to transfer to another club upon payment of another registration fee, but only if the move is effected by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**8.8** EC approval is required for any player to be registered or re-registered within 8 weeks of the Sunday of the week shown on the fixture schedule for the last league fixture. A separate vote is required for each individual proposed for registration in this period.

**8.9** All affiliated clubs will be automatically entered into the Bidmead Cup. Failure to participate will incur a fine under Rule 14.2.

## **9 Composition of a Playing Team**

- 9.1** A team shall consist of between 2 and 4 players all of whom must be eligible to play for that team and at least one must be registered for that team. 2 or 3 of these, including the registered player, shall be nominated to play singles. Eligible players are those that are registered for the team and **up to two substitutes** selected from other teams of the same club being:
- Players from lower divisions;
  - One player from the same division with prior approval that shall be obtained by supplying the name of the proposed substitute to the opposing team prior to the tie. If the same division substitute is not acceptable, he/she may still play, but his/her matches will not count towards the tie.
  - No player shall play for both teams in one tie.
  - Any player may be eligible to play not more than twice outside the team for which they are registered, whether this be for teams in the same division or higher divisions.
- 9.2** Each team must have two eligible players present to commence play at 1930 hours or some other time that is mutually agreed by the teams. Failure to comply may result in the offending team having to request a re-arrangement (including a different time on the same evening) or postponement, either of which may be refused. Matches involving players who arrive after 20:30 hours can be claimed by their opponents, if they so wish.
- 9.3** Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit all matches in which he/she played.
- 9.4** At most, one substitute may play in a doubles match, and then only when one registered player is playing in the team.
- 9.5** Appearances as a substitute will not count towards individual league records.

## **10 Fixtures (Ties)**

- 10.1** A fixture list shall be prepared by the EC and published prior to the start of the season. Two weeks only shall be allowed for the completion of all league ties after the last week shown for league ties in the fixture list.
- 10.2** Each tie shall normally be played during the week indicated in the fixture list, on the day of the week nominated by the home team as its home night. It shall be played at the home team's venue unless the teams agree to play elsewhere. A tie may be re-arranged to be played before the scheduled date or up to seven days after the scheduled date by mutual consent of the two teams.
- 10.3** Either team may ask the opposing team to postpone a tie beyond the seven days after it is scheduled. If the request is granted, the **home** team shall offer at least two alternative dates. It is the responsibility of the team that has had the request granted to ensure the tie is played and to inform the Fixture Secretary of the arrangements.

### **There is no obligation on any team to accept a request for a re-arrangement or a postponement.**

- 10.4** There is no limit on how many ties a team may postpone in a season however if a team has two or more un-played postponed ties, for which they requested the postponement, then they may not request to postpone another tie without the express prior permission of the EC. Even then this does not give the requesting team any rights to have their request accepted. Any team exceeding the limit shall be dealt with under Rule 14.4.
- 10.5** There is no limit to the number of re-arrangements allowed.
- 10.6** If a team is unable to fulfill a fixture within the season, it shall be termed a cancellation (see Rule 14.4).
- 10.7** The Fixture Secretary shall be responsible for compiling league tables and will provide draft end of season tables to the EC for ratification. These will be issued as final official tables once the period allowed for appeals has elapsed (see Rule 15).

## **11 Matches and Results**

- 11.1** In every tie each of the three singles players in the home team shall play one singles match against each of the three singles players in the away team. One doubles match shall be played which may involve players who have not played in the singles providing they are registered for the team. Each match shall be the best of 5 games. Records for each fixture shall be kept by the home team.
- 11.2** Umpires shall be appointed by mutual consent.
- 11.3** When a tie is played and before play commences, the teams shall declare their playing order, the home team first. The players for the doubles need not be declared until it is to be played. A fourth player may play in the doubles provided he/she is present in accordance with Rule 9.2, and the opposition has been informed of the possibility of him/her playing when the singles playing order is declared.

