

# **ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

## **National School Team Championship Rules**

1. There shall be eight events as follows:
  - Event Number 1 - Boys Under 19
  - Event Number 2 - Girls Under 19
  - Event Number 3 - Boys Under 16
  - Event Number 4 - Girls Under 16
  - Event Number 5 - Boys Under 13
  - Event Number 6 - Girls Under 13
  - Event Number 7 - Boys Under 11
  - Event Number 8 - Girls Under 11
2. The Championships are open to teams from all schools in England whether or not part of the State System. Teams comprising pupils who are undergoing Full-time Education in a college are also eligible. (See Rule 4.1.5 in the Constitution and General Rules).
3. These Championships shall be administered by a Championships Committee consisting of the following Officers of the Association:
  - (i) The Chairman;
  - (ii) The Team Competition Secretary;
  - (iii) The Honorary General Secretary.This Committee's decisions shall be final on all matters (See Rule 11)
4. Ages shall be reckoned as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August/1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 i.e. any pupil born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1990 will be eligible for the Under 19 event.
- 5A. A school or college may represent only one County under whose aegis is the County Schools' Association.
- 5B. Under no circumstances may a player represent more than one school or college during the season.
- 5C. Players representing a school or college must be pupils at that school or college except that a player transferring to another school or college may continue to play for his/her former school or college provided that the pupil was on the school roll when form T3 was received by the Team Competition Secretary.
- 5D. The ESTTA recognises that from the point of view of players' eligibility, district and county rounds constitute official stages in the National School Team Championships.
- 6A. A team shall consist of 4 players who must play in order of merit.
- 6B. A match shall consist of 8 sets (all of which must be played) with each set being the best of five games (eleven up, but see Rule 8D).
- 6C. The order of play shall be: 1 v 2, 2 v 1, 3 v 4, 4 v 3, 1 v 1, 3 v 2, 2 v 3, 4 v 4. Two or more sets may be played at the same time at the discretion of the Organiser even though this may mean a player playing 2 sets in succession.
- 6D. "Organiser" in Rule 6C. shall mean the Organiser appointed by the Championship Committee in accordance with Rules 7H and 7J. The Organiser of the National Finals shall be deemed to be the Team Competition Secretary.
- 7A. For the purpose of this competition the Country shall be divided into eight zones at stage one of the competition and four regions at stage two. There will be no absolute direct link between the zones and the regions. The winner and runner-up of each zone shall move forward to one of the four regional finals.

Zone 1	Billingham
Zone 2	Bradford
Zone 3	Blackburn
Zone 4	Grantham
Zone 5	Cheltenham
Zone 6	London (Tower Hamlets)
Zone 7	London (Tooting Bec)
Zone 8	Plymouth

The composition of the Stage 1 may be amended by the Team Competition Secretary according to the entries received. In an attempt to improve the competition, if an entry is forthcoming from counties who did not enter last year, they will be allocated a zone this year.

- 7B. In each event, not more than one team from each County shall take part in the Zone Finals.
- 7C. Each County Association shall be required to nominate on Form T1 by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 the events for which it will be represented. Each form shall be sent to the Team Competition Secretary and shall be accompanied by the entry fee of £22.00 per team.
- 7D. Each County Association shall be required to submit on Form T2, to the Team Competition Secretary, by 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the names of the schools or colleges representing that County in the Zone Finals. All schools or colleges must be affiliated as per procedure laid down in the General Rules.
- 7E. Each school or college involved in the Championships as per Rule 7D, shall be required to complete Form T3 (giving full details of school and teacher i/c and names of eligible players with dates of birth in ranked order) and send it to the Team Competition Secretary to be received by 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009.  
This Form must be signed by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher.  
A school or college may submit a revised list of eligible players, after the staging of the Zone/Regional event. A form should be requested from the appropriate Regional/National Organiser. The revised list should be received by the Team Competition Secretary not less than fourteen days before the Regional/National event takes place.
- 7F. At each stage of the Championships each school team must hand to the appropriate organiser at least 30 minutes before each match is due to start a card (T5) listing their team in order of merit.  
Note: It has been ruled that if a team is engaged in successive matches it will be allowed 5 minutes after the end of the first match in which to submit its team in order of merit for the following match.
- 7G. In each event of two teams from each Zone shall go forward to the Regional Finals.
- 7H. For each Zone the ESTTA shall appoint an organiser whose duties include obtaining and furnishing a venue and supplying the Team Competition Secretary and the appropriate Regional Organiser with the details of the teams qualifying for the Regional Finals.  
Zone finals will be played on 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- 7I. In each event not more than one team from each Region shall go forward to the National Finals.
- 7J. For each Region the ESTTA shall appoint an Organiser whose duties will include obtaining and furnishing a venue and supplying the Team Competition Secretary with details of the teams qualifying for the National Finals.  
Regional Finals will be played on 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- 7K. The National Finals will be played at Hinckley Leisure Centre, Leicestershire on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
- 7L. At each Zone and Regional Finals the Organiser shall act as Referee unless he/she is involved in any way with one or more of the competing teams, in which case a neutral

Referee shall be appointed by the Championship Committee. The duties of the Referee shall not include adjudication on ESTTA Competition Rules, but only settling any dispute on the laws of the game.

- 8A. Play in the Zone, Regional and National Finals will be played in a group system where possible.
- 8B. In the group system, 2 match points shall be awarded to the winning team, and 1 match point to each team for a draw (4-4 in sets regardless of games). The group position shall be decided primarily by the match points gained.
- 8C. If 2 or more teams have gained the same number of match points, their relative positions shall be determined by the results only of the matches played between those being equal, taking successively match points, sets ratio, games ratio, and, if necessary, points ratio.
- 8D. If an equality still exists between the two teams tying for first or second place, the match result shall be decided by a doubles set between any two players from each team. Where an equality still exists between teams tying for places other than first and/or second, they shall be placed equal third, fourth etc.
  
- 9A. No player registered on Form T3 may play in more than one age group in the same season.
- 9B. At each stage of the Championships at least one playing member of each team must be competing in the youngest event for which he or she is eligible.
  
- 10. Every school team competing in the National Finals must be accompanied by a member of the teaching staff of their school or a nominated adult.
  
- 11. All matches in the Championships shall be played under the Laws of Table Tennis as adopted by the English Table Tennis Association.
  
- 12. In the event of any dispute as to the interpretation of Rules 1 to 11 above or any matter arising which is not provided for in these Rules, the decision of the Championship Committee shall be final.
  
- 13. All proposed alterations to the Championship Rules must be notified in writing to the Honorary General Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March or at least 28 days before a Special General Meeting.