The order of play shall proceed as follows, unless mutually agreed otherwise:

1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3, 2 v 1, 1 v 3, 3 v 2, 2 v 3, 3 v 1, 1 v 2, doubles.

The result of the tie shall be communicated to the Fixture Secretary, to arrive within 7 days of the tie being played. The following information must be provided:

- The division of the tie, the date it was played and the names of the teams;

- The names of the singles players and a declaration of the division and name of any substitute used;
- The tie result, the number of singles matches won by each player and the result of the doubles match;
- The names of the players used in the doubles match;
- The games scores and winning team for each match.

When the option of sending a result by email is used, the information of the last bullet point may be omitted, but must be included when a card is subsequently sent. Comments may also be provided for use by the Publicity Officer.

**11.4** When a tie is postponed or cancelled, the Fixture Secretary must be informed within 7 days of the tie's scheduled date, whether the tie has been postponed or cancelled, and by whom. The offending team should also supply information that could influence the Executive Committee to mitigate fines below the maximum allowed.

**11.5** Failure to meet the time constraints defined in 11.3 or 11.4 or to supply sufficient information to allow the Fixture Secretary to compile league tables and carry out other administrative duties, will be dealt with under Rule 14.6.

## **12 Playing Conditions/Equipment**

All clubs shall endeavor to produce the best playing conditions. In all divisions except the lowest, the table shall be lit by a minimum level, striving to achieve sports council guidance 1996 for grade 4 playing conditions.

## **13 League Championships**

**13.1** In the League Championships the points for each tie will be awarded as follows:

Matches won:	10	9 or 8	7 or 6	5	4 or 3	2 or 1	0
Points:	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

**13.2** Where teams are equal on points, league positions will be decided on ties won. If these are equal then matches won shall decide the positions. If both matches and ties are equal the positions will be decided on the results between the teams.

**13.3** Cups awarded for the League Championships shall be perpetual.

**13.4** The league shall award trophies to those members of the teams who finish first and second in each division.

**13.5** If any team is withdrawn from the League, all ties, matches and games played during the season by that team are declared void and the club will be fined (see Rule 14.2). The players of a withdrawn team are then ineligible to play in DDTTA competitions unless re-registered for another team (see Rule 8).

**13.6** At the end of the season, the EC may award trophies in each division to the players with the best personal records using criteria it deems appropriate.

## **14 Disciplinary**

The EC will apply Rules 14.2 to 14.6, except in exceptional circumstances.

**14.1** Intentionally blank

**14.2** Impose a fine of up to £5.00 for the withdrawal of a team in accordance with Rule 13.5.

**14.3** Impose a fine of £2.00 for failure to confirm receipt of an amendment under the provisions of Rule 5.4.3.

**14.4** When a tie is cancelled (either because a team fails to turn up, or no date can be agreed within the season to play a postponed tie, or where a team exceeds the number of authorised postponements) the EC may take any combination of the following actions:

- Award the tie 10-0, or some other score, to either team, or declare the tie void, or give permission for the tie to be replayed if both teams consent and can agree an alternative date;
- Impose a fine of up to £10.00 on either team;
- Deduct points from either team;
- Order a team to pay reasonable out of pocket expenses to the other team.

**14.5** Impose, in the case of violation of Rule 6.3, a fine of £5.00 on a club for failing to pay its team fees on time.

**14.6** Impose a fine £2.00 on the responsible team's club for failing to provide information to the Fixture Secretary as required by Rule 11.5.

## **15 Appeals**

If a club or individual is aggrieved by any decision made by the application of any DDTTA rule, its secretary shall have the right to appeal to the EC and to state a case within 30 days of the club being informed in writing of the decision. The General Secretary shall be informed of an appeal and shall notify the interested parties of the date of the hearing.

# **General Rules**

## **16 Care of Trophies**

All perpetual trophies are the property of the DDTA. All holders of trophies must sign for them and must return them to the Trophy Secretary one month before their next presentation. These trophies must be clean and in good condition, otherwise the holder's club will be liable to a fine of up to £10.00 together with the cost of any restoration required.

### **17 Inter-Town Leagues**

**17.1** Teams shall be entered in Inter-Town Leagues or similar competitions at the discretion of the EC.

**17.2** The team or teams shall be selected from regular playing of the DDTA by the EC.

**17.3** Players having represented the DDTA are eligible to wear the DDTA badge.

### **18 Closed Championships**

**18.1** Should the EC decide to organise Closed Championships these shall be open to entry to all players who have fulfilled one of the following qualification requirements before the closing date for entry during the current season:

(a) Have played as eligible players in at least three league ties;

(b) Are members of an affiliated club and attended at least three coaching sessions provided by that club.

**18.2** Competition Rules will be decided by the EC.

### **19 Competitions**

Should the EC decide to organise other competitions (such as the Bidmead Cup, Handicap Shield, Divisional Championships), the rules shall be approved by the EC and published at the same time as the entry forms are distributed. The responsibility for the organisation shall be vested with a Competition Secretary.

### **20 Matters Not Covered by the Rules**

In the event of any question or matter arising, which is not covered in the Rules, such question or matter shall be dealt with by the EC.

### **Age category definitions**

**VETERAN:** Over 40 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January (born on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1977).

**JUNIOR:** Under 18 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December (born after 31<sup>st</sup> December 1998).

**CADET:** Under 15 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December (born after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001).

### **Affiliation/Registration fees 2016-2017**

DDTTA Affiliation fee per team - £6.00

DDTTA Affiliation per club if a club has no teams - £5.00

DDTTA Registration fee per player: Adult £6.00

DDTTA Registration fee per player: Junior £2.00

DDTTA Registration fee per player: Cadet £1.00

DDTTA Guarantee payment: £5.00 for first team + £2.00 for each additional team.

# ***Various ITTF Rule Changes***

**Racket Covering Rule**  
**For attention of ALL PLAYERS!**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010, the ITTF brought in a new ruling for the legality of the racket coverings. Previously, only rubbers that were listed on the ITTF website as "banned" were illegal, now though, ANY rubber sheet that **DOES NOT** have the official ITTF logo stamped on it (soon to be followed by an ITTF number) is classed as an illegal rubber.

It is the duty of every player to ensure that they are not playing with an illegal rubber, otherwise the games played using that rubber will be forfeit.

For further details and a list of all legal rubber sheets go to [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com) then click equipment followed by racket coverings. The list is called the LARC 31 and is updated twice a year.

### **The Double-Hit Rule**

As of 2011, the ITTF have made a couple of other changes to the rules. Firstly **accidental** double hits of the ball are now allowed. A double hit is when the ball strikes any part of the **RACKET HAND BELOW THE WRIST** before or after the ball strikes the racket, or if it strikes the racket twice. If the ball strikes any other part of the body before or after the racket, a foul is called. Secondly, a player is **NOT ALLOWED** to change their racket in the middle of a game, even at the change of ends, unless it has been broken accidentally during the game.

Please visit [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com) to see the full Laws of Table Tennis, which you will find under "Regulations". You will also be able to find full lists of banned Table Tennis equipment.

# **IMPORTANT NOTE**

## ***For attention of ALL PLAYERS***

You must have completed/renewed the Table Tennis England license form to be eligible to play in the DDTTA. Any member found playing in a league match without Table Tennis England membership will have their results struck from the records until they have completed the relevant forms. To

do this go to:

[www.tabletennis365.com/TableTennisEngland/Membership/Login](http://www.tabletennis365.com/TableTennisEngland/Membership/Login)

Once you have completed this, please contact the Fixture Secretary and give them the details.

### ***BAD LANGUAGE***

Could ALL players please try to refrain from using bad language during matches.

The League understands that players can get "emotional" during a game, but if you could keep the potty mouth down, it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you.